

Ministry Continues at East Taieri Church

We all want to see God's mission and ministry continue after Martin finishes his time as senior pastor on 27th November. Here are some of the ways we seek to keep momentum going.

We have a strong ministry team and a host of volunteer leaders.

Rev Peter Cheyne will be our "interim moderator" (a Presbytery appointed minister to help the parish while they are seeking a new minister). Peter has agreed to work up to half-time for us as "interim pastor" to provide leadership and preaching capacity to assist the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) during the senior pastor vacancy, and to provide an ordained minister for church council.

Peter is not interim senior pastor. Gareth will chair Ministry Leadership Team. Peter's responsibilities are:

1. Prepare the preaching plan & roster (in consultation with associate pastor) for the 10am and 2pm services
2. Preaching as part of the preaching roster. (We would continue to involve a range of ET preachers in the vacancy, even more so than currently, so Peter would preach maybe half of the Sundays, particularly helping cover times when Gareth is away.)
3. Attend monthly church council meetings (elders) as Interim Moderator and to provide a link with MLT.
4. Attend and contribute to fortnightly MLT meetings. MLT meetings are chaired by Gareth Bruce (associate pastor) who is responsible for making any urgent decisions if the MLT hasn't yet reached consensus. (SHFT Exec Officer responsible for SHFT decisions)
5. Although this role is not "acting senior pastor" the Interim Pastor does have line supervision responsibility for Associate Pastor and Parish Manager for employment related matters (annual reviews etc).

6. Take some weddings (there are two other marriage celebrants: Graham Langley, Ivan Murray and Gareth is also applying to be a celebrant).
7. Provide a link with Combined Dunedin Churches.
8. Explore establishing a missional small group on the coast.
9. Take some rest home services as part of a team.

In addition to this, Nick Muirhead is going to do 6hrs/wk in pastoral care coordinating visits and care and linking with small groups. Jo Thorn in the church office remains the first contact point for pastoral needs and other enquiries, though Gareth or Nick can be contacted for urgent pastoral needs, and Leanne Shaw coordinates the ET Cares Meals Ministry.

Gareth continues to feel called to his associate/support role and is not applying for the senior pastor position. Although Gareth will have less time for his FUEL leadership the FUEL Leadership Team and other leaders like Paul Reet as an elder contribute leadership. Gareth remains the point of contact for funerals, and is the MLT liaison person for the Night Church team.

As Parish Manager, Leanne McKinlay will continue to organise our major events such as Ministry Conference and Christmas Eve, as well as the operational management of church life (budgets, staffing, finances, planning, programmes, reporting, maintenance...). Leanne also coordinates the work of the Building Committee (chaired by Simon Dalton), and the Ministry Settlement Board for seeking a new senior pastor (which will be chaired by Rev Richard Dawson).