

# St Matthew's Special General Meeting

## Tuesday 2 October, 7pm in the church

### **Motions to Clarify and Align**

*After discussion with Ministry Leaders and Small Group Leaders, Vestry have agreed upon presenting the following motion to the Special General Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018*

#### **Preamble**

As members of St Matthews Anglican Church in Dunedin, it is with deep sadness that we note the May 2018 decision of the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia (ACANZP) to pass Motion 7.

By permitting the blessing of sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman, this decision constitutes a rejection of biblical authority, distorts the gospel of Jesus Christ, and alters and diminishes the doctrine and practice of marriage our denomination has always held.

We also note with concern that the ordination of people in a same-sex relationship has been authorised in the Auckland diocese this year.

#### **Motion 1:**

St Matthew's will seek clarification from Bishop Steven and the Dunedin Diocese on the application of the changes brought about by Motion 7 in this diocese.

#### **Motion 2:**

If Motion 7 continues to be applied, St Matthew's currently has no alternative but to further explore disaffiliating from ACANZP.

St Matthew's will seek to align with like-minded churches to set up a new Anglican diocese in New Zealand centred on the good news of Jesus Christ as revealed in scripture. This includes God's gracious offer of forgiveness and acceptance for all people who come to Jesus in repentance and faith. We will continue to uphold the same doctrine and practice traditionally expressed in our Anglican Formularies. We hope and pray that the ACANZP will return to an orthodox position and if this should happen we will seek the possibility of reconciliation. Throughout this process, we commit ourselves to engage with the Diocese of Dunedin in good faith on practical matters such as the use of our existing properties, name and other assets.

*Moved:* Rev Stu Crosson

*Seconded:* Mrs Sandy Elkin