



## **Knox Church Dunedin**

a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

### **Knox Plan 2024-2026**

*Dated June 2024*

*This document is not a full strategic plan. It is a list of strategic priorities over a three-year period. As such, it does not cover every aspect of parish life.*

## **Vision**

Our vision is to see the reign of God, made known in Jesus, have a transformative effect on people's lives and on the world in which we live.

## **Mission**

We believe we are called to make Jesus known in word and deed, to join in his ministry of peace and reconciliation, and to be a faith community that is known for its vitality, diversity and inclusiveness throughout Ōtepoti Dunedin and beyond.

## **Priorities**

### **In ministry and leadership**

Following the retirement of the Minister, Rev Dr Kerry Enright, in October 2022 and the departure of the Associate Minister, Rev Dr Jordan Redding, in January 2023, Knox Church entered a period of ministry vacancy. A Ministry Settlement Board was appointed. The Very Rev Dr Graham Redding and the Rev Margaret Garland were appointed co-Interim Moderators. Their appointment was well received by the congregation. In April 2024, the MSB brought a recommendation to the congregation that Graham be called to the position of Minister, effective from 1 July. Graham's call was conditional upon Margaret being appointed to the position of Honorary Assistant Minister, thus allowing their team ministry to continue under a more permanent structure. Meanwhile, the Church Council, Deacons Court, and church committees also had numerous vacancies. A key focus of 2023 was on rebuilding the leadership capacity within the Church Council and Deacons Court.

Over the next three years, we need to build on the gains made in 2023 and strengthen ministry and leadership capacity across the board. This will involve:

- Reviewing and rejuvenating our committee structures
- Supporting Graham and Margaret as they settle into their new ministry roles, and exploring ways of enhancing the delivery of ministry and pastoral care at Knox Church
- Reviewing the structures of Council and Deacons Court. Are the current structures still fit for purpose?

### **In public worship**

Gathering for public worship on Sundays is our core activity. Knox's worship is known for its creative and engaging liturgical expression, a prayerful and thoughtful engagement with the Bible, and a strong choral

tradition. We value congregational participation, diversity, and inclusiveness. The morning service tends to be more formal in style than the evening service, where, with a smaller congregation, there is greater scope for innovation and variety. In recent years there has been a determined effort to incorporate te reo Māori into our services. During the Covid lockdowns we started broadcasting our morning services online.

Over the next three years, we want to strengthen both services. This will involve:

- Strengthening the ministry to children in the morning service
- Building the capacity for liturgical leadership within the congregation
- Developing the evening service

### **In pastoral care and community life**

In recent years, Knox has relied on a Pastoral Care Committee and a Caring Community Committee to coordinate the provision of pastoral care and community life at Knox Church. The Pastoral Care Committee coordinates the work of a network of pastoral visitors. Their work is supported by a prayer group. A visiting PCUSA minister, the Rev Peg Pfab, played an important coordinating and resourcing role for the Pastoral Care Committee over 2022 and 2023. The Caring Community Committee organises a variety of events to build fellowship within the congregation. In more recent times, both committees have struggled to find people to share in their work, especially since Peg's return to the USA and Kerry's retirement.

Over the next three years, we need to find ways to enhance and support these crucial aspects of parish life. This may involve a review of the system of pastoral care, and a possible merging of the two committees. We also need to maintain a strong emphasis on manaakitanga/hospitality and making everybody feel welcome and valued.

### **In outreach**

In 2023, the Outreach Committee was reinstated after a period of inactivity. Its first action was to investigate the possibility of Knox Church applying to become a member church of the international Community of the Cross of Nails. Another significant initiative in 2023 was to open the church on days that had cruise ships visiting Dunedin. This has proved very popular with visiting tourists.

Over the next three years, we need to support and extend the work of the Outreach Committee. This may involve:

- Completing the process for applying to become a member church of the Community of the Cross of Nails and, if successful, embedding this commitment into the life of the congregation and grasping opportunities to strive for justice, peace, and reconciliation
- Exploring ways to enhance and develop relationships between Knox Church and Dunedin institutions with which Knox has historical connections, such as the University of Otago, Presbyterian-related organisations and schools, as well as neighbouring churches.
- Developing working relationships with George St neighbours community groups, networks and organisations that share a similar ethos and areas of interest to Knox Church

### **In property and finance**

In recent years, Knox Church has not been generating sufficient revenue to cover its operational costs or tackle the deferred maintenance on its buildings.

Over the next three years, we need to strengthen the church's financial position. This may involve:

- Exploring the possibility of renewed site development to generate new financial streams
- Launching a stewardship campaign in consultation with the Knox Foundation