CONFERENCE
It is sometimes said that sport is the “national religion” of New Zealand. That might be an overstatement—just—but New Zealanders take their sport and leisure very seriously. Our lives and our society are profoundly shaped by sporting and recreational pursuits. This conference will attempt to locate sport and recreation within Christian faith and practice by addressing questions like these:

• How have Christians historically thought about sport and recreation?
• What does the Bible say about play and sport?
• How can our play and recreation reflect God’s character and purposes?
• What are the issues facing sports ministry in a post-Christian context?
• How can pastoral theology resource sports chaplaincy today?
• What can we learn about leadership from the world of elite sport?
• How can sport and leisure be a vehicle for discipleship and worship?
• How can sport and leisure become idolatrous?
• What are the ethical issues involved in sport and gaming today?
• How should Christians respond to injustice in the world of professional sport?
• What is the place of competition in the Christian life?
• How do popular forms of sport and leisure serve to shape gender identity?
• How is the local church central to sports ministry?

PROPOSALS
We welcome any papers that reflect on the relationship between sport and leisure and Christianity, whether they be from biblical, theological, historical, pastoral, cultural, or contextual perspectives.

Please email a title and abstract (up to 250 words) along with a brief biographical description, including any organisational affiliation, to Dr John Tucker (john.tucker@carey.ac.nz) by 10 April 2017. Papers should be 30 minutes in length. This will provide space for 10-15 minutes of discussion after each paper.

PUBLICATION
A publication is anticipated. Conference speakers will have opportunity after the conference to submit manuscripts for inclusion in this publication. Acceptance will be subject to peer review.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS


GRACE RASMUSSEN, Netballer, New Zealand Silver Ferns, Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic, and graduate of Laidlaw College.