

Minutes of Session 2 of the 2025 General Assembly

**held at St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church, 45 Fitzgerald Avenue, Christchurch
Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 8.30 am**

Business was preceded by worship and devotion.

The Moderator constituted the session.

Assembly Scrutineers (amended)

The Assembly Business Workgroup Convenor was granted leave to amend decision [25.010] to read:

[25.010] That the scrutineers for the Assembly be: Makesi Alatimu, Nga Rolston, Fergus Sime. Tanielu Paulo, Litia Paulo, Epati Ileremia, Hayley Barrow, Naomi Faga, Maria Lemalie, Kate Wilson, Stephanie Wells

Council of Assembly

Council of Assembly Convenor Ms Katerina Solomona spoke to the Council's report. Other members of the Council of Assembly supported Ms Solomona at the podium.

Council Deputy Convenor Rev Roxy Gehagan reported on the Church's public apology in response to the Royal Commission Report into Abuse in Care.

Ms Solomona and other Council members responded to questions of clarification.

Ms Solomona moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[25.019] That General Assembly place on record its thanks to those who have assisted the Council of Assembly in responding to the Findings and Recommendations of the Royal Commission Report into Abuse in Care and on the journey to incorporate these into the life of the Presbyterian Church.

Ms Solomona moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[25.020] That congregations and presbyteries be urged to ensure the Church's redress process is understood and effectively communicated at all levels of church life; that appropriate training is provided where necessary, and the process is applied diligently and consistently.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for the Council of Assembly.

Ms Solomona moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[25.021] That Rev Brendan O'Hagan be appointed Convenor of the Nominating Committee 2025-27.

PressGo Review

PressGo Review Group Convenor Mr Rob McIntosh spoke to the report of the Five-Yearly Review of PressGo.

Mr McIntosh moved the Review Group's motions *en bloc* and they were seconded.

Mr McIntosh responded to questions of clarification.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.028] was debated.

The motion was carried:

- [25.028] That General Assembly acknowledge there is still a valuable role for PressGo to work with presbyteries and congregations in mission.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.029] was debated.

The motion was carried:

- [25.029] That General Assembly approve an increase in the maximum size of the PressGo Board from six to eight members.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.030] was agreed:

- [25.030] That General Assembly affirm the PressGo Board engaging with mission partners across the Church to strengthen collaborative ways of working with those partners.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.031] was agreed:

- [25.031] That the Council of Assembly be asked to explore with the PressGo Board how best to provide dedicated coordination support for the Board, using existing resources available to PressGo.

Testimonies

The Moderator invited Janice Bewick and Eoin Crosbie to share their personal testimonies with Assembly.

Northern Presbytery

A video presentation on the life and work of Northern Presbytery was screened.

Facilitation Group

Rev Martin Stewart provided feedback from Dialogue Group responses to questions posed by the Leadership Sub-committee. He noted that feedback was very mixed.

Dialogue on Sexuality, Biblical Morality and Leadership

The Very Rev Hamish Galloway and Very Rev Rose Luxford spoke to their report on the Dialogue on sexuality, biblical morality and leadership talks.

The Moderator led in prayer for the two former moderators and for the Church.

Mission Enterprise Fund Review

Rev Erin Pendreigh was associated with Assembly for this report.

Mrs Pendreigh spoke to the report

Mrs Pendreigh moved, it was seconded and agreed:

[25.032] That the Mission Enterprise Fund be wound up effective no later than 31 January 2026.

Mrs Pendreigh moved the remainder of the Review Group's motions *en bloc* and these were seconded.

Mrs Prendeigh and Rev Howard Carter responded to questions of clarification.

Mr Russell Garrett, Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees, was associated with the Assembly in order to assist with responses to technical questions.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.033] was agreed:

[25.033] That partner churches be advised that the Presbyterian Church has wound up the Mission Enterprise Fund.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.034] was agreed:

[25.034] That Book of Order Supplementary Provision for Chapter 16 paragraph 4.5 be revoked.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.035] was agreed:

[25.035] That the contribution cut-off date for the Mission Enterprise Fund be 30 June 2025.

Motion [25.036] was debated clause by clause

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.036 a] was debated.
The motion was carried:

[25.036 a] a. That, at the date of winding up, the funds held in the Aroha Fund within the Mission Enterprise Fund be given to Te Aka Puahou to administer.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.036 b] was debated.
The motion was carried:

[25.036 b] b. That the Aroha funds be used to support ministry among people who are vulnerable and socially disadvantaged.

Having been moved and seconded, motion [25.037] was agreed:

[25.037] That, at the date of winding up the Mission Enterprise Fund, the remaining 80% of funds be given to presbyteries for mission projects, seed funding and the support of stipend/salary for specific mission projects, with 20% each to Te Aka Puahou and the Pacific Presbytery, 10% each to Northern, Kaimai, Central and Alpine Presbyteries.

Assembly Executive Secretary

The Clerk of Assembly spoke to the report

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

[25.044] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 1 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.045] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 2 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.046] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 3 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.047] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 4 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.048] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 5 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.049] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 6 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.050] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 7 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.051] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 8 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.052] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 9 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.053] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 10 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.054] That the changes to Book of Order regulations as set out in Proposal 11 of the Assembly Executive Secretary report be adopted.

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

[25.055] That, pursuant to the Presbyterian Church Property Act 1930, the following be the Commission with Assembly powers to deal with such matters as may be submitted to it by the Church Property Trustees under Section 5 of the Amendment Act 1914 and to be the Commission under section 7 of the Presbyterian Church Property Amendment Act 1996 to consider applications under Part 1 of the Act:

The Rt Rev Peter Dunn (Moderator), Very Rev Rose Luxford, Revs Becky Heale, Sage Harris, Richard McLean, Anne Stewart; Ms Fiona Coughlan, Messrs Andrew Irwin, Simon Shaw and Assembly Executive Secretary.

Associate: Executive Officer of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.

Te Kāhui Whanaungatanga Work Group

Rev Allister Lane and Rev Cate Williams introduced the Te Kāhui Whanaungatanga Workgroup questions for discussion at the dialogue group session this afternoon.

General Assembly Review Work Group

Co-convener Ms Abi Trevathan introduced the General Assembly Review Work Group questions for discussion at the dialogue group session this afternoon.

The session ended at 12.30 pm.