

GA21 NEWS

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand



**EMPOWERING
GENERATIONS**
GA21

Moderator's sermon

The 2021 General Assembly opened the evening of 29 September with the installation of the new Moderator, Right Rev Hamish Galloway. For the first time the GA was held online due to Covid restrictions. The opening service usually involves the transfer of a ceremonial cloak and the laying on of hands by past Moderators before the gathered Commissioners of the Assembly, and is usually preceded by a powhiri. However, due to the online service, some aspects were different. The GA was live streamed for non-Commissioners via YouTube. Watch Hamish's sermon [on Vimeo](#).



Moderator designate address

The Rev Rose Luxford of Oamaru will be the next leader of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. It was announced on 30 Sept at the online General Assembly that Rose has been elected Moderator designate and will take up the role of Moderator in 2023. She will be the fifth woman leader of the Presbyterian Church in 120 years. Watch [on Vimeo](#) her address to the Assembly.

Moderator installation photos

See and [download photos](#) from the installation of Moderator Right Rev Hamish Galloway at the 2021 General Assembly, evening of 29 September. Pictured: Communion; laying of hands with Very Rev Bruce Hansen.



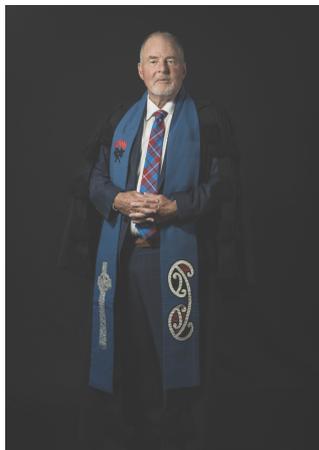
GA21 Decisions

Read the news decisions from GA business- see the Thursday 30 Sept page on the [Church website](#).

Download Summary of Decisions: [PowerPoint](#) / [Word](#) / [PDF](#)

A new cloak for the Moderator

The Moderator installation service usually involves the transfer of a ceremonial cloak (Te Korowai Tapu), however, due to the online service some aspects were different. While it was not possible for Te Aka Puaho and the past Moderator, Very Rev Fakafo Kaio, to be present for the handing over of Te Korowai Tapu, it is something that can be looked forward to at a later date. Instead, Hamish had placed upon him a different cloak with that acknowledged the Scottish heritage of the Church and his ancestry. The cloak had belonged to Very Rev Michael Thawley, and his mentor Bill Watt gave it to him (and he received it from a Moderator of the Church of Scotland).. read more on the Church website [GA News](#).



GA21 take home

See links for GA21 videos, photos, website, written addresses and sermon, decisions and media coverage [here](#).

Moderator's new website... EMPOWERING GENERATIONS



Hamish will focus on his Moderator theme of intergenerational ministry – Empowering Generations - during his two-year term. He has created an Empowering Generations website to resource the Church, offer workshops, and interact with all Presbyterians and parishes. He says, “A particularly important focus for me will be encouraging the Church to steward resources wisely and effectively to empower the next generation of the Church”. [Visit the website](#).

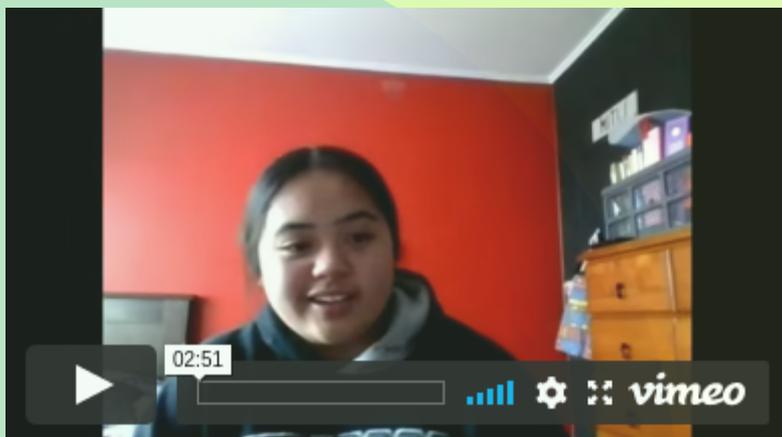


Outgoing Moderator address

The Very Rev Fakaofu Kaio delivered his final address to Assembly from his home in Onehunga, Auckland. His wife Ruth was by his side. Fakaofu has had to serve as Moderator for three years, because of Covid. During his second year, he collaborated with his children to produce online devotions, each morning at 9am, before Church services. Watch Fakaofu's [address on Vimeo](#).

Keynote address

Rev Dr Theresa Cho, pastor of St John's Church in San Francisco, was invited by Rt Rev Hamish Galloway to be keynote speaker at GA21 online, to give Assembly some broad brushstrokes on how she defines 'intergenerational' and how her church's commitment to this spiritual discipline and daily practice manifests. Intergenerational ministry, says Theresa, is less about what is done and more about how a church behaves. It is about having a fundamental willingness to invite your community to "come as they are". Watch Theresa's [address on Vimeo](#).



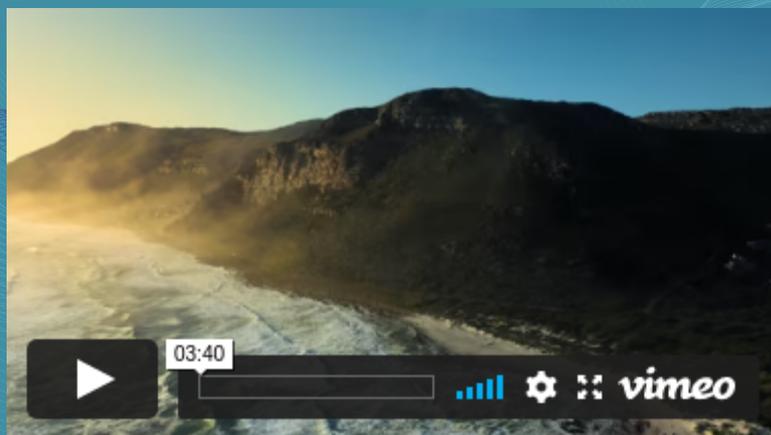
Northern Presbytery

Prepared for the PCANZ online General Assembly, 29-30 September 2021, the Northern Presbytery's Pacific Islanders' Presbyterian Church Newton, Auckland, talked with youth affected by Covid-19. [Watch](#) on vimeo.



Pacific Presbytery

Prepared for the PCANZ online General Assembly, 29-30 September 2021, the Pacific Presbytery share about retreats their members and leaders have participated in, and how they are engaging with Empowering Generations, which is the Moderator theme of Right Rev Hamish Galloway. [Watch now.](#)



Southern Presbyterians

Prepared to be shown at the PCANZ online General Assembly, 29-30 September 2021, the Presbyterian Church's Southern Presbyterians talk to some of their 69 parishes about how Covid-19 lockdown has impacted them. [Watch here.](#)

OVERSEAS GUESTS



PCANZ partner church, the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, sent a video greeting for the online Assembly, which was played for Commissioners on Thursday 30 Sept 2021. Watch the [message](#).



Watch a Global Mission interview with Chandana Lall of church partner St. Thomas School, Jagadhri, North India, for the online GA21, 30 Sept. Includes, interview, introduction and one question. [Watch on vimeo.](#)

GA21 ministry & staff videos

Presbyterian Church staff and ministries prepared videos for the online GA, giving an overview of their work. Due to time restrictions on Thursday 30 Sept not all of the videos could be played for Commissioners and observers on the day. Please [view them all here](#).



[Presbyterian Youth Ministry](#)



[PressGo](#)



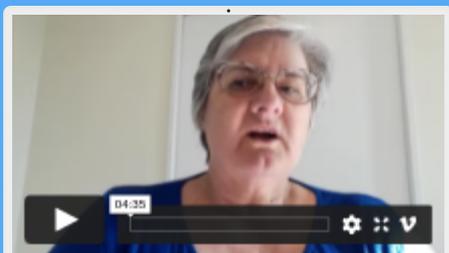
[PCANZ Finance](#)



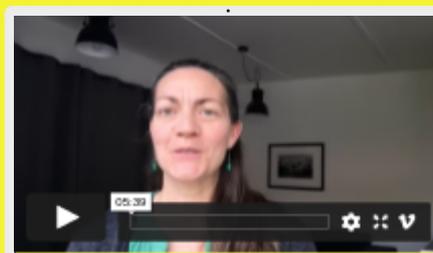
[PCANZ Global Mission](#)



[Presbyterian Research Centre](#)



[Presbyterian Church Schools](#)



[Presbyterian Children & Families Ministry](#)



Looking ahead to the Special Assembly 2022: Keynote speaker James Beck

Originally invited to be a keynote speaker at the in-person General Assembly, Moderator Right Rev Hamish Galloway plans on the Church hearing a keynote from James Beck at the 2022 Special Assembly.

When Hamish was chaplain of St Andrew's College, Christchurch, James Beck on meeting him was struck by how different he was to so many other chaplains he had interacted with. "He was then, and still is now, passionate about making the challenge of the story of Jesus relevant to our cultural contexts – and encouraging people to work through the implications of that challenge," says James.

James is deeply passionate "about the same type of work" as Hamish and has invested much of his life towards it.

"I genuinely believe that the Church is the vehicle which God is going to use to redeem and restore God's good creation, both in this age, and in the age to come. So, I am energised to help every generation understand their unique contribution towards that end," he says.

As an author, presenter, and Kaihanga o Ngā Mea at the Parenting Place for over 10 years, James has had the privilege of working across many denominations, including Presbyterian. He hopes that his observations next year will both encourage and challenge the Presbyterian expression of faith.

Thinking about Hamish's theme "Empowering Generations", James says he expects to touch on what he sees as a significant 'ache' in the Western world.

"We are richer, more educated, more industrialised and more individualistic than at any point in human history. This presents us with huge challenges and huge opportunities. As we can clearly see by our mental health statistics, our current cultural context is not providing satisfactory answers to the cosmic ache that so many humans experience. I believe that the church has a massive role to play in our world, but to be everything that she is called to be, she must reimagine her orthopraxy so that the coming generations are empowered to re-contextualise and respond to the call of Jesus to 'go and make disciples'."

James believes that older generations have a key role to play by being kaitiaki - guardians of the Gospel that was handed to them. However, he also believes that the role of the older generation is to listen afresh to what the Spirit of God is whispering in this land and at this time; and to respond with open hearts and open hands. He says it is the mission of God which needs to be guarded "and that mission may take on new forms if we are courageous".

Empowering generations requires every generation to help the generation that comes after engage with the story of Jesus, James says.

"Every generation faces a different set of challenges and framing questions, which means that every generation is going to wrestle with the Gospel in a different way. A sign of the maturity of a particular church is its ability to express the gospel anew within the culture/cultures of its people. This shows the deep wisdom of the church. When the Gospel interacts with a culture, it supports what is good and wholesome in that culture, but it also challenges every culture to recognise what is incompatible with the gospel. We need to support our young people to do that process."



Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONLINE
29-30 SEPTEMBER 2021



**EMPOWERING
GENERATIONS**
GA21 ⚡