

Chairs Report to AGM

Tena koutou katoa. Tena koutou katoa o te aroha o te Atua.

The challenge for EfM is rebuilding in a way that is relevant for our time and place, while remaining true to our core business of good quality theological education for Christians seeking to explore their faith – because it matters. It matters for local faith communities, and more broadly, for the community of faith that is the Church in all its shapes, colours and sizes in Aotearoa New Zealand.



In last year's report I signalled that it was my intention to bow out as chair. However as a board we remain constrained due to people resource. I am grateful to Rev Carole Hughes, Rev Jean Malcom, Rev Brent Swann and Richard Norman for their input, and the work of Mike Crawford-Butler our Administrator. But the reality is we need new people to join us on the board, who have an interest in what we do and to share the load. In consultation with members of the board, I have decided to remain as chair for now. This is an issue that won't go away. So please, if you might know of anyone who would be interested in joining us for this, especially with some governance experience, please contact our Administrator. While the majority of the board, and those undertaking study are from within the Anglican tradition, we still seek to connect with partner churches.

Rev Julie Guest resigned as a Trainer for EfM at the end of 2023. Julie thank you for your work over many years as a trainer for EfM. You are missed. This means than Rev Jean Malcolm and Raewyn Berkhan are our trainers for New Zealand. The mentor's training in February has borne fruit, and new groups have started in the Wellington region, with a ZOOM group also beginning. This group has members in the Far North, Waikato and Wellington regions. We continue to seek ways to connect with other regions.

Board member Richard Norman continues to work on the practicalities of offering pilgrimages connected to the Church History in Aotearoa New Zealand module. There is delay in offering this module as we are waiting on the new edition of the textbook.

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Mentor Training

Training for new mentors and in-service training for accredited mentors will be held at:

Home of Compassion

2 Rhine St

Island Bay

Wellington

1pm Friday 22 November to

5pm Saturday 23 November

There is no cost for training and no commitment to be a mentor required so if you have wondered about mentoring why not join us.

Registration will open in September

(Chairs Report to AGM—continued)

Recognising there was a need for better connections, Mike set up a video call discussion in March with the Diocesan Ministry Educators of the Anglican Church. This resulted in a good discussion, and we wait to see what happens in other regions in the future. We continue to seek conversations with those in our sister denominations.

Next year it will be 50 years since Charles Winters founded EfM at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. There have been changes in the programme format and material used. In 2026 the next set of changes will come into play in Aotearoa New Zealand. There will be greater use of digital formats, which we recognise will have an impact for some people, and we are working on ways around this. But the board remains committed to delivering the programme in a way that engages, challenges and stimulates people as they seek to explore faith and their response to God's call – because it matters. Always.

Nga mihinui
Rev Leanne Munro
Chair, EFM NZ Trust Board

EfM Retreat 2025

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of EfM we are having a retreat at St Francis Retreat Centre, Hillsborough, Auckland from 10am Friday 15 August to 3pm Sunday 17 August 2025.

The retreat centre has beds for 39 people. There will also be some day only spaces available for those who live locally. The program is still under development. The cost will be between \$400 and \$500.

Registration will open in early 2025 but please put the dates in your diary.



Belonging in This Land

Conversation about the Treaty is happening all around us, and the Treaty Principles Bill will soon come up for discussion.

As Christians, we are shaped by the stories and promises of what God has done before us. God has been at work in this country forever and the Treaty has a rich Christian

heritage. We can look at the story of the Treaty and how it was signed, and let that shape how we live in this land.

But do we actually know what the Treaty says? Why Māori chiefs and the Crown signed it? What happened after?

Common Grace Aotearoa have a program of two 90 minute sessions for small groups that will refresh our understanding and plug our knowledge gaps. See their website for more information

<https://www.treatyandbelonging.nz/>

Please distribute this newsletter widely amongst your networks in the community



An EfM Short Course

EfM New Zealand is developing a short course of 3 or 4 weeks base around Jay Ruka's book *Huia Come Home*. This will be available from late 2024. But to offer this course we need mentors. A lot of past mentors are unwilling to commit for a four year cycle of EfM but if you may be prepared to mentor a short course please contact Michael Crawford-Butler

educationforministrynz@gmail.com

Scared Spaces of Wellington

On the next page is information on 3 church walks organized by Richard Norman and Sir David Moxon. Both these people have an association with EfM and we are pleased to advertise these but they are not organized by EfM



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SACRED SPACES of Wellington

3 Guided Walks through Wellington's spiritual history...

Discover histories of faith communities which have served Wellington since the 19th century.

Learn from guides with expertise in theology and organisation studies and from exploring architecture, art, beliefs and rituals distinctive to each community.

Don't miss this opportunity to venture behind doors which are often closed apart from Sundays.



Walk



Friday November 1st
2pm - 5.30pm

We start with the Jewish faith, founded more than 3500 years ago, one of the oldest religions to believe in one God.

WELLINGTON'S SYNAGOGUE in Webb Street has a museum to commemorate the holocaust of the 20th century.



The **THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**, near Cuba Street, was founded in the United States in 1875 to explore questions such as 'Who am I? Why am I here? What is the purpose of life. The society encourages comparing religions to identify essential teachings.



The Anglican Church is represented by **ST PETER'S CHURCH**, Willis Street, built in native timbers in 1979 in the style of Gothic cathedrals. Anglicans have been in New Zealand since 1814 when Samuel Marsden established a mission station in the Bay of Islands. Unlike in Britain, it is not 'established' as an official state church.

REFRESHMENTS
6.00 p.m. For those able to stay, a self-funded meal will be available at St Peter's Garden Room to encourage continued discussion.



Saturday November 2nd
9.30am - 1pm

ST JOSEPH'S, Mt Victoria, for the involvement of the Catholic Church in the life of the crowded central city through education, health and welfare. St Pat's College and the Home of Compassion were strongly linked with this parish, founded in 1913 and with a 2004 building.



The **GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**, Hania Street, Mt Victoria dates back to 1947, with the current building from 1970. It was built by a community of about 2500 migrants, most of whom came to Wellington during the 1950s and 60s.



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH began in June 1839 when Methodist missionaries conducted Wellington's first service of Christian worship at Te Aro Pa. The church was opened in March 1880 and the town acre site is also home to Wesley Community Action and Samoan, Tongan and Fijian congregations.



Walk



Saturday November 2nd
2pm - 5.30pm

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, Boulcott Street. Baptist churches started in the 1600s as breakaway groups from the established Anglican church. The Baptist Union was formed in Wellington in 1882 and now has 240 churches in New Zealand.



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH, Boulcott Street was founded in 1843 and the concrete Gothic church dates from 1922, largely completed by a parish priest and day labourers. It was fully restored between 2015-17.



ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN, Willis Street dates from the early 1850s, and the building from 1885, when it was on the edge of the colonial town.

REFRESHMENTS
5.45 p.m. St Peter's Anglican Church, Willis Street. A debrief for those who wish to take part.

ABOUT THE WALKS

Cost per half day: \$60. Booking for all three: \$150.00. www.eventfinda.co.nz

Tour Organiser:

Dr Richard Norman, a member of Historic Places Wellington and St Peter's Anglican church, with work background of teaching human resource management and public sector management at Victoria University's School of Business and Government.

Theologian and guide:

Sir David Moxon, from Hamilton, a former Archbishop of the Anglican Church of New Zealand, former director of the Anglican Church centre in Rome and an organiser of pilgrimages in Waikato and Britain.

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