

Address to Assembly by the Moderator designate, Rev Hamish Galloway

Ko Aoraki te maugna

Ko Opawaho te awa

Ko kai tahu te iwi

Ko Hamish Galloway ahau

Ko Hope Presbyterian toku whare tapu

Tena kotou katoa

I would like to humbly acknowledge the faith that the Presbyterian Church in Aotearoa has placed in me by electing me as Moderator designate. I do accept this with some trepidation! And yet I also come to this with a sense of God's calling to this task at this time. It feels to me like a Kairos moment, a proper or opportune time, a God calling time.

I do not stand here alone, but surrounded by people in my family and people of this Presbyterian Church that have nurtured me for a lifetime. In particular, there is the support of my whanau today – not all could be here, but it is a blessing to have this lovely group of family, friends and colleagues with me.

There is family present and I acknowledge your love. I especially want to thank my lovely, feisty and supportive wife Anne. And I acknowledge the joy I have in having my father Lindsay here today.

There are friends from presbytery here; Anne and Martin Stewart, Barry and Clare Ayers, and Len Pierce – Anne is moderator of presbytery and Barry is the presbytery's executive officer. Len has been a long-time friend and mentor to me in this presbytery. These people are good friends and colleagues, but they also represent the presbytery that nominated me and I want to say thank you for the confidence you have placed in me.

In the information that went out to the churches to inform your voting, I mentioned some things that I want to emphasise today. As Moderator, I will seek to bring:

- Ø A vibrant and passionate love of God
- Ø Leadership and strategic thinking skills honed over years of ministry in different contexts

The areas I plan to focus on are as follows:

- Ø Being pastorally attentive to the wide diversity of people in the PCANZ
- Ø Representing the PCANZ with dignity
- Ø Working collaboratively with national church staff to encourage Presbyteries and parishes in mission

Ø Encouraging the PCANZ to steward resources wisely and effectively to empower the next generation of church – this will be a particularly important focus for me. It is about generativity that leads to life, rather than small - minded selfishness that leads to stagnation.

‘Hangaa e te Atua he whakaparanga mo nga wa e heke mai nei’

Build O God a generation for the times that are coming

It is very significant that we are here today at St Andrew’s College. I was chaplain here for 21 years. One interesting fact is that I took something like 400 volleyball practices in this gym over the years! But a more relevant fact is that I developed a deep concern for the spiritual development of Gen Y, Gen X and the Millennials as I engaged with them in 1000s of conversations about God. They were interested and animated participants! And yet I also see them largely dislocated from churches like ours! There is something to be reconnected here – it is the intergenerational faith connection that has kept Christian faith intact for century upon century.

I love the representation of the generations in my Whanau today. They tell a story that is important to who we are and what we can become. Let me introduce some of them to you.

My father, a member of the builder generation, born before WW2. This generation have served this church so faithfully and well. I remember as a 4 year old in 1960 watching Dad help build the church at Hoon Hay. It was a burgeoning and bustling time for the Presbyterian Church in this land. And in 2018 at the age of 86 he still has the role of head of pastoral care at Hoon Hay. Is this not the story of this generation in our Church? Pioneers of the new suburbs in the 1950s and 1960s, faithful through many changes, still working hard for this Church.

Murray Talbot, my colleague at Hope Presbyterian and a baby boomer who was at the forefront of the charismatic movement that brought new life into the Presbyterian Church in the 1970s and 1980s. I am not sure the theological college knew what to do with your particular intake of ‘spirit filled’ firebrands Murray, but I do know that the Church has been enlivened by your ministry and others like you from that generation. I am part of this generation.

And then there is this large group of leaders here in the whanau from the younger generations. They are an impressive group. Let me introduce some of them.

They represent a new generation of leaders. I am excited by them and for them. My job as an aging baby boomer is to encourage, resource and empower. It is an urgent task for the older generations of the Church.

I love the sections in our national strategic plans that talk about releasing our resources for mission for new generations of church. And I want to part of a Church that does that in generous, strategic and mission empowering ways. And I will do my very best to lead in a way that enables and encourages this to happen.

‘Hangaa e te Atua he whakaparanga mo nga wa e heke mai nei’

Build O God a generation for the times that are coming

Waiata

Ehara i te mea¹
Nō nāianei te aroha
Nō nga tūpuna
Tuku iho, tuku iho

Te whenua, te whenua
Te oranga o te iwi
Nō nga tūpuna
Tuku iho, tuku iho

Whakapono, tumanako
Te aroha te aroha;
Nō nga tūpuna
Tuku iho, tuku iho.

Not the thing
of recent times, is love
but by the ancestors it has been
passed down, passed down.

From the land, the land
comes the wellbeing of the people;
by the ancestors it has been
passed down, passed down.

Faith, hope
and love;
by the ancestors they have been
passed down, passed down.