

# PŪRONGO TE KOTAHITANGA KI TE HĪNOTA WHANUI

## TE KOTAHITANGA REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD

E ngā mana o tō mātou hāhi, e ngā Atipihopa, e ngā pīhopa hoki, tēnā koutou. E ngā reo o ia Amorangi, o ia Pīhopatanga o tō mātou porowini Mihinare, tēnā koutou. Rau rangatira mā, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa!

It is my privilege to share the following update to Te Hīnota Whānui on behalf of Te Kotahitanga, starting with a mihi ngākau nui rawa atu, a heartfelt acknowledgement of our hardworking, dedicated and absolutely committed members. Nei te mihi ki a koutou i whakapau kaha mō te mahi o tēnei kāhui, tēnā rawa atu koutou!

### Kōrero Kotahitanga

Te Kotahitanga meet formally six times each year-three of our meetings are in person, two-day gatherings, with the remaining three - half day online meetings, and a seventh meeting date booked each year in December, but only utilised if needed. Last year our December meeting took place in Suva, Fiji following a two-day Talanoa there for Te Pae Tawhiti.

In addition to our formal hui, each of our members contribute as representatives on our sub-committee, who meet at least a further three times per year, attend and support Te Kotahitanga led Forums, in 2022, Innovation – New Initiatives Funding and 2023, Te Pae Tawhiti, and, come together (at short notice) to deal with any pressing/emerging urgent kaupapa.

There have been several kaupapa occupying our time over the past couple of years, along with a couple of big pieces of work. I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made in many of them.



Te Pae Tawhiti 2040  
Final report

Steve Taylor and Animoa Gould  
Leitt 2024

Art by Tere Wilson. "The Sacred waters of the hokitika" used with permission.

A major focus of Te Kotahitanga has been a piece of research Te Kotahitanga commissioned with the support of St John's College Trust Board in 2019, Te Pae Tawhiti 2040. At that time, we were seeking to identify through the research possible frameworks that could support transformative training along with formation for mission and ministry, for the next 20 years.

What we have received is a report that is the mirror held up to our life as a hāhi, in all its challenges and wonderful diversity - the good, the bad and the aspirational. It has gathered statistics and research evidence, and the voices of our Province, inviting us on a journey that requires us to look beyond the present and short term, out to the future – Ko te pae tawhiti, whāia kia tata. Ko te pae tata, kia mau kia tīna!

We are pleased to share the Te Pae Tawhiti 2040 Final Report. It is a large document, and we are in the process of absorbing the report and its recommendations, as we start to analyse how it will guide our work and our advice to the Trust Board, which recommendations we accept and what aspects of implementation we can work on with the whole church. This exercise will be challenging, and we will be seeking feedback from across the hāhi, with a view to the report beginning to influence the next scholarship and funding round on 30 September 2024.

Our thanks to our research team, Steve and Animoa for persevering with the research despite the many challenges. Nei te mihi matakuikui ki a korua.

Other kaupapa in brief:

- Relationship building and Engagement: Initiative led by Chairperson aimed at rebuilding trust and confidence in Te Kotahitanga and bringing more transparency to the work we undertake on behalf of our hāhi. While we have enjoyed some success to date, with changes introduced in response to concerns and issues raised, the nature of our mahi means that this remains very much a necessary and ongoing work in progress!
- St John's College Trust Board (SJCTB): Our relationship with the Trust Board is critical to our mahi. We have been able to strengthen that relationship over the past few years. Our joint approach to several work streams has helped, in the funding arena - Covid Funding Review Group, Scholarship Review Committee, 3(c) Review Committee and Strategically - Te Pae Tawhiti 2040 Review Group, each comprising members from the Trust and Te Kotahitanga, along with regular engagement with the CE-Grant Hope and Chair-people and our meetings.
- Scholarships and Funding: As noted above, jointly working with St John's College Trust Board in the funding space has been extremely positive, both from a relationship perspective and a distribution one. We are continually reviewing our processes, decision making and refining our approach to funding. Together we distributed more than \$20M in 2023, across our Province to Amorangi, Diocese and Common Life Education Programs, St John's College and in Scholarships.
- St John's College Review (2021): Worked with Mr Doug Martin, GSSC, Te Kaunihera on aspects of review and its implementation applicable to Te Kotahitanga including the development of Skills Matrix for Te Kaunihera and changes to Title E.
- Kinder Library Oversight Committee (KLOC): We maintained our relationship with KLOC as the appointing body for their membership, meeting with their representatives at least annually to receive their report and receiving updates via our representative to the committee. Last year we have identified the Library as a Strategic Asset, but have not yet progressed this kaupapa further.

### **Ngā mema - Membership**

Our membership is representative of our three tikanga church comprising three members from each tikanga, two of the three appointed at Te Hīnota Whānui and the other appointed by their respective Tikanga Ministry bodies, along with a member from SJCTB (optional) and The General Secretary.

Our work has benefitted from being able to maintain a consistency in membership over the past couple of years and by the capability of those appointed to Te Kotahitanga, although our membership has not remained static. We have farewelled members, and we acknowledge with thanks, the service of Rev'd Sereima Lomaloma (Chair to 2020, retired 2023) and Rt Rev'd Te Kitohi Pikaahu ONZM (resigned July 2022), Rt Rev'd Andrew Hedge (resigned August 2022) Mr Fe'iloakitau Tevi (2023) and Ven Dr Hirini Kaa (Feb 2024).

Current members:

Tikanga Pasefika – Ven Chris Solomona, Rev'd Sonja Hunter & Mr Sanjeu Reddy

Tikanga Pākehā – Rt Rev'd Dr Peter Carrell, Ms Karen Spoelstra & Very Rev'd Dr Graham O'Brien

Tikanga Māori – Rt Rev'd Waitohiariki Quayle & Ven Susan Wallace (Chair)

General Secretary – Rev'd Canon Michael Hughes



*Te Kotahitanga Talanoa-Suva, Fiji 2023*

### **Tō mātou mahi - Our role**

Title E, Canon II, Clause 3

Our role is an oversight one focused on theological education, ministry training and formation, and other education and training relevant to advancing the mission and ministry of the church in all forms.

Part of that oversight includes Strategy, such as coordinating strategic plans, encouraging cooperation where appropriate, identifying opportunities where strategies of one Tikanga meet the resource needs of another, ensuring shifts in direction are understood by Tikanga, consulting with Tikanga Ministry bodies and being a body where negotiation between tikanga can take place regarding theological education.

The other part (and one we are most noted for – positively and negatively) is facilitating the resourcing for delivery of education across our Hāhi. While this is only one part of our responsibilities, it is without doubt the source of much of the negativity that has been aimed at Te Kotahitanga and requires an incredible amount of time, effort, and responsibility to manage. When you consider the quantum leap in funding being released by St John’s College Trust Board, which for 2023 was \$20M, as well as the addition of Funding Tranches over the past three plus years – Innovation and Covid in addition to the two Scholarship and 3C Funding rounds, it becomes clearer why this function has and continues to occupy a bulk of Te Kotahitanga mahi. As reported above we continue to refine how we manage this work in partnership with the Trust Board.

Before closing, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of Te Kotahitanga, in whatever capacity, small or large. Te Kotahitanga means more than unity; it calls for collective action and we have been charged with fulfilling a brief which will require not only the members of this commission, but all of us all to live into Te Kotahitanga, particularly as we consider our future as a hāhi.

No reira, e aku nui, e aku rahi, mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki hoki. Tēnā koutou katoa

Ven. Susan Wallace – Chair  
On behalf of Te Kotahitanga