

October 2022

SOUTHERN HEADLINES

Southern Presbyterians Newsletter

Kia ora and welcome to the Southern Presbyterians newsletter for October 2022. This month we have an thank you from outgoing Presbytery Moderator Anne Thomson, Presbytery updates as well as a report from The Spiritual Renewal Group and Anchored

Intermediates even, as well as some other notices. If you have any design related questions, don't hesitate to ask, or if you have a story, article, or advertisement you would like to share, please contact Gabe at office@southernpresbyterians.co.nz.

From the Moderator of Southern Presbytery

Anne Thomson

What a privilege it has been over the past two years to serve as Moderator of the Southern Presbytery. I'm sorry I haven't met all of you - but I am very grateful for the opportunities I have had to meet many of you.

Two years ago we were beginning to get our heads around COVID and the differences that would make to our lives - but I think that back then we thought we might be getting to the end of it. Little did we know that this was a marathon, not a sprint, and that the more challenging parts were still to come, as different people responded in different ways to what was asked of us. Vaccine mandates were the most difficult, because they seemed to go right against our call to welcome all people - and yet it was important to show love for one another by protecting the vulnerable among us. On the whole we managed to keep talking to one another even when we responded differently to these challenges. It helped when we remembered that our common commitment to follow Jesus came before our different responses. That is one of the lessons we need to take with us out of this time - how to respect one another as brothers and sisters in Christ even when we differ about matters that we consider to be really important.

Over the past two years as Moderator I have ordained one minister, inducted eight ministers into parishes, commissioned our Children and Families Ministry

advisor, closed three church buildings and dissolved four parishes. That is probably a good reflection of life across the presbytery - a mixture of new ministries beginning and the end of other long-established parishes. The church as we have known it is in a time of decline and endings and transitions - I have been reminded of the image of the potter at the potter's wheel in Jeremiah 18. There are times when the clay which was being shaped into one vessel is squashed back down to a shapeless lump of clay - so that the potter can reshape it differently, so that it can be fit for purpose in a new time. My prayer for the Southern Presbytery is that we will remain malleable in God's hands, allowing God to reshape us into whatever new thing will be fit for God's purpose in the future. Even when it seems that everything is being reduced to formless nothingness, our hope lies in the skill and creativity of our potter God.

Thank you to Alan Judge for his support and advice and knowledge, and to the members of Presbytery Council and those who are on Presbytery workgroups for all their work. And thank you to James Watt for his willingness to say 'yes' to God's call through the Presbytery to be Moderator. May God continue to bless us all in the Southern Presbytery and use us to be a blessing in our communities throughout the South.



Presbytery Updates

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 has been distributed to our churches and Presbytery members

The Grief of Endings

During the Friday afternoon of November 4th, Rev Silvia Purdie will lead a workshop on the theme **The Grief of Endings** – below is a description – the workshop is for Elders, Ministers and others in Church leadership.

*Ministry and church life involves endings as well as new beginnings, but we are not always good at dealing with them. Many of us in ministry carry past hurts, and many congregations are grappling with grief as churches shrink or close. Silvia Purdie has recently published a book: **Moving On: grief in ministry transition**. She interviewed over 50 people, mostly in the Presbyterian church, from different cultures, discussing a breadth of topics, such as how change affects children and young people, together with biblical, theological and pastoral reflection. Her work includes recommendations for the church as well as liturgy for farewell and healing.*

Silvia will lead a 2 hour session sharing her insights into this important topic, as well as discussion and prayer.

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. It is expected the review will be completed around May 2023.

The convener is the Rev Dr Alan Missen and other members Rev Clare Lind, Judith Forbes and Rev Malcolm Gordon.

A survey has been sent out throughout the Presbytery to begin the process of hearing from the Presbytery. Following this other review processes will be advised.

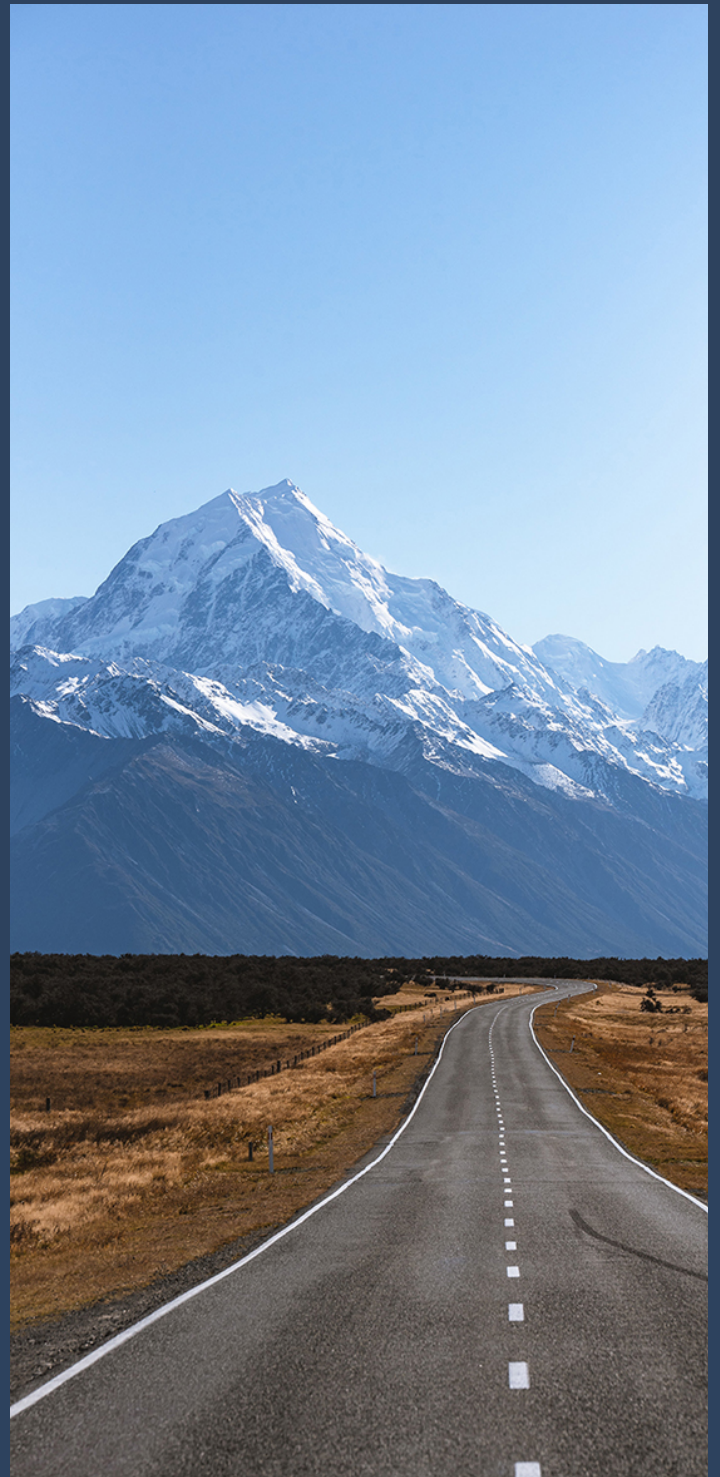
Ministry Retirements

Revs Kerry Enright, Martin Macaulay and Geoff Skilton have each recently indicated they wish to retire and each been granted the status of minister emeritus. Revs Kerry Enright and Geoff Skilton and Barry Kelk have asked to become Senior Active Ministers of the Presbytery.

Candidates Workgroup

Margie Rea has been assessed by Candidates Workgroup as having completed the requirements her LOM probation successfully and ready to move to ordination shortly. Crookston Kiwi-Church are considering a ministry appointment for Margie to be ordained into.

This workgroup has also asked Presbytery to begin training Rachael Masterton in the LOM probationer programme with Coastal Unity Parish, and this is approved by Presbytery Council. Details are being put in place over the coming months.



Spiritual Renewal And Growth

New members on our team

Looking at the presbytery agenda, it appears that we might soon have three new members on the team. We are excited about the extra wisdom and energy they will bring.

In the meantime, we have been chipping away.

Resourcing Regional Groups

Very soon we will be writing to Regional Group convenors offering to visit and provide some input around spiritual renewal and growth. We have two workshops under development but are willing to attempt whatever might be helpful for each Regional Group. We would love to get out amongst you.

Making Workshops Available

We also plan to develop a smorgasbord of workshops (or retreats or sermons or...) that churches could make use of. There are people in the Presbytery/Synod region who have areas of expertise and interest relating to spiritual renewal and to growth. We would love churches to be able to benefit from their skills. We are approaching people about that and will let you know more.

Christmas Resources

Do you have, or know of, resources for Advent/Christmas that you would recommend for others? How

do we come up with something fresh but still faithful each Christmas? How can we help our members reflect, and remember the significance of God coming into our world? Let's help one another. If you have ideas, please email us we will put them on [our website](#).

Peter Cheyne has a website, [Journey To Christmas](#), that contains a Bible passage, some comments, a carol, an activity etc. for each day from December 1. It could be used as a basis for personal or family reflections each day.

Good News Stories

We are keen to share stories that encourage – stories that remind us that God is at work in our region. They might be big or small, very successful or marked by setbacks. Let's be real. But our desire is to have stories, not so much of what we have done, but what God has done. Do you have a story that honours God and might be an encouragement to others? Please let us know.

Contact us

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Paul prayed that the Colossians would grow in their knowledge/experience of God (Col 1:10). May we all experience more of God each day.



Anchored Retreat 2022



The Anchored Retreat was a superbly organised interactive retreat helping our youth understand how they belong to God's story of creation and covenant. Robyn, Karo & Mandi were great facilitators who creatively shared some foundational truths of the faith. It was a good balance between teaching and fun and food. Highly recommended.

Mike Kirkby-Sing (Lumsden & Balfour Presbyterian Church)



It was really special to be able to take 3 of our young people along to the first Anchored Retreat in the South. What a great weekend we all had! Anchored provided all the usual things you might expect from a camp – good food, fun activities, new friendships, great leaders, lots of laughter... but Anchored is so much more! In a very personal and intimate way, students alongside their adult mentors were challenged to go deeper with faith and to think about what it means to be anchored in God. This was done in a range of different settings – through team challenges, through creative prayer experiences and through in-depth teaching. Working together as a team, the CFM staff delivered a quality programme and engaged with the students, building relationships with them. They gave us a very positive taster of the whole Anchored course and set us up keen to go back to own church contexts to keep learning together. The whole experience was enjoyable and satisfying in every way. I will certainly be working towards taking another group of students to the next Anchored in the South.

Christine Harrex (Lawrence Waitahuna)



Upcoming Events



Ngā Rā Maumahara
we will remember



Vigils for Peace
Knox Church Ōtepoti



Flagstaff Parihaka
Rememberence



CAIRA Supervision
Training Opportunity



PCANZ NATIONAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE

17th November
One Conference



Vacancy - Pacific Presbytery EO



Give it a Go Grant



Presbyterian Foundation Grant



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