



# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

[www.alpinepresbytery.org](http://www.alpinepresbytery.org)

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## Newsletter 4th June 2020

### Queen's Birthday honours

On Queen's Birthday weekend, 178 New Zealanders were honoured. If you are aware of members of our church communities that received awards, it is our practice for the PCANZ Moderator to write to these folk.

Therefore, please pass on names, full contact details and information about any recipient to our Moderator, Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio ([f.r.kaio@xtra.co.nz](mailto:f.r.kaio@xtra.co.nz)) who will be happy to be in contact with them.

### Garage Series

This week we visit Wellington and Timaru. Both a bit longer than usual with more people, and some great questions

Episode #9: Wayne and Gordon from Wellington: [https://youtu.be/9\\_mqeuscx18](https://youtu.be/9_mqeuscx18)

Episode #10: Helen, Brent and Rory from Timaru (sorry about the video quality, but the audio is loud and clear): <https://youtu.be/ujz6axh1IHY>

See previous episodes on the Alpine Presbytery YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN1zIOMYMjvI78CclqMRcVQ>

### Information from the National Church

#### **Covid-19:**

A reminder that at alert level 2 all our churches are expected to fully comply with official directives. Check our website for the latest information and advice including the [29 May update](#), which answers commonly asked questions about what the changes to gathering size and recognition of faith-based activities in the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level 2) Order 2020 mean for parishes.

The PCANZ website has a page dedicated to resources to support leaders during this time – have a look at the [lockdown ministry resources](#). Each week our Moderator gives a devotion, which is available every Sunday at 9am, on his [Moderator Facebook page](#). It is also available on the [Church's video channel](#), and via the [Church's Facebook page](#).

#### **Staff news:**

With the appointment of Matthew Hague as the Church's compliance Officer, our long-serving complaints officer, Heather McKenzie, has announced her retirement. Council of Assembly paid tribute to her faithful and dedicated service in this role since 2006. Council appointed Matthew as our replacement complaints officer. In addition, Heather has also retired as Book of Order advisory. Matthew will also pick up this role. [Find contact details for all members of the Assembly service team on our website](#)

#### **Update your office bearer contacts:**

PCANZ use electronic communication to share information, update on important

### Resources

We have set up a Covid-19 page on our website to give you ongoing access to the various resources available to use at this time. It will include lists of resources advised in previous Newsletters. Go to:

[alpinepresbytery.org/covid-19/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/covid-19/)

A central place for resources is being coordinated here (scroll to bottom of the page)

[www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information).

### Newsletter Items

Please share this Newsletter around your Parish, especially with members of Session/Parish Council and all office bearers.

Details of events, or requests to be added to the distribution list, should be emailed to [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

Cut off date for next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 11th June**.



matters and pass on other news. Our office's ability to do this is dependent on church councils advising updates to key contact people, changes in email etc. Please pass on any changes to [grace@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:grace@presbyterian.org.nz) so that we can ensure we are communicating with the appropriate office bearers.

## Presbyterian Church Property Trustees - Covid-19 Use of Capital

Earlier this month CPT advised of special provisions to allow parishes to apply to use Property Capital to support their operations during the Covid-19 pandemic. The provisions were designed to replace income for a three-month period, and applications need to be received by 30 June 2020.

The Trustees met yesterday to review the position and agreed that **the special provisions would cease as at 30 June 2020**. In doing so, the Trustees noted the lifting of restrictions and the ability for many congregations to get back to normal – and the expectation that this trend will continue.

If the situation changes, e.g. we get a 'second wave' and lockdown restrictions are re-imposed, the Trustees will meet again to consider their position.

Parishes are reminded of these special Covid-19 use of capital provisions, and of the cut-off date for application. The relevant letter and application from from CPT can be found here:

[Special Access to Capital Funds](#)

[Application to use Capital Funds for Covid-19 income replacement](#)

## Singers Needed: The Blessing | Aotearoa /New Zealand

Spurred on by the numerous "virtual choir" videos that have collected millions of views on YouTube from many nations and places around the world, it's time for the Churches of Aotearoa/New Zealand to add our voice to the global choir singing God's blessing during over all people.

Will you join the choir? Know some other vocalists who should?

The Blessing | Aotearoa/New Zealand project, hosted by Grant Norsworthy, is now accepting vocal/video submissions with a **Monday 8th June deadline**.

The central "hub" to get info about the initiative is through this Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1286239198248790/> (You don't need to have a Facebook account to access the info and links contained in the Event listing.) Everything any vocalist will need can be accessed from there.

The Blessing | Aotearoa/New Zealand song video initiative is:

- nation-wide
- professionally produced
- with respectful integration of the te Reo Māori language
- representing the rich diversity of Kiwi culture
- with a production team dedicated to a high quality end result.

There are high hopes for this project, with great creative input and labour coming from many well-known sources, and they are counting on people to help generate great vocal/video submissions that will be compiled into an important statement of unity-through-diversity from the Church of Aotearoa during the global troubles brought on by Covid-19.

## New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library

Here are the contents pages from the most recent issues of:

[Sojourners, Vol 49 No 6, June 20](#)

[Word & Worship, Winter 2020](#)

Email [hewitson@prcknox.org.nz](mailto:hewitson@prcknox.org.nz) if you would like copies of any of the articles scanned and sent to you.

## Update from Presbytery Council Meeting –Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (held online via Zoom)

**Devotions:** *Energy & Diversity...*

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians we read about the *Body* which is one but has different members. It is a Spirit-led community. An old African proverb puts it well: *"I am because we are."* There is no life without

community and no community without the active participation of all. However our Western society has promoted individualism.

Currently in the COVID crisis the whole world has re-focused on the call to sacrifice for the good of the whole. Some have coped with this better than others. People's reactions are varied.

Now, including in church world, we are caught up with the idea of *going back*. What will we find as we return? We note that some are reluctant to return to life as it was. Will we return to find that things are different? Will there be confidence to return? Will, in our churches, worship be a *safe place*? What will things look like? Will there be familiarity or do we need to debrief our experiences as we re-start? How will people talk to each other if we maintain physical-distancing? What are some routines that we don't want to lose?

A question: *what's the point of gathering*? Is it still OK to do some of the things we have done before? We will no doubt appreciate familiarity and yet at the same time we are now different and we are going somewhere new. As we re-gather is there room for lament and for celebration?

Anne constituted our meeting in prayer.

### **COVID-19 response**

- Update of current situation - related to the potentially revised Govt guidelines under Level 2;
- There has been helpful general feedback from churches/ministries regarding their reflections on COVID lockdown;
- We have received more than half of the expected Covid Health & Safety plans;
- Anne, Christine and Barry reported back on general well-being of our Ministers. We will continue to monitor this;
- Barry updated the Risk Management report for May. At this stage we are monitoring any financial concerns that churches may have;
- Council noted that it may need to talk to the Alpine Presbytery Mission Fund concerning any strategic thinking around resourcing churches ministries in the time ahead;
- Barry updated Council on the decision from PCANZ to extend the national Moderator's term through to the 2021 General Assembly.

### **Business Section of our meeting:**

Decisions made:

1. Apologies from our meeting – Jon Parkes, Maureen Bishop, Phyllis Harris
2. Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 Presbytery Council meeting be approved
3. The approval of the agenda along with any late items.
4. Correspondence report, plus any late correspondence
5. The Moderator's report
6. The Executive Officer's report
7. HR Committee report:
  - i) That the Report be received
  - ii) That council approve HR recommendation to ask Rev. Martin Stewart as incoming EO to initiate and facilitate a conversation with the Christchurch South Congregations of St. Martins, Hoon Hay and Cashmere about what the future could look like.
8. Property & Finance report
  - i) That the report be received
  - ii) That Presbytery approves the Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 30th April 2020
  - iii) (unboxed)
  - iv) That in due course the Kaikoura New Build project be reviewed with the parish prior to the construction contract being finalised, taking into account the results of the archaeological investigation and prospective tenant commitment

## **Council of Assembly Update**

### **Rev Charissa Nicol joined our meeting.**

Charissa noted that Council of Assembly was now meeting every second week by Zoom.

A number of decisions had been made around COVID-19 including:

- A waiver of General Assembly levies;
- Potential use of Capital Funds if needed;
- Delaying any increase to the Stipend;
- Dealing with Staff appointments;
- Reframing the General Assembly budget.

COA has received reports from the Chair of Knox & Salmond Halls where things appear to be OK.

There has been significant discussion around the situation of the Moderator and Moderator-Designate.

The General Assembly planned for 2020 was delayed for one year.

A new Chair-person for Press Go has been appointed: Rev Mose Taumaoe.

Rev Dr Darryl Tempero is Chair of the Leadership Sub-Committee.

Dr Rod Watts (EO of Northern Presbytery) has been appointed as the Northern Presbytery rep on COA.

The TELT report is a large issue which will require good feedback from the wider church.

### **Discussion:**

#### **• Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework**

Council received the updated document after further revision from Dugald & Martin. Some formatting work is required to complete the document.

It was agreed:

**That Presbytery Council adopt the 2020 Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework.**

It was noted that once completed the Resource Team assist with the roll-out to the wider Presbytery.

Council's desire is that the framework becomes a *living* and *useful* document.

The Framework will need to be finally approved by a Presbytery Gathering.

Once approved it will be helpful to incorporate the Framework into all recommendations of our decision-making bodies.

It was noted by Council that the Rev Dr Darryl Tempero is to be thanked for the huge amount of work he put into the original formulation of the document.

#### **• Theological Education & Leadership Training (TELT) report**

Presbytery has received this report and now the concern is to ensure that we receive adequate feedback from across the wider Presbytery.

We agreed to:

- Make the report available to the wider Presbytery (via the Newsletter);
- Invite feedback and involvement in Zoom discussions;
- Contact those who attended the TELT workshop at the September 2019 Gathering;
- Invite the Presbytery HR team to respond to the document;
- Include the document in a proposed September 2020 Presbytery Gathering.

#### **• Unboxed item:**

Further discussion was held around the potential inclusion of an additional Presbytery Gathering in the next financial year.

It was agreed:

**That the Alpine Council receive the amended 2020/21 draft budget and refer it to Presbytery for approval; noting that the Presbytery levy percentage remains at the same rate as for 2019/20.**

#### **• Other Business:**

- Plans for our next Presbytery Gathering to be further discussed at our June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- It was noted that Martin Stewart will begin his EO role on June 16<sup>th</sup> and overlap with Barry through until June 30<sup>th</sup> when Barry will retire. The changeover of Moderator will be from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

- There were no further matters.

Next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 9.30am** and will be a **face-to-face meeting** in **Christchurch** at a venue **to be confirmed**.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction at 12.30pm

A full copy of the Minutes of this meeting [can be accessed here](#).

### From last week

- **Presbyterian Church 2020 Statistics Forms**
- **Latest COVID-19 virus update from PCANZ**
- **The Garage Series**
- **The Vine Newsletter**
- **New free resources from Scripture Union**
- **More Musings & Thoughts from Lockdown**

### Presbytery Contact Details

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**Alpine Presbytery Moderator,**

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### Presbytery Directory

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To download the Presbytery Directory, [Click here](#)

Any amendments or corrections should be advised to Gail in the Presbytery Office.

### Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework

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[Click here](#) to download the Strategic Framework