

Take-home information from General Assembly 2008

A powerpoint presentation of this information is available for download from www.presbyterian.org.nz

New Moderator installed during service at St John's

The Right Rev Dr Graham Redding was installed as the elected leader of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand in a service at St John's in the City, Wellington, where he was previously minister.

Church celebrates 100 years of mission in North India

To celebrate 100 years of Presbyterian mission to North India, the General Assembly hosted six special guests.

Archives redevelopment approved

General Assembly agreed to commit \$756,000 to redevelop space in Knox College's Hewitson wing for the Presbyterian Archives.

Assembly endorses action on climate change

Assembly agreed to encourage parishes to audit their environmental footprints and to study the issues of climate change and the environment and take practical action. Assembly also agreed that the Presbyterian Church endorse a declaration on climate change that was developed by the Ecological task group.

General Assembly passes ICBC recommendations on sex-selection of embryos

Dr Audrey Jarvis, chairperson of the [Interchurch Bioethics Council](#), brought the following recommendations to General Assembly that were passed after little debate; that the General Assembly support a call to government to ban sex selection for non-medical reasons; and that the General Assembly encourage individuals to write to the Associate Minister for the Environment, the Hon Nanaia Mahuta, expressing their view that sex selection be banned for non-medical reasons.

Funds to be released for capital projects

General Assembly agreed to a proposal to extend the use of capital funds to support God's mission, after much discussion on Friday.

Assembly supports statement on religious diversity

General Assembly decided to endorse the National Statement on Religious Diversity for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Global Mission Office

General Assembly affirmed its support for the Global Mission Office by giving Council of Assembly discretion to fund GMO work at a national level if required.

Special legislation to be considered by parishes

Assembly approved a proposal that will see special legislation now considered by parishes and session councils as well as presbyteries. Responses from all courts will

be considered equally.

Clergy attending Assembly

The Book of Order and Judicial Reference Group will report back to General Assembly 2010 about revisions that would allow all ordained clergy on the voting roll equal opportunity to attend Assembly, including chaplains and others not in parish ministry.

Book of Order Chapter 15 review

Assembly directed that a commission be appointed to review chapter 15 of the Book of Order to allow less serious complaints to be dealt with locally, rather than being managed by at a national level.

Changes to Beneficiary Fund agreed

Assembly endorsed the recommended changes to the scheme, including the addition of a Complying Section, which, while not identical to Kiwisaver, will allow scheme members to take advantages of various programme benefits.

Assembly approves nominations

Assembly approved the names put forward by the nominating committee for Church's Council of Assembly, subcommittees and other groups.

Confession of Faith not adopted

Assembly expressed support for a contemporary, indigenous confession of faith, but didn't feel that the confession presented was ready to be accepted as a new subordinate standard. Assembly voted to commend the Confession of Faith – Kupu Whakapono and Commentary as an interim document to be used in the life of our Church.

Book of Order adopted

Assembly formally adopted the new Book of Order, which had been adopted ad interim at the 2006 General Assembly. Assembly agreed to allow Council of Assembly the power to issue supplementary provisions, and any such provisions must be put to the next General Assembly for ratification. Changes to the supplementary provisions relating to the administration of baptism were also approved by Assembly.

Presbyteries merged

Assembly agreed to the merger of two presbyteries: Dunedin and North Otago. The new entity is called the Presbytery of Dunedin and North Otago.

Uniting representation on Council of Assembly

Assembly agreed to request the Council of Assembly to bring to General Assembly 2010 a proposal to include a representative from UCANZ.

Hospital chaplaincy

Assembly asked the Moderator of General Assembly to write a pastoral letter to all presbyteries and parishes informing them of the serious and immediate crisis in funding for hospital chaplaincy.

Coooperating ventures

Assembly asked for recommendations on the future of co-operating ventures to be brought to the 2010 Assembly.

APW recommendations on HIV/AIDS

Assembly acknowledged the serious challenge presented by HIV/AIDS in the Pacific and committed the Church to address issues of poverty and gender equality that are major factors in its spread. Assembly also gave its support to the initiative of APW and the Global Mission Office to increase understanding and awareness of HIV/AIDS both in the Church and the wider community of New Zealand and the Pacific.

Assembly endorses Press Go

General Assembly voted to endorse Press Go, which establishes a mechanism to fund growth projects. Assembly also decided to actively encourage all congregations and presbyteries to voluntarily provide a 1 percent return on all investment assets for the use of the Press Go Advisory Group in supporting growth projects that meet the criteria and are approved by this group. Assembly also approved the release of up to \$2m of Laughton House sale funds for the use of congregations and presbyteries whose growth projects meet the criteria developed through consultation with presbyteries and UDCs

Christian World Service

Assembly affirmed the work of Christian World Service, and agreed to encourage all parishes to support the Christmas and emergency appeals. Assembly also encouraged parishes to support the CWS campaigns on climate change and the eradication of poverty.

Involvement of young people

Assembly affirmed its desire for young people to be involved in church decision-making by asking congregations to explore and action ways for young people to be involved, including places on church councils.

Applications for ministry

Assembly agreed to changes to regulations that removed the ambiguity around the rule that applicants for ministry must have been church members for two years.

New-look presbyteries to become a reality

General Assembly agreed to adopt a new model for the form and function of presbyteries. The new model will see the separation of governance and resourcing functions, and vests some of the governance functions in national bodies. Presbyteries will also be reconfigured into larger bodies.

New ministry review system approved

Ministers will be subject to biennial reviews under new provisions approved by General Assembly.

