

## Parish Consultations

Considering the future of mission and expression of the Anglican Church in Napier.

### Background:

At the Diocesan Synod in 2024 the following motion was passed, beginning a canonical process of consultation and reporting to explore possibilities for ministry partnership in Napier.

*“That Synod approve the instigation of the amalgamation of the parishes of Taradale, the Cathedral and Westshore, plus the sub districts of Puketapu and Napier South in order to facilitate mission and ministry within the boundaries of the amalgamated parish: i.e., Napier, Taradale and Westshore.”*

The motion establishes the Diocesan Synod in October 2025 as a mandatory reporting date for the Standing Committee to present at least a report explaining the process and findings, though this Synod could also see the introduction of a bill to combine the parishes if that was the collective discernment of the Standing Committee and stakeholder representatives.

### Process for Reporting

The Standing Committee has developed a 3-phase process of consultation and review, with the possibility for the process to end at the completion of each of the three stages with no further action.

**The initial phase** of consultation with the parishes of Taradale, Westshore and the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, feedback from which will be reported to Standing Committee at their meeting on April 10.

**The Second phase**, if the Standing Committee deems it necessary, would be one of structural, financial and stakeholder review which would culminate in a report to Standing Committee on August 21.

**The Third Phase** would allow the stakeholder representatives and Standing Committee to consider the best path ahead, with a report to Synod in October that develops a new interim structure, or that reports on the process and the decision to maintain the status quo.

Following the initial consultation with parishes, communication and updates will be shared with the governing bodies of each of the parishes.

### Consultations

The initial consultations will invite each parish to gather to voice their hopes, dreams, concerns, and worries about any new structure. To assist in this consultation, two possible new structures for future ministry and the status quo are outlined below. These are not required structures but represent possible paths forward to help those who may not understand the implications of the consultation to comprehend the structural implications.

These possible structures will be discussed at the beginning of the consultation to help people understand what is being considered in the consultations, with the community voice then being facilitated by Graeme Brock, Waiapu Strategic Lead and Colleen Kaye, Diocesan Registrar.

For those who are not able to make the consultation in their parish, submissions are welcomed and will be received from Monday, 10 February until close of business on Friday, 8 March. These can be delivered to one of your parish leaders or via email to Colleen Kaye, [colleen.kaye@waiapu.com](mailto:colleen.kaye@waiapu.com).

## Possible Structures

### **Option One: Complete amalgamation into one new parish.**

In this example, each of the parishes would be disestablished and a new parish formed to occupy the boundaries of the previous three. Along with this, each of the governance bodies would be disestablished and one Vestry established to govern the new parish. While those Permanent and Call Funds held specifically for a church building or ministry would be carried over, the funds would be under the management of the new parish entity. Ministry licencing would be to the new parish and cover the whole geographical boundary of the new unit. Each of the worshiping centres and congregations would come under the new parish and they would be led by a Cathedral Dean. Within this structure, terms of reference and other tools could be used to delegate authority to local governance teams, including a degree of autonomy over worship and financial management depending on scale and capability. This structure would allow the church in the city to be more strategic in its long-term decision making.

### **Option Two: New Parish for Napier, independent Cathedral**

In this structure, the geographical area currently served by the three parishes would be amalgamated into one new parish, but the Cathedral and the land underneath it would be carved out as a unique entity independent of the new parish. This would allow the Cathedral to focus on its worship and civic dimensions, without the pastoral and governance responsibilities that come with being a parish. For Taradale and Westshore, the structural implications would be like option one. However, the ministry would be led by a Vicar rather than a Cathedral Dean and there would be no responsibility for the worship life of the Cathedral. Those people who worshipped at the Cathedral would belong to the pastoral and electoral rolls of the new parish. As with option one, this option would develop a stronger capability for long-term strategic decision making for the Anglican church in the city of Napier.

### **Option Three: Maintain the status quo.**

The status quo is the current structure which is three independent parishes.

## Timeline

### Stage One – Community Consultations

Beginning late February, and reporting to Standing Committee on April 11, 2025.

### Stage Two – Administrative Review and Strategic Discussion

If the process continues, to begin following April 11 Standing Committee and reported on to Standing Committee again by meeting on August 22, 2025.

### Stage Three – Implementation at Synod 2025

With the two previous reports, Standing Committee will write a report for the Diocesan Synod including its recommendation for action (if any). If this is for a new structure in Napier, the Synod would be asked to consider and, if approved, would begin a 12-month period of implementation before finalisation at Synod in 2026.