**Motion # 12**

**Criminal Justice System Royal Commission**

**Mover:** The Rev’d P Malcolm **Seconder:** The Ven Dr P Reynolds

**In recognition that:**

1. The prison population has risen by 20% in the past 3 years.

2. Our imprisonment rates are among the highest in the OECD.

3. Māori are still significantly overrepresented in prison with little attention given to demonstrable institutionalised bias from arrest through to sentencing.

4. Societal attitudes towards prison and matters of rehabilitation have significantly shifted in recent years.

5. The positive results of other jurisdictions (such as Finland) with differing philosophical frameworks are demonstrably more effective.

6. Although between 1978 and 2007 there have been reviews into the courts, penal policy, violence, the prison system, and police conduct, there has still been no comprehensive and coordinated review into the entire justice system.

**And given that:**

1. A Royal Commission is the only independent mechanism we have by which an entire systems wide approach to a matter of national significance can be taken

2. A conversation about what the justice system is trying to achieve, and what values lie at its core, is long overdue. And that;

3. Tiriti o Waitangi implications and Māori kaupapa need to be fundamental to the conversation as part of the solution

**That this General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui 2018:**

1. Calls upon the Government to establish a systems wide Royal Commission into the Criminal Justice System in New Zealand, and

2. Tasks the Social Justice Crime and Justice and Punishment portfolio group under the guidance of Standing Committee to;

a. Compile all necessary documents to support this call and give it the necessary credibility.

b. Coordinate with other groups interested in supporting this call.

c. Plan the strategy around timing for this call and method of delivery.

d. Support the 3 Archbishops of the province to lead the delivery of the call for a Royal Commission.

e. Provide suitable theological resources to ensure the wider Anglican Church understands the need for a Royal Commission into the Criminal Justice system and its significance to the Kingdom of God and the Gospel of love.