

Moderator's Arrangements Task Group

Report

1 New Regime

1.1 As of Assembly 2004 there was a major change in the "role of the Moderator".

- The Moderator was charged with the key task to inspire and encourage the "Church in mission": attempting to marry the mana, dignity and hopefully influence that go with being moderator, to a focus on leading the "Church in mission".
- The new regime brought the requirement that during their term of office that the Moderator visit all areas of the Church. Visits to presbyteries are therefore shorter and more focused. This has been a good move and necessary because the Moderator, along with the National Mission Enabler have been the key face of the National Church visiting presbyteries. It is important to maintain the feeling in the parishes that we belong to the wider church.

4.2d "The Church needs to be visible in the flesh, not anonymous in bland missives issuing from some distant office".

From his experience as he has moved around the Church over the last two years, The Rt Rev Marquand endorses the need for personal contact.

- The programme for visits is now primarily determined by the Moderator, rather than presbyteries determining the Moderator's local itinerary
- The task of the visiting Moderator has also been simplified by the decision at the 2004 Assembly to drop the pastoral role from the Moderator's brief.

2 Policy

2.1 There is an expectation in the wider church that the Moderator will bring a message of Mission Leadership. Each Moderator will bring their own gifts and strengths to the role.

2.2 In light of the above changes and expectations the Rt Rev Marquand when visiting presbyteries adopted a policy to make a presentation on the "local church and its mission task in the future".

2.3 As wide a cross section of leadership as possible was invited to attend and to take part in the follow up dialogue.

2.4 Responses indicate that the contribution of the Moderator was warmly received.

3 Logistics

3.1 For each presbytery we made initial contacts with the Moderator and clerks up to nine months ahead of proposed visits. When the timing of a visit was confirmed a more detailed letter outlining the Moderator's plans was sent.

- 3.2 A local co-ordinator for each presbytery played a key role in publicity and local logistics and the success of the visits.
- 3.3 All presbyteries were visited.
- 3.4 The Moderator's Arrangements Committee express their thanks to Mrs Val Marquand who undertook all accommodation bookings.

4 Other Engagements Included

- 4.1 The Rt Rev Marquand attended church anniversaries where time permitted, a Presbyterian Church Schools Conference, visits to meetings of the Asian Congregations and Pacific Island Fono, Te Aka Puaho, the Connect Conference of Presbyterian Youth Ministries, the World Council of Churches General Assembly in Brazil, the Triennial Conference of Association of Presbyterian Women, Southland Pastors Conference, several mission training days for leaders and several Uniting Church of Australia meetings.

5 Relationship with Fairfield (Home) Parish

- 5.1 The people of The Rt Rev Marquand's parish have been very supportive and interested in his ministry during the two-year term as Moderator.
- 5.2 We draw Assembly's attention to the fact that the assumed 50/50 timeshare between parish and Moderator's tasks does not work out in practice. Even when at home the Moderator has national church correspondence and reports to attend to and the time division between parish and moderatorial duties is nearer 75% National Church 25% local parish.

6 Obituary

- 6.1 The Moderator's Arrangements Committee record their sadness at the untimely death of the Fairfield Parish representative in February 2006. Mrs Patricia Shute had provided a valuable link between our group and the local congregation. We appreciated her cheery smile and expertise, her computer skills and competence with budget matters.

7 Thanksgiving

- 7.1 We praise and thank Almighty God for His grace as we have journeyed through these last two years. We give glory to Him and commend the church into His hands.

Rev Alice Hill
Convener

