

Caring for Our People

Manaakitia ā tātou tāngata

April 2019

As-salāmu ‘alaykum. Peace be with you.

Questions from the parishes

It was my delight to take part in the Waikato-Waiariki Synod training day and present what's needed for parishes. There were some interesting questions put forward which I thought might be useful for the wider Connexion.

Q. What is the role of the Parish Health and Safety Officer?

A. At parish level I don't see the need for a health and safety role beyond administrative support. I envisage health and safety being carried out by everyone, decisions are made by everyone... and then someone needs to record the decision and remind everyone that they made that decision!

For example, if health and safety is considered with every decision, in every parish meeting, then you wouldn't even need a health and safety committee. But if your parish is running asbestos and/or incident registers then having someone available to administer those registers would be a bonus.

The most effective health and safety tool a parish has, is to have the conversation... how work will be safely achieved, discuss the short and long term safety implications of decisions, ensure everyone is on the same page.



*Health and safety is about
planning together, not paperwork*

Q. Health and Safety seems to require personnel. This may be satisfactorily dealt with in larger parishes, however, how do we manage when there is no one able to take on this responsibility?

A. Each parish will be different, however this point was taken into consideration when compiling our processes. All processes are scalable, and targetted at simplicity while balancing clarity and achieving all legal requirements.

However, (and there is always a "however"), as with every new system there is an upfront, one-off cost of setup time. Once every plan is in place, it then becomes a common thing to check it every 6 months or so.

Time envisaged to put plans in place:

- Asbestos Management Plan – Stage 1: **10 minutes effort** + discussion time and whatever time is needed to locate or draw a floor plan of the building. *Required: scribe, building knowledge, council ratification.*
- Emergency Response Plan: **½ hour to draft** + walk through with wardens to check the plan will work + time necessary to draw the floor plan for evacuation plan and time squabbling with page breaks on the computer. *Required: computer person, building wardens, committee ratification.*
- Incident Reporting: **0 minutes** + discussion time. *People required: 1 committee to agree to act.*

The known sticking point is having the computer knowledge to deal with some of the forms.

Solution! → I am always available if assistance is wanted. Give me a call!

He aha te kai a te rangatira? He kōrero, he kōrero, he kōrero.

What is the food of the leader? Discussion and communication.

Nā Trudy Downes

Mobile 027 457 4196 trudyd@methodist.org.nz

April 2019

18

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