

Kia ora koutou,

I'm writing to touch base with you all as people offering ministry within the Waikato-Waiariki Methodist Synod. In these uncertain times I think it's really important for us to be actively supporting and caring for each other. In Te Reo this process is called "manaakitanga".

I hope you all managed to negotiate the weekend. I'm already hearing from many of you about the creative ways you're responding to 'the new normal' created by Covid 19.

Please share these ideas with each other. None of us have to face this situation on our own.

One initiative Synod Executive is taking will be to set up a contact list so that each of you gets a call once a week from someone on the Executive team. This is for your pastoral support but is also a way for you to share with us any difficult issues you're facing. Then we can work them out together.

We are meeting by Zoom this week to think about other ways of offering our congregations the support and resources they might need. Those of you in co-operating parishes will be pleased to know that Ron Mills (Kaimai Presbytery), Philip Richardson (Waikato and Taranaki Diocese) and I have agreed to meet regularly by Zoom so that we can try to work together more as this situation unfolds. It only took a pandemic!

One thing I'm wondering is whether any of you are considering live-streaming your worship? If you are, can you let me know? It would be great to promote this resource around our people and congregations.

The need for self-care is going to be as important as ever during this time. Those of you in appointed positions should be meeting regularly with your supervisor. You may now need to do this by phone, Skype or Zoom. Can you please let me know who your supervisor will be for the year? I've attached a form for you to complete and send back to me.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns. Stay safe and continue to be beacons of light and a non-anxious presence in your communities.

Te pai me te rangimārie,

Susan