

FORUM follow-up

A summary of the recent UCANZ Forum will appear in *Touchstone* in May. It has been submitted to *Bush Telegraph*.

With the threat of Covid around late last year, we planned for a 'reduced' Forum, Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime. Presenters Mary Petersen and Tony Franklin Ross reflected on the ecumenism in the local and wider spheres, respectively.



Trudy Downes reminded us about the threat of compliance issues in a non-threatening way. Anna and Les, from HCUC, explored the wider aspects of culture and multiculturalism. Dr Emily Colgin awakened us to *The Interconnectedness of All Reality* through Hebrew Bible texts Genesis and Jeremiah.



David Hall completed his four years as UCANZ Co-Chair, following a previous six as a local churches' representative. He has been party to major changes in financial relationships in recent years. He has worked tirelessly for UCANZ and he was thanked not only by the EO but by former chair Marilyn Welch.

We were also challenged by (absent) UCANZ Partner CCNZ to say where UCANZ is going. At the close of Saturday evening participants heard responses to some of the questions they had posed to Church Leaders Andrew Doubleday, Fakaofu Kaio, and Jenny Chalmers (standing in for her bishop, who could not attend at the last moment). A transcript is available.

In different parts of the Forum programme we heard that the Methodist Church has a good supply of Presbyters with a Pasifika background intending for non-English-speaking ministries. Meanwhile, the Presbyterian Church has a deficit of Pasifika ministers and an abundance of local churches seeking them. Could these two issues connect?...

Standing Committee

Standing Committee considered whether a revised policy is needed to encourage CVs (or parts thereof) that close to first have strategic conversations with neighbouring churches.

Questions from the *Methodist Alliance* to all parts of the Church are forwarded to churches to consider and respond to Carol@MethodistAlliance.org.nz

Aotearoa is experiencing the greatest economic recession for 90+ years and increasingly costly impacts of global warming. We stand in our Wesleyan tradition that marries 'Word' and 'Deed' and the wider gospel imperative to be 'Good News to the poor.' In the light of this, the Methodist Alliance, requests that all parts of Te Hāhi reflect on the following questions:



- What deep change is God calling humanity to make?
- How are we 'Good News to the Poor' and our planet in these times?

The new Committee met on Sunday morning and welcomed new members Fei Taulealeausumai and Jeff Odihambo (both Auckland), with Margaret Bishop (Northland) unable to attend. Continuing elected representatives of the local churches are Andrew Howley (second co-chair, Otago), David Harding (Wellington), Fakaofu Kaio (Auckland), Geraldine Coats (Marlborough), and Heather Kennedy (Canterbury).

Statistics and Directory

One of the developments since the move of UCANZ Office and engaging with diocesan support services is the intention to move the gathering of statistics (membership and financial) online this year. For most of you this will make matters easier and less error-prone. For the small number of non-computer-savvy churches a paper alternative will be available. For most, the links sent to you at the end of May will enable you to complete your responses by means of an online form. This will also become the means of submitting Directory updates. The 2021 UCANZ Directory will appear in the Spring.

A reminder that the postal address is now **UCANZ, PO Box 227, Napier 4140**, but the preference is now for electronic communication.

I te rangimarie,

Adrian Skelton

EO for UCANZ