



Report to NZATS Annual Meeting, June 2009

The past year for the Knox Centre has seen a number of decisions made which, after several years of constant change and some uncertainties, has seen a solid and energising framework put in place for the next few years at least. In 2008 the last of our students in the School of Ministry model graduated and in 2009 all of our students in the ordination studies programme are involved in internships. These have been working well with a number of quality mentoring ministers and supervisors participating in the task of formation. In 2010 we will have the largest intake of students in recent years and internships will be operating in most of the major population areas in New Zealand.

After operating in 2008 with only Graham Redding (Principal) and Kevin Ward as teaching faculty we were very pleased with the appointment of Jason Goroncy to the Dunedin Centre and Mark Johnston as Dean in our Auckland Centre. They both took up their positions at the commencement of 2009 and have brought new energy and insights to the Centre. The establishment of an Auckland position has strengthened our relationship with our foundation students as well as the institutions they are studying in, alongside those studying in Dunedin at the University of Otago, where we continue to have a strong working relationship with the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

At the Presbyterian Assembly in 2008, where Graham Redding was installed as Moderator of the Church, approval was given for a multimillion dollar refitting of the Hewitson wing of Knox College. This will provide better teaching and office facilities for the kind of learning we are engaged in now, as well as a more integrated working relationship of the Centre with the Library and Archives as a resource for the church. Work commenced on this at the beginning of 2009 and it is anticipated will be completed by the end of the year.

The Centre is continuing to develop a much wider range of activities to resource leadership for the church, in addition to its core task of training ordained ministers. Central in this is the commencement of biennial ministry development reviews for ministers, where the Centre will provide training for reviewers as well as network with other providers in offering a variety of courses and programmes for ministry development. In the second half of 2009 the Centre is, in conjunction with the Theology Department of the University of Otago, hosting a conference on August 24 – 25 to mark the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, and in October hosting a World Alliance of Reformed Churches Theological Consultation.

