



Hope FOR THE
WORLD
GA16

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

General Assembly 2016

Small Faith Communities

GA strongly affirmed the role that small faith communities and congregations play in the life of the Church and wider community.

Moderator Designate Announced

It was announced to the General Assembly that The Very Rev Andrew Norton will be the first person in the history of the Church to hold the position of Moderator for a second term.

Assembly affirmed Andrew's appointment and passed a resolution to stand behind him as he takes up the role of Moderator.

Apology to Te Aka Puaho

GA acknowledged and apologised unreservedly for the unintended consequence, for Te Aka Puaho and for the church, of the 2014 Assembly changing the model of representation at General Assembly without consultation.

- That GA ask Te Aka Puaho to continue to send one commissioner per pastorate to the General Assembly, as in the past, effective immediately.

Presbyterian Foundation

GA agreed that the Presbyterian Foundation be incorporated into the work stream of the Press Go Board.

PCANZ Financial Results

GA received the audited accounts of the Church for the financial year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and authorised COA Convenor and Deputy Convenor to sign off on them.

Local Ordained Ministry

GA approved that the opportunities to train for local ordained ministry be expanded beyond the current limitation to congregations with a ministry settlement board.

Changes to the Book of Order to give effect to the new rules were also agreed by Assembly.

Supplementary Provision Ratification

GA agreed to a variety of changes to the Book of Order Supplementary Provisions that have been issued or amended by the Council of Assembly since the last General Assembly, subject to one change:

Sub-clause 12 of the Nominating Committee Terms of Reference was referred to the BOO Committee for consideration.

Moderator's Role

GA agreed that the Council of Assembly appoint a Task Group of suitably qualified and experienced people to review the nature, scope and requirements of the Moderator's role.

GA agreed to refer the procedure for nominating and electing moderator to this Task Group.

Beneficiary Fund

- That the defined benefit section of the Beneficiary Fund be wound up, effective 30 June 2017.
- That a new (additional) defined contribution section be established and current members of the defined benefit section and annuitants be permitted to join this section.
- The scheme be closed to new members until the scheme is reorganised and reopened on 1 July 2017.

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Beneficiary Fund

Charitable Fund

- That the surplus in the fund be distributed in accordance with Rule B19.2(g) of the Trust Deed by General Assembly for charitable purposes. Firstly, \$800,000 of the surplus to be retained or returned to the scheme to be held as a general reserve, and secondly the balance of the surplus to be held on trust for charitable purposes, specifically the advancement of religion, in particular for the support of ministers of religion.

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Beneficiary Fund

Ministerial support package

- That the ministerial support package be replaced with a package for all ministers that includes:
 - A 6 percent increase in basic stipend (congregation funded)
 - Long-service adjustment to stipend based on length of service to remain the same.
 - Church Beneficiary Fund contribution of 5 percent of total stipend for all contributing members (congregation-funded)
 - Beneficiary Fund contribution at a minimum of 5 percent of total stipend including long-service adjustment paid by all members (individual minister funded)
 - Housing and other allowances to remain the same
 - Membership of the Fund shall remain compulsory for all national ordained ministers
 - Church Kiwisaver contribution for locally ordained ministers be no less than 5 percent (congregation funded)

Cont

Beneficiary Fund

Retirement support for all

- Congregations be encouraged to pay all employees no less than the living wage according to resolution of GA 2012.
- Congregations be encouraged to contribute employer Kiwisaver contributions at no less than five percent.

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Beneficiary Fund

Assembly Assessment

- Assembly Assessment be reduced to reflect the removal of the Beneficiary Fund charge currently included in the Assembly Assessment.

Cont.....

Beneficiary Fund

Governance

- The appointment of a corporate trustee to act as trustee of the scheme in place of the Fund's current trustees, as part of the scheme's transition to the Financial Markets Conduct Act.
- Council of Assembly be given delegated authority to do all other necessary and incidental things on behalf of the General Assembly to finalise and implement the resolutions, including without limitation approving necessary changes and amendments to the Trust Deed.

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Salmond and Knox College

General Assembly approved a range of changes to the supplementary provisions to give effect to new governance arrangements for Salmond and Knox College.

Tertiary Chaplaincy in Aotearoa-NZ

GA affirmed the importance of ongoing support for tertiary chaplaincy in Aotearoa-NZ through:

- Continuing involvement in the ITCC
- Ensuring that PCANZ is represented on each of the ecumenical tertiary chaplaincy trust boards (E .T .C .T .B)
- Supporting gatherings of local church leaders for the purpose of establishing E.T.C.T.B on campuses where they don't exist.

Church Adopts Multicultural Statement

The GA adopted changes in regulations to reflect that the PCANZ is a cross-cultural and multicultural Church with a bicultural commitment. (The resolution was the result of voting on the matter under special legestate procedure.)

Short-Term Ministry Appointments

GA approved the following provisions for short-term ministry appointments to be amended to:

- Increase the maximum term for stated supply ministers up to two years from the present one year.
- If the process of reception to the ministerial roll of the PCANZ has begun during a period of stated supply, the presbytery may extend the appointment beyond the two years until the conclusion of the reception process.
- If a lay supply appointee is recommended as a candidate for Local Ordained Ministry, the presbytery may extend the appointment for the duration of the Local Ordained Ministry assessment period.

Pastoral message for earthquake and storm affected areas

- In light of the current civil emergencies from earthquake and storm disasters GA expressed its prayerful solidarity with those affected by these events.
- GA rejects the view that such natural disasters are a form of divine punishment
- GA affirmed its belief in God who in Christ suffers with those who suffer and who through Christ offers compassion, transformation and hope.

Pastoral message for earthquake and storm affected areas

General Assembly sent its commiserations to the parishes in North Canterbury, Marlborough and Wellington affected by recent earthquakes, and to the Hurunui District Council mayor.

National Dialogue for Christian Unity

General Assembly, in full partnership with Te Aka Puaho, approves in principle, the PCANZ applying for full membership of the National Dialogues for Christian Unity.

'We say Yes' Statement

GA adopted the 'We say Yes' Statement and asked that it be sent to all presbyteries and church councils for study and that every presbytery develop and action plan to implement this statement.

View the "We say yes" statement, which was modified by the GA, at:
http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/public_files/about_us/general_assembly/ga16/Say_yes_Statement_revised.pdf

Memorial Minutes

The Memorial Minutes were placed in the records of the Assembly.

Anniversaries of Ordination

GA Acknowledged the anniversaries of ordination and the Moderator conveyed a warm congratulations and greetings of the Assembly to those for whom these milestones will be celebrated before the next Assembly.

Earthquake Prone Buildings

GA declined to uphold a request that the Church Property Trustees to examine the requirements of the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016 and align their policy requirements with those in the Act.

Church's Social Voice

GA invited the Council of Assembly to establish a work group to enhance the Church's social voice.

A National Mission Week

A motion was lost asking GA to establish a National Mission Week that would have been held in the year after the Moderator of the General Assembly assumes office and every two years thereafter.

Committee membership

Assembly approved recommendations from the Nominating Committee, subject to minor changes, regarding membership of various national church committees, work groups and other nationally appointed bodies.

Same-sex marriage

Assembly approved that a new clause be added to the Book of Order:

“A minister may solemnize marriage only between a man and a woman”

Book of Order amendments

Assembly approved changes to the Book of Order relating to:

- Dissolution of congregations (Chapter 5.9)
- Responsibilities of presbytery if a congregation is dissolved (Chapter 5.11)
- Ministry settlement boards (Chapter 10.4.9)
- Technical change relating to the special legislative procedure (Chapter 14.9.2)
- The scope and function of presbytery (Chapter 8)
- Application for lotteries grants (Chapter 16)

Council of Assembly membership

Assembly adopted changes in regulation relating to membership of the Council of Assembly.

Candidates for leadership

A motion was lost to widen the field of candidates for ministry and eldership, and Assembly declined to uphold a request to delete section 9.1.1A from the Book of Order.

Presbyterian Women

Four recommendations were agreed that support and encourage projects and the work of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ (PWANZ), including:

- That a special collection be taken on the Sunday nearest international women's day to support the work of PWANZ
- GA affirmed the principle that membership of church groups and committees reflect the gender balance within the Church
- Council of Assembly was asked to review policies, regulations etc through a gender equality lens.



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of Aotearoa New Zealand