

# 2024

### Te Pūrongo-Ā-Tau Annual Report



# OUR VISION TE WAWATA

A world shaped by love, compelled and informed by the Gospel.

# OUR MISSION TE WHAKATAKANGA

To equip students and scholars to renew their communities with a faith as intelligent as it is courageous.

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# Nā Te Perehitini From the President



"Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon."

Mark 3:7-8 NIV

Looking back over 2024 reveals a year of much change, and as we have found out at the time of writing, there was more to come. The spheres of politics and finance became at first uncertain, and then mercurial, leading to the greatest polarity between people I have seen in my lifetime. Many of us have learned to cope with that polarity by choosing what we say, and to whom. Being extremely careful with our words. Like me you probably also observed an increasing "every person for themselves" response, as people endeavour to "loop out for themselves" in the face of uncertainty.

In recent times we have also seen the huge effect that one individual can have on - at times - the whole globe. Which is the point of the verse above. At the time of this verse Jesus had not yet appointed the twelve disciples and was really at the start of his ministry. Notice how already word of both Him and His miracles had spread—without modern media—extremely widely.

It is the same now! We hear almost daily of people—often young—getting together to pray and worship, many times in an attitude of great humility. Of baptisms occurring in large numbers again and again and again. Of a developing hunger in Generation Z for the unwatered down Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord be praised!

It is an immense privilege, and something of a weighty responsibility, to be part of Laidlaw at this time. Our mission and vision are clear. The Gospel of Jesus Christ and His kingdom is as relevant and powerful today as it ever was. The Bible is available in more ways than ever before. We stand now in something of a phase shift-where in the past much of the church has tried to look similar to the world in order to reach the world, we now see a return to the simple yet proud truths of the Gospel. A return to a less selfabsorbed view of the Christian faith and an increase in the desire to know. really know, the infinite God of the Bible. And to approach Him through Christ, reverently and in awe.

This is marvellous, and we rejoice at being able to play a small part in this. Please continue to pray with us that we can continue to equip our students to be able to transform their communities with a faith that is as courageous as it is intelligent.

#### **Graham Burt**

President, Laidlaw College Society

### Mai i te Heamana o Te Poari From the Chair of NGC

2024 was a year of significant change and a number of challenges for Laidlaw College, as it was for most involved in tertiary education across New Zealand. It was also, however, a year in which we had cause to continue to be ever thankful for God's blessings to the College, to our mission and to our people.

2024 was our first year on our new campus in central Henderson. This represented considerable work and development by many people. The new campus at Smythe Road was a significant move to a modern contemporary campus providing a very different setting to that of our past. We are grateful to the Foundation, and to staff and students who all worked through the many challenges that came with the shift. We reflect with thanks on God's richness of blessings over many decades on the Lincoln Road campus and we pray for continued blessing as we build a vibrant campus learning environment that furthers Laidlaw's mission into the local community and beyond.

Laidlaw's Christchurch Campus also continues very strongly, though with considerable space and utilisation pressures from students and timetabled classes. NGC scheduled one of its 2025 meetings at the campus and planned time to meet with key regional stakeholders, staff and students. This provided opportunity to observe the campus in action and to seek feedback about the opportunities and challenges for the College in the region, and insight into options for the future. Work continues on developing a refreshed Christchurch Strategic Plan to meet the growing needs of the College both now and in the future.

It is encouraging that student success in Laidlaw programmes continues at a high level. It is also pleasing that in 2024 there were very strong intakes into several programmes, such as in our graduate teacher programme which had its largest intake of many years following the launch of a free fees initiative. Likewise, our partnership programmes with Te Wānanga Ihorangi were also strong, with high demand experienced for places on the full immersion Te Reo Māori programmes. Overall, Laidlaw College continued to grow in 2024 with 400.7036 Equivalent Fulltime Students, representing more than 736 students (headcount) across College programmes. In terms of the College's educational performance, it was very pleasing to receive the top NZQA ranking and highest assessment (high confidence) in NZQA's External Review of Laidlaw College's educational performance and self-assessment. This External Review by NZQA was conducted during the course of 2024 (the previous Review took place prior to Covid). Our thanks for the work of College staff throughout this process—well done! The Review outcome reflects the high quality of education that is being offered at Laidlaw College and the work of staff and students to achieve this. Laidlaw graduates can thus be confident they are receiving qualifications from one of New Zealand's top ranked tertiary education institutions.

NGC was pleased to welcome Student Representative Suzie Olive on to Council during 2024 and to also second Margot Shutt as a new Council member at the end of 2024. We are thankful for the range and diversity of experience Council members bring to the table. We were also very thankful for the several years of service from Lui Ponifasio who completed his time with the Council in November. His guidance and insight will be missed.

Changes in legislation around Incorporated Societies required NGC attention in updating Laidlaw's Constitution. NGC time was spent updating the Constitution to align with legislative changes and to better reflect practice in the Society over recent years. We made a conscious decision to not undertake any substantive changes, but rather focus mainly on bringing the Constitution up to date with legislative changes and to better reflect the operating practice of the Society.

Our deep thanks go to the staff, students and the College's many loyal supporters. Thank you all for your work and support that enables us to be engaged in our mission. We remain highly committed to the mission and purpose of Laidlaw College and are thankful to God for the many blessings that enable us and that underpin our work.

Chris Collins Chair, National Governing Council

# Te Whakataki ā te Tumuaki

"For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord... But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

2 Corinthians 4:5, 7 NIV

The ordinary work carried on every day and year at Laidlaw looks a lot from the outside like the kind of pottery Paul refers to. Meetings, reports, lectures, community lunches, support, prayer, study, and much more, accounts for the hundreds of thousands of hours that students and staff pour out in service and study every year at Laidlaw. In these very ordinary jars of clay, the Gospel does its work of transformation.

Among the many jars that could be highlighted this year, the growth in key programmes during 2024, which has continued into 2025, is something to be grateful for. During 2024, our 'zero fees' campaign for secondary education (now expanded to all our teacher education programmes) drew a wonderful cohort to study with us, who are now serving as school teachers. We are grateful too for the successful first year of the Reo Māori programmes through our partner Te Wānanga Ihorangi.

In the first half of the year, NZQA conducted our regular External Evaluation and Review (EER), with Laidlaw retaining our category 1 status—reflecting high confidence in the quality of our educational performance, and our selfassessment capabilities. Introducing their report covering the previous five years, the reviewers wrote:

Laidlaw College has a clear vision and purpose, and a well-executed strategy to fulfil it. The valued outcomes being achieved each year are clearly meeting the needs of learners and multiple, diverse stakeholders. Bold thinking and the efforts of governance, senior leaders, and all other staff have enabled significant change and improvement to be achieved since the last EER...

In the context of large-scale organisational change and the challenges posed to staff and students by the pandemic, maintenance of programme-level academic performance and quality has been exceptional.

The work that goes into our quality management and compliance is often unseen and unsung, but it enables so much else. We are very grateful for a team who can continue to achieve 'exceptional' quality education in pursuit of Gospel mission, as we keep working to build and transform Laidlaw as an institution.

We are grateful for all the connecting, supporting, coaching, and resourcing church leaders that is carried out through our Centre for Church Leadership. We now have dozens of trained coaches working with leaders across Aotearoa, and early data from those churches that we have been working with for more than two years shows measurable impact in the Gospel health and missional impact of those congregations. At the Abide Conference in October, nearly 500 leaders from across denominations and networks gathered for a time of refreshing, and we are



### From the Principal

seeing an early tide of encouragement and Gospel hope in the wider Church.

I and others from Laidlaw were privileged to be present at the Lausanne Congress in Seoul and other events—hearing from brothers and sisters across the world what God is doing in all forms of mission.

We have outgrown our Christchurch campus, and as we prepare to celebrate the 50th Jubilee (1975-2025) of that campus, we are also having strategic conversations about how we can develop our presence in the city.

In 2024, we enjoyed our first year in our new campus in Henderson, and it has been a joy to watch students, staff and many other friends, use the space, walk through the stories of Scripture on our walls, and build community and connection. The 'jars of clay' of meals together, classroom discussions, online conversations, prayer meetings, and more, are exactly the evidence of how God continually uses daily and weekly processes for extraordinary transformation.

Thank you for your support for our ordinary work—some fruit of which you will read about in this report—but much more of which is written in the hearts and lives of people transformed by Jesus, grown through study for his service, and now renewing their communities with the Gospel.

In His service, **Dr Roshan Allpress** Tumuaki National Principal

# He Ripoata o te Rūnanga Report from the Rūnanga



Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau whānui o Te Wānanga Amorangi Laidlaw College. He mihi nui ki a koutou i roto i ēnei kupu whakatenatena; Whakamoemiti ki a Ihowa, nō te mea he tika te kupu a Ihowa, ā, kei runga i te pono āna mahi katoa. Tihe Mauri Ora.

Greetings to you all the extended family of Laidlaw College. It is with these encouraging words I greet you: Praise the Lord for the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all he does. (Waiata 33:4).

#### It is life!

For the year 2024-2025 the College has settled well into its student-staff routines and rhythms in the new premises on Smythe Road, Henderson. It is a great education facility. For the Rūnanga this period of time has seen progress in some areas and change in others. We were sad to lose Lorraine Taogaga and Sharon Pihema at the end of 2024. They were key Māori staff for the College as well as being ex-Rūnanga members. Haere pai kōrua. Growing the capacity of Māori staff for the College will be a priority in the coming years.

The Tiriti me Te Rongopai (Treaty and the Gospel) policy created in dialogue between Rūnanga members and senior College leaders, was accepted by the National Governing Council (NGC) in 2024. Cascading the elements of this policy into operation is progressing slowly within the College. Alongside this policy was an on-going discussion on restructuring the Rūnanga for this modern season to support Laidlaw College's aspirations to help develop the future Māori Gospel voice in New Zealand society. A new structure for the Rūnanga was proposed where Māori nominated to NGC on their own merits would become the Rūnanga who would then discuss relevant Māori issues to arise, and bring to the board for consideration. At present, Shona Pink-Martin (Tai Tokerau), who graduated with a Master's degree last year, and myself (Mataatua, Rūnanga Chair) have retained positions on NGC. We are pleased to welcome Margot Shutt (Tainui) as a new Māori member to NGC. In association with these changes is the development of a new national Māori advisory taumata to advise the College and the Senior Leadership Team. This ropu will be comprised of voices from Christian Māori communities throughout the country.

The Treaty of Waitangi Principles Bill, which arose in the public arena in 2024, led Roshan Allpress, Sam Carpenter, and myself to make a submission to the select committee in January 2025 opposing the bill on behalf of the College. This submission and a subsequent academic essay compiled by Sam and myself became an essential topic of conversation in the 2025 first semester classes for the Bicultural Relationships Tikanga Kawenata course on both the Henderson and Christchurch campuses.

In all of the governance, operations, and education activities of the College, we place God at the centre of all, that His will is enacted courageously and effectively through us all in the diverse communities of Aotearoa New Zealand. Kia tau te mauri ora o Ihowa o Ngā Mano.

#### Brad Haami

Heamana, Te Rūnanga o Te Wānanga Amorangi

# Na te Heamana Tuapapa From the Foundation Chair



"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10 NIV

This verse is both a command and a statement. It is a command to be still. It is a statement that God is God. That He will be exalted. There is absolutely no point to the command if the statement is not true.

This has been our year at the Laidlaw College Foundation! Something of a mixed bag, needing to both work at obeying the command, and to live in the statement in the verse above.

We continue to delight in the new Auckland premises, and along with College are now beginning to look at the Christchurch campus.

We have been greatly blessed with new tenancies in our main Auckland building in a market that has been somewhat tight. God is good!

We continue to navigate the changing environment of the Auckland Super City as civic authorities are re-shaped and personnel changes provide at times obstacles and other times opportunities.

Our work continues on the wider Auckland site with the Master Plan nearing completion and getting ready to submit to Council. This has presented us with both challenges and opportunities and we see God's hand at every turn, often in hindsight!

Our investments have endured the roller coaster ride common to all, and we are thankful for wise advice both from within Foundation and from our team of advisors.

We would very much appreciate your prayers over the next year. We need to walk the fine line between maximizing income so that we can support the College as effectively as possible while at the same time allowing for the probable expansion of College and related College activities. This is a superb 'problem' to have, and we are relishing the opportunity to be able to plan for growth on both fronts. We pray that we can continue to get the balance right!

We want to thank those who so generously gift legacies to both the College and the Foundation and whose gifts are assisting us to build a firm foundation for the ongoing work of the College.

Finally, a request for prayer please. As we are now a significant property owner, in the heart of Henderson perched on the side of the Henderson railway station, we are exposed to a lot more community than we have been previously.

We knew this would be the case ahead of time, and relished the opportunity to live out the College's mission statement of transforming neighbourhoods with a faith that is as courageous as it is intelligent. This is now a practical reality for us. We are in close contact with the various organisations and entities that surround us. We have a daily stream of interesting people passing through. Please pray that as opportunities arise we may be able to respond redemptively and with grace.

Graham Burt Chair, Laidlaw College Foundation

# Te Pūrongo o Ngā Pihi Ōrīwa Olive Shoots Update

At Olive Shoots, we have missed the people of Laidlaw and the cafe(!) since the move to the new campus, but we have enjoyed building a connection with Elim Christian School. It's been a reciprocal relationship - we have enrolled younger siblings of those at Elim as well as a number of our 5 years olds have started school there.

Our team of teachers have reviewed our Centre Values during the year. There are no changes to what we value at Olive Shoots, rather a simplifying of words. Four words, that of Belong, Believe, Discover and Grow, articulate what is important for us at Olive Shoots. These areas include our Christian faith, cultural awareness, social competency, creativity, and active movement.

Creating a small kaitiaki group of teachers to oversee our Christian Curriculum has given the curriculum new energy. We focus on one of our 5 truth statements each term which align naturally with the rhythms of the year; eg, Easter sees us focus on Jesus loves me and I am special to him. A first during 2024 was a Matariki whānau evening event where a wonderful turnout of whānau enjoyed a concert from the tamariki and a hangi meal with a focus on God created everything including me... and the stars! Visits from a number of our Community Services saw us learning more about local organisations such as Blind Low Vision NZ and their guide dogs, the Fire Service, Police dogs and the St John Ambulance.

I am thankful for the mahi of our wonderful team of kaiako. Their genuine love and passion for teaching young children creates a beautiful environment and sense of belonging and wellbeing where our tamariki can flourish while they learn through play.

At the end of the year, a demand from the community for spaces for children under two years of age saw us apply to the Ministry of Education for an increase in our license numbers. We were successful and able to increase from 50 to 60 tamariki enrolled each day.

Once again, we have much to give thanks and praise to God for during 2024.

**Pearl Thorp** Manager, Olive Shoots





# Ngā Tapuwae o Snapshots of Laidlaw 2024 Laidlaw around Aotearoa in 2024

#### JANUARY

NEW HENDERSON CAMPUS DEDICATION

The new Henderson Campus is dedicated to the glory of God at a gathering of staff and the first cohort of students (GradDipEd) on 22 January. Soil from the old campus is placed around the grounds to represent the continuation of our legacy.



#### **APRIL**

#### NZQA CATEGORY 1 STATUS + TE WĀNANGA IHORANGI WHARE HOU

A NZ Qualifications Authority External Evaluation review of the College and designated programmes is held on Zoom over three days. This results in the College retaining its Category 1 status.

Te Wānanga Ihorangi students and staff move from temporary 'residence' on the Laidlaw floors to their own whare on the ground floor. A morning tea is held to bless and send them off.

#### FEBRUARY NEW HENDERSON CAMPUS PUBLIC OPENING

Several hundred guests attend a public opening of the new Henderson campus on 17 February. Speeches, karakia, and the unveiling of a plaque is followed by live music, kai, workshops, and tours of the building.



#### MARCH LAIDLAW COLLEGE 102ND BIRTHDAY

Our history is remembered across campuses as the cake is brought out at morning tea to celebrate the 102nd birthday of the College (1 March).

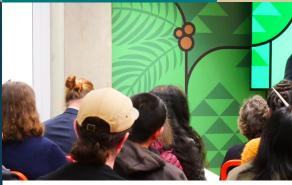


#### JUNE CAMPUS NARRATIVE DESIGN EXHIBITION

A Campus Narrative Design exhibition (6 June) took guests on a journey through the Bible, with audio narrative used to explain the visual images on the Henderson campus walls.

#### **MAY** AUCKLAND GRADUATION CEREMONY

Loud applause, song, and haka ring out around the auditorium as our graduates cross the stage at the Auckland Graduation ceremony on 18 May.





#### AUGUST MISSIONS MONTH

Mission agency guests set up displays and give presentations during "Missions Month" at the Christchurch and Henderson campuses.



#### NOVEMBER VINEYARD MINISTRY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

A new partnership with Vineyard Ministry School is formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.



#### JULY

#### "KO TĀTOU TĒNEI | THIS IS US" EVENT - HENDERSON CAMPUS

The Henderson campus community hold their annual "Ko Tātou Tēnei | This is Us" event, a celebration of culture through food, music, and entertainment.



#### OCTOBER ABIDE & JOY CONFERENCES

Over 200 church leaders from across Aotearoa gather for the Abide Conference at Holy Trinity Cathedral (8-10 October), hosted by Laidlaw's Centre for Church leadership. This is followed by a one-day "Joy Conference" for Christian educators (11 October).



#### SEPTEMBER

ONLINE ALUMNI EVENING + "KO TĀTOU TĒNEI | THIS IS US" EVENT - CHRISTCHURCH CAMPUS

Alumni connect over Zoom at an Online Alumni Evening (7 Sept). A video of the new campus design is shown, updates on the College given, and old friends reconnect in breakout rooms.

The Christchurch campus hold their first "Ko Tātou Tēnei | This is Us" event, with students and staff enjoying food from the cultures represented among their community.



#### DECEMBER

CHRISTCHURCH GRADUATION CEREMONY

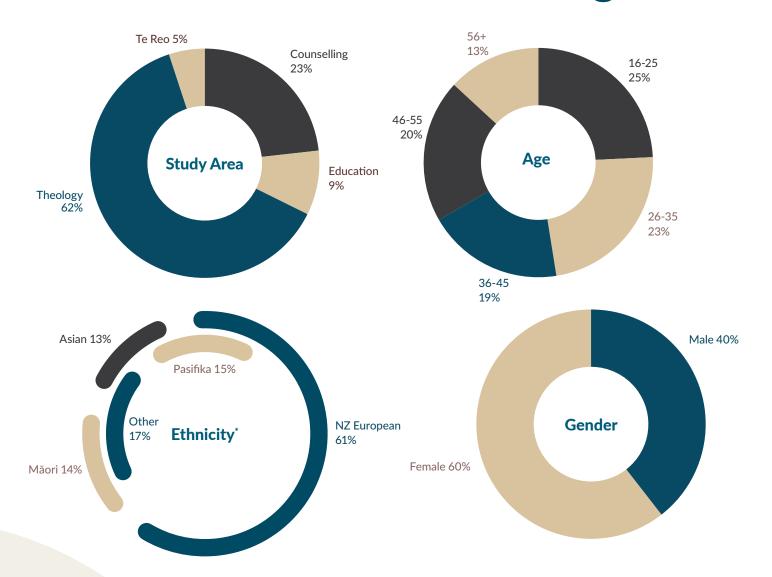
The largest cohort of graduates in recent years is celebrated at the Christchurch Graduation ceremony on 13 December.



# Ngā Tauira ka Pōtaetia ki te Tohu Mātauranga 2024 Our 2024 Graduates

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	Bist	lopor.	Dis	cance Equ	earnine ippers Aur	Kland	rangi TOTA
Certificate in Christian Ministry - Internship				2			2
New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership)	5	1	14	22			42
New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies (Theological Studies)	2	6	11		1		20
Bachelor of Counselling		16			19		35
Bachelor of Education (Primary)		3			5		8
Bachelor of Ministries			1				1
Bachelor of Theology	1	7	13		8		29
Graduate Certificate in Theology		1	6				7
Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)		6			8		14
Graduate Diploma in Theology		2	17		6		25
Postgraduate Certificate in Theology					13		13
Postgraduate Diploma in Theology			2		5		7
Bachelor of Theology (Honours)			2		5		7
Master of Theology					11		11
Te Pōkairua Reo (Rumaki) (Te Kaupae 5)						24	24
Te Pōkairua Reo (Rumaki) (Te Kaupae 6)						12	12
Grand Total	8	42	66	24	81	36	257

# He Pūrongo whāiti ā Our 2024 ngā tauira mō 2024 students at a glance



Denominatio	n*

49%	Baptist	7%
20%	Presbyterian	7%
1%	Independent	9%
2%	Methodist	1%
13%	Salvation Army	2%
1%	Wesleyan	2%
1%		
	20% 1% 2% 13% 1%	20%Presbyterian1%Independent2%Methodist13%Salvation Army1%Wesleyan

\*Statistics reflect that students may identify with a number of ethnicities or denominiations

# Pūrongo Financial Puna Pūtea Snapshot



#### **Operational Income** and Expenditure

INCOME (\$000s)	2024
Government Grants	4,856
Fees	2,801
Services	346
Donations <sup>1</sup>	4,339
Legacies	22
Investment Income <sup>2</sup>	292
Total Income <sup>1</sup>	12,656
EXPENDITURE (\$000s)	2024
Employment	7,077
Operating	2,100
Occupancy <sup>3</sup>	3,077
Information Technology	409
Information Technology Depreciation	409 554
Depreciation	554

#### For fuller information, see the 2024 Consolidated Financial Accounts.

- 1 includes \$2,844k from Laidlaw College Foundation
- 2 includes investment portfolio revaluation
- 3 includes \$2,492k paid to Laidlaw College Foundation (lease and OPEX)

#### **National Governing Council**

Chris Collins (Chair) Prof Jessica Palmer (Deputy Chair) Graham Burt (President, Laidlaw College Society) Chris Hannen Ps Lui Ponifasio Rev Joshua Taylor Rev Shona Pink-Martin Monica Whitehead

Dr Roshan Allpress (Tumuaki/National Principal) Bradford Haami (Heamana, Te Rūnanga o Te Wānanga Amorangi) Miriam Jessie Fisher (Staff NGC Member) Susannah Olive (Student Rep.)

#### Finance & Audit Committee

Chris Hannen (Chair) Chris Collins Prof Jessica Palmer Garth Morgan

Dr Roshan Allpress (Tumuaki/National Principal) Phil Newman (COO) Allan Officer (CFO)

#### Te Rūnanga

Bradford Haami (Co-chair) Rev Shona Pink-Martin (Co-chair)

#### Academic Advisory Board

Assoc Prof Bronwyn Wood Rev Katene Eruera

Dr Roshan Allpress (Tumuaki/National Principal) Dr Maja Whitaker (Academic Dean)

We give grateful thanks to all who so generously give their time and skills to serve on our National Governing Council and Committees.

In addition to those named above, the College also receives advice and support from members of the following governance committees, reference and advisory groups:

- Teacher Education Advisory Group
- Counselling Advisory Group
- Disability Reference Group
- Christchurch Jubilee Committee
- Performance and Remuneration
   Committee

# Ngā Mema o Ngā Poari Members of Boards and Advisories for 2024



# Te Tauākī Whakapono o Laidlaw Statement of Faith

Laidlaw College shall uphold the truths of the historic Christian faith, including the following items of belief:

- There is one true God, infinite and all powerful, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is loving and merciful, holy and just and is the creator and sustainer of all things.
- God has revealed himself in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. All Scripture is uniquely inspired by God and is therefore wholly trustworthy and of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- Jesus Christ is God's only Son and God incarnate. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and lived a perfect and sinless human life. He was sent to reveal God, to proclaim the reign of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to accomplish God's saving purposes.
- Christ died on the cross for our sins as our representative and substitute. God raised him from the dead through the power of the Spirit and he is exalted at the right hand of the Father, having received all authority in heaven and on earth.
- Human beings are made in the image of God. They are created to love, worship and enjoy fellowship with God and have been entrusted with the stewardship of God's creation.
- Through human disobedience to God, sin and death entered the world. All have sinned and are therefore guilty before God and under God's judgement. Sin

separates people from God; it also brings brokenness to human relationships, disrupts the created order and distorts humanity's relationship with creation.

- Salvation is the gift of God's grace through the death of Jesus Christ, and is available to all who repent of their sins and by faith receive him as Saviour and Lord. They are born again by the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God.
- Through the Spirit's indwelling, God's people are enabled to live holy lives and are equipped, in the fellowship of the Church, to witness and work for Christ and to glorify God in the world.
- The Church is the community of all Christian believers, who have been formed by the Holy Spirit into one body of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head.
- The Church is commissioned by Christ to bear witness to the gospel to all peoples through word, deed and sign.
- Christ will return in power and glory to consummate God's kingdom. He will gather his people, judge the world in righteousness, and renew creation. Those outside of Christ will be raised to eternal judgement; those who belong to Christ will be raised to enjoy eternal life in God's presence.

KO TE WHAKAHOUTANGA TŌ MĀTOU KARANGATANGA RENEWAL IS OUR VOCATION

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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> And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us EPHESIANS 5

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