**GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**TO THE GENERAL SYNOD/TE HĪNOTA WHĀNUI 2018**

I begin this report to the General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui in my role of General Secretary giving tribute to the late Archbishop Brown Turei, who welcomed me into this role over eight years ago, alongside Archbishops David Moxon and Jabez Bryce, and whose support and wise direction I greatly appreciated and have this last year deeply missed.

I also wish to again acknowledge with deep gratitude all those with whom I work most closely and who offer the regular support for the work I undertake on your behalf. Firstly, the Archbishops and the Standing Committee, who are a committed and hard-working group. Secondly, the provincial staff ‘team’ based in the General synod Office (GSO) at TUIA and around the Church, especially Marissa Alix, and more latterly Vanda Breslin and the Rev’d Jacynthia Murphy. And thirdly, the many members of GSTHW and its various Commissions, Councils, Boards, Committees, and Small Working Groups, who offer so much voluntarily to the mission and administration of this Church. Thank you.

The provincial staff team, for whom I carry some oversight responsibilities alongside their respective ministry bodies, has continued to evolve and change, and over the past two years we have seen several staff move onto other things and new staff join the team. Changes have included the restructure of the GSO so my own role has changed, and the two support roles of PA and Office Asst were disestablished and replaced by two Administrators (Marissa Alix, and Vanda Breslin – following a brief stint by Leonora Moses) and a half time Operations Support Manager (Jacynthia Murphy). Mrs Lyle Mitchell retired at the end of 2016. We have also seen the resignations of the Three Tikanga Youth Commissioner (Michael Tamihere to Tairawhiti), our part time contracted Media Advisor (Jayson Rhodes to the UK), and the Youth Commission Events Manager (Karlina Brock-Smith to other ministry), with the former replaced early in 2018 by new Youth Commissioner, Jax Clark. The Asst to Te Kotahitanga Exec Officer vacancy was refilled by Eliza Hei, but only for a year and is currently vacant.

Unchanged positions include the Media Officer Lloyd Ashton), Te Kotahitanga Executive Officer (Paula Jakeman), Anglican Taonga Magazine Editor (Julanne Clarke-Morris), and part-time Administrator for the Anglican Women Studies Centre (Karena de Pont). This team is a highly skilled and motivated group who often work away alone in their own spheres but who offer support and collegiality to one another as they serve this Church.

Some key highlights of the past two years for the General Secretary have been, firstly, involvement in an unprecedented number of episcopal electoral and ordination processes; Waipounamu, Tairawhiti, Wellington Asst, Tonga, Dunedin, Vanua Levu & Taveuni, and Te Pihopa o Aotearoa; secondly, the inauguration of the Oceania Anglican Regional Forum (Fono) in 2016, and including hosting the Archbishop of Canterbury in Fiji in 2018; thirdly, working to support the Motion 29 Working Group on ‘A Way Forward,’ whose pace of work and depth of engagement with the structural issues before them are fully realised in reading their resulting report and recommendations, as circulated to the Church; fourthly, attending and assisting with General Synods in Australia and Melanesia and; fifthly, the Consecration of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland.

As many will realise much of the work of General Secretary involves routine ‘office work’ and many ‘meetings,’ as we seek to serve the many Commissions, Councils, Boards, Committees, and Small Working Groups of the GSTHW and the GSSC. This administrative support work and the regular accounting, personnel, and payroll responsibilities are key elements of the day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month role. I acknowledge the work of the General Synod Office staff, DAC, and TML in supporting much of this task. Also, the work of the Employment Subcommittee and the Order Paper Committee of the GSSC. As can be seen from the range and detail of reports to this General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui the past two years have again seen some significant work, both ongoing and new initiatives, by these many and varied bodies. I commend their various reports to you for further detail and acknowledge the commitment, effort and time that go into achieving their various outcomes.

Key publications handled by the General Secretary and Office included the annual Lectionary (2016 and 2017) through the Liturgical Commission, biennial Clerical Directory (2017), and the Proceedings for GSTHW (2016) plus updates to the Canons (2016), alongside several one-off publications over this period, like ‘Volkner and Mokomoko’ (2016), an updated ‘Eucharistic Separate’ (being printed early 2018) and a history of the Prayer Book Commission, researched and written by Rev’d Geoff Haworth for the Liturgical Commission (to be printed in 2018). The General Synod and Online Prayer Book websites are under our oversight and we do all we can to keep information up to date and add new resources as time and resources allow. Both are being further added to with additional resources currently, and will be part of a wider communications platforms review in 2018.

In the past two years, I have attended two Registrars Conferences. The first was the biennial Australasian Anglican Registrars Conference, hosted in Masterton by Wellington Diocese in 2016, which most of the Registrars Network of this Church attended; the second was our own 2017 Registrars Conference hosted by Christchurch. There was also a one-day meeting in Wellington early in 2017. These are valuable professional development, networking and collaborative opportunities.

Following the review and restructure of the GSO we are now more efficiently able to prioritise and

manage tasks, and trust we serve the three Tikanga church effectively.

I am as always much indebted to all those who share in this work with me, and I continue to enjoy the role, both its joys and its challenges.

***Michael Hughes***

**General Secretary**

 March 2018