



Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

# TREASURERS' NEWSLETTER

May 2019 - Issue 214

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## In this newsletter

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- Stipend calculation from 1 July 2019

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## Welcome

Welcome to our May newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended the financial consolidation roadshows we held in Kaimai earlier this month. We really enjoyed meeting you and having the opportunity to discuss face-to-face the upcoming changes and what these will mean. An update on progress is covered later in this newsletter.

Earlier this month we also sent out the new minister's stipend calculations. All treasurers should have received a copy of this but, for completion, we have provided the details below.

## Consolidation of General Assembly's Annual Financial Statements – an update

Over the last month we have begun the process of preparing for the consolidation of the National Office's financial statements. As mentioned in earlier communications, for the June 2019 year, we will be running a trial consolidation focusing on including the parishes within the Kaimai and Te Aka Puaho presbytery regions. In June 2020, we will be undertaking a full consolidation including all remaining presbyteries and other related organisations.

If your parish is not in either Kaimai or Te Aka Puaho presbyteries you don't need to worry about any changes for the June 2019 year-end.

As mentioned above, Glen Williams (who we have contracted to assist with the consolidation) and myself visited with several areas within the Kaimai Presbytery in mid-May. At these meetings we aimed to provide treasurers with a better understanding of what information we will need and how we can help.



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Over the course of these roadshows, we received many questions, mostly related to how UCANZ churches will be affected and also whether all parishes need to switch to Xero.

We are putting together a FAQ sheet which will answer these plus other questions we have received. An email will be sent to all treasurers with a link to our Church [website](#) once this is completed. In the meantime, here is a summary of the main questions and answers:

Will UCANZ churches be included in the consolidation?

The extent to which UCANZ churches will be included within the Presbyterian financial consolidation is currently being reviewed by our auditors and their technical team. Some level of consolidation will be required, and we can confirm the following:

- Financial information will be required by National Office for UCANZ churches in the same way as Presbyterian churches.
- Unfortunately, UCANZ parishes will not be able to be included under the 'group' reporting option given by Charities Services. Because of this all UCANZ parishes will need to continue to file their own Annual Return with Charities Services.

Do all parishes need to change to Xero?

- No, parishes do not have to transfer to Xero. We recommend Xero because it is a great system to use and can result in time saving for treasurers. As we will be performing the consolidation within Xero, it also enables us access to parish accounts to pull through the information we require electronically. This reduces the amount of work required by both the local treasurer and National Office.
  - If you are using another accounting software package that is fine. Most accounting packages have the option to export your data in a form which we can then upload to our system. All we will require is a year end trial balance in soft form.
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- If you are using an Excel spreadsheet, we can also work with this. All we will require is a soft copy of the trial balance.

#### What if our financial year end date is different to 30 June?

Don't worry if your year end is not 30 June. One advantage of having so many parishes within our group is that small variances in one parish will not be material when looking at the group as a whole. If your parish is very large, we would look to pull the information we require from your accounting package without requiring, you to change your year end.

#### Treasurer support Role – Kaimai Presbytery

In conjunction with Kaimai Presbytery, we are in the process of appointing a presbytery-based financial support role for treasurers within the Kaimai region. One of their main functions will be to work alongside treasurers who would like support in any aspect of their role - be it transferring to Xero, support on producing purpose-built reports, assistance with updating information with Charities Services or any other issue. We will provide an update on this to Kaimai treasurers soon.

Over the next year, with the support of the other presbytery regions, we hope to offer this service to all treasurers. As we roll out the consolidation throughout the country we want to ensure that treasurers are confident that they will have assistance if required.

## Stipend calculation from 1 July 2019

Earlier this month we sent out information on the Ministers Stipend and Allowances from 1 July 2019. Please [click here](#) for a link to the updated calculation.

