**Southern Presbytery Strategic Directions Statement 2023-2026**

**Vision**

Vibrant communities of faith in the South

**Mission**

To lead a movement of communities of faith to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ

**Signposts**

1. **Working together**

* Seek opportunities to inspire, resource and support each other and embrace innovation, aimed at helping people journey to and in faith;
* Grow constructive engagement between Presbytery and communities of faith;
* Promote a culture of generosity, transparency, mutual accountability, safety and permission-giving throughout the Presbytery;
* Build partnership with mana whenua and strengthen partnership with Te Aka Puaho;
* Enhance partnerships with Presbyterian bodies in our region including the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, Church schools and Presbyterian Support and with the University;
* Work together with other presbyteries.

1. **Engaged communities of faith**

* Support communities of faith to intentionally engage their wider communities;
* Increase support for mission initiatives, including fresh expressions of the gospel;
* Assist communities of faith to address their current realities and clarify their future;
* Model and encourage inter-cultural and inter-generational relationships in all our life together;
* Strengthen regional ecumenical relationships to support local cooperation.

1. **Leader development**

* Identify, encourage and support people to exercise excellent leadership in all aspects of our presbytery;
* Build the capacity of people in their roles across the Presbytery;
* Resource education and ministry to enable a broad range of people to exercise leadership and practise ministry;
* Support initiatives for growth in prayer, evangelism and societal transformation.

1. **Aligned resourcing**

* Align processes, decision-making, structures, finance, assets, staffing, communication and information collecting, analysing and reporting to intentionally support our mission;
* Pursue operational integration with the Synod of Otago and Southland including in stewarding resources, decision-making, meeting and communicating;
* Encourage mission shaped communities of faith through congregational reviews and associated planning and reflection.

*Note: “communities of faith” includes congregations and ministries such as chaplaincies.*