**Report for General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui 2018**

**Inter-Church Tertiary Chaplaincy Council**

**1. Purpose**

The Council exists to support and encourage ecumenical chaplaincy in tertiary institutions in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Council receives reports from chaplaincy boards, monitors the health of tertiary chaplaincy around the country, strategises on how to encourage chaplaincy and makes small grants to chaplains and chaplaincy boards.

**2. Membership**

The Council is made up of representatives from Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, the Aotearoa New Zealand Tertiary Chaplaincy Association (ANZTCA) and from Ecumenical Chaplaincy Boards around the country.

**3. State of tertiary chaplaincy**

The health of tertiary chaplaincy around the country varies. Sadly, a large number of chaplaincy boards are struggling with funding and resources. Most Boards are blessed to have good relationships with their institutions, however, many struggle for office space, recognition or funding from tertiary institutions. Some places do however, host a strong ministry which is reflected in the level of support they receive from local churches and tertiary institutions.

The ITCC is working with the ANZTCA to support better attendance to their national conference and AGM. This body has 88 tertiary chaplains yet only 28 were in attendance at the last meeting – something that needs to be improved in order to help support chaplains around the country.

**4. Ongoing matters for the Council**

**a) Accreditation of tertiary chaplains**

The Council is having an ongoing discussion concerning accreditation of tertiary chaplains. This discussion explored the need for chaplains to be qualified – to what extent, or in what form has not yet been decided. A sub-committee of the ITCC has been formed to discuss the possibility of developing a training course to provide chaplains with a certificate level qualification. Requiring chaplains to hold a degree level tertiary qualification has also been discussed, with further exploration of this needed.

**b) Chaplaincy across institutions**

The Council is focused on supporting chaplaincy in all tertiary institutions across the country. For remote areas and places with a concentration of several different tertiary institutions, providing chaplaincy is a struggle, but the ITCC is aware of these issues and is using available networks to support such areas.

The Nelson/Marlborough region is currently a weak area for tertiary chaplaincy with no established ministry or active trust board. The ITCC is aware of this issue and is working with the ANZTCA and other networks to explore bringing tertiary chaplaincy back into this area. The Council would be glad of any assistance with this.

**c)** **Finances**

The Council has ongoing struggles with its finances. In 2016 it was decided that funding for travel to the annual Council meeting would cease if funding was not sought. Thankfully, funding was provided by General Synod and other sources which has enabled the Council to meet again in 2017. Following this meeting, remaining funds were distributed among representative Chaplaincy Boards to support their ministries around the country.

**5. Anglican Involvement in tertiary chaplaincy**

Thankfully, some dioceses do continue to provide funding and staffing (both clergy and laity) to tertiary chaplaincy around the country. The future of tertiary chaplaincy in New Zealand institutions relies heavily on the support of GSTHW and other Christian organisations.

Reiterating previous years reports to GSTHW from the ITCC;

I encourage members of GSTHW to promote tertiary chaplaincy opportunities with potential chaplains in their areas.

I urge members of GSTHW to actively engage with ecumenical tertiary chaplaincy boards in their areas and commit to supporting this key ministry.

Sam Williams

February 2018