

News from the Alpine Presbytery Gathering September 2020



The Presbytery Gathering was held at The Village Church, Bryndwr, with 70-odd (not seventy odd!) people coming along to talk, share, listen, and attend to a few things. Once again, there was a sense of ease in each other's company – a feeling of being whanau – enjoying one another and looking to make the most of being connected. We are very grateful for the people from The Village who worked in the background to make the space so hospitable and the food so lovely.

A number of things happened under the heading of 'business'...

- We received a video message from the PCANZ Moderator, Fakaofu Kaio
- We approved the Financial Performance Report
- We noted the comings and goings of many people in our life since we met in this way a year ago
- We traded in one Moderator and plugged in the new one (ok, that's a bit rough!), Anne Stewart finished her term and Barry Ayers began his. There were lovely things said about both of them
- We commissioned the new Executive Officer, Martin
- We listened as Ann McMillan informed us of some Property & Finance matters
- We commissioned Josh Olds in his role as leader of the Prestons New Mission Seedling
- We launched the Mission Fund 'Have A Go' project
- We launched the Andrew Norton scholarship for innovative and creative young people

On Friday night we had a great meal and took the opportunity to acknowledge Rev Barry Ayers' retirement. Barry has served the PCANZ in several parishes – Albany-Pleasant Point, Richmond Grove (Invercargill) and Pohutukawa Coast (Auckland), before serving six years as Executive Officer at Alpine. It was fun to have speeches on video, and in person, as we celebrated his ministry.



Some great moments...



Clockwise from left to right...

Anne & Barry pass 'the right hand of fellowship'; Josh & Susan Olds (with Willow); the big Mod, Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio; Ben Necklen talking about the Hanmer project he leads with his wife Philippa; and Anne receives some knitting from Phyll Harris (Anne's Moderator theme was 'the many strands that knit our life together')

Keynote speaker:
Pastor Donald Scott



Donald talked of Navigational Tools, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil and the Tree of Life, being in Christ, and the world within us often unexplored. You can watch his fantastic and thoughtful presentation on YouTube right here:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgxwJXpWfLFsMSGDiBnlxBWnWhnWM?projector=1>

Donald is also leading our October retreat at Hanmer Springs

'HAVE A GO' FUND

To inspire innovative thinking & experimentation in all our churches

\$1000 is available for each of our church communities for a new innovative or experimental project in 2020-2021

[see newsletters for details]

One of the most significant things we did was to approve our Culture and Strategic Framework document. This replaces our previous Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework and has come out of a long period of consultation and listening. A key aspect of it is our Culture Statement about the kind of people we want to be in our life together. It is our hope that people might engage with this and consider how this could be something that gives shape to their church teams. One person said, 'thanks, we now have a year's supply of themes for devotions at our Parish Council meetings!!'

Here's the whanau statement from it...

[the full material will be posted onto the Alpine Presbytery website very soon]

Together we... have meaningful connection (with God and each other) practice deep listening, discern the Holy Spirit's leading, nurture faith, have the freedom to try, have intentional love and acceptance, care for creation, have trust, offer hospitality, share, walk humbly with God