



St Luke's in the City

150 years - 2009

Celebrating at the Crossroads

9th Sunday after Pentecost

13 July 2008

NEW PRIMATIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A note from the Secretary of the General Synod Office, setting out changes to the Canons of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia with regard to the office of Primate and Archbishop.

"I am writing on behalf of the Primates and the General Synod Te Hinota Whanui of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia Te Hahi Mihinare Ki Aotearoa, Ki Nui Tireni, Ki Nga Moutere o Te Moana Nui A Kiwa to advise of a change to the model of Primacy now adopted by this Province. The 58th Session of the General Synod Te Hinota Whanui, which met recently in Wellington, unanimously passed two new pieces of legislation which embedded a three person Primacy. The first of these pieces of legislation entitled "*The Constitution Te Pouhere Amendment (Primacy) Confirmation Statute 2008*" allows for more than one Bishop to be appointed as Primate. The second entitled "*The Primacy Amendment Statute 2008*" provides for the Senior Bishop of each Tikanga of this Church to each be appointed as Primate and Archbishop. It is up to the Tikanga to determine who will be designated the Senior Bishop. Title A Canon 1, 7.1.1(b) now states:

"The Senior Bishops of each of the three Tikanga acting together, appointed by resolution of General Synod will have, or each of them will have, the title "Primate/te Pihopa Matamua and Archbishop."

The Canon continues in clause 7.2.1

"The Senior Bishops appointed as Primates/nga Pihopa Matamua under clause 7.1.1(b) shall hold their office collectively until the expiry of their appointment as hereafter provided, or until all three Senior Bishops collectively resign their Primacy before its term expires. In any other case, should any one or more of them die, resign or be removed, or for any other reason cease to hold the office of Senior Bishop of their respective Tikanga, their place will be taken by the person appointed to be their successor as Senior Bishop of their Tikanga."

The current Canon described an appointment term of six years.

Prior to the passing of these Statutes Archbishop Brown was the Primate and Archbishop, Jabez Bryce and Archbishop David Moxon were Co-Presiding Archbishops, but now under our Constitution and Canons and by a unanimous Motion of General Synod te Hinota Whanui, these three were each confirmed as a Primate and Archbishop of our Church.

These changes are an attempt to do justice by sharing the key leadership and pastoral role of the Primate equally among the three Tikanga. Additionally, the three Primacy models the interrelationship and interconnectedness to which we aspire at every level

of our Church, and it ensures that the Primacy is no longer the isolated and lonely position that it has been at times in the past. The three Primates provide collegial and pastoral support for one another and they bring to this Church a collective wisdom and a far greater range of spiritual gifts than would usually be found in a single person Primacy.

We give thanks to God for Archbishop Brown, Archbishop Bryce and Archbishop Moxon and for their willingness to take on this critical and demanding role. I am certain that you will join with me to pray that their Primacy might bring glory to God, bring the Good News to those who are without God and might uplift and encourage us all.

Yours in Christ
Jackie Pearse
General Secretary.