

Introduction to Knox Plan 2021-2023

Process

Every three years, the Knox Church Council adopts a Plan to guide its work over a three year period. The work on this three year Plan began at the Council annual retreat in January and has continued in its February and March meetings. The Council decided not to change the framework of the 2017-2020 Plan but to remove and amend some content in order to bring greater focus. The Church Council now submits the Plan to the congregation for comment and feedback. Please do this by email to the Council Clerk at councilclerk@knoxchurch.net or by speaking with a member of the Church Council. There will be a forum after Sunday morning worship on 25th April at which we can further consider the Plan.

Introduction

Our three year plans aim:

- To help the Council be transparent among its own members and with others about the general direction it believes we are being called to take as a church. Every person brings assumptions it is good to name so honest conversations can happen.
- To help the Church Council set priorities for its work and address emerging issues;
- To help people involved in activities act collaboratively as they move together towards a shared vision;
- To help ministers and other key office-holders make choices about where they devote time and energy;
- To help the Church Council engage with the Southern Presbytery and the Synod of Otago and Southland to which information may need to be provided about the direction and priorities of the congregation.

Themes in the Knox Plan

The Church Council believes that, overall, the congregation is in good heart and we face continuing challenges. We believe we need to keep taking forward the direction and momentum of recent years. The Church Council identified the following themes it wishes to address over the next three years, as reflected in the Knox Plan.

1. Expanding options for worship

The Church Council affirms the desire for our morning service to be accessible to a wide variety of people and follow a classic pattern. We will continue to work at enabling participation with a generational and ethnic diversity, including participation by children and young families. The contribution of classical music with choir and organ will continue and continue to develop. At the same time, we want to grow a new congregation in the evening. The approach will develop over time but we wish it to be sustainable beyond the conclusion of the present ministries and to involve musical styles and leadership with a particular contemporary approach. While that aspect of evening worship develops, in the evenings we also wish to enable the choir and our classical musicians to focus on special days and seasons so that over the liturgical year, they are able to bring their gifts on about twelve occasions. We will continue to develop online services. We need to raise a further \$4000 to purchase the needed camera and computer.

2. Missional opportunities and connections

The physical location of the Knox building and its history of engagement in the city is a significant strength. We want to keep looking for and enabling means by which our congregation can serve our neighbourhood

in the north end of Dunedin's central business district. One small aspect of that is taking the security steps that enable our church building to be reopened for prayer and reflection during the week.

3. Financial growth for ministry and mission

Over the last twenty or so years, the giving of Knox people has been consistent. However, costs have grown. We have been fortunate to be able to rent carparks and buildings. The Church Council is of the view that Knox needs more than a full-time minister if it is to continue to develop and grow. The present associate ministry is facilitated by the generosity of Knox people and by a bequest. There are also material costs associated with maintaining a heritage building. The Church Council wishes to establish a task group actively to attend to longer-term financial growth for ministry and mission.

4. Engagement with Knox people beyond gathered congregating

We adapted to the limiting of face to face contact because of the pandemic by developing a phone-tree. Many people valued it. Some didn't. As well, the newsletter went online with hard copies also being distributed to people who asked for them. In 2021, we need to find a way of continuing the personal and face to face contact for people who value it and develop alternatives. We wish to develop a mixed approach involving small groups, face to face, phone and other electronic communication.

5. Recognising the challenges to participation

Feedback arising from our attention to children, young people and young families has highlighted the challenges people face when they want to participate. As well we are aware of how older people also face challenges in participating, especially with the continuing public health risk. We want to continue finding ways for people to participate beyond the Sunday gathering.

6. Transitions in ministry of word and sacrament

In the next three year period, Kerry Enright will retire as minister of Knox Church. The three year term of Jordan Redding will conclude on 30 June 2023. Transitions in ministry are not always smooth. The Council wishes to prepare itself and the congregation for transitions to enable a new ministry or ministries to begin on a strong, encouraging and affirming note. The Church Council believes a strong start makes a big difference to the congregation's ministry and mission.

Alison Tait
Clerk of Knox Church Council
29 March 2021



Knox Church Dunedin

a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Knox Plan 2021-2023

Vision

We are captivated by the biblical vision of

the realm of God, made known in Jesus, given in grace.

Mission

We believe we are called:

to be a community following Jesus, alive to God's Spirit, living into God's coming realm.

Values

Values informing our life together:

- Unity in Christ
- Justice for all creation
- Worship of God
- Love and hospitality
- Diversity and inclusiveness

Signposts

Signposts giving direction to our life together:

1. Intentional faith development

We want to grow in discipleship through all stages of life. We will provide opportunities for learning in addition to weekly worship. We will deepen relationships across the full breadth of Knox Church.

Why: Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Christ who is the head. From Christ, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16

How:

- We will grow participation in **small groups** as a way to help us connect to one another, share our faith and explore questions in a safe inquiring environment.

A small group is a regular gathering of people who study the Bible, explore themes, and encourage, pray for, serve with and support each other. Small groups may be organized by gender, by age, by geography, by life stage or any combination of factors.

- We will help people **pray**.
- We will help people **read the Bible**.
- We will continue to encourage young people, strengthen our young adults group, grow adult education, and facilitate cross-generational learning.
- We will go to be with people in their homes and work-places, in cafes and other places of gathering.
- We will find ways of engaging with each other beyond gathered worship in ways that take account of the living patterns of people.
- We will refresh our pastoral care system.

2. Radical hospitality:

We want to invite, welcome, receive and support people who are strangers to us and keep discovering with them the richness of life in a loving Christ. We will go the second mile to include people and be changed by our interaction with them. Knox will increasingly reflect the cultural and demographic make-up of our neighbourhood.

Why: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware. Hebrews 13:2. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9

How:

- Our communication with the wider community will signal openness and interest in what is happening around us.
- We will continue to develop close relationships with churches worshipping in Knox buildings.
- We will deepen our cross-cultural experience, enabling the diversity of culture of people at Knox to be reflected throughout our life.
- We will continue to work with neighbouring churches in connecting with tangata whenua.

3. Authentic worship:

We will gather to encounter God in Christ. We believe that in worship God transforms, enlivens, heals wounds, renews hope, shapes decisions, provokes change, inspires compassion and enlists people for God's realm. In worship we will offer our most authentic selves, strongest feelings, most intelligent thoughts and deepest longings. We will worship with passion in response to God's grace.

Why: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before God with joyful songs." Psalm 100 "Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves ... giving thanks to God at all times." Ephesians 5:19

How:

- We will continue the basic formats of morning services and in having worship that is accessible, multi-generational, creative and participatory.
- We will continue to value and enhance the contribution of classical music.
- We will develop other styles of music and continue to develop diverse musical leadership.
- We will enrich worship with music and the arts.
- We will grow a new evening congregation.

4. Risk-taking mission and service

We will strengthen and develop partnerships and projects that make a positive difference in the lives of others, whether or not people choose to be part of Knox. We will offer ourselves in purposeful service to others in need and to God, so God can transform the world.

Why: What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8.

We encounter Christ in the wider community. Our purpose as a church is to participate in what Christ is doing there. Christ identifies especially with people who are poor and marginalised and builds a society in which everyone is valued. This involves challenging the power and way of the Empire and countering what is destructive of creation.

How

- We will continue to support and partner organisations which enable us to live out our faith and act for the common good, organisations such as Presbyterian Support, A Rocha, 350 Otago and Christian World Service.
- We will continue to work for climate and economic justice.
- We will continue to support Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and other organisations as we are able.
- We will work with local businesses and organisations to build a sense of neighbourliness and mutual support in the northern part of Dunedin's CBD.
- We will continue to connect with the University, Polytechnic, Columba College, Otago Girls High School and other educational bodies.
- We will publicise community actions consistent with our vision and mission.
- We will promote issues of justice and wider concern in the Presbytery and Assembly.
- We will continue to deepen our relationships with people of other faiths.

5. Selfless generosity:

We want to nourish an unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference through Knox Church in the wider community. We will give in ways that exceed expectations and extend to unexpected measures. We will thrive as a congregation because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbour. We will offer our material resources to support causes that transform life. Such giving will also help change our lives.

Why: The biblical notion of stewardship is a broad one; that everything in the world and those in it belong to God (Psalm 24). What we receive, therefore, including our gifts, talents, and wealth, belongs to God. We are the guardians, managers or stewards of what is God's. We are called to give back what we receive to further God's purpose in the world.

How:

- The Church Council and Deacons Court will keep strengthening their collaboration so the practical outworking of the Knox plan is smoothly executed.
- The Church Council and Deacons Court will continue to find ways for the Knox buildings and land to be developed and used to fulfil Knox's mission of making real God's realm.
- The Church Council will establish an annual rhythm of education about stewardship.
- A task group will be appointed to develop a longer term financial plan and enable actions aimed at strengthening Knox's financial capacity for mission and ministry.

6. Making Good transitions

Over the next three years, the ministries of Kerry Enright and Jordan Redding will conclude at Knox. Changing and adapting have been required of our tipuna in every generation and at times have been performed well. Communities that can adapt to change and transition confidently and nimbly are best able to continue thriving and growing strongly. Recent transitions in ministry have not been smooth, disheartening participation in mission.

Why: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19.

How:

- We will utilise available channels of communication and engagement to assist in providing clarity as to what is being planned and why and in continuing to provide opportunities to receive feedback and input.
- We will prepare ourselves to enable new ministries to begin strongly, well-resourced and with encouragement.
- We will seek to attend to conflicts about process, roles, theology, style and overall approach well before new ministries are contemplated, thus enabling conflict to be worked through in a healthy way.