



AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNITING CONGREGATIONS OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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

## November 2016

**Standing Committee** (local church and Partner Church reps) met at Miramar Uniting Church over two days, with the EO's Commissioning Service a well-attended event on the intervening evening, 3 November. Thank you Rev Robert Robari-Mani for presiding and Rev Kathryn Walters for preaching. The work of Uniting Parishes Oversight Group (UPOG) in the Lower North Island was reported and it was accepted that this group be recognized as the regional ecumenical forum. The congregations involved are meeting on Saturday 26 November in Palmerston North to pursue this.

LEPs come in different shapes and sizes. Some are short-term "projects". Others should be recognized as "Local Ecumenical Partnerships", encouraged to endorse the UCANZ Vision Statement (Procedures 1.1.1) and have regular reviews.

**Standing Committee dates** for 2017 are Thursdays 9 March and 8 June, both at Wellington Airport. Our biennial Forum is booked in for 26-29 October 2017 at Onehunga Co-operating Parish in Auckland. The theme, **One More at the Table** will explore the reconciliation of diversities which is at the very heart of what it means to be a uniting congregation.

### **Partner Support Fund (PSF) Review**

A good start was made with a meeting last August of financial people from Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. With their agreement to cooperate in principle, Standing Committee has authorized that a crack team be assembled to analyse the whole issue and propose a fairer and more transparent basis to the Standing Committee and thence to the Partners.

### **Hospital Chaplaincy AGM**

We hope you are in touch with the work of your local Hospital Chaplaincy; they will value your support, both personal and financial. If you are in the Wellington Area there is an AGM at the Porirua Hospital Chapel at 2pm on Thursday 1 December which will include details of a new initiative: an Internship offering specialised training for chaplaincy in the mental health arena.

### **From the UCANZ Office**

This office is still standing after the earthquakes, although it remains propped up with scaffolding along the frontage since 2013.

We do feel for those whose lives have been disrupted since mid-November. It is a reminder that our people are infinitely more important than our property.

The only disruption to UCANZ has been to our postal deliveries. The PO Box mail is still being held up at the time of writing, Marion Square PO being unsafe. We are awaiting directions as to how and when we may recover our/your post.

### **School of Ecumenism in Christchurch:**

#### ***Towards a Common Vision***

This highly recommended course surveys the history of ecumenical conversations and asks whether the issues that divide us constitute reasons for remaining separate.

Guest presenters include Rev Prof Emeritus Robert Gribben, who spoke at the Methodist Conference on episcopacy, and Cardinal John Drew, Vice President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference.

The dates are Monday 20 to Friday 24 February. Cost \$175, but you will need to arrange your own accommodation. More information is available from Terry Wall at [mm-e@methodist.org.nz](mailto:mm-e@methodist.org.nz). Please note that applications close on 30 November 2016.

### **Office Closed**

The UCANZ office in Wellington will be closed from Friday 23 December until Tuesday 10 January. Adrian will check emails over the period, so if there is something urgent please send an email to [adrian@ucanz.org.nz](mailto:adrian@ucanz.org.nz) or ring 027 55 99 042 rather than the office.

### **Greetings**

Adrian and Robyn would like to thank personnel committee members Clare and John for their ongoing contact and support. We are also grateful to the Finance Committee of UCANZ (all willing volunteers) for their unseen work and welcome advice that keeps the UCANZ operation running smoothly.

Adrian looks forward to the first Christmas break since 1992 without a half dozen church services to take – but he is more than happy to entertain invitations to preach at CVs throughout 2017.

**Adrian Skelton and Robyn Daniels**

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