**JUSTICE-COMPASSION TRUST, AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

c/o 51 Roy St

Palmerston North 4410

email: justcomtrust@gmail.com

Charities Registration Number: CC60493

**Information Sheet**

***What is the Justice-Compassion Trust Aotearoa New Zealand?***

This Trust has been set up at the instigation of the Rev Dr James Symons, a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church of the USA, who spent time here in New Zealand between 2001 and 2012. In his “retirement”, Jim served as a transition minister in eight New Zealand churches, and now, out of a passion for justice and compassion and in gratitude for friendship offered, he is funding a trust in NZ to help churches and communities move in the missional practice of justice and compassion.

***What are the aims of the Trust?***

The overall aim of the Trust is to raise the church’s engagement in local communities in ministries of justice and compassion. Work in justice and compassion will be defined for the purposes of this Trust as those projects, enterprises and ministries that exemplify the Way of Jesus of Nazareth who embodied justice and compassion as core values.

***What sort of ministry is the Trust aiming to encourage?***

 Our hopes and dreams are that the Trust will find itself funding ministries whose aims and purposes encourage any of the following…

1. Belief in God (or a higher power) of justice and compassion
2. Cultivating and affirming the dignity and place of tangata whenua in Aotearoa
3. Confronting racism and systemic divisions of people by colour or ethnic origin
4. Proclaiming justice for people of all faiths (or none) and interfaith cooperation
5. Stewardship of God’s whole creation, mitigating effects of climate change
6. Seeking equal rights and opportunities for marginalised communities and addressing violence against these communities
7. Encouraging personal transformation through spiritual discipline and mindfulness
8. Supporting and promoting economic justice for all, critiquing structures that protect extreme wealth for the few and result in poverty for many others
9. Supporting people of all ages and ability to contribute to inclusive community
10. Promoting a personal and social ethic, based on the Way of Jesus of Nazareth

(Note: For the purposes of registration as a charity the Trust Deed states these aims and goals more simply. They can be found on the Charities Registration Web site.)

***Who are the Trustees?***

The Trustees are friends and colleagues of Jim Symons, from within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and spread across the country. We are: Pamela Tankersley, Christiane Ker, Sharon Ross Ensor, Roy Ferguson and Matthew Jack.

Jim Symons, his wife Patty Compeau and daughter Debbie Symons are in close contact with us.

***Who can apply?***

 Initially teams, (groups and organizations) that may apply for funds were to be associated with the eight congregations in which the Rev Symons was employed as minister. It is noted that some of these congregations no longer exist. Now the Trust may use its discretion to fund other ministries and projects in these local and wider communities. In time the applications may be submitted from the wider community.

***How much can be applied for?***

* It is expected that grants will be given for seeding/funding creative initiatives, not for maintaining institutions.
* This may include new projects of an established group looking to increase creatively its level of justice and/or compassion in its programmes.
* It is not expected that these funds will be used for buildings or staffing.
* Grants between $5000 and $10,000 can be applied for, but the size of the grants will usually be in the range of $5000-$6000.
* Grants can be renewed no more than once for the same project.
* A project evaluation will be requested within six months of the project being completed.

***How is an application made?***

* Applications can be made on the form provided and sent to the address of the Chair/administrator Pamela Tankersley justcomtrust@gmail.com
* A Trustee will be in contact to acknowledge receipt of your application. They may want to have a further conversation to understand more about your project.
* When the Trustees have made a decision, you will be informed.
* The right to decline an application is reserved and no correspondence will be entered into.

***Timing for the third round of grants.***

* Applications close 30 September 2024 and the Trust will meet to consider allocation of grants in early October

***Where are the funds coming from?***

* Initially, the Rev Jim Symons granted funds to use as seeding money for the projects/initiatives and he has indicated that he intends to continue to support the Trust in this way in the next couple of years.
* However, the reporting back and outcomes we have had from the supported projects have been amazing and we are sure there is much more to be done in this way in our communities. (a list of the projects from 2023 is attached.) The Trust will welcome donations from other individuals and organisations and we would be grateful is you can help us spread the word (As we have Charities Registration, all donations are eligible for tax rebates.)
* Contact the treasurer Sharon Ross Ensor (sharon.rossensor@gmail.com) to donate.

**Summary of groups/projects that the Trust has supported in 2023**

**April 2023**

**Knox Church, Christchurch**

*Te Reo for worship in seminars and Marae experience*

**Onewa Presbyterian Church**

*Restorative Justice*

*Community Counselling placement*

*Community Facilitation team*

**Island Bay Presbyterian Church**

*Community space in local high-rise buildings*

**Roskill South, Northern Presbytery**

*Community service with lawnmowing*

**Upper Clutha Presbyterian Church**

*24/7 secondary school counselling, supported by the church*

**Spiritual Growth Ministries**

*Tangata whenua spiritual direction: Aroha Scholarships*

**First Church Otago**

*Podcast on forgiveness*

**Te Aka Puaho**

*Community gardens in 2 TAP parishes (Ruatahuna and Waimana)*

**Religious Diversity Centre Climate Change Action Work Group**

*Series of seminars on Climate Change and hope.*

**Pathways Presbyterian Church**

*Public Presentations on examples of Compassion and Justice*

**September 2023**

**Palmerston North interfaith Group)**

***Spiritual Spaces***

The Palmerston North Interfaith Group has devised a programme to visit the spiritual home/sacred space of faith groups in the local community

**Bethlehem Community Church - *Tauranga***

***Transform***

This project is a partnership between Bethlehem Community Church and the Transform Aotearoa Trust, which is a faith-based ministry that seeks to provide tools disadvantaged people can use to lift themselves to fulfilled lives for themselves, their families and communities

**The Village Community Centre *Christchurch***

***Papanui Drop in Space***

The Village aims to foster friendships and build community amongst the diversity of the neighbourhood residents. The Village has a unique space within its building, called the Creative Nest.

**Association of Practical Theology in Oceania – Otago and Bd of Admin Methodist Church**

***Conference on Migration***

The project is a conference on migration organised by the Association of Practical Theology in Oceania in partnership with the Methodist Church of NZ.

**Baskets of Welcome and blessing *Dunedin***

***Ko nga rourou Manaaki***

A group consisting of representatives from Araiteuru Marae, the Dunedin Multiethnic Council, New Zealand Red Cross, Churches welcoming Refugees and supportive individuals has developed this project to provide opportunities for firmer refugees and migrants to become socially connected with the wider Dunedin Community.

**Kind Hearts Trust - Palmerston North**

***Upgrading the Hospital Parents room***

 In this project our intention is to paint/decorate the Parent’s room and Palmerston Noth Hosptal, add new curtains or blinds, add some appropriate art work or a mural and purchase a shelving unit/containers.

**St Johns in the City - Wellington**

***Public Theology events***

We want to offer events of Public Theology that engage a broad range of people to explore deeply important issues of justice and ethics facing our world.

**Common Grace Aotearoa - Auckland**

***Everyone Connected***

Common Grace Aotearoa is a new charitable trust that exists to equip and organise Christians to transform unjust structures for the common good. We do this by mentoring groups of passionate Christians to run advocacy campaigns - alongside the wider community and civil society - that advance policy solutions towards climate, economic and Te Tiriti justice. We seek funding to grow our economic justice campaign focused on energy hardship

**Student Soul Striving for Transformation (Otago University)**

[Student Soul](https://studentsoul.org.nz/), a church for students and young adults in Ōtepoti, is seeking funding to develop and deliver a 6-week online discipleship course entitled "Striving for Transformation: Unlocking Your Identity in Christ."

**St Johns Presbyterian Church - Hastings**

***Bridging Hawkes Bay***

We are conscious that there are many people out in our Hawkes Bay community who have been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. (in February 2023) Our neighbours are hurting, broken, and lost and for some this will take many years to overcome.

We want people to be loved, connected, and treasured, so we are going out to our Hawkes Bay neighbours to listen, share and be