

Statute 749

The Title B Canon XXXVIII "Of the recognition of Christian Communities" Statute, 2018

Whereas, General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui in 2016 carried Motion 29 asking the Primates to establish a working group to consider possible structural arrangements within the Church to safeguard both theological convictions concerning the blessing of same gender relationships; and

Whereas, that working group in its final report made a number of recommendations including the introduction of a new canon in Title B "Of the recognition of Christian Communities"; and

Whereas, General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui considers it desirable to implement the recommendations of that working group including the enactment of Title B Canon XXXVIII in the manner recommended by that working group,

The General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui enacts as follows:

- 1. Title.** The Title of this Statute is *The Title B Canon XXXVIII "Of the recognition of Christian Communities" Statute, 2018*.
- 2. Purpose.** To give effect to the recommendations of the Motion 29 working group by enacting a new Title B Canon XXXVIII to provide for the recognition of Christian Communities and for the affiliation of Ministry Units with them.
- 3. Commencement.** This Bill comes into effect at the close of the session of General Synod/ Te Hīnota Whānui at which it is passed but only provided that Bills 20 to 24 (*Statutes 747-751*) are also passed at the same session failing which this Bill will lapse.
- 4.** A new Title B Canon XXXVIII 'Of the recognition of Christian Communities' is enacted as follows:

Purpose: *The purpose of this Canon is to provide for the recognition of Christian Communities and for the affiliation of Ministry Units with them.*

PART 1: Definition of Christian Communities

- 1. Christian Communities that may be recognised by this Church are societies of Christians who voluntarily commit themselves to obedience to their Rule and Constitution.*
- 2. The implementation of this Canon must occur in a manner consistent with clause 1 Part D, clause 1 Part E and clause 1 Part F of Te Pouhere/the Constitution, be in accordance with tikanga within each Tikanga and any allocation of resources of the Church to a Christian Community recognised under this Canon must recognise mana whenua.*

PART 2: Requirements for Recognition

- 3. To be recognised a Christian Community must:*
 - (a) have at least six members;*
 - (b) be approved by the General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui or, if it is not in session, by the General Synod Standing Committee, at the request of the Christian Community;*

- (c) *have a Visitor or Protector, to act as supporter and advocate for the Christian Community within the Church, who must be a Bishop in active Episcopal ministry in this Church and may also have Bishops in active ministry in this Church as Assistants to the Visitor or Protector;*
 - (d) *have a constitution that provides for:*
 - (i) *a statement of belief consistent with the beliefs of this Church;*
 - (ii) *recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Pouhere;*
 - (iii) *the Visitor or Protector to serve as the arbiter in matters which the members of the Christian Community cannot resolve through normal processes;*
 - (iv) *the ability for members to participate in the governance of the Christian Community;*
 - (v) *the discipline of members;*
 - (vi) *the ability for members to resign;*
 - (vii) *the legal ownership and administration of the temporal possessions of the Christian Community in the event of its dissolution of its assets in accordance with the law applying to the disposition of the assets of the charities in the jurisdiction in which it is based.*
4. *The requirements at clause 3(d)(i) does not prevent the recognition of Christian Communities whose rules or constitutions contain statements of belief or expectations of personal behavior that are beyond those contained in the Formularies, the Constitution/Te Pouhere and the Canons of the Church provided that they are not inconsistent with the Formularies.*
5. *Recognition of a Christian Community under this canon does not make that Christian Community a Ministry Unit.*
6. *The General Synod/Te Hintoa Whanui or, if it is not in session, the General Synod Standing Committee may withdraw the recognition of a Christian Community.*
7. *Any minister who is a member of a Christian Community is still subject to the jurisdiction of this Church and the minister's licensing Bishop.*

PART 3: Affiliation with Ministry Units

8. *Ministry Units within this Church may affiliate with a Christian Community recognised under this canon.*
9. *The Constitution of a recognised Christian Community may, but need not, provide for the consequences of the affiliation of a Ministry Unit to the life of that Christian Community.*
10. *Affiliation occurs when two thirds of those present and entitled to vote at a general meeting (or equivalent) of the Ministry Unit, convened and conducted in accordance with the rules governing the procedure of such meeting, vote to affiliate.*
11. *Disaffiliation occurs when a majority of those present and entitled to vote at a general meeting (or equivalent) of the Ministry Unit, convened and conducted in accordance with the rules governing the procedure of such meeting, vote to disaffiliate.*

12. *If a Ministry Unit affiliates with a Christian Community then no person may be appointed as Dean; Vicar or Co-Vicar of a Local Ministry and Mission Unit / Minita-a-Rohe; Chaplain / Taiparani; Warden /Kaihautu; Missioner; Deacon / Priest-in-Charge; Local Priest / Deacon / Minita-a-lwi of that Ministry Unit unless he or she is a member, or otherwise subscribes to the beliefs and discipline, of the Christian Community that the Ministry Unit is affiliated to, except that where the appointment is for an interim period any clergy person may be appointed by agreement with the Ministry Unit.*

13. *Clause 12 does not and will not operate to deprive any Ordained Minister of Ecclesiastical Office.*

We certify that this Statute was passed by the General Synod/ te Hīnota Whānui on 10 May 2018. As witnessed by our hands 29 May 2018.



*W Halapua
Primate and Archbishop*



*P Richardson
Primate and Archbishop*



*D Tamihere
Primate and Archbishop*