

UCANZ Biennial Forum took place at Onehunga Co-operating Parish at the end of October. Over 70 people from around 40 churches attended and enjoyed a lively range of presentations, each addressing in complementary fashion the theme of the gathering, **ONE MORE AT THE TABLE**.

As well as good food, good company and good educational experiences, there were two business sessions which introduced and gained approval for a revised financial assessment model for CVs. Option C involves reinvigorating the role of Coordinating Partner and (in two years' time) attaching financial responsibility to that Partner. Simple in outline, some of the detail of Option C is explored in a separate briefing paper available to each local church.



Prince Devanandan, Paul Trebilco, Jocelyn Armstrong, Mary Caygill, Viv Whimster, Panel facilitator Jenny Chalmers

New Standing Committee

It is good to have new and willing committee members and pleasing to have several additions from the South Island. Standing Committee now comprises: Co-chairs Stuart Sinclair (Hillcrest, Hamilton) and David Hall (Buckland's Beach), Geraldine Coats (St Anselm's, Karori), Andrew Howley (Alexandra-Clyde-Lauder), Fakaofu Kaio (Onehunga), Heather Kennedy (Ellesmere), Alan Robinson (Kaeo-Kerikeri), Morven Sidal (St David's Timaru), Kathryn Walters (Christchurch), and Hugh Williams (Johnsonville); together with Partner representatives Jenny Chalmers and John McCaul (Anglican), Tale Hakeagaiki (Congregational Union), Paul Burton (Christian Churches), Trevor Hoggard and Ron Malpass (Methodist), Clare Lind and Jim Veitch (Presbyterian).



Jocelyn Armstrong and Jekheli Kibami with new UCANZ co-chair David Hall

2018 dates for Standing Committee

12 noon **21 March** – 12 noon **22 March** (overnight)
 12 noon - 5pm **5 July** followed with lunch and dinner
 12 noon - 5pm **1 November**

If you have matters to raise, speak with a Committee member (local churches or Partner representative).

Future foci

We believe the resourcing potential of the UCANZ Forum could be more widely shared. In particular, there is the possibility of doing more with and Lay Preachers, who are the backbone of many of our churches.

Another issue raised at Forum was that of buildings: for some, the building is a millstone rather than a mission tool. We need to explore with Property Trustees how we might approach building tenure more creatively.

Communicate your changes

We are publishing UCANZ statistics for 2017 to give you a snapshot of who we are as a group of churches. Normally we wait until January before asking for changes to the Directory that is published in March, but we are sending the form this month in case the reported statistics remind you that information is missing. Robyn is pleased to be informed about changes in ministry, church council secretary, or financial contact as and when they happen.

Holiday closure

In common with many organisations, our office will be closed from *Friday 22 December 2017* to *Monday 8 January 2018*. We all need a break – although, for ministers, the holiday comes after the Holy day!

Meri Kirihimete

me ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa

Adrian Skelton and Robyn Daniels