



# Annual Report

Presbytery Central - Nukuhau Tapu

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Presented to the Presbytery 9 August 2025

at Iona College, Havelock North

# Agenda – Annual Meeting of Presbytery Central

## Welcome

## Roll/Apologies

*That the roll be accepted and apologies received.*

## Agenda and Reports

*That the Agenda and Reports presented to Presbytery Central in this Annual Report be received.*

## Minutes

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*That the minutes of the annual meeting of Presbytery Central, held on 17 August 2024 at Palmerston North, be approved.*

## Memorial Minutes

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*That Presbytery Central recognise the service of Rev Doug Anderson, Rev David Douglas, Rev Bill Moore and Rev Jim Soper.*

## Moderator Report

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# Minutes – Annual Meeting of Presbytery Central

Held at 1:30pm, 17 August 2024, St Alban's Presbyterian Church, Palmerston North

## 1. Welcome

The Executive Secretary welcomed the Moderator, who then welcomed those gathered.

## 2. Roll / Apologies

*That the roll be accepted and apologies received.*

*Peter MacKenzie / Diane Gilliam-Weeks. Agreed.*

## 3. Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting

*That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Presbytery Central, held on 19 August 2023 at Newtown PIC, Wellington, be approved.*

*Peter MacKenzie / Simon Shaw. Agreed.*

## 4. Annual Report

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

*Peter MacKenzie / Ryhan Prasad. Agreed.*

## 5. Executive Report

The Executive Secretary spoke to his report.

## 6. Memorial Minutes

Peter displayed the lectern fall of the late Ria Sporry, an item of heritage archived by the Presbytery. He remembered those who had passed in the past year. A prayer of remembrance was offered by the Right Reverend Rose Luxford, Moderator of the PCANZ..

Presbytery Central acknowledged the service and ministry of:

- Rev Max Garrity
- Rev Nolan Martin
- Rev Dennis Povey
- Mrs Peggy Jourdain
- Rev Tom Etuata
- Rev Shirley Simmers
- Mr Doug Langford

## 7. Workgroup Reports

- **Mission Work Group:** Thanks were expressed to the committee and the Enabler for their ongoing work.
- **Youth Work Group:** The Youth Enablers invited questions and were prayed for in their continuing ministry.
- **Leadership Work Group:** The report was presented with an invitation for additional members to join the workgroup and to consider other roles within the presbytery.
- **Uniting Parishes Oversight Group:** Questions were invited in the convenor's absence.
- **Property Work Group:** Recent positive developments were noted, including reduced insurance costs and changes by the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees to earthquake strengthening requirements.  
Questions were raised regarding the factors influencing the insurance reduction, with explanation given around alignment with local government guidelines and recent General Assembly decisions. Membership on the group was invited.
- **Grants Work Group:** Membership was again encouraged. The convenor was unable to be present.

- **Finance Work Group:** The audit process is underway. The presbytery's new treasurer, Julie Morse, was introduced in absentia. It was noted that financial statements will be available following completion of the audit.

## 8. Budget 2024–2025

## 9. General Business

- **Special Legislative Procedure**  
*That Presbytery approve all of the Book of Order amendments.*  
*Peter MacKenzie / Allister Lane. Agreed.*
- **Strategic Plan**  
The Strategic Plan was presented as a guide to help congregations strengthen community and navigate change. Emphasis was placed on the need for clear principles in evolving times. Questions were raised about the mechanisms for implementation and tracking. It was affirmed that the Council will be responsible for monitoring progress, and the plan should be considered both empowering and adaptable — a reference point in future decision-making. Council committed to reporting on progress against the plan, though specific reporting mechanisms were still to be determined.  
The Presbytery affirmed the Strategic Plan.
- **30-Year Reflection**  
An update was given on the “30-Year Reflection” initiative, begun in late 2023. Congregations had been invited to reflect on their past and future. One congregation shared their positive experience engaging with this process.

**Meeting Closed** at 3:00pm.

## Memorial Minutes

**ANDERSON, Rev Douglas William**

**M.Sc., B.D., M.Theol.**

Douglas Anderson was born 26 October 1936 in Winton and grew up on a family farm. He attended Otago University and graduated with a Master of Science (Chemistry) in 1960. Following that he moved to Wellington for several years of work in chemistry before hearing the call to ministry.

Doug attended the Theological Hall in Dunedin 1961 to 1963 and was ordained and inducted into St David's, Woodville, Manawatu Presbytery, on 11 February 1964. He married Beryl Florence Beaton in May 1966.

Doug resigned from Woodville in 1968 and the family moved to Singapore where Doug taught at the Singapore Discipleship Training Centre and ministered at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church, Singapore (English-speaking Chinese). In 1978 he became the Area Director for OMF in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the family moved to a new cultural setting.

The family returned to New Zealand in 1981 and Doug accepted a call to St Paul's Trinity Pacific in Christchurch before being called to Knox Presbyterian, Lower Hutt, in 1986. Doug resigned in May 1994 from Knox and he and Beryl headed overseas where Doug served as minister at the Union Church of Istanbul, Turkey, from 1 June 1994 until returning to New Zealand in mid-2001. Doug and Beryl also had time in a parish in the north of Scotland in the Caithness Presbytery.

Doug was granted the status of Minister Emeritus by Wellington Presbytery in December 2001. In retirement he pursued a PhD through Otago University, graduating at the age of 78 in 2014. The thesis was an in-depth analysis of Matthew 27:51-53.

Doug brought a sharp intellect and a deep love of God and Scripture to his leadership in his various ministries. With a strong pastoral heart, he showed concern for many and was always quick to offer words of encouragement. He enjoyed tramping in the hills, fishing and enjoying the company of family and friends.

Doug "completed his good innings" on 18 March 2025 in Lower Hutt. We give grateful thanks to God for Doug's life and ministry and pray for Beryl and family.

**MOORE, Rev William Reuben (Bill)**

**B.Sc., B.D.**

Bill Moore was born 30 January 1934 to Charles and Evelyn (Earle) Moore in Wellington. He went to school in Lower Hutt (being Dux of his high school) and gained a B.Sc. from Victoria University in 1955. Bill attended the Theological Hall 1957-1959 and gained his B.D. from Otago University.

Bill and Heather (1938-1993) were married 23 January 1960 and Bill was ordained at Ahuriri-Putorino 11 February 1960. The family grew with two children, Sheena and Kensie. They moved to Waipukurau in 1966, staying in Hawkes Bay. In 1974 Bill moved to Dunedin, firstly called to Anderson Bay and then became a hospital chaplain, primarily at Wakari Hospital. Bill helped train many students from the Hall while in that role. He married Grace in 1997 and they retired to Hawkes Bay in 1999 (when they weren't travelling) and moved to Atawhai Retirement Village in 2020.

Bill knew the Book of Order from cover to cover and served in various roles in PCANZ assisting the wider church in legal and business procedures. He was Moderator of the Synod of Otago and Southland when they celebrated the sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>). He enjoyed singing and was a member of the Dunedin Male Choir and Napier Civic Choir. He also loved Forest and Bird outings – even when they were on Sundays.

Bill's chosen Bible reading was Colossians 3:12-14. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

These qualities exemplified his life. Bill celebrated with joy and thankfulness his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and died 13 December 2024 in Hawkes Bay.

### **SOPER, Rev James (Jim) Ernest**

Jim was born 14 July 1935 to Ernest and Edith Soper. He described his childhood as challenging and had a life-long impact on him. As a young man his faith was formed by the Christadelphians and later by Anglican and Presbyterian congregations. He worked as a clerk with various companies in the lower South Island and was a regular lay preacher around northern Southland before responding to an ongoing call to ministry.

Jim attended Bible College in Auckland in the late 1970s and it was there that he met Alison, his partner in life and ministry. Married in 1980, Jim and Alison moved to Dannevirke where Jim worked as a lay assistant in the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches. They then moved to Dunedin for training at the Theological Hall 1984-85 and it was while there that David and Tanya entered the family.

Jim was ordained at Oxford District Union 9 January 1986 and would later also minister to the local Anglican congregation. The Sopers then moved to Pahiatua in 1992 before Jim retired to Palmerston North in 2001. In retirement Jim and Alison became members of St Andrew's in Palmerston North and were valued members of the congregation.

Jim's ministry was noted for his commitment to prayer, his sense of humour and his deep pastoral care for everyone he met. He was a person who offered encouragement to others in their tasks and willingly took on what he could to help others. Jim died in Palmerston North on 23 January 2025. We give thanks for his life and ministry.

### **DOUGLAS, Rev David James      M.A., B.Theol.**

David Douglas was born 8 March 1950 in Picton then undertaking MA studies in Social Work in Wellington. He was keenly active in his life and enjoyed cycling. David married Margaret in 1976 and felt a call to ministry as a way to serve in the community.

David attended the Theological Hall in Dunedin from 1982-1984 and was ordained as Assistant Minister at St Andrew's, Gisborne, 27 January 1985. In 1987 he moved to Bulls-Turakina-Fordell before moving into a counselling role with Catholic Social Services, Palmerston North. David worked part-time at St James' Union Church in Woodville and in other congregations. His other major ministry was through counselling, therapy and social services in various communities including Lower Hutt. He continued to have close links and involvement with congregations and presbytery reflecting his commitment to his theology and the church. David was closely involved with the World Christian Community of Meditation and was an Associate of the Kopua Monastery.

David was noted for his compassion for the clients and duty of care – he was driven by an awareness of the mystery of life grounded in God. In his gentle approach he had an expansive view of human life and worked for others, often going the extra mile.

David died peacefully at his home on 10 April 2025. We give thanks for his broad ministry and the impact it had on the wider community.

## Moderator's Message

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit...If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*  
 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26-27

Tenā koutou katoa, Kia orana, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Annyeong haseyo Greetings. We are one body. We are different. We are each unique, but all made in the image of God, all part of the body of Christ. We are all needed for this part of the body of Christ, Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu.

It has been a busy year. Council has wrestled with the best way to ensure our Strategic Plan is implemented and established two commissions at the request of parishes to explore their future and tried to find people to fill vacant positions on council and workgroups. As Presbytery, we welcomed new ministers; licensed our Ministry Intern Tertius Jacobs (now at Tuakau Uniting Parish in Northern); sent members to a church-wide hui at Te Maungarongo,; hosted what can only be described as a challenging and uncomfortable discussion with the Moderator and past Moderator of PCANZ around our church's position on leadership; rejoiced with St Andrew's Whanganui when the two congregations came together; celebrated with Knox, Fielding when they gathered to remember the ministry of that congregation, grieving with them as they made the brave decision to close the parish. At this AGM we will recognise those ministers who have died in the last year, giving thanks for their lives and ministries and farewell ministers who are, through retirement or moving elsewhere, leaving their roles among us. All of this as God's people, the Body of Christ.

Last year I challenged you, in your congregations and your board/session/council meetings, to see and understand that we are all "Presbytery". That is still a challenge for us. We need each of us. Our workgroups – leadership, Mission, Property, Finance, Uniting Parishes Oversight Group (UPOG) and Grants - all need new members. There are people on all these workgroups who have given of their time for a significant period. Some of them would like to retire! In particular we need people from each of the regions of Presbytery to step up and get involved, for the wellbeing and flourishing of us all. With the resignation of Rev Mo Morgan from the role in Taranaki/Whanganui, we need two Regional Moderators, the other area being Manawatu/Wairarapa. You do not have to be a minister or an elder to serve on the workgroups and the Terms of Reference for each work group can be found on the Presbytery Central website, under Workgroups.

On behalf of Council my thanks to those of you who served on our commissions, represented us on national workgroups and Council of Assembly, took on the role of Regional Moderators and have served on our workgroups. Thanks also to our staff: Peter, Stuart, Nga, Kyle and Andrew for their work among our widely dispersed communities.

Finally as my term draws to a close (end of November!) I wish to thank you all, as Presbytery, for giving me the privilege of being the Moderator for these two years. My apologies that I didn't get around the traps as much as I would've liked! Thank you to members of our Council for your work. Time for someone else to take on the Moderatorship – perhaps that's you.

Manaakitia me te aroha o te Atua

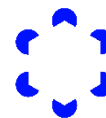
Yours in Christ

Leanne

Rev Leanne Munro, Moderator, Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu

## Executive Report

In a July RoundUp I mentioned the process of reification – our ability to create something that doesn't really exist – such as the hexagon in the illustration to the right. Presbytery exists when the people of our churches gather together as a regional faith community. This is the annual report that proves presbytery does exist.



Rev Leanne Munro has continued to be Moderator of Presbytery and has been willing to participate in events across the region. Rev David Dell, Rev Simon McLeay and Rev Mo Morgan (resigned in June) have been Regional Moderators. The Presbytery Council members have been Allister Lane, Jill McDonald, Pam Colenso, Tony Wood, Fele Nokise, Andrew Campbell-Stokes, and Nathan Parry. Peter MacKenzie (Executive Secretary), Stuart Simpson (Mission Catalyst) and Andrew Gore (Administration Assistant) also attend. Ngahuia Rolston (Youth Enabler) has been invited to attend council in this new church year. Julie Morse continues as treasurer and Kyle Hastelow as Youth Enabler.

Presbytery Central acknowledges the deaths of;

Rev Bill Moore (13 December 2024), Rev Jim Soper (23 January 2025), Rev Doug Anderson (18 March 2025), and Rev David Douglas (10 April 2025). Rev Linda Pollock died 12 November 2024, she was from the Church of Scotland and working with St Andrew's, Hastings.

The following ministry changes were noted:

Two inductions were held in the year; Rev Brett Reid (7 July 2024) to Ngaio Union and Rev Hana Popea (14 November 2024) to Hutt City Uniting Congregations. We also note the retirement of Rev John Mattock (7 July 2025) from Stratford.

Our intern, Tertius Jacobs, completed his internship at Knox, Lower Hutt, and was licensed 8 December 2024. (He was ordained at Tuakau Union in May 2025).

Rev Chris Kim, was appointed to a supply ministry at St Andrew's, Whanganui, and on 8 June 2025 the Whanganui Korean congregation joined St Andrew's.

Rev So'otaga Misikei (Crossway, Masterton) and Rev Kolotau 'Ahokava (Hutt City) were inducted by the Methodist Church.

The non-ordained ministries of Llew King (Taihape) and Phillip Johnson (Marton) concluded.

The Feilding Oroua Presbyterian Church closed on 30 June 2025.

We celebrate the following anniversaries of ordination:

Rev Phillip Brown 25 February 1965 Waikari; Rev John Howell 30 January 1975, New Lynn; Rev Neil Johnston 5 June 1975 Waipawa; Rev David Gordon 7 March 1985 Paeroa; Rev Wayne Toleafoa 8 September 1985 Kurow; Rev Robin List 5 December 1985 Naenae; Rev Peter MacKenzie 12 December 1985 Cheviot; Rev Lynn Russell 10 February 1995 Christchurch; Rev Anna Gilkison 12 March 1995 Christchurch; Rev Bruce Hamill 17 August 1995 Malvern; Rev Hana Popea 3 February 2005 Lower Hutt; Rev David Bebarfeld LOM 12 Jul 2015 Westmere; Rev Jill McDonald 12 February 2015 Oamaru; Rev Chris Rosanowski LOM 23 July 2015 Silverstream; Rev Raymond McKie 11 November 2015 (received from Baptist Church, 1996).

Life in church and community has changed dramatically since I was ordained. We had monthly presbytery meetings and wore jackets and ties; mail in the letter-box was the primary communication channel; we sang from one hymnbook; the minister was part of the community; Sunday was relatively quiet. Within this new context the church has to adapt to keep the Gospel light shining. That is not always easy.



The Presbytery Office provides support to the Presbytery Council and Work Groups and manages those tasks assigned to it. As Executive Secretary my power is not in the decisions I can make (which are quite limited) but in the processing of information. It is my hope that the work of the presbytery is transparent, timely and fair. There are times when the path ahead is not clear and we need to talk carefully with each other with an openness to love and prayer.

Property applications are processed through the work groups and further clarification is often sought or alternative options explored. The Trustees continue to seek a portfolio of property for the church which is fit for purpose. In reality we often live with buildings that are not ideal but they are what we have. The challenge across the church is to ensure that we use the overall assets of the church for our mission purpose – not to gather up riches in a bank account.

We are also facing significant changes in ministry – two-thirds of our congregations no longer have a position for a paid ordained minister. This impacts how local congregations order their churches and how presbytery connects with them. It reduces the pool of people able to undertake tasks across the presbytery (and national church) and places a greater burden on those who continue. This is not a problem to fix – it is a context to adapt to.

New technology is also changing how we be the church. Music can be presented electronically, sermons and services can be “Zoomed,” and AI can write messages on any topic (but not always with great accuracy). This is a time of opportunity – holding both risk and reward.

As we seek the path ahead I would encourage local congregations to ask how presbytery could help in realistic terms. Should we explore new technology for remote-led worship? Is there an openness for collaboration among parishes to reduce administration? Where should Presbytery be focussing its efforts?

Blessings for all the work that you are doing in congregations and communities across the lower North Island.

*Peter MacKenzie*

Executive Secretary

## Mission Work Group

The Mission Work Group undertakes functions within Presbytery Central associated with mission, including

- Oversight of and advocacy for Presbytery's Strategic Commitments and mission plan;
- Resourcing congregations and faith communities for mission;
- Evaluating the effectiveness of mission initiatives within Presbytery;
- Providing a missional perspective on applications regarding property and non-standard insurance arrangements received by Presbytery;
- Coordinating reviews on the shape of mission and ministry within a local area or region;

It's been a busy and interesting year for both the Mission Workgroup of Presbytery Central and the Mission Catalyst. This report outlines some of what's been happening.

One of the key pieces of work the Mission Workgroup has been focussed on is the 30 year reflection, which many congregations have taken part in. Below is a summary of the reflection to date, which will be used to guide the strategic plan of Presbytery Central.

### Vision for the Next 30 Years

In 30 years, Presbytery Central envisions itself as a vibrant, dynamic community, focused on helping people find and follow Jesus. The presbytery aims to grow both spiritually and numerically, fostering stronger ties to the regional community through potential church planting and partnerships with other churches, NGOs, and businesses. The vision includes outreach to inner-city areas and diverse groups, with church facilities possibly being repurposed or downsized, evolving into a community hub—ready to respond to emergency needs.

The presbytery is committed to being relevant to younger families and diverse communities while maintaining its Presbyterian and bicultural heritage. Discipleship, Mission, and leadership mentoring are top priorities, ensuring a thriving, inclusive environment that continues to grow in diversity.

### Key Influencing Factors on Our Trajectory

#### Negative Factors:

1. **Spiritual and Cultural Shifts:** A potential decline in openness to religion in the region could pose a challenge to growth.
2. **Aging Congregation:** The aging of current members, along with financial constraints, may limit long-term sustainability, particularly around the affordability of ministers.
3. **Financial and Resource Constraints:** Tight budgets, limited reserves, and ongoing maintenance pressures present significant challenges.
4. **Space and Accessibility Issues:** A lack of physical expansion opportunities, parking concerns, and challenges in accommodating older members may hinder growth.
5. **Cultural Adaptation Needs:** Engaging younger generations and adapting worship and programs to meet their needs will be essential.

#### Positive Factors:

1. **Prayer and Outreach:** Ongoing commitment to prayer and outreach has led to growth, with people traveling up to 30 minutes to attend.
2. **Increased Community Engagement:** A healthier faith community, along with successful youth and family programs, indicates positive momentum.
3. **Spiritual Openness:** There is a growing openness to spirituality in New Zealand, with more people returning to church after extended absences. Moreover, there are people who know nothing about Jesus who are wanting to know more.
4. **Community Relationships:** Strong community support provides a solid foundation for continued engagement and mission work.
5. **Focus on Families:** Efforts to support young families and expand the children's ministry align with the presbytery's long-term growth strategy.

In summary, Presbytery Central's future success will depend on its ability to listen to God, adapt to changing needs, while at the same time being grounded in the Gospel of Christ, and maintain an outward focus while navigating financial and spatial challenges.

The Mission Catalyst has been engaged in a number of work streams, including working with the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership to provide 'essence of worship' workshops across Presbytery. To date there have been two, one being held in Wairoa, the other in Stratford. The final workshop this year will take place in Wellington on 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

Another area of work the Mission Catalyst has been involved leading congregations through the missional church survey. This survey helps them reflect on their health as missional churches and includes reflection on five key elements. These elements are public worship, fellowship and hospitality, discipleship, public witness and evangelism. Through this reflection congregations can discern the areas God might want them to focus on as they participate with God in mission.

The Mission Catalyst has been involved in the work of Forge Aotearoa. Forge Aotearoa is a growing community of Jesus-centered pioneers exploring new ways of being church and participating in God's mission in Aotearoa New Zealand. Rooted in the metaphor of Wayfinding, we support, resource, and journey together to discern where God is leading. Inspired by Pacific navigators, we seek to embrace adaptability, spiritual discernment, and deep contextual awareness as we chart new pathways for faith communities.

### The Approach of Forge

We invest in leadership formation and community nurture through:

- **Order of Wayfinders:** A monastic-inspired community providing encouragement, support, training, and accountability (launching first quarter 2025).
- **Hui:** Biannual national gatherings to foster belonging and shared learning (Auckland, May 2025; Wellington, November 2025).
- **Communities of Practice:** Monthly online gatherings offering connection and resource-sharing.
- **Learning Resources:** Podcasts, webinars, workshops, and written materials tailored for Aotearoa's context.
- **Mentoring & Anamchara** (*soul friend* and refers to a spiritual guide, confessor, or mentor): Spiritual companionship crucial for ongoing formation.
- **Collaboration:** Working with key organizations to maximize impact and avoid duplication.

Another area of work that is crucial is the connection with both individual churches and regions of Presbytery as they discern God's mission for them while at the same time experiencing issues of capacity. There is, in the midst of recognising our weakness, a profound relief that the mission we engage in, is actually God's mission.

### Upcoming Activities:

The Mission Work Group (MWG) will soon be analysing the statistics gathered from across Presbytery Central to provide a snapshot of our congregations.

In addition, the Mission Catalyst will be organising the Presbytery Central Ministers' Retreat 2025 (date to be confirmed).

Sure, there are big challenges for the church in 2025 and beyond, however there are also increasing opportunities to live out the Gospel of Christ in our contexts.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Mission Workgroup or Mission Catalyst don't hesitate to contact the Convenor, Heather Lange: [missions@presbyterycentral.org.nz](mailto:missions@presbyterycentral.org.nz) or the Mission Catalyst, Rev Stuart Simpson: [stuart.s@presbyterycentral.org.nz](mailto:stuart.s@presbyterycentral.org.nz).

## Youth Work Group

I am pleased to commend to you the 2025 annual reports of our Presbytery Central Youth Enablers, Nga and Kyle. From the reports below you'll get an insight into some of what our Youth Enablers can offer to support the provision of youth ministry across our Presbytery. Don't hesitate to get in touch with them and explore how they can support you and your rangatahi!

### **Rev. Brett Reid**

Convenor, Youth Workgroup

Our roles have been filled with many special things this past year, from visits around Presbytery Central and catch ups with the incredible leaders supporting our young, to providing opportunities for connection for our youth faith communities.

Over King's Birthday Weekend we ran a second Rangatahi Noho marae trip with PYM. We had 59 people from 6 youth groups and 6 Presbyterian Church schools. From our Presbytery we had rangatahi from St James Whanganui, St Johns in the City Wellington, Solway College, Queen Margaret College, St Oran's College and Scots College. It was a very special time for rangatahi from our churches and Presbyterian schools to connect with and be welcomed by Te Aka Puaho onto Te Maungarongo.

A real highlight for us was having 2 rangatahi and 1 young adult from Te Aka Puaho join us and share how it had been so meaningful for them to hear stories about their marae they had never heard before and experience parts of our Presbyterian faith they hadn't stepped into before.

In November we had an amazing connecting event for our Wellington Youth leaders at Porirua Bowling. And in March Knox Lower Hutt hosted a fun regional sports night for youth groups keen to connect and compete. It had everything from worship, to Knox's youth pastor Caleb Dominikovich sharing, to some real competition in the gym mixing everyone up together.

### **Nga Rolston**

Presbytery Central Youth Enabler

For Easter Camp this year we welcomed 146 attendees from 11 youth groups across our Presbytery. With support from the Ann Sinclair Trust and Presbytery Central, camp was offered at the affordable rate of \$170 per person. The weekend featured a vibrant, full schedule including wide games, team competitions, electives, and—for the first time—faith workshops. Highlights included a costume dance party, sunrise bonfire communion, interactive prayer stations, and main worship sessions led by Knox and Rev. Tom Mephram. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed—leading, preparing, praying, or serving in any way. Your efforts shaped a powerful and joy-filled Easter Camp that will stay with us for a long time.

This year I have been working on a new resource and workshop with support from Nga to help make youth groups safe and inclusive spaces for neuro diverse rangatahi. It is being designed as a practical and easy to use toolkit with clear examples to follow. The plan is to present a workshop at Connect this year as well as at the Gathering.

Nga and I also created a workshop on healthy relationships which I took at St James Whanganui youth group. And it has been great to continue presenting the workshop on the Self-Tending resource. We continue to get great feedback from Ministers and youth leaders who have found the resource to be very helpful. If this would be helpful for you, you can find it...

### **Kyle Hastelow**

Presbytery Central Associate Youth Enabler

## Leadership Work Group

The Leadership Work Group (LWG) primarily manages processes related to ministry vacancies.

The current LWG includes Tony Wood (Convenor), Silvia Purdie, Reg Weeks, Steve Jordain and Boyd Dunlop. Four of these are based in Wellington, and one in Manawatu. We would ideally like 'on- the-ground' representatives in the LWG that more thoroughly represent all the regions and cultures of our Presbytery. We are therefore looking to incorporate other members into the LWG to assist with this, so if you would consider this as an option for you please take time to talk with one of the existing LWG members about what it would involve, and your possible role within it.

At the end of the day, as you read the rest of this report, LWG is about relationship building, developing, keeping and growing. The better they are developed and upheld throughout our Presbytery, the better enabled LWG will be to function well, for the benefit of all of our parishes. In short, the better we know each other, the better we are aware of what each other needs and who is available or can possibly assist, and can be trained and supported, the better LWG is able to undertake and fulfil their role.

The LWG over the past year has been responsible for commencing and co-ordinating the various active Interim Moderator and Ministry Settlement Board (MSB) placements throughout the Presbytery; reviewing MSB reports and supporting those reports through to Presbytery Council approval; managing Stated Supply arrangements; approving study leave applications; authorising elders to administer the sacraments; managing changes in the Terms of Call in existing placements; and increasingly, seeking to place enablers with parishes that choose a Local Shared Ministry team as their future ministry option.

There is an increasing number of Parishes looking at a Local Shared Ministry Team (LSM) as their future ministry option, due to the circumstances that exist at the present time for the Presbyterian Church throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, and we see finding and having good training in place for LSM enablers as a high priority for LWG and our Presbytery. This is being worked on by the LWG at the present time.

We are also very well aware that there are an increasing number of parishes not seeking an ordained ministry placement for the foreseeable future, so for Interim Moderators and Ministry Settlement Boards there is more work having to be done by a smaller number of available ministers. This is also a priority for us to work on, as we need to find ways to meet the requirements of vacancies for Parishes and support them, while still honouring the integrity of the Presbyterian process. This is something we are having to explore, find flexibility, and new methods for, as the model that exists at the present time continues to increasingly be stretched.

The Leadership Workgroup also wants to acknowledge and give great thanks to Fiona Prestidge, who was convenor and part of the LWG for over 10 years and left her role earlier this year (2025) for other commitments. She was a very committed and dedicated Convenor, and she has certainly left a very big volunteer role to fill.

**Reverend Tony Wood.**

## Uniting Parishes Oversight Group

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

UPOG membership includes the Executive Secretary of Presbytery Central, the Superintendent of the Lower North Island Synod (Methodist), and a member of the Diocese of Waiapu, (Anglican) who is also on General Synod. Largely because of illness, UPOG has met only on four occasions.

UPOG enables regular conversations between the Presbytery and the Methodist Synod on the many cooperative venture issues 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.

Rev Brett Reid was inducted into the Ngaio Church in July 2024. In January 2025 Rev Neti Petaia replaced Rev Nicola Grundy as Superintendent of LNIS and his place at Crossway (Masterton) has been taken by Rev So'otaga Misikei. Rev Kolotau 'Ahokava has replaced Kalo Kaisa at Hutt City.

Last July, UPOG, hosted a Gathering for CVs at Rongotea and a good number attended. A further Gathering is planned for later in 2025.

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. The Year in Review

Over the 12 months ending 30 June 2025 PWG assessed 12 applications from parishes wishing to upgrade, develop or sell property. This compares with 14 applications in the previous year. All applications but one were supported, in some cases after receiving further supporting information.

The sales of the Kilbirnie and Wadestown properties were finally completed, highlighting the effects of a more depressed Wellington property market.

CPT have updated the Property Handbook (5th Edition, 2025). Principal changes include:

- **Earthquake Prone Buildings (EPB)** policy has been amended so that such buildings are required to be strengthened to at least 34% of NBS, rather than the previous 68% NBS. In addition the deadline for strengthening has been extended by four years. These moves are similar to those made by the Anglican church. They also occur against the backdrop of the government's review of the earthquake prone building system, aimed at achieving a good balance between safety and the costs to owners of EPBs. This more holistic approach to risks posed by EPBs can only be welcomed.
- **Sales – Right of First Refusal** The changes provide an overview of the requirement to, and process, of inviting mana whenua to make an offer for the purchase of property before it is sold on the open market. Sales by Presbyteries are not bound by this requirement but may choose to consider it.
- **Sales – Mission Enterprise Fund** The changes provide information on how the various scenarios that apply to transfers to the Mission Enterprise Fund work: who needs to provide express approval and who must make a transfer.
- **Use of Capital** The changes sharpen the treatment of the use of property capital for other than the purchase of land and buildings or the erection of a new building.
- **GST on sales and purchases** The changes cover the new requirement for congregations and presbyteries to use their GST number on sale and purchase agreements (rather than the Trustees' GST number).
- **Gifting (outside the PCANZ)** The revisions highlight the challenges in trust law associated with gifting to other than the Presbyterian Church.
- **Insurance** The changes detail the options congregations now have when it comes to insuring their buildings.

### 2. The Year Ahead

PWG expects there will be further sales of surplus property in 2024/25. Major projects are being planned by PIPC in Newtown and Church of Christ the King in Porirua. Both projects face major funding challenges and it is expected both parishes will be looking for some form of financial support from Presbytery and CPT.

The sale process for Knox Feilding's church and manse is commencing.

It is likely the government will relax restrictions on buildings with heritage status which may provide more options for parishes with such buildings.

Despite ongoing property sales there is still scope to further rationalise property assets within Presbytery Central. This Fit for Purpose process should be driven by individual parishes with support and oversight from Presbytery as required.

### **3. Issues**

The PIC Porirua new hall project has highlighted the benefits and value a professional project manager can bring to the early stages of the project – developing a brief, engaging consultants, managing the design, budget and approvals process.

It is expected that the current insurance round will not result in large premium increases, providing some relief for most parishes.

As convenor I remain very grateful for the contributions and support given by PWG members, Robin Dunlop and Murray Arnold as well as CARG members Ric Slessor and John Grant.

**Simon Shaw**

Convenor, Property Work Group

Presbytery Central

30 July 2025



## Grants Work Group

### Activities

#### The 2024/2025 Year

This report follows the report for the year ended June 2024.

The year has been very quiet; with no grant applications being received. There has been only one request for application documentation which has not been followed up by the requestee. A further approach to the work group has been referred to the Executive Secretary for advice as it was focussed on property issues rather than direct missional activity.

The request from Council to develop an MOU with Khandallah for a Council initiated grant of \$20,000 for the parish is still “on the books” and awaits the return of the Rhyan Prasad from the USA before going any further.

There has been one change in work group membership. Carolyn and Paul Sparks relocated to inland Taranaki during the year. There was no Presbyterian church in their vicinity, so they have opted to join an Anglican fellowship. In those circumstances Carolyn questioned the validity of her continued membership of the work group, and it was agreed that a replacement for her would be the best solution. We thank Carolyn for her valuable contribution to the work of the group and welcome Rev Les Solomona as her replacement.

### Matters Pending

Description	Status
Finalisation of the MOU with Khandallah parish.	Current



Neil Gyde  
 Presbytery Central  
 Convenor- Grants Work Group  
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## Finance Work Group

The Finance Work Group continues to meet bi-monthly. Membership of the group consists of three members plus the Treasurer as well as the Executive Secretary, with a rotating convenorship. The Finance Work Group is currently looking for a fourth person to join the team.

The main role of the group is the stewardship of Presbytery's finances, which continue to be in sound state. During the past year the group has reviewed policies relating to Expense Guidelines, Financial Sustainability, Travel Reimbursement, Conflict of Interest and Gifting. The Finance Work Group is currently working through an Investment policy for investing funds outside of the current PIF scheme.

In addition to the above, the Workgroup is also responsible for the preparation and audit of the annual financial statements. The audited accounts to June 2024 were approved, adopted and completed on time and the June 2025 audit is currently underway.

The other major undertaking by the Workgroup is the preparation of the annual budget. For the upcoming year to 30 June 2026 a deficit of \$ 226,801 is projected, based on activities from the past year adjusted for requests received from all workgroups.

Details of the budget are set out below.

Bill Armour  
**Convenor**  
**Finance Workgroup.**  
**July 2025**

## Budget 2025-2026

The budget was approved by electronic vote in June 2025

Budget requests have been received from Central, Youth, Mission, Leadership, Property and United Parishes Workgroups. Expenditure for Regional Moderators have been assumed to be similar to 2024-25 actual payments. There is currently no Children & Families Work Group.

The budget assumes that Presbytery will cover the salaries and associated expenses of 6 employees (3 full time staff, 3 part time staff). Full time employees are for Central, Mission and Youth Workgroups. Part time employees are for Central, Youth and Mission Workgroups.

The budget makes no provision for any new grants. Presbyterian parish levy amounts have been calculated at 1.35% of the net parish income (last year 1.35%). Co-operating Venture Levy amounts have been calculated at 1.32% of the net parish income (last year 1.32%). The major expenses are \$396,000 for wages and salaries, \$208,745 for existing grants and \$46,440 for travel.

Overall, the budget shows an operating deficit of \$226,801 or the 2025-26 year (last year \$345,608). The main difference between the previous and current budgets, being that we have had some properties sold which will increase the income from Investment funds.

Account	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
<b>Trading Income</b>			
Gathering Fees	0.00	5,576.97	
Grants Received	0.00	10,000.00	
Investment Income	106,560.00	277,046.46	\$385,000.00
Parish Levies	150,500.00	128,589.77	\$153,174.00
Property Income - Venue Hire	0.00	801.74	
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>257,060.00</b>	<b>456,313.65</b>	<b>538,174.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>257,060.00</b>	<b>456,313.65</b>	<b>538,174.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
ACC Levy	1,300.00	1,135.98	\$800.00
Accounting Fees	400.00	44.44	\$800.00
Administration Costs	850.00	0.00	\$3,500.00
Audit Fees	3,350.00	571.74	-
Bank Fees	50.00	33.06	\$10,384.00
Beneficiary Fund Contributions	9,800.00	9,785.28	\$100.00
Catering/Accommodation	6,100.00	0.00	-
Chaplaincy			-
Computer Expenses	2,000.00	0.00	\$15,000.00
Contracts for Services	25,550.00	0.00	\$200.00
Entertainment and Hospitality			-
Electricity and Gas	0.00	1,138.33	\$6,000.00
Event Expenses	10,200.00	41,161.94	\$8,200.00
General Assembly	0.00	990.68	\$8,000.00
Gifts	1,500.00	933.80	\$500.00
Insurance	7,600.00	16,147.59	\$3,100.00
Kiwisaver Employer Contributions	4,350.00	4,586.13	\$5,674.00
Legal Expenses			\$1,000.00
Mission Enterprise Fund Grants	157,150.00	213,971.95	\$208,745.00
Postage	300.00	734.20	\$200.00
Printing and Photocopying	0.00	86.57	-
Property Sundry Expenses	1,150.00	32,562.61	\$3,000.00
Rates	700.00	3,042.74	\$300.00
Rent	19,950.00	16,836.51	\$17,700.00
Repairs and Maintenance	2,400.00	2,811.99	-
Salaries and Wages	338,400.00	375,086.54	\$396,000.00
Software	2,000.00	1,843.82	\$1,500.00
Staff Amenities and Entertainment	500.00	77.09	\$500.00
Staff Training	2,500.00	800.66	\$6,699.00
Stationery	1,200.00	275.70	\$700.00
Sundry Expenses	12,700.00	6,099.29	\$12,243.00
Supervision	3,600.00	1,434.34	\$3,560.00
Telecommunications	4,100.00	3,213.14	\$4,130.00
Travel	49,400.00	24,248.61	\$46,440.00
Water	0.00	63.00	-
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>669,100.00</b>	<b>810,666.55</b>	<b>\$764,975.00</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(412,040.00)</b>	<b>(354,352.90)</b>	<b>(226,801.00)</b>

## **Background Information on Porirua PIPC Christ the King Building Project**

### **For Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu AGM August 9<sup>th</sup> 2025**

#### **History:**

The Porirua PIPC Christ the King church was built in the 1960's. and was upgraded 10 years ago, with fund raising undertaken by the church, including loans, which were all paid off. Their manse was also renovated in recent years. They have a track record in this area.

The current hall, known as PIC House, was built in the 1970's. It no longer meets their current needs or their anticipated future needs. It is noted in supporting documentation that it is unlikely to meet the current PCANZ Earthquake Prone Building Requirements.

This is not a renovation, it is a new build.

#### **Mission:**

The site has been, and remains, a vital hub for the church community and the wider local community. The church is well known in the area, not just within church circles, but to local leaders on council and the wider community for their work and mission. It serves as a welcoming space for the wider Pacific Island and Porirua community. The area is growing in population, and it was reported by the Executive Secretary that the 11am service not only has people from the various cultural groups within the Pacific Community, but also has people attending from non-Pacific Island cultures. There is huge potential and huge need in Porirua as a whole. The church congregation is growing. The parish is wanting to continue serving the people in the area, and already does it very differently to how other churches undertake this.

The design of the proposed building recognises the three cultures that founded PIPC Christ the King. There is support across the parish community for this project. They are united.

#### **Financial Support in Partnership:**

Christ the King have applied to PressGO for funding support for this missional project. PressGO have an expectation that such a project will be a partnership and be clearly supported by a presbytery. As a presbytery we have rarely called on the Mission Enterprise Fund which was created from 10% of property sales.

The presbytery work groups (property, mission and finance) and Church Property Trustees have supported the project in principle, subject to adequate financing. The Presbytery and Trustees will continue to monitor the project as it develops. The overall project will be around five million dollars – so any support is greatly appreciated.

#### **A Win-Win**

The congregation is growing. It is a better investment, people-wise, than leaving the money in the bank accruing whatever interest we get. This is a project that would serve the Gospel of Christ. In a climate and country like ours, our faith communities need safe, watertight, warm,

earthquake-code compliant buildings to gather in. Presbytery as a whole is seen as being in partnership with the parish in a tangible way. It also meets one of our strategic commitments under the Strategic Plan, that of **Intentionality**, actively engaging with faith communities such as Christ the King. It is one of those relationship building strands we have talked about. Not just with this faith community, but with the wider community they are grounded in.

It is hoped that there will also be ways that our wider community of Presbyterian congregations can support this project of Christ the King and build a meeting place for cultural and spiritual mission. It would be strategic to Presbytery Central to partner with the parish in this project. It actually becomes a win-win and we all as Presbytery benefit from this.

#### **Additional comments.**

In the process of our discussion it was realised there is no specific process for dealing with requests such as this. How do we support new build projects that are missional for churches and their surrounding communities? The implementation of our Strategic Plan is being worked through by a small group within council. Working through this request indicates that discussion on the above question will need to be part of that wider work, so that such matters are in alignment with our Strategic Plan. This lack of forethought and planning needs to be rectified in alignment with our Strategic Plan.

#### **Motion to be presented at AGM**

That Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu make a grant of \$300,000.00 from our PIF as our commitment to, and support of, this project.



## Presbytery Central Strategic Plan 2024-2026

### Vision

A flourishing, collaborative network of faith communities serving God, by focusing on prayer, mission, and spiritual growth.

### Purpose

To resource faith communities across Presbytery Central to grow and develop their members into active, engaged disciples of Christ.

We are called by God to work with others in making Jesus Christ known through the Five Faces of Mission:

- Teaching and nurturing people in Christian faith
- Loving service responding to human need
- Proclaiming the gospel
- Seeking to transform society
- Caring for God's creation

### Strategic Commitments

- **Discipling:** discipling all people, building intergenerational links to grow young people to become active disciples.
- **Cooperation:** Encouraging and enabling cooperation among faith communities.
- **Strengthening:** Fanning the flames of participation, equipping people for mission and ministry.
- **Sustainability:** Discerning where to focus energy, leadership and resources.
- **Intentionality:** Actively engaging with Te Aka Puahou and tangata whenua; Tautai PIC and Asian faith communities.

## Forward Steps

- **Relationship Strengthening:** Facilitating regular gatherings and shared experiences among faith communities, deepening their sense of community and unity.
- **Cooperation:** Fostering a culture of cooperation among faith communities.
- **Resource Sharing:** Supporting faith communities through sharing stories, ideas, and resources, fostering development, and serving one another beyond familiar boundaries. Equipping Ministry Settlement Board members.
- **Specialist Support:** Providing resources, facilitated planning and training to help faith communities to understand and fulfil God's mission.

## Equipping and Resourcing Leaders for the Future

- **Gathering:** Providing opportunities for growth, prayer and learning as God's people, as we work together to build a new future.
- **Development:** Developing tailored leadership programmes for our faith communities to nurture effective leaders and facilitate meaningful contributions.
- **Facilities:** Reviewing and creatively adapting current spaces to better support spiritual growth and wellbeing, especially when they are not suitable for their intended purpose.

## Areas for Further Exploration

- **Sustainability:** Developing strategies to work with faith communities without ministers, and make decisions that resource faith communities across the Presbytery.
- **Developing Principles and Policies:** Using shared discernment to facilitate and activate the priorities of the Presbytery.
- **Practical Application:** Regional groups and workgroups to identify practical steps to put this Strategic Plan into action.