



The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees

Why is it important to obtain a seismic report?

In May this year, the Trustees completed and published their revision of the Church's Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy. While the timetable for taking remedial action (especially for low risk regions and buildings) has been extended, the timetable for obtaining seismic reports has not.

This is because it is important for Presbyteries and congregations to act, and be seen to act, as responsible property owners and know the state of their buildings. Only by obtaining an Initial Seismic Assessment (ISA) or a Detailed Seismic Assessment (DSA) from a suitably qualified engineer, can congregations be confident of the safety of their buildings, or know what the critical risks are and what is required to remedy those risks.

Parishes should refer to the policy to confirm which risk zone they are located in, and then to the table that details when seismic reports are required, depending on the age of the buildings. It should be noted, that ISA's for all buildings in the high risk areas, regardless of age, should have been completed by now with copies provided to your Presbytery and the Trustees. If your parish already has a seismic report that hasn't been provided to the Trustees yet, we'd appreciate receiving a copy as soon as possible.



High Risk Areas

Wellington	Christchurch
Palmerston North	Napier/Hastings
Gisborne	Blenheim

Medium Risk Areas

Hamilton	Tauranga
New Plymouth	Rotorua
Wanganui	Nelson
Invercargill	Timaru

Low Risk Areas

Auckland	Northland
Oamaru	Dunedin

Government and local authorities have also recognised the danger posed by facades and parapets and require these to be urgently addressed. Accordingly, the revised Church policy also requires these structures to be assessed immediately, regardless of the risk area and age of the building.

The Earthquake Prone Buildings policy is available on the Church's website at:

[Church Property Trustees/Property/Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy](#)



The Presbyterian Benevolent Fund – a helping hand when it's needed

The Presbyterian Benevolent Fund was established by the General Assembly. It is a registered charitable trust that has been created from surplus funds following the wind-up of the Defined Benefit sections of the Beneficiary Fund. The value of the Fund, which is still to be finalised, will be what is left after all member entitlements and wind-up costs have been paid.

The Beneficiary Fund itself has been restructured to be more like Kiwisaver, and continues to provide the Church's Ministers with a socially-responsible retirement savings scheme managed by Mercer NZ Limited and administered by Melville Jessup Weaver.

The Church Property Trustees are the Trustee of the Benevolent Fund and it is their role to administer the Fund and consider applications for grants to ministers, their spouses, widows, widowers and dependents, in keeping the with charitable purposes of the Fund.

Grants fall into a number of categories, of which the most commonly requested is the Special Needs Grant. This is generally a one-off payment (not exceeding \$5,000) for expenditure that could not reasonably have been foreseen, and which applicants are unable to meet out of their income or savings without seriously diminishing their resources. Examples include assistance for urgent medical treatment or support, emergency travel, counselling, retraining or rehabilitation costs and capital expenses for the repair or replacement of essential household items.

Other grant categories cover sickness and disability and provision for ministers who may require support to address unforeseen, long-term financial need and for whom no other means of support is available.

The Trustees are pleased to hold and administer the Benevolent Fund for the benefit of ministers and their families who, in many cases, have made considerable lifestyle sacrifices in the service of the Church.

More information about eligibility for grants can be obtained from the Trustees' office on (04) 381 8296 or (04) 381 8290 or trustees@presbyterian.org.nz

Does your minister need a holiday... Does he or she know about Glen Innis...

Glen Innis is a working sheep & beef station south east of Waipukurau in Central Hawkes Bay that is administered by the Church Property Trustees. It was gifted to the Church to provide free holiday accommodation just for ministers.



There are two comfortable homes, both with all modern conveniences, set in park-like grounds in a superb rural landscape. Tennis court, swimming pool, games room – it's all there. From Glen Innis, your minister and their family can explore Hawkes Bay's beaches and bush walks, go fishing, visit the wineries and generally enjoy all the region has to offer.



James & Stephanie Carter continue the long tradition of welcoming both active and retired ministers as guests of Glen Innis.

Have a look at the story of Glen Innis on the website and perhaps pop a brochure into your minister's sermon notes!

<https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/index.php/for-ministers/glen-innis-ministers-holiday-home>

IMPORTANT NOTICE - AUDIT CONFIRMATION LETTERS

If you receive a letter from the Trustees, requesting confirmation to their auditors, Ernst & Young (EY), of your parish PIF account balances as at 30th June, it is important that this is completed and returned to the address provided without delay. This is an important part of the Church's audit process which will be held up if these confirmations are not received.



A look at the work of..... The Trustees' Investment Committee

The Investment Committee is made up of Trustees, with either current or previous business and investment backgrounds, who meet monthly or more frequently if required. The Committee, on behalf of the Church Property Trustees, is responsible for the governance of the Presbyterian Investment Fund (PIF).

Deposits in the PIF, which total approximately \$165 million, include a number of trust funds administered by the Trustees, the proceeds of property sales and surplus funds deposited by parishes and other Presbyterian Church entities.

The Committee, with the approval of the Trustees, determines the investment strategy for the Fund and oversees the performance of the external professional fund managers and administrator.

The investment strategy, which includes a Socially Responsible Investment Policy, focusses on high quality short-term securities to achieve the best possible rate of return for a low risk fund, where deposits are on call.

The Committee is in the process of establishing an alternative longer-term fund with the objective of providing a higher return for trusts and parishes that do not need to have a substantial portion of their funds on call. More information about this fund will be available later in the year.

The front end simplicity of the PIF that parishes experience, belies the depth of work required by the Investment Committee to not only achieve its investment objectives, but also to meet the ever-increasing regulatory and compliance requirements associated with providing a financial service.

The Trustees are very fortunate to have a core of skilled and willing members to undertake the work of the Investment Committee.

The CPT Office Team

A little older, quite a bit greyer – but still together !

Contact us for any PIF, property matters and general enquiries. We're here to help.



Kos van Lier – Executive Officer

Ph: (04) 381 8296 or kos@presbyterian.org.nz

Pat Griffin – Administrative Secretary

Ph: (04) 381 8290 or pat@presbyterian.org.nz

Marion Blair – Administrator

Ph: (04) 381 8289 or marion@presbyterian.org.nz