



Caring for Our People

Manaakitia ā tātou tāngata

July 2020

As-salāmu ‘alaykum. Peace be with you.

There is a Health and Safety resource available to you and your parish

I have been employed as the Health and Safety Coordinator for the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, in response to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

I realise that explanation isn't very helpful so let me share an overview of what I actually do!

I make stuff up and cross my fingers!

I don't really make stuff up, but sometimes it feels like it! What works in one parish may not work in another. What works for a Synod doesn't work for a rohe. Even English is not always the best language to use.

I think of my role like this:



1. Translate legal requirements around health and safety into useful and usable plans that the Church and its various entities can action. For example

- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 → Emergency Response Plans, asbestos management plans
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017 and Building Act 2004 → Fire Evacuation plans and fire drills, and Building Warrants of Fitness

2. Respond to 'events' and requests for assistance. For example

- sharing who to call to assist, and what to do next, informing the right authorities.
- investigating what happened. Aim to improve how we do things to safeguard us from further events.
- providing guidance to do things safely – accessing roofs, managing asbestos, responding to pandemics!

3. Help make our Church a safe place to be and do Church.

I think this is a subjective activity based on mindsets and behaviours and 'prevention is better than cure'. We all need to consider the difference between 'doing things right', and 'doing the right things'.

What information I present is generalised and designed to cover every situation I can think of that may occur somewhere throughout the Church. I leave it to people to pick and choose what is relevant to them and so far everyone is doing well at this.

Connexional needs direct my efforts

When I find out about incidents or needs, then I can react to provide useful information.

Tell me if there are current health and safety issues that you know about and I am not addressing.

Ask me you have health and safety concerns that your team are unsure how to address.

Knowing your concerns helps me to provide better knowledge across the Connexion.

Knowing what concerns are current helps me focus on relevant topics.

A Connexional approach helps reduce effort for everyone when solving common problems.

Kōrero mai!

Speak to me!

Nā Trudy Downes

Mobile 027 457 4196

trudyd@methodist.org.nz

