



Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

TALUA THEOLOGICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

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Vanuatu
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19.10.2021

Re: Requesting support for Ps Tom Richards to continue his work from Australia

To whom it may concern,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am writing you as supporters to Pastor Tom Richards, to encourage you to support Pastor Tom in his work at Talua even though he is returning to Australia. Although we are sad to see Ps Tom leave us, we believe that he is still able to help us greatly from Australia.

I would like to share our needs with you which Ps Tom could help with:

1. Change of curriculum. Talua is moving from Diploma and BMin to Cert 2&3, Cert. 4, Advanced Diploma and Bachelor of Theology. This is in line with the country's law under the Vanuatu Qualification Authority (VQA). This is a huge change which might take a year or two for a new person to be well versed with the frame works especially the Pacific Quality Framework and the Vanuatu Qualification Framework to do the work. Ps Tom has spent a lot of time researching and making sense of these different policies which is why we believe that he can continue to do good and effective work.
2. Curriculum Development. Ps. Tom has already done some work on curriculum development. Through his work Talua has applied for Intention to Accredit. We are now waiting for the VQA's response so that we can proceed to accredit our courses. It will save time if he continues to its completion.
3. Continuing support. Having stayed at Talua these past years, Ps. Tom knows the limitations of our local staff members. This means that if he continues the work, we can just communicate with him at any time if we have questions regarding the new teaching approach which involve pre and post moderation, turning component descriptor to component outline, or question regarding the policy. This is what Ps Tom has been doing especially helping us as local staff to understand and implement our policy under the VQA. He has also assisted the campus coordinator to link cert. 1 which is taught in the Presbytery campuses to Talua main campus.
4. We now have an e-learning classroom at Talua which allows people to teach from Australia using Zoom. Ps Tom now has nine years teaching experience in Vanuatu and we would like to have him continue to teach our students. Our staff projections for the next couple of years indicate that we will continue to rely on external lecturers.

Already one can see that this is a huge undertaking and to give this task to another person would not be a wise thing to do. Another thing is that we would like to see the work that we have commenced with Ps Tom brought to a satisfactory completion. We would like to have the new programs taught for two or three years before someone else can carry on the task of overseeing.

With the above we wish to reiterate that we encourage you all to partner with Talua theological Training Institute by supporting Ps Tom once he has returned to Australia.

Your brother in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Lawak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ps Christopher lawak

Deputy Principal

Academic Dean

Newly elected principal 2022 -2024