

## **Minutes of Session 1 of the 2025 General Assembly**

**Held at St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church, 45 Fitzgerald Avenue, Christchurch  
Monday 20 October 2025 at 1:00 pm.**

The ministers and ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, commissioned as members of the General Assembly, together with associate and observer members and guests, convened pursuant to the appointment of the General Assembly meeting in October 2025.

The Assembly was welcomed by Alpine Presbytery with a Mihi Whakatau. Professor Taiarahia Black responded for Te Aka Puahou on behalf of the Assembly.

The Right Reverend Rose Luxford, outgoing Moderator of the General Assembly, constituted the Assembly with prayer and led in worship.

### **Roll of 2025 Assembly**

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[25.001] That the Roll of the Assembly, as laid on the table, be accepted.

Moderator: Rt Rev Peter Dunn

Clerk: Rev Wayne Matheson

#### **Te Aka Puahou**

##### Ministers

Mitchell Jaram, Hone Te Rire, Tamiana Thrupp

##### Elders

Faye Apanui, Taiarahia Black, Daniel Thrupp, Honey Thrupp, Richard Tumarae

#### **Pacific Presbytery**

##### Ministers

Ieriko Afasamaga, Karima Faiai, Elama Maea, Arona Tusega

##### Elders

Tauasili Anesi, Margie Apa, Vasaifanua Pelema Aukuso, Miura Elikana, Lise Erika, Aloema Fainuu, Pei Luamanu, Maeu Tanimo

##### Young Adults

Jennifer Fialelei Tuigamala, Sufia Maevega Vagana

#### **Kaimai Presbytery**

##### Ministers

Ron Bennett, Phillip Bettany, Ian Guy, Jono Lange, Garry Marquand, Jaco Reyneke, Tengarū Paniōra, Phillip Potgieter, Sandra Warner, Cate Williams

##### Elders

Olive Adams, Eoin Crosbie, Valerie Milne, Sue Nelson, Ivy Oosthuizen, Elaine Riddell, Bradley Seed, Marion Sanders, Vanya Wallis

##### Young Adults

James Olliver, Jessica Seed

## **Northern Presbytery**

### Ministers

Fa'amanu Akeripa, Howard Carter, Keleva Faleatua, Tala Fa'amausili, Martin Fey, Michael Frost, Roxy Gahegan, Reuben Hardie, Kris Heale, Tertius Jacobs, Won Hyuk Joung, Jin Sook Kim, Stuart Lange, Kontiki Makani, Nick McLennan, John Malcolm, Colin Marshall, Mark Maney, Craig Millar, Steve Millward, Rob Pettersen, Maugapala Ropeti-lupeli, John Jnr Setu, Michelle Shin, Saikolone Taufa, Mose Taumaoe, Micah Tang, Johanna Warren, Richard Ward, Nikki Watkin

### Elders

Cunningham Atchison, Naliyah Bell, Catherine Bremner, Lyn Buchanan, Ward Buckingham, Jacqueline Bycroft, David Cooper, Andrew Cox, Mike Dale, Bruce Dixon, Esther Elmore, Sharlene Hart, Denise Hunter, Bernard McClean, Mary Malio, Mariana Ben Marsters, Linda Plant, Colin Print, Craig Prosser, Isabella Tedcastle, Carolyn Tepou, Johsua Tepou, John Timoti

### Young Adults

Kalo Funganitao, Rebekah Sheppard

## **Presbytery Central**

### Ministers

Anna Gilkison, Steve Jourdain, Mark, Johnston, Bobby Kusilifu, Allister Lane, Paula Levy, Peter MacKenzie, Nathan Parry, Ryhan Prasad, Paul Prestidge, Brett Reid, Grant Ridout, Feilogaia Taulealeausumai, Antony Wood

### Elders

Janice Berwick, Jean Harris, Rob McIntosh, Ellen Murray, Helen Patterson, Richard Schofield, Christine Spall, Jim Spall

### Young Adults

Shane Dickson, David Hoggard, Meg Lange, Aroha Morrison, Connor Parsons, Eli Prasad

## **Alpine Presbytery**

### Ministers

Craig Allan, Jonathan Barb, Luke Blackbeard, Sage Harris, Joohong Kim, Jason King, Alistair McNaughton, Josh Olds, Marty Redhead, Michael Reid, Esther Sabey, Lynmaree Sopoaga, Sandra Wright-Taylor

### Elders

Brent Agnew, Malcolm Bishop, Alison Ford, Martin Harrison, Claire Haugh, Frank Hermann, Mauafu Mauafau, Gafataitua Tuiloma, Lyn Stobie

## **Southern Presbytery**

### Ministers

Reece Frith, Malcolm Gordon, Andrew Howley, Ian Hyslop, Carlton Johnstone, Gene Lawrence, Hayden Luke, Rachael Masterton, Tom Mephram, Nyalle Paris, Rob Pendreigh, Clay Peterson, John Ranstead, John Schoneveld, Andrew Scott

### Elders,

Barbara Carsten, John Cleland, Joy Creighton, Annie Colley, Sarah Cowan, Craig Donaldson, Eric Gordon, Lynne Hall, Dawn James, Grace Jan, Bernadine Little, Jennifer Longworth, Helen McLeish, David Selbie, Mary-Jane Sime, Andrew Taylor, Lisa Wells, Avis Williamson

## Young Adults

Hannah Acheson, Richie Brown, Sophia Hay, Tessa Lovelock

### **Installation of Moderator**

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed:

- [25.002] That, pursuant to the election process of the Church, the Rev Peter Dunn be declared elected and be inducted as the Moderator of the 2025 General Assembly, to hold office until the induction of his successor at the next ordinary meeting of the Assembly, or as this Assembly determines.

The outgoing Moderator inducted the Rev Peter Dunn by prayer to the office of Moderator. The Moderator of Te Aka Puahou presented him with the Moderator's Korowai tapu. Mr Dunn signed the Centennial Bible.

The new Moderator assumed leading the opening worship.

### **Act of Commemoration**

The following ministers who had died since the last General Assembly met were remembered by name in the Act of Commemoration.

Douglas William Anderson, David John Balchin, Eric Caton, Fletcher Roy Christian, George Martin Cleland, William Cuthers, Bruce John Deverell, Sheena Elizabeth Dickson, David James Douglas, Douglas William Earp, Tamatoa Etuata, Ionatana Mika Fa'amausili, Graeme Robert Ferguson, Ronald Wassell Gilder, Errol Alton Hildreth, Richard Dawson Holland, John Burton Hunt, David Page Jack, Robin Humphrey Lane, Atiniapa Tapele Leali'ifanolevaveae, Fogatia Lavana Levi, Janet McKinlay, Elizabeth Margaret Livingston Mansill, Peter Clarkson Matheson, Roger Frank Millichamp, William Reuben Moore, Catherine Pearl Gillanders Morley, Robert Mackintosh Paterson, Dennis Michael Povey, Pamela Mary Pruden, Laurence Gilbert Richards, Shirley Margaret Simmers, John George Sinclair, James Ernest Soper, Stanley James Stewart, Brian Phillip Williscroft

The Moderator gave an address on the theme of "We Believe." He led in the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion, assisted by the Moderator of Te Aka Puahou.

The opening service concluded with the benediction.

### **Assembly Procedures**

Assembly Business Work Group Convenor Rev Dan Spragg explained Assembly procedures.

Communications Director Angela Singer, through a video presentation, outlined the Church's policies on communication for General Assembly.

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

- [25.003] That the reports and proposals printed in the Assembly Papers be received and be the working documents of the Assembly.

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor was granted leave to extend the business hours of this session of Assembly to 6.30pm.

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.004] That the Standing Orders as printed be accepted as the standing orders for the 2025 General Assembly.

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.005] That Heather McKenzie be appointed Deputy Clerk of Assembly until the close of the 2025 Assembly meeting.

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.006] That the Assembly recognise the following as associates:  
Dan Spragg, Shona Bettany, Anne Stewart, Gerald Bradfield (Assembly Business Workgroup), Kat Solomona (Council of Assembly), Kerry Enright (Book of Order Advisory Committee), Ryhan Prasad (Leadership Sub-committee), Craig Donaldson (Resource Sub-committee), Andrew Souness and Ron Mills (Church Property Trustees), Very Rev Rose Luxford (Immediate Past Moderator).

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.007] That the following people be associated with the Assembly for the purpose of speaking to specific reports:  
Andrew Doubleday (UCANZ), Charissa Nicol (Proposal F2), Murray Rae (Board of Knox & Salmond Colleges)

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.008] That the Facilitation Group, under Standing Order 24, comprise  
Judith Souness, Martin Stewart.

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.009] That the timekeepers for this Assembly be :  
Maria Herbert, Litia Paulo, Matalena Tuiloma, Silila Ioane, Hayley Barrows, Naomi Faga, Tipesa Te'evale

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.010] That the scrutineers for the Assembly be:  
Makesi Alatimu, Nga Rolston, Fergus Sime, Tanielu Paulo, Litia Paulo, Epati Ieremia, Hayley Barrow, Tailua Soli, Naomi Faga, Maria Lemalie, Prudence Stone

The Assembly Business Work Group Convenor moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.011] That the following church councils be given approval to meet during the 2025 General Assembly:

Napier North Presbyterian; St Paul's-St Mark's, Whanganui; Knox Fitzroy, New Plymouth; Mangapapa, Gisborne; Hawera, Taranaki; First Church Martinborough; Milson Community Church.

### **Memorial Minutes**

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed

- [25.012] That Memorial Minutes for the following be placed in the records of the Assembly:  
Doug Anderson, David Balchin, Roy Christian, Martin Cleland, Bruce Deverell, Sheena Dickson, David Douglas, Doug Earp, Tom Etuata, Mika Fa'amausili, Bob Fendall, Graeme Fergusson, Ron Gilder, Errol Hildreth, Dick Holland, John Hunt, David Jack, Robin Lane, Fogatia Levi, Janet McKinlay, Elizabeth Mansill, Peter Matheson, Roger Millichamp, Bill Moore, Sr Cath Morley, Mr Allan Paulin, Robert Paterson, Dennis Povey, Pam Pruden, Laurie Richards, Shirley Simmers, John Sinclair, Jim Soper, Fania Talagi, Brian Willisroft, Mr Peter Weir.

*[Refer Appendix 1]*

### **Anniversaries of Ordination**

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed

- [25.013] That the General Assembly acknowledge anniversaries of ordination and that the Moderator convey the warm congratulations and greetings of the Assembly to those for whom these milestones will be celebrated before the next Assembly.

### **Changes to Ministerial Roll**

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed

- [25.014] That General Assembly confirm the changes to the ministerial roll since the Assembly last met. *[Refer Appendix 2]*

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed

- [25.015] That the record of changes to the Ministerial Roll for the 2008 General Assembly be archived with the Proceedings of the 2008 General Assembly.

The Clerk of Assembly moved, it was seconded and agreed

- [25.016] That General Assembly confirm Presbytery representatives on the Nominating Committee.

### **Te Aka Puahou**

A video presentation on the work of Te Aka Puahou was screened.

Daniel Thrupp, Rev Mitchell Jarram and Professor Taiarahia Black and the Moderator of Te Aka Puahou spoke to the report.

Mrs Honey Thrupp moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.017] That the change of name from Te Aka Puaho to Te Aka Puahou be noted.

Mrs Thrupp moved, it was seconded and agreed

[25.018] That the Book of Order and all related documents be amended accordingly.

The Moderator led in prayer for Te Aka Puahou

### **Retiring Moderator's Address**

Very Rev Rose Luxford addressed the Assembly, reflecting on her time as Moderator.

Mrs Luxford made a presentation to the Moderator of Te Aka Puahou

The Moderator led in prayer for Mrs Luxford

### **Leadership Sub-committee**

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The Convenor of the Leadership Sub-committee, Rev Ryhan Prasad introduced the questions for discussion in the dialogue group session.

Assembly moved from plenary session into dialogue groups for the remainder of the session, to consider questions from the Leadership Sub-committee.

The Assembly adjourned at 6.30 pm, to resume business at 8.30 am the next day.