



KAEO-KERIKERI UNION PARISH
VISIONING – February 2019

For use at the Workshop on 10 February. Individual submissions after this date can be handed in at Cornerstone or given to a parish councillor before 24 February

OUR VISION AND DIRECTION that's lead us to where we are now:

From Workshops with the congregations in 2009:

Five Core Values

Hospitality: – welcoming; a family-friendly place and people to be with; children are valued

Practicality: pastoral care, faith in action

Bible: Christ-centred, community-facing

Ethics - our endeavours (and actions) based on Christian principles

Community: building relationships with all kinds of people

An Image that sums us up

Community of people

Open church door with Christ standing with welcoming arms

Submitted to the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches for building approvals:

Vision

A church in which it is clear to all that 'Jesus says welcome'.

A resource base for people to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action

A recognisable link to the Methodist and Presbyterian traditions.

Our focus is on a practical Christianity that relates to everyday life and works to transform ourselves and our society.

Core Business

Gatherings for worship

Gatherings for fellowship

Faith education and nurture of children and young people

Caring and responding to needs with friendship, spiritual support and practical help to people in the church family and wider community.

Education in faith and life issues

Relating positively to other churches and faiths

Important phrases used in recent times:

Brother, sister, let me serve you

Let me be like Christ to you

pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant too.

A people to feel at home with

Spiritual space for all comers to find their oasis of peace and well-being

Christ-centred and community-facing

Mission Priorities 2017 (agreed by Parish Council):

Hospitality

Te Taha Māori

Mission through our Buildings

Families and Young People

Pastoral

Here's another view of things

Our Mission Statement: Be a worshipful, spiritually alive church, caring and reaching out to encourage others to know Christ's love

Our Vision is of a faith community where:

1. all are free and supported to explore what it means for each of us to be Christian
2. a welcoming, open approach to understanding the Bible and Christ's message is encouraged to lead people to effective discipleship
3. a culture of acceptance, caring, generosity, forgiveness, and love surround us and Christ's message is accessible to all
4. relationships are built and extended within our Church and in the communities in which we live.

Underline/circle what chimes for you?

Start thinking about what you'd add or adapt?

To help find our words for 2019, consider these questions:

1. *What do you enjoy most about being part of our church family?*

2. *What is not so enjoyable?*

3. *What helps you grow spiritually? In what ways does church help?*

4. *What helps you on your life journey?*

5. *Thinking about the parish activities you are involved in, which are really important to you and your well-being?*

6. *Imagine you have a backpack to put in the things about church that you value the most. What are you putting in it?*

7. *What is it about the Union Church that is valued by our communities? In other words, if we weren't here (in Kaeo / in Kerikeri) what would be missing?*

8. *What warms your heart about our Church?*

Now to write our Vision for 2019 onwards

What would you put under the following headings:

Five Core Values

An Image to sum us up as a Parish (write or draw)

Our Mission as Church

Now complete this sentence (a single memorable sentence)

Our Vision is to be a Community of Faith ...

Parish Council invites you to share this material as widely as possible. Have sensitive and courageous conversations with friends, family, neighbours, wider community, inviting people interested in our activities to add their thoughts on our vision and values. Due date for all responses – 24 February. Hand in at Cornerstone or give to a parish councillor.