



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

**EMPOWERING
GENERATIONS**

**Minutes of the
2022 Special Assembly
of the Presbyterian Church of
Aotearoa New Zealand**

held electronically

Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 April 2022

**Purpose of this Special Assembly:
To consider business that was submitted to
but not dealt with by the 2021 General Assembly**

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**Minutes of Session 1 of the Special Assembly
held electronically at 1.30 pm Wednesday 27 April 2022.**

Ministers and ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, commissioned as members of the Special Assembly, together with associate and observer members, convened electronically to consider business submitted to but not considered by the 2021 General Assembly.

The Right Reverend Hamish Galloway, Moderator of the General Assembly, constituted the Assembly with prayer and worship.

Roll of 2022 Assembly

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.001] That the Roll of the Assembly, as laid on the table, be accepted.

Moderator: Rt Rev Hamish Galloway

Acting Clerk: Ms Heather McKenzie

Northern Presbytery

Ministers:

Howard Carter, Andrew Cox, Talaitupu Fa'amausili, Colin Gordon, Richard Gray, Caleb Hardie, Becky Heale, Emma Keown, Stuart Lange, Kon-Tiki Makani, John Malcolm, Mark Maney, Colin Marshall, Craig Millar, Sylvia Miller-Hardie, Steve Millward, Chris Moresi, Robin Palmer, Richard Ward, Johannes Suwantika, Micah Tang

Elders:

Cunningham Atchison, Malcolm Boyd, Kim Garner, Aaron Geddis, Bernie McClean, Stuart McNab, Cherie Moran, William Purcell, Stewart Milne, Sherilyn Shand, Naomi Tamangaro
Young Adult: Edd Smart

Te Aka Puaho:

Ministers:

John Thrupp

Elders:

Marina Rakuraku, Honey Thrupp

Pacific Presbytery

Ministers:

Ieriko Afamasaga Pio Leatisolomua, Elema Maea, Siitia Siitia-Asi

Elders:

Penisimeni Alapaki, Efi Efaraimo, Veinga Kaue, Emele Potusa

Young Adult: Miura Elikana,

Kaimai Presbytery

Ministers:

Ron Bennett, Nigel Crocombe, Kevin Finlay, Reece Firth, Philip Potgieter, Jaco Reyneke, Sharon Ross Ensor, Sandra Warner, Rob Williams

Elders:

Rineke Brosnahan, Graeme Kitto, Valerie Milne, Elaine Riddell, Graham Robertson, Marion Sanders, Adrian Taylor, Martin Vincent, Vanya Wallis, Bruce Watkins, Jo Waugh.

Young Adult: Hannah Millar, Leiona Tupou

Presbytery Central

Ministers:

Sally Carter, Lorna Clarke, Diane Gilliam-Weeks, Donald Gordon, David Jackson, Steve Jourdain, Jin Sook Kim, Hamish Kirk, Bobby Kusilifu, Allister Lane, Paula Levy, Michelle Loveday, Paul Loveday, Sebastian Murrehy, Nathan Parry, Rhyan Prasad, Wayne Toleafoa, Brett Walker, Reg Weeks

Elders:

Paul Barber, Setete Curtis, Peter Gush, Margaret Haliburton, Raymond Hansen, Jean Harris, Mailigi Hetutu, Joanne Magill, Enrino Pasullean, Gael Riddiford, Margaret Rushbrook, Sally Russell, Christine Spall, Shirley Spooner, Sue Staveley, Silas Stedman, Benjamin Tennant, Euan Thomson, John Wilkie,
Young Adult: Samuel Allen, Harry Troughton

Alpine Presbytery

Ministers:

Jonathan Barb, Philip Bettany, Jess Dreardon, Rory Grant, Martin Harrison, Joohong Kim, Chris Purdie, Michael Reid, Lynmaree Sopoaga, Martin Stewart, Johanna Warren

Elders:

Malcolm Bishop, Lindsay Evans, Andrea Grant, Elaine Henry, Tracey Pons, Judith Souness, Gerard Stanbury, David Troughton. John Vargo, Jill White

Young Adult:

Kayla Crampton, Vevesi Togiasso

Southern Presbytery

Ministers:

Peter Dunn, Lynne Hall, Aaron Johnstone, Clare Lind, Hayden Luke, Ed Masters, Tom Mephram, Clay Peterson Oliveira, Tengaru Paniora, Nyalle Paris, Erin Pendreigh, Rob Pendreigh, Rainier Raath, Jordan Redding, Jonathan Ryan, John Schoneveld. Anne Thomson

Elders:

Barbara Carston, Joy Creighton, Craig Donaldson, Bronwyn McCall, Helen McLeish, Monique Patterson, Rachel Tombs

Young Adult: Michelle du Plessis, Jonathan McLeay, Jonathan Sunderland

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

Faaolataga Leasi, Mavis Duncanson

Assembly procedures

The Rev Alistair McBride, Assembly Business Work Group Convener, explained Assembly procedures.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.002] That the reports and proposals printed in the Assembly Reports be received and be the working documents of the Assembly.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.003] That the Standing Orders as printed be adopted as the Standing Orders for this Assembly with the deletion of the last lines of clauses 17 & 23.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.004] That leave be granted for changes to be made to recommendations, or to withdraw recommendations, as listed in Section C of the White Book.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.005] That Chris Wiltshire, Rev Marty Redhead and Brad Kelderman be appointed timekeepers for this Assembly.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.006] That Rev Andrew Howley be appointed as the scrutineer for this Assembly.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.007] That Rev Shona Bettany be appointed Assembly Deputy Clerk until the close of the 2022 Special Assembly meeting.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and carried:

[22.008] That the Facilitation Group, under Standing Order 24, comprise Rev Chris Elliot, Rev Anne Stewart and Rev David Coster.

Mr McBride moved, it was seconded and carried:

[22.009] That the following church councils be granted leave to meet during the Special Assembly: Knox Dunedin, St Albans Christchurch, Nawton Hamilton.

The Assembly Clerk moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.010] That the memorial minute for the Rev Ned Ripley be placed in the records of the Assembly.

The Assembly Clerk moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.011] That the Assembly recognise the following associates: Rev Alistair McBride, Mrs Marina Robati-Mani (Assembly Business Work Group), Ms Marilyn Wallace, Rev Dr Kerry Enright (Book of Order Advisory Committee), The Very Rev Richard Dawson.

Book of Order Advisory Committee

Ms Marilyn Wallace, Book of Order Advisory Committee Acting Convenor, moved, it was seconded and carried:

[22.012] That the amendment to Chapter 5 of the Book of Order as set out in Appendix 1 to the supplementary report of the Book of Order Advisory Committee be accepted and remitted to presbyteries and church councils under the special legislative procedure.

[22.013] That the amendment to the Book of Order, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Book of Order Advisory Committee's supplementary report, be adopted as an interim provision having force until the next General Assembly meets.

Leadership Sub-committee

Ms Katerina Solomona was associated with Assembly.

Rev Rhyan Prasad moved *en bloc*, it was seconded and carried:

[22.014] That, in order to maintain a Certificate of Good Standing, and thus remain on the Ministerial Roll, ministers be 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.

[22.015] That, in order for a provisional Certificate of Good Standing to remain valid, presbyteries be required to monitor the schedules of study for new or incoming ministers and sign these off annually as progressing or completed.

Mr Prasad moved *en bloc*, it was seconded and carried:

[22.016] That “Local Ministry Team” be renamed “Local Shared Ministry”.

[22.017] That the following proposed changes for Local Shared Ministry be approved:

- 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.

Debate on the Leadership Sub-committee’s report was suspended.

PressGo Board

Rev Mose Taumaoe and Ms Lisa Wells were associated with the Assembly. Both spoke to the report and responded to questions for clarification.

Mr Taumaoe moved, it was seconded and carried (138/8):

[22.021] That PressGo’s role in sharing resources nationally, particularly through its administration of the Mission Enterprise Fund, be affirmed.

Doctrine Core Group

Rev Dr Stuart Lange, spoke to the Doctrine Core Group’s report. He moved, it was seconded and carried (133/10):

[22.022] That, 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, be adopted.

Dr Lange was granted leave to withdraw the following report recommendation after advising that this did not require a decision of Assembly.

[withdrawn] *That the material on the Church website about Statements of Faith be revised, as set out in Appendix 2 to the Doctrine Core Group’s report, so as to align with Book of Order Regulation 1.1(1-7).*

Dr Lange was granted leave to introduce a motion about ‘hate speech’ legislation.

He moved, it was seconded and carried (126/17):

[22.024] That, in relation to proposed ‘hate speech’ legislation, it be resolved:

- (a) That in consistency 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.

Debate on the Doctrine Core Group's report was suspended.

Presbyterian Church Property Trustees

Mr Andrew Souness and the Rev Dr Ron Mills were associated with the Assembly. They responded to questions for clarification.

Mr Souness was granted leave to amend motion [22.026]. He then moved the motion as amended, and this was seconded.

- [22.026] That, in the light of the Trustees' call to action, the General Assembly:
- (a) invite presbyteries to work together with the Church Property Trustees and the Synod of Otago and Southland, and its joint Property Work Group, to develop a plan and to enable over time fit for purpose buildings to be located in appropriate places in New Zealand, and that 'fit for purpose' include attention to the energy and waste efficiency of buildings with the aim of reducing environmental impacts as much as possible.
 - (b) invite the Trustees to report to the 2023 General Assembly with the plan and an assessment of what it will take to achieve this; and
 - (c) invite the Trustees to report to the 2023 General Assembly on compliance with the amended Earthquake Policy timetable.

A proposed amendment, to include the word 'accessibility' was lost (68/70).

The substantive motion was carried (129/10).

Business was adjourned to resume at 9 am Thursday 28 April 2022.

The Moderator of Te Aka Puaho pronounced the Benediction.

Minutes of Session 2 of the Special Assembly 2022 held electronically at 9am Thursday 28 April 2022.

Ms Katerina Solomona led the Assembly in devotions.

Christian World Service

Mr Murray Overton, Director of Christian World Service was associated with the Assembly. He addressed the Assembly on the work of Christian World Service.

Mr Overton moved, it was seconded and carried (138/4):

- [22.027] That the Big Hearts Connected World campaign be endorsed.

Nominating Committee

Ms Liz Whitehead, Nominating Committee convenor, was associated with the Assembly. Ms Whitehead moved, it was seconded and carried (142/1):

[22.028] That the following people be appointed to the named committees: PressGo - Rev Vaione (Pennie) Togiatama-Otto, Book of Order Advisory Committee – Mr Efi Efaraimo.

Doctrine Core Group (resumed)

Rev Dr Stuart Lange advised that the terms of reference for the Doctrine Core Group were unclear, and he was granted leave to amend motion [22.025].

Mr Lange moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[22.025] That the Terms of Reference of the Doctrine Core Group be referred to the Council of Assembly for review and development.

Proposal 2: Congregational Reviews

Rev Diane Gilliam-Weeks spoke to a proposal to make the provisions for reviewing a congregation more flexible. She moved, it was seconded and carried (137/5):

[22.029] That Book of Order chapter 5.10 be amended as follows
“5.10 Review of a congregation on the initiative of presbytery:
(1) 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.”

Proposal 3: Connected Decision Making

Rev Dr Emma Keown presented a proposal to restructure the Council of Assembly membership. She was granted leave to amend motion [22.031] by deleting clause **iv**.

Dr Keown moved motions [22.030] to [22.033] *en bloc*, and this was seconded.

[22.030] That an additional responsibility be added to the Council of Assembly, namely “to promote and support collaboration between presbyteries.”

[22.031] That, to better connect the Council of Assembly and presbyteries, the voting membership of the Council be revised as follows:
i. each of the five regional presbyteries appoint a member to the Council of Assembly,
ii. Te Aka Puaho and Pacific Presbytery each appoint a member to the Council of Assembly,
iii. each of the seven presbyteries submit one further name to the Nominating Committee, which would then discern up to six additional members for appointment to the Council of Assembly, in order to ensure a balance in membership such as age, gender, minister/elder and ethnicity,
~~iv. the Council of Assembly elect a Convener and a Deputy Convener from its members.~~

[22.032] That, in addition to the voting members, the following be non-voting members of the Council: the Moderators of General Assembly, Te Aka Puaho and Pacific Presbytery; a representative of the Synod of Otago and Southland; one representative of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees; and the Assembly Executive Secretary.

[22.033] That the term of appointment to Council of Assembly remain at four years.

Rev Dr Kerry Enright, of the Book of Order Advisory Committee, presented the opinion of the committee that the second motion of this proposal was inconsistent with the basic structuring of the Church relating to the role of the Assembly in appointing the members of its key committee. Dr Enright responded to a question for clarification.

A series of questions for clarification about the proposal were then responded to by Dr Keown.

Debate was suspended.

Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT)

Rev Simon McLeay and the Rev Dr Geoff New were associated with the Assembly.

The report of the Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT) Task Group was presented and questions for clarification were responded to by Mr McLeay.

Mr McLeay moved en bloc, and it was seconded:

[22.034]. That the partnerships with Te Aka Puaho and the Synod of Otago and Southland, in providing training for ministry and leadership, be affirmed.

[22.035] That the principle of all leaders and ministers in the Church being life-long learners, be affirmed.

[22.036] That presbyteries be invited to encourage ministers, before they take up a new position, to develop a professional development plan.

[22.037] That the Council of Assembly be encouraged to implement a structure that addresses the need for lay and ordained training and the oversight of all training for the national church, as proposed in the TELT report.

[22.038] That the current resourcing level of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership be maintained at 4.5 FTE.

[22.039] That the principle of fully funding ministry internships from the Assembly budget be adopted.

[22.040] That consideration be given to developing new ministry pathway options as set out in the body of the Theological Education and Leadership Training report.

[22.041] That 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.

Proposal 12 (Theology of Ordination) was also presented, moved and seconded, for information only at this stage, as it had relevance to the TELT recommendations.

[22.042] That the Doctrine Core Group prepare a statement for the next General Assembly that updates the theology of ordination of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, 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.

The recommendations of the Task Group were referred to Dialogue Groups for discussion.

The Assembly resumed in plenary session.

Presbyterian Support New Zealand

Mr Andrew Johnston, Presbyterian Support NZ Chair, and Dr Prudence Stone, Presbyterian Support NZ Executive Officer, were associated with the Assembly. They spoke to their report.

Mr Johnston moved, it was seconded and carried (131/6):

Mr Johnston was granted leave to slightly amend the motion.

[22.043] (*As amended*): That presbyteries be encouraged to find consistency of method in 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.

Mr Johnston moved, it was seconded and carried (114/21):

[22.044] That the Council of Assembly be asked to consider lifting its support, in the next budget round, of the Church's annual contributions to PresCare.

Business was adjourned at 12.35 pm to resume at 1.30 pm.

Minutes of Session 3 of the 2022 Special Assembly 1.30pm Thursday 28 April.

The Moderator conducted a resourcing interview with James Beck on the theme of empowering generations.

The Moderator welcomed the Very Rev Ray Coster to the Assembly and acknowledged his work as the Church's White Ribbon Ambassador, and as a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

The Very Rev Richard Dawson took the Moderator's chair.

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

Dr Mavis Duncanson moved *en bloc*, it was seconded and carried (134/7):

- [22.045] That Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand national and international projects and outreach be supported and actively encouraged within congregations and presbyteries.
- [22.046] That opportunities for full participation of women and girls in church courts, committees and other formal groups be actively and intentionally provided.
- [22.047] That the Government be 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.
- [22.048] That the World Council of Churches' Thursdays in Black campaign, committing to a world free from violence and rape, be actively supported and promoted throughout the Church.
- [22.049] That 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, be recognised and the Government be urged to take strong action to achieve climate justice and effectively care for creation.
- [22.050] That the disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women in Aotearoa be recognised by advocating for responses to the pandemic that protect women's rights and achieve gender equality

There was no debate.

Leadership Sub-committee (resumed)

Rev Ryhan Prasad clarified aspects of the revised supervision provisions.

Motions [22.018], 22.019] and [22.020] were debated *en bloc* but voted on separately.

Mr Prasad moved, it was seconded and carried (135/5):

- [22.018] That Book of Order chapters 9 and 10 be amended to give effect to the changes proposed in the Leadership Sub-committee's report.

Mr Prasad moved, it was seconded and carried (135/4):

- [22.019] That the requirements for the reception of ministers of other denominations to the Ministerial Roll be amended by:
- (1) Adding "or Religious Workers Work Visa (RWWV)" to the current NZ citizenship or permanent residency eligibility criteria.
 - (2) replacing the requirement for 12 month membership of a Presbyterian congregation with "and approved induction program to be completed within the first year after reception."

Mr Prasad moved, it was seconded and carried (125/16):

- [22.020] That, in the Book of Order Defined Terms, the definition for Supervision be amended by deleting the words "collegial and or."

Proposal 3: Connected decision making (resumed)

Debate resumed on the proposal.

Rev Anne Thompson was granted leave to bring a notice of motion about an alternative way forward in this debate.

Ms Thompson moved, it was seconded and carried (111/33):

[22.071] That the Council of Assembly be asked to engage and collaborate with the presbyteries to address the concerns raised in Proposal 3 about connected decision making, and report to the next General Assembly

The original motions of Proposal 3 were thus fallen from.

[Fallen] *[22.030] That an additional responsibility be added to the Council of Assembly, namely “to promote and support collaboration between presbyteries.”*

[22.031] That, to better connect the Council of Assembly and presbyteries, the voting membership of the Council be revised as follows:

- i. each of the five regional presbyteries appoint a member to the Council of Assembly,*
- ii. Te Aka Puaho and Pacific Presbytery each appoint a member to the Council of Assembly,*
- iii. each of the seven presbyteries submit one further name to the Nominating Committee, which would then discern up to six additional members for appointment to the Council of Assembly, in order to ensure a balance in membership such as age, gender, minister/elder and ethnicity,*

[22.032] That, in addition to the voting members, the following be non-voting members of the Council: the Moderators of General Assembly, Te Aka Puaho and Pacific Presbytery; a representative of the Synod of Otago and Southland; one representative of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees; and the Assembly Executive Secretary.

[22.033] That the term of appointment to Council of Assembly remain at four years.

Proposal 7 (Emissions Reduction)

The Rev Dr Jordan Redding spoke to the proposal.

He moved, it was seconded and carried (131/9):

- [22.051]
- a. 1. That the Council of Assembly
 - i. establish a work group for an initial period of six years to
 - i. promote initiatives to help the various parts of the Presbyterian Church reduce carbon emissions by 5% per annum;
 - ii. report to the General Assembly regarding how the Church is progressing in reducing carbon emissions; and
 - iii. in due course, recommend to the General Assembly steps that could be taken to further the objective beyond the six years.
 - b. Adopt A framework to monitor carbon emissions of assembly operations, make best endeavors to reduce carbon emissions of assembly operations by 5%, monitor progress and achieving that objective and report progress to each General Assembly until 2030, taking advice from the work group if it is deemed helpful.

Proposal 8 (Inclusivity)

Ms Christine Spall presented the three clauses of this motion together and they were debated as a whole but were voted on separately.

Ms Spall moved, it was seconded and carried (107/38):

- [22.052] a. That the Church commits to a dialogue on a way forward in a church divided over issues of sexuality, biblical morality and leadership.

Ms Spall moved, it was seconded and carried (119/23):

- b. That this dialogue be led by the Moderator and Moderator Designate who will gather a group together representing a variety of views on this issue.

Ms Spall moved, it was seconded and carried (118/24):

- d. That the outcomes of the dialogue be reported to Assembly 2023.

The Rt Rev Hamish Galloway returned to the Moderator's chair.

Theology of Property and Money Task Group

Rev Dr Ron Mills, Ms Jenny Flett and Ms Teresa Parsons were associated with the Assembly. Dr Mills and Ms Flett spoke to the report of the Theology of Property and Money report.

Dr Mills moved *en bloc*, and it was seconded:

- [22.058] That the section of the report "Theological Statement" be noted as the foundation for any framework for sharing money and property in the Church

- [22.059] a. That congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to utilise more fully the current framework for sharing resources summarised in Sub-appendix B of the Theology of Property and Money report.

- b. That presbyteries be requested to include a summary of their sharing of resources in their report to the General Assembly.

- [22.060] That a task group be set up to develop a gracious covenant for the generous sharing of resources to which congregations and presbyteries can subscribe as a sign of their willingness to share and that this covenant be presented for adoption by the next General Assembly.

- [22.061] That, in the light of the Theology of Money and Property report, a task group be set up to:

1. investigate amending or replacing the Presbyterian Church Property Act 1885, including how section 39 and clauses 6 and 6A of Schedule 2 of the Act might be amended to promote greater sharing of resources in the interest of furthering God's mission and report with recommendations to the next General Assembly.
2. Review the Book of Order, in particular chapter 16, and report with recommendations to the next General Assembly.

The Moderator paid tribute to the significant contributions to the Church of Ms Flett in a number of leading roles. Mrs Flett responded.

Commissioners moved into Dialogue Groups to discuss the Theology of Property and Money report.

Business resumed in plenary session.

The Assembly Business Work Group convenor clarified that, in relation to the Leadership Sub-committee decisions, no follow up recommendations from the Book of Order Advisory Committee were required at this time.

The Moderator introduced a video presentation in which he interviewed Presbyterian Support New Zealand staff about their work.

Business was adjourned to resume at 9 am the next morning, Friday 29 April.

Minutes of Session 4 of the 2022 Special Assembly 9.00 am Friday 29 April

Rev Dr Selwyn Yeoman led the Assembly in devotions.

Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT)

Rev Anne Stewart reported the Facilitation Group's summary of the Dialogue Group discussion of the TELT report.

The motions, having already been moved and seconded, were debated separately.

[22.034] That the partnerships with Te Aka Puaho and the Synod of Otago and Southland, in providing training for ministry and leadership, be affirmed
The motion was carried (141/3).

[22.035] That the principle of all leaders and ministers in the Church being life-long learners, be affirmed.
The motion was carried (144/1).

[22.036] That presbyteries be invited to encourage ministers, before they take up a new position, to develop a professional development plan.
The motion was carried (106/39)

[22.037] That the Council of Assembly be encouraged to implement a structure that addresses the need for lay and ordained training and the oversight of all training for the national church, as proposed in the TELT report.

Rev Dr Jordan Redding was granted leave to introduce an amendment. He moved, and it was seconded:

[22.073] That the Council of Assembly be asked to form a task group, to include input from the Leadership Sub-committee, the Assembly Executive Secretary, the Principal of KCML and other people with relevant expertise, to develop and implement a plan addressing the needs for lay and ordained training and the oversight of all training for the national church.
The amendment was lost (78/64).

There was extensive debate on the substantive motion [22.037].
The motion was lost (78/66).

Leave was granted to introduce a new motion.

Dr Redding moved, it was seconded and carried (132/3).

[22.072] That the work of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership be affirmed.

Motion [022.038] was debated.

[22.038] That the current resourcing level of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership be maintained at 4.5 FTE.

Ms Bronwyn McCall moved an amendment, which was seconded:

That the current resourcing level of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership be restored to 6.0 FTE.

Rev Richard Gray moved an amendment, which was seconded:

That the Council of Assembly ensure that the Knox Centre for Ministry & Leadership is adequately resourced.

Ms McCall withdrew her amendment in favour of that from Mr Gray.

The amendment was agreed to and, when put, was then put as the substantive motion. It was carried (140/2).

[022.038] (As amended): That the Council of Assembly ensure that the Knox Centre for Ministry & Leadership is adequately resourced.

Motion [22.039] was debated.

[22.039] That the principle of fully funding ministry internships from the Assembly budget be adopted.

Mr Stewart Milne moved an amendment, it was seconded and carried (131/12):

That the principle of fully funding ministry internships without the need for parish contributions be adopted.

The amendment became the substantive motion.

[22.039] (as amended): That the principle of fully funding ministry internships without the need for parish contributions be adopted.

When put, the substantive motion was carried. (136/6)

Motion [22.040] was extensively debated.

[22.040] That consideration be given to developing new ministry pathway options as set out in the body of the Theological Education and Leadership Training report.

Dr Redding moved an amendment, which was seconded, to add the words “through a rediscovery of the theology of commissioning” after “pathway options” to the original motion.

The amendment was lost. (85/54)

The original motion [22.040], when put, was carried. (90/49)

Proposal 12: Theology of ordination

Motion [22.042], having earlier been moved and seconded, was debated.

[22.042] That the Doctrine Core Group prepare a statement for the next General Assembly that updates the theology of ordination of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, 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.

Jonathan McLeay moved an amendment, which was seconded, that the words after “ordination” be deleted from the statement.

The amendment was lost. (70/63)

The original substantive motion [22.042], when put, was carried.(110/27)

There was no debate on Motion [22.041]. When the motion was put, it was carried. (133/1)

[22.041] That the Church express 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.

The Moderator expressed the Church’s appreciation for the work undertaken, over several years, by the members of the TELT Task Group.

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor advised that the planned Mahi Tahī dialogue groups would not proceed, but consultation would be undertaken directly with presbyteries and church councils.

Business was adjourned to resume at 1.30 pm.

Minutes of Session 5 of the 2022 Special Assembly 1.30 pm Friday 29 April

The Moderator introduced the second of his resourcing sessions, which featured a variety of congregations explaining how they coped with needing a greater online presence.

Interchurch Bioethics Council (ICBC)

Dr Joy McIntosh was associated with the meeting.

Dr McIntosh spoke to the ICBC report and responded to questions. There was brief debate.

Dr McIntosh moved, it was seconded and carried (124/8):

[22.063] That, on the issue of climate change, all ministry units within the Presbyterian Church be asked to undertake the “Eco Church” survey developed by A Rocha <https://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 Moderator voiced the Church’s appreciation for the work of ICBC.

Proposal 6: Eco Church

Rev Dr Jordan Redding spoke to this proposal. There was brief debate.

Dr Redding moved, it was seconded and carried (112/20):

- [22.065] a. That the Presbyterian Church become a denominational partner of Eco Church NZ.
 b. That presbyteries and congregations be encouraged to join Eco Church NZ.

Theology of Property and Money

Rev Chris Elliot, Facilitation Group, reported feedback from Dialogue Groups on the proposals of the Theology of Property and Money Task Group. She noted a number of common concerns and areas where there were contrasting views.

Rev Dr Ron Mills moved, it was seconded and debated:

- [22.058] That the section of the report “Theological Statement” be noted as the foundation for any framework for sharing money and property in the Church.

The motion was lost (74/59).

Dr Mills moved, and it was seconded:

- [22.059] a. That congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to utilise more fully the current framework for sharing resources summarised in Sub-appendix B of the Theology of Property and Money report.
 b. That presbyteries be requested to include a summary of their sharing of resources in their report to the General Assembly.

There was brief debate. Te Aka Puaho Moderator Marina Rakuraku was invited to express Te Aka Puaho’s view on the matter.

The motion was carried (112/22).

Dr Mills moved, and it was seconded and lost (38/97):

- [22.060] That a task group be set up to develop a gracious covenant for the generous sharing of resources to which congregations and presbyteries can subscribe as a sign of their willingness to share and that this covenant be presented for adoption by the next General Assembly.

There was brief debate.

Dr Mills accepted an amendment to the original motion, which was seconded, and the motion as amended was carried (117/20):

- [22.061] That, in the light of this report, a task group be set up to:
 1. 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.

2. Review the Book of Order, in particular Chapter 16, and report with recommendations to the next General Assembly.

Proposal 1: Church Property Sales

Rev Ryhan Prasad spoke to this proposal. He accepted a friendly amendment to include the words “for purchase” after the words “be offered.” He responded to questions for clarification.

Mr Prasad moved, it was seconded and carried (121/12):

- [22.064] That those bodies responsible for the sale of Church-owned land and/or buildings offer these assets for purchase to relevant Maori entities before the asset goes on to the open market.

Proposal 5: Criminal Justice

Leave was granted to withdraw a proposal on Criminal Justice on the understanding it would be brought to the next General Assembly.

Proposal 9: Mission Enterprise Fund

Mr McBride advised that this proposal was fallen from, as the Assembly had already affirmed the PressGo Board’s administration of the Mission Enterprise Fund.

- (Fallen) [22.066] *That the requirement for ten percent of the net sale proceeds of property to be transferred to the Mission Enterprise Fund be removed.*

- (Fallen) [22.067] *That the proceeds from the sale of surplus parish and presbytery property be required to be vested with the presbytery to be used for missional work within that presbytery.*

Proposal 10: Other recognised ministries

Leave was granted to withdraw this proposal as it was acknowledged that the Book of Order already provides for the actions the proposal sought.

Proposal 11: Minister Teams

The Rev Martin Stewart spoke to the proposal. He responded to questions for clarification.

Mr Stewart moved, it was seconded: and carried (127/9):

- [22.069] That, when a minister applies to resign their charge, the presbytery be required to notify any other ministers in the team and to seek their views.

Mr Stewart moved, it was seconded and carried (133/3):

- [22.070] That the Book of Order Advisory Committee be asked to draft an amendment to Book of Order 10:23 (5) to include reference to any other ministers when there is a ministry team.

Dialogue Groups

Commissioners moved into their Dialogue Groups for a debrief and farewell.

Comprehensive Vote of Thanks

Rev Ryhan Prasad proposed a comprehensive vote of thanks, naming the many groups and individuals who had contributed to the successful operation of the Special Assembly. The

Assembly expressed its appreciation by virtual applause.

Adjournment

The Clerk of Assembly declared the business of the 2022 Special Assembly concluded, and that Assembly stood adjourned to meet again within the bounds of Northern Presbytery in 2023, at a date and time to be determined.

The Moderator gave a closing reflection and pronounced the Benediction.

Confirmed 18 May 2022

Moderator

Clerk

Appendix to the Minutes of the 2022 Special Assembly

Memorial Minute

The Rev Ned Eric Ripley QSM, JP (1933-2018)

Ned Ripley was born on 23 January 1933 and grew up in American Samoa.

He trained for ministry with the Congregational Church in Auckland. The Congregational Assembly voted in 1969 to join with the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and at the Presbyterian General Assembly that year a service of reception was held and former Congregational ministers and churches were welcomed. Ned was one of these.

Ned served at Otara Pacific Island Church, South Auckland Presbytery, from 1966 until July 1981. He was appointed Dean of Māori and Polynesian Studies at the Theological Hall in Dunedin. He began in August 1981 and was formally inducted into the role on 27 February 1982. Ned retired from the role at the end of 1989.

Ned had outstanding qualities and breadth of sympathies. He raised both the bi-cultural and multi-cultural nature of the life of the Church and wider society. He was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for Public Services (QSM) in 1982.

Ned saw and lived out the deanship as a teaching role, a representative role, a spiritual role and a pastoral role. Together with his late wife Alice, whom he had married in 1959, they were regarded as 'Father' and 'Mother' by many Pacific Island students. Ned's pastoral care for and of these students cannot be over emphasised.

He enabled students to leave their wider families to travel to the Theological Hall and feel the same security and warmth their own families would provide. He also had the ability to draw in other students to feel the warmth of language and culture and tradition of the Pacific.

Ned and Alice retired to American Samoa and he was granted the status of Minister Emeritus in March 1990. He continued to minister in American Samoa and served as the Elder Minister in the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa at Fagatogo, Pagopago. When Ned finally retired, he returned to his home parish Newton PIPC.

Ned Ripley died on 09 October 2018, in Auckland.