

## **Decisions of Presbytery Council February 2026 meeting**

### **1. Proposal from Candidate Convenor**

The Candidate Co-convenors, in conjunction with two members of the Property & Finance Workgroup and the Executive Officer, submitted a proposal to Council to use the funds received from the CPTs when it dissolved the Nellie Inglis Fund to financially assist candidates progressing to ordained ministry. Nellie Inglis was a Scholarship Fund that was part of St David's Grafton. The proposal submitted took into account the financial support available through KCML and the new developments of Presbyterian Savings Development. The decisions of Council about the proposal were as follows:

- a) that the funds received from the disestablishment of the Trust, which is \$131,000 currently, be applied to financially assist those progressing being an ordained minister (NOM or LOM).
- b) that the priority for allocation of financial support from the Presbytery be for those who decide to study part time to attain their Bachelor of Christian Studies, once they are approved by National Assessment, and those progressing to be a LOM, once they are approved by Presbytery.
- c) that up to \$16,000 be made available to the workgroup for each of the next three years to make grants upon the receipt of proposals from eligible candidates. Eligibility to apply is:
  - a LOM through to them completing their training agreement
  - a NOM candidate who chooses to study part-time
- d) that the Work Group be invited to research and make recommendation to the Presbytery as to type(s) and quantum of financial assistance ministry support and to determine the criteria for applications (i.e. the distributions should take into consideration of the financial position of the applicant and the amount of funds that are available).
- e) that the membership of the workgroup consists of up to 3 ministers, including at least one NOM and one LOM, the KCML designated person for the Northern Presbytery (Rev Dr Ivan Martinez), and an appointed member from the Property & Finance workgroup, plus one of the Co-convenors (associate member).

### **2. Audit by Child Matters on provision for Child Protection (for discussion / decision)**

PCANZ, as part of its response to the Royal Commission findings and recommendations, committed to a review of its child protection policies that was undertaken by Child Matters. Phase one was a desktop audit of what was in place. Phase Two looked at procedures, people and training. The Leadership Sub Committee has been asked to convene a meeting of the presbyteries and KCML to hear feedback and provide a suggested way forward. The Presbytery Council agreed to engage Child Matters to provide expert advice and support on child protection for the Northern Presbytery churches. The agreement includes Richard Corbidge conducting a workshop at the February Leadership Conference, be the Child Safety Advisor, and for Child Matters to produce a one pager for churches.

### **3. Rev Margaret Liow**

Rev Margaret Liow is a LOM who has recently retired. The Presbytery Council agreed for Rev Margaret Liow to become a member of Presbytery.

### **4. Submission of nominations for national church committees, workgroups, CoA**

Presbyteries are requested to provide nominations to the Nominating Committee for a range of PCANZ workgroups and committees. To clarify Northern Presbytery's process for this the Council agreed that they approve the names being submitted to the Nominating Committee for its consideration.

### **5. Review of Executive Officer**

At its August 2024 meeting the Council agreed to undertake a performance review of the EO, annually, reporting back at the next Council meeting. Appointed to the review committee were the Moderator, immediate past Moderator and John Shadbolt, as convenor. The Council approved the Review Committee's report at its November 2024 meeting, noting that the review would be two yearly, not annually.

Given that the employed hours of the EO will reduce from an average of 30 / week to 20 / week from 1 April, the Council request the EO Review Committee re-convene in May and report back to Council at its August 2026 meeting.

**6. Mahurangi Hope's proposal to plant a congregation in Wellsford**

Mahurangi advertised the role prior to Christmas as well as contacting several people to see if they were interested. The process of recruitment is continuing. The vacant Anglican Church in Wellsford is a possible location for the new church plant. The Council agreed for the Presbytery representatives to enter into negotiations to either lease or purchase the church building. The Council expects the proposed outcome of the negotiations be submitted to Council for approval.

**7. Dissolution of the Wellsford Co-operating Parish**

There has been an issue of the distribution of some of the funds from the dissolved Wellsford Co-operating Parish by the Dissolution Commission in December 2025. This is a confidential matter, but in summary, the Council requested the Executive Officer to seek resolution.

**8. Proposal for young adult outreach by the Korean Presbyterian Church Auckland**

The Mission Fund Committee received a proposal to the St Martin's Trust from the Korean Presbyterian Church Auckland (KPCA) for its December 2025 meeting. The MFC deferred the proposal for the Youth Psychological Care Programme to the Presbytery Council as it was thought this was a pastoral initiative (within the church). The Presbytery Council did not approve the proposal as it was an outreach proposal and so referred the matter back to the MFC.

**9. Issues within a Presbyterian Church**

Council had detailed discussion about how to assist a church that is encountering considerable issues. Council agreed on next steps and requested the EO to progress.

**10. Proposal from St Andrews, Symons St**

Council received a proposal from St Andrew's First Presbyterian Church, Symonds Street, that sought funding to support Rev Dr Karen Nelson being appointed, half-time, to establish a third congregation, with the target group being largely overseas university students and recent graduates. Two members of St Andrews attended the Council meeting and spoke to the proposal. The Council did not approve the proposal.

**11. Presbytery Feedback on draft Code of Practice for PCANZ ministers**

The Council agreed the following steps for consultation:

- i) Notice of consultation and a copy of the draft Code be part of the papers going out for the full Presbytery 28 June meeting
- ii) The Region convenors put the draft Code on the agenda for the March Region meetings, ensuring notes are taken and forwarded to the presbytery office
- iii) The draft Code be sent to all active PCANZ ministers within Northern Presbytery and ask for comment by the end of April to be incorporated into the feedback provided to the Book of Order Advisory Committee.

**12. Pokeno development**

A proposal was distributed to the Presbytery Council via email by 24 November 2025 regarding seeking agreement to the purchase of a Market St property for up to \$1,150,000. This was recommended by the Property & Finance Workgroup. Council agreed and approval was then sought from the CPTs and the Property Commission of the GA. Indications are that a suitable property might cost a bit more than what had been approved. Council agreed to a small increase (amount kept confidential).

**13. Moderator Designate election**

The Presbytery Council agreed to appoint Natalie Stubbs and Masele Bakulich- Tufeao to be scrutineers to count the votes for the election for the Moderator Designate.

**14. Reducing the time required to progress national assessment for ministry**

The Candidate Coordinators in their report conveyed that one difficulty is the length of time to progress through assessment steps for ministry, due to the lack of alignment between presbytery and national assessment

schedules. The Presbytery Council agreed for the EO to engage key stakeholders, with the aim of reducing the time required to progress through the assessment processes for ministry.

**15. Update on Action Plan Jan 2026**

The Council agreed to initiate further contact with Te Aka Puahou, with the Moderator to follow-up.

**16. Full Presbytery Business meeting**

The Presbytery Council agreed to submit its report to full presbytery.