

Who Is My Neighbour?
THE PROMULGATION DOCUMENT (FINAL DRAFT)
7 June 2015

CONTENTS

1.0	SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION	3
2.0	INSPIRATION	4
3.0	BACKGROUND	8
4.0	SUMMARY OF MEETINGS	8
5.0	THE PRESENTATIONS	8
6.0	OUR NEW BISHOP	9
7.0	THE NEXT STEPS	9
8.0	PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON	10
9.0	PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON	11
10.0	PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS	12
11.0	PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS	13
12.0	PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL	14
13.0	PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL	14
14.0	PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF CHANEL CENTRE	15
15.0	THE EVOLUTION OF <i>WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?</i>	15
16.0	TIME LINE	16

Who Is My Neighbour?

1.0 SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

The Hamilton Diocese Strategic Pastoral Plan, *Who Is My Neighbour?* has its foundation in the Word of God. The parable of the *Good Samaritan* is so familiar that, all too often, we simply glance over it – we know already that the Samaritan traveller is the hero. *Who Is My Neighbour?* challenges us, as individuals and as parishes, to read this parable once again – *slowly* – *prayerfully* – and ask the question: *Who am I/we in the parable?*

Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.

A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands ...

Luke10:25-37

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, ‘Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? What do you read there?’ He replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’ ‘You have answered right,’ said Jesus, ‘do this and life is yours.’

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same

road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. “Look after him,” he said, “and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.” Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands’ hands?’ ‘The one who took pity on him,’ he replied. Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do the same yourself.’

... a priest ... passed by on the other side ...

... a Levite ... passed by on the other side ...

... a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him ...

... Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands’ hands? ...

2.0 INSPIRATION

On the Solemnity of Christ the King, 24 November 2013, Pope Francis gifted to the Universal Church, *Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel*. The vision that Pope Francis has for the Catholic Church in the Third Millennium is contained in these few hundred pages. Francis lays before us, in simple and compelling language, his hope for the Church: ***I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything ...*** Francis implores the Church – he implores us – to return to the mandate given to the Church by Christ himself: ***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ...*** (Mt 28:19).

Our Strategic Pastoral Plan, *Who Is My Neighbour?* is founded on the Word of God and takes its inspiration from the words of Pope Francis.

In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

EG 1

Evangelisation takes place in obedience to the missionary mandate of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ..."

EG 19

Evangelii Gaudium

1. THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

19. Evangelisation takes place in obedience to the missionary mandate of Jesus: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Mt 28:19-20).

20. "go and make disciples": all of us are called to take part in this new missionary 'going forth'. Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel.

24. ... An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelisers thus take on the 'smell of the sheep' and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.

... all of us are asked to obey his [Jesus'] call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel.

EG 20

Evangelisers thus take on the 'smell of the sheep' ...

EG 24

'Mere administration' can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be 'permanently in a state of mission'.

EG 25

I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything ...

EG 27

The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open ...

EG 27

25. ... I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are. 'Mere administration' can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be 'permanently in a state of mission'.

27. I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all

those whom Jesus summons to friendship with him.

28. The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelises, if it proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters'. This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed cluster made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be

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EG 28

In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers.

EG 28

... a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: 'We have always done it this way'.

EG 33

I [Pope Francis] invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in their respective communities.

EG 33

evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.

33. Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: 'We have always done it this way'. I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in their respective communities. A proposal of goals without an adequate communal search for the means of achieving them will inevitably prove illusory. I encourage everyone to apply the guidelines found in this document generously and courageously, without inhibitions or fear. The

important thing is to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters, and especially under the leadership of the bishops, in a wise and realistic pastoral discernment.

82. The problem is not always an excess of activity, but rather activity undertaken badly, without adequate motivation, without a spirituality which would permeate it and make it pleasurable. As a result, work becomes more tiring than necessary, even leading at times to illness. Far from a content and happy tiredness, this is a tense, burdensome, dissatisfying and, in the end, unbearable fatigue ...

83. And so the biggest threat of all gradually takes shape: 'the gray pragmatism of the daily life of the Church, in which all appears to proceed normally, while in reality faith is wearing down and degenerating into small-mindedness'. A tomb psychology thus develops and slowly transforms Christians into mummies in a museum ... Let us not allow ourselves

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EG 33

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EG 82

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EG 83

A tomb psychology thus develops and slowly transforms Christians into mummies in a museum ...

EG 83

Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the joy of evangelisation!

EG 83

to be robbed of the joy of evangelisation!

85. One of the more serious temptations which stifles boldness and zeal is a defeatism which turns us into querulous and disillusioned pessimists, 'sourpusses'. Nobody can go off to battle unless he is fully convinced of victory beforehand. If we start without confidence, we have already lost half the battle and we bury our talents.

No to warring among ourselves.

98. How many wars take place within the people of God and in our different communities! ...

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EG 85

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EG 85

How many wars take place within the people of God and in our different communities!

EG 98

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Bishop Denis approached Monsignor Trevor Murray and Fr Darren McFarlane to prepare a strategic plan for the re-structuring of the parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton.
- 3.2 Bishop Denis was aware that consultation and discussion at diocesan, deanery and parish levels had taken place over a number of years but nothing concrete had resulted.
- 3.3 Bishop Denis wanted all the available information to be collated and presented in a simple and orderly manner with a clear proposed strategic plan of action for discussion.
- 3.4 **Who Is My Neighbour? The Hamilton Diocesan Strategic Plan 2014-2015: Proposal** was completed and presented to Bishop Denis and the Council of Priests on 11 February 2014.
- 3.5 Together with the Plan, Monsignor Trevor and Fr Darren presented also a time line and a calendar of significant meetings to be held among diocesan bodies, deaneries and parishes.
- 3.6 Aware that there needed to have a lay voice on the Planning Committee, Monsignor Trevor and Fr Darren asked Bishop Denis to appoint Carole Fleming, the Chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, to be the third member of the Planning Committee.
- 3.7 The Planning Committee held meetings with the:
 - Council of Priests
 - Diocesan Pastoral Council
 - Diocesan Finance Council
 - 3 Deaneries
 - 9 Proposed Collegial Areas
- 3.8 In all, 15 meetings were held around the diocese, totalling some 250 participants. Notes were taken and a register of participants kept for all the meetings.

4.0 SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

- 4.1 The Plan and the accompanying documentation had been posted out to to all participants well in advance of the meetings.
This was done so that people would come to the meetings prepared; ready for an informed discussion; and with relevant questions.
- 4.2 The meetings with the Council of Priests, Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Finance Council were all positive. The Plan gained the support of these three diocesan bodies.
- 4.3 The meetings with the deaneries generally went well.
- 4.4 The Collegial Area meetings were well attended. Of the 9 Collegial Area meetings the feedback from 8 of them were positive. Hamilton Central Collegial Area requested more time to discussion the Plan's implications. This was granted by Bishop Denis and reaffirmed by Bishop Stephen.

5.0 THE PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1 Carole Fleming gave the introduction, noting that re-structuring had been taking place in the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Christchurch.
- 5.2 Fr Darren McFarlane gave the vision for the Plan, using relevant quotes from Pope Francis' exhortation ***Evangelii Gaudium***.
- 5.3 Monsignor Trevor presented the process that underpinned the Plan.
- 5.4 Greg Schmidt, the General Manager, was available to answer financial and administrative questions as well as outline how Chanel Centre was going to assist parishes in the re-structuring.

6.0 OUR NEW BISHOP

- 6.1 On 23 November 2014, Pope Francis appointed Fr Steve Lowe as the new Bishop of Hamilton.
- 6.2 On 13 February 2015, Fr Steve was ordained as the Third Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton.
- 6.3 **Who Is My Neighbour?** was already in place when Bishop Steve came to the Diocese. He had not read the Plan in any depth nor had he had the opportunity to speak to others in the Diocese about it.
- 6.4 On 7 May 2015, Bishop Steve met with Carole Fleming, Fr Darren McFarlane, Monsignor Trevor Murray and Deacon Peter Richardson to discuss **Who Is My Neighbour?**
- 6.5 Bishop Steve has now carefully considered the Plan. He has made some suggestions, asked for several changes and given clear indications about the place of **Who Is My Neighbour?** in the life of the Hamilton Diocese.
- 6.6 Bishop Steve has now had the opportunity to make **Who Is My Neighbour?** his own. This has been an important and essential step in the *evolution* of the Plan.
- 6.7 Bishop Steve is ready now to indicate where we go from here.

7.0 THE NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 **Who Is My Neighbour? The Promulgation Document (Final Draft)** is the next step in the process.
- 7.2 This is a *consultation document* which will be distributed to priests, deacons, religious, members of diocesan bodies and staff, and parish pastoral councils.
- 7.3 All those who receive this document are asked to consider it carefully and to offer feedback.
- 7.4 The feedback will be collated for Bishop Steve, who will make any further amendments.
- 7.5 **Who Is My Neighbour? The Promulgation Document 2015** will be prepared and published.
- 7.6 **Who Is My Neighbour? The Promulgation Document 2015** will then be ratified and promulgated.
- 7.7 A time line has been prepared indicating dates and tasks (see below p 16).

8.0 PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

8.1 Parishes: 36

8.2 Deaneries: 3

- Number of meetings per year (5)
- Agenda – discuss the Minutes of the Council of Priests

8.3 College of Consultors:

- 3 Deans + 1 appointed member:
- Number of meetings per year (5 or as needed)

8.4 Council of Priests:

- 3 Deans + 1 appointed member:
- Number of meetings per year (5)
- Agenda – drawn up by the Bishop

8.5 Diocesan Pastoral Council:

Membership drawn from:

- Council of Priests' representative (1)
- Ethnic groups (2 Maori, 1 Filipino)
- Religious (1)
- Hamilton Parishes (2)
- Tauranga Parish (1)
- Mount Maunganui Parish (1)
- Youth Representative (1)
- Number of meetings per year (5)
- Agenda – drawn up by the Bishop, DPC Chairperson and secretary

8.6 Diocesan Finance Council:

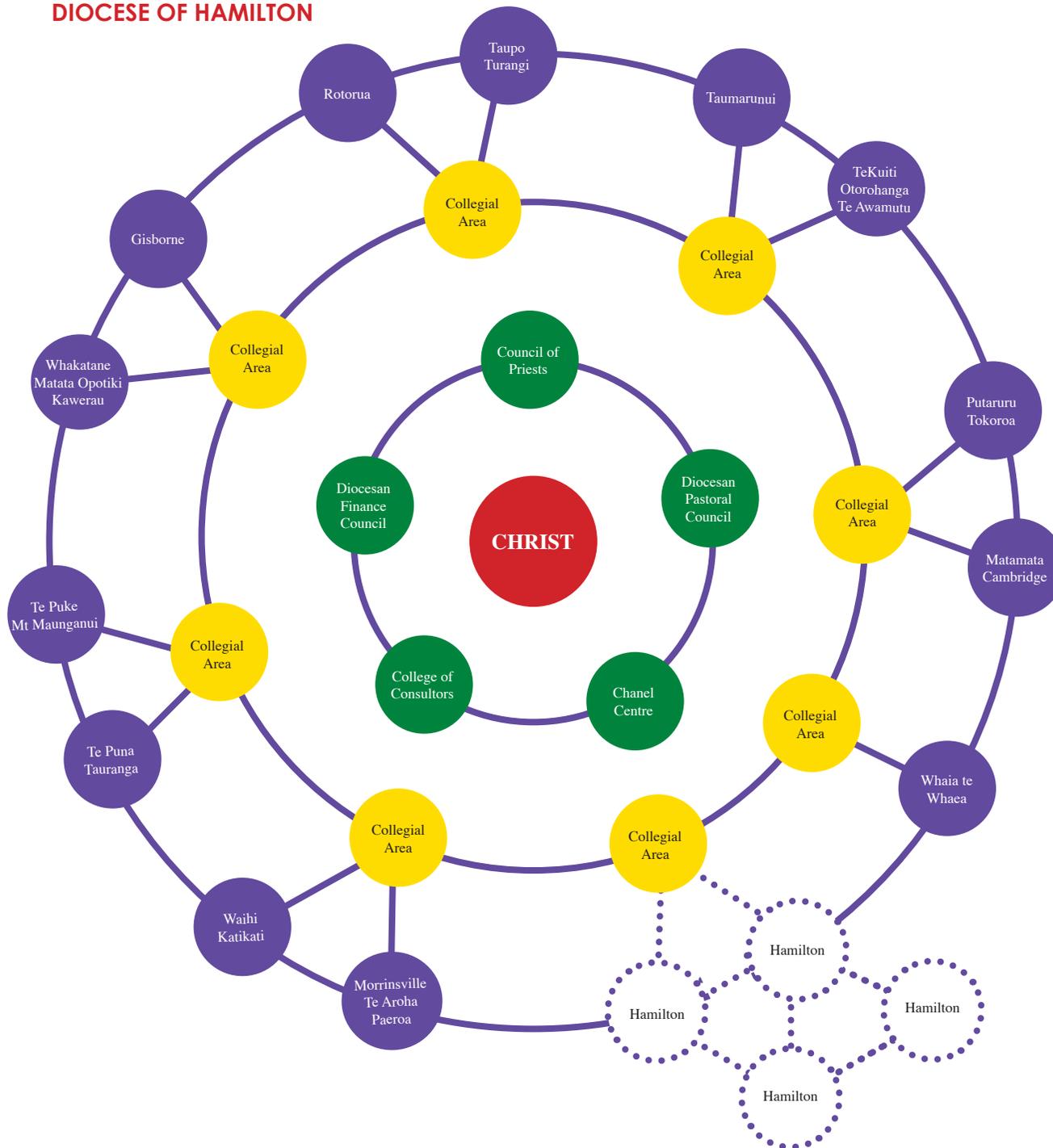
Membership drawn from:

- Mainly Hamilton Parishes and Tauranga Parishes (8).
- Number of meetings per year (6).
- Agenda – drawn up by the Bishop and the General Manager.
- The General Manager is in attendance (not a member).

Skill sets provided are:

- pastoral
- human resources
- property
- legal
- financial
- schools
- parish finance

9.0 PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



9.1 **Bishop:** 1

9.2 **Consultative Bodies:** 4

- College of Consultors
- Council of Priests
- Diocesan Finance Council
- Diocesan Pastoral Council

9.3 **Chanel Centre:**

- General Manager
- Finance Department
- Pastoral Department
- Catholic Integrated Schools Office

9.4 **Collegial Areas:** 8

Note: These names are temporary; each Collegial Area, once established, is to choose its own name.

- Waikato Central
- Waikato South
- King Country
- Thames Valley
- Pacific Moana
- Eastern Bay of Plenty
- Central Lakes
- Whaia te Whaea

9.5 **Parishes:** 14, 15 or 16

- Waikato Central: (2, 3 or 4)
 - still to be decided
- Waikato South (2)
 - Cambridge and Matamata
 - Tokoroa and Putaruru
- King Country (2)
 - Te Awamutu, Otorohanga and Te Kuiti
 - Taumarunui
- Thames Valley (2)
 - Morrinsville, Te Aroha and Paeroa
 - Waihi and Katikati
- Pacific Moana (2)
 - Tauranga and Te Puna
 - Mount Maunganui and Te Puke
- Eastern Bay of Plenty & East Coast (2)
 - Whakatane, Matata, Kawerau, and Opotiki
 - Gisborne
- Central Lakes (2)
 - Rotorua
 - Taupo and Turangi
- Whaia te Whaea
 - Murupara and others

10.0 **PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS**

10.1 **Membership**

- Bishop appoints all members.
- Membership is to be taken from the Council of Priests.
- There may be no fewer than 6 members; no more than 12 members.

10.2 **Statutes**

- To be prepared, ratified and promulgated.

10.3 **Term of Office**

- See Statutes.

10.4 **Budget**

- A budget is to be prepared.

11.0 PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

11.1 Membership:

- One member is to be elected from each Collegial Area.
- Note: For the purpose of elections, Whaia te Whaea Collegial Area is to be part of the Collegial Area in which it is domiciled.
- The Bishop may appoint his own members.
- A member of the Religious may be appointed.
- There may be no fewer than 6 members; no more than 12 members.

11.2 Statutes

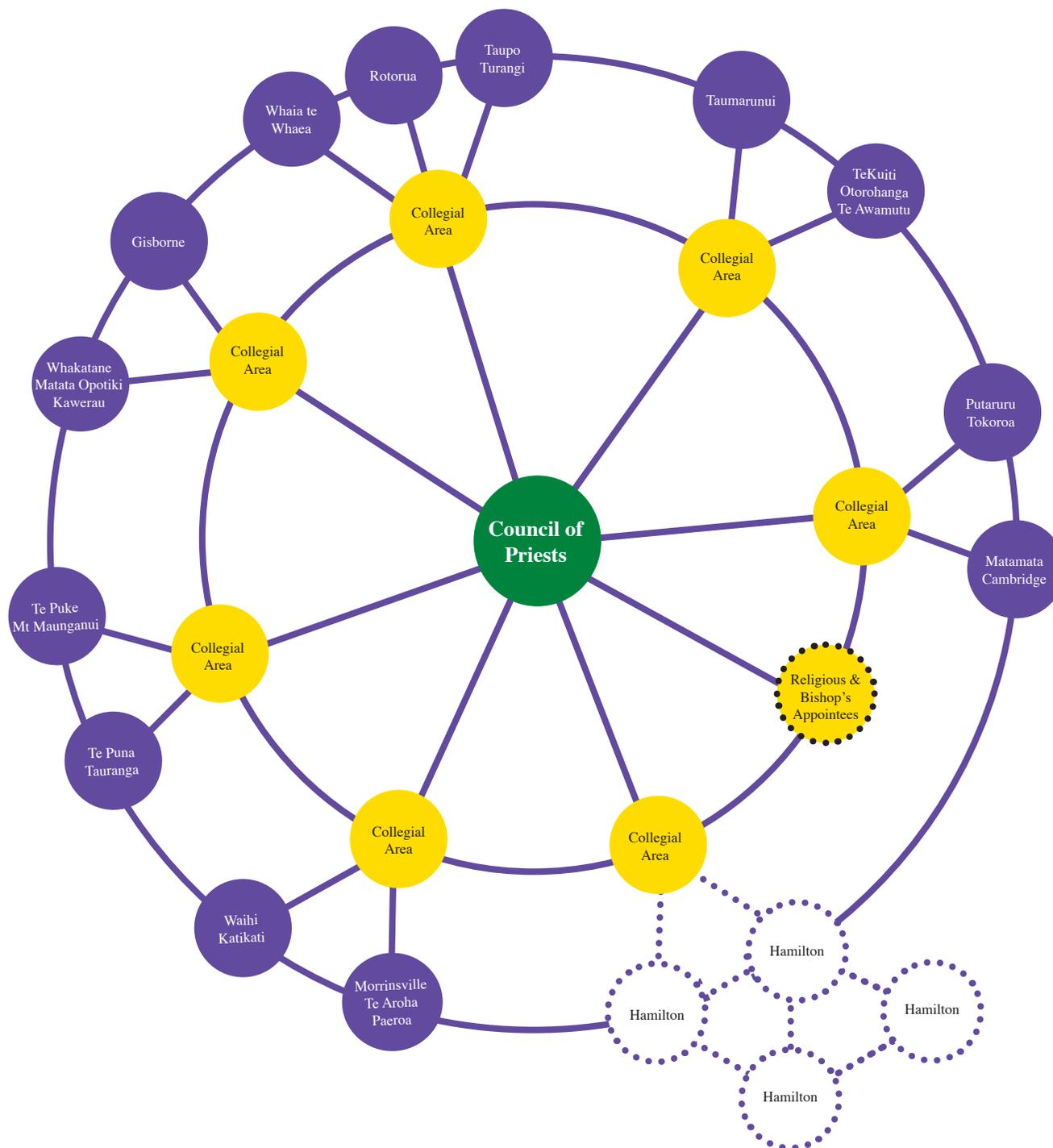
- To be prepared, ratified and promulgated.

11.3 Term of Office

- See Statutes.

11.4 Budget

- A budget is to be prepared.



12.0 PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL

12.1 Membership:

- Structure of the DFC is to be realigned to meet the needs of the Collegial Areas.

12.2 Statutes

- To be prepared, ratified and promulgated.

12.3 Term of Office

- See Statutes.

12.4 Budget

- A budget is to be prepared.

13.0 PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

13.1 Membership:

- One lay member is to be appointed from each Collegial Area.
- A member is to be elected from among the Religious.
- A representative from each of the official ethnic chaplaincies.
- There may be no fewer than 6 members; no more than 12 members.

13.2 Statutes

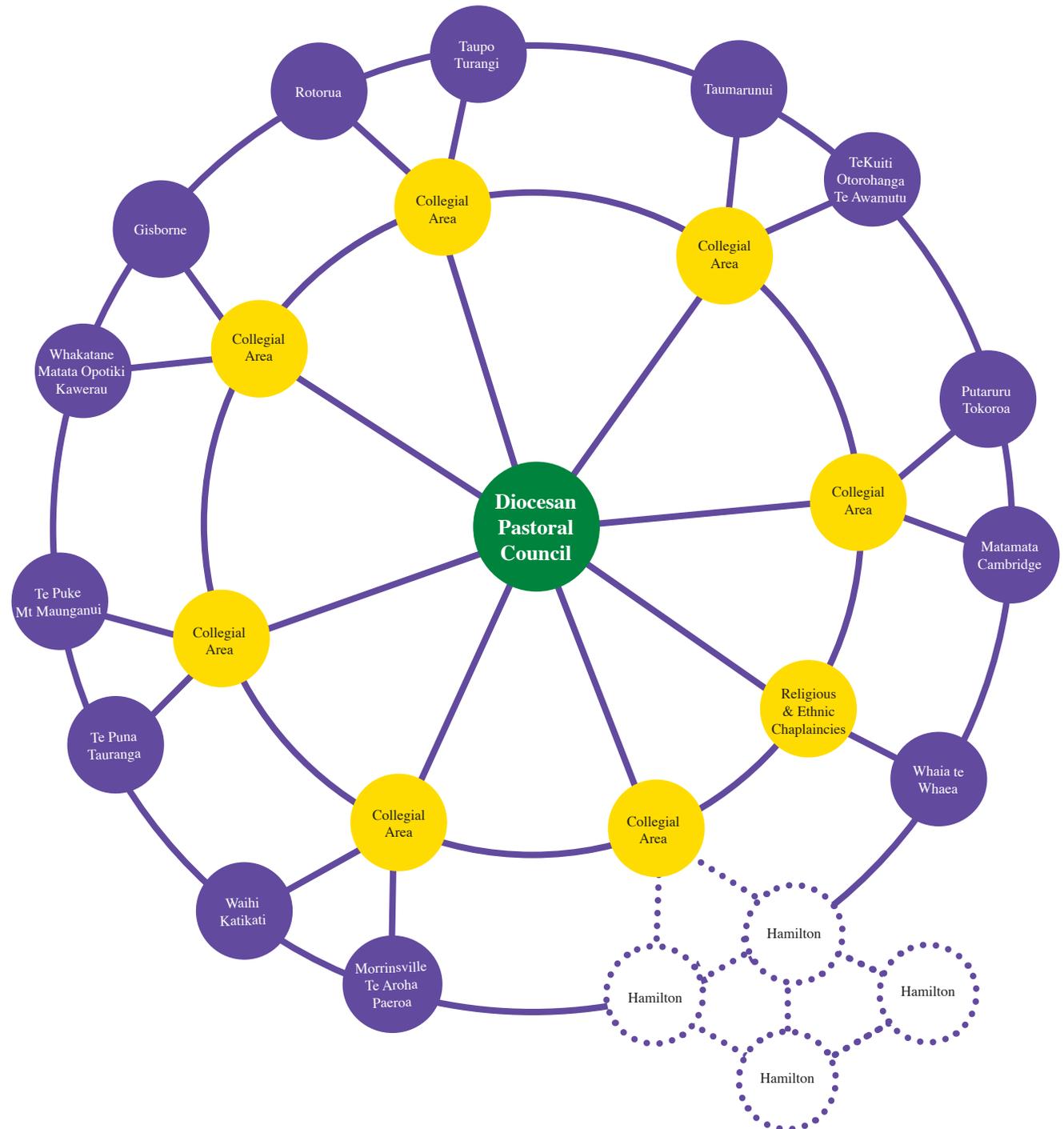
- To be prepared, ratified and promulgated.

13.3 Term of Office

- See Statutes.

13.4 Budget

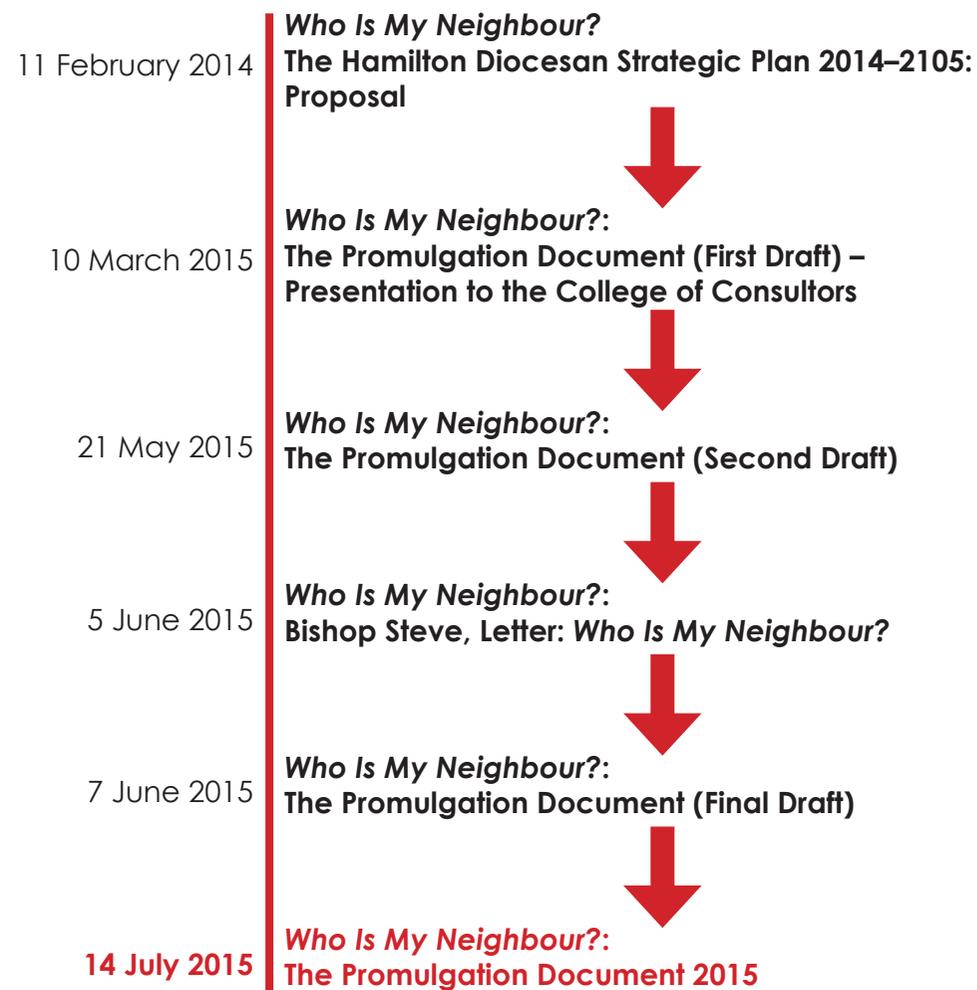
- A budget is to be prepared.



14.0 PROPOSED RE-STRUCTURE OF CHANEL CENTRE

- 14.1 **Note:** Structure of Chanel Centre is to be realigned to meet the needs of the Collegial Areas.

15.0 THE EVOLUTION OF WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?



16.0 TIME LINE

	21 May	7 June	29 June	30 June	14 July	August	15 Sept	22 Nov
What	Meet with Bishop	WIMN The Promulgation Document (Final Draft)	Priests' Assembly	Feedback on WIMN The Promulgation Document (Final Draft)	Meeting of Current College of Consultors & Council of Priests	Meetings of Collegial Areas	First meeting of new: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Consultors • Council of Priests • Diocesan Pastoral Council 	Feast of Christ the King
Task 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider WIMN The Promulgation Document (Second Draft) 	Distribute WIMN The Promulgation Document (Final Draft) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priests • Deacons • Religious • Ethnic chaplaincies • existing DFC • existing DPC • Chanel Centre Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback is to be sent to Msgr Trevor • Msgr Trevor is to collate feedback for Bishop Steve 	Current Council of Priests to ratify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIMN The Promulgation Document 2015 • Collegial Areas Consultation with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present Diocesan Pastoral Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose names for new Collegial Areas • Elect members of the new Council of Priests • Nominate members of a transitional DPC • Discuss DRAFT Statutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratify Statutes • Promulgation of Statutes • Parishes to write to Bishop requesting merger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All submissions for merger requests or proposals are to be with the Bishop by this date
Task 2	Fr Richard to prepare DRAFT Statutes for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Consultors • Council of Priests • DFC (with Greg Schmidt) • DPC (with Carol Fleming) 	Discussions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priests • Deacons • Religious • Ethnic chaplaincies • existing DFC • existing DPC • Chanel Centre Staff 		Msgr Trevor to prepare WIMN The Promulgation Document 2015	Bishop to promulgate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIMN The Promulgation Document 2015 • Collegial Areas 			