



The Anglican Diocese of Auckland
The Right Reverend Jim White
Assistant Bishop

Greetings in the name of Christ!

It is my privilege to have been appointed by the Archbishops to serve as the Commissary for the Electoral process leading to the nomination of a person to General Synod / Te Hinota Whanui for the election as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Dunedin.

At this point in global history it is possibly unhelpful that the word 'election' is attached to our process. For we engage in a process that we hope will be characterised by *prayer, care, wisdom and the fullest participation of God's people led by the Holy Spirit*. The excerpt from our Prayer Book below reminds us of the nature of our task and the kind of person you will seek to discern is called to serve as Bishop.

I have recently met with the Arrangements Committee and we have set out a schedule for our work together and for the work that you will be part of at various points. The following are the key dates that you might like to note:

February 7 - 18	Archdeaconry Consultations in order to develop material for the Profile of the Diocese and "person description" of the next bishop
March 20	Nominations open
April 17	Nominations close
May 26 - 28	Electoral College to be held at Holy Cross, Mosgiel

There are a good number of features of the process that are yet to be determined and we will communicate those with you on a regular basis.

One of the first tasks we attended to together was composing a prayer that we hope you will use in your private devotions and in your gathered worship.

Prayer for the Electoral College:

Most gracious God,
your risen Son gives gifts of service and leadership to your Church,
grant the wisdom of your Holy Spirit to all who will discern and choose our next Bishop.

Lead us, O God, as we journey together and seek your way for all.

We ask this through him who came not to be served but to serve, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Prayer for the calling of the next Bishop of the Dunedin Diocese

Gracious and loving God, call to serve among us as our bishop a true shepherd, a faithful disciple, a person of prayer, and one who will share the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Otago and Southland. Equip us, with our new bishop, to be a Church that is joyful in worship, united in witness, and courageous in service to the world, to the glory of your name. Amen.

The model for the Episcopacy in Dunedin

It is important that people understand the basis on which we will be going into the process of the Electoral College.

In the recent months there has been a considerable amount of work done by Archbishop Philip and the Diocesan Council - along with the Senior leadership Team, representatives of the Diocese of Dunedin Trust Board, Saint John's College Trust Board, and Te Kotahitanga - all towards further developing a model for Episcopal leadership in the Diocese of Dunedin. This is the extension of discussion and prayer across the Diocese in the past several months. Any model needs to be sustainable for the foreseeable future and consistent with the expectations of the vocation of a bishop as set out in the ordinal.

The model that has emerged can be stated as Bishop / Teacher / Educator. Other models have been carefully discussed and hitherto thought to be unsatisfactory or unworkable.

The Bishop/ Teacher / Educator Model has received the requisite approvals and funding (as per Title A, Canon 1, 1.3.1; 1.3.2.)

It is important that the whole Diocese is in agreement with this Model as the basis for the gathering of an Electoral College and proceeding towards a nomination of the next Bishop of Dunedin.

Archbishop Philip will be working with Diocesan Council to inform all members of Synod of the history to this point and to provide a method for each member to confidentially register their prayerful response to proceeding to an Electoral College on the basis of the BTE model. There will be also a way for members to register a vote in favour of calling a Special Session of Synod to discuss and debate any further models before any Electoral College.

We hope this helps us begin our work together; may God bless us and guide us in the work that lies ahead.

Peace



+Jim

Bishop Jim White
Archbishops' Commissary
Waitangi Day, 2017

From the Ordination of Bishops:

" The presiding bishop says

Bishops are sent to lead by their example
in the total ministry and mission of the Church.

They are to be Christ's shepherds
in seeking out and caring for those in need.

They are to heal and reconcile,
uphold justice and strive for peace.

Bishops are to exercise godly leadership
in that part of the Church committed to their care,
and to maintain wise discipline within its fellowship.

The Church looks to them to promote peace and unity
among all God's people,

and to encourage their obedience to God's word.

They are to keep the Church true to its faith,
as found in Scripture and the Creeds,
to teach this faith and proclaim it.

Bishops are to ensure that an episcopal ministry is maintained.

They are to ordain, send forth and care for the Church's pastors,
and to preside over its worshipping life.

N, do you believe that you are called to the office and work of a
bishop?

The bishop-elect responds

I believe that God and the Church are calling me to this ministry.
I thank God for this call, and the Church for its encouragement.

All standing, the presiding bishop says to the people

E te whānau / People of God,
are you willing that *N* should be ordained bishop?

People We are. Thanks be to God." NZPBHKMOA page 913