

Decisions of Presbytery Council 8 August 2026 meeting

1. Revitalise NP

An update on Revitalise NP was given by the EO, which concluded with the Council agreeing to offer the Pacific Presbytery the opportunity for one of their churches to undergo a revitalisation process, commencing mid to late 2027.

2. UCANZ: what's next

The EO outlined what had been conveyed to him as an update from the partners group (three each from PCANZ, Methodist and Anglican) that are reviewing the future of UCANZ. Whilst a decision has not as yet been made, it is highly likely that it will be to disestablish UCANZ. At this stage the partners group will be reporting back at the UCANZ Forum early June 2027.

There is concern about the wellbeing of Cooperating Ventures if there is not a proposed way forward for them, should UCANZ be dissolved. The EO proposed to establish a draft Operating Guideline, in conjunction with the Northern Methodist Synod. If this work proceeds the intentions to have meaningful consultation with the CVs in the Northern Presbytery that have Presbytery and Methodist partners. The Presbytery Council agreed to the proposed approach to assist our Cooperating Parishes should UCANZ be disbanded.

3. How to be more proactive in helping struggling churches

A question was posed at the June full presbytery meeting as to how presbytery can be more proactive in supporting struggling churches rather than shutting them down. The EO presented a starting list of what could be considered. The Council agreed to this, which will include providing a proposal to the Regions for discussion at their September meetings.

4. Mission Fund Committee

The Presbytery Council approved the appointment of Doreen Ele and Rev Werner Schroeder to the Missions Fund Committee, effective from the Committee's October/November meeting.

5. 1207 and the Storehouse, in particular Rev Fa'amanu Akeripa employment status

At its last meeting, Presbytery Council deferred deciding on the future of The Storehouse at 1207 Dominion Fa'amanu Akeripa an extension to his fixed term employment agreement for a further 12 months.

6. Proposal to plant a new congregation in Hobsonville

The Council discussed a proposal from Norwest Presbyterian Church that, in conjunction with Presbytery, undertake a church plant in Hobsonville. Council noted that in the 2022 report from Tim Griffith that examined the population growth forecasts and where there are Presbyterian Churches (including CVs) that the Hobsonville and surrounding area is worth considering planting a new church. The Council agreed in principle with the proposal but required more detail before it could make a decision. Council requested Norwest to engage with Property & Finance Workgroup and provide a more detailed proposal at the Council's November meeting.

7. Council of Assembly

Katerina Solomona, Convenor of the Council of Assembly, attended the Presbytery Council to seek the views about priority changes going forward. A number of issues were raised by Council members, including the structural relationship between CoA and Presbytery Council's. Upon reflection of the discussion, and after Katerina had left the meeting, the Council decided to invite the person from Northern Presbytery on CoA (Caroline Funganitao) be invited to be an associate member of Council.

Note: This decision complies with provisions of membership in the Presbytery's Structure and Standing Orders, which states: "the Council shall have the right to co-opt other members with specific skills".

8. Property & Finance Workgroup restructure

The Council considered the proposed final documents in relation to the restructure of the Property & Finance Workgroup. The reasons for this and the details about the restructure were discussed at the June Region meetings as well as the full presbytery meeting. The Council approved the following:

- a) Role profile for the Convenor of the Property & Finance Workgroup
- b) Role profile for the Treasurer
- c) Role profile for the new Secretary of the Property & Finance Workgroup (employed by Presbytery)
- d) Role profile for the new Property Support Officer of the Property & Finance Workgroup (employed by Presbytery)
- e) Role profile for the new Accounts Clerk (employed by the Presbytery)

The Council requested the EO to appoint a recruitment panel and proceed with the recruitment process.

9. Recruitment of a new Executive Officer

Council discussed potential names for a recruitment panel and agreed that a spread across the regions would be the best approach. Council agreed to the following as members of the recruitment panel: Moderator Designate, Rev Mose Taumoe, as Convenor, Maurice Ellett (coastal), Lorna Murray (northland), Violet Stevenson (west), Rev Mark Maney (east/central).

10. Another matter

The Council met with Katerina Solomona, Convenor, Council of Assembly, who was seeking suggestions as to improvements nationally going forward. Council provided several issues, which included the little offered to assist lay leaders. KCML have introduced some education / training opportunities, but these remain limited. In response to this being identified as an important issue for many years Council gave support to trial a Northern Presbytery 'Resource Centre'. Council requested the EO to come back to Council in November with a proposal.

The Rev Dr Colin Marshall
