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About Us

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The Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership forms ministers and leaders for service in the [Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand](https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/) and partner churches.

We work in partnership with a variety of groups and networks, including [Te Aka Puaho](https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/te-aka-puaho-%E2%80%93-ohope-marae), the Pacific Island Synod, the Council of Asian Congregations, Presbyteries, United District Councils, and congregations.

In addition to training people for [National Ordained Ministry](https://knoxcentre.ac.nz/ordained-ministry/national-ordained-ministry), the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership also provides training for [Local Ordained Ministers](https://knoxcentre.ac.nz/ordained-ministry/local-ordained-ministry), [Local Ministry Teams](https://knoxcentre.ac.nz/ordained-ministry/local-ministry-teams) and other recognised ministries in the Church. We support presbyteries and congregations in their leadership development, and help resource continuing ministry formation among the Presbyterian Church’s ministers and elders.

**Our history**

In the early years of Presbyterianism in New Zealand, ministers came as migrants after training and ministry experience in Scotland, Ireland and Australia. In 1877 classes were started in Dunedin in the home of William Salmond, the first Professor of the Theological Hall. Beginning with two students, by 1900 most students for the ministry of the soon to be united Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches were attending Hall classes in Dunedin.

The union of the churches south and north of the Waitaki River in 1901 made the need for facilities urgent. The Synod of Otago and Southland was committed to the provision of theological education in Dunedin and, through the generosity of the Ross family, in 1909 Knox College was opened to provide both for the Theological Hall and a residential college for university students. Modeled on similar colleges in Australia, it sought to provide a setting where young single male students could mix with those studying for law, medicine and other disciplines at the university and share a vision for 'the glory of God, the promotion of His Kingdom, and the advancement of sound learning'.

The appointment of John Dickie in 1909 as the first Principal helped connect New Zealand training with international theological developments. Under the leadership of successive masters Knox College as a student residential facility developed an outstanding community life and witnessed to the commitment of the Presbyterian Church to the encouragement of academic excellence. A steady flow of leaders in church and society have shared in its life and atmosphere and some have also added to its folklore.

In 1955 the need for separate facilities for the Theological Hall was met by the opening of the Hewitson Wing in commemoration of the centennial of the Presbyterian Church in Otago and Southland. The housing and development of the Hewitson Library as a major theological resource became a feature of the new facility. In 1984 a major extension provided further library space and a common room for Theology students, many of whom were now older, married, and living in church houses in North Dunedin.

In the post-war decades, Helmut Rex, himself a refugee from Nazi Germany, brought a deep intellectual commitment which challenged students, opened minds to the spiritual significance of literature, and raised awareness of indigenous cultures. In the 1960s the curriculum evolved to include pastoral studies and greater attention to the life of the New Zealand churches. In 1972 Te Wananga-a-rangi, the theological college of the Maori Synod, now Te Aka Puaho, was relocated from Whakatane to Dunedin, including the maihi which frame the approach to the Hewitson Wing of the College.

Staff shared in the development of the Bachelor of Divinity and Bachelor of Theology degrees at Otago University. Women and older students were welcomed to the community of theological students, and the requirement of permission to marry was dropped. The provision of culturally appropriate courses relating to Maori, Asian, and Polynesian New Zealanders provided a significant challenge, as did the theological and cultural diversities of the pakeha church. It was increasingly difficult to address these out of the classical theological curriculum which had served earlier generations well. Ecumenical links, particularly with the Roman Catholic seminary at Holy Cross and in shared work through the Faculty of Theology at Otago University, were enriching if not always easy to coordinate. In the 1990s, the innovation of Community Based Ministry Training (CBMT) created a viable distance model of delivery which proved its worth.

In 1997 the University of Otago assumed responsibility for the delivery of its Theology Degrees. The Theological Hall was disestablished and the School of Ministry was formed.  Ordinands were now to complete a primary theological degree at one of a number of recognized providers before coming to the School of Ministry which provided a two-year ministry formation ordination studies programme.  In the downsizing of staff the CBMT was discontinued.

After research on lay training needs in 1999 a coordinator for lay and recognised ministries was appointed. Since 2002, the School has also had shared responsibility along with Presbyteries for Local Ordained Ministers and members of Local Ministry Teams.

During 2006 a major review of the School of Ministry was concluded leading to decisions by the General Assembly to move to an internship model of training for National Ordained Ministry in conjunction with block courses and distance learning. The School of Ministry became the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML). Now interns undertake a 22-month internship being placed in congregational and missional settings. Their internship is punctuated with 3 residential block courses per year and ongoing assignment and project work. In their internship, their ministry rhythm translates to 75% day-to-day ministry and 25% study.

KCML provides support for Eldership and leadership training, advice for Local Ministry Teams, and working with Presbyteries in the training and formation of Local Ordained Ministers.

**STAFF**

**Dean of Studies/Acting Principal**

**Rev Dr Geoff New**

**B Min (BCNZ), D Min (ACT)**

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Geoff New commenced as Dean of Studies in 2015. His employment background was as an Employment Officer (Dept of Labour) in South Auckland and working in Human Resources for the Manukau Housing Corporation. In 1993, Geoff began his study for Bachelor of Ministries majoring in pastoral care at the Bible College of NZ (now Laidlaw College). In 1996-1997 he attended the School of Ministry (Knox College) as one of the first three ordinands in the newly developed Ordination Studies Programme. In 1997 Geoff was called to Papakura East and Hunua Presbyterian Church where he was minister until appointed Dean of Studies (KCML). During his time at Papakura East, Geoff was also a Police Chaplain for five years for the Counties-Manukau Police District, lectured in preaching for five years at Laidlaw College, lectured on occasions at Carey Baptist College and since 2011 has been a trainer for Langham Preaching ([nz.langham.org](https://nz.langham.org)) with responsibility in South Asia. Since 2012 he has been the director for Kiwimade Preaching ([kiwimadepreaching.com](https://kiwimadepreaching.com)) which is the NZ expression of Langham Preaching. Kiwimade Preaching aims to encourage, challenge and resource preachers within the NZ context. Geoff was awarded a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2011 through the Australian College of Theology. His thesis was entitled: “Back to the Future: The impact of the ancient disciplines of *Lectio Divina* and Ignatian Gospel Contemplation on contemporary preaching.” Geoff is married to Ruth. They have three adult children: Rebekah (married to James), Josiah and Luke. Geoff enjoys indoor rowing, biking, silent retreats and movies (not silent).

**Management Support Officer**

**Rev Dr Darryl Tempero**

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Darryl commenced his role with KCML in January 2021. He has comprehensive experience in a wide-range of PCANZ ministry contexts. He has had well over 30 years’ experience in local, presbytery, and national roles. Darryl planted Kiwi Church (Christchurch) nine years ago and continues to lead there. Since 2011, Darryl has also been a resource minister for Alpine Presbytery.He has served on the KCML Advisory Board, and more recently convened the principal’s support group. Darryl is currently the convenor for LSC. He has relinquished this role to take up the position at KCML. Darryl lectures in formation at Laidlaw College (Christchurch). He was awarded his DMin with distinction from Fuller Theological College in 2017. As Management Support Officer, Darryl works closely with the KCML Dean of Studies/Acting Principal. This role demands a unique mix of gifts and skills for assisting in: the management of KCML; supporting the work of formation of interns; and development of the wider leadership of the PCANZ.

**Ministry Formation Co-ordinator**

**Dr Rev Paul Prestidge**

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Paul commenced his role with KCML in November 2020, and has been a minister at Miramar Uniting Church, Wellington, since 2010. Prior to that for 13 years, he was minister at St James Presbyterian Church, New Plymouth.  Paul has a clear call to form leaders for the Church in mission. This has been lived in his leadership of the Good Soil Collective (3DM) and in numerous roles across the life of the PCANZ, including as Co-convener of the National Assessment Workgroup, Moderator of Taranaki Presbytery, and as Wellington Regional Moderator. Paul is a life-long learner with a deep self-awareness. Paul brings community involvement: as a former Chair of Wellington Restorative Justice Trust and  Taranaki Restorative Justice Trust, and as a supporter of Myanmar refugees resettled in Wellington who have become his friends. He gained a Doctorate of Ministry, exploring the Sermon on the Mount as an evangelistic text (2012). He has a clear passion for personal spirituality, using language of “journeying with” to describe the formation journey of interns. With his term of call at Miramar Uniting ending, Paul is sensing a call to church plant.

**Ministry Formation co-ordinator for KCML  **

**Rev Dr Fei Taule’ale’ausumai Davis**

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Fei commenced her role with KCML in April 2020. Fei is an Aotearoa-born Samoan. Her father Taule’ale’ausumai Fa’asiu came from the village of Faletagaloa in Safune, Savaii and her mother Viola Sooialo is from the villages of Vailima and Alamagoto in Upolu. Fei brings considerable experience of Christian ministry to the task of forming ministers and resourcing leaders. Fei has been a chaplain at Maclaurin Chapel, a national youth-coordinator for the PCANZ and a parish minister at St Andrews Presbyterian. Fei is currently the minister at Pt Chevalier Presbyterian, and will continue in this role alongside her responsibilities as ministry formation co-ordinator. Fei has also served internationally as a lecturer at St Andrews College and Selly Oak School of Mission and World Christianity in England and regionally, as Pacific Regional Secretary for the Council of World Mission. “I have always felt called to teaching and engaging with people by accompanying them on their ministry journey. KCML is about enabling and empowering our students to be culturally and contextually relevant and ready for Christian ministry within our churches and communities and in society as a whole. It is a privilege to be called to be part of this journey.”

**New Ministry Formation Co-ordinator for KCML**

**Rev Nikki Watkin**

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Nikki commenced her role with KCML in Jan 2020.  She is a highly experienced parish minister, serving first at Knox Presbyterian Church in Fielding and for the last 20 years at Kohimarama Presbyterian Church. Her Master of Ministry was in Christian education and was shaped by a strong sense of call to form leaders.

**Registrar**

**Susan Peters**

Susan began on a casual basis at KCML in March 2017 assisting Registrar, Catherine Van Dorp prior to her departure the month following. The role has changed a little since Catherine left, with much of the financial reporting and processing now handled by our Wellington office. Susan works 18 hours per week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) and undertakes a variety of administrative duties. With a background in banking, finance and administration, the position and hours of work were a good fit for Susan and KCML. She lives locally with her partner David, and two teenage children, Cameron and Darcy, and spends a good portion of her two days off per week volunteering, organising and attending events associated with her son’s school and musical pursuit’s and daughters school, sporting, and dance activities.

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