

Knox Church Public Questions Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE - adopted by Knox Council in September 2021:

Being mindful of the Christian community's prophetic responsibilities, and keen to revive Knox's long-standing tradition of being engaged with matters of social justice concerning current events, the Council of Knox Church Ōtautahi Christchurch wishes to establish a Public Questions Group.

- The group exists to make public statements, parliamentary submissions, letters to responsible individuals, about current events including but not confined to matters before parliament or parliamentary select committees
- The group will bring theological insight, good scholarship, and cultural / social awareness to its statements
- The group will measure its statements for values-consistency with Knox's mission statement and Knox's declared commitment to be a "community of peace"
- Any statement made public will make clear that it represents the view only of Knox Ōtautahi Christchurch, and not the Alpine Presbytery or the PCANZ

- The group will consider matters referred by the minister, who will be presented to the wider Knox community as the conduit for the group
- The minister determines when the group's work on a particular issue has been concluded

- Because the group makes statements in the name of Knox Church, its statements shall be presented to the Knox Council either in real time meetings or by email for endorsement before public release.
- The council and the congregation will be notified of the matters to be discussed prior to any group meeting.
- Any endorsed statement of the group shall be communicated without undue delay to the congregation.

- As well as posting on the Knox website, the group will develop a mailing and posting list for the distribution of its statements.

- The group shall become active on 10 November, and be reviewed by the Knox Council at its meeting in October 2022.