

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND & POLYNESIA
67th Session of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026
Monday 17th August 2026

Synod / Hīnota reconvened at 8.40am

Welcome

Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi, Co-Vicar General of the Diocese of Polynesia, welcomed Synod/Hīnota members and observers to the Kingdom of Tonga and to the Episcopal Unit of Tonga for the Diocese of Polynesia.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Morning Prayer was led by students and staff of St John the Baptist Theological College, Suva.

Prayer for the 67th General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui
Theme: One Mission, One Vaka, One Ocean

Loving and embracing God, Creator of the great ocean, the islands, and the lands we call home. We thank You for our ancestors and missionaries, for the journeys that guided them through the years and the challenges they faced. Through Your grace, You have brought us together in this time as one Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia.

You have woven us together in Christ as Tikanga Māori, Tikanga Pākehā, and Tikanga Pasifika enriched by cultures, languages, songs, stories, and traditions.

Draw us closer to You in our 67th General Synod. By Your Holy Spirit, help us to honour the gifts of our differences, not as barriers to our journey, but as blessings that witness to the unity of Your Church. Grant us wisdom and peace, and empower us to discern together.

Keep alive within us the vision You have given: One Mission, One Vaka/Waka, One Ocean. May we remember that we are called not for ourselves, but for the sake of Your Kingdom.

We place our Church, our Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Lay Leaders, our communities, and our future into Your loving hands. Guide our waka, keep us united as one people, journeying across one ocean toward the future You are preparing.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls us into one Body, one hope, and one mission. Amen.

Notes: *This prayer was shaped around the theme One Mission, One Vaka/Waka, One Ocean, a vision that celebrates the unity of the Church even in the midst of diversity. It reflects the shared journey of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia, lifting one voice together as we prepare for the 67th General Synod.*

Talanoa

Talanoa on Equity was facilitated by the Rev'd Canon Isaac Beach.

Eucharist was led by students and staff of St John the Baptist Theological College, Suva at 1.30pm.

Synod / Hīnota adjourned for lunch 2.10pm.

Synod / Hīnota reconvened at 2.50pm with Archbishop Sione Ulu'ilakepa in the Chair.

Primates Address

The presentation of the Primates address was deferred until it is circulated.

Motion # 1

Procedural

Mover: Archbishop Sione Ulu'ilakepa from the Chair

That this General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui 2026 resolves:

(a) Hours of Business

That the hours of sitting of this General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui be as follows:

Saturday 15 August – at St Paul's Church, Nuku'alofa

2.00pm - Welcome/ Convening/ Briefing

Sunday 16 August - at National Gym, Tonga High School

10.00am – 12.00pm – Synod / Hīnota Eucharist - Archbishops' Charge

– At Tanoa Hotel, Nuku'alofa

3.30pm – 7.00pm – Tikanga Caucusing

Monday 17 August – Thursday 20 August – at National Gym, Tonga High School

9.00am – 10.30am

11.00am – 12.30pm

2.00pm – 3.30pm

4.00pm – 6.30pm

Friday 21 August – at Sea! On Tour!

Oceans /Climate Talanoa Day

(b) Elections

That the Elections take place on Wednesday 19 August as first matter of business after lunch and nominations shall close before dinner at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18 August 2026.

(c) Introduction of Bills

That the Bills numbered 1 – 14 on the Order Paper be introduced and that consideration in principle of each Bill be set down as an Order of the Day as detailed on the "Timetable".

Bill 1. A Bill to Amend Title B Canon I 'Of Organised Bodies in the Church', 2026

Bill 2. A Bill to Confirm 'The Constitution/ Te Pouhere Amendment Statute, 2024', 2026

Bill 3. A Bill to Confirm “The Pastoral Liturgies’ – Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child Amendment Statute, 2024’, 2026

Bill 4. A Bill to Confirm “The Liturgies of the Word’ Amendment Statute, 2024’, 2026

Bill 5. A Bill to Confirm ‘The Title G Canon V, ‘Of Translations of Holy Scripture’ Amendment Statute, 2024’, 2026

Bill 6. A Bill to Amend Title G Canon III ‘of Marriage’ and Title A Canon II ‘of Pastors’, 2026

Bill 7. A Bill to Amend ‘The Liturgies of the Eucharist’, 2026

Bill 8. A Bill to Amend Title A Canon I ‘Of Bishops’, 2026

Bill 9. A Bill to Amend Title F Canon V ‘Of The General Church Trust Board’, 2026

Bill 10. A Bill to Repeal and Replace Statute No. 420 concerning The General Church Trust Board, 2026

Bill 11. A Bill to Amend Title D Canons I and III, 2026

Bill 12. A Bill to Amend Title D Canon VI (of safe to receive testimonials), 2026

Bill 13. A Bill to Amend ‘The Constitution/Te Pouhere’, 2026

Bill 14. The Finance Statute, 2026

(d) Further Orders of the Day

Monday 17 August 2026

9.00am	Fono on Equity
2.00pm	Motions 1, 2 and 3 - Procedural
	Bills ... Motions ...
4.00pm	Talanoa

Tuesday 18 August 2026

9.00am	Fono on Oceans
2.00pm	Bills ... Motions ...
6.30pm	Close of Nominations.

Wednesday 19 August 2026

9.00am	Fono on Climate Change / Resilience
11.00am	Bills ... Motions ...
2.00pm	Elections
4:00pm	Talanoa

Thursday 20 August 2026

9.00am Fono on Theology of the Ocean
11.00am Fono on Theological Education
2.00pm Bills - Finance
Motions ...
5.30pm Acknowledgements, Thanks, Farewells.
6.30pm Synod / Hīnota Gala Dinner

(e) Officers for the Synod / te Hīnota

Presidents for the Synod / Hīnota (S/O 2b)

The Primates The Most Reverend J Duckworth,
The Most Reverend Dr D Tamihere, and
The Most Reverend S Ulu'ilakepa

Provincial Chancellor (B/I/5.8)

Mr Bruce Gray KC

Committee on Statutes and Canons as advised by the Primates (Title C Canon III Clause 6)

Mr D McLay
Justice W Morgan
Mr Bardia Matiu
Mr Etienne Wain
Rev'd Canon M Hughes (General Secretary)

Order Paper Committee as appointed by Standing Committee (S/O 11)

Rev'd T Behan
Mr F Tevi
Ven M Wallace
Vacancy
Rev'd Canon M Hughes (General Secretary)

Minutes Committee (S/O 12(ii))

Rev'd T Behan
Mr F Tevi
Ven M Wallace
Rev'd Canon M Hughes (General Secretary)

Chairpersons of Committee

The Rt Rev'd S Wallace / Judge C Harding / Mr F Tevi

Clerk of the Synod /te Hīnota (S/O 7)

Rev'd Canon M Hughes

Deputy Clerk of the Synod /te Hīnota (S/O 8)

Mr F Tevi

Minute and Committee Secretaries

Ms Colleen Kaye and Ms Sonia Maugham

Those Registrars and Administrators of Tikanga and Episcopal Units who are not members of the Synod / Hīnota in their own right, will act as Committee Secretaries under the direction of the Clerk of the Synod / Hīnota

(f) Reports as Tabled and Printed

That the following Reports, copies of which have been previously circulated to members, be taken as read and by leave of the Synod / te Hīnota be laid on the table.

- *Roll of the members of the Sixty Seventh Session of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui*
- *Reports of the Boards, Committees, Conferences and Commissions as printed and distributed.*
- *Report of Te Aute Trust Board for the year ending 31 January 2024 and 2025*
- *Audited Accounts of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui for the years ended 31 December 2024 and 2025*
- *Report on the Finance Statute for 2025*
- *Report of Kings College on its operations and finances*

The following Reports presented through the General Secretary be taken as read by the leave of the Synod / te Hīnota and laid on the table.

- *Reports of Diocesan Trusts Boards and Te Whiti Tohu / Appointing Bodies pursuant to Title F, Canon I, Clause 1.7*

It should be noted that as a result of legislation passed at the 2004 General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui, the following Boards / Commissions now report annually to the Standing Committee of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui. Printed in the papers for this Synod / Hīnota are reports / summaries only for information and record.

- *The Anglican Mission Board of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia*
- *The New Zealand Anglican Church Pension Board*
- *The General Church Trust Board*
- *The St John's College Trust Board*

Agreed

Apologies

For the whole of Synod / Hīnota: The Most Rev'd Philip Richardson, Ven Ngira Simmonds, Mr Alikī Bia.

For today: Ms Hinauri Tiopira Tahau, Lay Ven Maui Tangohau, Ven Mere Wallace, Ms Karera Wallace, Mr Te Aorangi Poutai, Miss Sophie Berry, Mrs Joanna Bean, Ms Samara Casey, Rev'd Glen Ashworth, Mrs Margaret Barsanti, Judge Chris Harding, Rev'd Dr Tim McKenzie, Mr Etienne Wain.

Notices and Announcements

There were no Notices and Announcements.

Motions of leave to introduce Bills.

Archbishop Justin Duckworth sought the leave of Synod / Hīnota to introduce a Bill without notice. Seconded by Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi.

The Chancellor outlined the purpose and nature of the proposed Bill to amend Title E Canon II and the Standing Orders 83.3 that governed the leave sought.

The Chair put the motion to grant leave. **Lost.**

Archbishop Justin Duckworth moved, pursuant to Standing Order 102.ii, to suspend Standing Order 83.1, requiring the lodging of Bills at least ten weeks before the Synod / te Hīnota. Seconded by Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi.

The Chair put the motion. **Passed on voices.**

A division by orders was called by the Rt Rev'd Te Kitohi Pikaahu. The Chancellor explained the process for a division by orders. A bell was rung.

After one minute the Chair put the motion again. **Passed on voices.**

A division by orders was again called by the Rt Rev'd Te Kitohi Pikaahu. Clerical and Lay Tellers were appointed. A count of votes was taken in each house.

The result of the division by orders was reported:

Bishops	11 for / 1 against	
Clergy	25 for / 1 against	
Laity	27 for / 0 against	Passed.

A declaration of assent by Tikanga was called by the Rt Rev'd Te Kitohi Pikaahu.

Tikanga caucused.

Tikanga reported:

Tikanga Māori	Assent	
Tikanga Pasefika	Assent	
Tikanga Pākehā	Assent	Agreed.

Archbishop Justin Duckworth moved, pursuant to Standing Order 102(ii) to suspend Standing Order 83.2, requiring circulation of a Bill to the Statutes and Canons Committee, to allow the introduction of the Bill. Seconded by Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi.

A Tikanga caucus was called. Synod / Hīnota in Tikanga caucus. There was no report from any Tikanga caucus.

The Chair put the motion. **Passed.**

The Chair put the motion that the Bill be introduced. **Passed.**

The Chair moved that the Bill be considered as an Order of the Day tomorrow. Seconded by Mr Fe'iloaitau Kaho Tevi.

Petitions

There were no petitions.

Reports of Committees or Commissions

The General Secretary advised of the reception of a late Report from Te Kaunihera for St John's Theological College / Hoani Tapu.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of Motions.

Motion # 2 Speaking Rights

Mover: Archbishop from the Chair

That this General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui, 2026 resolves:

That the following have speaking rights for the whole of Synod / Hīnota under Title B, Canon I, Clause 1.1.5: (any retired bishop of our church)

- *The Rt Rev'd Richard Ellena*

That the following has speaking rights for the whole of Synod / Hīnota under Title B, Canon I, Clause 5.8:

- *Mr Bruce Gray KC (Provincial Chancellor)*

That the following be given speaking rights for the whole of Synod / Hīnota:

- *The Most Rev'd Leonard Dawea (Primate of ACoM)*
- *The Rt Rev'd Robert Fitzpatrick (Bishop of Hawaii)*
- *The Youth Stewards*

That the following be given speaking rights for items relating to their areas of ministry:

- *Ms Julianne Clarke-Morris (Anglican Taonga Editor)*
- *Mr Grant Hope and Ven Sue Fordyce (St Johns College Trust Board)*
- *Mr Matanuku Mahuika, Rev'd Clare Barrie, Ms Mele Taliai, Mr Jeremy Hema, Ms Khylee Quince (Te Kaunihera) and Dr Andrew Picard (St John's College)*
- *Rev'd Michael Hartfield (Anglican Missions Board)*
- *Rev'd Leo Te Kira (The Anglican Disability Network/ Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare)*

Those members of Synod / Hīnota who wish to propose that other people be given speaking rights may move an amendment to the above motion at the time the motion is considered, adding the names of the people they have in mind, or move a motion at the time they wish for other people be given speaking rights. **Agreed.**

Medical announcement was made by Bishop Andrew Hedge about feeling unwell and taking precautionary measures to prevent spread of any illness.

Synod / Hīnota adjourned at 5.30pm.

Signed by the Presidents



D Tamihere
Archbishop and Primate



S Ulu'ilakepa
Archbishop and Primate



J Duckworth
Archbishop and Primate