Anglican Diocese of Auckland

STRATUM



Formation for Lay Ministry

2027 Programme



From Bishop Ross

Effective ministry definitely requires some skills. But even more important is formation for ministry. It is in this hard work that we come to understand ourselves in relation to God who calls us and to the people with whom we minister.

Formation doesn't happen in an isolated way, but in the context of a community. Some of the key strategic priorities for the Diocese are developing mature discipleship, finding ways for people to express their gifts in ministry, and resourcing leaders. Stratum seeks to do all these things. It was run for the first time in 2019, and represents our commitment to enabling the ministry of lay people within their worshipping communities and the wider Diocese.

"Having a safe space to be myself and to meet such a wonderful group of people who I could be real with, who I could journey alongside and connect with."

– past participant

WHO IS IT FOR?

Stratum is an eight month programme for people involved in significant Anglican lay ministry such as Wardens, Children and Families Workers, Pastoral Care Coordinators, Preaching and Worship Leaders. The group size is limited to ten.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Stratum is not a series of skills-based workshop. It is a formation programme which invites participants to deepen their understanding of themselves in relation to God and others.

The programme is shaped by some key principles:

- Exploring the role of Scripture and Worship in ministry
- Deepening Discipleship through spiritual practices, challenging our assumptions about God, self and others.

- Mining the depths of our Anglican tradition
- Shaping community through relationships of care
- Growing Ministry Competencies – leadership, conflict, boundaries, accountability
- Mission and Ministry in Context

WHO'S INVOLVED?





Stratum is facilitated by Karen Spoelstra, Diocesan Lay Ministry Developer, and David Crawley – Anglican priest (St Francis Titirangi), ministry supervisor, spiritual director, and past senior lecturer at Laidlaw College.

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT?

Stratum will meet once a month over eight months. Of these eight gatherings, three will be weekend retreats, and the remaining five will be Tuesday evenings. It is expected that participants will do their best to attend all gatherings.

Participants will be expected to undertake active reflection on their ministry in response to the work done together at *Stratum*. They will be expected to participate fully in gatherings, sharing their learning as well their challenges.

The cost for each participant is $1200+gst split between the Diocese, parish and individual.

The Diocese will sponsor $600+gst and ask the parish to pay $400 +gst and the participant, $200+gst. Please contact Karen Spoelstra if these costs are prohibitive.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

There are only 10 places available for *Stratum*. Applicants need to have the support of their Vicar and be able to commit to the process.

If you are interested in receiving an application form for *Stratum*, please email karen.spoelstra@aucklandanglican.org.nz or download one from the Diocesan website www.aucklandanglican.org.nz.

"It hasn't left me where I started, but opened my whole being to possibilities I didn't imagine before."

"[The facilitators] were able to create a place of safety, grace and encouragement."

– past participants

Deadline for completed applications: 7 December 2026

For more information, email: karen.spoelstra@aucklandanglican.org.nz



STRATUM 2027

Saturday 20 February

10am–2pm

Introduction

Friday 12 - Sunday 14 March

Retreat I

Tuesday 13 April

6–9pm

Monthly Dinner / Meeting

Tuesday 11 May

6–9pm

Monthly Dinner / Meeting

Friday 18 - Sunday 20 June

Retreat II

Tuesday 13 July

6–9pm

Monthly Dinner / Meeting

Tuesday 10 August

6–9pm

Monthly Dinner / Meeting

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 September

Retreat III