

## Advisory Board, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership

### Recommendation

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1. That the General Assembly express its confidence in the work of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership and its gratitude to the Principal and staff of the Centre for their dedicated service.

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### Report

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#### 1 Introduction

Following the establishment of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML) during the period 2007-08, and the discharging of the Establishment Board by the 2008 General Assembly, an Advisory Board for KCML was formed with the following purposes:

1. To provide advice and support to the Principal and staff in the execution of their duties.
2. To contribute a wider perspective from the Church at large to the operations of the Centre.
3. To act as an advocate for the Centre to the wider Church and to its various courts.
4. To assist the Principal in such matters as the appointment of new staff, the determination of significant new initiatives, and the development of the existing programmes.
5. To undertake periodic reviews of the work of the Centre as a whole.
6. To liaise closely with and report to the Leadership Sub-Committee on a regular basis.
7. To liaise with other committees in the Church that have overlapping areas of responsibility.

Having undertaken these tasks to the best of its ability, the Advisory Board is pleased to report on the continuing development of KCML, and on the work KCML is doing in providing for the training and formation of ministers and leaders in the Presbyterian Church.

#### 2 The internship programme

The internship model of ministry formation and the regular programme of block courses are now well established. The first batch of interns graduated under the new ordination training programme in December 2009. The interns themselves are responding well to the internship programme, and feedback from hosting parishes has generally been very positive. The KCML staff continues to work closely with parishes and supervising ministers in order to ensure that the goals of the programme are being met. KCML is grateful for the dedication and

expertise of all those who have been involved at parish and presbytery levels, and who have contributed a great deal to the programme's success. Thanks are also due to the PSDS and the Synod of Otago and Southland who have offered generous financial support to the internship programme.

As the internship model of training evolves, new opportunities are being explored, including short-term chaplaincy placements, and international mission experience.

There are currently 17 students in training – the biggest number for some years. A further group is involved in foundation studies and is undertaking theology degrees through approved providers around New Zealand. The resources of the Carrick-Crombie scholarship fund, generously provided by the McMillan Hubbard Charitable Trust, have enabled KCML to provide financial support for students at the foundational stage of training. A notable feature of the present and incoming group of students is a considerable decrease in the average age of those who are offering themselves to train for ministry.

### **3 Staff**

Led by the Principal, the Right Rev Dr Graham Redding, the KCML is served by excellent staff members with wide ranging expertise who undertake their responsibilities with great dedication, and with a high level of commitment to exploring the requirements and opportunities for ministry and leadership formation in the changing cultural landscape. KCML has benefited from the appointment of the Rev Dr Jason Goroncy as a lecturer at the Dunedin campus and of the Rev Mark Johnson as Auckland Coordinator of Students. The appointment of an Auckland Coordinator has been beneficial both in terms of the oversight that can be provided to interns and foundation studies students based in the upper North Island, and also because of the opportunities it provides for a stronger connection to and awareness of the needs, challenges and cultural diversity of the church in the North Island.

### **4 Relationship with Te Wānanga a Rangi**

In August 2009 a covenant between KCML and Te Wānanga a Rangi was signed, providing for closer partnership between the two institutions. This is a most encouraging development that has been very warmly received by KCML and by Te Aka Puaho. As a result of the covenant, Te Ahorangi, the Rev Wayne Te Kaawa has been appointed to membership of the Advisory Board and one half of his stipend is now paid by KCML. KCML looks forward to the strengthening of this partnership in years to come with mutual benefit to both institutions.

### **5 New initiatives**

In fulfilment of its mandate to extend training and formational opportunities for a wide range of ministries in the Presbyterian Church, KCML has developed a number of new initiatives. These include:

- Ministry and leadership workshops offering opportunity for continuing ministry formation and other leadership training.
- Music scholarships and training opportunities for young people who are engaged in leadership of music in worship in parishes throughout New Zealand.
- The Music Resource Trust, providing equipment and technical support for young musicians and for events such as “Samstock” and “Faithfest”.
- The “Going Further” discipleship training organised in association with the National Youth Co-ordinator.
- Financial support for Presbyterian students studying theology who have leadership roles in their local congregations.
- Plans are underway to establish a Presbyterian Schools Resource Office that will offer support and resources for schools to enhance the Christian character of their education programmes.
- Reception Workshops for ministers from overseas or from other Christian churches seeking to become ministers of the Presbyterian Church.
- Training of reviewers for the Ministry Development Review process.
- Partnership with the University of Otago in the hosting of conferences and visiting scholars including such events as the Calvin Symposium (2009) the Thomas Burns Memorial Lectures (2009) and a one day Symposium with the Rev Jim Wallis of Sojourners (2010).

## **6 Facilities at Knox College**

A major redevelopment of the Hewitson Wing at Knox College has been undertaken providing new facilities for the Presbyterian Church Archives and a refurbishment of the teaching and office spaces for KCML. These facilities were officially opened on 6 July 2010. KCML is grateful to the Master, Mr Bruce Aitken, and the staff of Knox College for their assistance and co-operation in the completion of this project.

## **7 Thanks**

The Advisory Board wishes to record its gratitude for the work of the Principal of KCML, the Right Rev Dr Graham Redding. During the past two years Graham has maintained his wise and innovative leadership of KCML while also fulfilling his duties as Moderator of the General Assembly. While the combination of these two roles has afforded valuable opportunities to build relationships between KCML and the Church throughout the country, it has also been a heavy load to bear. The Advisory Board thanks Graham for the work he has undertaken during his Moderatorial term and congratulations him on two jobs very well done.

We also record our appreciation of the work undertaken by all of the KCML staff, both academic and administrative. We commend their work to the wider Church and give thanks to God for their ethos of collegiality and mutual support, their wise and energetic devotion to ministry training and formation, and for the extensive service they have offered throughout the Church.

Finally, we record our thanks for the continuing support of the Church around the country. The internship model of ministry training relies heavily on the support and dedication of many people throughout the Church. We are grateful for your support and we look forward to your continuing involvement in the shared tasks of nurturing and developing men and women, young and old, to serve God in faithful Christian ministry and leadership.

**Rev Dr Murray Rae**  
Convener