



## 6. Board of Directors, Bishop's Council and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee Report

6 December 2022 and 21 February 2023

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1. The Bishop's Council, Board of Directors and Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee met in person on 6 December 2022 and 21 February 2023.

### **Mission and Pastoral Committee work**

2. In addition to noting several matters that are currently in progress, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) made recommendations about three suspensions, two pastoral schemes/ orders, and one BMO.

3. In addition, and in line with the rule 24 (1) of the Church Representation Rules (CRR) 2022, the Committee considered a Scheme to provide for representation for the Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) Hazelnut Community Farm on Deanery Synod. The Committee duly recommended the CRR Scheme. Diocesan Synod will be asked to approve the CRR Scheme as part of the motion to receive this report.

### **Bishop's Council**

4. The Council have focussed primarily on the proper communication, planning and governance for TC.T. Specifically they have reviewed and agreed the route map and governance structure for this complex programme. Both are presented to this Diocesan Synod. Council have agreed the risk register and scorecard in principle, but more work is needed on them before they are presented to Synod in June. Area Deans and churches have now received the simplified TCT strategy document and advice on how next to proceed. We are in the midst of the discernment process, and await bottom-up feedback on which aspects of the strategy are relevant in different contexts and which elements of it will be taken forward at a local level.

5. Council have also reviewed and agreed the CNZ2030 route map, and the proposed expenditure over the next 2 years. In line with the synod-approved TC.T 5-year plan, the programme will be supported from our reserves, utilising a 'Total Return Accounting' draw down rate of 4%. This should allow us to broadly sustain the 'real' value of our reserves whilst freeing up the capital growth gains for CNZ activity.

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The route map will be briefed at this synod, and approval sought to commit the expenditure, as recommended by Bishop's Council.

6. Council also considered the LLF process and the recent decision by General Synod on same sex relationships. +Viv will brief on the current situation and the next steps at this Synod.

7. Finally, Council have been kept abreast of work on the Stage 2 submission for National Church support funding of TC.T. The (~130-page) paper will be submitted on the 13<sup>th</sup> March and we expect to receive a response in April. The process remains arduous and bureaucratic, but – Council believe – worth the staff effort.

### **DBF**

8. The DBF has been heavily engaged in determining how Total Return Accounting should be applied, and ensuring the appropriate due diligence was undertaken. They have approved migrating to this approach and, to preserve the real value of our investments, a drawdown rate of 4% initially. This will be adjusted depending on the ebb and flow of the stock market and our annual cash needs. The board's overall objectives remain to:

- fund TC.T (including our commitment to sustain clergy numbers)
- reach financial sustainability by 2029
- have sufficient funds available over the next 7 years to deliver environmental sustainability by 2030.

9. The DBF has also been engaged with work on the Diocesan Scorecard and Risk Register, both of which will inform the work of the board as they plan and guide the use of our resources.

10. The board have also worked hard to support the B+A project to swap church buildings with the Baptists at 279 Gloucester Road. This project has required extensive consultation and due diligence. The Bishop approved the transfer in February 2023, and has agreed to revoke the licence and licence the buildings for worship as necessary.