

Report: Mission and Evangelism Committee

This committee meets twice a year, in February and September. Our recommendations from September 2011 Meeting were approved by the Synod Life Committee, acting as a Commission of Synod, late last year and has been passed for payment. The recommendations from our February 2012 meeting comes before this Annual Meeting and payments will be made from late May 2012. The two sets of recommendations are at the end of this report.

Some of you will recall that the Upper Clutha Parish applied for and became the first recipient of the Lex Wylie Missionary Fellowship. This provided full costs for a person to work with the young families of this rapidly growing area, as a Christian outreach. The parish had provision for three years funding, with a review after two years to measure progress and this review, convened by the Very Rev Peter Willsman, is about to happen.

Since about 1990 the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand has provided mission staff to assist congregation to focus on their core task; to make Jesus Christ known in their locality. Initially the regional staff positions were disestablished and John Daniel was appointed as National Mission Enabler until about a year ago when that position was also finished. Much of his work was people centred so much of the background thinking on which this work had been based would have been lost. Therefore at last year's Synod Annual Meeting, money for a short term writing contract was provided to allow this work to be done and produced in an accessible form. Rev John Daniel has almost completed this work which will be available from the time of the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Partly as a result of these initiatives and partly from reduced income we have been unable to respond to parish applications as generously as we would have liked. This is a real dilemma! We hope the recommendations before you are fair, encouraging and will allow the parish mission initiatives to flourish but recognise it will not be as quickly as you had hoped.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Officer, Mr Fergus Sime for his careful preparation, and mission enthusiasm which also applies to our highly effective Mission and Evangelism committee who invariably come to the meetings having prepared fully for the challenging task ahead.

Allan Paulin,

Convener