

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND & POLYNESIA
67th Session of the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui 2026
Wednesday 19th August 2026

Synod / Hīnota at St Paul's for the Eucharist at 7.00am.

Synod / Hīnota reconvened at 9.15am.

Welcome

Mr Fe'iloaitau Kaho Tevi welcomed everyone and introduced Mr Sopolemalama Filipe Tohi, a renowned indigenous craftsman from Nuku'alofa. On exhibit for the day were paintings and sculptures showcasing traditional Tongan form of binding or lashing known as lalava.

Talanoa

Talanoa on Climate Change was facilitated by Mr Fe'iloaitau Kaho Tevi.

Presentations

Rev'd James Bhagwan, Pacific Conference of Churches and Mr Marcus Saul, Plastic Bio-Remediation.

Rev'd Michael Hartfield and Mr Mark Mitchell from the Anglican Missions Board.

Synod / Hīnota reconvened at 1.20pm with Archbishop Justin Duckworth in the Chair.

Apologies

Ven Liz Martin, Bishop Anne van Gend, Ms Samara Casey, Mrs Sarah Ashworth, Very Rev'd Jay Ruka, Judge Chris Harding (morning), Mr Tony Hill, Mr John Whitehead, Ms Esita Naicegulevu, Mr Alokoulu Ulukivaiola, Rev'd Vianney Douglas, Ms Mira Martin, Ven Ruihana Paenga.

Notices and Announcements

There were no Notices and Announcements.

Petitions

There were no petitions.

Reports of Committees and Commissions

No reports were received from Committees and Commissions.

Motions of leave to introduce Bills

No motions of leave to introduce bills were received.

Notice of Motion

Mr Tim Cross sought leave of the Synod /te Hīnota to introduce a Motion on Artificial Intelligence.

Motion #10
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies

Mover: Mr Timothy Cross

Seconder: Rev'd Canon Isaac Beach

Noting the increasing availability of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in our Province, which are now within easy online access for all people,

That this General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui:

Supports the preparation of terms of reference for the formation of an AI working group, reporting to General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC).

The AI working group aims to provide:

- (a) Consistent AI policies, principles and use of AI across our three Tikanga;
- (b) Human voices, expertise and advocacy in relation to AI where it affects:
 - (i) the safety and protection of people, particularly our children and future generations across our three Tikanga;
 - (ii) our intellectual property and its sovereignty, including protection of our ancient intelligence; and
 - (iii) our environment in relation to AI systems and infrastructure.

Confirmation of Bills

The President moved from the chair that:

Bill No 15 A Bill to Amend Title E Canon II 'Of St John's College and the Utilisation of the St John's College Trust Funds' 2026

Be confirmed

Agreed.

Synod / Hīnota adjourned for lunch at 1.30pm.

Synod / Hīnota resumed after lunch at 2.20pm with Archbishop Don Tamihere in the Chair.

Sir Selwyn Parata addressed Synod / Hīnota with a translation of the speech he made prior to lunch, from Te Reo to English.

Elections

The General Secretary advised the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui of the nominations received and any consequent actions required by the Standing Committee of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui in order to fill the membership of various Committees and Commissions.

ANGLICAN INSURANCE BOARD

Title B, Canon XXXII, Clause 5

One person for each Tikanga either lay or ordained appointed by the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui on the nomination of the representatives of:

Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa: Mr Andrew Tamihere

Dioceses in New Zealand: Ms Colleen Kaye

Diocese of Polynesia: Bishop Gabriel Sharma

One person, lay or ordained, with relevant industry skills, appointed by the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui on the nomination of the House of Bishops:

The Rt Rev'd Andrew Hedge

ARCHIVES & HISTORY COMMITTEE / TE PUNA O NEHERĀ

Title B, Canon X, Clause 3(a)

Six members appointed at each ordinary session of the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui.

Two members by Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa:

Whāiti to advise

Two members by the several dioceses in New Zealand:

Ms Jane Teal

Dr Peter Lineham

Two members by the Diocese of Polynesia:

The Rev'd Liliani Havili

The Rev'd Salacieli Koroī

COMMISSION ON TREATY AND PARTNERSHIP ISSUES

Title B, Canon XXXI, Clause 2

Six members of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui, appointed by the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui, two being nominated by representatives of Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa, two being nominated by representatives of the New Zealand Dioceses and two being nominated by representatives of the Diocese of Polynesia.

Two members nominated by representatives of Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa:

Whāiti to advise

Two members nominated by representatives of the New Zealand Dioceses:

The Rev'd Peter Bargh

Vacancy

Two members nominated by representatives of the Diocese of Polynesia:

The Ven Jemima Teo-Nafatali

Bishop Gabriel Sharma

COUNCIL FOR ANGLICAN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Title B, Canon XXXV, Clause 5

Six members appointed for terms of four years with three members appointed at each ordinary session of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui:

One member nominated by Te Rūnanga Whāiti o Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa:

Whāiti to advise

Also to advise on continuing member (due 2028)

One member nominated by the Tikanga Pākehā Conference Coordinating Group:

The Rev'd Waitiri Maina (appointed to 2030)

The Rev'd Stephanie Clay (due 2028)

One member nominated by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Polynesia:

Ms Quandolita Reid Enari (due 2028)

(to be advised by DoP SC)

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Title C, Canon IV, Clause 2.2

Nine members, in which there shall be at least two members from each Tikanga; and among the nine members there shall be at least one Bishop, at least one ordained Minister, and at least three lay persons.

Please note the lay qualification requirements of Clause 2.1.

any lay member of the church who is enrolled as a barrister or solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand of not less than seven years' standing, or who holds similar qualifications and experience in any of the legal jurisdictions in the Diocese of Polynesia.

At least two members from Tikanga Māori:

Rev'd Pania Houkamau-Ngaheu

Vacancy – to be nominated by the Whāiti

At least two members from Tikanga Pākehā:

Judge Chris Harding

The Rev'd Joel Rowse

At least two members from Tikanga Pasefika:

Mr Walton Morgan

Ms Shirleen Kiran Prasad

At least one from the House of Bishops:

The Rt Rev'd Ana Fletcher

Plus 2 vacancies for any tikanga

NEW ZEALAND ANGLICAN CHURCH PENSION BOARD

Title B, Canon XIV, Clause 5

One person, lay or ordained, appointed at each ordinary session of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui by the:

Representatives of Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa

The Rev'd Canon Isaac Beach

Representatives of the Dioceses in New Zealand

The Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley

(NB: Notice of retirement arrived after elections and GSSC subsequently appointed Mr John Whitehead to the vacancy)

Representatives of the Diocese of Polynesia

Mr Manoj Kumar

Under the provisions of Title B, Canon XIV, Clause 5.4

One person elected by the ordained ministers of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui present at each ordinary session.

The Ven Carole Hughes

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL SYNOD / TE HĪNOTA WHĀNUI

Title B, Canon 1, Clause 3.2

The Primates / Ngā Pīhopa Mātāmua

The Most Rev'd Dr Don Tamihere

The Most Rev'd Sione Ulu'ilakepa

The Most Rev'd Justin Duckworth

Five members of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui nominated by the representatives of Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa, including at least one ordained minister and at least one lay person:

Sir Herewini Parata

The Ven Ngira Simmonds

The Very Rev'd Ruihana Paenga

The Ven Mere Wallace

Dr Doris Kaua

Seven members of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui nominated by the representatives of the Dioceses of New Zealand, including at least two ordained ministers and at least two lay persons:

The Ven Liz Martin

The Rev'd Dr Susan Genner

The Rev'd Toby Behan

Dr Penny Field

The Rev'd Peter Bargh

Mr John Whitehead

The Rev'd Dr Andrew Burgess

Three members of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui nominated by the representatives of the Diocese of Polynesia, including at least one ordained minister and one lay person:

Ms Bolivia Smith

Rev'd Winston Tarere

Mr Fe'iloaitau Kaho Tevi

Three members of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui, who shall be one Youth representative from each Tikanga, as defined by that Tikanga and nominated by that Tikanga, whether clergy or lay.

Tikanga Māori

Rev'd Canon Isaac Beach

Tikanga Pākehā

Mr Theo Rose

Tikanga Pasefika

Mr Alokoulu Ulukivaiola

TREATY/TIRITI, CHURCH & NATION COMMISSION

Title B, Canon XXXIII, Clause 6

Two persons each nominated by:

Te Rūnanga Whāiti o Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa:

Vacancies – to be nominated by Whāiti

Tikanga Pākehā Conference Coordinating Group:

The Rev'd Dr Richard Bonifant

Vacancy

Standing Committee of the Diocese of Polynesia:

Mrs Shirleen Prasad

Mr Walton Morgan

TRIBUNAL ON DOCTRINE

Title C, Canon V, Clauses 2, 3.1 & 3.2

(Five Clergy and Five Lay members)

Two Priests or Deacons, and two Lay persons are required to retire their places at each ordinary session of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui (are eligible for re-election should they so agree) the requirement to retire based on the length of tenure of office.

The persons to fill these places will be elected by Houses respectively, Priests and Deacons being elected by the Clergy at the Synod / te Hīnota and the Lay persons by the Lay members of the Synod / te Hīnota. Lay members must be at least 20 years old and duly qualified to be members of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui.

Two Clergy Required:

The Ven Dr Deborah Broome

The Rev'd Salaciel Koroi

Plus - a vacancy to be filled by Whāiti

Two Lay Persons Required:

Mr Anthony Hill

Mr Eli Tapine

Plus - a vacancy to be filled by Whāiti

TRIBUNAL UNDER THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EMPOWERING ACT 1928

Act, Clause 5, PA19

(Seven Clergy and Seven Lay members)

In accordance with the Act, two Priests and two Lay persons shall retire at each session of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui (the retiring members being eligible for re-election).

Three clergy required: The Rev'd Canon Dr Michael Wallace
 The Rev'd Sonja Hunter
 Whāiti to advise 1 Vacancy

Three Lay Persons required: *Two Pakeha Vacancies*
 Ms Mele Talia

COUNCIL FOR ECUMENISM

Title B, Canon XVIII, Clause 5

Two persons nominated by each of the following:

Te Rūnanga Whāiti o Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa:
 Whāiti to advise

Tikanga Pākehā Conference Coordinating Group:

 The Very Rev'd Anne Mills
 The Rev'd Canon Dr Michael Wallace

Standing Committee of the Diocese of Polynesia:

 The Rev'd Sonja Hunter
 Mr Fe'iloaitau Kaho Tevi

Appointments by Tikanga not requiring the sanction of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui

COMMON LIFE LITURGICAL COMMISSION

Title B, Canon XXX, Clause 2

Two persons appointed by each of the following:

Te Rūnanganui Whāiti o Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa:

Whāiti to advise

Tikanga Pākehā Conference Coordinating Group:

The Ven Nick Mountfort

The Rev'd Jean Malcolm

Standing Committee of the Diocese of Polynesia:

The Most Rev'd Sione Ulu'ilakepa

The Rev'd Salaciel Koroi

The President moved from the Chair, that the appointments be adopted.

Agreed

Motion # 6

Disability Responsiveness in the Church (update from 2018 GSTHW motion)

Mover: Rev'd Toby Behan

Seconder: Professor Peter Lineham

Preamble

In 2018 General Synod / Hīnota Whānui recognised and affirmed the biblical imperative to love one another, the church's call to work for social justice and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, by encouraging inclusive hospitality and accessibility in church environments and activities.

Specifically, General Synod / Hīnota Whānui affirmed the work of the Disability Portfolio group (now The Anglican Disability Network / Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare) and had the foresight to enable the development of disability focused resources, supporting the development of theological discussion, and supporting awareness raising initiatives focused on disability, spirituality and the church.

As a result, the Anglican Disability Network / Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare has:

- Employed two Disability Ministry Educators (0.5 FTE each) to develop viable sustainable relationships and produce practical disability responsiveness resources to support frontline ministry, since May 2022.
- Surveyed disability needs and awareness within the church in 2022 and 2024.

- Developed a living framework for a Theological Statement on Disability for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia.
- Completed 24 liaison and education visits to a variety of places and spaces within the hui amorangi and dioceses, and other three tikanga communities.
- Facilitated the completion of 8 accessibility audits for ministry units and parishes, communities, Amorangi and dioceses, and St John's Theological College.
- Produced 13 liturgical resources to support ministry teams in specific liturgical seasons.
- Produced 21 posters on disability related themes and 8 newsletters since December 2023 to support ministry teams.
- Established a website that is intentionally formatted to be accessible to all users.
- Ensured a voice on disability issues for Anglican Taonga.
- Provided submissions on legislation, regulations and universal design impacting on the disability community.
- Contributed to Anglican published scholarship, including the three-Tikanga Colloquium book, "Tui, tui, Tuituia mātou," published in 2026, and the Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania.
- Contributed to new student orientation at St John's Theological College in 2024 and 2025.
- In June 2026 will host and facilitate the inaugural Te Hui Taumata Whaikaha Mihinare / The Anglican Disability Summit 2026.

In 2023 the NZ Household Disability Survey reported that one in six people in New Zealand identify as having a disability. Disability is not always visible.

The ratio rises significantly to one in three in those 65 years and over, much of which is invisible and unnoticed.

This current data and church demographic demonstrate an ongoing need for church responsiveness to disability by ensuring the work of The Anglican Disability Network / Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare and the Disability Ministry Educators can continue beyond the current funding limit of 2027.

This motion recognises an established need for the continuation of a church response to disability awareness and ensures practical action and support to build church inclusiveness and accessibility for all people.

That this General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui 2026:

Affirms the work of The Anglican Disability Network / Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare, and in response to the established need in our parishes, ministry units, and the province, General Synod / Hīnota Whānui commits to seeking ongoing funding of the two Disability Ministry Education roles as an educational priority.

Supports and encourages all license holders and staff in amorangi and dioceses in the province, to complete disability-themed education provided by The Anglican Disability Network / Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare as part of their mandatory Health and Safety programmes.

Supports and encourages all Ministry units /each parish to complete an annual Access Assessment Form as provided by The Anglican Disability Network / Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare. **Agreed**

Bill No 11

A Bill intituled, *A Bill to Amend Title D Canons I and III, 2026*

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported to Synod / Hīnota that Bill No 11 had been passed with amendment.

On the motion of Bishop Peter Carrell and seconded by Bishop Ross Bay, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed**

The third reading be an order of the day for tomorrow.

Bill No 12

A Bill intituled, *A Bill to Amend Title D Canon VI (Of Safe to Receive Testimonials), 2026*

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported to Synod / Hīnota that Bill No 12 had been passed without amendment.

On the motion of Bishop Peter Carrell and seconded by Bishop Ross Bay, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed**

The third reading be an order of the day for tomorrow.

Bill No 9

A Bill intituled, *A Bill to Amend Title F Canon V 'Of The General Church Trust Board', 2026*

On the motion of Sir Selwyn Parata and seconded by Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi, the principle of the Bill was agreed to by Synod / Hīnota.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported to Synod / Hīnota that Bill No 9 had been passed with amendment.

On the motion of Sir Selwyn Parata and seconded by Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed**

The third reading be an order of the day for tomorrow.

Bill No 10

A Bill intituled, *A Bill to repeal and Replace Statute No 420 concerning The General Church Trust Board, 2026.*

On the motion of Sir Selwyn Parata and seconded by Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi, the principle of the Bill was agreed to by Synod / Hīnota.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported to Synod / Hīnota that Bill No 10 had been passed with amendment.

On the motion of Archbishop Don Tamihere from the chair, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed**

The third reading be an order of the day for tomorrow.

Archbishop Justin Duckworth in the Chair.

Bill No 1

A Bill intituled *A Bill to Amend Title B Canon I 'of Organised Bodies in the Church', 2026*

On the motion of Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi and seconded by Archbishop Don Tamihere, the principle of the Bill was agreed to by Synod / Hīnota.

The second reading be an order of the day for tomorrow.

The Chair asked Synod / Hinota if there was any objection to considering Bill Nos 2, 3, 4 as a group and if there was any debate in principle.

Bill No 2

A Bill intituled *A Bill to Confirm 'The Constitution/Te Pouhere Amendment Statute, 2024', 2026*

On the motion of Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi and seconded by Archbishop Don Tamihere, the principle of the Bill was agreed to by Synod / Hinota.

Bill No 3

A Bill intituled *A Bill to Confirm 'The Pastoral Liturgies' – Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child Amendment Statute, 2024' 2026*

On the motion of Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi and seconded by Archbishop Don Tamihere, the principle of the Bill was agreed to by Synod / Hinota.

Bill No 4

A Bill intituled *A Bill to Confirm 'The Liturgies of the Word Amendment Statute, 2024', 2026*

On the motion of Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi and seconded by Archbishop Don Tamihere, the principle of the Bill was agreed to by Synod / Hinota. **Agreed**

On the motion of Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi and seconded by Archbishop Don Tamihere, Synod / Hinota moved into Committee to consider Bill Nos 2, 3, 4.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bills.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported to Synod / Hīnota that Bill Nos 2, 3, 4 had been passed without amendment.

On the motion of Archbishop Justin Duckworth from the chair, that the decisions of Committee were taken as the decisions of Synod / Hīnota with the third reading of the three bills be set down tomorrow. **Agreed**

Bill No 5

A Bill intituled *A Bill to Confirm 'The Title G Canon V, 'Of Translations of Holy Scripture' Amendment Statute, 2024', 2026*

On the motion Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu and seconded by Archbishop Sione Ulu'ilakepa, that leave of Synod / Hīnota was sought to withdraw Bill No 5. **Agreed**

Synod / Hīnota adjourned at 5.07pm.

Signed by the Presidents



D Tamihere
Archbishop and Primate



S Ulu'ilakepa
Archbishop and Primate



J Duckworth
Archbishop and Primate