



26 August 2016

Greetings

We are just two and a half months away from this year's **General Assembly 15 – 19 November**. I encourage you to come to Dunedin and join us. We have some great things planned for you to enjoy; it's going to be far more than business.

On the GA16 website you will find information about how to register, registration costs, the venue, accommodation and much more.

In this GA update I share some background on **two of the people running streams at the Hope Conference**, which runs concurrently alongside Assembly. I encourage all those who are able to attend to please do so. Our Assembly is for all of our Church, not just Commissioners, so come along and participate in what will be a very rewarding experience.

Can you please 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>



Have you visited the **Assembly Week website** www.pcanzassembly.org.nz yet?

Please do as it has 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.

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 KCML 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>

Streams

There are many Hope Conference workshops <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!workshops/c9cp> and streams <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!streams/c15ji> that you can attend. Two streams that I am looking forward to are:



Paul Trebilco: Reading New Testament Letters

How do we understand New Testament Letters? We'll be outlining some principles for reading these letters and then will be applying them to reading 1 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians and 1 Peter.

Paul Trebilco is Professor of New Testament at Otago University.



Rev Helen Harray: Prayer Ministry Today

In and through Jesus Christ we may have a relationship with God as though we were talking face to face with our father or our friend and neighbour. But sadly though the church longs for this type of relationship, how many really enjoy it and know how to pursue it or help others to experience it? In this seminar we will learn a simple and practical way in which to 'practise his presence', how to attune to his everlasting love and how to find a greater and greater sense of healing, wholeness and peace. In essence to learn how to abide in him.

Helen founded and led the studentsoul ministry at Otago University for 12 years and has been associate pastor at Leith Valley Presbyterian Church, Dunedin.

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



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