



The Right Rev Hamish Galloway of Christchurch is the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Hamish was installed as Moderator on 29 September 2021 at the Church's online General Assembly (the 2020 GA was delayed until 2021 due to Covid-19, it was held 29-30 September 2021 online due to Covid-19 restrictions).

You can find out more about Hamish by clicking this link...

<https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/about-us/general-assembly/moderator-of-the-general-assembly>,

Here is a recent letter Hamish sent to all the churches pre - Super Saturday: Get vaccinated

Kia ora and warm greetings

This week we have a massive push for vaccination with the Government initiative: Super Saturday: Get vaccinated | Unite against COVID-19.

Where does the PCANZ stand on this? While we have no official policy the biblical text has plenty that can help us in our decision making.

Firstly, there is the central tenet of love for neighbour. In this case, our thinking needs to be very focused on what will help keep our neighbours safe.

Secondly, there is the biblical call to respect those who govern us. In this case political parties from a variety of sides of the political spectrum are united around the need for as many as possible to get vaccinated. And they are strongly supported by the vast majority of people working in the medical and scientific sectors.

I urge you to consider these 2 elements of biblical faith very carefully in your decision making. I have made my choice - for the sake of my neighbours (children, grandchildren, parishioners,

golf club members, people I pass in the supermarket, people with underlying conditions or who need hospital beds for non-COVID related issues) I have taken seriously the advice of political leadership and I got vaccinated as soon as I could!

There is another biblical tenant that is so important at this time – the call to pray for our nation. I know that has been ongoing in the churches during this COVID season but it would be great for that to become a very concerted effort this week – a SUPER SUNDAY – Let’s Pray I have also found the latest statement of The Inter Church Bioethics Council helpful and have attached that for your consideration.

Hamish Galloway
Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ

If you would like a copy of The Inter Church Bioethics Council statement please email Brendon on brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

.....

He waka eke noa – We are all in this together: We look forward to seeing your beautiful faces and kanohi ki te kanohi! Having a face to face! We are now regathering for Sunday Worship. You are welcome to come and go at any time. We will be meeting safely and continue to follow advice from Ministry of Health (see <https://covid19.govt.nz/activities/faith-based-gatherings>;) and our National Church (PCANZ). Your health and safety is our top priority.

These include:

- Stay home if you feel unwell
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Wash hands often, hand sanitizer, face coverings will be available and surfaces will be cleaned.
- We will do our best to keep 1 metre apart
- Bring toys/games for your children
- Bring your own Bible
- Enter through the main entrance, which is closest to the creek and scan or sign in when you come into the foyer
- Adults are encouraged to wear a face mask (please note, people leading at the front are able to remove their masks)
- Seats are spaced out in the church, but you can sit with family/whānau
- If you have any concerns or queries, please phone Brendon 027 356 9200.
- We look forward to seeing you on Sunday at the Whare Karakia.

Church Buildings: All gatherings, meetings, hui in both Halfway Bush and Wakari buildings are not permitted unless approved by Parish Council. This includes providing a Health and Safety Plan. Please ring Sarah Barton if you wish to discuss this and require more information.

In times like these we are reminded that “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...” Psalm 46:1-2

Annual General Meeting of Presbyterian Support Otago: You are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of Presbyterian Support Otago. Thursday 28th October, 2021, from 5.30pm. At Burns Hall, in the First Church grounds, on Moray Place, Dunedin. Special Guest Speaker: Craig Dixon from Naylor Love, who will speak about Social Housing. A light supper will be provided. For catering purposes please RSVP by 20th October to reception@psotago.org.nz,

Interested in studying Theology? The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers a wide range of papers and qualifications, all available via distance learning. Some papers are taught via videoconferences, others include teaching days in Wellington, while a few involve week-long intensives. For further information go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639.

Karakia for our Climate is holding vigils during COP26 (31st Oct - 12th Nov) as Christians from around Aotearoa New Zealand pray for our global leaders, for the climate, for humanity, for God’s creation. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, known as COP26 is a meeting of up to 200 world leaders and up to 30,000 delegates to drive ambition and action towards climate change. (This meeting is crucial because scientists say that the window to limit the global impacts of climate change—rising sea levels, deadly heat waves, and increased natural disasters—is rapidly closing. Some of the impacts such as sea level rise are already locked in for decades to come. There are just nine years to avoid even worse consequences of the climate crisis.) The impacts of climate change will affect us all, but it will most directly impact low lying island nations, the most vulnerable in our communities and future generations. Follow and find out more at www.facebook.com/karakia4ourclimate; There will be a series of vigils: Nationwide Karakia Service via Zoom: 8pm Sunday 31st Oct (Zoom link to be shared on facebook closer to the time). Daily online prayer vigil via FB live: 8pm every day from 1st Nov - 11th Nov Friday Night Vigil in person: Dunedin Ōtepoti 5:30pm at Knox Church Dunedin. Email karakiaforourclimate@gmail.com to receive prayer resources via email and if you have any questions.

Pastoral Visit: If you would like a pastoral visit from someone from within the pastoral team or the minister please ring elder Sarah Barton 021 385905.

Flagstaff Prayer Time: Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Tocher Lounge. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.

Faith Thinking: September-November 2021

Short Courses jointly offered by the Theology Programme, University of Otago and some Dunedin Churches in conjunction with Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation

Email: continuing.education@otago.ac.nz Phone: +64 3 479 9181

Faith Thinking on Zoom Tuesday November 2, 7.00-8.15pm

“Health and Healing: Theological and Pastoral Considerations”

Dr Graham Redding, Lecturer in Chaplaincy Studies, Theology Programme, University of Otago. COST: Free but please register to receive the Zoom link.

Green Fingers: We are currently restoring our awa next to the church. This little creek is showing signs of life and is breathing again and some native birds are showing up. There are a few folks who meet for a couple of hours on a Monday and pot away at planting, trapping pests, removing, weeding, etc. Occasionally we have a project in which everyone is invited including our local school. If you want to join us ring Neil Brown 027 435 4672.

Life Groups: Life Groups @Flagstaff are a vital part of who we are as a community of faith as we seek to grow in Jesus. Not only do we explore the messages God has for us from the Bible but we also have the opportunity to connect with others and experience a place where no-one stands alone.

Discipleship Groups: which focus on study and prayer. Wednesday 1.30 p.m. Contact Sarah 021385905.

Community Facing Groups: Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming which may centre on an activity, a hobby, a talent, a life stage, a project or service. Groups include, Steady as you Go, Hire a Helper, Community Garden, Women's Coffee Group @ Coffee Culture (Held 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm), Green Fingers, Walking Groups and more! If you would like to join a group, start a group or find out more information then please contact Brendon on 0273569200.

Tithing/Giving: There are many ways we can support the activity of God in our church, community and world. Two ways of making your church offerings.

1. Use internet banking to make direct credits or automatic payments to the Flagstaff Community Church. Westpac bank # 03-0903-0192517-03. Please include your name for reference or if you use Envelopes use your Envelope reference/number.
2. Join the envelope system by contacting Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052 320. You will receive a set of personally numbered envelopes. This can be placed in the kete/ basket at the foyer entrance anytime during Sunday Worship.

If you give to special appeals or missions, you can claim on these donations by identifying the appeal by naming it when you make the internet payment or by putting your number or name and address on an envelope.

Contacts:

Prayer Chain: Sue Yule 476 7655, or Sarah Barton 021 385905

Pastoral Care: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Envelope System: Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052320

Hall Bookings: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Technical Equipment: Gary Dent 027 4763155

Church Newsletter: Jenny Neill 467 5813 dandjneill@xtra.co.nz

Minister: Rev. Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Elder: Sarah Barton

Phone: 021 385 905

sarahbarton629@gmail.com

Flagstaff Community Church Services 9:30am (Communion 3rd Sunday of each month)

Parish contact details: PO Box 10074,
Halfway Bush, 9042, Dunedin

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff;

Office 9 Centennial Avenue Wakari
Dunedin, 9010

