



The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees

Clarity in Mission – the strategy for our Church

It's very easy to miss important messages. We'd like to draw to your attention the Council of Assembly's booklet *Bringing Clarity to Our Mission*. We want to ensure that its important message reaches everyone who makes decisions in our church life.

The key message in *Bringing Clarity to Our Mission* is that our Church is at a crossroads with smaller congregations holding a vast amount of buildings and assets, but with fewer people to do the work. The Council has a strategy for change summarised in its 10 key points as follows:

1. *Complete your own analysis of where things are heading and use this analysis as a basis for prayer, reflection and discernment.*
2. *Invest in and support our leaders.*
3. *Prioritise ministry to children and young people.*
4. *Invest in the future by not spending any more money on buildings that are not meaningfully contributing to the present and future mission of our Church.*
5. *Address the difficult issues around decline and stewardship – with a focus on shifting resources to support mission and new forms of being the church.*
6. *Do not amalgamate declining congregations.*
7. *Invest in growing congregations that are experiencing renewal through mission, regardless of their size.*
8. *Invest in the buy-in and implementation of a mission-focused strategy that will build strong, enduring communities of faith.*
9. *Use growing and well-resourced congregations as vehicles for new church plants and absorption of small declining congregations.*
10. *Commit to intentional outcome focused on local and global mission.*

Many of these points are about using property strategically. For the Trustees this means changing our property approval process to primarily focus on “*Does this proposal align with the mission of the Church?*” rather than simply “*Can this parish afford it?*” We want Presbyteries to fully explain how they see each proposal having mission value in their area.

What does this mean for you and your congregation?

You will need to demonstrate to both your Presbytery and to the Trustees that your proposal is adding to the mission of the Church, and in particular, how well it aligns with the Council's 10 key points. You can expect that when this is not clear, the Trustees will seek further in-depth information from your Presbytery. We also expect Presbyteries themselves will decline applications that do not come up to the mark. The Trustees will also be saying “no” when they cannot be convinced of the mission value of a property proposal.

New mission-focused initiatives from the General Assembly

Early in 2015 the Trustees will be implementing the General Assembly's decision to release a portion of the net proceeds of property sales to the Mission Enterprise Fund. Parishes will also be invited to give a portion of the interest earned on their PIF money to the Fund and thereby make a valuable contribution to new projects that fit with the strategic direction of the Church as a whole.

Not mine, but Thine

For many, a change in mind-set will be needed to move away from their current regard of the buildings they worship in and the financial assets they are privileged to hold as being “mine”. These assets are, and in fact always have been, a resource for God’s mission through the Presbyterian Church.

We remind you of the three basic principles surrounding property decisions as stated in the Property Handbook and encourage you to be guided by these and by the vision outlined in *Bringing Clarity to Our Mission*.

Everyone making decisions about property or finance within the Church is a “trustee.” This means putting aside our own preferences and acting with care and prudence for the Church as a whole

We are a Church – not a collection of independent congregations. That is why the Presbytery and the national church through the Trustees also must approve property transactions

Our decisions must keep faith with the long-term interests of the whole Church.

The congregations of the future will inherit our choices

Bringing Clarity to Our Mission can be downloaded from:

http://presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/publications/bt/2014/COA-Mission_Clarity2014.Print.booklet.pdf

<p>PIF Interest Rate Change</p> <p>As previously advised, the PIF interest rate will reduce to 4.50% pa from 1st February 2015.</p>	<p>Large PIF Withdrawals</p> <p>To assist with cash flow planning, we require 5 working days’ notice for any PIF withdrawals of \$100,000 or more. This applies whether you process your own withdrawals via your electronic access or request them through the CPT office.</p>
<p>PIF Cheque Deposits</p> <p>Just a friendly reminder that cheques for depositing to your PIF account need to be made payable to Grosvenor Custodial Administration (not to the Trustees)</p>	

Happy New Year from the CPT Team

Kos, Pat and Marion are here to help and are happy to be contacted for any PIF, property matters or general enquiries. 😊

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