

# Vision and Goals

*A Christ-centred, biblical and pioneering church within the Church of Confessing Anglicans Aotearoa New Zealand*

1. To worship God in Spirit and in truth
2. To love and care for one another
3. To train, equip and release our people to serve God as mature disciples
4. To serve our local community
5. To send and support mission partners
6. To be a pioneering church
7. To be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us

## 1. Audit: The challenge of Covid (2020-)

### A. Churches (and society) generally

- Uncertainty – evolution of virus itself; what best response? => changing govt. policy
  - Disruption – cancelling plans/events
  - Isolation and loss of fellowship
  - Division – medical, political, theological
- ⇒ Fall off in worship attendance  
⇒ division and departure;  
⇒ Hostility and even abuse towards church, medical and political leaders  
⇒ stress and weariness (for church leadership) and workers/volunteers (grappling with new ways of ministering)
- NOT over yet, and things like economic/lon-term impact yet to be seen

How has the church done? Not well.

Irony: not the biggest challenge; should have been a time to show unity and solidarity of fellowship

## B. WHCC

- inability to fulfil vision/plans – throughout goal areas, incl. mission partners
- Esp. TURNERS
- Loss of people - young families, music and sound personnel

A tough 2 years.

BUT

- Extraordinary dedication and commitment of many
- TURNERS' commitment and engagement
- Building ownership and new usage:
  - Counselling, Youth Centre (Hub and Senior Youth), Children's church, Samoans, craft/art groups, Maori Language
  - Venue for diocesan gatherings and Ham city Xian events/seminars
  - Food gives collection point

## Our response as begin 2022

What is the Lord saying?

- Gary's parallel with Noah: rain stopped, ark resting, but not yet time to disembark . GOD still working to prepare earth (and Noah et al.) for new life
- A time for spiritual growth, as times of testing always are
- Greater empathy with suffering church

⇒NO strategic plan this year: continue to seek to be faithful to the Vision, Mission and Goals already have, and gird loins for growth

*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.* Proverbs 16:9

*There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.* Proverbs 19:21

"Man proposes, but God disposes" Thomas A Kempis, The Imitation of Christ

⇒John 21 today (giving thanks for being part of CCAANZ and Jay)

## Goals 1 & 3 – Jn 21

1. To worship God in Spirit and in truth

*“Do you love me?”*

2 = extension of 1 (cf. 1 John 4.19-21)

Restoration of Peter: note what Jesus most concerned about

3. To train, equip and release our people to serve God as mature disciples

*“Feed/tend my sheep”*

*“Follow me... but when you are old... what is that to you?”*

4-7 = extension of 3.

Intention and motivation v's strategic planning

Allow for God's diversity of response and calling

## Covenant Prayer (John Wesley)

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

### Suggested Discussion Questions

1. Which of our 7 goals, or evangelism or care of creation, do you think has been most affected by covid? In what way/s? Is there anything more we could do to mitigate against negative effects or to advance this goal? (Feedback welcomed).
2. How well do you think the Church (universal) has done in terms of being salt and light in the world during the pandemic? In what areas or ways could the Church have done better?

3. What positives can be taken from the pandemic? E.g. What do you think we have learnt from it? In what ways has it deepened our faith and trust in God (if you think it has)?
4. Hopefully you are encouraged by the fact that more community groups are beginning to approach us about using our facilities. What kind of opportunities does this give us for gospel ministry? How might it help us be more effective in reaching our community?
5. How does Jesus know if we love him?
6. Why are we inclined, like Peter, to compare ourselves and our calling with others? Why did Jesus rebuke Peter for doing this? What effect does such a practice have on us?
7. Which line in the covenant prayer do you find most challenging? Why?