**COUNCIL FOR ECUMENISM REPORT**

**TO GENERAL SYNOD/TE HĪNOTA WHĀNUI 2022**

# COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020-2022

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| **Tikanga Pākehā** | **The Very Reverend Anne Mills (Chair)  The Reverend Canon Michael Wallace** |
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| **Tikanga Māori** | **The Reverend Canon Chris Douglas-Huriwai Mr Bardia Matiu** |
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| **Tikanga Pasefika** | **The Venerable Orisi Vuki**  **Mr Joe Browne** |
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| **Co-opted** | **The Reverend Tamsyn Kereopa (WCC rep) The Reverend Ivica Gregurec (Interfaith)** |
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| **General Secretary** | **The Reverend Canon Michael Hughes** |

The Council reports to General Synod Standing Committee and maintains contact with the Tikanga Pākeha Inter-Diocesan Ecumenical Group, and other relevant Anglican groups and organisations, and also with other appropriate denominational and inter-denominational groups.

Since General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui (held online) in 2020, the Council for Ecumenism has met exclusively via Zoom in August and October of 2020, February and November of 2021, and February of 2022.

From August 2020, we welcomed Mr Bardia Matiu as Tikanga Māori representative, replacing the Reverend Kerry Davis.

**TIKANGA REPORTS:**

**Māori**

* AIN has gathered various Indigenous responses to Covid-19, and reported these to the Communion: <http://ain.anglicancommunion.org/resources.aspx>
* Runanga Whakawhanaunga o nga Hāhi are seeking to become established as a legal entity with a Constituted Council and supporting Trust Board. The initiative currently involves Anglican, Methodist, and Presbyterian representatives.
* Acknowledgement was made of the death of Bishop Waiohau Rui ‘Ben’ Te Haara in early 2021.
* Key events involving Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa were noted, including an online coronation event where Archbishop Don Tamihere preached, an ecumenical prayer hui which Anglicans hosted.
* “Ecumenism’’ for Māori was noted as being less about structural unity and more about recognising whanaungatanga.

**Pasefika**

* PCC has been working with a Covid-19 response focus across Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. Food security is a key issue, working on food supply, seed banks, fisheries, and social programmes. PCC has been consulting with government authorities in Samoa on a Covid response.
* Council members for Tikanga Pacifica were noted as absent from the CFE February 2022 meeting in the aftermath of the eruption of Hunga Tonga–Hunga Haʻapai.

**Pakeha**

* Inter-Diocesan Ecumenical Group (formerly TPEG) have been meeting. These meetings included engagement with the Jewish Centre and a focus on Christian/Jewish dialogue.

The Group met in February in Wellington and engaged with the Orthodox Jewish Synagogue there. There are challenges in such interfaith encounters related to Israel/Palestine issues.

* The Inter-Diocesan Ecumenical Group wrote to Pākehā Bishops asking about any ecumenical/ interfaith elements in their local training programmes, and any education about Anglican understanding of ordination and ecclesiology.
* Reverend Ivica Gregurec led a 2-½ hour session at St John’s Theological College covering Anglican Ecclesiology, Sacraments and the Prayer book.
* Ramadan hospitality has been continued with shared Iftar meals offered in several locations, including All Saints Church, Dunedin, and Auckland and Wellington Cathedrals.
* CFE noted the 140th anniversary of Parihaka on 5 November 2021.
* CFE noted an issue of religious intolerance at Otago Girls High School with student attack on Muslim students, asking how could CFE help the church be an agent of healing, and providing education for respect of others and differences?

**NATIONAL ECUMENICAL ENDEAVOURS**

We are currently involved in the following ecumenical dialogues: NDCU; ICHC; UCANZ; CEC; ICTCC; ICBC; PCC; CWS and SCM.

Noteworthy that ICBC is considering ethics around the emerging Covid vaccinations, and that PCC have created some resources for Season of Creation.

**INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL ENDEAVOURS**

**WCC**

The WCC has continued to support and highlight events and initiatives for the respective Tikanga communities. We have promoted Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel, as well as Just Community Women and Men.

The WCC general assembly in Germany has been postponed to 31 August – 8 September 2022. Our delegates are Reverend Canon Chris Douglas-Huriwai, Very Reverend Anne Mills, and Reverend Tamsyn Kereopa.

**CCA**

The Assembly on 3-9 September 2020 has been postponed to 2023. Our delegates are the Reverend Mele Prescott, Ms Jessica Hughes, the Reverend Cruz Karaiti-Fox.

**DIALOGUE REPORTS:**

**Roman Catholic Dialogue:** A local Ash Wednesday resource has been received which will be used to promote joint Ash Wednesday worship.

**Methodist:** There continues to be regular meetings and discussion with this dialogue; however, there has been more focus with this through the trilateral dialogue again around the deaconate.

The October pilgrimage north has been postponed to 28-30 March 2022.

Noted the Methodist bicentenary was celebrated on 19-23 November 2021.

**Trilateral Dialogue:** No update.

**Lutheran Dialogue:** CFE has consulted with Cardinal John Drew about Roman Catholic/Lutheran links. Very Reverend Anne Mills has been invited to observe at the Roman Catholic/Lutheran dialogue though meetings have been in obeyance due to COVID-19.

**Orthodox:** Of the various NZ communities/leaders. only one of the four has NZ based leadership/ bishop, with the others all overseen from Australia. It was noted that most Orthodox communities here come under Australian Bishop’s jurisdiction, and thus can be reticent to engage in theological dialogue without bishop’s presence or permission. Much bilateral work focuses on social issues rather than doctrinal/ theological issues. Sometimes a relational approach over food/drink/building friendships is most fruitful though mostly a male-biased encounter. Reverend Ivica Gregurec and Reverend Tamsyn Kereopa have been exploring opportunities for engagement.

# Catholic Dialogue: Has continued to meet annually.

# Anglican/Presbyterian Dialogue: Currently Inactive.

**Baptist Dialogue:** Currently inactive.

**Interfaith:** Reverend Ivica Gregurec continues to serve on the Auckland Interfaith Council.

There has been a focus on communication and engagement with our interfaith counterparts. This has included the promotion of local sharing of Iftar meals. There have been further opportunities for engagement at the Abrahamic Faith workshops and DIA workshop on reducing arm in social media.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

* CFE continues to promote the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
* CFE continues to explore a proposal for a paid ecumenical/interfaith officer.
* CFE is seeking to reaffirm commitment from St Johns Theological College for ecumenical and interfaith input in ministry formation for 2022.
* CFE has discussed the practice of scattering ashes on a beach. The issue was judged to have more cultural implications than faith based. The committee awaits information on the churchwide position and pastoral guidance.