

# Anglican Diocese of Waiapu

## STANDING COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Of the Special Meeting held via Zoom Video Conference  
on Thursday 25 November 2021 at 6.00pm

- MEMBERS:** Bishop Andrew Hedge (Chairman), Rev'd Jenny Chalmers, Rev'd Jo Crosse, Miss Alison Thomson, Venerable Bronwyn Marchant, Mr Paul White, Ms Lauren Hibberd (until 7pm), Mrs Elaine Wood
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms Colleen Kaye (Registrar), Mrs Debbie Phillips (Minutes)
- GUEST:** Mr Jeremy Johnson (Chancellor – apologies for lateness)
- APOLOGIES** Apologies were received and accepted from the Venerable Linda King.
- PRAYER/WELCOME:** Bishop Andrew

Item No	Item
Spl SC 21.11.1	<p><b><u>Covid-19 Vaccine Certification and Implementation</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman advised that he had called this meeting to discuss and make a decision about vaccine certification and the implementation of this across Clergy, staff and lay assistants, and how it would impact the way the Diocese ran services in parishes. At the conclusion of the discussion he would be seeking a motion of support from Standing Committee, agreeing in principle that as a Diocese we move forward in line with the Government's Covid-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System) and support him in making decisions about the implementation plan for the Diocese.</p> <p>The Chairman apologised that, due to time restraints, he had been unable to circulate a discussion paper for this meeting, however he gave a verbal briefing following on from the Pakeha Bishops meeting this morning, and explained where their thinking was at.</p> <p>The Government had announced that all religious leaders would have to be double vaccinated and that churches fell into a category of faith gatherings and would be required to use a vaccine certificated approach under the Covid Protection Framework. However the Bishops had clearly indicated this had to be a decision that was centered on the core unit of the church - ie at the Diocese level, and was to be made by the Bishop and Standing Committee in each Diocese. As such, most Standing Committees across the Pakeha Diocese were meeting tonight to discuss this matter. It was also noted that Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches had announced their support to work within the vaccine certificated framework.</p> <p>It was noted the Auckland Diocese had already prepared a protection policy and risk assessment template in response to the Covid Protection Framework and these documents should be available for public release tomorrow, at which time we would be able to access them to adapt for Waiapu.</p> <p>We want to make the best choices we can as individuals and as a Church to respond to the virus and the threat it poses to us and our communities, so the most effective way to do this was to become a vaccine certificated community. Therefore, to provide a safe and welcoming environment in our churches, work spaces, community gathering spaces and hall facilities etc, we need to have our Clergy, staff, licensed lay people, and laity who are regularly involved in rostered aspects of services, to be double vaccinated to continue in those roles.</p>

The Chairman outlined the details and implications of the new Traffic Light System and there was good discussion around this with various concerns, questions and scenarios being raised including:

- The policing of vaccine passports.
- How the Church would meet the needs of those who are unvaccinated.
- The implications for groups using Church facilities and buildings etc.
- If it was decided to hold both vaccinated and unvaccinated services, whether Clergy taking the unvaccinated services should be required to have regular Covid tests.
- How the Diocese would support clergy and paid staff should they need to isolate at home.
- The extra education and vigilance required for pastoral care teams.
- The difference between a “gathering” and an “event”.

The Registrar briefed the Committee on the four criteria that were required to be evaluated under the risk assessment framework for every role within the diocese. She also spoke to the HR implications around the Traffic Light System, saying all staff (including people with lay licences and volunteers in general) would be required to be double vaccinated. A Survey Monkey would be emailed out tomorrow asking people to respond and indicate their vaccination status – this would advise that if a response was not received, it would be assumed they were unvaccinated.

**Action**

*(1) Organise for some simple posters to be sent out to out to parishes before 3 December that explained what Covid vaccination is.*

*(2) Organise another meeting between Bishop Andrew and Vicars for Tuesday 30 November, with some communications going out for them to directly share with their parishioners by email and put on their websites, pew sheets etc.*

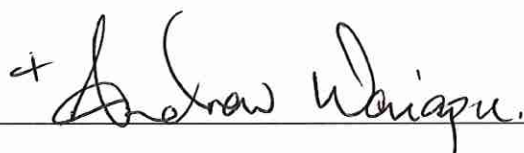
**Resolved:** *That this Standing Committee, noting that there is unity among all the Bishops of Tikanga Pakeha in response to the New Zealand Government’s COVID Protection Framework:*

*(1) Agrees in principle that the Diocese of Waiapu must move forward in line with the Government’s COVID Protection Framework (“Traffic Light System”).*

*(2) Supports the Bishop of Waiapu to make decisions about the implementation plan for the Diocese of Waiapu.*

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 7.29pm

CONFIRMED

Signed:  Date: 9/12/21