

Take-home information from General Assembly 2010

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

Also available from the website are:

- All keynote speeches and sermons in audio format
- Some addresses and sermons in text format
- Photos taken during Assembly
- Articles about every decision and key event during Assembly

Challenging sermon opens General Assembly

General Assembly began outdoors with a powhiri, then moved inside for a rousing service of worship. At the start of the service, the election of the Rev Peter Cheyne as Moderator from 2010 to 2012 was confirmed.

Years of service acknowledged

General Assembly presented a gift to Millie Te Kaawa for her many years of service to Te Aka Puaho.

Big upgrade for Ohope Marae

General Assembly approved a \$300,000 grant toward modernisation of Ohope Marae.

AES calls for action on decline

Assembly Executive Secretary the Rev Martin Baker reminded General Assembly of the grim reality of Church decline.

Assembly calls for action on alcohol laws

General Assembly sent a strong message to the Government that New Zealand's alcohol laws need to be tightened.

Presbytery reform endorsed

General Assembly affirmed and extended the decision of GA08 to reform presbyteries.

Assembly rejects Wellington presbytery proposals on leadership and sexuality

A series of proposals on leadership standards were not passed by Assembly, including a proposal to remove from the Book of Order the rule concerning leadership and sexuality.

Special legislative proposals to go to all churches

General Assembly agreed that all proposals under what is termed the "special legislative procedure" be sent to parishes, as well as presbyteries, for their feedback. All responses are to be considered of equal value.

Assembly adopts new confession of faith

General Assembly agreed to adopt Kupu Whakapono - but not to drop its historic subordinate standards.

Assembly says yes to inclusive language

General Assembly reaffirmed its 1993 decision to encourage the use of non gender-specific language.

Leadership changes get approval from GA

Assembly extended existing rules to make supervision compulsory for all paid ministry staff, not just ministers. Assembly also asked that the rule that set a five-year fixed term for Local Ordained Ministry (LOM) appointments be revoked. New resources for LOM were also approved by Assembly. In other changes agreed by Assembly, the parish review process is to be updated to include a section that examines the model of ministry that a parish is currently in. Assembly agreed to several significant changes to the way ministers from other denominations are received. The changes mean the application process for ministers from New Zealand and those from overseas are now more aligned.

Changes to Certificate of Good Standing rules

Assembly declined to uphold a proposal to move the clergy review cycle from biennial to once every five years.

Special committee to investigate making PI Synod a presbytery

General Assembly agreed to appoint a special committee that would investigate giving the Pacific Island Synod the status of a presbytery.

Presbytery reform underway

Assembly approved the formation of three new presbyteries and agreed to a range of other measures to enable further presbytery unification.

New triggers for congregational assessment

Assembly agreed to new rules that alter the way a congregation's life and mission can be assessed. Under the new provisions agreed to by Assembly, presbyteries can initiate a congregational assessment if, over a period of 12 months, there has been an average of fewer than 40 adult worshippers.

Clear guidelines for committee appointments

Among the changes endorsed by Assembly: Nominating Committee membership will be expanded to include two youth representatives; new larger presbyteries will get three representatives on the committee; the term for convener and deputy convener were formalised as being for four years; and that a set of knowledge-and-experience criteria be developed.

New Moderator Designate announced

The Rev Ray Coster of St Andrew's Mt Maunganui is the Church's new Moderator Designate for 2012 to 2014.

Assembly supports CWS recommendations

Assembly agreed to convey to the Government its disappointment over changes to funding arrangements for nongovernmental organisations under the official development assistance (or aid) budget. And also to lobby Government to work towards spending the internationally agreed 0.7 percent of gross national income on development assistance.

Assembly agrees to explore implications of global environmental issues

The Council of Assembly will consider how to address, in the context of a global environmental crisis, the implications for Gospel proclamation, personal discipleship, congregation life, public advocacy and action, and institutional life; and the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership will prepare resource material on these issues.

Raft of changes to disciplinary rules agreed

Existing provisions were found to work well for issues of a serious nature but changes were agreed to address the process for dealing with less serious issues.

Assembly endorses APW recommendations

A decision was made to better understand and support the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

UCANZ proposals agreed by Assembly

A guideline paper on parish oversight for Uniting congregations was approved by Assembly.

Decision on postal voting delayed

The Book of Order Advisory Committee will consider the implications of allowing postal and/or absentee voting and report back to General Assembly 2012.

New faces for Assembly committees

Assembly agreed to the nominating committee's recommendations for the membership of sub-committees, reference groups, work groups, task groups and special committees.