

2025 Nelson Synod Elections

Summary of Seats Due for Election:

[Please refer to the 2025 Yearbook Section One -Committees for full membership details]

A Standing Committee: Refer Section 12 of the Diocesan Structures Statute

Three-year term

Clergy: Seat 3	- nomination received for Marge Tefft
Lay: Seat 7	- nomination received for Helen Neame
Seat 8	- nomination received for Alastair Smith

Two-year term

Lay: Seat 4	Vacant	- no nominations received
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One-year term

Lay: Seat 5	Vacant	- nomination received for Laura Fear
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B Bishopdale Theological College: Three-year term

Clergy – Seat 3 – Clergy Rep	- nomination received for Marge Tefft
Lay – Seat 4 – Lay Rep	- nomination received for Matt Watts

C General Synod & Tikanga Pakeha Representatives: Two-year term

Refer Section 2 of the Gen. Synod & Tikanga Pakeha Representation Act

3 Clergy reps	- Bishop
	- nominations received for Andrew Burgess & Simon Martin
3 Lay reps	- nomination received for Ed Duggan, 2 vacancies

DULY ELECTED

As per Section 12.6 of the Diocesan Structures Statute; and Section 7 of The General Synod and IDC Representation Statute 2014 –

If the number nominated shall not exceed the number to be elected, the President shall forthwith declare the persons so nominated to be duly elected.

The President declares duly elected by Synod –

Rev Marge Tefft, Ms Helen Neame and Mr Alastair Smith to Standing Committee for a term of three years and *Ms Laura Fear* to Standing Committee for a term of one year

and

Rev Marge Tefft and Rev Matt Watts to Bishopdale Theological College for a term of three years

and

Rev Dr Andrew Burgess, Rev Canon Simon Martin, and Mr Ed Duggan to the General Synod & Tikanga Pakeha Conference for a term of two years.

Remaining vacancies become casual vacancies to be filled by Standing Committee.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Laura Fear,

BBus (Finance), PGDipArts (DevStud), GradDipTheol

Laura Fear is a committed Christian and experienced not-for-profit leader who brings strong expertise in governance, strategic planning, and project management.

She is the Manager of Victory Community Centre; a vibrant hub supporting community wellbeing and connection in Nelson and has served on Vestry for Victory Parish for 2.5 years.

She currently serves on the board of Pregnancy Help and previously served as a board member and secretary for the Asylum Seeker Support Trust (2014–2020), reflecting her long-standing commitment to transparent, mission-aligned leadership and good stewardship.

Her approach to leadership is grounded in the values of empathy, justice, and inclusion, with a deep commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Laura is passionate about building strong, reflective teams and enabling faith communities to thrive through wise, collaborative governance.

