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Christchurch shooting and aftermath

We are shocked and saddened by last Friday’s shootings. Yet the outpouring of compassion for the two mosque communities has been wonderful to see. Churches that already have a relationship with a local mosque will respond well. When we engage with immigrant and faith groups we make good the words of the PM that “We are one. They are us”. It is also important that our union churches rehearse how we would respond to security events in our midst.

Standing Committee met at Miramar on 14 March 2019. Dave Moskovitz, Jewish rep on the Wellington Abrahamic Council (Jews-Christians-Muslims) was our speaker, which seems in retrospect to have been timely.

Methodist Partner representative Ian Harris and Presbyterian Church representative Stephanie Wells attended for the first time.

Increasing mutual understanding in all areas is the core UCANZ aim, but the technicalities of **liability insurance** for union parishes are truly complex. It was resolved to approach Anglican, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches *nationally* for determination of what cover is appropriate.

We were advised that **CUNZ** is wanting to withdraw from UCANZ and a remit to that effect will be put to the CUNZ Assembly in September. It was resolved that we ask the *national* Partners to discuss this also in advance of September, with particular regard for the welfare of the one remaining CUNZ-associated parish.

Trevor Hoggard has been a Methodist Partner representative for seven years and this was at his last Standing Committee before going to work with the 20 remaining Welsh-speaking congregations (in Wales). He was warmly thanked for his



consistent commitment to his role and his advice to UCANZ.

“Option C” implemented

Churches were asked for a declaration of allowances against gross income in 8 categories in early December. The Resources Allocation Group (RAG) met in February and set the rate at 7% of assessable income (Gross income less allowances). Assessment advice was sent out in the first week of March and any appeals of these figures need to be received at the UCANZ Office by the end of March for submission to the RAG meeting in April. Once these have been processed, Convening Partners will be invoicing parishes directly.

Inductions

Lorelle Chapman (on the right) has returned from Australia to take up a five-year appointment at St Paul’s Union Church, Taupo. Kaurasi Lagi has been inducted as second minister at Onehunga. Ian Faulkner is half-time supply at Lynfield. Matt Cave is the Presbyterian appointment at Papmoa.



A reminder to synods, presbyteries, dioceses and regional forums that the UCANZ office appreciates knowing about inductions in advance of their taking place, in order to be in touch with appointees.

UCANZ Forum 2019 with the theme “**Making a Difference**” will run from 17-20th October. This year we gather in Alexandra, in Central Otago District, a land of extremes. Hot and dry in summer, misty and frosty in winter. Alexandra has the lowest average annual rainfall in New Zealand and is the least windy! We have national figures from Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches to speak to us, workshops that will engage us with the theme – and the possibility of outdoor visits to places of interest. Booking online will be available after Easter and publicity will be distributed.

Ngā mihi o te Aranga
Adrian Skelton and Robyn Daniels

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