**COUNCIL FOR ECUMENISM REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD/TE HĪNOTA WHĀNUI 2020**

# COUNCIL MEMBERS 2018-2020

# 

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tikanga Pākehā** | **The Very Rev’d Anne Mills (Chair)  The Rev’d Canon Michael Wallace** |
|  |  |
| **Tikanga Māori** | **The Rev’d Kerry Davis The Rev’d Canon Chris Douglas-Huriwai** |
|  |  |
| **Tikanga Pasefika** | **The Ven Orisi Vuki  Mr Rupeni Oli** (until Aug 2019)  **Mr Joe Browne** (from Oct 2019) |
|  |  |
| **Co-opted** | **Dr Emily Colgan (WCC rep** until Jun 2018**) The Rev’d Tamsyn Kereopa (WCC rep** from Oct 2018**)  The Rev’d Ivica Gregurec (Interfaith)** |
|  |  |
| **General Secretary** | **The Rev’d Canon Michael Hughes**  (Alt Sec The Rev’d Jacynthia Murphy) |

The Council reports to General Synod Standing Committee and maintains contact with the Tikanga Pākeha Inter-Diocesan Ecumenical Group, and other relevant Anglican groups and organisations, and also with other appropriate denominational and inter-denominational groups.

Since General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui in 2018, the Council for Ecumenism has met in October of 2018, February and October of 2019 in the TUIA Boardroom, and by Video conference in June 2018 and June 2019.

We have seen a change of members since the last meeting. We acknowledge the sudden passing of Mr Rupeni Oli in 2019, his insight with the committee will be sadly missed. We subsequently welcome Mr Joe Browne as Tikanga Pasefika representative. The Rt Rev’d Ngarahu Katene and Rev’d Jacynthia Murphy stepped down from their position as Tikanga Māori representatives. We welcome Rev’d Kerry Davis and Rev’d Canon Chris Douglas-Huriwai as their replacement. Ms Emily Colgan stepped down as the WCC representative. In her place, we welcome Rev’d Tamsyn Kereopa. We also welcome Rev’d Ivica Gregurec as interfaith representative.

**TIKANGA REPORTS:**

**Māori**

* Since the Last General Synod, Tikanga Māori has seen the ordination of Bishop Waitohiaraki Quayle, a historic event as she is the first female Māori Bishop. The ordination was a three-tikanga and international event, including ecumenical partners.
* The Rev’d Cruz Karaiti-Fox attended a WCC Indigenous gathering in Japan as alternate for the Rev’d Canon Chris Douglas-Huriwai.
* Noted the GSTHW visit to the Kingitanga for the 160th anniversary, and that engagement there was ecumenical and interfaith. The Motion 23 on significant Māori anniversaries was referred to GSSC to consider. Noted that the anniversary of the ordination of Bishop Frederick Bennett was also this year on 2 December 2018. Runanga Whaiti were to meet in Gisborne in July to coincide with the Ringatu celebrations, and Archbishop Don Tamihere will be involved with the Ratana celebrations on 8 November 2018.

Discussion ensued as to the line/overlap between ecumenical and interfaith engagement, especially within Tikanga Māori, and how various churches/movements were defined as ‘Christian’ or ‘other faith.’ NDCU, for example, requires a Trinitarian belief, and like WCC member churches also adhere to the Creeds and Sacraments, and/or have to be ‘recognised’ by other members.

* How to get better communication and relationship with WCC? Especially for any future visits/ meetings/ hui they have here. There is some direct communication but patchy, so may be formalised through NDCU and ask them to advise the partner churches.

Ratana 100th anniversary on 8 November 2018, with Runanga Whaiti meeting immediately prior in Palmerston North so members could attend. Noted the Ringatu celebrations only had Tikanga Māori attend, so ask how to encourage 3T partners to also participate and share in these events? Information or an invitation could go out through the Registrars network from the General Secretary and be circulated to CFE and the Theological College.

**Pasefika**

* Sixteen (16) days of activism against violence by an ecumenical and interfaith leaders’ group was noted, resourced and supported by the Anglican House of Sarah. An interfaith leaders’ video was shown, which was screened in all movie theatres and in schools and on TV, in Fiji during the 16 days. Noted a change in Fiji government policy around its involvement in appointing principals of faith-based schools. The Roman Catholic Archbishop is leading a negotiation with government to counter this responsibility being taken off churches, and the Ven Orisi Vuki was involved. Noted recent interfaith marriages offered through the Anglican Hindi speaking parish.
* There has been a growing connection between Fiji Anglicans and Methodists this past year or so. A recent Anglican ordination was held in a Methodist building as an expression of practical local partnership.
* There has also been a focus on practical sharing through projects around tree planting and plastic collection/ recycling/ reduction.

**Pakeha**

* TPEG had changed its name to IDEG (Inter-Diocesan Ecumenical Group). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was promoted and the ecumenical resource circulated. Ramadan Iftar meal hospitality was encouraged, and was offered in several locations, including All Saints Dunedin, HTC Auckland, and Wellington Cathedral.
* The Auckland Heritage festival saw several churches and faith centres opened for visits, including the Cathedral, under ‘our place, our people’ theme.

**NATIONAL ECUMENICAL ENDEAVOURS**

We are currently involved in the following ecumenical dialogues: NDCU; ICHC; UCANZ; CEC; ICTCC; ICBC; PCC; CWS and SCM. Noteworthy that we welcomed into conversation the Student Christian Movement (SCM). An Auckland group has recently reformed after many years’ absence, and has merged with an on-campus club, the LGBT+ Christian Alliance, to be recognised as a University club from this month.

**INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL ENDEAVOURS**

**WCC**

The WCC has continued to support and highlight events and initiatives for the respective Tikanga communities. We have promoted their Thursdays in Black programme within the community in awareness against rape and gender violence and there has been some positive feedback on this initiative.

The WCC general assembly is to be held in Germany in 2021; the province is sending representatives along to that assembly.

This committee discussed the potential promotion of the WCC conferences as a learning and development tool in further study. With attention to the Theological College and Youth Commission.

**DIALOGUE REPORTS**

**Roman Catholic Dialogue:** Nothing to report.

**Methodist:** There continues to be regular meetings and discussion with this dialogue; however, there has been more focus with this through the trilateral dialogue again around the deaconate.

**Trilateral Dialogue:** The main work has been discussion on the deaconate.

**Lutheran Dialogue:** Currently inactive.

# Catholic Dialogue: Has continued to meet annually.

# Anglican/Presbyterian Dialogue: Currently Inactive.

**Baptist Dialogue:** Currently inactive.

**Interfaith:**

* + There has been a focus on communication and engagement with our interfaith counterparts. This has included the promotion of local sharing of Iftar meals.
  + An upcoming course at St Georges Jerusalem was noted on sharing perspectives of the three Abrahamic faiths – Judaism/ Christianity/ Islam. CofE believes this would be a very worthwhile education and ministry opportunity for the Province to support by sending participants annually.
  + Other such local opportunities are offered by the Religious Diversity Centre, and by some tertiary providers. The Council is in dialogue with St John’s College about how we might support ecumenical and interfaith understanding and education in the College.
  + We have welcomed the following speakers to our meetings:
  + Sheikh Rafat Najm, Muslim Chaplain at AUT. Rafat addressed the Council on challenges and issues for Muslims in New Zealand today, and for particularly students at Tertiary institutions.
  + Ms Fiona Brennan, Admin Director of Kadampa Meditation Centre in Mt Eden, was invited to address the Council on her own faith journey and the experiences, challenges, and opportunities of her community, and possible dialogue and common work.
  + Both of these guests have provided a worthwhile and informative insight into communities within our society and the challenges they face.

**OTHER BUSINESS**The committee continues to promote the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.