



14 September 2016

Greetings

Today **we are exactly two months from this year's General Assembly 15 – 19 November**. I hope you are now ready to book your travel and enrol online. I would really encourage you to do so and not miss the opportunity to come to Dunedin. There are so many great things planned for you to enjoy; it's going to be far more than business. Our Assembly is for all of our Church, not just Commissioners, so come along and participate in what will be a very rewarding experience.

On the GA16 website www.pcanzassembly.org.nz you will find information about how to register, registration costs, venue, accommodation, the Hope conference and much more.

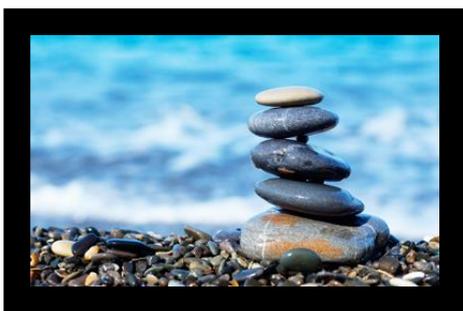
GA Prayer strategy

I will soon be sending to you information on my **Prayer Strategy for General Assembly**. You can read about it here on the GA website <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/prayer> . The key to



understanding Assembly is realising that above all else it is a **spiritual event**. It is meant to be an exercise in discerning the will of God and this is always something that involves the Holy Spirit and prayer. I believe **we have allowed ourselves to stray** somewhat from this perception of this gathering, and that we need to return to prayer in order to see GA deliver the kind of results we need.

5 Stones of Prayer



To help with this, a resource titled, **5 Stones of Prayer** will provide some direction for prayer. It will be distributed to all parishes during September. The key requests of the 5 Stones are: **confession and a prayer for unity in mission both to the people of the world and, indeed, the world itself.**

Who can participate in GA? Everyone! Here's how

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 <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 - see 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 (full programme at <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/#!programme/c144>) and participate in Workshops, Streams, Services, Keynote speakers, Evening activities.

Video of the GA venue



Please watch, download and share with your parish the first of several **short videos** I have made to show you all we have to offer this year in Dunedin. This first video includes a look inside the University of Otago GA **business venue**, St Davids Lecture Theatre. You will also see proof that Dunedin has stunning blue skies year round! A direct link to the video is here

<https://vimeo.com/presbyterianchurchnz/general-assembly-2016-moderator-designate-rev-richard-dawson-i> or view on the Church's Vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/presbyterianchurchnz> .

Hope Conference Workshops & 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. Workshops are open to anyone (except Commissioners*) so please encourage all members of your parish to take advantage of this great opportunity. *On Friday, Commissioners can attend a workshop.

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>;
- **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>
- **Praying** for your Church and your church as we move towards GA. <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/prayer>

God bless



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