

COUNCIL FOR ECUMENISM REPORT

TO GENERAL SYNOD/TE HĪNOTA WHĀNUI 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022-2024

Tikanga Māori	The Rev'd Ruihana Paenga Mr Bardia Matiu
Tikanga Pākehā	The Very Rev'd Anne Mills (Chair) The Rev'd Canon Michael Wallace
Tikanga Pasefika	The Rev'd Sepi Hala'api'api Mr Fei Tevi
Interfaith	The Rev'd Ivica Gregurec
Co-opted	The Rev'd Tamsyn Kereopa (WCC observer)
General Secretary	The Rev'd Canon Michael Hughes

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

We welcomed the Rev'd Ruihana Paenga replacing Rev'd Canon Christopher Douglas-Huriwai as a Tikanga Māori representative.

The Council met in June 2022, and in March, May and October 2023.

TIKANGA REPORTS

Māori

- Te Rūnanganui was held after an Indigenous Leaders Event, with guests from Brazil, Canada, North America, Australia, Hawaii, and Melanesia. Key sessions on suicide, education, royal commission, ministry safety, and episcopal leadership.
- Rev'd Ruihana Paenga was appointed to CFE until the next General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui.

Pasefika

- Noted work with National Council of Churches of in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa.
- The 12th PCC Assembly on 16-23 November 2023 was held in Kanaky, New Caledonia. Polynesia representatives plus Observers – Rev'ds Ivica Gregurec and Vianney Douglas.

Pakeha

- Canon Michael Wallace reported on Inter-Diocesan Ecumenical Group (formerly TPEG) news, including a visit to a Sikh temple.
- Rev'd Ivica Gregurec reported on ecumenical events, including
 - worldwide prayer at the invitation of the Pope, the Patriarch, and the Archbishop of Canterbury; and
 - prayer for Armenians forced out of Azerbaijan in the Nagoro-Karabakh conflict.

NATIONAL ECUMENICAL ENDEAVOURS

We are currently involved in the following ecumenical endeavours and receive occasional reports from NDCU, Te Rūnanga Whakawhanaunga O Ngā Hāhi, UCANZ, CEC/Launchpad, ICTCC, ICHC, ICBC, PCC, CWS, Vitae, and SCM.

INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL ENDEAVOURS

WCC

- The 11th Assembly was held on 31 August-8 September 2022 in Karlsruhe, Germany. Church representatives were Canon Christopher Douglas-Huriwai, Very Rev'd Anne Mills, and Rev'd Tamsyn Kereopa. The ANZ representative on the Central Committee is Rev'd Dr Susan Thompson (Methodist).
- Annual fee – it was agreed that an increase in budget should be sought.
- It was agreed that new WCC members would be endorsed if their local churches agreed.
- The PCC would be supported for any Pasefika representation at the Climate Commission planned for 2026.
- Rev'd Tamsyn Kereopa was appointed to CEEF (Commission on Ecumenical Education & Formation).

CCA

- The 15th Assembly was held on 26 September-4 October 2023 in Kerala, India with representatives Ms Cassandra Mesa and Ms Loini Simeti.
- Written reports will be sought from delegates with an invitation to appear in person or by video conference at next meeting.
- Annual fee – it was agreed that an increase in budget should be sought.
- The General Secretary represented the Archbishops at a CCA Church Leaders Conference in Jakarta on 1-5 May 2023.

DIALOGUE REPORTS:

Roman Catholic Dialogue: The group met in March and October 2023 and it was noted that the House of Bishops met with the Roman Catholic bishops to explore synodality and the different views in our two Churches.

Methodist: The planned meeting in 2023 was postponed.

Trilateral Dialogue: No update on a date from the National Dialogue for Christian Unity.

Lutheran Dialogue: The Very Rev'd Anne Mills was waiting on a date of the RC/Lutheran dialogue for an observer place. The General Secretary was to enquire with the RC bishops.

Orthodox: The World Council of Churches plans for Nicaea 2025 celebrations were noted. The Rev'd Tamsyn Kereopa was part of a meeting in early 2024 on this. Is it time our church re-entered the filioque debate? A symposium on Nicaea is being explored.

Interfaith: Rev'd Ivica Gregurec continues to serve on the Auckland Interfaith Council. Regular RDC news is received. Iftar meals are hosted in several places.

OTHER BUSINESS

- CFE will look at inviting interfaith guests/speakers to future meetings. The Reformed Jewish Synagogue Rabbi Dean Shapiro has been invited to explore issues around Christian Seder.
 - 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 John's Theological College for ecumenical and interfaith input in ministry formation. Very Rev'd Anne Mills and Rev'd Ivica Gregurec have contacted Manukura Dr Emily Colgan about options for 2024.
 - Canon Michael Wallace will revisit a proposal for a pilgrimage to Taizé now that post-pandemic travel is easier.
 - The SWG began a draft preparation checklist for international delegates.
 - Guidance has been sought on holding pseudo-Seder meals and possible misappropriation of Jewish practices.
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