

**Tikanga Toru Youth Commission  
in place of a Report to GSTHW 2026  
an update from the General Secretary while the Commission 'lays fallow'**

**2024-2025 Meetings and Programme**

The commission did not meet as a quorate body in early 2024, before the GSTHW in May, where a Pononga Youth Stewards programme was run by Commissioner Rev'd Chaans Tumataroa- Clarke in conjunction with the GSO – General Synod Office.

A TYS - Tikanga Youth Synod was held, in February 2024, and an attempt at a TTYC meeting to coincide was made, but it was inquorate.

The Commission has not met again at all since, as while some members were elected at GSTHW in May 2024 several places were left vacant and never filled by tikanga thus leaving the Commission inquorate, and eventually the Commissioner resigned in August 2024, so momentum was never regained.

The half-time Communication and Events Co-ordinator, Aleshia Lawson, took parental leave for 2024, after becoming the mother to the lovely Poppy at end of 2023. On return to work in early 2025, and with no operative Commission, nor a replacement Commissioner, a restructure process was initiated, and Aleshia completed her time in role by June 2025.

Nevertheless, the TYS in early 2024 proposed several possible motions to GSTHW. In the end these did not all eventuate, but GSTHW did consider and agree to:

**Motion #7**

**Of Rangatahi Representation on Synodical and Statutory Bodies within the ACANZP**

**Mover:** Mr Etienne Wain      **Seconder:**

**Whereas**, it has been six years since "Motion 8 – Youth Representation" was presented, discussed, and adopted at GSTHW 2018.

**Whereas**, we are aware that Amorangi/Dioceses, individual Tikanga and Three Tikanga bodies are at varying progressions with regard to youth representation.

**Whereby**, an equitable level of Rangatahi / youth representation is still an important issue for young people across the Three Tikanga.

That, this General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui

1. Investigates the result or progress of “Motion 8, GSTHW 2018 – Youth representation.”
2. Collates the current three tikanga youth representation data and report that information back to Tikanga Youth Synod (TYS) through the Tikanga Toru Youth Commission (TTYC) by 31 August 2024.
3. Asks each Tikanga, Diocese and Amorangi collate their own current youth representation data and report that information back to YYS through the TTYC by 31 August 2024.
4. Directs the TTYC to collate and utilise that information to facilitate the development of a “Youth Representation Strategy” for ratification at Tikanga Youth Synod 2025.
5. Further directs the TTYC to appropriately resource the communication and implementation of this resolution.

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Because of the above noted failure to populate the Commission after May 2024 and its consequent inquorate status, the Commissioner’s resignation in August 2024, and the loss of any momentum, none of the actions agreed in Motion 7 were enacted as there has been no canonically provided forum to further three-tikanga youth matters or voice.

### **Review**

Later in 2024, the Archbishops asked Bishop Andrew Hedge to meet with stakeholders and undertake a review of the three Tikanga youth scene and report on outcomes.

That report came to GSSC in October 2024, and as a result a small group of representative youth leaders was gathered with Archbishop Justin Duckworth late in 2024 to consider a revised future for 3T youth work.

The Commission was ‘laid fallow’ by GSSC and an agreement reached to pursue the intentional development of a ‘cohort’ of emerging youth leaders across a shared year-long programme where 7 young people from each Tikanga would commit for the year to attending each other’s Tikanga level youth event and to develop some community life and a development pathway together.

This was first attempted at the Pākehā ‘Abbey’ event in 2025, but no events emerged from the other two Tikanga before end of year.

**Future**

By 2026, the House of Bishops had appointed Bishop Anashuya Fletcher to be youth liaison bishop to support the enablers of each Tikanga to work together toward this new shared vision.

Meanwhile, youth ministry in Pasefika has lent into climate resilience and preparedness work, via CIVA and QGIS training. This became linked with the establishment of the new 3T Climate Change Commission and its wider climate and oceans-related ministry and education. Tikanga Māori Rangatahi pivoted in late 2025 and 2026 toward that focus and priority too, and Tikanga Pākehā has sought ways of joining this from 2026 onward.

An opportunity arose late in 2025 to send a youth delegation in early 2026 to a youth assembly event run in Thailand by Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), to which our church belongs, and 6 youth leaders, two from each Tikanga, led by the new Polynesia Youth Enabler, Alokoulu (Ulu) Ulukivaiola, attended.

**Michael Hughes**  
General Secretary  
April 2026