

Decisions of Presbytery Council 9 May and 27 May (via zoom) meetings, 2026

1. Dissolution of the Wellsford Co-operating Parish (for decision)

The issue arose toward the end of 2025 when the Dissolution Commission for the Wellsford Co-operating Parish advised that as part of finalising matters it distributed the funds of \$460,000 from a bequest to two local charities. This was without the agreement of the Presbytery Partner. Further information was discovered that the Methodist Church Property Committee agreed to the proposal from the Dissolution Commission to distribute the bequest funds. We wrote to the Methodist Church seeking opportunity to discuss to resolve the issue. The response was from the Methodists Church appointed lawyer, advising that in their view all things were procedurally correct, plus advising a challenge would require High Court. We gained a legal opinion on the Methodist response, which again confirmed our position.

The Council decided to not pursue the matters further through a High Court challenge, which would be costly, and not pursue the return of the funds from the two charities. Council also decided to communicate the matter to PCANZ and other presbyteries.

2. Governance Review

Presbytery Council undertook a governance review to meet the requirements of Charities Services.

3. Pokeno development (for decisions)

In 2023 Crossroads Mangatangi was awarded funding to meet the costs of a full time Minister Outreach role to establish a viable worshipping community in Pokeno for three years, noting that further funding for a few more years might be necessary. A detailed report was provided conveying considerable progress. Further funding of \$82k for each of the next two years was requested, which was approved by Council.

4. Proposal from Rev Dr Jordan Redding

A letter received from Rev Dr Jordan Redding conveying some reflections of the Presbytery Business meeting followed by suggestions of improvement. The Council considered the letter and confirmed that no specific changes are required at this stage, whilst noting the importance of continued improvement.

5. Auckland Chinese Presbyterian Church Mandarin speaking church plant (for decision)

ACPC provided a first year report on progress thus far in establishing a Mandarin speaking congregation. The Council agreed to make what is the second of a three year commitment to meet the costs of a part-time minister outreach role, which is filled by Esther Chong. Council also agreed to allocate \$15,000 to meet the costs of exploring the feasibility of planting a Mandarin speaking congregation in conjunction with another Presbyterian Church.

6. St John's Bucklands Beach

A dissolution commission has been appointed for St John's Bucklands Beach, which is a Co-operating Parish with partners (Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican). One of the requirements of a dissolution commission is to confirm the schedule of record, which states the % of property assets each partner has. The Council agreed with the schedule of record provided by the CPTs and UCANZ. The Council also agreed that should the decision be to dissolve St John's Bucklands Beach then Presbytery would not be interested in funding a new initiative from the site as this would require buying out the Anglican Diocese, which has 57% of the property asset.

7. Workgroup regarding the Storehouse and Upper City becoming a PCANZ congregations

Council received a detail report from the workgroup appointed to investigate as to whether the Storehouse and/or the Upper City Initiative (Beloved Church and WeCare mission outreach) could become a PCANZ congregation at this time. The Council, after considerable discussion, agreed the following:

- Council is unable to make a decision about the Storehouse until Presbyterian Support Northern advises Presbytery about its intentions beyond December 2026 regarding at 1207 Dominion Rd.
- Council invites Be-Loved to apply to become a PCANZ congregation within two years, should sufficient growth be evident during that period.
- Council agree to the recruitment of a part time associate pastor to continue in the existing role filled by Dong-Bin Kim
- Council agreed to offer Rev Won Hyuk Young a new three-year, fixed-term, Employment Agreement.
- Thank and discharge the Workgroup.

8. General Assembly 2027

Council agreed to the requests from PCANZ to host General Assembly 2027 and to provide a list of possible churches to be the venue.

9. Recruitment of a new Executive Officer

An hour of the meeting was set aside to discuss the future direction of Presbytery and how it is operating to inform the first step in the recruitment process for a new Executive Officer. Council appointed a panel of three of its members to review the role profile of the Executive Officer, which once approved, is to be provided to the Regions for their regional meetings in June to discuss.

From the zoom meeting on 27 May

10. Restructure of the Property & Finance Workgroup

A proposal to restructure the Property & Finance Workgroup was presented at its 18 May meeting by the Moderator. Following a discussion the Workgroup agreed to proceed, with the EO drafting proposed changes and seeking feedback from the workgroup prior to forwarding to the Presbytery Council. The Council at its special meeting on 27 May discussed the proposal which included a revised Terms of Reference. The Council decided the following:

- That Council agreed to proceed with the proposed Property & Finance restructure and present the draft restructure proposal for feedback at the regional meetings in June.
- That Council agrees to adopt the proposed Terms of Reference as a working paper, incorporating the agreed amendment for 3+3+2 terms of service. Note: this was carried, not agreed.

11. Further considerations about recruitment of a new EO

The appointed Workgroup reported back to the Council following their review of the current EO role profile undertaken within the context of the Strategic Plan and progress being made by the Presbytery. The Council agreed to distribute the EO role profile to the Regions for their meetings in June to seek feedback. The Council, after considering feedback from the regions and full presbytery, will proceed to appoint a recruitment workgroup and commence recruitment process early in the next fiscal year. The role will be advertised as full-time.

12. Appointment to St Kentigern's Board

Recently Rev Sharon Ross Ensor resigned from the St Kentigern's Board as a Presbytery representative. Presbytery received a request to confirm the nomination of Rev Jeff Odhiambo to replace Sharon as one of two representatives on the St Kentigern's Board. Council agreed to the appointment.

13. Admission fee for June full presbytery business meetings

The Presbytery Council discussed the \$15 requested those attending the June full presbytery business. It was proposed that this requirement be waived, but that the \$20 remain for the February Conference gathering, in part because it costs much more to run. Council agreed to waive the admission fee for attending the June Presbytery meetings.