



DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION REPORT TO SYNOD 2020

To promote the overseas mission of our Church and encourage our parishes and ministry units to participate in this mission through prayer, giving and personal involvement

Introduction: Becoming involved with the task of spreading the Good News is not an option for any follower of Christ. Jesus died to free people from the dominion of darkness and to give them a future and a hope for the present and all eternity. The task in New Zealand is great but the size of the challenge around the world is far greater. Parishes face challenging times and financial constraints like never before; but so did the early church (as well as suffering persecution) and it did not stop them from sending and supporting mission partners to every part of the known world. Creativity and God's grace flourish in times of adversity. All He requires of us is a willingness to become involved. Overseas mission is not all about raising money but providing practical and spiritual connection with the cutting edge of Christian outreach.

Communication and Involvement: We see communication as a key function of the DCWM. We see the future role Council as a communication clearing house between parishes, NZCMS and their mission partners and the ABM (Anglican Board of Missions) and the projects they foster. NZCMS and the ABM have some very exciting new initiatives in the pipeline which offer the opportunity for personal and parish involvement like never before. Our goal for the future is to foster links and connections with people and events both within NZ and in the various international locations. Personal involvement brings personal commitment and enthusiasm which naturally results in greater prayer and financial support. Even in times of restricted international travel internet-based communications offer great opportunities for face to face contact.

Over the past year both NZCMS and the ABM have offered some exciting ways to become personally involved. ABM focusses on projects with local churches in the Pacific region covering everything from water supply to supporting a local evangelist. NZCMS has a new initiative called "Better World 2021" aimed at challenging young adults to take a gap year and experience life in an underprivileged community in the Pacific and Asia regions. At the other end of life, NZCMS organised the Golden Oldies Mission Tour. In 2019 several from our Diocese joined a group of 20 and travelled to Fiji to experience first-hand church life in the city and remote villages. It was a life changing experience for all. While a 2020 is unlikely to happen a trip in 2021 looks promising.

Mission Motivators: It has been the practice for many years now for each parish to appoint a person with whom we, the Council, communicate from time to time through email, offering encouragement in their role. The Council also hosts occasional face-to-face 'mission' events to make these matters personal. 2019 was a lean year in this respect, and just as we arranged our first meeting for 2020, Level 4 shut us down. However, we will be initiating another meeting as soon as practical. Our goal for the future is to ensure that every parish has a mission motivator and that he or she has a clear understanding of the important role they have and that they are adequately resourced to carry out their task. We want to acknowledge the dedication, creativity and enthusiasm of many parish MM's who have made such a great effort over the past year. Thank you.

Diocesan Target / Appeals: The 2019 Synod accepted a reduced 2020 target for Anglican Missions, in the light of the restructuring of a number of parishes. We appreciated the difficulties parishes face in contributing to the target which has only been compounded by the 2020 pandemic. The good news is that despite all that we as parishes face in 2020 our Diocesan giving over the first half of the year has only dropped by 8.5%.

Appointments / Resignations: The Rev Peter Hurricks accepted an invitation to become the Chair of the DCWM late in 2019, succeeding the Rev Glenda Hicks. Peter has had extensive involvement with overseas mission and international ministry. We also welcome the new Director of NZCMS, the Rev Rosie Fyfe who replaced Steve Maina towards the end of 2019 and look forward to a close and harmonious relationship with the NZCMS team in the future. The Rev Robert Kereopa has resigned as National Director of Anglican Missions, and the search is on for his replacement.

Current members of the DCWM are: May Carrell (Secretary), Lee Biddington, Mark Aitchison, Jean Hollis and Fay Deam. Our hope in 2020 is to expand our Council team.

Peter Hurricks
Chair