

August 2022

SOUTHERN HEADLINES

Southern Presbyterians Newsletter

Kia ora and welcome to the Southern Presbyterians newsletter for August 2022. This month we have updates from the EO, Alan Judge, an article from St Philip's Grant's Braes and an update from Brad Kelderman on what's happening in youth. If you have a story, article, or advertisement you would like to share, please contact Gabe at office@southernpresbyterians.co.nz.



Presbytery updates from the EO

The Working Together Taskgroup (Te Mahi Tahi I te Rōpū Mahi)

All Presbyteries are asked to respond to the following questions from the above Assembly report. Alan Judge prepared a summary of the last decade and this was discussed at the July Presbytery Council along with these interesting questions.

1. The changed context of the last decade
2. What is the local church for? What is Presbytery for? What is the national church for?
3. Where is our heart as a church?
4. What is the best vessel for the seas we find ourselves in?
5. How should we muster the best of our resources to foster the life of our faith communities and enable them to flourish

How we (Southern Presbytery) would describe the current 'posture' of the church and whether a changed posture is needed which is more aligned with Jesus' Way.

The Presbytery Council has circulated the 5 questions and the 10 year paper to the wider Presbytery and invited contributions from others in our Presbytery –

these have now been received. The contributions are appreciated and Presbytery's response will soon be forwarded to the Assembly Moderator.

Policy of Presbytery concerning Payments to Interim Moderators and MSB Conveners.

The Finance Workgroup has reviewed the Policy of Presbytery concerning Payments to Interim Moderators and MSB Conveners. This policy has been amended to tie the travel reimbursement rates that parishes pay to current rates as published in the PCANZ Church Management Support Guide. The hourly reimbursement rate for Interim Moderators and MSB Conveners is now \$31.85 per hour.

Parish Reviews within our Presbytery

The last Presbytery meeting made changes which splits our parish review tasks in two:

- Regional groups are asked to review their own congregations with the focus being on parish life and mission,
- Presbytery Council assumes responsibility for what has been described as a 'governance risk review' and will send compliance surveys to Church Councils.

Parishes seeking to be dissolved

Three parishes are currently seeking to be dissolved as congregations of the Presbytery. Two Presbytery Commissions and one UCANZ partner commission have been established to explore this further and hear the reasons these are requested.

Te Whakakotahitanga One Conference

Church leaders are invited to Wellington for a national conference of Presbyterians. Details are included in this newsletter.

Te Whakakotahitanga – Gathering as one people under Christ

2pm Thursday 17th to 2.30pm Saturday 19th November

St. John's in the City Presbyterian Church, Wellington

Calling all PCANZ Church Leaders including Elders, Children's Leaders, Youth Leaders, Ministers, Pastors, Chaplains, Administrators and more

You are invited!

Come for inspirational stories, great worship, practical breakout sessions, fantastic kai and the opportunity to connect and laugh together.

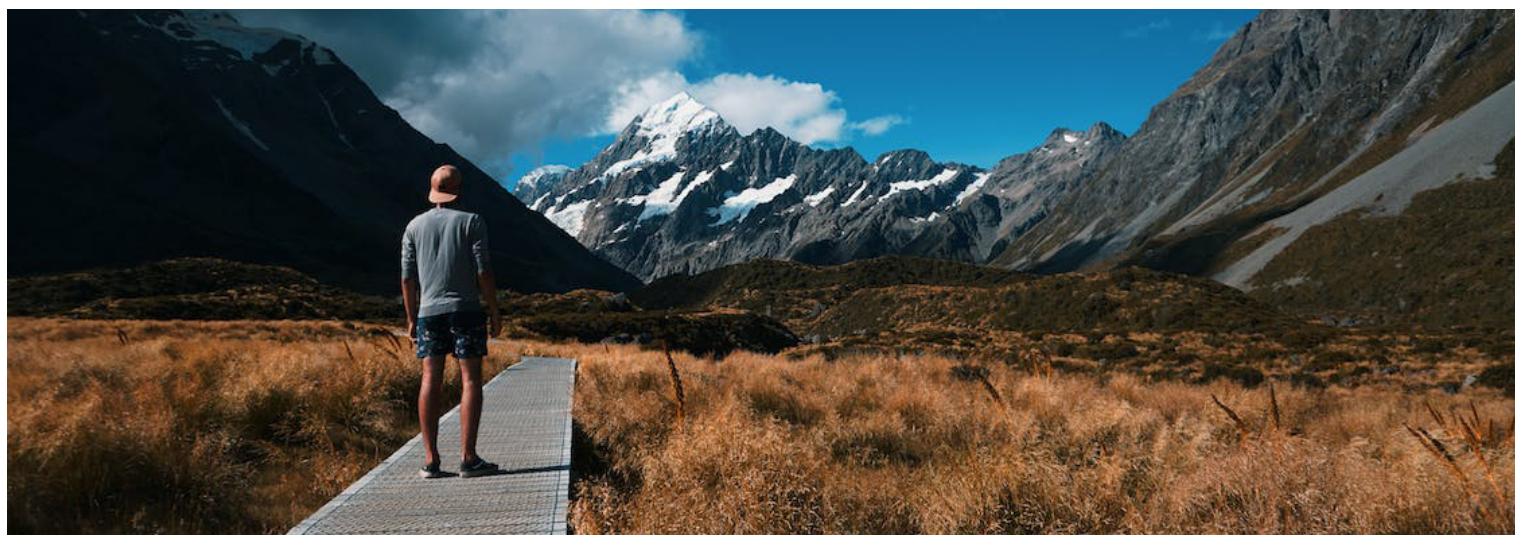
Next Presbytery – New Moderator

We meet next as Presbytery in Cromwell on November 4th and 5th (beginning at 7pm). On Friday evening we will gather to worship together and induct James Watt to be our new moderator.

The programme will be available soon.

Presbytery Review

The June Presbytery meeting asked for an external Presbytery Review to be established. Review Team members have been approached and terms of reference prepared. Presbytery Council will be asked to approve these soon and then the review will begin. It is expected the review will be completed around May 2023.



The Salt of Waverley: flavouring the community

St Philips Parish Council, 27th July 2022

St Philips in Waverley, Dunedin, is a small congregation of older folk who are big on agape love and the importance of communities. In winter last year we held our first Winter Worship Series comprising five Sundays of services, four led by preachers who were challenged to give their views on 'Imagining the church in the 21st century' and the fifth led by the Parish Council. The last was branded as Café Church. We sat at café tables and shared tea/coffee and nibbles during the service. Jesus didn't seem to mind! His presence was felt as we discussed: how people and society have changed in our lifetimes; how people are the same today as 50 years ago; given these changes and constancies, what is the role of the church and what should a vibrant, modern church be doing in the 21st

century, or if this is too big a question, think specifically about St Philip's in Waverley. The insights from the preachers and the life experiences and thoughts of members were invigorating.

Vitalised and abuzz, a few months later we held an off-site gathering at Portobello. In preparation for this we looked at vision and mission statements of many churches throughout New Zealand and provided pre-reading material (PCANZ Five Faces of Mission, Bringing Clarity to Mission, articles on modern metaphors and imaging the church in today's world). We did the usual things: 10y horizon gazing, SWOT, pushed to rephrase our religious jargon into everyday 21st century language, and sought words to express

our Vision - our Mission – our Values in 2021 language. Out of this arose a draft mission statement: **Growing a kind and compassionate community by sharing God-love.** This was subsequently approved and now it is boldly signed above the lectern for all to read and contemplate.

The **community** we are focussed on is Waverley. We are a community church. Our facilities are used by Oasis exercise class, Easy as you go classes, Karate Club, Indoor bowls, after school children's club and occasional birthday parties. We have installed a bench seat in front of the church building just near our new Lilliput Library which has been beautifully painted by our artistic member. Our neat front garden is a joy for the community and our mid-winter Christmas tree celebration will enlighten some Dunedin winter evenings. Sometimes we are challenged by 'so what' questions. Indeed, the PCANZ in its annual Consolidation Report asks about membership, baptisms, confirmations, professions of faith. In these terms or measurements we are failures. But some of us wonder if the PCANZ is measuring the wrong things in the 21st century. Might it measure less tangibles: sense of community, agape love in the community, abundance of life in the community, water into wine in the community. Here is a poem by Ian Tucker that tries to encapsulate our thinking:

*The Saint Philippians are challenged
to be stars in Waverley
with its diverse population
holding many beliefs
but still our people,
our friends and our neighbours.
So we shine with the warm light of love
in the community,
shining gently and softly
not with blinding dazzle.
We shine with light that unites
rather than divides,
casting our Christian thinking*

*in new and relevant ways,
examining the beliefs of other groups
with the conviction
that whatever is true
is an authentic working of the Spirit,
the great mystery of God
at work in our neighbours' lives.*

*Our imperfect light is not
to illuminate 2000 year old creeds
as if they were entry tickets
to the Kingdom of God,
but rather to shine the light of Jesus,
in selfless love
that is passionately committed
to the well-being of others,
so building caring communities
of agape love.*

The theme of our 2022 Winter Worship Series is our mission statement: **Growing a kind and compassionate community by sharing God-love.** Four ordained ministers rose to the challenge to preach on this and again the final service, café church, will be led by the Parish Council. We heard about the sending out of the 72, the good Samaritan, and staying connected with the Vine. In our Café church this coming Sunday, we will try to be more specific with: how are we the salt and light of Waverley (individually, as a congregation); what is an abundant life (John 10:10); what does a transformed society look like (PCANZ 4th Face of Mission).

The last question is too big for us but we can ask and try to answer how we are transforming society, little by little, step by step, act of love by act of love. We like the 'salt' metaphor. A little salt is often all that is required to enhance the flavor of a meal - too much and it is spoilt. We are few in number so the 'salt' fits us well. We like to think we are **The Salt of Waverley - flavouring the community by sharing agape love.**



Youth Update

Contact Brad Kelderman for more information
027 499 8333 or
brad@southernpresbyterians.nz

Networking Opportunities

Invercargill Leaders Breakfast
Wednesday September 7

Dunedin Leaders Gathering
Monday September 26



Combined Youth Group Events

Clutha Youth Groups
Games Show Games
Night
Friday August 19

Dunedin Youth Groups
Car Rally
Friday September 9



Key Leaders Retreat

Queenstown (Lakeland Park)
19-22 September
Free for Key Leader in your church
Limited spaces left!

Anchored

Confirmation and
Baptism Retreat
Camp Columba
9-11 September

Upcoming Dates

21st August
9th September
3rd October
17th November

Praying for Children Week 2022
Anchored Retreat
SUPAKidz Mega Makers Camp
One Conference



PCFM WOVEN Term 2 Update



Encouraging Hospital Chaplains



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