



March 2024

SOUTHERN HEADLINES

Southern Presbyterians' Newsletter

Kia ora and welcome to the March newsletter from the Southern Presbyterians for. This month we have updates from the Synod Moderator, the Spiritual Renewal and Growth team, and a variety of other notices.

If you have a story, article, or advertisement you would like to share, please contact Gabe at office@southernpresbyterians.nz



FROM THE MODERATOR OF SYNOD

We are currently in the busy season of Synod Funding Committee meetings. It is always encouraging to see churches and other organisations developing new projects and working to further the mission of God in a rich variety of ways. Although we are unable to meet the needs of every application, we are enormously blessed in Otago and Southland to have generous funding available to support churches and others doing great things in our communities. We are always keen to encourage churches to apply for funding in support of innovative projects in mission and evangelism, and in education, and to provide support for churches as they maintain and improve their buildings and other facilities. Please explore the possibilities for funding here: <https://www.southernpresbyterians.nz/resource/category/5/Funding> and feel free to contact Fergus Sime, the Synod Executive Officer, if you need further information or guidance on submitting an application.

One of the projects that the Synod has supported for many years is the biannual Thomas Burns Memorial Lectures hosted by the Theology Programme at the University of Otago. This year in August the Burns Lectures will be given by renowned Biblical Scholar Dr Beverly Roberts Gaventa from Baylor University in the United States. <https://inauguration.web.baylor.edu/scholars/gaventa> These are public lectures to which all are welcome. Look out for further details in due course.

We are looking forward to the Synod AGM which will take place at Cromwell Presbyterian Church on April 19-20. We will hear stories of creative and innovative ministries from around the region and welcome as our guests the moderator of Te Aka Puahou, Revd Tamiana Thrupp, and his wife Honey.

Ma Ihowa koutou e manaaki.
May God bless you all.
Murray Rae

PRESBYTERY TRAINING EVENT DISCERNING TOGETHER GODS LEADING.

16TH MARCH 2024

10.30-3.00PM

BALCLUTHA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



LED BY REV DARRYL TEMPERO (KCML)

At this day we will continue to explore what was covered at the November 23 Gathering in Oamaru (the invitations of Jesus) and look at what it means to discern what God might be doing, and where God is leading us. It will be a practical day for teams to explore how we actually do that together. - Morning tea provided. BYO lunch

Please contact erin@southernpresbyterians.nz with any questions and to indicate numbers from your church planning to attend by 14th March 2024

THE NEXT TWO TRAINING PRESBYTERY DAYS ARE AUG 17TH AND NOV 2ND
TOPICS AND VENUES WILL BE CONFIRMED IN THE COMING MONTH

FOR ALL TREASURERS, PROPERTY CONVENORS, AND PARISH CLERKS:

Church Property Insurance has become a significant percentage of many churches' budgets, and many of us are being forced to consider what level of cover is appropriate. In the last few years we have faced significant increases in insurance premiums – realistically, insurance is not going to get cheaper.

But how to understand the jargon that goes with insurance cover – what do the different levels of cover mean and what will they cost and what are the implications if the worst happens? How do we make well informed decisions when it comes to making decisions about the level of cover when we need to renew our cover mid-year? Will insurance be unaffordable, or even unobtainable?

Wednesday 20 March 7.30-8.30pm

Friday 22 March 10.00-11.00am

The Southern Presbytery is holding two Zoom meetings with Steve Walshe from Gallaghers (the PCANZ's insurance broker) to help those who are making recommendations about insurance cover to our

congregations better understand insurance cover in the current climate.

There will be plenty of opportunity to ask the questions you have about insurance, and to talk together how we make decisions about insurance: which buildings need full insurance cover, functional replacement, indemnity or demolition-only; which buildings are essential to our mission in our community?

Fergus Sime, Executive Officer of Synod of Otago and Southland, will also take part, to explain what Synod requires regarding church property south of the Waitaki. Fergus is also a member of the Presbyterian Insurance Advisory Group which negotiates insurance cover on behalf of the national church, so will be able to update us on what is happening nationally.

Please let the Presbytery Executive Officer (presbyteryeo@southernpresbyterians.nz) know how many people from your congregation will be joining one meetings, and on which day.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Ripple Effect Workshop, Julie-anne Laird (9 March)

Julie-anne Laird, from City To City, Australia, led some fantastic workshops on evangelism last year. She is returning to Leith Valley and leading a workshop on how to use the key resource of our relationships with people who don't know God's love to bring them closer to that love. This is open to everybody and is highly recommended by the SPRAG team.

9:00 a.m. on Saturday 9 March
267 Malvern St., Leith Valley
[Register Here](#)

Prayer Days

There is a real possibility of some prayer days around our presbytery. Watch out for more information about those.

Tell us about your events

Is your church, or regional group, organising something that is relevant to spiritual renewal and the growth of our church? Is it open to others? Please let us know and we will promote it on our website.

Are You Willing To Pray?

We believe the most important catalyst for spiritual renewal and church growth is prayer. We have a team of people who receive prayer suggestions, including prayer requests from individual churches, from us and who then simply pray maintaining confidentiality. If you are willing to pray for spiritual renewal and the growth

of our churches, please contact Margie Rea, 027 626 1146 or readale@esi.co.nz. She will be in touch with more information about how it works. Equally, if your church would like prayer, please contact Margie.

Sharing Stories

We strongly believe we can encourage each other, especially in knowing that God is at work amongst us – is answering prayers, is changing lives, is speaking and leading, is providing etc. Do you have a story of what God has done? Please let us know. Email us at sprag@southernpresbyterians.nz.

Church Revitalisation

The revitalisation of our churches is something we are researching and working on. For the moment, there are some resources (mainly podcasts) on [the website](#). Please start thinking and praying about revitalisation.

Our Website

Check out what we have there. The address is <https://tinyurl.com/spragnz>

We would love to hear from you. Please contact us at sprag@southernpresbyterians.nz.

May God bless you all,

Your SPRAG team

Rev Dr Ivan Martinez Induction Service

as the Dean of Studies at the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership

First Church of Otago, Moray Place, Dunedin
at 7pm on Thursday 21 March 2024

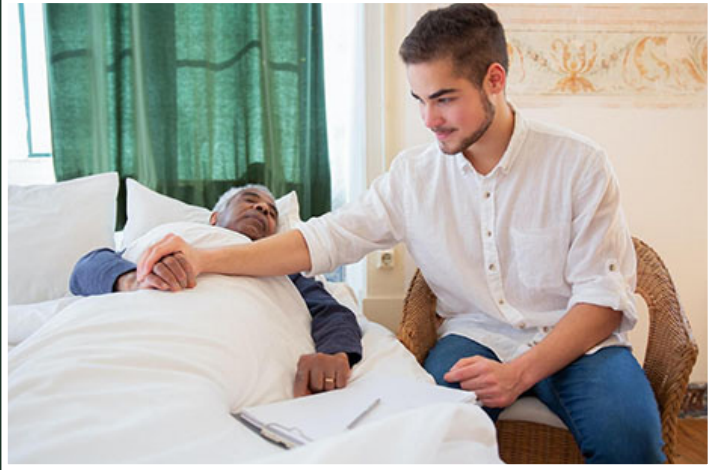
The Council of Assembly has asked the Southern Presbytery to induct Rev. Dr. Martinez into this role. The Moderator, Mr James Watt, and the Principal, Rev. Dr. Geoff New, will lead the service; Rev. Andrew Nicol will preach the sermon; the Assembly Executive Secretary Rev. Wayne Matheson will read the Narrative. There will be supper in Burns Hall after the service.

The Southern Presbytery will meet at 6.45pm in the Heritage Centre at the rear of First Church.

Please send apologies to presbytery@southernpresbyterians.nz if you cannot attend



IN OTHER NEWS..



Vacancy
3 Hospital Chaplain Positions



Presbyterian Research Centre
Volunteer Drive

UPCOMING EVENTS



Messy Church Training
14th - 25th May



Forge Gathering
24th - 26th May



Scripture Union Conf
25th May

Synod Moderator

Murray Rae - murray.rae@otago.ac.nz

Presbytery Moderator

James Watt - presbytery.moderator@southernpresbyterians.nz

Synod EO

Fergus Sime - synod.otago.southland@extra.co.nz

Presbytery EO

Heather McKenzie (Acting) - presbyteryeo@southernpresbyterians.nz

