

## Alpine Presbytery Reflections for local ministry teams



As a Presbytery we have committed to being together, joining God in mission in our region. We adopted the “*Culture and Strategic Framework September 2020*” document which describes the kind of Presbytery we want to be, and the areas we want to focus on. These are a series of reflections for local teams (Elders, Councils, etc) that you may wish to use as devotions and reflections when you meet together. Where Scriptures are listed we invite you to reflect on them with prayer models such as Lectio Divina.

### 1. Our Family Banner.

This list describes the kind of community we seek to be as Presbytery. Think about your own local church community. Discuss together:

- a) Which characteristics from this list below resonate with us?
- b) What aspects of our life together we want to add to this list?
- c) What aspects in this list are very evident in our life together?
- d) What aspects would we like to grow in?

#### 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*
- *Offer hospitality*
- *Have trust*
- *Share*
- *Walk humbly with God*

### 2. Be ministries who enjoy healthy relationships and are connected, supported, and resourced within their local region and wider Presbytery

Reflection: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- a) What do we enjoy about our relationships with other churches in our Presbytery?
- b) What could be healthier about our relationships?
- c) What is one thing we can do to grow in those relationships?
- d) What areas could we benefit with some support and resourcing?

**3. Hold a posture of “with” not “at” each other, and use the word “we” not “they”**

Reflection: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

- a) Who is Presbytery to us?
- b) Do we have a sense of belonging in our Presbytery? What could help that sense of belonging grow? What is one thing we can do now to help that?

**4. Be signs of hope as ministries model the new future God is calling us into that encompasses all areas of injustice and well-being for all**

Reflection: Micah 6:8, Matthew 6:33, Revelation 21:3-5

- a. What are you hoping for in our future with God?
- b. What injustice do you sense God inviting you to respond to in your community?

**5. Nurture cohesive leadership teams who regularly ask questions and seek to bring clarity about their focus and vision for the future, about growing as disciples of Jesus, and about encouraging innovation and mission.**

Reflection: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Hebrews 10:24-25, Matthew 28:19-20

- a. What are the strengths of our team? What is an area we could grow in?
- b. How long ago did we complete our mission plan? How long ago did we refer to it? What is our next step for keeping this alive, or re-visiting it?
- c. What are things we can celebrate in our growth as disciples of Jesus? What is an area we can grow in as a disciple?
- d. When was the last time we tried something new? What is one thing we could experiment with?
- e. What is our next step in participating in Gods mission?

**6. Support the ongoing formation of leaders, and the identification and nurture of new forms of leadership**

Reflection: 1 Timothy 4:6-8

- a. How have we grown as leaders over the past year?
- b. What is one aspect of our leadership we would like to develop next (as individuals and as a team)?
- c. What opportunities do we have to appoint new leaders?

**7. Be ministries where every member is equipped as a follower of Christ in everyday life, engaging in spiritual practices and growing in relationship with God, and those communities seeing new people making decisions to follow Christ.**

Reflection: John 13:35, Acts 2:42-47, Gal 5:22-26, Hebrews 13:20-21

- a. What are we currently doing to help equip people in their discipleship? How is that going?
- b. What else could we consider doing together?
- c. We reflect on our journey seeing new people making decisions to follow Christ. Without condemnation, what might be some next steps we can take in this area?

**8. Be generous with the sharing of ideas and resources**

Reflection: Acts 2:42-47, Phil 4:18, 1 Tim 6:17

- a. What do we understand God's heart towards generosity and sharing?
- b. What do we have that others may benefit from (ideas, people's knowledge and expertise, resources, finance)
- c. Who in our presbytery are we aware of that we could come alongside and share our lives with? (bearing in mind technology allows us to build relationships with congregations near and far)

**9. Be creative in developing ways to ease the burden of governance and compliance, while safeguarding the people with and around us**

Reflection: Matt 18:20, Acts 6:1-4

- a. What aspects of our life together are a burden? Who might we collaborate with that might help with this?
- b. What strengths do we have in this area that we could share with others?
- c. What areas of our life together need attention, and currently pose a risk to ourselves, or to those whom we host?

**10. Be a multi-ethnic church with a bicultural commitment**

Reflection: Acts 2:42-47, 1 Cor 1:10

- a. What is our posture towards the Treaty of Waitangi? How could we grow in this?
- b. What are the demographics of our people? What does that tell us about our life together? How could we build relationships with people of other ethnicities in our neighborhood?

**11. Be people who care for the earth—the home we share with all the variety of life God has created**

Reflection: Gen 1:27-31, Romans 8:18-21

- a. What are our thoughts about caring for creation?
- b. What is one next step we can take to care for the environment as a church community?

**12. Be present in our local communities, deeply listening to, and learning from others, and being alongside humbly loving and serving**

Reflection: Matt 22:36-40, Gal 5:14,

- a. What do we know about our neighbours? Who do we love?
- b. What is our next step in growing in this area?

**13. Be ministries where innovation and experimentation is welcome and encouraged.**

Reflection: Mark 2:21-22, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- a. When was the last time we tried something different or new?
- b. What is one idea we have in our life together that is a new way of being that we genuinely do not know if it will work or not?