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Presbytery Update

Presbytery Elders

Church Council's are asked to note the current terms for their presbytery elders finish on December 31st. They should consider making appointments soon for a Presbytery elder for the next two years. Current appointments can be extended where the Church Council agrees (Union and Cooperating Churches may appoint a parish councillor who is not an ordained elder to this role).

Date and Venue for Assembly has been announced.

General Assembly will be held in Christchurch - starting on Wednesday 29 September and concluding on Sunday 3 Oct 2021.

This Assembly was postponed from a similar time last year. Presbytery Council has already commissioned ministers and invited selected parishes to commission Assembly Elders.

Presbytery Council met on November 25th and here is some of the News!

Personal matters

- Welcome to Eric Gordon (Clutha Regional Group rep) and Rainier Raath (Mataura Valley Regional Group rep) who joined Presbytery Council for the first time
- Mike Kirkby Sing will join Presbytery Council in March.
- We noted the retirement of Cheryl Harray, Children and Families Advisor

Children and Families Ministry Review Task Group

This task group report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Engaging a full-time Children and Families Advisor was supported.

Significant discussion occurred on the theme of who should employ a future children and families ministry advisor. Arguments were heard in favour of two options (Synod and Presbytery). The Council decided to leave this for further discussion, but did decide:

That Presbytery Council recognise the need for a Children and Families role and will proceed with further discussion of how we fill the role

Locally Ordained Ministry presbytery decision – revision proposed.

A decision was made by email meeting of Presbytery Council on October 28th 2020. These decisions were the recommendation of Candidates Workgroup and were modelled on a similar decision made in 2019 regarding LOM probationary appointment. As is the pattern e meeting decisions are ratified by the next regular meeting of the Presbytery Council. On this matter Presbytery has been approached by Ken Williams to revise its decision. Correspondence had been received and circulated to Presb Council members prior to the meeting.

There was considerable discussion and the earlier decision was revised.

Health and Safety & Risk Management

Noted each church council responsible for identifying risk and showing they have responded. This applies to recognised ministries. Church Councils and boards of oversight should add a standard agenda item to their agenda, as Presbytery Council has, covering 'Health and Safety & Risk Management' and advise Presbytery of matters they have noted. This should cover events that have occurred and also trends that impact on the viability of congregations and ministries.

Presbytery Council identified a range of risks and advised these to the Assembly Executive Secretary.

It was noted that a health and safety booklet is referenced on the PCANZ website. This is produced by the InterChurch Bureau.

The booklet takes you through the health and safety “must haves” for parishes including:

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- Health and Safety Statement
 - Training and Induction
 - Systems for Risk Management
 - Health and Safety Policies
 - Emergency Management
 - Incident Management
 - First Aid Requirements
 - Contractors and Subcontractors
 - H&S Meeting Minutes
 - Building Safety Checklist
 - Annual H&S Review Plan

Spiritual Renewal and Growth

The Moderator asked us to each reflect on the question, “Where do we see signs of spiritual renewal and growth in our lives and settings?”

Most people responded to this discussion with comments showing renewal in our midst. It was heartening to note both the breadth and depth of spiritual renewal across the Presbytery.

The following comments were made:

- Breakthrough moments in people’s lives
- Parish looking beyond itself to neighbouring parishes and people beyond church
- Impressive ministry at Camp Columba – thriving even under Covid.
- Vision beyond the current into the future (short, medium and longer term)
- New ministries beginning in several parishes

Church leaders and Presbytery members are asked to send brief accounts of Spiritual Renewal within their ministry settings to the Presbytery to be noted at future meetings.

It was acknowledged that renewal and growth will mean different things for different people. Presbytery Council will welcome and celebrate all the diversity and richness of our spiritual renewal and growth experiences.

Regional Groups were asked by the Presbytery meeting a few weeks ago to seek people willing to pray for churches and ministers of their area and beyond.

Nominating Committee was asked to seek additional members for the Spiritual Renewal and Growth Task Group.

Recognised ministry

Dunedin Easter Camp has written with a request to be a recognised ministry of our Presbytery. This has been referred to the Ministry Workgroup to consider.

Ministry Changes:

- Rev Lee Kearon was ordained and inducted at St Stephen's Kurow on November 19th
- Rev Annie Kate Williams was inducted at Mornington on Dec 6th – this is a continuation of her stated supply role with a new ministry called “The Thing”.
- Rev Robert Robati-Mani will be inducted at St Andrews, Gore on December 17th
- Presbytery has affirmed three new locally ordained ministry probationary appointments at
 - Calvin, Gore – Caleb Griffiths
 - Knapdale/Waikaka – Lynne Hall
 - Crookston - Margie Rae

Preparations are being made for the commencement of these ministries next year once probationary agreements are in place.

- Rev Dr Steve Taylor, Principal of Knox College will end this role soon and has indicated his availability for further ministry in our Presbytery area.

Next Newsletter in February 2021!



What's Coming Up



Easter Camps

Dunedin - April 2nd - 5th

Pukerua - April 1st - 5th

For more information, [click here](#).



Synod AGM

Fri 16th April - Sat 17th April

Invercargill

Details to come



Presbytery Gathering

Sat 8th May

Details to come



South Island Ministry Conference

Tues 18th May - Wed 19th May

East Taieri Presbyterian Church

Details to come



Youth Ministry

Creating a Space For Our Leaders to Thrive in 2021

Supervision

Compulsory for all paid youth leaders and recommended for all key volunteers. Provides an opportunity for external eyes on our ministry practices and helps develop reflection and growth.

Contact [Brad](#) for recommended supervisors.

Coaching

Our Youth Advisor, Brad, is available for one-on-one coaching. Whether you need help with setting goals in youth ministry, practical tips and advice, an outside voice to speak into your ideas, or if you want to work through some coaching material and grow as a youth leader. Contact [Brad](#) for info.

Sustainable Practices

Seven simple principles for a church leadership to put into practice that will help create an environment for their youth leader to feel supported and valued. Click [here](#) to view.

Employment Guide

If you are employing a youth pastor/leader in 2021, then PYM has produced a one stop shop document to guide you through the employment process; from creating a purpose and a vision, to job descriptions, pay scales, reviews and more. Click [here](#) to view.

Connect Conference

Gather with about 200 other Presbyterian youth leaders from around the country for some training, inspiration, networking and refreshment. Don't miss it. Click [here](#) for more info.

Young Leader Development

PYM has just recently produced “Emerge.” This is a free two-year video-based leadership formation programme, aimed at creating a culture of servant leadership in our young people (Year 11+), developing their character, competency and sense of calling.

This two-year course has six sessions per year (12 in total):

Year 1

- Character and nature of God,
- Character of the Kingdom led leader
- What are my gifts, part 1:
Discovering your personality
- Discipleship
- Untangling the church: Why it's important
- What are the lies we tell ourselves?

Year 2

- Trusting God in life and leadership
- What are my gifts, part 2:
Spiritual Gifts
- Working as a team/ team dynamics
- What is our life story?
- Building Authentic Community
- Self Care/Mental Health

Participants will gain clarity about their gifts and skill sets, gain understanding about their personal calling and have the opportunity to grow in that calling, connect with potential mentoring figures in their specific calling where possible grow a deeper connection, sense of belonging and participation with their local church .

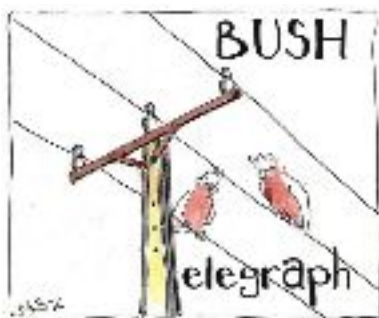
The course is super easy to run and can be led by a volunteer youth leader in a church, done in partnership with other churches, or run as a regional or presbytery-wide training.

We would love you to pilot this new resource in 2021.

Please contact [Brad Kelderman](#) for more information.sed leadership

National Church Updates

Click on the following links to see the latest news updates from the various resourcing and ministry departments of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.



BUSH TELEGRAPH

[December Edition](#)



PRESBYTERIAN YTH MINISTRY

[The Buzz](#)



TREASURERS NEWSLETTER

[November Edition](#)



BUSH FIRE NEWSLETTER

[December Edition](#)

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please email office@southernpresbyterians.nz

If you have news and stories of great things happening in your parish, don't be shy, others would love to hear and be inspired! Please feel free to send through any photos, videos and text and we will do our best to share it through our website with the rest of our parishes.

email to: office@southernpresbyterians.nz



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