



Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

# Pastoral email

21 February 2023

Dear Church

Last week areas of the North Island, particularly the East Coast, were devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle.

As a Church, our hearts and our prayers go out to those who have lost family and friends, homes, and livelihoods. We hold in our hearts the people, the churches, and the church leaders in the most impacted areas.

We have sought to contact as many of those churches and leaders as we can. They tell us of a strong collective community response, with the churches often at the forefront of the caring.

Many of you are making contact to ask how you can help. My immediate response to those we have made contact is, 'please pray for everyone affected'!

We are also seeking to establish the best ways for the wider Church to help. Late last week, we emailed presbytery moderators and EOs asking:

*What is your presbytery hearing in terms of impacted communities, and what are parishes saying about help required in these places?*

*What steps is the presbytery taking in being alongside folk in places, and is additional support required?*

*How might the wider Church assist?*

Once we get a clearer picture of ways the wider Church can assist, we will communicate that to you.

There is one initiative that has emerged out of the St Andrew's Church in Hastings, Hawke's Bay, where the minister Rev Jill McDonald writes as follows:

*"St Andrews Church in Hastings has set up a service to bring equipment like generators, water pumps, water blasters and small diggers from around the country into Hawke's Bay as part of the disaster response.*

Called **genLend**, the service is a tangible way for people across the country to help power the recovery of Hawke's Bay communities ravaged by Cyclone Gabrielle.

*It operates similar to a toy library - if you own a bit of gear and can lend it for a couple of weeks, we will make sure it gets to people who need it.*

*We can arrange the pick-up and delivery, and then return the gear back to owners.*

*A kitchen table idea just 48 hours ago, the initiative has already received donations from as far as Waiouru, and Tauranga, and garnered support and partnerships with NZ Apples and Pears, Farmlands, Federated Farmers, Hawke's Bay Rotary Clubs, and the Hastings District Council.*

*The key items we need:*

- *Generators*
- *Water Pumps*
- *Pressure washers (water blasters)*
- *Small excavators & bobcats*
- *Petrol cans (empty)*

*Help is also being accepted in the form of financial donations for fuel, transport and insurance etc. Donations can be made to:*

*St Andrews Church*

*Acc: 03 0642 0034245 000*

*Ref: Cyclone*

*People can register their equipment online at: <https://www.genlend.co.nz/>*

*We'd be grateful if you could spread the word around your congregation and networks. The clean-up is immense, and the need is urgent."*

There are also other relief efforts underway for all areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. If you would like to donate or volunteer to help, see the information gathered [here](#) and [here](#).

Yours in Christ

*Right Rev Hamish Galloway*

*Moderator*

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