

Phone numbers post lock-down:

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Feedback and FORUM theme

Given the circumstances of lockdown, a limited response to **three questions of identity** was not surprising. Those who did reply were in general agreement: united churches do value their ecumenical identity; denominational gatherings are of limited value to CVs; but change is not desirable if it adds *another* layer of governance.

Since no one wants the latter, the aim of any change in relationships would be to simplify them – and perhaps to allow the community of CVs to have greater autonomy.



The questions deserve a wider consideration and the obvious place to do that is at Biennial Forum – with the Partners listening and able to respond. Due to postponed Assembly and Conference taking place late next year, it has been decided to hold our UCANZ Forum earlier, in March 2021, precise date and venue yet to be decided. The theme is two of the questions of identity which Gauguin inscribed (*top left*) on his *D'ou Venons Nous?* - 'What are we?' & 'Where are we going?'

New ways of working

In common with other church organisations, our standing committee will mostly meet by Zoom, meeting in person once a year. The next face to face meeting is on 8 October this year.



Please note our new address. The office is actually *behind* the brick building in the picture but, postally, we are: **8 Moncrieff Street, Wellington 6011**

The combination of fewer face to face meetings and lower office overheads implies lower budgeted expenditure next year. We can thereby reduce the overall UCANZ grant asked of the Partner Churches.

Regional Forums

In the absence of a national governance structure for uniting congregations, Regional Forums can have great importance and, with the permission of local Church Partners can be responsible for aspects of church life such as local church reviews.

Auckland and Lower North Island already do this to some extent. In other places, the trend is for representative Forums to meet less often. An encouraging sign is the re-emergence of the Bay of Plenty Forum, which is set to meet on 15th September. In the Southern Region, Partner Church leaders have tried to meet every six months. The West Coast Forum is small but meets according to need. South Canterbury is one area that does not enjoy such a structure, because of the travel distances involved.



UCANZ Removal Fund: a 2nd reminder

If you are looking forward to receiving a minister any time soon, please consider being part of the Removal Fund, which aims to spread the cost of the move. Full details are on the website under Resources – Procedures 9.3.1

- **A local church may join the fund at any time.**
- **A local church must belong to the fund for a minimum of five years.**
- **A local church wishing to withdraw from the fund must give 12 months' notice no earlier than the end of the fourth year of membership.**

Please contact the office to discuss.

Ngā mihi e noho ora mai,

Adrian Skelton & Margaret Pitt