June 2026

EfM MATTERS

Touch Point

What's Happening at EFM

The AGM was held at All Saint's Hataitai on 21 May. This was the first time in 2 years that the board met face-to-face rather than by Zoom.

Leanne said goodbye as she is taking a break after 9 years on the board. You can find Leanne's annual report on page 3.

Rue has been busy devising clever graphics for our new website, which finally went live on 15 June.

Alongside producing a comprehensive communications strategy she has set up an Instagram page.

We have two participants doing Wide Angle and they give it a big thumbs up. There is a new Zoom group starting in July so why not join this group and try Wide Angle.

If you would like to come to mentor training in October, please email Michael.

EFM Snippets

EFM is strengthening my spiritual growth with sound doctrine, Godly wisdom, spirit controlled character, discernment, love for one another and the ability to exhort others.

— Johannah

Spotlight

Changes to EfM Board

Rev. Frank Nelson is the new Chair of the board. Clive Gregar is a new member of the board. See page 2

Quick Updates

- **EfM is now on Instagram**
- **New Zoom Group:** Commences Thursday 9 July at 7pm.
- **Event:** Mentor Training 9 & 10 October in Carterton

Feature Article

Introducing Clive Gregar

Kia Ora Koutou
My EfM adventure started in 2024 as a group participant after what can only be described as a prompt from God. I can personally attest to the transformative power of the programme in the way that it deepens your faith and positively impacts every facet of your life.

My faith journey started in the Catholic Church in South Africa. Since coming to New Zealand in 2016, I have found a spiritual home at the Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hamilton. I'm married to Angela and together we have two boys.

My days are spent working in the Regional Projects team at Fonterra where we manage Engineering Projects. I have qualifications in Chemical Engineering, Explosives Technology (long story) and a MBA. I look forward to serving on the EfM board and making a positive contribution to an organisation that I deeply believe in.

Ngā manaakitanga
Clive

If you have mangement skills you would like to share, the EfM Board would welcome your contributuon.

Trainer's Corner

At the beginning of each EfM year we craft a set of GROUP EXPECTATIONS together, a guide for the operation of the group, "norms" that we will commit to, for and with each other.

We are encouraged to revisit these group expectations from time to time to see how well we are doing with them ...
If a particular issue arises in the group, it is also suggested that we revisit the norms to see where we need to improve, or whether we need to add anything to the list to help us provide a safe and encouraging learning environment for each other.

Perhaps there are some other creative ways that we could also keep these group expectations alive in the group.

For example; at the beginning of a meeting take a moment to read through them and remind ourselves what is there; flag that there will be time at the end of the meeting to share how these have been lived into during this meeting; at the end, take 15 minutes so that each person can give positive feedback about how one or more of these norms has been helpful for that person.

Let us know if you have used the Group Expectations/Group Norms in any other creative ways?

Feature Article

Chair's Address to AGM

There were several highlights this year. Being able to attend the 50th Anniversary Summer Conference at The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee was a privilege. Meeting people who we had only seen on screen or been in touch with by email, sharing our stories and listening to some great speakers was enriching. Hearing the work that was done with regard to the new curriculum, and attending workshops on using the Pathwright programme, were invaluable as we began the work in Aotearoa to adapt to the programme for our situation. We also met counterparts from Canada and the UK and were able to discuss the similar challenges we face. Staff at The University of the South were encouraging and helpful, and we are grateful in particular to Rev. Kevin M. Goodman, executive Director of the EFM programme, and Dr Joshua D. Booher, Associate Director, for answering our myriad questions; Very Rev. Joy Rogers, who worked with Mike and others on adapting the year three (Church History) programme for us; and the NZ-US ZOOM seminar group of trainers, who welcomed Mike and I into their midst for the last northern academic year. It was truly a joy (and early morning challenge!) to be able to work through the first year of the new programme six months ahead of starting it here.

Also at the conference, Rev. Jean Malcolm presented a workshop using the material from our short course "Faith Grounded in the Whenua". We were invited to send the material over, and that was published and included in every attendee's 'swag bag'. As I observed Jean lead the workshop, I was reminded how blessed we are with our trainers and mentors here Downunder, who give of their time voluntarily, to run our groups and train mentors. The presentation had a powerful effect on those who attended and several came up to Jean and myself afterwards to thank us. One thing I discovered – not everyone has a mountain as a geographical point to connect with!

I finished the four year course myself, and received the amazing certificate from The University of the South during a service at my home church, Ngaio Union, in February.

Also in February, we shared our experiences as part two of the two-part online celebrations for EfM's 50th anniversary (we note it is 45 years for us). Part one was a challenging and thoughtful presentation by EfM (NZ) kaumatua Rev. Sir David Moxon. Being pivotal in bringing EfM to Aotearoa, David has in the past worked with the board to see where we move next as we have tried to adapt to the shifting tides that seem to buffet us about. He reminded us that the partnership between The University of the South and EFM (NZ) is one of the longest partnerships in theological education in the world (that won't make the headlines!). Both sessions are available on the website.

A mix of short courses and the classic four year course, including the 12-week The Church in Aotearoa run for a group of church chaplains, has seen more people engaging with EfM than we have had for some time. This has led to an increase in enrolments for the Classic programme, and several people who have completed the four year programme are undertaking the new, one-year Wide Angle course. A new logo has been adopted, the website has been refreshed, and work is being done on engagement with the wider church community.

Finally there was the pilgrimage to Waikanae and Otaki – six years in the making! How wonderful it was to finally gather and hear the story behind St Luke's and Rangiatea, to enter those sacred spaces. Our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Dr Rangi Nicholson for giving so generously of his time, and the people of the St Luke's and Rangiatea parishes for the warmth of their hospitality and aroha.

As I step down as chair and have a break from the board, I am as always grateful to the other board members who give of their time voluntarily; to Mike as our Administrator, who has worked very hard on the curriculum rewrite for us, and has developed short courses; to our trainers and mentors AND of course to those who step onto the EfM path to begin a journey with God. I will be continuing as co-mentor for our ZOOM group so am not disappearing. But after nearly 10 years it is time for a break. Thanks to Clive Gregar, from Hamilton (and a ZOOM EfM'er), for coming on board the board, and to Rev. Frank Nelson for agreeing to take on the role as chair for a year, following this AGM and board meeting.

Manaakitia me te aroha
Rev Leanne Munro
(outgoing) Board Chair May 2026

Feature Article

May Board Meeting

This was a hybrid board meeting with Clive in Hamilton on zoom and the rest of the board in Wellington.

Key items discussed were:

- Progress on rebranding
- The pilgrimage to Rangiatea and how to use this as a template for other pilgrimages
- Training for trainers in the new Pathwright environment.

The Administrator's contract was renewed till the end of 2028.

The board also looked at the usual mundane things:

- Correspondence
- Finances - healthy
- Adminstrator's Report

Rue Urenje presented her first report on revitalising EfM's communications strategy.

The new website has gone live since the board meeting.

Pause & Reflect

- **Learning How to See**

How do we transform and transcend our biases? From unconscious judgments to complacency in systemic evil, we must learn how to see if we are to learn how to transform. Brian McLaren guides listeners to discover how seeing is social, political, and contemplative. Find out more

Stay in Touch

@efm.org.nz

educationforministrynz@outlook.com

021 246 0672

62 Herewini St, Titahi Bay, Porirua

"Exploring Faith Matters"

Join a group!

Community Spotlight

Mentor Training

This year mentor training will be held in Carterton on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 October.

On Friday the training will commence at 1pm and run through the evening. On Saturday training will start at 9am and finish at 5pm.

If you are interested in attending, email Michael, The Administrator educationforministrynz@outlook.com

"UNTILLED GROUND, HOWEVER RICH, WILL BRING FORTH THISTLES AND THORNS; SO ALSO THE MIND OF MAN."

— St Teresa of Avila