



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARISHES

Does the parish need to continue to pay the Beneficiary Fund part of the Assembly Assessment between now and 30 June 2017?

Yes. The current Beneficiary Fund scheme remains in place until 30 June 2017 and it is part of the support package that we have committed to pay to our ministers. Until the Defined Benefit scheme is officially wound up on 30 June 2017, it remains part of the terms of call.

How will the changes affect Assembly Assessment?

The changes will enable a considerable reduction in Assembly Assessment levies since the parish contribution to the Beneficiary Fund will change from central funding through Assembly Assessment to a parish contribution as a percentage of stipend.

When will the new rate of Assembly Assessment come into effect?

If the proposal for change finds favour with General Assembly, parishes will be invited to contribute to a review of Assembly Assessment in the New Year, with a view to a new rate being effective from 1 July 2017.

How will the parish pay Beneficiary Fund contributions under the new system?

It is envisaged that the Beneficiary Fund contributions will be facilitated at the time of payroll, and more information will be available to parishes about this in the New Year.

Who pays for what?

The minister will continue to make their own personal contribution to the Beneficiary Fund (or their nominated KiwiSaver account if they are a LOM).

The parish will fund the proposed increase in stipend, and as is currently the case, the parish will make the “employer” contribution to their minister or ministers’ KiwiSaver or Beneficiary Fund accounts.

For LOMs, parishes will be requested to increase the rate of contribution to 5 percent. *(NB: 23 Sep 2016 - Please note that this was originally 4 percent and was changed on confirmation that a 5 percent payroll option is available.)*

How will the ministerial support package change, and what will be the parish contribution? Read the [Ministerial Support Package Explained](#) factsheet for further information.



Beneficiary Fund

 Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

Do the changes affect employees?

Support for employees is also part of the package of proposed changes. The 2012 General Assembly adopted a living wage policy where congregations were encouraged to pay the living wage for all employees, and parishes are also being encouraged to offer a 5 percent contribution to KiwiSaver for all employees (rather than the required 3 percent). *(NB: 23 Sep 2016 - Please note that this was originally 4 percent and was changed on confirmation that a 5 percent payroll option is available.)*

Where can I get more info?

See the “Proposed changes to the Beneficiary Fund” booklets for more information about how to access pastoral support, independent financial advice, ask questions and more. (In addition to the booklet which explains impacts on members and annuitants, there is also a booklet explaining the changes for sessions and parish councils.)

Call us on 0800 PRESSY (0800 773 779)

Email us:

fundfeedback@presbyterian.org.nz

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Last Updated: 23 September 2016 12:53pm