



10 August 2016

Greetings

This is the first of a regular series of GA16 Updates from me sharing information about this year's **General Assembly 15 – 19 November in Dunedin**, including links to the GA16 website for registration costs, venue information, details about how to register and more. There is information on our keynote speaker and on the Hope Conference, which runs concurrently alongside Assembly. I warmly invite and encourage all in our Church to attend and participate as it promises to be a rewarding time.

Please do circulate this email in your newsletters and in any other way to members of your parish, presbytery or synod. You can download this email in letter format from "GA Updates" here <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/about-us/general-assembly/general-assembly-2016>

I'm pleased to tell you that we have some great things planned for you to enjoy this General Assembly. It's going to be far more than business. For those of you who studied here, there will be time to reconnect with Dunedin, and with distant friends, at Assembly.



The **Assembly Week website** [www.pcanzassembly.org.nz](http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz) is now live so please visit it and see details on how you can attend business sessions and the Hope Conference, which will focus on resourcing you as part of a church family for your ongoing faith journey.

Our Assembly is for all of our Church, not just Commissioners, so please come along and participate.

## How you can participate

**1 For ministers only:** For the second time Assembly will include a Resourcing Ministers' Day on 15 November 2016.

This is a day for ministers only, facilitated by Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML). It aims to provide our ministers with the space and opportunity to gather and reconnect with one another, share their stories, and receive the kind of resourcing they have requested. It concludes with a shared dinner. More at:

<http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!ministers-day/cd0a>.

**2 For Commissioners:** As a Commissioner you have an important role - to discern, deliberate and decide on the business of our Church. It won't all be business though; you can listen to our keynote speaker, attend evening activities including the KCLM intern graduation and a free film night, and attend a Hope Conference workshop on Friday. There's also free time scheduled so you can catch up with colleagues. See more about the Assembly programme at <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!programme/c144>.

**3 For non-Commissioners (delegates):** We invite you to participate in the Hope Conference and participate in all or some of the following:

- Streams
- Workshops
- Services
- Keynote speakers
- Evening activities
- Serve Our City

See the full programme at <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!programme/c144> and find out more about the streams <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!streams/c15ji> and workshops <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!workshops/c9cp>.

### Keynote speaker



Everyone who attends Assembly will be able to attend the addresses by our keynote speaker, Dr Rod Wilson. Rod will reflect on my theme of Hope from a deep understanding of the increasing prevalence of despair in Western society as a whole. His three keynote addresses, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, are collectively titled: “Hope: Utopian Concept, Irrational Simplicity, or Stable Foundation?”

Rod will also lead a Hope Conference stream and a couple of workshops looking at why the workplace has become so alien to the mission of the Church when it should be the locus of our attempt to incarnate the Gospel, and on the key ingredient for leadership.

If you haven't yet read about Dr Rod Wilson's rich background, please do: <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!keynote-speakers/c1jb2>.

### We need your help

We are working hard to run a wonderfully enriching week for you and you can help by:

- Enrolling now so we can plan to meet your needs. Enrolling earlier keeps costs down <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!enrol/citr>;
- Contacting us if you have questions or need help enrolling <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!contacts/c2q4>;
- Praying for your Church and your church as we move towards GA.

God bless

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Dawson'.

**Richard Dawson**

**Moderator-Designate**

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