



31 October 2016

Greetings

We are a little over two weeks away from this year's **General Assembly 15 – 19 November**. So far more than 360 people have registered to attend either the Hope Conference or General Assembly, and the local arrangements team are busy gearing up for everyone's arrival.

JUST 9 DAYS LEFT TO ENROL

Late registrations are accepted up until Tuesday, 8 November, so if you haven't registered already, please do so. Register at: <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/enrol> (Please note that a late fee now applies for commissioner registrations, however, workshops and streams do not attract a late fee.)

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: [add link](#)

General Assembly a time of pilgrimage

The General Assembly is, above all, a time of pilgrimage for the Church – a time to seek God together so that we might hear God's unique address to us for this time and this place and, indeed, for all of our places.

We believe that God calls us to live life together; as churches in a special relationship with one another so that the Church is more than a local expression, or indeed a regional expression. We believe God will address us when we come together from across New Zealand to bless our mission throughout the country. This is our goal: to be in one place, so that we might hear God together.

Pray for General Assembly



At the centre of pilgrimage is prayer. I am calling the whole Church to pray for our General Assembly meeting. I would ask that in every presbytery there be a corporate opportunity – perhaps a vigil, perhaps just a meeting – to pray together for our gathering in a couple of weeks. If that isn't practical, then meet as parishes together – two or three wherever you can.

In Dunedin I am calling a vigil on Sunday, 13 November so that we might pray together. Don't wait for others to initiate something: you decide and you call a meeting. Jesus said "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I will be there!" That's all we need.

A Pilgrimage Resource



Have a look at Lynne Baab's wonderful blog on pilgrimage, <http://www.lynebaab.com/blog/celtic-christianity-pilgrimage-and-the-c>, and let it inspire you for our General Assembly. Lynne is one of our treasures in the Church and her experience and teaching have enriched us tremendously over the years. Lynne is leading a stream on "Spiritual practices in small groups" at Assembly, and I commend this to you. It's not too late to register if you're interested. Read more about Assembly streams: <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/streams>

General Assembly Video

Please watch, download and share with your parish the next in this series of short videos I have made to show you all we have to offer this year in Dunedin. This video shows some of the facilities we will have access to at Otago University, as well some of Dunedin's life-giving and energy-filled public spaces that you may like to take advantage of while in town. A direct link to the video is here: <https://vimeo.com/189260096>.

God bless



Richard Dawson

Moderator-Designate

E ModeratorDesignate@presbyterian.org.nz

O (03) 467 9208

M 027 224 2026