

Mission and Evangelism Committee Report to Annual Meeting 2014

This Committee meets twice in a year, in February and September, to fund projects for the beginning of the following year.

I have had big shoes to fill and we appreciate so much the contribution of the previous Convenor, Alan Paulin. Alan has a huge heart for Mission, and his contribution to the work of Synod will always be valued.

We are grateful also to the wise investment of the Otago Foundation Trust Board. This year, even though the investment landscape is still fractured, we have had adequate funds to distribute.

We still have the usual commitments to the Synod Staff positions and to Student Soul. Our Synod Staff are doing an amazing job. A very affirming report of Student Soul completed in August last year has come to hand, with a number of recommendations that will be processed by the Executive and Presbytery over the coming months. The five-year Lex Wylie Missionary Fellowship, which was granted to the Upper Clutha Parish, has come to an end, and reports have been written which will be examined at our next Meeting in September.

In the February round this Committee has also responded to a request for funds, to support Southern Ministers and Elders to attend the General Assembly in Auckland. Assembly will include a day of training and should be a positive experience for all. This will support non-commissioned folk and Churches who struggle to send a Commissioner. This fund will be carefully monitored by the Executive.

It is always challenging and exciting to read of the different Parishes and their passion for Mission in their Communities. In the last two rounds there have been some wonderful expressions of innovative mission in our Southern Communities. The Mission and Evangelism Committee has a huge responsibility, but also an enormous privilege, of enabling these projects to become reality.

I am very grateful to the Members of the Committee who give their time in reading and studying the applications, and also for their wisdom during our Meetings. We have welcomed new members, Phillip Marshall and John Gullick who are experienced in the Mission of the Church, and thanked and farewelled others, Jane Green and Joy Flett who have served their seven years. We are grateful for their faithful contribution.

Finally, a huge thank you to Fergus Sime for all the preparation work he puts into our Meetings and for his support and encouragement in every way. We are blessed to have such excellent working relationships within Synod.

Nancy Parker
Convenor