

Report for Synod of Otago & Southland

Annual General Meeting, April 2010

National Mission Enabler

Six years ago we identified some **key issues for the church** which required urgent attention:

- Need for consistent quality supervision for ministers
- Support for ministers and ministry spouses
- Stress, burnout and self-care issues in ministry
- The future of rural ministry
- Struggle of Presbyteries to resource mission in their area
- The need for strategic mission planning – regionally and locally
- The leadership of change
- The vital role of the School of Ministry in leadership development
- The rise and role of regional churches

It is worth noting that the Committees and Leaders of the Synod have been singularly active in addressing these issues over the years, such that in succeeding years these will be spoken of more loudly than the whispered aspirations that we hear right now. Well done, good and faithful servants. We are reminded that the greatest investment is in people, in the name of Jesus, and this brings returns way beyond our limited ways of measuring them.

Concerns of our times:

1. The ongoing **wellbeing** of our mission and ministry leaders, and their families
2. An understanding and **participation in the mission of God** that identifies, shapes and focuses the birth, life, death and re-birth of our communities of faith and parishes
3. The **prayerful and discerning** use of tools and practices in mission in ways particular to our context (not caught up in other 's formulae, successes & ideologies)
4. Being the body of Christ in a way that **acknowledges our gifts and giftedness** to one another and the world; 'By this they will know that you are my disciples.'
5. **Viability** of parishes and the **visibility** of God's mission
6. Regional & Rural Churches, small to large congregations, their **relevance, roles, rights and responsibilities**
7. That professionalism and CEO management **styles** don't overtake the serendipitous nature of God's mission and the movement of the Spirit

The following are some of the Key Mission & Ministry Initiatives in partnership with Synod of Otago & Southland which help enable leadership development and resourcing for mission and ministry.

Supervision – CAIRA Training is underway in Dunedin and Invercargill. Reg Weeks is the person to contact.

Elder's Training – Bruce Fraser is the key contact; the handbook is being reviewed, workshops and training are available

Leadership Wellness – materials are collated, surveys are being updated, workshops are available, further work and ministry in this area is being developed. For information, contact the National mission Office, (03) 4777 948

Mission Symposium – a forum for discussion on mission practice and theology; an event including international speakers to take place late 2010 or early 2011; associated workshops and training. Further information through the National Mission Office.

Thank you for your support, encouragement and partnership in mission.

John Daniel

National Mission Enabler