

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

We thought it timely to share information from our parish-wide Congregational Meeting last Sunday in Methven. We are grateful for the 34 people who attended both the service and stayed for the meeting – with 6 apologies. This represented about half of our current parish roll. Rev Laurence Ennor led us in worship on the theme of “Come to Jesus” which was a very appropriate reminder of just why we were meeting afterwards with our Parish Mission Statement being;

***“The gospel we believe in is the risen Christ whose love knows no bounds, whose grace is abounding and whose forgiveness is freely given to all who ask.***

***God welcomes you.***

***We welcome you.”***

The meeting was moderated by Rev Dan Spragg from Christchurch who followed the set agenda (a copy given to all present) and navigated with warmth and clarity the many questions and points of view that came up for discussion. Parishioners were very engaged in the whole process, and when the time felt right by all in attendance a vote was taken. The resolution voted on was: “That Alpine Presbytery be asked to close Plains Presbyterian Parish in order to pursue new ventures in the region” and was passed with 33 votes being in favour and one abstaining. Parish Council are appreciative of this very clear mandate from those present to move ahead together.

The next step will be for Alpine Presbytery to form a Commission who will arrange a second Congregational Meeting to check that this is what we want – a further vote will be taken with 2/3rds of members present needing to be in favour.

We will give regular updates in the weekly Bulletin of progress made and suggest you share these in your communities. Thank you to those who attended last Sunday, we appreciate your support. A letter has been sent to Alpine Presbytery advising them of the Resolution – we assured them that “we look forward to moving ahead with you as we work to make a difference in the lives of those we serve in the name of Christ”.

Liz Depree, Annette Syme

Co-Parish Clerks

Plains Presbyterian Parish.