

APRIL 27 – 29 2022

Roll of Assembly

- The Roll of Assembly was accepted.

Working documents received

- The reports and proposals printed in the Assembly Reports and Extra Reports were received and were the working documents of the Assembly.

Standing Orders

- Standing Orders as printed were adopted as the Standing Orders for this Assembly, with the deletions of the last lines of clauses 17 and 23.

Changes to recommendations

- Leave was granted for changes to be made to recommendations, or to withdraw recommendations, as listed in Section C of the White Book.

Timekeepers appointed

- Chris Wiltshire, Rev Marty Redhead and Brad Kelderman were appointed timekeepers for this Assembly.

Scrutineer appointed

- Rev Andrew Howley was appointed scrutineer for this Assembly.

Assembly Deputy Clerk

- Rev Shona Bettany was appointed Assembly Deputy Clerk until the close of the 2022 Special Assembly meeting.

Facilitation group members

- The Facilitation Group, under Standing Order 24, comprised the Revs Chris Elliot, Anne Stewart and David Coster.

Leave to meet during Assembly

- Knox Dunedin, St Albans Christchurch and Nawton Church in Hamilton were granted leave to meet during SA22.

Memorial minute

- The memorial minute for the Rev Ned Ripley was placed in the records of the Assembly.

Associates

- Assembly recognised the following associates: Rev Alistair McBride, Ms Marina Robati-Mani (Assembly Business Work Group), Ms Marilyn Wallace, Rev Dr Kerry Enright (Book of Order Advisory Committee).

Amendment to the Book of Order

- The amendment to Chapter 5 of the Book of Order (which seeks to remove any doubt about the rights of a congregation to have a say in how their property is treated during discussions about dissolution), as set out in Appendix 1 to the supplementary report of the Book of Order Advisory

Committee, was accepted and remitted to presbyteries and church councils under the special legislative procedure.

- The amendment above was adopted as an interim provision having force until the next General Assembly meets.

Ministerial Roll –

1. Certificates of Good Standing

- To maintain a Certificate of Good Standing, and thus remain on the Ministerial Roll, ministers are now required to fulfil the following compliance actions:
 - a. Attend mandated Church ethics and risk management workshops at least once every three years.
 - b. Obtain a Police check every three years, and when accepting a call to a new position, and provide a copy to their presbytery.
 - c. Attend regular professional supervision and provide to the presbytery an annual attendance report from their supervisor.
- For a provisional Certificate of Good Standing to remain valid, presbyteries are now required to monitor the schedules of study for new or incoming ministers and sign these off annually as progressing or completed.

2. Ministers of other denominations

- Requirements for the reception of ministers of other denominations to the Ministerial Roll were amended as follows:
 - a. “or Religious Workers Work Visa (RWWV)” was added to the current NZ citizenship or permanent residency eligibility criteria.
 - b. The requirement for 12 months membership of a

Presbyterian congregation was replaced with “an approved induction programme to be completed within the first year after reception.”

Local Shared Ministry

- ‘Local Ministry Team’ has been renamed ‘Local Shared Ministry’.
- Changes for Local Shared Ministry were approved as follows:
 - a. Establishment and appointment processes that aim for a well facilitated and consultative approach to form a Local Shared Ministry team.
 - b. Removal of individual training agreements and probation periods.
 - c. Appointment of trained enablers to support and resource Local Shared Ministry teams.

Updates to the Book of Order –

1. Leadership changes

- Chapters 9 and 10 will be amended to give effect to the changes agreed to in the Leadership Sub-committee’s report, as detailed in the previous two items.
- In the Defined Terms, the definition of Supervision was amended by deleting the words “collegial and or”.

2. Congregational reviews

- Chapter 5.10 “Review of a congregation on the initiative of presbytery” was amended so that a presbytery may appoint a commission to review the future of a congregation, with the

options of continuing its mission, renewing its life and mission, or if need be, dissolution.

PressGo

- PressGo's role in sharing resources nationally, particularly through its administration of the Mission Enterprise Fund, was affirmed.

Doctrine Core Group statements and Terms of Reference

- For the sake of greater clarity and shared understanding, a Statement on the Formula, fundamental doctrines and liberty of conviction, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Doctrine Core Group's report, was adopted.
- The Terms of Reference of the Doctrine Core Group have been referred to the Council of Assembly for review and development.
- The Doctrine Core Group will prepare a statement for the next General Assembly that updates the theology of ordination of PCANZ, including a theology of baptism as it relates to ordination, and that any proposals to develop a new Order in the Church be considered after the Assembly accepts an updated statement.

Hate speech legislation

- The following resolutions were agreed in relation to proposed government 'hate speech' legislation:
 - a. That consistent with biblical teachings, this Church rejects all racism, extremism, hatred, toxic speech, incitements to hatred, and incitements to violence, and agrees that dangerous, threatening and hostile speech should be constrained by law.

- b. That this Church is concerned for society's foundational liberties of thought, religious belief, and expression, as set forth in the New Zealand Bill of Rights, and urges Parliament to ensure there are very clear definitions in the legislation distinguishing between truly dangerous hate speech and the general rights of all New Zealanders to hold and express diverse beliefs and opinions, even though any such beliefs and opinions may sometimes be seen as disagreeable or offensive by some.
- c. That this resolution be communicated to the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Select Committee, and other Members of Parliament.

Plan for fit-for-purpose buildings

- General Assembly agreed to the Church Property Trustees request to do the following to future proof the Church's properties:
 - a. Invite the Trustees, the Synod of Otago and Southland and its joint Property Work Group, and Presbyteries to work together to devise a plan for a national network of parishes with fit for purpose buildings.
 - b. Invite the Trustees to report to the 2023 General Assembly with the plan and an assessment of what it will take to achieve it.
 - c. Invite the Trustees to report to the 2023 General Assembly on compliance with the amended Earthquake Policy timetable.
- Assembly also agreed that the term 'fit for purpose' include energy and waste efficiency of buildings with the aim of reducing environmental impacts as much as possible.

- Those bodies responsible for the sale of Church-owned land and/or buildings are to offer these assets to relevant Maori entities before the asset goes on to the open market.

Big Hearts Connected World campaign

- The Big Hearts Connected World campaign was endorsed (CWS is one of the lead agencies for this campaign). The campaign asked for:
 - A 20% boost to the overseas aid budget
 - A doubling of finance for climate action overseas from new and additional sources
 - A timeline for getting aid spending to 0.7% of gross national income by 2030.

Committee appointments:

- The following people were appointed:
 - a. PressGo – Rev Vaione (Pennie) Togatama-Otto
 - b. Book of Advisory Committee – Mr Efi Efaraimo.

Connected decision making

- A suite of proposals focused on changing the membership of the Council of Assembly was put forward by three presbyteries to address a perceived disconnect between presbyteries and the Council of Assembly. These were rejected in favour of a motion that refers such concerns and the proposal back to the Council of Assembly for them to engage and collaborate with presbyteries, and report to the next General Assembly.

Theological education and leadership training

- Seven of the eight recommendations put forward by the Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT) task group were carried, some with amendments.
 1. The partnerships with Te Aka Puaho and the Synod of Otago and Southland, in providing training for ministry and leadership were affirmed.
 2. The principle of all leaders and ministers in the Church being life-long learners was affirmed.
 3. Presbyteries are invited to encourage ministers, before they take up a new position, to develop a professional development plan.
 4. The Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership is to be adequately resourced.
 5. The principle of fully funding ministry internships without the need for parish contribution is to be adopted.
 6. Consideration will be given to developing new ministry pathway options as set out in the body of the Theological Education and Leadership Training report.
 7. The Church expresses its appreciation for the initiatives undertaken by the Presbyterian Research Centre in developing their online presence and collaborating and connecting to further align their resourcing with the needs of ministers and the wider Church.

Presbyterian Support NZ

- Presbyteries are encouraged to find consistency of method of engagement with Presbyterian Support, that can enable and motivate presbyteries and congregations to initiate more joint activities in the interests of the communities we serve.

- The Council of Assembly is asked to consider lifting its support, in the next budget round, to the Church's annual contributions to PresCare.

Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ

- Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand national and international projects and outreach are to be supported and actively encouraged within congregations and presbyteries.
- Opportunities for full participation of women and girls in church courts, committees and other formal groups are to be actively and intentionally provided.
- The Government is urged to take urgent and decisive action to enable all children and their families to enjoy a good life, through eliminating child and family poverty, making healthy housing the norm, and improving food security for children and families.
- The World Council of Churches' Thursdays in Black campaign, committing to a world free from violence and rape, is to be actively supported and promoted throughout the Church.
- The disproportionate burden borne by women and girls as a result of human-induced climate change, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including our Pacific neighbours, is to be recognised and the Government urged to take strong action to achieve climate justice and effectively care for creation.
- The disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women in Aotearoa is to be recognised by advocating for responses to the pandemic that protect women's rights and achieve gender equality.

Climate change and eco church –

1. Emissions reductions

- The Council of Assembly will:
 1. Establish a work group for an initial period of six years to:
 - a. promote initiatives to help the various parts of the Presbyterian Church reduce carbon emissions by 5% per annum.
 - b. report to the General Assembly regarding how the Church is progressing in reducing carbon emissions.
 - c. in due course, recommend to the General Assembly steps that could be taken to further the objective beyond the six years.
 2. Adopt a framework to monitor carbon emissions of Assembly operations, make best endeavours to reduce carbon emissions of Assembly operations by 5% per annum, monitor progress in achieving that objective and report progress to each General Assembly until 2030, taking advice from the work group if it is deemed helpful.

2. Eco Church and climate change

- All ministry units within the Presbyterian Church are asked to undertake the “Eco Church” survey developed by A Rocha www.ecochurch.org.nz/self-assessment- worksheet and choose one action point from each suggested area (worship and teaching, church buildings, church land, community engagement and sustainable living) to complete over the coming year.
- The Presbyterian Church agrees to become a denominational partner of Eco Church NZ. Presbyteries and congregations are encouraged to join Eco Church NZ.

Inclusivity

- The Church has committed to a dialogue on a way forward in a Church divided over issues of sexuality, biblical morality and leadership. This dialogue will be led by the Moderator and Moderator Designate who will gather together a group representing a variety of views on this issue. The outcomes of the discussion are to be reported to the 2023 General Assembly for consideration

Theology of property and money

- Congregations and presbyteries are encouraged to utilise more fully the current framework for sharing resources summarised in Sub-appendix B of the Theology of Property and Money report.
- Presbyteries are requested to include a summary of their sharing of resources in their report to the General Assembly.
- That, in the light of the Theology of Money and Property report, a task group will be set up to investigate amending or replacing the Presbyterian Church Property Act 1885, to promote greater sharing of resources in the interest of furthering God's mission, and report with recommendations to the next General Assembly.

Minister teams

- The Book of Order Advisory Committee will draft an amendment to 10:23 (5) to include reference to any other ministers when there is a ministry team.
- When a minister applies to resign their charge, the presbytery will be required to notify any other ministers in the team and to seek their views.