

## Standing Committee Report

This year saw The Rt Rev'd Dr Peter R Carrell appointed as the Bishop of Christchurch, and consequently becoming Chair of Standing Committee. The other members of Standing Committee were: The Very Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley, the Rev'd Dr Meg Harvey, the Rev'd Dr Matthew Ling, the Rev'd Thomas Brauer, Dr Judith Mackenzie, Ms Moka Ritchie, and Mr Byron Behm. In January Mrs Lyndsey Sturge was appointed as a co-opted member. Following the Diocesan Synod in September the Rev'd Tony Kippax replaced the Rev'd Matthew Ling, who returned to the UK, and Mr David Prosser replaced Mrs Lyndsey Sturge. In December Mrs Kirsty May, was appointed as a co-opted member. The Diocesan Manager Mr Edwin Boyce is an ex officio member and attends the monthly meetings of Standing Committee. The minutes were recorded by Mr Scott Walters. We give thanks to God for all the members of Standing Committee who give of their time and experience to help govern our Diocese.

The Standing Committee is responsible for the governance of the Diocese as it functions as the Synod when the Synod is not in session. It is responsible for:

- developing and enabling the vision and strategy of the Diocese,
- upholding and supporting the elected Bishop,
- providing guidance to the Diocese through policy development and accountability structures,
- effective delegation to the Diocesan Manager and monitoring thereof,
- allocating resources appropriately,

and at all times, operating within the Canons, Diocesan Statutes and Regulation and law of the land. Standing Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of January.

The matters that have to be dealt with by Standing Committee are focused on the mission and ministry of the Diocese. That, more often than not, means that matters before Standing Committee are inextricably linked to the finances and property of the parishes in the Diocese. At the 2018 Synod the Anglican Diocese Ministry Support Centre was established for the purpose of managing the finances of the Diocese and so the two governing bodies established this year a Memorandum of Understanding so that there were clear boundaries between their responsibilities.

Some of our parishes in 2019 continued to deal with the results of the disaffiliations that took place in the previous year. We are grateful for the work that parish wardens and vestries have done to continue with the mission of the church in these parishes. Thanks must also be extended to our retired clergy who stepped in, sometimes on a voluntary basis, to assist the parishes of Avonhead, Papanui, Cashmere, Woolston, South Christchurch, Methven, and Rakaia.

Some parishes have approached Standing Committee this year seeking financial support. Thankfully we have managed to work our way through these difficult situations either by providing funds from parish resources or from the generosity of parishioners.

Standing Committee will continue to face challenges brought to it by ministry units and these will be sharpened by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic that we are in the middle of as I write this report. Such challenges continue to raise questions about our Diocesan structures, finances and network of ministry units. Standing Committee meetings are often a lively forum for considering God's mission in this Diocese as we look towards our Regeneration through focus on families, communities, and making disciples.

+Peter Carrell  
Bishop of Christchurch