

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND & POLYNESIA
67th Session of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026
Thursday 20th August 2026

Synod / Hīnota reconvened starting at 8.30am with Prayers and at 8.49am with Bishop Ross Bay in the Chair.

Welcome

Bishop Ross Bay welcomed everybody.

Apologies

Bishop Susan Wallace, Bishop Anne van Gend, Mr Ed Duggan, Rev'd Peter Bargh (morning), Very Rev'd Jay Ruka (morning), Mr Tony Hill.

Announcements

Members were informed about the whale swimming and watching activity, the Anglican Missions Tour on Preparedness and Sustainable Farming, and the Tongatapu tours on Friday.

Petitions

There were no petitions.

Reports of Committees and Commissions

There were no reports.

Notice of Motions

It was moved by Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi and seconded by Rev'd Winston Tarere, that four motions be presented rising out of the business of Synod / Hīnota. The General Secretary asked for the detail of the motions for inclusion on the Order paper.

The President then put that Notice of Motions be received with wording to follow. **Agreed**

Confirmation of Bills

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Bill No 11 | the Bill intituled "Title D Canons I and III Amendment Bill 2026" |
| Bill No 12 | the Bill intituled "Title D Canon VI Amendment Bill 2026" |
| Bill No 9 | the Bill intituled "Title F Canon V Amendment (GCTB Chair) Bill 2026" |
| Bill No 10 | the Bill intituled "A Bill to Repeal and Replace Statute 420 concerning the General Church Trust Board 2026" |
| Bill No 2 | the Bill intituled "A Bill to Confirm Statute 776 'The Constitution / Te Pouhere Amendment Statute Bill 2024' 2026" |
| Bill No 3 | the Bill intituled "A Bill to Confirm Statute 777 'The Pastoral Liturgies – Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child Amendment Statute 2024' 2026" |

Bill No 4 the Bill intituled “A Bill to Confirm Statute 778 ‘The Liturgies of the Word Amendment Statute 2024’ 2025

It was moved from the Chair, that Bill Nos 11, 12, 9, 10, 2, 3, 4 be confirmed. **Agreed**

Programme Change

The Chair alerted members to the change in programme, ie the Talanoa will be deferred, along with any non-urgent motions, so Synod can attend to critical Bills and Motions.

It was moved from the Chair, that Standing Order 86.3 be suspended in order for the Bills to go through all stages on the same day. **Agreed**

Bill No 1

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

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that Bill No 1 had been passed with amendment.

On the motion from the Chair, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed**

Bill No 6

A Bill intituled “*A Bill to Amend Title G Canon III ‘of Marriage’ and Title A Canon II ‘of Pastors’, 2026*”

On the motion of Bishop Peter Carrell and seconded by Ms Vivienne Jackson, the principle of the Bill was agreed.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that Bill No 6 had been passed without amendment.

On the motion from the Chair, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed**

Synod / Hīnota adjourned for morning tea at 10.34am.

Synod / Hīnota resumed 11.07am.

Motion # 7
Personal Files for Clergy

Mover: Bishop Peter Carrell

Seconder: Rev'd Kofe Havea

That this General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026:

1. Affirms in the light of the Royal Commission on Abuse the importance of accurate, accessible records of relevant data, correspondence and licensing for its licensed lay and ordained ministers.
2. Acknowledges the complexity of maintaining accurate, accessible records in the light of privacy laws, requirements for the protection of data and upholding of confidentiality about sensitive matters.
3. Requests the General Synod Standing Committee to commission a small working group, which includes at least one legal advisor, to bring a Bill to GSTHW 2028 setting out requirements for this church in respect of accurate, accessible records of relevant data, correspondence and licensing for its licensed lay and ordained ministers.
4. Recommends to the General Synod Standing Committee that the scope of the working group's considerations include but are not limited to the following matters:
 - a. Every person on becoming a licensed minister (lay or ordained) of this church should have a personal file holding information about their ministry appointments, ending of those appointments, findings in relation to formal complaints, as well as contact details.
 - b. Every person (whether or not otherwise a licensed minister) on being accepted for training for ordination should have a personal file holding information about their discernment process, this file being retained by the episcopal unit in which their acceptance for ordination training is made, but transferable to an episcopal unit if that person transfers to another episcopal unit. And this file being the beginning of this person's continuing personal file.
 - c. Such files will be transferred from one episcopal unit to another whenever the minister changes from one episcopal unity to another.
 - d. Each episcopal unit is requested to keep a copy of information in such personal files related to that episcopal unit, along with contact information, for the purpose of responding to any future complaint should that complaint be about ministry while the minister was ministering in that episcopal unit.
 - e. The storage of all personal files (and copies thereof) must meet requirements in civil law for protection of data, privacy and the like, and must meet requirements in church law for archiving of such material.

- f. Every clergyperson has the right to request a copy of their personal file.
- g. The minimal and maximal extent of the contents of a personal file, recognising that the minimal extent would include formal correspondence and copies of documents relating to (e.g.) acceptance for ordination training, training fulfilled as a lay or ordained minister, reports made along the way of training and formation for ministry, issuing of licences, appointments to licensed roles whether stipendiary or non-stipendiary, formal complaints and the outcomes of complaint investigations, while the maximal extent could include all correspondence a bishop receives about a minister, even expressions of concern which (a) may not have become formal complaints (b) may, if investigated, have no substance to them, all notes made by bishops about a minister, and the like.
- h. The extent to which any of the matters herein should be enshrined in legislation or be a matter of policy, and the role of the General Synod Standing Committee in making policy from time to time in respect of requirements for personal files.

Agreed

Bill No 7

A Bill intituled *"A Bill to Amend 'The Liturgies of the Eucharist', 2026"*

On the motion of Bishop Peter Carrell and seconded by Ms Jo Bean, that leave of Synod / Hīnota was given to withdraw Bill No 7.

Agreed

Bill No 8

A Bill intituled, *"A Bill to Amend Title A Canon I 'Of Bishops', 2026"*

On the motion of Rev'd Canon Simon Martin and seconded by Rev'd Peter Bargh, the principle of the Bill was agreed.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that Bill No 8 had been passed without amendment.

On the motion from the Chair, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota.

Agreed

Bill No 13

A Bill intituled "*A Bill to Amend The Constitution / Te Pouhere, 2026*"

On the motion of Ven Michael Tamihere and seconded by Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi, the principle of the Bill was agreed.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that it had started to consider Bill 13 and sought leave to sit again.

Agreed

Motion # 3 Reports and Accounts

Mover: Archbishop Dr Don Tamihere

Seconder: Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi

That this General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026

Go into Committee to consider the Motion.

Agreed.

That General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026:

Adopts the reports and accounts listed in Motion #3.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS OF VARIOUS BODIES BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Order Paper Committee recommends that the Committee of the Whole deal with the Reports in the manner shown in the Schedule. It commends the following motion to the Chair of Committee.

That the Committee of the Whole deals with the Reports in the manner shown in the Schedule alongside each report respectively, that is:

- (a) Where "adopt" or "receive" appears in the "Action" column that Report is to be adopted or received without further consideration and the author thanked for it.
- (b) Where a rider appears in the "Further Action or Qualification" column, the adoption or reception of that Report implies that the Committee incorporates the rider in its own recommendation.
- (c) Where "defer" appears in the "Action" column, that report is to be considered elsewhere on Synod's agenda, in conjunction with the item of business shown in the "Further Action or Qualification" column.
- (d) Should any item of deferred business not be dealt with at that time, it will return to the Committee for its consideration as time permits.
- (e) Where "Consider" appears in the "Action" column, that report is to be given priority in the Order Paper at the time shown in the "Further Action or Qualification" column.
- (f) Any member may, before this motion is passed, reserve a report for consideration by the Committee, in which case that Report is excluded from the motion.

SCHEDULE

No	Report	Motions	Bills	Order Paper	Action	Further action or qualification
1	Anglican Financial Care				Receive	
2	Anglican Insurance Board				Receive	
3	Anglican Missions Board				Receive	
4	Archives and History Committee/ Te Puna o Nehera	9			Adopt	
5	Association of Anglican Women				Receive	
6	Church Army NZ				Receive	
7	Christian World Service				Receive	
8	Common Life Liturgical Commission		2, 3, 4, 5, 7		Adopt	
9	Council for Ecumenism	8			Adopt	
Red pp	General Church Trust Board		9, 10	Financial	Receive	
10	General Secretary				Adopt	
11	General Synod Standing Committee		1		Adopt	
12	Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy				Receive	
13	Inter-church Tertiary Chaplaincy Council				Receive	
14	Judicial Committee				Adopt	
15	King's College				Receive	
16	Ministry Standards Commission		11, 12		Adopt	
17	Otaki and Porirua Trusts Board				Receive	
18	Powers of GSSC Small Working Group		1		Adopt	
19	Registrars, Diocesan Secretaries & Administrators				Adopt	
20	Representation of Dioceses				Adopt	

Red pp	St John's College Trust Board			Financial	Receive	
21	St Stephens and Queen Victoria Schools Trust Board	4			Receive	
22	The Anglican Disability Network – Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare	6			Adopt	
23	Te Aute Trust Board				Receive	
24	Te Kaunihera				Receive	
25	Te Korowai Trust				Receive	
26	Te Kotahitanga				Adopt	
27	Kinder Library Oversight Committee				Adopt	
28	Tikanga Toru Youth Commission				Adopt	
Red pp	Treasurer's Report with Audited Accounts			Financial	Adopt	
29	Women's Studies Centre				Adopt	

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Motion.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that Motion #3 had been considered and was adopted.

On the motion from the Chair, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed.**

Motion #4 **St Stephens and Queen Victoria Schools Trust Board Trustees Appointment**

Mover: Sir Selwyn Parata

Seconder: Lay Ven Maui Tangohau

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

In accordance with Standing Resolution SRA5 (b) the Rt Rev'd Te Kitohi Pikaahu and Mr Bernard Te Paa are reappointed to the St Stephens and Queen Victoria Schools Trust Board.

Agreed

Motion # 5
Shared Primacy

Mover: Very Rev'd Ruihana Paenga

Seconder: Mr John Whitehead

Whereas Title A Canon I Clause 7.2.4, provides:

“The appointment to be the Primate / te Pīhopa Mātāmua or the Primates/ ngā Pīhopa Mātāmua shall be for a period expiring on the day fixed by General Synod/ te Hīnota Whānui at the time of appointment. If no such date is fixed, the period expires on the last day of the third ordinary session of the General Synod/ te Hīnota Whānui following the session of General Synod/ te Hīnota Whānui at which such appointment was made.”

And whereas the present shared Primacy was established by resolution 2 of General Synod/ Hīnota Whānui 2020 (proceedings page 4), so expires at the rising of this General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui 2026,

That this General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui 2026 resolves:

That the three senior bishops of the Tikanga be appointed to be the Primates/ ngā Pīhopa Mātāmua in accordance with Title A Canon I Clause 7.1.1 (b) for a term expiring at the rising of General Synod/ Te Hīnota Whānui 2032.

Agreed

Synod / Hīnota moved to Eucharist at 12.26pm.

Synod / Hīnota adjourned for lunch at 1.30pm.

Synod / Hīnota resumed for business at 2.30pm.

Bill No 13

A Bill intituled “A Bill to Amend The Constitution / Te Pouhere, 2026”

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that Bill No 13 had been passed with amendment.

On the motion from the Chair, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota.

Agreed

Bill No 14

A Bill intituled "*The Finance Statute, 2026*"

On the motion of Sir Selwyn Parata and seconded by Mr Fe'iloaitau Kaho Tevi, the principle of the Bill was agreed.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that Bill No 14 had been passed without amendment.

On the motion from the Chair, that the decision of Committee was taken as the decision of Synod / Hīnota. **Agreed**

Confirmation of Bills

Bill No 1 A Bill intituled "*A Bill to Amend 'Title B Canon I (GSSC) Amendment Bill,' 2026*"

Bill No 6 A Bill intituled "*A Bill to Amend Title G Canon III 'of Marriage' and Title A Canon II 'of Pastors,' 2026*"

Bill No 8 A Bill intituled "*A Bill to Amend Title A Canon I 'Of Bishops,' 2026*"

Bill No 13 A Bill intituled "*A Bill to Amend The Constitution / Te Pouhere, 2026*"

Bill No 14 A Bill intituled "*The Finance Statute, 2026*"

It was moved from the Chair, that Bill Nos 1, 6, 8, 13, 14 be confirmed. **Agreed**

Motion #8 Holy Land

Mover: Ven Dr Michael Wallace

Second: Rev'd Ivica Gregurec

This Te Hīnota Whānui / General Synod:

Noting the continuing state military violence and relentless oppression of the people of Gaza, increasing violence by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the intensifying pressure on Christian communities in the Holy Land, and the steady rise of Christian Zionism in our countries,

- (a) Affirms and commits to continue to support the ministries of Archbishop Hosam Naoum and the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East - in Gaza and throughout the Middle East, and encourages our agencies AMB and CWS to continue work with partners in the Holy Land.
- (b) Calls on our governments to actively contribute to peace, recovery and reconstruction in Gaza.

- (c) Affirms the right and freedom of Christian communities to exercise their ministries in the Holy Land.
- (d) Calls on our governments to do what they can in international forums to uphold the rights of religious minorities in the Holy Land.
- (e) Rejects antisemitism¹ (As defined in the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism) and the violence that flows from it.
- (f) Rejects Christian Zionism² (As defined by the Jerusalem heads of Churches in 2006) and the violence that flows from it.
- (g) Requests the Council for Ecumenism to educate Anglicans in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia about antisemitism and Christian Zionism.
- (h) Calls on our governments to do what they can in international forums to halt settler violence, and halt illegal settlements in Palestinian areas.
- (i) Asks the Archbishops to communicate the contents of this motion to the governments of Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Agreed

Motion #9 Standing Resolution on Church Registers

Mover: Dr Peter Lineham

Seconder: Archbishop Justin Duckworth

That this General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui, pursuant to Title C Canon II, moves into Committee to consider a Standing Resolution.

In Committee

That this General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui adopts as a Standing Resolution the Schedule to Motion 15 of GSTHW 2016, and that this becomes SRA 16.

Provided that any reference in the Schedule to New Zealand legislation or government body, shall, where applicable, be also deemed to be a reference to the equivalent legislation or government body in each of the jurisdictions of the Diocese of Polynesia.

¹ As defined in the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA); the JDA is a tool to identify, confront and raise awareness about antisemitism. It was developed by a group of scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies. It has around 370 signatories. The JDA can be found here: <https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>

² As defined by the Jerusalem Heads of Churches in 2006:
<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2006/08/the-jerusalem-declaration-on-christian-zionism.aspx>

Schedule:

Guidelines for the Ownership and Use of Parish Registers

Agreed to by the Archives and History Committee: Te Puna o Neherā, 11 March 2016

Ownership of Registers

All registers (baptism, marriage, burial, confirmation and other services) are the property of the Episcopal Unit, who will make suitable arrangements with a Ministry Unit for the storage, care and use of the Ministry Unit registers, according to the following Guidelines:

Location of Registers

1. The Episcopal Unit must arrange for registers to be removed to the agreed Episcopal unit archival repository (which might be the archives of the Episcopal Unit or of a contracted third party) when registers:
 - a. Have an oldest entry which reaches 50 years old, whether or not they have room for further entries.
 - b. Are completed and are not in current use for new entries (ie there being a successor register).
2. A Ministry Unit may copy information from a register prior to deposit if they wish to have access to the information within the Ministry Unit. A Ministry Unit may have access to the registers held by the Episcopal unit archival repository.
3. Arrangements with a third party for storage and access should be approved by the Archives and History Committee: Te Puna o Neherā, in consultation with the Episcopal Unit. Copyright and ownership remains with the Episcopal Unit.
4. A legally effective written agreement covering potential copyright, ownership, possession and use issues, must be completed before any deposit of registers with a third party takes place.

Information in Registers

5. The information contained in a register is restricted by both the Copyright Act and the Privacy Act.
6. The guidance of the Registrar-General Births, Deaths and Marriages, as to when registers can be accessed by the general public, must be followed, so that people or families who might still be alive can be protected. This allows access to
 - a. baptism records that are at least 100 years old
 - b. marriage records that are at least 80 years old
 - c. burial records that are at least 50 years old — or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago
 - d. confirmation records – no restrictions
 - e. service registers – no restrictions

(NB: Some pastoral discretion may be exercised over these restrictions by the respective Episcopal Unit.)

7. Under the Privacy Act, an individual has access to her or his own record, without time restrictions.
8. Custodians of Episcopal unit archival repositories may allow the verified descendant of an individual to have access to that individual's records within the restricted periods noted above.

Copyright issues

9. Copyright of the original material in registers is held by the Episcopal Unit, who should control the copying and dissemination of the information to any third party according to any policy or Guidelines agreed to by the Church.

(Note that with marriage registers, not all information will be copyright to the Church because some information will be copied from a government issued marriage licence).

10. Where an historical agreement is already in place, this should be reviewed in the light of the above Guidelines, and where possible a modified agreement made to better protect the interests of the Church in the registers.
11. A legally effective written agreement covering potential copyright, attribution and use issues must be completed before any external party is permitted to access and use (including copying, digitising, scanning, etc.) any registers.
12. Any new form of existing records (e.g. electronic or transcription) will be regarded under the Copyright Act as a literary work and have copyright of its own (but only to the extent it is original). If it is simply a copy of the existing record, then it is subject to the Church's copyright in that existing record. However, if the copy incorporates new original material then there will be mixed copyright. The Church's rights in the existing records should be preserved wherever possible.

On the motion of Dr Peter Lineham and seconded by Archbishop Justin Duckworth, the principle of the Motion was agreed.

Synod / Hīnota moved into Committee to consider the Motion.

Synod / Hīnota resumed.

The Committee reported that Motion #9 had been passed without amendment.

On the motion from the Chair, that the decision In Committee was taken as the decision of Synod.
Agreed

The Chair thanked Dr Peter Lineham for his work on church records.

The Chair thanked Justice Chris Harding for his work chairing In Committee.

Motion #10 as amended Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies

Mover: Mr Tim Cross

Seconded: Rev'd Canon Isaac Beach

Amended Motion 10

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 Mr Tim Cross and Bishop Anne van Gend (or agreed nominee) to prepare terms of reference for the formation of an AI working group, reporting to General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC), and providing a report to General Synod 2027/28.

The AI working group aims to provide:

- (a) consistent AI policies and principles, informed by theological reflection and work done elsewhere in the Anglican Communion, for the 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 our ancient intelligence;
 - (iii) our environment in relation to AI systems and infrastructure;
 - (iv) the welfare of those working within the AI sector;

Agreed

Motion #11 Climate Resilience

Mover: Ms Elisiva Sunia

Seconded: Rev'd Winston Tarere

That this 67th General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026:

1. **Noting the presentations** made to the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026 on climate change, climate resilience, plastics and the experiences of Pacific communities, and recognising the evidence, knowledge and lived experiences;
2. **Noting with appreciation** the work that have been done and currently been done in regard to climate resilience and disaster preparedness across the Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia;
3. **Reaffirming the commitment** of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia to climate resilience and disaster preparedness as an essential part of the mission and ministry.

Therefore calls upon and tasks the Climate Commission to:

- a. Coordinate and strengthen a coherent strategy to direct its approach to disaster preparedness and resilience.
- b. Report to next General Synod Standing Committee on the progress made regarding climate resilience and disaster preparedness.
- c. Prepare the way forward regarding climate resilience and disaster preparedness and submit to the next General Synod Standing Committee.

Agreed

Motion #12 as amended
One Mission, One Vaka/Waka, One Ocean – Ocean Wellbeing

Moved by: Ms Bolivia Smith

Seconded by: Rev'd Winston Tarere

That this 67th General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui:

1. **Gives thanks** to the Almighty for granting us the stewardship of the World's Largest Cathedral: Our Moana Nui a Kiwa, our Pacific Ocean, Our Moana.
2. **Recognizes** the need for the Church to intentionally shift our relationship with the Moana Nui a Kiwa from one of dominion and exploitation to one of stewardship and ultimately to one of GUARDIANSHIP recognizing the Moana as God's creation and as integral to the identity, culture, livelihoods and wellbeing of the current generation and the generations to come.
3. **Recalling** our moral and ethical responsibility as the Church of the Moana to our societies and communities;
4. **Commits** resources to ensure opportunities to learn from, support and strengthen one another as tikanga;
5. **Recalling** our endeavour to reflect a HIGH TRUST model of relationship

therefore requests:

6. **The General Synod Standing Committee**, in consultation with the Three Tikanga and particularly the Diocese of Polynesia, to task the Climate Change Commissioner and Tikanga Climate Champions, Anglican Missions, Ocean Experts from each Tikanga and other relevant bodies to:
 - i. Develop an Anglican Ocean Wellbeing framework grounded in Christian theology, Indigenous knowledge of the Moana (Pacific Ocean) and the lived experience of our communities;
 - ii. Further develop a Theology of the Ocean taking into consideration the recent work of the TPOA on the concept of MANUIKA
 - iii. Develop liturgical resources on the ocean with the relevant 3T Liturgical bodies;
 - iv. Identify practical actions that parishes, dioceses and Church bodies can undertake to protect and restore the wellbeing of our oceans and coastal communities;

- v. Strengthen the participation and leadership of Pacific voices in relevant national, regional and international conversations concerning oceans, climate change and environmental justice;
- vi. Explore partnerships with Pacific churches, communities, governments, regional organisations and other appropriate bodies working for Ocean Wellbeing;
- vii. Ensure that the Climate Change Commission is adequately resourced to address the agreed priorities;
- viii. Report progress and recommendations to GSSC;
- ix. Prepare the statement to highlight the stance of the Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia on safeguarding the wellbeing of the ocean in the next Pacific Island Forum

On the motion of Ms Bolivia Smith and seconded by Rev'd Winston Tarere, that Motion #12 be received with amendment. **Agreed**

The President moved from the Chair, that Motion #12 with amendment be approved. **Agreed**

Motion #13 **Bio-Remediation And Plastics**

Moved by: Mr Fe'iloakita Kaho Tevi

Seconded by: Rev'd Winston Tarere

That this General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui:

1. **Receives with concern** the continuing accumulation of plastic waste across ACANZP communities, coastlines and the *moana*, recognising the significant environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of plastic pollution upon the nations and communities of the Province;
2. **Affirms** the Church's call to care for creation, to act responsibly as stewards of the natural world, and to safeguard the wellbeing of present and future generations;
3. **Recognises** the leadership of the Anglican Dioceses of Polynesia in initiating **Project Vaimā**, a staged research, investigation and due-diligence initiative exploring the potential for biological approaches to the remediation and reduction of plastic waste;
4. **Acknowledges** that any exploration of biological remediation technologies must proceed with appropriate scientific rigour, environmental responsibility, ethical consideration, cultural awareness and respect for the communities and ecosystems in which such research may take place;

Therefore:

5. **Endorses the further development of Project Vaimā** under appropriate Polynesian diocesan leadership and governance, recognising that the initiative should be developed in partnership with relevant scientific, environmental, community, cultural and other appropriate bodies;
6. **Notes the support of the Three Tikanga** for the proposal and refers the initiative for appropriate review, consideration and recommendations through the relevant Synodical and governance processes;

7. **Authorises GSSC to provide necessary resources for an initial Proof of Concept for Project Vaimā**, to commence in **October 2026**, the purpose of which shall be to investigate, test and assess the scientific feasibility, environmental implications, safety, potential effectiveness and practical application of the proposed biological remediation approach;
8. **Requires that the Proof of Concept be conducted as a staged research and due-diligence process**, subject to such scientific, environmental, ethical, cultural, legal and governance oversight as may be appropriate;
9. **Requires that the findings of the Proof of Concept**, together with recommendations regarding the future development of Project Vaimā, be reported to the General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui in 2028;
10. **Provides that**, should the Proof of Concept produce demonstrably outstanding results prior to the 2028 meeting of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui, and should those results indicate that earlier progression to a pilot stage is scientifically justified, environmentally responsible and appropriately governed, the relevant Polynesian diocesan leadership may seek approval to accelerate the next stage of the initiative through the appropriate Church governance processes;
11. **recognises** that any such accelerated progression shall remain subject to appropriate independent scientific assessment and to all necessary environmental, ethical, cultural, legal, diocesan and governance approvals; and
12. **confirms that this motion** does not authorise an operational deployment or wider implementation of any biological plastic remediation technology, and that no operational pilot or wider application shall proceed unless and until the Proof of Concept has been completed, its findings appropriately assessed, and all necessary approvals have been obtained.

Agreed

Motion #14 Pacific Islands Forum Solidarity

Moved by: Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi

Seconded by: Rev'd Winston Tarere

That this 67th General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui

1. **NOTES** that Aotearoa New Zealand will enter the Pacific Islands Forum Troika as incoming Chair at the conclusion of the 55th Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau, 30 August-4 September 2026; will host and chair the 56th Forum Leaders Meeting in 2027; and will remain in the Troika until the 2029 Leaders Meeting;
2. **AFFIRMS** that this is a covenant of trust within the Pacific household and that solidarity must be demonstrated through New Zealand's domestic laws, policies, budgets and relationships; and recalls the Three-Tikanga Church's vocation, grounded in the Anglican Marks of Mission, to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Indigenous dignity and tino rangatiratanga, peace and the integrity of creation;
3. **RECEIVES** the Forum Leaders' affirmation that climate change remains the single greatest threat to Pacific wellbeing, their call to keep 1.5°C within reach, their endorsement of the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration, and their member-led approach to deep-sea minerals;

4. **EXPRESSES MARKED CONCERN** that New Zealand's domestic policy direction risks weakening the credibility of its forthcoming regional leadership, including:
- a. renewed petroleum exploration and climate plans found insufficient to meet future emissions budgets and the 2050 target;
 - b. a seabed-mining position which permits domestic applications and does not support the precautionary pause or moratorium sought by many Pacific states, churches, Indigenous peoples and civil-society organisations;
 - c. expanded defence expenditure, capability and integration, including possible AUKUS Pillar II participation, without adequate public, tangata whenua and Pacific discernment about an Ocean of Peace; and
 - d. repeated Waitangi Tribunal findings of failures to consult and breaches of Te Tiriti / Treaty principles which cause or risk prejudice to Māori, including in Māori representation and the use and revitalisation of te reo Māori;

This 67th General Synod therefore:

5. **REQUESTS** the Primates, with substantive Tikanga Māori and Tikanga Pasefika leadership and the support of the General Synod Standing Committee, to issue at the earliest opportunity a public Pastoral Letter / Statement to the Prime Minister and Government of New Zealand;
6. **REQUESTS** that the Pastoral Letter / Statement INVITE the Government, before it chairs the Forum in 2027, to demonstrate solidarity with the Pacific through domestic action by:
- a. restoring credible climate and environmental leadership consistent with the 1.5°C goal, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the ICJ climate Advisory Opinion; ending fossil-fuel expansion; and protecting freshwater, biodiversity, coasts and ocean with tangata whenua;
 - b. supporting a precautionary pause or moratorium on deep-sea and seabed mining unless and until independent science, enforceable protection, and the free, prior and informed consent of affected Indigenous peoples and communities can be secured;
 - c. placing human, ecological and climate security at the centre of policy; upholding the nuclear-free Pacific; prioritising peacebuilding, resilience and humanitarian response; and ensuring transparent democratic, Te Tiriti and Pacific scrutiny of proposed advanced military arrangements;
 - d. honouring Te Tiriti in law and practice, responding to the Waitangi Tribunal, protecting te reo Māori, Māori representation and tino rangatiratanga, and ensuring Māori share authority in decisions affecting whenua, wai and moana; and
 - e. undertaking genuine talanoa with tangata whenua, Pacific communities, churches and civil society, and publishing before the 2027 Forum the concrete steps by which this solidarity will be demonstrated;

7. **CALLS** on the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches to support the preparation of the Pastoral Letter / Statement, communicate this resolution to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; FONO members of the Anglican Communion; and
8. **COMMITTS** us to embody the same solidarity through the Three-Tikanga relationship.

Agreed

Motion #15
Affirming Spiritual Leadership within Tonga

Mover: Mr Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi

Seconder: Mr Viliami Folau

That this 67th General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2026:

1. **notes** the willingness of the Diocese of Polynesia to further organise itself for the sake of mission within Tikanga Polynesia;
2. **notes** the call within the life of the Diocese of Polynesia for the creation of a Diocese of Tonga;
3. **affirms** that, under Part F of the Constitution / Te Pouhere, the Diocese of Polynesia has power to structure and organise itself and may, with the concurrence of General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui, subdivide itself into several diocese;
4. **affirms** its openness in principle to receiving and considering, in due course, a formal proposal for the creation within the Diocese of Polynesia of independent leadership and Ministry;
5. **recognises** that any such proposal is properly to arise from within the Diocese of Polynesia and to be brought to General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui for concurrence and such further action as may be required; and
6. **encourages** the Bishop, Standing Committee, and Synod of the Diocese of Polynesia to continue the discernment, consultation, and preparation necessary for a formal proposal.

Agreed

Archbishop Don Tamihere in the Chair with Archbishop Justin Duckworth and Archbishop Sione Ulu'ilakepa thanked Bishop Ross Bay for chairing, and acknowledged Bishop Richard Ellena, who addressed Synod / Hīnota with a personal message.

Motion: Giving thanks to the hosts of the 67th GSTHW

Moved: Very Rev'd Ruihana Paenga

Seconded: Bishop Andrew Hedge

That this gathering of the 67th GSTHW of the ACANZP offers its sincere thanks and appreciation to Archbishop Sione Ulu'ilakepa, leaders of Tikanga Pasefika, the Diocese of Polynesia for their abundant hospitality and radical manaakitanga as hosts of this Synod. We acknowledge with aroha the generosity extended to all delegates, observers and guests, who convened for this synod in the Kingdom of Tonga for the first time in our Province's history.

We express our gratitude to the people of the Kingdom of Tonga, His Majesty King Tupou VI and Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u Tuku'aho and members of the Tongan Royal Family who graciously received us and opened this synod. To the parishes of the Tongan Episcopal Unit All Saints, St Matthias, St Pauls and St Barnabas for the many sumptuous meals prepared with generosity and joy. To the students of St John the Baptist Theological College Suva and musicians for the uplifting and thoughtful daily prayer rhythms that have anchored our talanoa and Synod business. To the Lotu Youth stewards, media team and to everyone who has contributed to and faithfully served, ensuring the success of this 67th GSTHW malo 'aupito.

Agreed

Synod / Hīnota rose to waiata.

Archbishop Don Tamihere thanked staff and delegates and asked members to show their thanks with acclamation.

Ms Frances Brown gave a notice of a meeting of Te Ara Aroha community after dinner.

Archbishop Sione Ulu'ilakepa closed Synod / Hīnota in prayer.

Adjournment

Synod / Hīnota adjourned at 5.38pm.

Signed by the Presidents



D Tamihere
Archbishop and Primate



S Ulu'ilakepa
Archbishop and Primate



J Duckworth
Archbishop and Primate