



FINANCE NEWSLETTER 95

TO: Parish and Presbytery Treasurers

FROM: Brendan Sweeney, Manager, Financial Services

DATE: 14 January 2008

1.	Objectives for 2008
2.	Parish Statistics

1. Objectives for 2008

Happy new year from the Financial Services Department. We hope you had a very pleasant Christmas and summer break. 2007 was a satisfying year for FSD in that we were able to consolidate the personnel and processes and systems required to provide the Church with stronger financial reporting and support. In 2008 our objectives are:

- Improve the financial and administrative advice offered to parish treasurers and clerks. I am aware that accounting for parish finances is a thankless and complicated task and that over the past few years there has been an increase in workload due to the decentralisation of payroll and seniority allowance functions, the introduction of Kiwisaver and changes to the Charities Act.

Although there have been updates in the finance newsletters, I think the information coming out of this office should be consolidated to provide a meaningful guide to new and experienced treasurers. The Treasurers manual has not been updated since 2004 and it is my intention to issue an update and maintain the document as new information and requirements evolve. In addition I plan to conduct an information road show (possible in conjunction with other General Assembly functions), and encourage the input, questions and comments from interested parties.

- Improve support for debtors. There remain significant amounts payable by parishes and individuals to General Assembly, specifically for unpaid Assembly Assessment, minister's loans and insurance premiums. To this point our communication and support in resolution has been inadequate and I intend to address this. With this in mind if there are any parishes or parties that would like to discuss any arrears, please contact me.

- Continue the reduction in Assembly Assessment. As reported in the last budget document, overall Assembly Assessment has reduced by about 5% per year for the past two years. It is hoped that this trend can continue into the 2008-09 financial year by further controlling operational expenditure and maximizing alternative income sources.

2. Parish Statistics

Thank you to those parishes that have supplied statistics to 30 June 2007. The deadline for delivery is well past but there are still about 70 parishes that have not supplied information, and some parishes have not done so for several years. As stated FSD want to support parishes but we are reliant on statistics being sent so we can track parish movement and accurately update Assembly Assessment calculations. Changes to the definition of income agreed at GA06 mean that accessible income, therefore 2008/09 AA may be reduced, so it is to your advantage to provide the latest statistics.

If you have not sent statistic forms, please do so or call me to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Sweeney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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