



# Annual Report

Presbytery Central

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Presented to the Presbytery 13 August 2022

## **Agenda – Annual Meeting of Presbytery Central**

### **Welcome**

### **Roll/Apologies**

*That the roll be accepted and apologies received.*

### **Minutes**

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*That the minutes of the annual meeting of Presbytery Central, held on 14 August 2021 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waitara, be approved.*

### **Annual Report**

*That the reports presented to Presbytery Central in the Annual Report be received.*

### **Executive Report**

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*That the Memorial Minutes for Keith Allen, Bill Francis, Sylvia Jenkin, Jocelyne Labrum, Allan Smith, Ailsa Stewart, Ron Townsend and Keith Weavers be entered into the record of Presbytery Central and, where appropriate, conveyed to the General Assembly.*

### **Memorial Minutes**

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### **General Business**

## Welcome to the 2022 AGM.

### Presbytery Central Council Report to the AGM 2022

Without the authoritative and prophetic words of Jesus, that He will build His Church (Matthew 16:18), one could easily have a measure of despair or lose sight of *Missio Dei* in the Covid context in which we find ourselves. However, build His Church is indeed what Jesus has been doing for the last 2000 years, and will not stop because of Covid-19.

As I reflect on what is happening in the Presbytery, there is much for which to give thanks to God:

- The faithfulness of God's people. All around us we see hardworking volunteers serving their fellow parish members and wider communities; church councils meeting together to support and guide their congregations; and stipended and salaried staff who keep going week after week in parishes and Presbytery contexts.
- God's people adapting to the new norm. Parish life involves more than ever facing the challenge of a diminishing volunteer base, shrinking income, rising expenses, using new technology to keep mission happening, to mention just some of the areas. Congregations and their ministers/staff have had to adapt – well done.
- Vision. The Spirit of God is still revealing innovative ideas, confirming the use of some previous directions, and inspiring hearts to commit to keeping 'hands on the plough and keeping a forward look'.

All of these require courage of God's people. Thank you for persevering in God's Kingdom work. May you continue to feel God's breath on you, bringing encouragement into your being and welling up ways to share encouragement with one another.

Council has met online and in-person for business, which happens every two months or thereabouts. Sometimes an email decision is made between meetings. Council had hoped to meet for a Strategic Planning Day in mid-February but needed to postpone this event until June because of the Omicron wave that took place in the country.

Council has mission on its heart and is in some way a consideration of all decisions made. The Work Groups have worked hard through the year. Their reports will be encouraging reading. The Grants Work Group, which was in obeyance for twelve or so months is almost ready to begin functioning again. Lots of good things happening. May you enjoy reading the Annual Report.

Your fellow servant,

Paul Loveday

Moderator and Convenor of Presbytery Council

# Executive Report

Presbytery Council has met regularly over the last year both in person and by Zoom. An executive summary is offered in the RoundUp.

Rev Paul Loveday has been Moderator of Presbytery Central and Rev Lorna Clarke, Rev Raymond McKie, Rev David Dell and Rev Michelle Loveday have been regional moderators. Presbytery Council has been served by Rev Hana Popea-Dell, Rev Allister Lane, Heather Lange, Rev Tony Wood, Sally Russell, Rev Jill McDonald and Rev Seb Murrhly.

The presbytery staff have largely been able to work through Covid restrictions but there has been more remote working. Peter MacKenzie and Andrew Gore continue in the office in Palmerston North with Kyle Hastelow (Youth) in the second office. Nga Rolston (Youth), Stuart Simpson (Mission Catalyst) and Leanne Bridge (Treasurer) work from Wellington. Anna Davis worked as the Children and Families Enabler – she finished her role at the end of June 2022.

We acknowledge the death of Rev Keith Weavers, Rev Bill Francis, Rev Allan Smith, Rev Keith Allen, Rev Ron Townsend, Rev Sylvia Jenkin, Ailsa Stewart, Jocelynne Labrum and Dr Nick Thomson.

A number of changes in ministry happened over the year: Paula Levy, Mangapapa, resigned from the congregation; Chris Milham, Dannevirke, resigned from the congregation; Steve Jourdain, St Alban's, Palmerston North to Emeritus; Adrian Skelton, UCANZ Executive Officer to Emeritus; Simon McLeay, to Chaplain at Iona College, Havelock North; Fei Taule'ale'ausumai, came from Pt Chevalier, Auckland to St Andrew's on the Terrace; Anna Gilkison, from Hutt City Uniting to Kapiti Uniting; Sally Carter, St Paul's, Napier to Emeritus; Donald Gordon, Wadestown resigned from the congregation; Kevyn Harris, St Andrew's, New Plymouth to Emeritus; Rev Graeme Munro and Rev Ralph Penno (ministers emeriti) transferred to Presbytery Central. Rev Matafonua Langi was appointed by the Methodist Church to Tawa Union.

Takapau-Norsewood Presbyterian Church was dissolved and the church at Norsewood is being sold.

Presbytery Central had three interns over the last year; Brett Reid at Levin, Eric Oosterbroek at St John's, Hastings, and Adair Oosterbroek at St Paul's, Napier. We look forward to the completion of their studies at the end of 2022 and pray for their future ministry.

In 2022 we celebrate the decade anniversaries of ordination for:

Don Hall	1972	Drury, South Auckland
Colin English	1972	Waihao, South Canterbury
Arthur Barnfather	1982	Mataura, Southland
Richard Gray	1982	Whakatane, Bay of Plenty
John Peill	1982	Manaia Union, Taranaki
Rilma Sands	2002	Feilding-Oroua
Diane Gilliam-Weeks	2002	Upper Clutha
George Dempster	2002	Dannevirke
Ryhan Prasad	2012	Khandallah
Lorna Clarke	2012	Carterton

I have been in the Executive Secretary role for 5 years now – the work is challenging, complex, full of variety, and rewarding. The full impact of the Covid pandemic is yet to be calculated but it is clear that

across all sectors of the church and community there is a weariness of spirit and diminished optimism for the future.

When I was at the Theological Hall in Dunedin we had two afternoons of training in how to use an overhead projector. The world is a different place now – I have meetings every week on Zoom with folk across the country and world. The church is also a different place.

Over half of our 78 congregations do not have a settled minister – and they are not looking for one. As a presbytery that means that we have half the ordained leadership we used to have to function as a complex institution. We simply do not have enough people to fill all the roles that we need to have done. That reality is true nationally, regionally and locally.

One strength of the Presbyterian Church has been the autonomy of the congregation but we are entering a phase where, in my opinion, we cannot act alone in our small corner. I'm not exactly sure what it will look like but I am confident that ministry in the second quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will be quite different to the model of the 1980's parish minister. From our Presbyterian roots we need to affirm the leadership of local elders and promote a ministry that is more than a chaplaincy to a Sunday congregation.

My prayer is that we might begin to talk across the churches, affirming each unique congregation in their own right but resourcing them with a wider ministry that brings missional leadership and innovative permission. For me that is the challenge and complexity that lies ahead.

Peter MacKenzie  
Executive Secretary

# Memorial Minutes

## **ALLEN, Rev Keith David** B.A.

Keith David Allen was born 15 June 1934 at Gisborne, the son of George Allen and Elsie Maud Wade (Harris). He was the eldest of a family of six children, his father being a local grocery salesman. As a boy Keith was nurtured by the Gisborne YMCA where he deepened his understanding and developed his writing skills.

Keith published a family history in 1996 – “From work to rule: brief history of the Allen family from Nottingham, Eng. to Picton, New Zealand.” His grandfather, Robert Percival Allen was born in Picton in 1867 and great grandmother, Catherine McNabb, arrived in Nelson on the Indus in 1843 as a five-year-old.

Keith left school and trained in accountancy before hearing God’s call to ministry. After completing a Bachelor of Arts Keith attended the Theological Hall at Knox College, Dunedin from 1964 to 1966. Keith was ordained on 29 June 1967 by the Waikato Presbytery to Morrinsville as an assistant to the Rev Bill McLeay. In 1970 he moved to Clive-Haumoana in the Hawkes Bay before crossing the North Island to minister at Taranaki East, based at Toko – a village inland from Stratford. He spent a year in supply at the Presbyterian Church before being appointed to the new Co-operating parish formed with the Methodists. He appreciated that ecumenical experience and valued the Methodist connection.

In 1979 Keith was inducted to Eketahuna Union and began his long association with the Wairarapa. He provided a Rural Support Ministry based in Masterton from 1984 – a time of significant change for farmers in politics and weather. Keith retired as Minister Emeritus at the end of 1992 but continued his association with the church, particularly in Masterton.

Keith was a keen follower of cricket, a talented writer and painter. He remained single and wasn’t the best of housekeepers but adopted various other families and cherished those relationships across generations.

The paper record is fairly clear – Keith was ordained at 33 years of age and worked as a minister for 25 years. But beneath those numbers lies a call to service in the church and community that is reflected in the lives that he touched and the hearts that he warmed. Keith died 7 February 2022 in Masterton. The Presbyterian Church acknowledges the ministry of Keith Allen, giving thanks for his love and service and, in the words of the Gospel, commend this good and faithful servant to his master’s peace.

## **FRANCIS, Rev William Donald** B.A., Dip. Tchg., Dip. Ed.

Bill was born in 1929, the son of the Rev Stuart Francis and Catherine (Dewar). As the son of a manse Bill’s education moved with his father and he studied at East Taieri, Napier and Christchurch. He qualified as a teacher and spent several years teaching in Johnsonville before marrying Mary (Hutchings) in 1956 and then beginning studies at the Theological Hall in Dunedin. Bill and Mary (along with their family) committed themselves to overseas mission and Bill was ordained in late 1958 before leaving for Onesua High School in the New Hebrides in 1959.

Bill and Mary developed the quintessential ‘Can Do’ attitude and were willing to take on a variety of roles and tasks, both blessed with practical common sense. The family returned for a two year stint at Manawatu College in Foxton before heading to Niue College in 1970. Bill was inducted to Eilerslie – Mt

Wellington in 1973, during his time there he spent a year in Glendale, Ohio, USA. Bill and Mary moved south to Dunedin (Wakari) in 1979 and then back to the Pacific and working at Tangoa Bible College (1984-85) and the central Apia church of the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa (1986-1987). Their final settled ministry in New Zealand was at Balmoral in Auckland until his retirement in 1992, but then they worked for 6 years in the United Reform Church in Hertfordshire, England.

Throughout his ministry Bill had a passion for teaching and a keen interest in sport – being a cricketer in his younger days. He was awarded the Vanuatu Medal of Merit in 1998 for his services to Vanuatu – a reflection of a life-long response to the missionary calling of a young couple. Bill never really left the mission field, continuing his advocacy across New Zealand and encouraging interest in mission activities.

With a keen interest in travel, history and culture Bill had an atlas of memories from around the globe – a passion passed on through his family. He was a dedicated father and grand-father who greatly enjoyed seeing the family grow.

Bill and Mary retired to Raumati and were active members of Kapiti Uniting. Bill died at home on 18 October 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the family.

**JENKIN, Rev Sylvia Lois**            B.A., M.Min.

Sylvia Lois Jenkin was born 17 August 1930, the daughter of Henry William Jenkin and Harriet Hill Thomas. She was the young sister of Ian, Lloyd and the Rev Owen Jenkin – and a loved aunt of their families.

Sylvia attended Deaconess College (1954-56) at the same time as her brother attended the Theological Hall. She was ordained as a Deaconess at St John's, Greymouth in 1957, working in Greymouth, Cobden and Dobson. In 1961 she began working as a Youth Department Field Worker, completing that role at the end of 1969. She moved to Porirua in 1972 and was ordained as the Assistant Minister at St Martin's, Porirua East in 1973 where she took particular interest in the community. Sylvia helped to establish the Opportunity Centre which provided a recreation and community venue in East Porirua.

From 1981 to 1992 Sylvia ministered in Kowarau before retiring back to Cannons Creek in Porirua. She spent a year as transition minister in Naenae, worked for the Porirua Citizen Advice Bureau and began work in conservation of Cannons Creek through Friends of Maraa Roa. She received a Civic Award from Porirua City in 2002 and the "Wellingtonian of the Year" community service award in 2006.

Sylvia died in Tawa on 18 May 2022 aged 91 after a lifetime of service to her family and community. We celebrate her life and ministry.

**LABRUM, Jocelynn**

Jocelynn Labrum (23.6.1937-24.10.2021) was a very loyal, supportive and committed member of St Paul's -St Mark's Presbyterian Church in Wanganui. She excelled in serving on many committees and groups, either helping or in a leadership role.

She was an elder for the Session of St Paul's-St Mark's Parish, the Session Clerk for a number of years, a Presbytery elder, and was employed by St Paul's as the Pastoral Care visitor. She also held the role of the first woman Moderator in the Wanganui Presbytery.

She took Church services at St Paul's and at Waverley Good Shepherd Church.

She was the chairperson of APW, the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee and editor of the "Outreach" magazine. She was the choir director. She helped with the Living Well, Drop-In, Christian Ed. & Worship and the Bible Study groups. She led the Christmas "Lessons and Carol" services and was a member of the craft group.

Jocelynn made a huge and significant impact in the life and leadership of the Church. Her life of service and care was exemplary.

### **SMITH, Rev Allan Trevor**

Allan Smith was born in June 1930, raised in the Manawatu and died peacefully on October 26 2021 in the presence of his two daughters at Metlife Care Rest Home in Palmerston North. Allan was a founding member of St Alban's in 1955 and was the first Sunday School Superintendent when St Alban's was an outreach of St David's Presbyterian Church into the new Hokowhitu housing area. Allan married Margaret Cotton (1934-1995) in 1954. Allan was a warm, gracious, creative and gentle man who became a Presbyterian minister later in his life, after working as a window dresser in big department stores.

Allan was at the Theological Hall in Dunedin 1981-83 and was ordained by the Waikato Presbytery to Otorohanga in February 1983. He moved to Scots, Hamilton in 1985 and St Stephen's, Hamilton in 1986. He was made Minister Emeritus in 1992 and returned to Palmerston North.

Allan had a warm Christ-like spirituality, example and thoughtful faith – a true servant of Christ and his church. Much of his time in retirement involved serving as Interim Moderator in various churches around the Manawatu. He considered this his best contribution as a minister and he did it very well and was appreciated by all. Alan was 91 years old when he died, a long life of love and service. The Presbyterian Church has been enriched by his ministry.

### **STEWART, Ailsa**

Ailsa Stewart (15.10.1943-25.8.2021) was an ardent and passionate Presbyterian, serving the Church in almost every area, beginning with Sunday School where she joined the children's mission organisation, Busy Bees. She was an elder on Session, a lay preacher, helped with the Hospital Chapel services, took monthly services at Okere House and Springvale Manor with Roselene Kerr, organized our Presbyterian Cluster meetings, was a Presbytery elder, and on Presbytery work groups. She was our health and safety officer, organized the roster for communion, washed all the communion cups, knew all the history of St Mark's, St Aidan's and Knox Presbyterian Churches and in all these roles she made sure everything was done correctly. Ailsa was an amazing woman who spent her life serving others. Her efficiency and common sense, mixed with intelligence and humor and above all, care for others were what made her such a special person. She was very proud of her Scottish heritage. Her contribution to the Presbyterian Church was immense. She received the QSM and Women's Suffrage Medal and the Paul Harris award from Rotary. She is greatly missed by her Church family.

### **THOMSON, Dr Nicholas Peter**

Dr Nick Thomson (1936-2022) was a beloved GP in Hunterville and the wider region of Rangitikei and Manawatu. On retirement he moved to Feilding and continued to serve the wider community. He was a loyal member of his local churches and served in the former Manawatu Presbytery and in the mission field, freely offering his knowledge and skills. Nick will be remembered for the loving care of his patients and community and his commitment to service in faith. In recent years Nick was the Health and Safety Officer for Knox, Feilding, and steered the parish through the Covid process. Our thoughts are with his wife, Jan, and the wider family.

### **TOWNSEND, Rev Arthur Ronald (Ron) B.E.**

Ron Townsend was born 10 October 1933 to Arthur Charles Edgar Townsend and Florence May (Eastlake) who at that time lived in the railway village of Otira. The family moved to Christchurch and Ron studied at West Spreydon Primary and Christchurch Boys High School. After high school Ron went to the University of Canterbury and completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical). It was in Christchurch that Ron met and married Margaret Jensen (1958, Apiti, Manawatu) and felt a call to ministry. Ron and Margaret moved to Dunedin and began their family – Frances, Alan and John.

Ron studied at the Theological Hall 1959-1961 and was ordained in 1962 and inducted to the Ormond parish at Te Karaka. He moved to First Church Frankton in Hamilton in 1968, working with a vibrant church in a developing multicultural setting. In 1973 he was inducted to St Andrews in Rotorua and in 1977 moved to Waverley in Invercargill. While in Invercargill he served both as moderator of Southland Presbytery and of the Synod of Otago and Southland. Ill health led to his retirement in March 1991 – but it did not dull his call to ministry and commitment to the church.

In 2001 Ron and Margaret moved to Feilding in the Manawatu and Ron was a regular service leader in various parishes across the region, especially at Knox Feilding, as well as a ready volunteer for some of the time-consuming committees and commissions of the Presbytery. He continued to have a vision for a church that was connected to the community – a central element of his ministry.

Ron died peacefully at home in Feilding, surrounded by his family, on 16 February 2022. His church family give thanks for his life and ministry and pray for Margaret and the family.

### **WEAVERS, Rev Keith Clement**

Keith Weavers was born 12 December 1929 in Christchurch, the youngest of three children born to Clement Charles Weavers and Winifred Maud (Oldridge). His father died in 1932 as a result of his war service in WW1. Keith grew up in Christchurch with an active childhood and an interest in singing. His working life began as a window dresser and as a young man he took an OE (before it was known as that) to Scotland where, at Iona, he felt a call to ministry. He returned to study at Canterbury and Otago.

Keith was ordained in 1961 at Cobden on the West Coast and it was there that he met Helen, married her in 1965 and began the family of three boys. From Cobden the family moved to Upper Clutha (Wanaka) in 1966 and onto New Brighton Union in 1974. The family then headed to Hawkes Bay and the Hastings East parish which led to Keith being trained and involved in industrial chaplaincy and school chaplaincy at Lindisfarne College.

In 1985 Keith and Helen moved to Australia and work with the Uniting Church of Australia. Keith began in Stockton, Newcastle, NSW and then became well known for a variety of supply positions as an Intentional Interim Minister. While officially retiring in 1996 Keith (and Helen) were involved in ministry through to 2016.

Keith died 20 November 2021 aged 91 years.

## Mission Work Group

### Introduction

As we are all aware, these are challenging times for congregations in general and in Presbytery Central in particular. We face the technological and theological challenges related to COVID, resource challenges related to declining attendance and the retirement of several ministers, leaving many regions with very few Nationally Ordained Ministers in position. We also face challenges relating to the best use of Church property in the missional life of the Presbytery. The importance of working together as workgroups in Presbytery is becoming increasingly apparent, as is the importance of looking at decisions we face regarding property and ministry through the lens of Presbytery as a whole rather than as congregations. It is indeed a time to 'Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches'. Let us listen with open minds and hearts.

### Areas of Work

**Database of congregations:** The populating of the database has been a slow process. It has been given a bit of an impetus recently through the Mission Catalyst gathering information on his visits to the regions and collating it. Also Mission Work Group and Property Work Group have been working together to see if the main PCANZ database can be useful in gathering the sort of data we need for Presbytery Central. Update: The Mission Catalyst is working with the Administrative Assistant to make use of new data relating to the compliance survey.

**Self-survey by congregations:** The Mission Workgroup's perception is that no congregations are using this tool. The need is there, and this tool has enormous potential. The Mission Catalyst continues to encourage and support congregations in the use of this tool as a way to reflect on their life and mission.

**The Presbytery Mission Catalyst** has continued engaging with congregations and leaders.

*Mission Zoom Meetings:* To reflect missionally, to encourage each other, to share stories and to discern God's call for the Presbytery. COVID and other factors have limited participation in the last quarter of 2022.

*Regional get togethers* a couple of planned gatherings have had to be cancelled due to COVID. The Mission Catalyst has engaged with many parishes in recent months. Gisborne Presbyterian Parish; Levin Uniting Church; Kapiti Uniting Parish; Presbyterian New Church, Palmerston North; Johnsonville Uniting Church; St Margaret's, Silverstream; St Andrew's, Marton; St David's Multicultural Church, Petone; Wainuiomata Union Church; Upper Hutt Uniting Parish; Parishes in Taranaki

**Forge Aotearoa.** Discussion and coordination with the Leadership Work Group in bringing recommendations to Presbytery Council. The Mission Work Group supports Presbytery

Central being a stakeholder in the Forge Aotearoa Pioneer Course, and recognises the recent decisions made by Presbytery Central Council. Forge Aotearoa has potential to bless the Church, and we encourage the Forge Aotearoa Oversight Group to seek to develop this training for a broad Church with a mixed economy. The formalities of getting the Forge Oversight Group established are underway and face to face and ZOOM meetings have been inspiring and encouraging.

Review of Mission Catalyst position. We are delighted that Presbytery Council has agreed to establish the position of Mission Catalyst as a permanent position and confirm Rev Stuart Simpson in the role.

Rev Sally Carter

## **Children and Families Ministry Work Group**

Rev Donald Gordon convened the Children and Families Ministry Work Group 2021-22 along with Amber Parry Strong, Cathy Ogden and Hana Popea-Dell (Council Liaison). The work group supported Anna Davis in her role as Children and Families Ministry Enabler over the year until her resignation in June.

Covid has provided many challenges for churches as they sought to minister to children and families. Some congregations were able to connect in innovative ways through various levels of lockdown and developed Plan B's for events and activities. Other congregations have found their CFM activities badly affected by our situation and are struggling to renew them.

CFMWG supported people to attend Way 2 Go training provided by Scripture Union and keeps in contact with the national CFM team.

Ministry with children and families is an essential element of the church and it is hoped that someone may feel that convening this group is a task they are called to do.

## Youth Work Group

As always, it is a pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Youth Work Group. It's been a year of discernment, growth and innovative thinking.

We have been thrilled to get to know and work more closely with Kyle Hastelow, who started in his role last February 2021. Kyle brings an honest, transparent and prayerful approach to the role, which we are most grateful for. He has settled in well at the Presbytery Office and with our team.

The collaborative working relationship between the Enablers, Kyle and Nga Rolston, is evolving in a healthy and communicative way. Changing the geographical 4 person role into a full time position has been a good fit for our team and the Presbytery. The Enablers have been able to widen their approach with less geographic limitations. More leaders are being seen, heard and followed up with.

Myself, Nga and Kyle began monthly check in meetings in November 2021 to keep a clear line of communication open. These meetings have been beneficial to us all in a streamline approach to working with one another instead of more random catch ups.

In late 2021, after much discernment and disappointment, the Youth Work Group supported the Enablers to make the challenging decision of cancelling Easter Camp 2022. The decision was met with our own grief and then some grief from others which we navigated together pastorally. The Youth Work Group supported the Enablers as they worked to create an admirable, alternative Easter resource for individual groups to use. They excelled at this and were given excellent feedback.

The Youth Work Group farewelled our Council Representative Marcell Mey in December. Marcell helped us to strengthen the team we are today. We are grateful for his mahi. In the New Year, we welcomed Allister Lane as our new Council Representative. Allister brings a wealth of knowledge and history with him. We look forward to our continued work together.

Performance Reviews for both Enablers resulted in growth and gratitude for our entire team.

The Youth Work Group takes the Strategic Commitments 2020-2024 of the Presbytery very seriously and works to engage with them throughout our work both in the group and as enablers. This includes modelling trust and trustful relationships, as well as modelling prayer and participation. Youth Enablers work closely alongside the Mission Catalyst and other staff modelling effective communication to support mission growth. This occurs throughout our regions with visits by the staff, as well as collaborative connections locally and nationally. Having Kyle in the Presbytery Office has opened this door further. These continued relationships have proven to be advantageous for all involved and heighten the value of the Strategic Commitments for the entire Presbytery.

In the "greening" of the church, we are focused on enabling and encouraging all those serving youth ministries with skills, resources, relationship and collegiality as well as celebrating our rangatahi. At present there are two projects we are working on to create spaces of safety and

longevity for future generations. They are the Rainbow Resource, and Lifting the Under 40's Voice in our Communities and our Leadership. Both of these projects are exciting and innovatively designed with God's love at the prayerful centre.

The Rainbow Resource, called *Supporting Rainbow and Takatāpui Youth: A Resource for Leaders in Youth Ministry*, is a response to help everyone serving in youth ministry to better understand and safely lead young people and their friends in the area of personal identity. We hope and pray that it may encourage, empower, enable, and equip you, your fellow leaders, and the young people in our youth ministries who are walking with our Rainbow rangatahi.

The Youth Work Group would again like to thank Marcell Mey for his work with us.

It has been a wonderful year of settling into our strengthened team. We look forward to what God's future holds.

In Ministry,



Rev. Amy Finiki, M.Div

Youth Work Group Convenor

[amy.f@presbyterycentral.org.nz](mailto:amy.f@presbyterycentral.org.nz)

# Leadership Work Group

The work in the year was mostly about ministry candidates and managing processes around ordained ministry vacancies. The key contribution in the area of missional leadership development was securing Presbytery Central's support for the new Forge Aotearoa Pioneer Course.

## Report from the Candidate Convener

Our assessment day for ministry candidates was held in September 2021 in Island Bay. In the last few years the majority of candidates have been from Wellington so we have held assessment there. This year we had two individuals submitting themselves for Nationally Ordained Ministry assessment, one of whom moved on to National Assessment in 2022. This was Tertius Jacobs, St Timothy's Titahi Bay, and he was accepted to begin training in 2023. We try to invite a few new people to be part of the assessment day team each year to spread experience of this rewarding but intense process. I am always grateful to those who put their hands up to participate prayerfully and maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings.

Presbytery Central has traditionally had a large number of Local Ordained Ministry candidates compared to other Presbyteries, but this year one of our LOM Probationers successfully completed their study and final assessment, leaving us with only one LOM Probationer, Shirley Spooner, actively working towards the completion of their training. We also have three NOM interns in the Presbytery. Thanks to everyone who supports and works with those seeking ordination across both the NOM and LOM pathways.

A reminder that our denomination suffers for a lack of leadership across all areas. PCANZ recognizes many different strands of leadership, focusing on many different areas. For those already in leadership in the Church, please keep an eye out for any in your sphere of influence who many have a leadership calling. Please get alongside them and nurture them, and if you feel it is appropriate, put them in touch with me.

Nathan Parry, Candidate Convener

## Supporting vacancies

At the beginning of the 2021-22 year there were eight active Ministry Settlement Boards (MSBs), with several other parishes vacant but not seeking settled ministry at that time. By the end of June 2022 there were eleven parishes with active MSBs or about to start one, with a further six parishes not currently seeking settled ministry.

Finding ministers to be Interim Moderators or convenors of MSBs has become ever-increasingly difficult. Their capacity is so stretched. This means there has often been delays to commencing MSBs, or gaps before an Interim Moderator can be appointed. The desire is to identify more elders willing and capable of being MSB Convenors. We are also open to appointing lay moderators rather than ordained Interim Moderators. This would usually mean the church council chair being appointed as moderator.

## Missional leadership

Presbytery Central, along with Alpine Presbytery and PressGo, contributed seed funding to establish Forge Aotearoa, and its inaugural 2022 Pioneer Course. This is a one year part-time training programme, focussed on lay missional leaders. Stuart Simpson and Fiona Prestidge are part of the core

team organising and delivering the course. Four people from Presbytery Central are participants on the course. They were all supported by Presbytery with travel grants to cover attendance at four training weekends in Christchurch.

### **Members and meetings held**

Six LWG meetings were held, all online. Most regular business, e.g. approving MSBs, lay and stated supply, study leave requests, and changes of terms of call, is conducted via email.

The Leadership Work Group comprised the following members during the year: Fiona Prestidge (Convenor), Rev Lorna Clarke, Boyd Dunlop, Rev Steve Jourdain, Rev John Mattock, Rev Nathan Parry, Rev Reg Weeks. We acknowledge with sadness the sudden death of long-standing LWG member Ailsa Stewart, Whanganui, in August 2021.

Fiona Prestidge  
Convenor

## **Uniting Parishes Oversight Group (UPOG)**

In the Presbytery Central region there are 33 cooperative ventures and the majority of these have a Presbyterian partner.

UPOG has a membership of eight including the Executive Secretary of Presbytery Central, the Superintendent of the Lower North Island Synod (Methodist), and the Vicar-General of the Diocese of Waiapu, (Anglican). The Executive Officer of the Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand relinquished this position in February and has thus stood down from UPOG. UPOG has met on seven occasions either in person or on ZOOM and one meeting included discussion with Archbishop Philip (Bishop of Taranaki) about the cooperative ventures in Taranaki that have an Anglican partner.

UPOG has enabled regular conversations between the Presbytery and the Methodist Synod on the many cooperative ventures we share and has taken a role to facilitate meetings where necessary and ensuring that all requirements are met. Some cooperative ventures are facing difficult decisions regarding ministry, properties and viability and we seek to walk that journey with them where we can.

Cooperative Ventures are a witness that denominations can work together and serve their local communities and the partner churches.

Geoff Donovan  
Secretary

# Property Work Group

## 1. Our Task

The current terms of reference of the Property Work Group include:

- (a) applications submitted by congregations regarding the sale, purchase, lease, exchange, alteration, major repair (including earthquake strengthening) or demolition of existing buildings, or the construction of new buildings;
- (b) applications submitted by congregations, in conjunction with the above, regarding the borrowing of funds or making an application for Lotteries Commission funding;
- (c) applications submitted by congregations regarding any non-standard property insurance arrangements;
- (d) the maintenance of church buildings within the Presbytery;
- (e) the management (including disposal) of any church buildings coming under the beneficial ownership of Presbytery; and
- (f) any other functions as the Council may determine from time to time.

Quite a daunting list of duties to be carried out by a group of currently three, part time volunteers.

## 2. Our Work

Members of the PWG are:

- Robin Dunlop
- Murray Arnold
- Simon Shaw (Convenor)

Our Property representative on Presbytery Council is Heather Lange. The PWG works closely with the Mission and Finance Work Groups and the system agreed between the work groups for processing applications from congregations is generally working well.

The past year has seen more parishes initiating early pre-application discussion with PWG which has been helpful.

Over the past year ending 30 June 2022 PWG processed 15 applications from parishes seeking approval to either sell or upgrade property. None of the applications required a Church Architecture Reference Group report.

The short form approval process for work under \$50,000 continues to work smoothly.

## 3. Our Goals

The PWG aims to respond to applications within two weeks for most straight forward cases where the application has included all the relevant information.

More complex applications require a greater level of debate and consultation, seeking answers to queries and will take longer.

PWG aims to be seen as a helpful initial point of reference for congregations before they make a formal application. This early consultation can save time and smooth the later approval process. Some parishes are still communicating directly with CPT and we need to better communicate to all parishes that they should in general see PWG, and not the Church Property Trustees, as their first point of contact to discuss property matters.

#### 4. Issues

- **Property Portfolio:** The latest Church Property Trustees (CPT) Property Database lists 66 parishes in Presbytery Central. The database lists a total of 142 properties including the seven properties administered by Presbytery. The total number of buildings is likely to be in excess of 150. The current valuations comprise Land \$114m, Improvements \$78m, Capital \$192m. The properties administered by Presbytery include Norsewood, Tukituki campsite, Park Road North Hastings, Meta Street Takapau, Eltham campsite, Kilbirnie and Waitarere. Their current valuations total Land \$7m, Improvements \$3.28m, Capital \$10.28m. The Norsewood, Waitarere and Takapau properties are in the process of being sold.

At the recent Presbytery Strategy day the Executive Secretary noted that Presbytery Central has not been as active as other presbyteries in working to rationalise and dissolve struggling parishes. Such parishes typically have difficulty sustaining a part time minister, have an aging congregation which is steadily declining along with a declining income. A Presbytery plan for addressing these parishes needs to be developed.

- **Seismic Strengthening Policy:** CPT has required all parishes to have their seismic assessments completed by 30 June 2022 and this has now largely been achieved. CPT has recognised that engineers' guidelines for seismic assessments have changed since 2018, resulting in many buildings receiving a lower %NBS than previously. PIPC Newtown's experience dramatically illustrated this change. CPT are considering asking some parishes to get their buildings reassessed.

MBIE has recently issued a paper on Seismic Risk Guidance for Buildings.

<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/getting-started/seismic-risk-guidancefor-buildings.pdf>

This encourages building owners and tenants to consider building seismic risk in the context of other everyday risks. The risks of being killed in a traffic accident are many times greater than being killed in an earthquake. In Wellington the recent reassessment of several modern office buildings has resulted in lower %NBS values and the decision by tenants to immediately vacate the buildings. These decisions are often driven by the requirements (and associated penalties) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. MBIE suggests that in most cases there is no need to immediately vacate an Earthquake Prone building.

Several experienced structural engineers (Richard Sharpe, David Hopkins, Nicholas Brooke) have recently called for a more considered, nuanced approach to managing building seismic risk.

CPT's blanket seismic strengthening policies are strongly influenced by the Health and Safety at Work Act. They have had the effect of requiring congregations to spend considerable amounts of money getting their buildings assessed and, in many cases, strengthened to at least 67% NBS. This has been an especially heavy burden for parishes that do not have significant capital funds in a PIF account.

For parishes where a church building may only be occupied for two hours a week, the risk to occupants is extremely small. Seismic strengthening does have the benefit of reducing the amount of damage a building is likely to sustain in an earthquake and also limits the potential danger to people, such as pedestrians, outside the building. Increasingly insurance premiums are being increased for buildings with a lower %NBS rating. So do these benefits justify the cost of seismic strengthening? PWG suggests it is time for the church to hold a discussion on risk and the necessary risk/cost trade offs that most of us make on a daily basis.

- Insurance: The current round of insurance renewals is underway. Significant increases in building costs will mean that full reinstatement values will increase accordingly.
- Kilbirnie Presbyterian Church: KPC completed a progress report in September 2021, followed by a preliminary project estimate in November. KPC have not yet received any comments/feedback from Presbytery on the report.
- Pacific Islanders' Presbyterian Church, Newtown: PIPC face a significant challenge to strengthen their church and hall as well as reroof their church. They have approached the national church for assistance. Their challenge is also an opportunity to take a broad look at what a new church centre could provide and look like. There may be an opportunity to consider a new joint development with KPC.
- PWG Membership: We are looking for a replacement for Keith Rodel who resigned from PWG following his move from Taranaki.
- Shared Experience between Presbyteries: There are opportunities to better share knowledge and experience amongst presbyteries. Publishing names and contact details of convenors in each presbytery would be helpful.

As convenor I am grateful for the contributions and support given by the PWG members.

Simon Shaw  
Convenor

## **Finance Work Group**

The Finance Work Group has been Bill Armour, Elliot Rolston, John Melville, Richard McLean, Sally Russell (Council Liaison), Peter MacKenzie (Executive Secretary) and Leanne Bridge (Treasurer).

An ongoing convenor for the Finance Work Group has not been found and in 2021-22 the members rotated the convening role. The acting convenor hosts the meeting and liaises with the treasurer when necessary.

The Presbytery accounts are consolidated with PCANZ as each congregation is and require an audit to be undertaken. The requirements of the audit process means that we are unable to present the completed accounts to an Annual Meeting held in August and these will be distributed at a later date.

Presbytery Central continues to use capital reserves to fund mission projects across the presbytery and to support mission staff. FWG has noted that spending at such a rate is not sustainable over the long term but also recognises that it may be considered an investment in future mission opportunities.

The work of Leanne Bridge as Treasurer is greatly appreciated, and we offer her our thanks.

# Minutes of 2021 AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Presbytery Central

Held at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waitara, 14 August 2021

The Moderator, Rev Diane Gilliam-Weeks welcomed the assembled members and reminded us that we, the people, the parishes and the work on the ground are presbytery. Presbytery is not a work done in a distant office, nor merely the deliberations of elected officials, it is all those members of churches. It is us.

The moderator led celebration of the ministries of Steve Jourdain, Stefan van Os and Andrew Callendar, for whom this will be the last Gathering before their retirement. She especially noted Steve's contribution over many years to the presbytery and to the Gathering.

Diane welcomed two youth workers, Mariana Hatayama and Jared Dixon, to share stories of God's work in their contexts.

Diane welcomed the Tautai PIC, Pasifika cluster. She welcomed the members present.

Diane, then, opened the meeting with Prayer at 2:28pm, asking God's blessing,

*That the roll be accepted and apologies received.* Peter MacKenzie/Leanne Munro. Agreed

*That we approve the minutes of previous AGM from Nov 2020.* Peter MacKenzie/Paul Bowers-Mason. Agreed

*That reports presented to Presbytery Central in the Annual Report be received.* Peter MacKenzie/Hana Popea-Dell. Agreed.

Executive Secretary: Peter MacKenzie spoke to the report. A busy year. Challenging times, well done through lockdown and the national isolation.

Presbytery stood to remember Keith Carley, Nio Daniela,, Ted Body, Don Ransom, Maurice Brown.

Mission: Allister Lane spoke to the report. Noted the work of the Mission Catalyst, Stuart Simpson.

Children and Families Ministry: Donald Gordon spoke to the report. Welcomed Anna Davis, new Presbytery CFM Enabler. Moderator lifted her in prayer.

Youth: Diane introduced Nga Rolston and Kyle Hastelow. Applauded youth workers in the presbytery.

Leadership: Fiona Prestidge introduced Candidate convenor Nathan Parry and spoke about the Forge initiative in developing mission.

Uniting Parishes: Recognised our partnerships with the Methodist and Anglican Churches.

Property: Simon Shaw spoke and highlighted the challenges of property ownership.

Finance: Getting budget out prior to June is our goal, we cannot electronically vote on a budget.

*That the email approval of the budget 20201-2022 be ratified.* Peter MacKenzie/Paul Loveday.  
Agreed.

*That Presbytery Central hold a special meeting in June 2022 to discuss and approve the annual budget.* Allister Lane/Ryhan Prasad.

Meeting closed in prayer at 3:20pm.

## **Presbytery Central Budget 2022-2023**

The Budget was approved by Council and Presbytery by electronic voting in June 2022.

The 2021-22 projection amounts are generally the actual income/expenditure to end-February 2022, scaled for a full year.

Budget requests have been received from Central Office, Youth, Leadership, Children and Families, Mission and Property Work Groups.

Expenditure elements for the remaining Work Groups have been assumed to be similar to the 2021-22 actual payments made.

The budget assumes that Presbytery will cover the salaries and associated expenses of 6 employees (3 full time, 3 part time) and 1 contractor.

Full time employees are for Central Office, Mission and Youth Workgroups. Part time employees are for Central Office, Children & Families and Youth Workgroups.

The expenditures for Grants Paid cover the existing mission grants; the budget makes no provision for any new grants.

Presbyterian parish levy amounts have been calculated as 1.35% of the net parish income (last year 1.35%).

Co-operating Venture levy amounts have been calculated as 1.32% of the net parish income (last year 1.155%).

The major expenses are \$375,000 for wages and salaries (including Beneficiary and KiwiSaver costs), \$177,000 for existing grants and \$48,000 for travel.

Overall, the budget shows an operating deficit of \$547,000 for the 2022-23 year (last year \$522,000).

Given the current inflation rate we would expect the gain in interest income to be out-weighed by the rise in costs and therefore could expect a larger deficit than budgeted.

<b>Presbytery Central Budget</b>		
	<b>2021-22 Budget</b>	<b>2022-23 Budget</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Investment Income	89,600	67,700
Parish Levies	122,158	121,300
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>211,758</b>	<b>189,000</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
ACC Levy	1,000	1,000
Accounting Fees	500	600
Administration Costs	600	600
Audit Fees	3,000	3,000
Bank Fees	20	50
Beneficiary Fund Contributions	7,440	9,150
Catering/Accommodation	13,200	13,900
Chaplaincy	4,050	4,050
Computer Expenses	5,000	5,000
Contracts for Services	18,000	24,000
Entertainment and Hospitality	500	500
Event Expenses	18,100	10,200
Gifts	1,000	1,000
Grant Commitments	203,300	177,000
Insurance	13,700	7,500
Kiwisaver Employer Contributions	4,150	5,250
Postage	500	500
Printing and Photocopying	500	550
Property Sundry Expenses	6,500	7,900
Rates	600	600
Rent	17,900	19,900
Repairs and Maintenance	2,700	2,650
Salaries and Wages	333,600	360,700
Software	3,000	3,000
Staff Amenities and Entertainment	6,700	3,900
Staff Training	2,250	3,550
Stationery	2,200	2,250
Sundry Expenses	7,350	7,350
Supervision	5,480	6,550
Telecommunications	3,900	5,150
Travel	47,050	48,850
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>733,790</b>	<b>736,200</b>

## Summary of Strategy Discussion

On 16 June 2022 the presbytery council, work group convenors and presbytery staff gathered at Johnsonville for a visioning exercise. Like many strategy meetings there was discussion about where we are now and dreams of where we might move to.

Over half of our congregations do not have a full-time settled ministry – and yet our systemic structure is premised on each congregation with a parish minister. Property costs keep mounting and many church buildings are barely fit for purpose. On the positive side Covid has taught us that we can adapt to new circumstances and survive cultural storms.

Last year the annual Presbytery meeting affirmed some strategic commitments. These can be summarised in three categories

- For Presbytery - we will seek to build trust in our work together, build on a foundation of prayer and encourage wider participation in our work.
- For congregations – we will provide access to resources and training, bring understanding to task of missional leadership and encourage congregations to develop and implement mission plans.
- In ‘greening the church’ – we seek to sustainably use our resources for mission, reach out more to young people and families, and find innovative ways of being church.

A key challenge is how we move from a model of individual congregations to a more collective understanding of being church. Our resources are unevenly distributed and often limited to capital works. The focus on buildings and Sunday morning worship has limited our capacity to develop new faith communities. Needless to say, this is not an easy conversation.

Four different spheres of church life were identified across our churches – worship, multi-generational mission, community mission and evangelistic mission. Our task as a presbytery is to ensure that congregations are adequately resourced for their sphere of mission – but also not over-resourced. This would, over time, include ministry and capital investment.

We want to explore further how Presbytery Mission Grants can develop innovative mission projects rather than simply supporting traditional models. Thought is to be given about being more entrepreneurial with some of our capital to support the sustainability of presbytery itself. Consideration of how ministry is deployed is urgent – developing a paradigm which is different to the parish ministry of old. Finding space for young people to grow in leadership within the church is an accepted challenge. Working more closely with Presbyterian Support where possible is to be encouraged. Building technical capacity in our churches will continue – arising from our lockdown experiences.

We recognise that the church is on a journey and this is an interesting stage to be travelling in. Pray that we may step out in faith into the unknown.