

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting



30th March 2023, 10:15am At Bishopdale College

Attendance

Affiliates:

The Rev. Andrew Burgess (Bishopdale Theological College), Capt. Monika Clark (Church Army), Mrs Anna Pickersgill-Brown (Nelson Diocese), The Rev. Canon Simon Martin (Nelson Diocese), The Rev. David Clancey (Latimer Fellowship), The Rev. Andrew Allan-Johns (SOMA), The Rev. Fraser McDermott (ACM), and The Rev. Mark Hood (Latimer Fellowship) via Online.

AFFIRM Groups:

The Rev. Ian Hardcastle (Auckland) Chair of AFFIRM.

Associate Parish:

None.

Individual Associates:

None.

Non-voting:

The Rev. Sister Lorraine Lloyd (Executive Officer), Capt. Peter Lloyd (Network Officer), Mr Michael Ng (Administrator).

1) Apologies

The Rev. Rosie Fyfe (NZCMS).

2) Speaker: The Ven. Simon Martin

Parish Evangelism Project in Nelson Diocese

Growth (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

In Nelson Diocese's 2022 Synod, they gathered to talk about their 'holes in the bucket' and reflected on the topic of Growth from 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 and Mark 4. Only God gives growth. We are doing God's work and have a common purpose, for we are God's servants, working together with the same purpose: to support and nurture the growth of his church.

Simon shared a clip of Bishop Steve speaking about urgent challenges and barriers to growth. As part of its 2023 plan, Nelson diocese has entered a period of discernment over 9 months. It experienced decline in numbers over the last few years but remains hopeful for the future. Plans for the year include coaching, guidance, and a report to clarify priorities.

Simon will be travelling around the Diocese with Jamie Bester from City to City, who was in a similar situation and has implemented strategies resulting in church growth. The team will be guided by City to City and utilise Regional Deans, the Bishop's ministry team, and office administration for support.

The Council discussed the issue of churches losing touch with the community in this the post-Christian world where people are less inclined to commit to any voluntary organisation, not just churches. Simon used the analogy of ribbon for typewriter in a world where only very few people use typewriters.

Stage 2 of Nelson's plan is to make strategic decisions, identifying places and people to coach to start new things.

3) Minutes of Previous AGM 28th April 2022 (approved by Council 26/6/22)

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved at the Council meeting of 26/6/22. There were no matters arising at this meeting.

Motion: That the Council be empowered to approve the minutes of this AGM.

Chair – Agreed

4) Chairman's Report

Ian will provide his Chairman's report at the Council meeting later in the day.

5) Executive Officer report (Lorraine)

Lorraine spoke to the Executive report (attached).

5.1 Auckland AFFIRM Evangelism

The Auckland Diocese has been given an opportunity to launch a five-year programme of evangelism, thanks to the generosity of a long-term AFFIRM member. They have held meetings with nine parishes (approximately 10% of the parishes in the Diocese), including both AFFIRM and ACM churches, to pray and explore the possibility of the programme. They have received valuable advice from the AFFIRM Executive and are planning to form an advisory group.

The consensus from these meetings, with the donor's approval, is to appoint a mobiliser who will assist each parish in finding the best way to pursue evangelism in their specific context. They are currently seeking formal "buy-in" from each parish, and Peter will visit each clergy member to gain insights into how each parish might proceed.

In the meantime, they are organising meetings in Auckland with speakers who have experience and expertise in outreach. The speakers have included Andy Miller, a CMS Missionary from Central America, and they are also looking forward to meeting with Kerry-Anne Hokianga, an evangelist working within Tikanga Māori in partnership with CMS, among others.

The AFFIRM Auckland programme is seen as a mission laboratory, and if it proves successful, it may be offered to other AFFIRM churches across the country. With mission being a focus for many parishes in the post-Covid era, this opportunity is seen as an excellent way to connect with more churches.

5.2 Online Training Series

In 2023, AFFIRM is organising a Zoom series on mission in today's world called "Discipleship Training and Equipping in Mission," continuing the theme of "Crossroads: When World and Gospel Meet".

They are also establishing a training series for ACM, and the positive impact of affiliations chipping in with the training series.

The training series and networking efforts will continue in the upcoming year.

Fraser asked if the AFFIRM regional groups are still gathering/ functional? Lorraine advised that the Auckland AFFIRM group is still meeting but unsure of other regional groups. Peter explained that meetings have not been strong post-COVID but he intends to reconnect with them. Waikato group was the strongest, followed by Auckland. He is in contact with individuals in Dunedin and Christchurch.

Ian advised that Rodney Dunlop from Taranaki AFFIRM group says the group is no longer meeting and Rodney has from Council since there is no group to represent.

6) Financial Report for 2021/22 Year

The 2021/22 accounts which were previously approved by Council have now been peer reviewed and submitted to the Charities Commission.

7) Constitutional Changes

No changes were proposed for the Constitution.

8) AOB

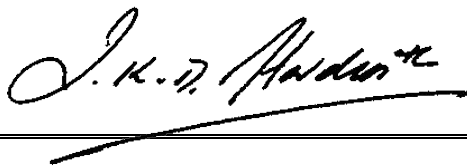
There was no other business.

9) Meeting Closed

The Chairman declared the AGM closed at 11:32am.

Minutes adopted as a true record of the meeting at the AFFIRM Council Meeting of 28th September 2023.

Chairman



Date: 28 / 09 /2023

APPENDIX: Lloyds' Report to the AFFIRM Council



AFFIRM

(Anglicans for Faith, Intercession, Renewal and Mission)

Introduction In keeping with the purposes of AFFIRM (a network of Societies, Churches, Groups, and individuals to *'enhance and further the mission of the church'* (AFFIRM Constitution) we have been engaged in the following:-

AFFIRM Auckland –An opportunity to launch a programme of evangelism has been given to the Auckland Diocese through the generosity of a long term AFFIRM member. This will be for 5 years. The following steps have taken place.

- We have met with 9 parishes (approx.10% of the parishes in the Diocese) on three occasions to pray and explore this possibility. These 9 parishes are mainly AFFIRM and ACM churches, but we have 'on board' those who are not connected directly with AFFIRM or ACM which is a great encouragement.
- Ian has consulted with the AFFIRM Executive who offered some excellent advice as this is pursued including the targeting of an advisory group.
- The consensus of these meetings, with the donor approval, is that we will appoint a mobiliser whose task will be to assist each parish to find the best way to pursue this in their parish.
- We now seek formal 'buy-in' from each of the parishes. To that end Peter will continue to visit each of the clergy (4 have already been visited) to gain insight as to how each parish might proceed. He will report the results of those visits in the second week of April 2023.
- As the search for a mobiliser begins, we will continue to hold meetings in Auckland using Speakers who are focused on outreach in their own spheres. Speakers so far have been Andy Miller (a CMS Missionary from Central America), and we are looking forward to meeting with Kerry-Anne Hokianga who is working in partnership with CMS as an evangelist within Tikanga Māori, and others we are exploring.
- We see this as a 'laboratory' in mission. If this achieves our hopes this may be able to be offered to other AFFIRM churches throughout the country.
- Mission is on the mind of most parishes post Covid, so we see this as an excellent opportunity to connect with more churches.

AFFIRM HUB DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SERIES (online)

Discipleship Training and Equipping in Mission - Continuing with the theme in 2023 of "Crossroads: When World and Gospel Meet" an AFFIRM Zoom series on Mission in today's world.

Two areas are being explored now-

1. To follow on from last year's CMS/Bishopdale-led series entitled "The Nations Within". We would like to explore further with Alice Kinyua and Andrew Livingston.
2. "What Coloured Glasses are you Wearing" as we examine the ideas that shape our thinking.

For the AFFIRM Hub 2022 series we had a total for the year of 161 registrations for the above series so are looking forward to offering this ministry again this year.

Long term vision for AFFIRM N.Z.

- To establish a base for a 'missional ministry training centre' that could offer theoretical and practical assistance for lay and ordained ministry for churches who are wanting to do mission more effectively in their local churches. This would be for a global and local focus.
- This could be anywhere in the country, but I am suggesting that we begin in Auckland, as it is the largest city with the most intercultural and intergenerational challenges in evangelism and discipleship.
- I would envisage this operating out of an existing AFFIRM church.
- I have spoken a couple of times with Burge as to what relationship we could have with Bishopdale. These conversations will continue as we explore the concept.
- In the same way as we have with the AFFIRM Hub online series All AFFIRM Affiliates would be invited to contribute as available, to offer their skills and expertise at this centre.

Ministry Review – A ministry review of our work was carried out by the AFFIRM Executive. We thank them for their encouraging comments.

Lorraine and Peter

Lorraine Lloyd (Executive Officer)

Peter Lloyd (Network Co-ordinator).

The graphic features a background image of a road leading towards a city skyline at sunset. In the foreground, an open Bible is visible. The AFFIRM logo, a cross inside a circle, is positioned at the top left. The title 'Crossroads: When World & Gospel Meet' is centered in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, it says 'An AFFIRM Zoom series on Mission in today's world.' On the right side, there is a white box containing session details.

AFFIRM

**Crossroads:
When World
& Gospel Meet**

An AFFIRM Zoom series on Mission in today's world.

**CLEARING THE
ROADBLOCKS
TO FAITH**
Rev. Ron Hay

SESSION 1
7pm, Weds 17th August
The Problem of Suffering

SESSION 2
7pm, Weds 24th August
Has Science Killed God

SESSION 3
7pm, Weds 31st August
Genesis, Evolution and Creation

Register by email to
lorraineandpete@gmail.com
We will then send the ZOOM
link for the series.

Minutes of the AFFIRM Council Meeting

At 30th March 2023, 11:45am at Bishopdale College, Nelson



Attendance

In Person -

The Rev. Ian Hardcastle (Chair & Auckland AFFIRM), The Rev. Dr Andrew Burgess (Bishopdale Theological College), The Rev. David Clancey (Latimer Fellowship), The Rev. Canon Simon Martin (Nelson Diocese), The Rev. Andrew Allan-Johns (SOMA), Capt. Monika Clark (Church Army), The Rev. Fraser McDermott (ACM), Mrs Anna Pickersgill-Brown (Nelson Diocese).

Online – The Rev. Mark Hood (Latimer Fellowship).

Non-voting members:

The Revd Sister Lorraine Lloyd (Executive Officer), Capt. Peter Lloyd (Network Officer), Mr Michael Ng (Administrator).

1) Apologies

The Rev. Rosie Fyfe (NZCMS) will join later in the meeting.

2) Devotion – By Anna Pickersgill-Brown

The passage from Genesis 1:1-5 describes the creation of the world by God, with the Spirit of God brooding over the formless earth, bringing life and light. Anna reflected on the concept of brooding and relates it to believers who receive the Holy Spirit, experiencing a transformation in their lives. Believers, guided by the Holy Spirit, are separated from the darkness of the world and called to live in the light.

The clarion call in this context refers to a strong demand or request for action. There are three clarion calls mentioned in the passage: the first is God inviting all to receive the Holy Spirit and the light; the second is the call from believers to others to come and receive the water of life; and the third is the invitation from believers to everyone to accept Christ as their Savior. The passage encourages people to embrace the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and respond to the call of faith.

3) Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting 29th September 2022

Motion: That the minutes of the Meeting of 29 September 2022 be accepted as a true record.

Andrew AJ, Fraser – Agreed

4) Matters arising

Fraser asked if the bank signatories has been sorted. The Chair answered that the bank signatories have been correctly appointed. However, currently Michael is the nominated person with the IRD but Ian has had difficulty finding how to update the list of trustees with the IRD.

5) Executive's Report

Auckland Evangelism Proposal

The Chair talked to the AFFIRM Executive Report (attached) focusing on the Evangelism proposal in Auckland. Peter is arranging for a phone call to the bishop to inform him of the idea and progress. The chair has brought the proposal to this meeting for the Council's views on using AFFIRM as the channel for delivering evangelistic support to parishes in Auckland.

Executive also reviewed the Lloyd's roles which were tabled later in the meeting for discussion.

Motion: That the Executive Report be received.

Fraser / Dave – Agreed

6) Executive Officer Report

Refer to the Lloyd's written report (Attached).

7) Network Co-Ordinator Report

Peter will be visiting each of the parishes involved to discuss and brainstorm on the idea and how would they use a mobiliser for evangelism. Each parish is different and have different ideas.

8) Auckland AFFIRM

8.1 Report on Evangelism Proposal for Auckland

Auckland AFFIRM was inactive during COVID but this offer has fired it up giving it a new specific purpose. There have been three meetings since October.

The AFFIRM Evangelism Proposal in the Council papers summarises the initial request and the ideas from the Vicars attending the first meeting of Auckland AFFIRM held to consider it. This was presented back to the Auckland AFFIRM November 2022 meeting.

Rosie Fyfe (NZCMS) joined the meeting online at 12:22pm.

Ian proposed that this would be an AFFIRM project, with an oversight board consisting of Lorraine and Peter Lloyd and himself. Peter brings particularly experience as the former Director of Church Army and as the former Parish Ministry Consultant developing Church Growth Practices. It is intended that they would draw on resources and skills of the AFFIRM affiliates to assist with the project. Church Army and CMS both run domestic and international evangelism projects.

Discussion points which arose were:

- Dave wanted to know what the advantages are of AFFIRM giving the oversight as opposed to other affiliates such as ACM, Church Army or CMS which are already doing similar work. Ian explained that he spoke to Church Army and CMS early on and there did not seem to be interest there.
- Fraser suggested that AFFIRM's purpose is largely oversight and not ministerial. He is not opposing the idea but questions if it needs to stay at the AFFIRM umbrella or be moved down to the affiliate level. Peter thanked Fraser for the question, and the structure is no more than an idea at this point. We need to set up a structure that works for us and not against us. This is the stage where we are exploring this together.

- Dave asked how many AFFIRM Auckland parishes belong to ACM. Two parishes in ACM, four are AFFIRM parishes, while three are neither. Peter suggested we go wider than just AFFIRM churches, not cutting out possibilities that other evangelist Affiliates can run it well. Lorraine added that this started with Auckland AFFIRM churches coming together to pray and seek God.
- Rosie discussed CMS' involvement with an on-the-ground Māori evangelist and the tension between training others and doing the work themselves. They have funding for four more evangelists. They could partner with local evangelists through prayer and pastoral support. She wanted to understand what is being asked. If they were an evangelist on the ground, they could be a mission partner, and NZCMS could do the support. If it were an enabling role, is usually a staff role in NZCMS. But she does not feel it is a natural fit at the moment. Fraser reflected that this person or organisation will be an enabler, not an evangelist on the ground. This role will be more about enabling and training parishes to do it.
- Mark asked if the offer rules out AFFIRM as the oversight body because it is specifically for one diocese at this stage. Lorraine explained that the donor approached Ian as the AFFIRM chair.
- Simon had a question regarding the influence of the donor and what role they might have?
- Similar initiatives have started in Nelson and Christchurch.
- Mark asked if an individual was in mind. Ian answered that they had not reached that stage yet.
- Fraser mentioned that who is on whose payroll should be a secondary question.
- Mark questioned whether the enabler role is the best use of the funds as compared to funding a new church. He thought there would be a long queue of people applying for a church planter position if it were fully funded for five years.
- Simon likes the idea that AFFIRM acts like a 'midwife' for this evangelism proposal and pass on to the right organisation and get on with its normal function. Even with City-to-City, they will be looking for an organisation to be in relationship with to this kind of work, not actually do it themselves.

Motion: That this Council thanks the donor for this generous and exciting offer, which we wholeheartedly support and commit to continuing to work towards its implementation.

Andrew AJ/ Fraser – Agreed

Which Affiliates might manage the evangelism project?

- Dave suggested we include Alpha and New Wine in the mix of possibilities since the donor mentioned them in the original letter.
- Andrew Burgess: Bishopdale College not appropriate.
- Fraser: ACM is a recipient so not appropriate to manage it too.
- Church Army has contacts with Australian church planters. CA could hold the project.
- NZCMS is willing to consider to be a 'sending' organisation if AFFIRM sees fit.
- Simon encouraged to discuss this with the City2City representative he would meet the next day.

9) LLOYDS' ROLE

9.1 Report on the review of the Lloyds' roles

The Executive met with Lorraine and Peter by Zoom on 23rd February 2023, to review their roles as Executive Officer and Network Officer respectively.

The Executive expressed strong appreciation and satisfaction with the work that both Peter and Lorraine give to AFFIRM. They have been in these roles since 2013. Lorraine and Peter indicated that they are happy to continue in their roles.

They discussed achievements such as setting up ACM and navigating the changes since General Summit 2018. The Zoom training Hub is a very positive achievement particularly as we have seen Affiliates working together in a new way.

Peter and Lorraine are participating in Professional Development informally and formally resp.

Actions:

- They would like to consult quarterly with the Executive.
- They would like a budget for expenditure.
- It would be helpful to review their job descriptions alongside those for the Chair and Executive.

9.2 Expense budget for the Lloyds

Michael discussed the current state of the Council's finances.

The Council had a net profit of \$304. However, this is mainly due to the generous donation of St Margaret's (\$1,000) and a catch-up payment by ACM for last year's overdue subscription.

The last two financial years' numbers have also been included for comparison purposes and a proposed budget for 2023/24.

The budget shows that the Council will have a shortfall of \$1,050 based on its current expected affiliation fees and expenditure. i.e. Six full-paying affiliates and a half-paying affiliate (SOMA).

Fraser suggested we review the current Affiliate fees. Currently Affiliates pay \$500 (except for SOMA which pays \$250). The subscription has never been increased. To cover the deficit would take \$160 if divided by the affiliates.

Motion: That the Lloyd's budget be increased to \$3000 and the Affiliates' full subscription rate be increased to \$1,000 with the proviso that any Affiliate which cannot afford the increase should pay what they can afford and we ask Michael to communicate with AFFIRM parishes about making donations.

Andrew Burgess/ Fraser - Agreed

ACTION: Michael

10) Election of Chairman and Executive

The current Chair and Executive are willing to continue. The chair asked for any nominations. There were no other nominations.

Motion: That Ian Hardcastle continue as the chair of AFFIRM and Andrew Burges and Andrew Allan-Johns continue to be the members of the Executive.

Fraser/ Mark - Agreed

Motion: That the Chairman and Executive continue as Trustees.

Chair- Agreed

Motion: That the Chairman, Executive and Administrator continue as the Bank Signatories.

Chair - Agreed

11) Resignation of the Revd Rodney Dunlop

Taranaki AFFIRM no longer meets and Rodney has resigned from the AFFIRM Council.

Motion: That the Council accepts Rodney's resignation and sends a message of appreciation.

Chair - Agreed

12) Affiliate reports

12.1 ACM - Fraser

ACM has appointed Paul Williamson as a staff member to meet parishes at least once a month by phone and physically once a year.

ACM intends to position themselves globally, by connecting with an organisation in Canada and Northern American partners who support classic orthodox.

They have been working with their parishes to revitalise and with the AFFIRM parishes as well. Pathways may be slow, but they are looking at growth they trying to bring revitalisation into parishes that are struggling.

12.2 Bishopdale College – Burge

The low student intake this year is disappointing, however this seems to be the case with every theological college that he has talked to. The sense is that post-COVID, students are reluctant to commit to courses.

He is very happy with what they are doing: Raising leaders now for the future.

Good partnerships are emerging. He has worked for years building relationship with Wellington Diocese. That is showing fruit. He is expecting more Wellington students in 2024. He is building a stakeholder relationship with a local Brethren church.

12.3 Church Army

Monika is building connections with all many different churches and dioceses.

She is referring people to Solar Zero for solar power for which Church Army gets a commission. It has made good connections with all sorts of churches and dioceses which would not normally be interested in CA. It and helps people reduce their carbon footprint. This is a hot topic at present and it saves money and carbon footprint and is something young people are really into.

12.4 CMS

CMS recently hired Cassie Lee to work with youth engaging in missions. She is from Sumner, now at St John's College and engaged to a Fijian man. She would love to connect with any churches to help train and debrief teams going to Polynesia. The first group is from Nelson diocese in December.

They are finding people want to do part time in New Zealand and part time overseas which is not what CMS is set up for. They do long term missions.

Another staff member, Alice Kinyua is very open and passionate about cross-cultural evangelism. Open to support any parish with that passion for cross cultural engagement.

At present, their missionaries are volunteers, but case law is changing. CMS looking to change the legal state of their missionaries to be on the right side of the law to protect their missionaries and CMS.

The Māori Evangelist space is exciting: they received funding from an Australian Evangelical trust which enables them to appoint new evangelists.

12.5 Diocese of Nelson

No further update.

12.6 Latimer Fellowship

Latimer Fellowship had a positive retreat recently with a number joining them from Nelson.

12.7 SOMA NZ

SOMA is back in business with four mission trips planned this year. The first was to Vanuatu but it was disrupted by two cyclones which prevented air travel to the remote Banks and Torres Islands. Andrew AJ's next trip is to Rwanda with two others joining an International SOMA team.

13) Date of Next meeting

Thursday 28th September, 2pm by Zoom

14) AOB:

Lorraine reported that two people from Katikati emailed to say they had tried to connect into the Zoom AGM but the connection failed.

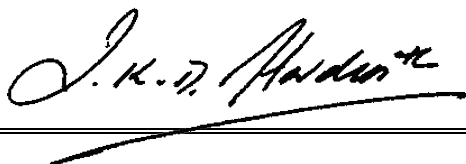
Fraser asked if AFFIRM conferences will resume. The Lloyds explained that they intend to put on an AFFIRM conference next year.

15) Meeting Closed

Meeting ended at 2:48pm.

Minutes adopted as a true record of the meeting at the AFFIRM Council Meeting of 28th September 2023.

Chairman



Date: 28 / 09 /2023
