

KAIMAI PRESBYTERY – STRATEGIC PLAN 2024+

This Plan outlines the Presbytery's strategic directions, to help it facilitate the health and growth of all our churches.

OUR FOUNDATION IN CHRIST – sharing in the Mission of God in Christ Jesus = his disciples sent and gathered

'Participating in God's mission means actively engaging with people in their alienated and broken world, and proclaiming, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the good news of Jesus Christ and the life and rule of his kingdom. With both words and deeds, God's people invite others into a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, and into his community of faith and love that is committed to the reconciliation and renewal of society and creation.'

[Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:6; Mark 1:14-15; John 3:16-17; John 20:21-22; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:33-34; Acts 28:31; Ephesians 1:9-10; John 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Philippians 1:14; Romans 12:4-6; Luke 10:1-9; Romans 8:20-21; 2 Peter 3:13.]

(The Presbytery approved this definition of the 'mission of God' in 2020.)

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

That the churches of Kaimai Presbytery will be healthy and growing, their fruitfulness flowing from their experience of spiritual vitality and their engagement with the world; a united and vibrant movement of people empowered by the Holy Spirit and with a variety of different expressions of life and mission. Imagine the Presbytery like the Kaimai bush – nourished and flourishing, richly varied yet interdependent, fruitful and beautiful.

In these two affirmations our local churches express their unity and diversity in Christ.

THREE OVERARCHING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In brief: SPIRITUAL GROWTH - NEW FELLOWSHIPS - NEW CHRISTIANS

[A] That the Presbytery prioritise the spiritual growth of the people of God.

Fruitfulness in the work of the mission of God and the fulfilment of our vision for the future is utterly dependant on Christ's people abiding in him. (John 15) The call to spiritual maturity remains upon all disciples until we '*attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*'. (Ephesians 4:13). However some have observed that many have plateaued in personal faith, have lost confidence in the gospel, lack biblical and theological knowledge, and have a weak commitment to the local church. Overall the health of our 'Kaimai Bush' needs rejuvenation, with regeneration and new growth.

[B] That the Presbytery prioritise the establishment of new congregations within and beyond current parishes.

New communities of faith are urgently needed, for most churches with their cultures and customs, have been unable to adapt to the people and changes of today's world: multi-generations, cultural and ethnic diversity, socio-economic status etc. The Apostle Paul's commitment needs to be embraced: *To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel.* (1 Corinthians 9:20, 22-23)

[C] That the Presbytery prioritise helping new people journey to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The decline of local churches has been disheartening, and the decreasing capacity has brought pressures on God's call to mission and ministry. Resources are increasingly turned inwards and mission is gradually side-lined. Fundamentally, the answer to decline is in the imperative of the gospel of Jesus Christ - seeing new people come to faith who will bring their vision and energy to their local church. *Brothers and sisters, I remind you of the good news I preached to you. You received it and have put your faith in it.* (1 Corinthians 15:1)

The Presbytery will emphasise these interrelated priorities: with parishes and their leaders, in Gatherings and Leaders Days, in Parish Reviews and through Ministry Settlement Boards, and in the allocation of resources.

NINE BOLD FAITH OUTCOMES – expectations from the three priorities

The Vision of the Presbytery is that all its churches will be healthy and growing, the outcome of their commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and their participation in his work in the world.

These priorities and faith outcomes are strategic directions. The Presbytery and parishes are then required to discern and implement Action Plans. These will vary over time and in different settings.

[A] From prioritising Spiritual vitality & discipleship

[1] That every parish will seek to create the environment and approaches to grow the discipleship of their people. People growing individually: seen for example in their practice of the spiritual disciplines, in their experience of the Holy Spirit, in their use of personal gifts in ministry, and in their passion for the local church.

People growing corporately: seen for example in their enthusiasm for gathering in fellowship and worship, in their concern for the lost, in their ventures in mission, and in their enlistment of leaders with missional gifts.

[2] That every parish will have and use a compelling and active Parish Mission Plan, that revitalises the parish for mission and enables the fulfilment of the Presbytery's strategic priorities.

[3] That every parish will have members across all generations, and especially include an increase of families, children and youth. That members increasingly reflect the cultural and demographic diversity of the surrounding community.

[B] From Prioritising the Establishment of New Congregations

[4] That the presbytery encourage parishes to establish new communities of faith in parishes; to engage with groups of people unreached by the traditional model of church life and ministry. Each new community to foster a sense of belonging, encourage growing belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, and nurture a lifestyle of discipleship.

[5] That the Presbytery, in liaison with current parishes, will seek to establish new fellowships in emerging residential areas or among groups of people unconnected by current mission and ministry.

[6] That the Presbytery and its parishes increasingly express the Church's bi-cultural commitment, growing the relationship with Te Aka Puahou, and using Te Reo Maori in gatherings and ministries.

[C] From Prioritising helping New People journey to Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

[7] That every parish, for each three year Re-View cycle, will have at least one new person who has come to a personal and transforming faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

[8] That every parish will implement specific approaches to evangelism, seeking to actively proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and the life and rule of his kingdom.

[9] That every parish will seek to identify and enlist people with apostolic, evangelistic and prophetic ministry gifts, and with the charisma of the Spirit to assist the church to be more effective in reaching the people of today's world. (Ephesians 4:11-13)