

16 May 2017

To all Vicars, Enablers and Vestry/Council Chairpersons

cc. Vestry Secretaries and LSMU Administrators

Re.: The Living Wage Movement

At the 2016 Diocesan Synod, we affirmed once again our support of the living wage, when the 2013 Living Wage motion became a Standing Resolution¹, and we additionally agreed in motion 5:

“THAT this Synod, in light of its commitment to the principle of a Living Wage, encourages all ministry units to become members of the Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand.”

Paying a living wage to the lowest paid people in our communities is one means of closing the growing wealth gap in New Zealand. The widening wealth gap is detrimental to the well being of society and to the social cohesion that we in New Zealand have enjoyed for so long. The living wage rate for 2017 has been calculated to be \$20.20 per hour, \$4.55 more than the minimum wage set by the Government.

This is a matter of how we live our lives and living justly. In our work for justice as a church and in our desire to uphold the priorities of the Gospel, to stand with those who are pushed to the margins of our society and to care about those who are our neighbours, supporting the Living Wage Movement and applying the principle of the living wage where we can, are ways we can do this.

Some Ministry Units are already members of the Movement both here in Auckland and in other Dioceses. The Diocese of Auckland is a participant in its own right. As per the Synod motion, all Ministry Units are encouraged to become members of the Living Wage Movement and in so doing stand by the commitment we have made.

If you haven't done so already, you are asked to put before your governing body the opportunity to become a member of the Living Wage Movement and thereby give your Ministry Unit the opportunity to act in support of this justice-making initiative. The cost of membership is small, starting from only \$50.

¹ Standing Resolution 48, Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand:

“THAT this Synod

1. commits itself to the principle of a Living Wage for all who derive income through the mission and ministry of this Diocese; and
2. calls on the governing bodies of Anglican institutions in the Auckland Diocese to consider how they could apply the principle of the Living Wage having regard to their financial circumstances and their ability to protect jobs and services in the face of significantly increased wage costs.”

Ministry Units who would like additional information about the Movement are invited to contact the Reverend Doctor Susan Adams, St-Matthew-in-the-City's representative on the Living Wage Faith Group. This group is comprised of Anglican, Roman Catholic, Quaker, Methodist and Unitarian people representing their denominations and working for justice for those who are in low paid work.

Susan is available, along with others, to come and talk with you about this issue, or to preach if that would be helpful to you, as your governing body considers the matter.

Susan can be contacted at:

The Reverend Dr Susan Adams

021 522 231

susan@stmatthews.org.nz

More information can also be found on the Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand's web site www.livingwage.org.nz.

To join the Movement, click on *Get Involved/Join The Movement* or email info@livingwage.org.nz.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Kind regards



Sonia Maugham
Diocesan Manager



Ref: C.5/46

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