

**An Important message to the members, friends, and supporters of Plains Presbyterian.**

The following statement was read to the Plains Presbyterian congregations at Rakaia and Methven on Sunday 11 April. On the same day the Commission of Presbytery met with Rev. Arii, and later with the Plains Governance Council to discuss this matter.

The Commission will make a recommendation to the Council of Presbytery this Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, and Presbytery will communicate their decision after this time.

Our prayers are with you all at this difficult time.

The Commission members are:

Rev. Rory Grant (Timaru Presbyterian) 0275705156

Rev. Johanna Warren (Hakatere Presbyterian) 033070200

Peter Yates (Elder, St. David's Ashburton)

Statement from Alpine Presbytery:

**Alpine Presbytery has received a letter of resignation from Rev Arii Taimataora from her ministry at Plains Parish. Presbytery lets the matter 'lie on the table' while it follows a clear process outlined in the Book of Order. This involves a Commission from Presbytery coming by to talk with Rev Arii and also the Parish Council. The Commission then makes recommendations that guide people about the next steps.**

**In the meantime, Rev Arii has been advised to take a period of stress leave by her GP, and she will not be able to carry out her ministry responsibilities for at least the next three weeks. Parish Council are working on making provision for worship while Arii is on stress leave.**

**This is a challenging time for everyone, especially Arii and her family. I know that you will hold them in your thoughts and prayers.**

**I pray God's blessing upon you all as you walk through this time and thank you for your understanding.**

**Rev Martin Stewart  
Executive Officer  
Alpine Presbytery**

--

Rory Grant

Minister

Timaru Presbyterian Parish

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