**GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**TO THE GENERAL SYNOD/TE HĪNOTA WHĀNUI 2020**

I wish to firstly acknowledge again with deep gratitude all those with whom I work most closely and who offer the regular support for the work I undertake on your behalf. Firstly, the Archbishops and the Standing Committee, who are a committed and hardworking group. Secondly, the provincial staff ‘team’ based in the General Synod Office (GSO) at TUIA and around the Church, especially Marissa Alix, Vanda Breslin, the Rev’d Jacynthia Murphy and Paula Jakeman. And thirdly, the many members of GSTHW and its various Commissions, Councils, Boards, Committees, and Small Working Groups, who offer so much voluntarily to the mission and administration of this Church. Thank you.

The wider provincial staff team, for whom I carry some oversight responsibilities alongside their respective ministry bodies, has continued to evolve and change, and over the past two years we have seen several staff retire or move onto other things and new staff join the team. Changes have included Youth Commissioner Jax Clark-Redfearn start in 2018 and finish at end of 2019, Lloyd Ashton finish after long service as our Media Officer at end of 2018, Karena de Pont finish with CAWS at end of 2018 and Ceridwyn Parr follow her from early 2019, Karlina Brock-Smith finish with the Youth Commission early in 2018 and in early 2019 be followed by Aleshia Lawson, and early in 2020 Paula Jakeman finish with Te Kotahitanga after 13 years, though seconded short term by the GSO to assist with the 2020 GSTHW preparation and follow up.

Unchanged positions other than the GSO above include the Anglican Taonga Magazine Editor (Julanne Clarke-Morris). This team is a highly skilled and motivated group who often work away alone in their own spheres but who offer support and collegiality to one another as they serve this Church.

Some key highlights of the past two years for the General Secretary have been, firstly, involvement in several further episcopal electoral and ordination processes: Christchurch, Polynesia, Upoko o Te Ika, and Nelson; secondly, the installations of two new Primates, in Archbishop Don and Archbishop Fereimi; thirdly, attending the ACC17 in Hong Kong, as the 3-yearly provincial secretaries conference was for the first time attached to ACC; fourthly, assisting with the House of Bishops and Diocesan Secretaries training event in Honiara for ACoM; and fifthly, being party to the apology in Tauranga in 2018 and the follow-up hui exploring a partnership ahead in late 2019.

As many will realize, much of the work of the General Secretary involves routine ‘office work’ and many ‘meetings,’ as we seek to serve the many Commissions, Councils, Boards, Committees, and Small Working Groups of the GSTHW and the GSSC. This administrative support work and the regular accounting, personnel, and payroll oversight responsibilities are key elements of the day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month role for me and the office team. I acknowledge the work of the General Synod Office staff, DAC, and TML in supporting much of this task. Also, the work of the Employment Subcommittee and the Order Paper Committee of the GSSC. As can be seen from the range and detail of reports to this General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui the past two years have again seen some significant work, both ongoing and new initiatives, by these many and varied bodies.

I commend their various reports to you for further detail and acknowledge the commitment, effort and time that go into achieving their various outcomes.

Key publications handled by the General Secretary and Office included the annual Lectionary (2018 and 2019) through the Liturgical Commission, biennial Clerical Directory (2019), and the Proceedings for GSTHW (2018) plus updates to the Canons (2018), alongside occasional one-off publications over this period – the most significant of which is the updated revised edition of A New Zealand Prayer book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, being printed in the first part of 2020. Much debt goes to Bishop George Connor, the Rev’d Jacynthia Murphy, Mr Benjamin Brock-Smith and members of the CLLC in bringing this publication to fruition.

The General Synod and Online Prayer Book websites are under our oversight and we do all we can to keep information up to date and add new resources as time and resources allow. Both are being regularly added to with additional resources, noting especially new audio recordings of liturgical material in various languages of the province and the addition of much new translated liturgical material online and in the revised PB.

In the past two years, I have attended two Registrars Conferences. The first was the biennial Australasian Anglican Registrars Conference, hosted in Sydney in 2018, which most of the Registrars Network of this Church attended; the second was our own 2019 Registrars Conference hosted by Auckland. There was also a one-day meeting in Wellington early in 2019. These are valuable professional development, networking and collaborative opportunities.

I was also overdue for, and able to take a 10-yearly sabbatical, later in 2018, during which I spent time with colleagues in provincial offices and the churches in Canada, the USA, England and Jerusalem. Shortly before this, I attended the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Austin Texas.

I am as always much indebted to all those who share in this work with me, and I continue to enjoy the role, both its joys and its challenges.

***Michael Hughes***

**General Secretary**

March 2020