



AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNITING CONGREGATIONS OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

ANGLICAN ▷ CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ▷ CONGREGATIONAL UNION ▷ METHODIST ▷ PRESBYTERIAN ▷

December 2011

From the UCANZ Office:

The sun is starting to stream into the UCANZ office and there are no complaints! Peter MacKenzie (Executive Officer) attended some of the Methodist Conference in Auckland and shared in the annual meeting of Christian World Service in Christchurch. Robyn Daniels (Administration Assistant) has been working through the regular tasks at the end of the year and is beginning to update the directory.

Standing Committee:

The committee met 23-24 November in Johnsonville. Co-chairs Marilyn Welch and David Dittmer provided good facilitation of the wide-ranging discussions.

- The final form of the Procedures for Cooperative Ventures was agreed and is now being sent to the Partner Church courts for decision at their 2012 meetings. We encourage CV representatives to speak up at those meetings to support the efforts of UCANZ.
- Goals for the next two years were discussed and set.
- Task groups were set up to further look at Guidelines for Coordinating Partners, Communication, Orientation of ministers and church leaders, new models of cooperation, and consideration of national and regional levies.

Partnership

Cooperative Ventures are based on a partnership model and our churches have entered into these with a certain amount of risk and courage. It is essential that local churches respect the nature of the partnership provide space for the Partner Churches to participate in the life and decisions of the local church. This certainly includes being involved in any discussions about property, ministry, mission and possible dissolution. There may be a variety of reasons for dissolving a CV, but no reason for not allowing the partners to seek alternative solutions.

WEBSITE: www.UCANZ.org.nz

Office Closed

The UCANZ office in Wellington will be closed from 21 December until 9 January. Peter will continue to check emails over the period, so if there is something urgent please send an email to peter@ucnaz.org.nz rather than ring the office.

Rural Ministry

The 8th TransTasman Rural Conference is being held in northern Queensland, Australia, 2-6 July 2012. Information is available from Robyn McPhail (robyn@chirmac.co.nz).

Christian World Service

The CWS Christmas Appeal is under way. This is an expression of our ecumenical journey, as CWS is supported by all our partner churches. Please encourage your church to be involved – and give consideration to their special appeals for emergency relief.

Next Year

If local churches or regions would like Peter MacKenzie to visit next year, please make contact (peter@ucanz.org.nz) to discuss possible workshops/activities that could happen. There will be a special emphasis in 2012 to meet with the regional courts of the Partner Churches to talk about the new Procedures.

Greetings

May the blessings of Christmas be with you all. Peter and Robyn would like to express our thanks for the support offered to us this year in the office – it is a delight to work for UCANZ and to share in the faith journey of people and local churches. There is much to give thanks for at the conclusion of this year – but also a lot to be thinking of for 2012. Please contact us in the office if we can be of any assistance – we love to hear from you.

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IRCA-OCEANIA
Trans-Tasman 2012
2 – 6 July



Theme: Resilience
“Building robust communities”

Herberton, Atherton Tablelands (West of Cairns), Far North Queensland, Australia is the venue for the 8th quadrennial Trans-Tasman Rural Conference.

The Conference begins with the evening meal on Monday 2 July and ends at 3pm on Friday 6 July. The proposed programme sets aside Tuesday for sharing stories and input from a keynote speaker, local mayors, and emergency services. The theme recognises that many rural regions in both countries have experienced extreme natural events. The Trans-Tasman gathering is an opportunity to share wisdom gained, continuing concerns, solidarity and prayer.

Field Trips on Wednesday and Thursday travel to Mareeba and Southern Tablelands, with half going to each place, each day. Wednesday evening is free time. A keynote speaker on Thursday evening, and our own reflections on Friday, will help gather insights and action plans for use at home.

A cost of NZD500-550 is projected for the conference – accommodation, two coach trips, four dinners and breakfasts, all linen, setting up and cleaning etc. The organisers are planning for volunteers to transport people up from Cairns.

Go to irca.net.nz and click on the Trans-Tasman link under “Latest IRCA news”. Options for registration will be available there soon.

Any thinking of attending, please get in touch with Robyn McPhail robyn@chirmac.co.nz, for more details and to share travel ideas.