

Report of General Synod Standing Committee on the Social Justice mission Unit to GSTHW 2018

Governance developments since GSTHW 2016

“Social justice is the heartbeat of the church. We can’t talk theology, we can’t talk pastoral care, we can’t talk ministry without doing social justice – it’s the heart of our community.” Archbishop Winston

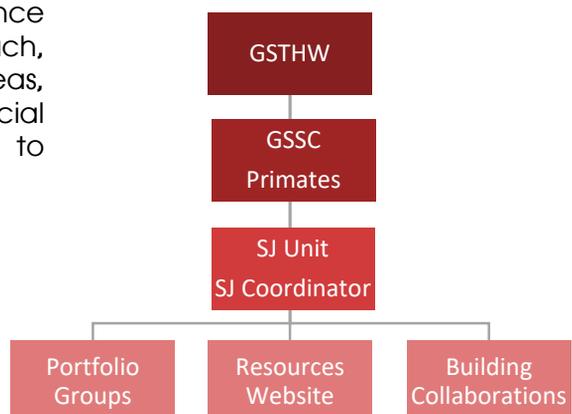
General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui (GSTHW) 2016 agreed to suspend the Social Justice Commission for two years, and appointed General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC) to act as the governing body for social justice mission while new models were developed and trialled.

Consequently, later in 2016 GSSC invited the Primates to appoint a small Social Justice Advisory Group (SJAG) for a pilot project, and any other mechanisms required. That advisory group drew in people with experience and expertise from across three-Tikanga. It was established, convened, and met early in 2017. They selected one key area – that related to housing – and created a pilot project entitled Tūrangawaewae. This project included making resources available to the Church by September 2017, in time for lead up to the NZ national election.

After this pilot project, the Primates launched another initiative, to bring together small groups with expertise and experience alongside a strategically identified social justice issue. The groups were formed in August 2017, and continue to develop under the guidance/encouragement of a part-time coordinator.

These developments in social justice leadership, governance, and management, leading to key educational resources and awareness raising, are still being tested and refined, through a clear evidence and needs-based approach, focused on key priorities areas, and overseen by a small Social Justice Unit (SJU) reporting to each meeting of GSSC.

The diagram to the right represents where social justice governance has evolved to in 2018.



Highlighting major projects for 2016-2018

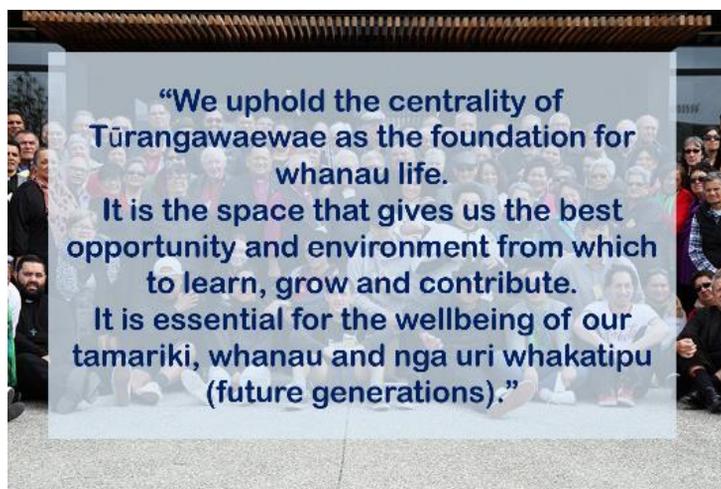
Tūrangawaewae Pilot Project

Purpose: develop an educational and awareness raising campaign leading up to the New Zealand election around a key theme of 'Tūrangawaewae'.

Outcomes:

- Tūrangawaewae theology completed by Rev Katene Eruera, Dean Tikanga Maori, The College of St. John the Evangelist.
- Tūrangawaewae theological housing resource completed by Wayne Kirkland, using the Church Leaders statement on housing.
- SJAG financially supported two projects – Tūrangawaewae Art installation at the Wellington Cathedral & 1,000 pledges website and stories developed by Wellington Diocese.
- Tūrangawaewae theological resources distributed to Amorangi/Diocese Administrators by Rev Michael Hughes, and posted on newly developed Social Justice Resources website.
- Ven Dr Hirini Kaa puts forward a motion supporting Tūrangawaewae that was wholeheartedly supported by Te Runanganui in 2017 (see below).
- Compilation of a co-authored article on Tūrangawaewae, the Anglican Churches response to the housing crisis in NZ, published in the Parity journal, which is an Australian Journal on housing, with a special issue in October 2017 on homelessness in New Zealand.
- Established a Social Justice Strategic Focus Portfolio Group on Housing.

2017 spend: \$6700



motion from
Te
Runanganui
in 2017

Strategic Focus Portfolio Groups

Purpose: To bring together small groups with expertise and experience alongside an identified social justice strategic portfolio who monitor developments and identify how, and when, the church should engage.

Outcomes:

- Invited members from across the 3-Tikanga, as well as experts external to the church, onto 7 Social Justice Strategic Focus Portfolio Groups, with the Disability Ministry Portfolio Group added later in 2017.
- Archbishop Philip Richardson hosted the inaugural meeting of each Group in August 2017 to establish the groups and consider the terms of reference.
- Verbal report to the Bishops meeting, and request to the Bishops to consider being involved in one of the portfolio groups.
- Article on social justice work published on the Anglican Taonga website.
- Held a one-day Social Justice Strategic Focus Portfolio Group hui for all eight portfolio groups on Friday 24th November in Wellington, with over 50 attendees from around the country.
- Bishop Don Tamihere was keynote speaker at the Hui and gave a powerful presentation on what Tūrangawaewae means, and how it fits as an overarching principle and value embodied in the work of each of the portfolio groups.
- Some of the portfolio groups are preparing to put forward motions for consideration at the 2018 General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui (GSTHW).
- Creation of a process that allows portfolio groups to seek support for funding, resource production or speaking out.
- Since the establishment of the portfolio groups, natural synergies and linkages have occurred with other Anglican Church groups and work programmes, as well as the development of new working relationships.

2017 spend: \$15,000 for Hui + ongoing coordinator contract

“We have some extraordinarily passionate, experienced experts, working across a wide range of key justice issues within our own communities. The idea is to be able to respond quickly, and speak accurately.”

Archbishop Philip

Website anglican resources for social justice

Purpose: A simple and focused site, providing a curated selection of resources, based around the 8 portfolio group areas.
<https://www.socialjustice.nz/>

Outcomes:

- Website was designed and launched in October 2017
- Theology study guide on the Church Leaders housing submission, and Theology of Tūrangawaewae were commissioned as SJ resources
- 23 resources online, covering forms of prayer, study, submissions, statements, videos, websites, news, policies, research and liturgy.
- Over 1600 page views, and 560 visitors, in 4 months.
- Twitter feed established, ready to promote ecumenical and other organisations great work and resources, and give a new channel to the resources website.

2017 spend: \$2,750

Other Projects

- **Rural Isolation/Vibrant Communities Research Project (BAF)** – A two-year study, as an MA thesis - “The potential of Churches to contribute to thriving and vibrant Rural Community”
Funding: 2016 \$15,000; 2017 \$25,000
- **Maori and Pacific Elder Isolation** (Lower Hutt Family Centre) – A three-year research project, under the umbrella of ‘National Science Challenges’ – “Loneliness and Social Isolation among Older Māori and Pacific People: Critical processes, events and mitigating factors”
Funding: 2016 \$25,000; 2017 \$25,000
- **Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Workshop:** October 2017 (DoP w/ AMB) –The three day workshop was held for Anglican leaders and provided an introduction to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). Led by young people, trained using funding from Youth Commission.
Funding: 2017 \$15,250
- **Refugee Research/ Submission** (Lower Hutt Family Centre) - \$12,000
- **Submission against brown coal strip mining** (Hamilton Anglican Action) – \$2,000
- **West Papuan Leader (Socrates) visit** - \$3,000

Looking forward to 2018-2020

What next?

The General Synod Standing Committee seek a further suspension of the Canon, and the current delegation to them, to solidify the best models before proposing legislation to enact them into Canon.

There is a Bill before the General Synod / Te Hinota Whānui 2018 to achieve this extension.

Goals for the SJ Unit in 2018:

- Grow the awareness and understanding of church members and the wider community on social issues through high quality educational resources and programmes.
- Grow the effectiveness of the Portfolios Groups.
- Grow the connections amongst social justice / advocacy / service providers.
- Grow the range, speed, diversity, and amount of SJ storytelling.
- Grow our digital content, resources and education delivery.
- Continue to establish lean and professional coordination.

Further documentation is available by request to socialjustice@anglicanchurch.org.nz

“I pass the thread to you, and you pass it back to me, and we keep going until the work is completed. That is how tukutuku are created, and that’s a good metaphor for social justice work. I pass the thread of love to you, and you do the same, and we work together to create this new beginning. This is doing Christ’s work.”

Bishop Muru Walters