



May 2024

SOUTHERN HEADLINES

Southern Presbyterians' Newsletter

FROM THE MODERATOR OF SYNOD

Thank you to all those who attended the AGM of the Synod wonderfully hosted by Cromwell Presbyterian Church. It was again a privilege of the Synod to be able to offer substantial financial support to a wide range of projects around the region and to provide assistance again for the work of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership. We are blessed indeed to have resources available to support the work of mission and ministry in the South.

One of the key decisions taken at the AGM was to approve the substantially revised Regulations of the Synod of Otago and Southland and to adopt them as interim regulations over the coming year while a process of confirmation is undertaken. The revised Regulations bring improved consistency and clarity to the Synod's procedures and responsibilities.

We heard from several congregations around the Central Otago district about the great work of community outreach and service that is going on in the region. There is 'Messy Church' and a special ministry among elderly people in Cromwell, the 'Baskets of Blessing' project in the Wakatipu, the 'Precious Beginnings' project in Wanaka, and planning underway for a new church and community centre in the growing congregation at Hawea. It was encouraging to hear stories of vibrant congregations engaged in serving their communities.

Another highlight of the AGM was the visit of the

Moderator of Te Aka Puahou, the Revd Tamiana Thrupp, and the Administrator of Te Aka Puahou, Honey Thrupp. Tamiana and Honey shared with us something of the challenges and opportunities currently before Te Aka Puahou. Their words to us were characterised by humility, good humour, and a deep confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was a joy to have them with us.

Churches and the Treaty

I close with news of an important event happening in Dunedin on Monday May 27th. The Theology Programme at the University of Otago is partnering with Karuwā and the Venn Foundation to bring you a public presentation on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, **He Tatau Pounamu, a Covenant of Reconciliation**. This will be happening around the country and in Dunedin on May 27th at 7.00pm. The event will be held at Knox Church, George Street.

We are at a decisive moment as a nation, a time when the agreement by which tangata whenua and tangata tiriti live together is being called into question. So how can we renew and deepen our understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi? What does it mean to say that the Treaty is a sacred compact, a covenant, even? And what has been the role of the Church in relation to the Treaty? What might this require now?

At this event, historian and public theologian **Dr Alistair**

Reese will help us to understand how the Treaty is he tatau pounamu – a covenant pathway of reconciliation. He will consider the history and context of this foundational document, including the role of the Church in its shape and interpretation. And he will weigh, with us, how best to respond –how best to honour the Treaty now.

Dr Reese is a Research Affiliate of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues at the Theology Programme at Otago and on February 6th this year he

preached the sermon at the dawn service at Waitangi.

Please note that it is necessary to register for this event.

For more information and registration check out the event page <https://www.venn.org.nz/events-courses/he-tatau-pounamu/>

Warm regards,

Murray Rae



PCANZ Ethics Workshops

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are having to cancel the June Ethics Workshop – apologies.

The other dates this year are:

Tuesday 6 August, 1-4.30pm

Tuesday 15 October, 1-4.30pm



Bill and Margaret Best Travel Fund



The Leprosy Mission 2025 Youth Advocate Scholarship



Study Theology at the University of Otago

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