

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 6th March 2025

Gail is on leave next week, so no Newsletter

*Cut off for items for next Newsletter is **Thursday 20th March***

GA25 Moderator Designate process

The General Assembly will meet at St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church, Christchurch, starting on Monday 20 October 2025. As part of our time together, we will announce the Moderator Designate for the following Assembly. The process for us together to reach that point now begins.

All parishes should by now have received an email from Wayne Mattheson at the end of January detailing the process, but a copy of the memo can also be downloaded here:

drive.google.com/file/d/1di0SrYdfNlJc4ReNuprIbCd9odnnlUCV/view?usp=drive_link

In summary, Church Councils are asked to:

1. Identify possible nominees who have shown appropriate leadership skills.
 - Consider women and men, elders and ministers, and the multi-cultural diversity of the Church.
 - Your nominees can be from any part of the Church (not just from within your presbytery).
 - You can nominate up to four people.
 - You cannot nominate a former moderator.
2. Approach identified potential nominees for permission to put forward their names.
3. Decide on up to four nominees to send to Alpine Presbytery (executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org) by **5pm 4 April 2025**
You may send fewer than four names. Each name must be accompanied by:
 - a) A 150-word statement about the nominee's wider church experience, leadership skills and suitability for the role.
 - b) the nominee's signed permission for their name to be forwarded.

Opening of Pā Whakaoranga

The opening of Pā Whakaoranga the new/refurbished building within the ministry and mission in Aranui, Ōtautahi—Christchurch is on **Saturday 15th March, at 336 Breezes Road, Christchurch, starting at 1pm.** People from within the Presbytery are very welcome.

The name Pā Whakaoranga has recently been approved by Ngai Tahu. Zenn Rarere, one of the Iona mission leaders, shaped up the new name

Pā Whakaoranga:

Pā = means a village;

Whakaoranga = to heal, revival

Pā Whakaoranga is a place that has many programmes or activities that contribute to a person's/healing/restoration of their faith, or life, and well being.

Healing or revival through:

- Maara kai with Manawa (gardening)
- Whakairo with Raph (carving)
- Worship & prayer gatherings
- Out the Mudd with Zarn (working with young men finding their way into a different way of life)
- Fellowship with brothers through monthly bbqs
- Bible studies with Kev and Zenn
- Mentoring with rangatahi for whanau struggling with their teens

Pā whakaoranga to us means a 'place of healing and revival'

This is a great opportunity to see around the facilities and enjoy kai together!

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moderator@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone 027 352 7886

Executive Officer: Rev Martin Stewart

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Phone: 021 308 519

Kairuruku Whanake - Formation & Development Coordinator:

Abi Trevathan

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Phone: 027 339 6006

Youth & Young Adults Enabler:

Rev Sage Harris

youth@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 027 356 0740

Ministries Coordinator - Kaihautū

Whakatipu:

Rev Dan Spragg

minco@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 021 770 112

Treasurer: Keith Christie

treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org

Office Support: Gail Weaver

office@alpinepresbytery.org

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 sent to Gail Weaver.

The Alpine Newsletter is a weekly email update of activities in and around the Presbytery. It is intended to inform, connect, and encourage, and its content does not necessarily represent the views of Presbytery Council or staff, and the inclusion of articles, advertisements, and other content does not imply endorsement or agreement.

Resources

A selection of resources and links to resources to assist you with your work and outreach—including Online Worship Options— can be found on our website here: alpinepresbytery.org/resources/

Presbyterian Investment Fund - interest rate change

The interest rate paid on the PIF On Call Fund will fall from 4.5% p.a. to 4.0% p.a. from 1 March 2025. The PIF On Call rate tends to follow the Official Cash Rate, currently 3.75% p.a., with more cuts expected in 2025. A reminder to please provide advance notice (of at least 3 days) for major (>\$100,000) withdrawals.

The interest rate on the PIF Long-Term Fund remains at 3.0% pa plus inflation. The PIF is open to parishes, but not to individuals. Rates are subject to change.

PCANZ Ethics & Risk Management Workshops

The dates for all the half-day online Ethics and Risk Management Workshops for this year are now available. These Workshops are for ministers, elders and other church leaders who have critical roles in the governance, life and mission of the Church.

There is now a page on the PCANZ website that provides these dates, some background to the workshops, and information for those wishing to attend. This can be found here: www.presbyterian.org.nz/index.php/for-ministers/ethics-and-risk-management-workshops

I Love Taiwan Programme

This programme is hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and is open for applicants aged between 18-35. The dates this year are July 3-17 with an application deadline of May 21. Global Mission encourages members of the PCANZ to apply and offers a travel subsidy of \$500 towards expenses. The PCT covers all internal costs in Taiwan so participants only need to pay for their international airfares.

The PCANZ shares a warm relationship with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the programme is a great way for young adults from New Zealand to learn about life in Taiwan and share in the ministry of the church there.

The link to the information on the PCANZ website is at www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/global-mission-office/#ILT

Notes from Presbytery Council Zoom Meeting held 27 February

Present at the meeting were: Rev Phyll Harris (Moderator), Keith Christie, Rev Jonathan Barb, Rev Lyn Heine, Rev Brent Richardson, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga, and Rev Martin Stewart (Executive Officer).

Apologies were received from Rev Jason King and Ann McMillan.

Welcome & Devotions

Phyll welcomed everyone and shared a reading from Ecclesiastes 3 and reflected on the change of seasons. We flow in times and seasons. There are various micro-climates in our circle – some churches are in harvest season, others in autumn's decline, others are blossoming. The questions for each and for all of us are: 'what is this season?' and 'what is the work of this season for us?' Phyll led the meeting in prayer.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

Minutes

The email approval given to the Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on 27 November 2024 be ratified as well as the minutes of the following additional meetings:

- the Licensing of Rev Luke Blackbeard at St Stephen's Timaru.
- the Call to Rev Rory Grant to Clevedon Presbyterian Church including appreciation for Rory's years of service in Alpine Presbytery
- the Call to Rev Jess Dreadon as Site Pastor at Hope Rolleston

From the last Newsletter

- Children's Day message 2025 from PCANZ Moderator & the Director Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry
- "Woven" Presbyterian Children and Families Newsletter
- Safety Warrant of Fitness Online Training, 4th, 11th & 18th March
- Bush Telegraph
- Moderator's Lent Message

Coming Up

Opening of Pā Whakaoranga:
Saturday 15th March

Closing Service for St Kentigern's
Burwood Uniting Parish: 23 March

Building & Leading Healthy Teams
Workshop (Blenheim): 5 April

Presbytery Gathering: 9-10 May 2025

General Assembly: 13—16 October

Presbytery Directory:

All Parish Offices have been given a log-on to Infoodle, so please contact them initially if you need any contact details.

Due to our obligations under the Privacy Act, logon access is not openly available; anyone wanting this should send a request to Gail Weaver, Office Support, advising of their position in their Parish or the Presbytery.

Alpine Presbytery

Culture & Strategic Framework

To download this document, updated September 2020, go to: alpinepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/culture-and-strategic-framework-september-2020.pdf

- Property & Finance matters approving PressGo grant applications for Iona and Trinity Temuka projects as well as a grant of \$65,000 to the Trinity Church Temuka for their 'A Way Forward' project, from the South Canterbury Development Fund
- thanking and discharging the Mackenzie Cooperating MSB
- the Ordination & Induction of Rev Luke Blackbeard at The Village Church

Risk Management

As usual, a discussion was held in private on matters of risk.

Moderator's Report

Phyll reported on

- licensing Luke Blackbeard at St. Stephens in Timaru where Luke served his internship and the opportunity to thank Rory Grant for his service to us as a Presbytery and present him a small gift
- the induction of Craig Allen at Mackenzie Cooperating in Fairlie
- David Coster leading the induction and ordination of Luke Blackbeard to The Village Church in Phyll's absence
- a rewarding holiday in Japan and the decision that she will finish in parish ministry at Lincoln Union mid-year and wait for God to open that new thing up
- the staff Lunch at Pā Whakaoranga (Iona) and korero around what God has been up to in the neighbourhood. It was wonderful to meet with the team and get a peek at the amazing carving work that is going on in preparation for the official opening in March
- arranging for John Vargo to be the Presbytery rep at Mark Ambundo's commissioning as an intern at Cashmere on 23rd of Feb

The Executive Officer Report

Martin reported on several aspects of his work including two reports from Abi (Kairuruku Whanake), and Dan (Kaihautū Whakatipu)

- Alpine has been allocated 38 commissioners to GA this year (plus 3 Youth Reps), he will begin notifying Parish Councils of eligibility to send commissioners in early March
- the opening of Pā Whakaoranga the new/refurbished building within the ministry and mission in Aranui, Ōtautahi- Christchurch is on Saturday 15th March, 336 Breezes Road, Christchurch, starting at 1pm. People from within the Presbytery are very welcome.

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- providing the lists of ministers in good standing, and church privacy officers
- a trip to Auckland in March for the Presbytery EOs and AES gathering
- being part of the Iona Review with Kim Manahi (PSUSI Co-CEO) & Dan
- attending Alison Jones' funeral (mother of Christine Arnold)
- staff lunch at Pā Whakaoranga (Iona),
- 2-day staff planning (with Dan & Abi),
- Standing in for Phyll at the commissioning of Rev Jess Dreadon as Site Pastor at Hope Rolleston
- Ministries Coordinator annual review with Stephanie Bain & Dan
- Akaroa MSB work

Key Decision

- That the proposed Master of Faith Based Leadership and Management study programme and for the funding application for Dan Spragg be approved. [This will be part-time over 4 years, part study leave/part professional development and funded from outside sources as much as possible.]

Property & Finance

- the payment of accounts of \$264,738.76 for December 2024 to February 2025. This included Iona Building work costs and project costs for the Methven building
- a generous donation from the Mayfield Trust for the Three Peaks Mission. The Trust is being wound up – it has operated since the 1970's and involved local farmers supporting the local church and community through raising cattle
- updated employment agreements for Kevin Hapi and Zenn Rarere (Pā Whakaoranga)
- sale of the former Pleasant Point parish buildings
- sale of the Staveley Church property
- receipt of completion certificates for the John Knox development at Rangiora

Key decisions

- new fixed term employment agreement for Cayla Chandler, as the 'Movin' 2 Music Leader' within the Prestons NMS
- approval of the independent contractor agreement, on behalf of Forge Aotearoa, for Jess Suisted to be engaged for 6 months as Communication Manager

Human Resources

Lyn Heine shared key aspects of her report.

Key decisions:

- confirming Catherine McKellar as Presbytery representative on the MSB for St Marks, Christchurch
- accepting Martin Stewart and Brent Richardson as interim Candidate Convenors
- approval of Henry Mbambo's study leave application

Order of the Day: Mission Enterprise Fund Review

Revs Erin Pendreigh and Tony Woods were associated with the meeting and led a discussion and invited responses from Council members. The review group reports to the Council of Assembly.

Correspondence

A discussion was held on a letter from Rev Dr Michael Reid about the content of Alpine Newsletters and the appropriateness of a certain advertisement of an event being held in an Anglican Church.

It was agreed that a disclaimer be added to edition of the Alpine Newsletter that clarifies that the Alpine Newsletter is a weekly email update of activities in and around the Presbytery to inform, connect, and encourage, and its content does not necessarily represent the views of Presbytery Council or staff or imply endorsement or agreement.

General Business

a) Presbytery Council membership

Discussion was held on filling vacancies on Presbytery Council and seeking nominations of suitable people to serve on other teams.

Current Members: Rev Jonathan Barb, Keith Christie, Rev Lyn Heine, Rev Jason King, Ann McMillan, Rev Brent Richardson, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga,

Rev Rory Grant has departed. Rory was on Council by virtue of being Resourcing Convener.

Jason has indicated he will step down. Phyll Harris is finishing as Moderator.

Jon Parkes stood down last year. There is also an absence of young adults in key decision-making processes.

This will be revisited in March when nominations will be sought through April ahead of election at the May Gathering.

b) Pā Whakaoranga Evaluation Report

Dan Spragg led the evaluation team with Martin Stewart and Kim Manahi from Presbyterian Support.

It was pleasing to note the relatively rapid emergence of Pā Whakaoranga out of the Iona new mission seedling begun with Doug McConnell just over 3 years ago. The re-opening of the former Iona Church building on Saturday 15th March is going to be a special day in the ongoing story of this Presbytery-led mission. The work of the support team and key staff is to be acknowledged.

c) Nominating Committee of General Assembly

It was agreed that Lyn Heine's name be forwarded as an Alpine Presbytery representative on the Nominating Committee.

The next meeting of Council is on **Thursday 27th March**.