



Report to Vestry from the Kondoia Review Committee

Executive Summary

In response to a section of the Listeners' Report, Vestry appointed a committee to review the parish's relationship and commitment to Kondoia Diocese in Tanzania.

The Review Committee finds that all funds have been appropriately gathered, approved and spent as intended. The funding of Short Term Missions has changed somewhat over the six years of this activity. The type of inter-church support we are involved in is common throughout the churches and aligns closely to the policies of General Synod and the Board of Missions. The Hardcastles' travel to Africa has been in no way a 'jaunt'. It has been hard and costly work for the extension of the Gospel. The parish should be proud of the amount it has raised and given to Kondoia and for the personnel we have sent to strengthen the leaders of that Diocese.

But there are some issues to be worked through carefully, especially how long this support should or can be sustained. Precipitate withdrawal would be very unwise. The Review Committee makes two process and six policy recommendations below for parishioner consideration, all of which intend to continue our support relationship at present. Vestry will need to keep this relationship under regular review.

Background

The 2019 Report from the Listeners reported that during their process some concerns had been expressed about the parish's involvement with the Diocese of Kondoia in Tanzania. The Listeners' recommendation was:

That Vestry undertake a review (including hearing from parishioners) on the ministry offered to Kondoia, including transparency on the exact costs, where they come from and where they go, asking whether it remains a key mission and ministry priority for the parish. Part of this review could be to engage, or re-engage, with CMS which offers guidelines and accountability to the ministry and finances offered. It is important that there are clear limits placed on the parish's liability from this relationship. Tim and Joyce suggest that the review include consideration as to whether financial offers to Kondoia be project based rather than for normal running expenses of the Diocese, and whether other sources of funding can be found to assist with the costs of regular visits.

In response Vestry appointed a Kondoia Review Committee (KRC) of Peter Lloyd, Gill Henderson and Don Battley to conduct the review. (Their qualifications for this work are at the end of this report).

The KRC were aware that some parishioners had raised concerns about the amount of funding given to Kondoia in the past and whether these resources are being used in the best way. This report aims to provide clear, detailed information about past funding and to consider the recommendations of the Listening Report.

Process

The KRC, which did not include the Vicar, requested Ian to supply background information on the origins, reported costs and funding, and other documentation about the mission. He supplied twenty-nine pages of information which cost him ten hours work. All the information supplied had been previously reported to vestries and/or parish general meetings. The documentation is available to parishioners in the foyer.

The KRC contacted the Rev Steve Maina, General Secretary of the NZCMS, shortly before he left the position to become Bishop of Nelson. His helpful comments are summarised below. We also contacted a representative of the Board of Missions (BOM). It is clear that the parish's commitment to Kondoia is well known and admired by these oversight bodies.

The KRC made itself available to parishioners on Sunday 28 July. Only one couple came to speak with us; their concerns were whether too much of parish funds were being required for Kondoia and whether Kondoia

could become dependent in the parish. This is a matter of financial planning. The KRC recommends that the Finance and Mission Committees keep the allocation of parish funds between parish, community and overseas commitments under annual review.

Some Op Shop issues were heard beneath these concerns, e.g. the viability of running and staffing two shops, and the allocation of the surplus between parish and community. These are not matters for the KRC to consider, but the Op Shop Board and Finance Committee attend to them regularly.

How did the Kondoa relationship come about?

1. In the 1930's the Anglican Communion assigned the country of Tanganyika to the NZ and Australian Anglican churches as our missionary responsibility. (We also had other responsibilities especially to Melanesia and Polynesia, and elsewhere). Many NZ missionaries have served there and the church has grown and is now a self-governing member of the Anglican Communion but has a huge and growing population with low standards of living to pastor and evangelise. NZ-funded missionary activities continue to support the local church's mission.

2. To strengthen that church, the St John's College Board of Governors allocates a post-ordination scholarship for a priest from Tanzania (and others as well). Some time ago the Rev Given Gauda was chosen by that church to study for a Ph D at St John's College to prepare him to lead their theological college. He was, however, elected second bishop of the underdeveloped diocese of Kondoa and felt called to take himself and his family to that challenging context which had no funds to even support their bishop. Ian and Helen happened to meet Given at New Wine and from that a spiritual relationship developed which opened up the possibility of St Stephen's supporting the Kondoa diocese.

3. By full and open process within the vestry and involving parishioner meetings, the decision was made in 2013 to financially support Bishop Given and to respond to such needs there as the parish felt called to take up. The response of the parish has been extremely generous (see below). We have also been invited to send ministry teams to the diocese and five teams have gone over six years, and one reverse mission came to us. It should be noted that such parish-to-missions relationships are now very common throughout the Communion. Some years ago General Synod authorised and encouraged parishes to develop such relationships as ways to personalise international and rich-to-developing nation relationships. In this spirit, Bishop Given has visited the parish and organised the visit of priests John and Tito in 2017. This reciprocal process is exactly the kind of thing General Synod and the BOM have sought to generate.

Our Response

The parish's response has been wide-ranging and impressive. In partnership with three other partners - Te Pihopatanga o Te Taikoerau, Rangiora Parish and Rochester Diocese - we undertook to try to fund part of Bishop Given's stipend, initially to \$3333 p.a. and now to \$5000 p.a. This is funded by \$1500 from vestry funds and the rest from parishioners' giving. In addition, Op Shop Funds have supplied \$5000 most years to provide roofs for village churches (we have contributed towards 18 roofs so far). Parishioners and home groups have also raised amounts to support village evangelists (\$260 each p.a.) - and we now support 10. We have also contributed to famine relief. This is significant support to a diocese ministering in an Islamic-dominated area. Bishop Given also invited the parish (and others) to send Short-term Mission teams to the diocese and we have managed to fund five such events with a total of fourteen individual trips by five of our people. Some years this was funded by large allocations from Op Shop surpluses, but funds also came from the Tikanga Pakeha Mission Fund, from a designated legacy and from some parishioner support.

Amounts raised and sent

At Appendix 1 is a summary of the amounts raised and either sent to Kondoa or spent on Short Term Missions (STM). The overall amounts are impressive, from just one parish. In the period covered, the parish's giving beyond itself rocketed up, partly as a result of the Op Shop's achievements but also through greatly increased parishioner giving for Kondoa.

It appears to the KRC that all amounts have been correctly gathered, authorised, spent and reported to vestry and the AGMs. The reporting has been thorough and transparent.

Parishioners are free to decide whether they see this as an expensive exercise in activity beyond our boundaries, or a praiseworthy participation in world mission. The KRC are of the second view.

Policy Authorisations

The Vestry Minutes show that all steps in this project have been considered by vestry and authorised by proper resolutions. The Mission Committee has prepared proposals for giving for between fourteen to twenty-eight projects (both local and international) each year since 2010. In 2016 the parish gave \$61,662 away, of which \$31,000 was for Kondoa. Few Anglican churches of our size would be achieving so much. Praise be to God!

The Growth of the Diocese

The growth of the diocese of Kondoa is impressive - far beyond anything seen in NZ. In the three years to October 2018, the diocese grew from 14,500 to 19,679 with more than 5500 having been baptised and converted in that time! Congregations have grown from 77 to 123; the number of pastors have grown from 29 to 51. In July they reported they were up to 127 congregations.

Most of it is their own work and the Lord's blessing but +Given is clear that the Short Term Missions (STM) from NZ have made big contributions to the ministry confidence of his young priests and evangelists. We have made a difference, and should be aware of possible losses for them if we back away.

Continuation Policy

The question has legitimately been raised as to how long our funding and ministry involvement should continue, and the reference to "normal running expenses of the Diocese" in the Listeners' recommendation seems to reference this, i.e. the question of dependency of the bishop's funding on this parish. We would observe:

1. We are aware that one of the criteria for mission funding is that it should encourage increased self-reliance, which may raise questions about our continued funding of Bishop Given's stipend. By contrast, CMS Secretary Steve Maina has stressed to us the importance of continuity in these support relationships. If we are to draw back from this, we need to give fair warning and to do it slowly. Because of the extreme poverty of the Diocese of Kondoa and diminished contributions from other sources, Vestry has decided to continue supporting +Given at the annual rate of \$5000. This may need to be reviewed in the future.
2. It is important to realise that Bishop Given is not just "admin". He is the mission leader of an Anglican mission on the Islamic/Christian frontier. It will take a long time for Kondoa to become fully self-funding. As a comparison, we should recall that the CMS mission in NZ needed outside support for about seventy years, and that Bishop Selwyn was fully funded from the UK for over fifteen years before this colony could fund him. Even we were once dependent on overseas giving. And most of the parish clergy in Kondoa have to support themselves by subsistence farming. For them a bicycle is a luxury.
3. In the light of this, the KRC considers that the distinction between admin costs and project-based support is false. The church roofs are projects; the famine relief is mercy-giving; the STMs are spiritual empowerment; the support of evangelists and the bishop are frontier mission projects.
4. However, parishioners should be aware that the other two partners (Rangiora and Rochester) may be reducing their commitment putting additional pressure on +Given and the Tanzanian church. We need to achieve assessment of this evolving situation and we recommend that the relationship with the BOM General Secretary be strengthened so he/she can help us evaluate the situation.
5. We further note the strong dependency of this work on the commitment of Ian and Helen. Their dedication to this taxing task is most praiseworthy. It would be beneficial if that load were shared by some others and we recommend that the Mission Committee be enlarged to strengthen the knowledge base of this project.

Summary of Steve Maina's points

Steve and NZCMS have known of our partnership with Kondoia and admire it and the Hardcastle's commitment to it. Steve commented, "This model is in line with what NZCMS seeks to foster in parishes". Whether financial support is given for projects or running the diocese depends on the needs of the diocese as advised by them. Both projects and running costs have merit. NZCMS has also been supporting Kondoia. He attached a Guidelines document for CMS support relationships of sixteen points which include - must be based in prayer; in line with CMS vision and priorities; initiated by local people; benefits the local church community; based on equal opportunity for genders and ages; addresses root causes; takes account of local customs/values; leads to long-term development; builds authentic partnerships; requires local input; is evaluated over time; is financially accountable; uses other funding sources where available; leads towards self-reliance and sustainability. The KRC recommends that the document be passed to the Missions Committee to study.

The Divine Guidance Question:

The KRC found themselves asking, "Do we have any signs from the Lord to cease the Kondoia partnership?" We do not see any.

Review Committee's Recommendations

The Kondoia Review Committee *recommend* to vestry and through vestry to a parishioners' meeting:

That the parish's commitment to the Diocese of Kondoia be continued for the next three years on the following basis:

1. That we continue to fund Bishop Given's stipend to at least \$5000 a year for the next three years.
2. We continue to support evangelists to the extent that the money can be raised by parishioners.
3. That we continue to supply funds for church roofs as Op Shop surplus funds allow, in balance with other responsibilities to parish and community.
4. That Short-Term Missions be continued as funds can be found, whether from parish funds, grants or personal funding by those going.
5. That emergency issues be responded to as circumstances allow.
6. That our other commitments to the Board of Missions, Kailakuri and other missions are also attended to.

Signed: *Don Battley, Convenor, Peter Lloyd, Gill Henderson.*

August 2019

Footnote

The Kondoia Review Committee

Don Battley (Rev Dr) - ordained 55 years; Vicar of five parishes; National Coordinator Anglican Renewal Ministries NZ 1989-1999; Archdeacon of Manukau 1998-2006.

Peter Lloyd (Capt CA), Church Army Evangelist for 50 years; served in four parishes; Church Growth Consultant; National Director Church Army NZ 2001-2012.

Both Pete and Don have taken part in short-term missions in NZ and overseas.

Gill Henderson Well-known parishioner; secondary school teacher for 27 years, teaching History, English and Religious Education. Chairperson of the Waikato Diocesan Bicultural Committee for five years in the 1990's. Gill and her husband Jon served as missionaries at Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital, South India, 1970-74.

Kondoa Giving data from Vestry Minutes and AGM Reports

Year	Purpose	Monies sent	Sources			
			Giving	Vestry	Op Shop	TPMC
2012	Love Offering	2000	2000			
2013	Given Stip	2333	2333			
	Other	1907	1907			
	STM 3 pax	14110	8700		5000	
		18350				
2014	Given Stip	5661	4661	1000		
	Other	3178	3178			
	STM 3 pax	8753	3753		5000	
		17572				
2015	Given Stip	3333	2333	1000		
	Evangelists	1440	1440			
	Roofs	5000			5000	
	STM 4 pax	20380	4167		5000	3000
		30153	8213	legacy		
2016	Given Stip	5000	3500	1500		
	Roofs	10000			10000	
	Various	3400	3400			
	STM 2 pax	9732	438		10000	
		28132			[balances accrued = 9611]	
2017	Given Stip	1620	120	1500		
	Evangelists	3656	3656			
	Special Needs	6447	6447			
	Roofs	5000			5000	
	ReverseMission	9200			10000	4500
		25923				
2018	Given Stip	5000		1500	3500	
	Evangelists	2600	2600			
	Special Needs	2345	2345			
	STM 3 pax	11247			Funds brought fwd	
		21182				

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