



## What about becoming a Local Church?

Smaller faith communities have the option of moving from being a Parish to a Local Church. What does that mean and how does it come about?

Being a Local Church status gives faith communities the ability to continue to operate, but without some of the requirements that remaining a Parish involve.

The best way to do this is to get agreement from the Parish that you want to do this: the existing Parish Vestry can write to the Bishop to request this. This then goes to the Diocesan Council who are able to change the status of your community from Parish to Local Church, and update Schedule 1 of Statute 3 (which has all the official names of Parishes, Regional Deaneries, the Cathedral District and Local Churches noted).

Part of the conversation with the Bishop could include talking to you about if you would consider joining another "collective" expression, such as amalgamating with another Parish or forming an Regional Deanery with them.



Local Church accounts are looked after by the Diocesan Office, the Bishop will appoint a Bishop's Warden (potentially with the designation Ministry Leader) and the Parish Vestry



becomes a Local Church Committee with its duties (and Warden's duties) covered in Statute 3 (a summary of these follows below). You still maintain control of your properties and assets.

You (as a local church) are directly responsible to the Bishop and are also part of the Local Churches Annual Conference, which appoints Synod Representatives (2 clergy, 2 lay) that represent all the local churches (currently there are 6 of them). **The Local Churches Annual Conference (AGM)** has already taken place this year.

In summary, being a local church enables you to operate using less resources (i.e. without the more onerous requirements that being a parish involves). You have more support from the wider local churches group, and you don't need to elect your own Synod Rep. It allows you to continue to meet, worship and so on but more on your terms.

## **Statute 3: TO PROVIDE FOR PARISHES, REGIONAL DEANERIES AND LOCAL CHURCHES**

### **PART 1: CONSTITUTION OF PARISHES, REGIONAL DEANERIES AND LOCAL CHURCHES**

#### **Parishes, Regional Deaneries and Local Churches**

- 4 (1) The basic local units of ministry and mission in this Diocese shall be:
  - a) Parishes;
  - b) Regional Deaneries; and
  - c) Local Churches.
- (2) The basic structures of governance for Parishes, Regional Deaneries and Local Churches shall be as provided in Part II.
- (3) A Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church may have particular responsibility for a defined local area within the Diocese, and that area may be defined in general terms without the need for fixing precise boundaries.
- (4) This section must be read subject to section 63.
- (5) The responsibility of every Parish, Regional Deanery and Local Church shall be:
  - (a) To promote the worship of God, the Holy Trinity
  - (b) To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God
  - (c) To teach, baptise and nurture believers in the Christian faith within the Anglican tradition



- (d) To respond to human need by loving service
- (e) To seek to transform the unjust structures of society
- (f) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth
- (g) In accordance with Clause E2 of the Constitution (Te Pouhere), to function on the basis of partnership with Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa and the Diocese of Polynesia and their constituent parts.

## **LOCAL CHURCH**

12. A Local Church shall be formed when either:
  - (a) a new group wishes to be affiliated with the Diocese; or
  - (b) when an existing Parish can no longer meet the obligations of a Parish as set out in Clause 6 above and does not wish to join a Regional Deanery, or when a Regional Deanery can no longer meet its obligations as set out in Clause 8 above and wishes to dissolve.
13. A Local Church shall be directly responsible to the Bishop and shall have responsibility for carrying out the mission of the Church in its own area.
14. A Local Church shall be led by a Ministry Leader, who shall be appointed by the Bishop. The Ministry Leader shall be part of the ministry team for that Local Church.
15. The Diocesan office shall have responsibility for administering a Local Church's finances.
16. A Local Church shall have responsibility for:
  - (a) paying its full cost of its Ministry Leader, contributions to the Synod budget, costs of maintaining and properly insuring its buildings, furniture and equipment, and the wages of its employees (and may also be supported for new missional initiatives by the rest of the Diocese from a grant from Diocesan Mission Funds) in a financially sustainable way.
  - (b) negotiating with the Diocese over the appropriate financial contribution to be made from the Local Church as a whole, in terms of the Finance Statute 1985 or any amending or substituted statute.
17. The Local Churches in the Diocese shall jointly hold an "Annual Conference of Local Churches" which shall be chaired by the Bishop. This is to serve as a forum for discussion of mutual issues and also the election of Synod representatives as set out in clause 39(b).



### **Constitution**

18. Every ministry unit which is constituted at the date that this Statute comes into force shall be then continued in accordance with the detail in the First Schedule. Its area of responsibility shall be defined by its existing boundaries, or if there are no boundaries, such general area as shall be defined by the Diocesan Council.
19. (a) Regional Deaneries are hereby constituted, and set out in the First Schedule.  
  
(b) Local Churches are hereby constituted and set out in the First Schedule.
20. New Parishes, Regional Deaneries and Local Churches may be constituted or dissolved, and the areas of responsibility of Parishes, Regional Deaneries and Local Churches may be changed, in the manner set out in Part 6.
21. Regional Deaneries, Local Churches and Parishes may be suspended or dissolved in the manner provided in Parts 5 and 6.
22. Diocesan Council shall:
  - (a) Maintain a list of Parishes, Regional Deaneries and Local Churches constituted under Sections 18, 19 and 20, together with the dates of their constitution and the area for which they are responsible.
  - (b) Append to that list a statement of the form of governance adopted in each faith community in accordance with Part II of this Statute.
  - (c) Amend the list from time to time by making the appropriate additions and deletions. That list and its amendments shall constitute the First Schedule of this Statute.
25. Unless otherwise approved by the Diocesan Council
  - (c) Every Local Church shall be styled "[Name of Church] in the Diocese of Dunedin".

## **PART II: GOVERNANCE**

### **SUB-PART A: GENERAL**

#### **Governing bodies**

26. (a) The governing body of a Parish shall be a Vestry.  
(b) The governing body of a Regional Deanery shall be a Deanery Council.  
(c) The governing body of a Local Church shall be a Church Committee.
27. The responsibility of each governing body shall be:



- (a) To promote the worship of God, and to provide all things that are necessary for the ordering of public worship;
  - (b) To take counsel together for the fostering of the spiritual growth of and well-being of the church members, and of all persons within the area of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church;
  - (c) To bring before church members the call of the mission of the Church in their community and in the world at large, and generally to seek the coming of Christ's Kingdom;
  - (d) To work in co-operation with all faith communities in their area, and to use its best endeavours to ensure that these communities work in harmony and common agreement to further the mission of the Church;
  - (e) To foster good understandings between its faith communities and those carrying out the ministry of Te Pihopatanga or the Diocese of Polynesia in the same district;
  - (f) To encourage ecumenical links with those carrying out the ministry in other churches and Christian religious communities in the same district.
28. Governing bodies shall have the management powers and follow the procedures set out in "Part A", "Part B" and "Part C" of the Second Schedule respectively.
29. All matters of administration not expressly committed to a General Meeting or to a particular officer shall be the responsibility of the governing body.
30. Every officer and every member of a governing body shall have been baptised, and shall be enrolled as a member of that Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church, and shall be qualified to enter and to remain a member under Statute No 38, "The Members of Boards and Committees Statute 2006".
31. Every Vestry, Deanery Council or Church Committee member, and every officer of a Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church shall upon their election or appointment make the declarations set out in the Fifth Schedule, and the declarations required by Statute No 38, "The Members of Boards and Committees Statute 2006".
35. A Local Church Committee shall have the power to delegate its powers to subcommittees, and appoint such other officers, in addition to those provided for in this Statute.

### **Officers**

36. The principal officer(s) of a Vestry, Deanery Council or Church Committee shall be the churchwarden(s).
37. All offices filled by appointment shall be held at the will of the body which made the appointment.
38. The responsibilities of the churchwarden(s) shall be:



- (a) To be the lay leaders of their faith community.
- (b) To be the spokespersons for the Vestry, Deanery Council or Church Committee.
- (c) To provide leadership in helping the Vestry, Deanery Council or Church Committee to meet their responsibilities, and to support and encourage the work of the Vicar, Regional Dean, Ministry Leader or other clergy.
- (d) With the Chair, to ensure that the governing body is properly informed about matters for which it is responsible, and that any decisions taken by the governing body are carried into effect.
- (e) To have the superintendence of the buildings, furniture and equipment required for the work of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church, and to report to the governing body from time to time on their state and any need for repair, replacement, improvement or insurance.
- (f) To ensure the provision of all things required for public worship, and the preservation of order during services; and (without prejudice to the powers in that regard of the governing body) each churchwarden shall have authority to warn a person to leave or to stay away from any church or property under the churchwardens' superintendence.
- (g) To call general meetings.
- (h) To ensure that there is a proper system of accounting for collections and all other moneys received and that all financial liabilities and responsibilities (including moneys payable to the Diocese) are duly discharged.
- (i) To ensure the keeping of records and making of returns as required by the Third Schedule.
- (j) To present a budget to the Annual General Meeting of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church in accordance with Clause 4.3 of the Regulations attached to The Finance Statute 1985.
- (k) To be responsible for the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church during a vacancy or during the illness or the incapacity of the Vicar, Regional Dean, or Ministry Leader.
- (l) To ensure that there are strong links between the Parish or Regional Deanery or Local Church and the Diocese and the Bishop;
- (m) In conjunction with the Vicar, Regional Dean or Ministry Leader to report to the Bishop in terms of section 92, as regards any serious difficulties which arise or may arise in the faith community.

### **Synod representatives**

39. (b) Local Churches shall jointly hold an Annual Conference of Local Churches, chaired by the Bishop. One item of business shall be to elect two lay Synod representatives under the "Diocesan Synod and Synod Council Statute 1994". Each Local Church shall have one vote for each vacancy.





- (c) Provided that, when, in the opinion of the Bishop, an individual Local Church gets large enough, and the Bishop deems it appropriate, the Bishop may bring to Synod a recommendation that the Local Church have Synod representation in its own right at the same level as a Parish or Regional Deanery.

### **General meetings**

42. Any Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church may call a general meeting of its members, following the procedures set out in the Second Schedule, Part C.
43. All persons whose election is provided for in this Statute, shall be elected at a general meeting of the members of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church concerned.
44. Except in the case of powers expressly conferred on general meetings by this Statute, the function of a general meeting is to make recommendations and not to make management decisions.

## **SUB-PART D: LOCAL CHURCHES**

### **Church Committees of Local Churches**

60. The governing body of each of the Local Churches shall be a Church Committee which shall, in conjunction with the Diocese, administer the business affairs of the Local Church and provide and care for the buildings, furnishings and equipment required for the work of the Local Church, and to make provision for clergy in terms of Part III of this Statute. The Church Committee, together with the Diocese, shall be responsible for drafting and submitting an annual budget for approval to the Diocesan Council and Bishop.
61. The members of the Church Committee of each Local Church shall be the Ministry Leader (who shall be the Chair of meetings of the Committee, unless he or she delegates otherwise), The Warden, as appointed by the Bishop under clause 62, and such others as determined in consultation with the Bishop and Local Church.

### **Churchwardens**

62. (a) Each Local Church shall have one churchwarden, such appointment to be made by the Bishop. The Bishop may appoint one person to hold both offices of a Ministry Leader and Churchwarden of a Local Church.
- (b) Every churchwarden shall at the time of their election or appointment be a member of the Local Church as the case may be, and shall retire from office on ceasing to be a member of the Local Church.



- (c) The Churchwarden shall, in addition to their other responsibilities maintain links with the Diocese, and the Annual Conference of Local Churches.

#### **Vicars, Regional Deans and Ministry Leaders**

- 72.
  - (b) A Ministry Leader must be licensed as a Ministry Leader by the Bishop (but need not be ordained). A Ministry Leader shall only be appointed on terms agreed between the Bishop and the Local Church concerned.
  - (a) Every Parish, Regional Deanery and Local Church, shall make financial provision for the appointment of a Vicar, Regional Dean or Ministry Leader respectively.
  - (b) A Vicar, Regional Dean or Ministry Leader may be responsible for more than one ministry unit.
  - (c) In exceptional circumstances the Bishop may, on the application of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church concerned, and with the consent of the Diocesan Council, waive any of the requirements of this section.
- 75. The responsibility of a Ministry Leader shall be decided in conjunction with the Bishop, and shall include:
  - (a) To provide spiritual leadership to the community, and to promote the spreading of the Christian faith within the Anglican tradition;
  - (b) To provide a link between the Local Church and the wider church, representing the vision of the Bishop and the Diocese to the people, and the vision of the people to the Bishop and the Diocese.

#### **Provision of public services of worship**

- 81.
  - (2) Every Local Church shall have responsibility to make provision for regular public services of worship.
  - (3) Each Parish, Regional Deanery and Local Church shall be responsible to make provision for such further or other forms of worship as may be negotiated and agreed upon with the Bishop.
  - (4) The governing body of a Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church shall be responsible to make adequate provision for clergy so as to ensure that, in conjunction with any lay ministers or other lay persons who are available and licensed to conduct or assist in services of public worship, these public services of worship can be held.
  - (5) The Bishop may if it is in the interests of the mission of the Church to do so:
    - (a) define more precisely the responsibility of a Parish, Regional Deanery Local Church under this section;





- (b) after consulting with the Diocesan Council, fix the responsibilities of any particular Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church in a way that does not conform with this section.
82. The voluntary offerings of the congregation, and the funds proceeding from any other source under the control or for the benefit of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church (being funds from which ordinary clerical income is or may be derived), shall stand charged with and shall be applied firstly to any unpaid costs of clergy, including stipend and all other benefits, and secondly to the cost of reimbursing the Diocese for meeting any such costs which have not been met by the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church.
83. The Churchwarden(s) and Vestry of any Parish, Deanery Council of a Regional Deanery or Church Committee of a Local Church and the Trustees of any site on which it stands, shall allow the free use of any such church to any clergy or licensed Lay Minister authorised by the Bishop to officiate therein.
84. The church, the Sacramental vessels, and all other things appertaining to the church, shall be at the disposal of any clergy appointed to serve in an official capacity in the Church, for the celebration of Divine Service, for the administration of the Sacraments, for catechetical and other religious instruction, for marriages and funerals, and all other rites and ceremonies authorised by the Church, at all such times as may be reasonable having regard to the functions he or she is called upon to perform. For that purpose, all licensed clergy shall have possession of, or access to, a set of the keys of the church.

#### **PART IV: MEMBERSHIP AND GENERAL MEETINGS**

##### **Membership and Church Rolls**

85. Every person who satisfies the Vicar, Regional Dean, Ministry Leader or the Churchwardens, or other person appointed by the relevant governing body to keep the membership roll, that he or she wishes to be a member of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church, shall be entitled to be a member.
86. The Churchwardens shall ensure that the membership roll is kept current, by the addition of persons who are entitled to be included thereon, and by the removal of those who are known to have died, or left the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church, or no longer wish to be on the roll.
87. A person may vote, nominate or stand for office at a General Meeting or AGM of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church provided that he or she has been on the membership roll for two months or more, is baptised, is on the electoral roll of no



other parish, regional deanery or local church and attends worship at that faith community.

### **Meetings**

88. Every Parish, Regional Deanery and Local Church shall hold an annual general meeting of the members on or before the 31st March of each year, at a date and time to be fixed by the Vicar or Regional Dean or Ministry Leader or, if there is no Vicar or Regional Dean or Ministry leader, by the Churchwardens in consultation with the governing body.
90. Any member of a Local Church may petition the Bishop to exercise his or her discretion to hold a special general meeting of that Local Church.

### **Calling and Conduct of meetings**

91. (a) Parish and Regional Deanery meetings shall be called and conducted as provided in Part C of the Second Schedule.
- (b) Local Churches meetings shall be called and conducted as closely to the provisions of Part C of the Second Schedule as is appropriate.

### **PART V: RESPONSIBILITIES OF BISHOP – see Statute 3**

### **PART VI: APPLICATION TO FORM NEW PARISH, REGIONAL DEANERY OR LOCAL CHURCH**

#### **Alteration of Existing Arrangements**

101. New Parishes, Regional Deaneries and Local Churches may be formed, and the area for which a Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church is responsible may be changed, with the approval of the Bishop in terms of this part of the Statute. Approval may be granted on a temporary or a permanent basis.
102. The following applications may be made to the Bishop, after due consultation has been undertaken in terms of the Sixth Schedule:
- (a) Any three or more members of a faith community may apply to the Bishop to form a Local Church.
  - (b) Any Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church(es) may (whether or not in conjunction with any other faith community) apply to form a new Parish or Regional Deanery or Local Church or to change the boundaries or to dissolve the existing ministry unit.
103. The procedure for the application, and the steps which are to be taken before it is approved, are set out in the Sixth Schedule.



### **Approval of Application**

104. If the Bishop has elected to refer the application to Diocesan Council in terms of Clause 8(a) of the Sixth Schedule then:
- (1) Upon receiving a favourable report from the Diocesan Council and considering all matters which may be relevant to the application, the Bishop may:
    - (a) Approve the application as a provisional basis for the conduct of mission and Anglican worship in the designated area.
    - (b) Approve the application as a permanent basis for the conduct of mission and Anglican worship in the designated area.
    - (c) Decline the application.
  - (2) Any approval shall be granted on such terms and conditions as the Bishop may think fit, including specific instructions on the forms of Divine Worship which may be conducted by persons who are not ordained ministers.
  - (3) Any approval on a provisional basis shall provide for the arrangement to continue for a term of not more than two years, such term being however renewable on one or more occasions.
  - (4) Any approval on a permanent basis, and any approval for a new Parish or Regional Deanery or Local Church, or for an alteration of the existing boundaries of the same, must be ratified by Synod at an Ordinary Session, due notice having first been given to the Diocesan Council not later than three months before that Session.

### **Procedure after Formation of New Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church**

105. (1) Where the formation of any new Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church is approved under this Statute:
- (a) The Vicar or Regional Dean with responsibility for the Parish or Regional Deanery shall forthwith appoint a Churchwarden.
  - (b) If there is no Vicar or Regional Dean, and in the case of a Local Church, the Bishop shall appoint a Bishop's warden in place of the Vicar or Regional Dean's warden, after calling for nominations within the Parish or Regional Deanery in any way the Bishop may choose.
  - (c) A meeting of all who would qualify for inclusion on the roll in terms of Sections 85, 86 or 87, shall be called and shall elect a further Churchwarden and members of the governing body, as if it were an annual general meeting.



## **SECOND SCHEDULE**

### **Powers and Proceedings of Governing Bodies**

#### **B. Local Church Committees**

##### **a. Members**

1. The Chair, members and officers of the Local Church Committee shall continue in office:

- (a) Until written notice of resignation is given to the Church Committee; or
- (b) Until a successor is elected or appointed

provided that their office shall terminate automatically if they die, or become disqualified under Statute No 38, "The Members of Boards and Committees Statute 2006", are removed or declared disqualified by a competent tribunal, or absent themselves from the Diocese without leave of the Church Committee for a period exceeding six months.

2. The Church Committee may co-opt a person to fill any casual vacancy.

##### **b. Powers**

3. In conjunction with the Diocesan office to:

- (a) receive moneys given to it generally for the purposes of the Local Church, and to apply it in the course of carrying out its responsibilities as a Local Church, following sound accounting and auditing practices, and ensuring wherever possible that more than one person is involved in each of the processes of collecting, accounting for and disbursing money.
- (b) receive and hold moneys or other property given to the Local Church for the general purposes of the Anglican Church which is not committed to Local Churches, or given for specific purposes. If such moneys or property are held upon trust for a special purpose, that purpose shall be shown in the annual balance sheet.
- (c) To manage and control and provide for the care and upkeep of all the land and buildings of the Church which have been entrusted to the Local Church.
- (d). To have such of the powers of a Vestry (as set out in Part A) in respect of the moneys and property referred to in the preceding clauses, as determined by the Bishop in conjunction with the Local Church and as recorded in a Memorandum between the Bishop and Local Church.
- (e). To seek and obtain such information as it may require concerning any funds or property owned by any Local Church or under its care or management, and any



contracts it may have entered into, and to report on the same (subject to such conditions of confidentiality as may be appropriate) to the Bishop, the Diocesan Council or Synod.

- (f). No person selling property to or purchasing property from the Local Church or from the Diocese on the Local Church's account shall be concerned to enquire whether the property or the proceeds of sale will be applied consistently with the trusts and conditions imposed upon the Local Church by this Schedule or by the provisions of this Statute.

**c. Meetings**

4. The provisions of Clauses 11 to 19 of Part A shall apply to Local Churches as if they were Vestries, except for the following:
- (a) Special meetings may be requested at any time by one or more members of the Local Church bringing such a request to the Bishop.

**C. General Meetings of Parishes, Regional Deaneries and Local Churches**

1. Meetings shall be convened by the Churchwarden(s).
2. Reasonable written notice (being not less than seven days) shall be given to members of the date, place and purpose of any general meeting. Such notice may be given by being affixed to a notice-board or other prominent place on the exterior of all places of regular worship in the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church and may be in the form contained in the Seventh Schedule, from which other notices may be framed as required.
3. Notice shall also be given at services of public worship on the Sunday before the meeting.
4. Where a general meeting is adjourned, like notice shall also be given of the date, place and purpose of the adjourned meeting.
5. A general meeting shall have power, in addition to any powers given by this Statute, to make recommendations to the governing body and to the Vicar, Regional Dean or Ministry Leader in respect of any matter concerning the affairs of the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church.
6. A quorum of the meeting for a Parish or Regional Deanery shall be 20 members, or a lesser number equal to one tenth of the persons currently on the Roll. In the case of a Local Church, the quorum shall be one third of the number of people on the roll, unless otherwise negotiated with the Bishop.



7. The Vicar, Regional Dean or Ministry Leader will chair general meetings unless they choose to delegate this role with the agreement of a majority of the attendees.
8. All matters considered at a general meeting, including whether or not the meeting is to be adjourned, shall be decided by majority vote of those present and voting. The Chair shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote.
9. The Chair shall have power to rule on all matters of procedure, provided that after such ruling it shall be competent for the meeting to reconsider that ruling and make its own decision.
10. There shall be included in the agenda of an annual general meeting of a Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church, the following items:
  - (a) the receipt and consideration of the Regional Dean or Vicar's or Ministry Leader's annual report
  - (b) the receipt and consideration of the Churchwardens' annual report
  - (c) the receipt and adoption of the annual financial statements
  - (d) consideration and adoption of a budget
  - (e) general business, including for a Local Church, the election of the members of the Church Committee;
  - (f) And, in the case of a Parish or Regional Deanery, the election of churchwardens, Vestry/Deanery Council, synod representatives (as appropriate) and such other officers as the meeting may decide to appoint; an Auditor (who shall not be a member of Vestry/Deanery Council), the fixing of the number of the Vestry/Deanery Council for the following year.
11. There shall be included in the agenda of a special meeting only those matters stipulated in the notice of meeting, and matters relating thereto.
12.
  - (1) The governing body may determine that nominations for elected positions will close before the meeting at which the election is to take place, being not less than 21 days after notice of the meeting is given.
  - (2) If, when the closing time has passed, no more nominations have been received for a position or positions than there are vacancies, then the person or persons nominated shall be declared elected.
  - (3) In any other case, the persons nominated, and no other person, shall stand for election at the meeting.
  - (4) Nothing in this clause prevents the meeting from electing a person to a vacant position for which, at the time of the meeting, no duly nominated person is standing.





**SIXTH SCHEDULE**

**Procedure for Approval of New Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church, or of Changed Responsibilities.**

**a. Form of Application**

1. The application shall state the resources which are or will become available to the proposed Regional Deanery, Local Church or Parish to carry out its functions, together with proposals (if any) for the use of existing resources available to the Regional Deanery, Parish, Local Church or the Diocese in the designated area, and the means which will be used to meet any financial liabilities. It shall offer an estimate of the extent to which it is considered that the functions of that ministry unit could be carried out by the proposed Regional Deanery, Local Church or Parish.
2. The application may include a proposal for the dissolution of any Regional Deanery, Parish or Local Church which is obsolete or no longer functions, or whose continued existence is no longer necessary for the carrying out of the mission of the Church in its area.
3. The application shall include either:
  - (a) A certificate from the applicants that the proposals will comply in all respects with the provisions of this statute, and any other relevant Diocesan Statute or Canon of the Church; or
  - (b) State any specific dispensation which is sought from this Statute, any other Diocesan Statute, or any Canon of the Church, and shall further certify that in all other respects it does so comply.

**b. Consultation**

4. Before making any application under this Part of the Statute, the applicants shall consult with all Parishes, Regional Deaneries, Local Churches and other church communities which are likely to be affected by the approval of the proposal, and shall be under an obligation to use all reasonable endeavours to obtain their agreement to the proposal, and to their respective roles and responsibilities for the mutual advancement of the mission of the Church.
5. The applicants shall also consult with those bodies responsible for electing Synod representatives for the area in which the Local Church, Parish or Regional Deanery will function, and shall use their best endeavours to reach agreement on how representation would be determined if the proposal were approved.



6. The application shall state with whom the applicants have consulted, and the outcome of those consultations.
7. If in the opinion of the Bishop or of Diocesan Council further or more extended consultation appears desirable, the application may be referred back to the applicants for that purpose.

#### **Procedure for Dealing with Application**

8. Upon the receipt of the application the Bishop may:
  - (a) Refer the application on for consideration by Diocesan Council; or
  - (b) Refer the application back to the applicants for re-consideration and amendment; or
  - (c) Decline the application.
9. Subject to paragraph 7, it shall be the responsibility of the Diocesan Council, when an application is referred to it by the Bishop, to consider whether the formation of the proposed Regional Deanery, Local Church or Parish will further the mission of the Church in this Diocese.
10. The Diocesan Council shall further consider
  - (i) whether the proposal is a financially viable one;
  - (ii) what further resources may be available from within the Diocese to give better effect to what is proposed;
  - (iii) whether the arrangements made for the Parish, Regional Deanery or Local Church, and with other church communities, conform with this Statute and with other Statutes of the Diocese, and with the Constitution and Canons of the Church;
  - (iv) whether adequate provision is made for continued co-operation between the Parish, Local Church or Regional Deanery and other church communities in its area for the mutual advancement of the mission of the Church;
  - (v) such further matters as may appear relevant to the particular circumstances of the case;

and shall report its findings to the Bishop.

See also article on [Making Tracks](#) and how to prepare for future significant changes or visit <https://www.calledsouth.org.nz/making-tracks/>