



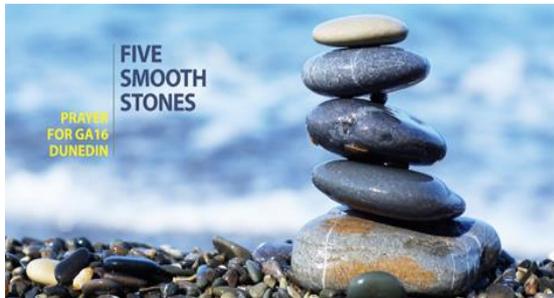
26 September 2016

Pray for General Assembly

Dear Friends

I write to encourage you to pray. Soon a Prayer Card, "5 Smooth Stones," will be available through your parish, presbytery or synod; on it are some prayer themes and a specific call to prayer for the General Assembly 2016 in Dunedin. Can I ask that as much prayer as possible be directed toward the themes on the prayer card both before and during the Assembly?

I ask this because I believe that the specific mission of Assembly is, in fact, a spiritual one. That is, we gather to seek God together as a whole Church so that we might hear God anew and apply that living word to our life nationally. It's hard keeping my passionate beliefs about the benefits of prayer to one short paragraph, so read more here: <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/prayer>.



Our General Assembly is unique and potentially extremely effective because it is not merely a gathering of local churches, nor an executive branch of the Church. Rather, we in the Reform tradition see this as the whole Church in

prayer before the one, holy and gracious God who will answer our prayers, which we will pray in unity and faith together.

Make no mistake about it; the key task of Assembly is to seek God in prayer for the whole Church. If we are to achieve this, we need to start praying now for this meeting.

If we are to avoid the mistakes of the past, and offer our hard working presbyteries and parishes some real hope, we must pray for this meeting.

If we are to pass on to the whole Church something more than a political strategy which is foisted on everyone, we must pray for this meeting.

If we are to reverse the current decline in our Church's energy, we must pray for this meeting.

There will be opportunities for prayer at our Assembly and I encourage you to please come along 15 – 19 November. **Enrol for our General Assembly and the Hope Conference as soon as you can** on the GA16 website <http://www.pcanzassembly.org.nz/>

Please, pray with me.

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



Richard Dawson
Moderator-Designate

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