



Annual Report

Presbytery Central - Nukuhau Tapu

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Presented to the Presbytery 15 August 2026

at St Albans, Palmerston North

Agenda – Annual Meeting of Presbytery Central

Welcome

Roll/Apologies

That the roll be accepted and apologies received.

Agenda and Reports

That the Agenda and Reports presented to Presbytery Central in this Annual Report be received.

Minutes Page 3

That the minutes of the annual meeting of Presbytery Central, held on 9 August 2025 at Iona College, Havelock North, be approved.

Memorial Minutes Page 6

That Presbytery Central recognise the service of Rev Robin Lane and Rev Alastair Harray

Moderator's Report Page 8

Executive's Report Page 10

Mission Work Group Page 12

Youth Work Group Page 15

Leadership Work Group Page 17

Uniting Parishes Oversight Group Page 18

Gathering Work Group Page 19

Property Work Group Page 20

Grants Work Group Page 21

Finance Work Group Page 22

Budget 2026-2027 Page 23

Special Legislative Procedure Page 26

General Business

Strategic Plan Page 36

Minutes – Annual Meeting of Presbytery Central

Held at Iona College, Havelock North. 1:30pm, Saturday 9 August 2025.

Welcome

The Moderator, Rev Leanne Munro, welcomed the assembled presbytery and opened in prayer.

Roll/Apologies

Apologies: Rev Steve Jourdain, Rev Silvia Purdie, Rev Wayne Matheson, John Melville, Jim Welham, Simon Shaw, Rev Kevyn Harris, Richard West, Rev Hana Popea, Rev Rodney Ramsay, Rev Chris Rosanowski, Jo Vilipaama.

That the roll be accepted and apologies received. Peter MacKenzie/Andrew Campbell-Stokes. Agreed.

Agenda and Reports

That the Agenda and Reports presented to Presbytery Central in this Annual Report be received. Rev Peter MacKenzie/ Rev Brett Walker. Agreed.

Rev Brendan O'Hagan noted the short lead time (five days) for members to read the Annual Report before the meeting. This challenge was acknowledged.

Minutes

That the minutes of the annual meeting of Presbytery Central, held on 17 August 2024 at Palmerston North, be approved. Rev Peter MacKenzie/ Rev Wayne Toleafoa. Agreed.

Memorial Minutes

Presbytery Central recognised the service of Rev Doug Anderson, Rev David Douglas, Rev Bill Moore and Rev Jim Soper, standing in remembrance. Also remembered were Rev Linda Pollock and Sally Russell. The Moderator offered a prayer of thanks and remembrance.

Moderator Report

The Moderator thanked the presbytery for the privilege of being Moderator, as well as offering thanks to staff and workgroup personnel, convenors and members. She reminded the presbytery of the voluntary positions needing to be filled. No questions were forthcoming.

Executive Report

Rev Peter MacKenzie expressed that it is a challenge being Executive Secretary, but a challenge which he enjoys. He does a reasonable amount of travel and would love to travel more but is aware that it is a large presbytery and this is impractical. He expressed his willingness to be there for parishes when needed, remotely or in person.

The assembled presbytery farewelled Rev Jill McDonald and Chris Lamborne.

Presbytery farewelled Rev Brett Walker from parish ministry with a blessing and applause.

Mission Work Group

The Moderator thanked Heather Lange for her service in the convening role.

Youth Work Group

The Moderator thanked the Youth Enablers, Nga Rolston and Kyle Hastelow, for their work and the convenor Rev Brett Reid for his service alongside the other members of the Workgroup.

Rev David Jackson thanked the Youth Enablers for engagement with church schools.

The Moderator introduced the presbytery Youth Commissioners to General Assembly, remembering her personal history, serving as a Youth Commissioner in past. She prayed for them, for encouragement, safety, enjoyment and return with renewed purpose.

Leadership Work Group

The Executive Secretary acknowledged Fiona Prestidge, who retired from the convenor role earlier in the year. He identified the need for more membership on this workgroup. He thanked Rev Tony Wood, the current convenor.

Uniting Parishes Oversight Group

Presbytery thanked Geoff Donovan for his work as secretary.

Property Work Group

Presbytery acknowledged the absent Simon Shaw, Workgroup Convenor.

Grants Work Group

Presbytery thanked convenor Neil Gyde (not in attendance) and the team.

Finance Work Group

Presbytery was introduced to Julie Morse, our Treasurer, and thanked her.

Budget 2025-2026

Audited Accounts are to be presented later in the year.

General Business

Porirua PIC hall redevelopment grant request.

Project Overview:

- Church located in the heart of Porirua; older buildings now unsuitable and a health risk.
- Aim to create a community hub, meeting local needs and engaging youth.
- Strong legacy of multi-cultural, multi-lingual faith community in Cannons Creek.
- Estimated cost: \$5.7m (may decrease).
- Funds raised: \$900,000.
- Grants received: \$800,000.
- Expected November grant: \$500,000.

Support from others:

- Jill McDonald: linked project to Presbytery Strategy.
- Jinny Keen: spoke to historical importance of PIC in the area.

Motions:

Original:

That Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu make a grant of \$300,000.00 from our PIF as our commitment

to, and support of, this project.

(Andrew Campbell-Stokes / David Jackson)

Amendment:

That Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu make a grant of \$500,000.00 from our PIF as our commitment to, and support of, this project.

(Jill McDonald / Shirley Spooner) – Agreed

Thanks were offered by parish minister Rev So'o Fa'atui on behalf of 400 parishioners.

Strategic Plan

Rev Allister Lane. Presbytery Central aim to be a flourishing collaborative network of faith. We are seeking to activate strategy. To this end, a Strategic Plan Implementation Team has been established.

Levin Uniting.

Rev Sandra Williams introduced an outreach presbytery helped fund. *Up In Out* – building bridges into the community. In his work with the parish, Rev Brett Reid built links. They decided to open the building to the community and appointed a community development manager. 58 organisations are now using the venue. This has given a 233% increase in revenue. The parish works closely with Horowhenua Community Action. They are seeking to connect with those who have challenges in faith. They offer their thanks for the presbytery's financial support that planted a seed. Levin Uniting are a progressive Christian community who values inclusiveness and integrity and will welcome you warmly, warts and all.

PCANZ Global Mission Director, Rev Phil King.

There is a lot of work happening with Church to Church partnerships, particularly the Presbyterian Churches of Myanmar and Vanuatu.

Myanmar

- The nation and church has been suffering since 2021 Coup. Military doing airstrikes and ransacking villages. PCM is providing shelter for internally displaced persons. There is an appeal for prayer.

Vanuatu

- The work we're involved in is long standing work. Developing capacity development and leadership training initiatives. A chaplains Training program in Vanuatu hosted 99 last year.
- PCANZ is hosting 4 youth leaders at Connect conference soon and sponsored a team of leaders to the recent rural churches conference in Fiji.
- Talua Bible College is in the process of finding a Ni-Vanuatu teacher.
- Teams from congregations and from St Kentigern's college have visited and offered practical help.
- Structural engineers are currently visiting in the wake of December earthquake last year.

The Annual Meeting closed at 2:51pm.

Memorial Minutes

LANE, Rev Robin Humphrey B.A., B.D. M.A.(Hons) and M.Soc.Sci.(Hons)

Robin Lane was born in Timaru 22 September 1935, the eldest of three children. His family moved to Christchurch where Robin attended St Andrew's College and was influenced deeply by Malcolm 'Mac' Wilson. He attained a BA from Canterbury before entering the Theological Hall from 1960-1962. Having been awarded the Beg Scholarship Robin continued his theological studies at McCormick College, Chicago.

Robin was ordained at St Andrew's, Wellington on 17 December 1964 as Assistant Minister, and after joining the Christian Education Department in 1967 moved to Hamilton becoming the Field Officer covering the Presbyteries of Waikato, South Auckland, Taranaki and Gisborne. He then took on a variety of national church roles, convening the Life and Work Committee 1971 – 1978. Then having been appointed Deputy Director of the Parish Development and Mission moved to Wellington and worked with the 17.5 staff then employed by PD&M located in various presbyteries throughout New Zealand. Following the formation of the assembly Lay Ministry Committee in 1985 he was appointed Director of Lay Ministry focusing on adapting to the changing structures of the Presbyterian Church, but being closely associated with equipping laypeople for leadership roles in parishes as the availability of ordained ministers decreased. During John Murray's term as Moderator Robin again served as Associate Minister at St Andrews on the Terrace in Wellington and as an Inter-Church Trade and Industrial Mission chaplain to organisations including the Treasury and State Services Commission. In 1999 he commenced his first time in parish ministry with First Church, Martinborough. He was granted Emeritus status in 2001 and moved to Wellington where he continued to offer ministry to local parishes and particularly groups of interested people exploring more relevant ways of expressing and communicating the gospel equipping them to interact with their various local communities.

Robin had an inquiring mind and an infectious joy at sparking other people to re-think old ideas. He had a strong commitment to teaching everyone in the church and a heart for proclaiming hope to the world. People appreciated his explanations of the context, both of the historical background of the bible readings and their current relevance, before getting into the full application for our lives today. The extent of his knowledge and clarity of his message were impressive.

He died peacefully in Lower Hutt 17 September 2025 just 5 days short of his 90th birthday.

HARRAY, Rev Alastair Spence M.Sc., M.Th.

Alastair Spence Harray was born 28 February 1931 to Thomas and Mabel (May) Harray, one of five children. Thomas was a clerk and served in the Field Artillery in World War One. After schooling Alastair trained as a pharmacist and opened a store in the growing suburbs of Auckland in the early 1950's. He was committed to his local church and led both Sunday School and Youth groups.

After sensing a call to ministry Alastair attended the Theological Hall in Dunedin from 1961 to 1963. He married Mary Ann Leversedge in January 1962 and they began their family. Alastair was ordained at St Aidan's, Hastings, in February 1964. In 1971 he left parish ministry to do a Clinical Pastoral Education course in Porirua and then spent two years in the USA completing a

MTh at Colgate Rochester. On his return in 1973 the family moved to Tauranga and Alastair was an assistant at St Columba where he was responsible for the counselling service. In 1985 he joined Presbyterian Support in the Bay of Plenty, resigning in 1988.

Alastair had an innovative vision for ministry in a community while working as a pharmacist – this led to the development of a pharmacy in Wellington and ongoing commitment to engage people in theological and pastoral conversations. Alastair was granted emeritus status in 1991 but continued to work in the pharmacy and lead worship well after that time.

Alastair died 19 March 2026 and was described at his memorial service as an innovator and navigator. His life was a search of deeper understanding, sharing stories and caring for people. He was committed to his family – over 64 years of marriage to Mary – 4 children and 12 grandchildren. We give thanks for his ministry in both church and community.

Moderator

It has been a privilege to serve as Moderator of Presbytery Central during this first year of my term.

The role has given me the opportunity to travel widely across our Presbytery, worship with congregations, support ministers and elders, and represent Presbytery at services, celebrations and significant events. Through these experiences I have gained an even deeper appreciation of the faithfulness, diversity and resilience of God's people across our region.

I have been reminded of the remarkable breadth of our Presbytery. Every community has its own story, culture and opportunities for mission, yet together we share one calling as the Body of Christ. The words of Ephesians continue to shape my understanding of our life together: *"There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism."*

This vision of shared life has become even more significant as Presbytery Central has begun implementing its new Strategic Plan. The Plan's purpose—**to resource faith communities across Presbytery Central to grow and develop their members into active, engaged disciples of Christ**—provides a hopeful and practical direction for our common life. It reminds us that Presbytery exists not simply as a governance structure, but as a network of committed and collaborative relationships that equips local faith communities for God's mission.

During the year I have been encouraged by the way conversations across Council, workgroups, specialist staff and congregations have begun to move the Strategic Plan from aspiration to implementation. We recognise that developing a strategy is only the beginning; the real work lies in translating shared commitments into practical action through collaboration, trust and mutual support.

One of my favourite themes within the Strategic Plan resonates strongly with my experience during this first year. **Cooperation** has perhaps become the defining characteristic of our Presbytery. Across a geographically large region, I'm convinced no congregation thrives in isolation. Increasingly we are discovering the value of sharing wisdom, leadership, resources and ministry. The twice-yearly Central Gatherings continue to be one of the clearest expressions of this cooperative spirit, strengthening relationships and reminding us that we belong to something much larger than our own local context.

One word that has particularly shaped my year as Moderator is **whanaungatanga**. The recent General Assembly encouraged us to deepen the bonds that grow through shared experience, mutual care and working together. Whanaungatanga describes more than friendship; it is about belonging, showing up for one another, building trust and choosing relationship over isolation. I believe this beautifully complements the Strategic Plan's emphasis on cooperation and relationship strengthening as essential foundations for healthy ministry.

I have also been reminded that our congregations share not only ministry but vulnerability. Weather events, leadership transitions and the everyday pressures facing churches have reinforced our need to walk alongside one another. The health of Presbytery will not ultimately be measured by programmes or policies alone, but by the quality of the relationships we nurture across our congregations and communities.

I am deeply grateful to the ministers, elders, chaplains, members of Presbytery Council, workgroup convenors and members, our team of specialist staff, and so many dedicated

followers of Jesus whose faithful service contributes to the mission of God we are called to share in.

As I look towards the second year of my Moderatorship, my hope is that we will continue to grow into the vision set before us: a Presbytery that resources faith communities, strengthens relationships, shares resources generously, and intentionally equips disciples for God's mission. May we continue to move beyond a transactional understanding of Presbytery towards one marked by genuine partnership, encouragement and shared purpose. In doing so, may we discover afresh what it means to be one body, serving one Lord, for the sake of the Gospel throughout Presbytery Central.

Rev Allister Lane

Moderator, Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu

Executive Secretary

Rev Leanne Munro completed her term as Moderator at the end of November 2026 and Rev Allister Lane has taken the chair. We have two Regional Moderators, Rev Leanne Munro (Wellington) and Rev Wayne Toleafoa (Hawkes Bay). Presbytery Council members are Pamela Colenso, Andrew Campbell-Stokes, Ryhan Prasad, and Fele Nokise. Tony Wood, Nathan Parry and Jill McDonald completed their time on the council.

Presbytery staff include Peter MacKenzie (Executive Secretary), Stuart Simpson (Mission Catalyst), Andrew Gore (Administration Assistant), Juile Morse (Treasurer), Ngahuia Ralston and Kyle Hastelow (Youth Enablers).

Presbytery Central acknowledges the deaths of:

Robin Lane, died 17 September 2025; Alastair Harray, died 19 March 2026

The following ministry movements are noted:

John Mattock, Stratford, 7 July 2025, to Emeritus; Jill McDonald, St Andrews, Hastings, 5 October 2025, to Australia; Kyung Hun (Chris) Lim inducted to St Andrew's, Whanganui, 16 November 2025; Greta Müller, Knox Fitzroy, New Plymouth, 14 December 2025, to Australia; Sebastian Murrihy, Waitara, 14 December 2025, to KCML and study; Simon McLeay, Iona College, 20 December 2025, to Auckland; Tom Waight (emeritus) to Central 1 January 2026; Phil King, PCANZ, 26 January 2026, to Southern; Brett Walker, St Columba, Taradale, 31 January 2026, to Emeritus; Shelley Alexander, Pathways, Palmerston North, 25 February 2026, to Australia; Wayne Matheson, AES, 28 February 2026, to Emeritus.

Three ministers began Stated Supply:

Sue Wilks, Brooklands, New Plymouth; Stephen Lindsay, St John's, Hastings; Kevyn Harris, Knox Fitzroy, New Plymouth.

Gisborne Presbyterian Church was dissolved as a congregation 30 June 2026.

We celebrate the following ordination anniversaries:

Jim Veitch, 11 October 1966, Oamaru; Robert Anderson, 12 February 1976, Kihikihi; Robin Shallcrass 1976 (Anglican); Marilyn Wanden, 12 February 1976, Hawera; Peter Jackson, 1986, South Africa; Falkland Liuvaie, 20 June 1996, Niue; Rodney Ramsay 1996, South Africa; Bobby Kusilifu, 2006, Palmerston; Nathan Parry 2006, Island Bay.

The presbytery office overlooks a busy intersection in Palmerston North and that seems to be a fitting metaphor for the work that is done. We deal with many individuals, not all of whom wait for the lights to change. We have congregational matters that stop and go through the administrative processes – some turning against the traffic. And we have emergency lights go off every so often that takes priority in the work stream. It is busy, complex, at times emotional, and always guided by God's Spirit.

The presbytery staff are ready and willing to meet with congregations, ministers or others on any matter – but we do so by invitation. Like doctors and dentists we often wish that people had

called us sooner when the problem was easier to fix. Zoom enables us to meet across the miles and we are willing to travel.

The presbytery staff meet weekly on Zoom to share aspects of both personal and professional lives. The Presbytery Executives meet by Zoom on a regular basis (along with the new Assembly Executive Secretary) and this provides a wider perspective of the churches. Our Mission and Youth staff also meet nationally for support and activity.

Beyond the presbytery role I am also convening the Book of Order Advisory Committee for the Presbyterian Church and I am a member of the Partner Commission looking at the structure of UCANZ (Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand). Both these roles clearly indicate that we are in a time of transition.

Peter MacKenzie

Executive Secretary / Presbytery Clerk

Mission Workgroup

The Mission Workgroup exists to support the vision of Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu: **"A flourishing, collaborative network of faith communities serving God's mission."** Throughout the past year our work has focused on resourcing congregations to discern God's leading, strengthen leadership, encourage cooperation, and develop sustainable pathways for mission.

Discipling

The Mission Workgroup has continued to encourage congregations to become communities that intentionally make disciples rather than simply maintain church life. Mission discernment workshops with congregations including St Andrew's Stratford, St Columba Taradale, Knox Fitzroy, St David's Kaiti, and St Paul's Whanganui encouraged churches to deepen biblical formation, strengthen discipleship pathways, identify spiritual gifts, and equip members to confidently share their faith within their communities and participate in God's mission.

Cooperation

Building stronger relationships between congregations has remained a significant priority. Through regional workshops, parish visits, Mission Catalyst support, and the facilitation of the Hutt City Uniting Congregations discernment process, churches have been encouraged to learn from one another, share resources, and collaborate in mission. Regular communication through the Roundup, Mission Catalyst networks, and gatherings has also strengthened connections across the Presbytery.

Strengthening

A major focus this year has been equipping congregations with practical tools for mission planning and leadership development. Workshops have assisted congregations to understand their current realities, discern future possibilities, and develop achievable priorities. The Mission Workgroup has also promoted Presbytery grants and specialist support, recognising that many congregations were unaware of the resources available to assist them in mission and ministry.

Sustainability

Many congregations continue to face significant challenges including ageing memberships, limited leadership capacity, financial pressures, and ageing property assets. The Mission Workgroup has worked alongside congregations to help them make faithful and realistic decisions that will enable sustainable ministry into the future. A good example of this is the work being carried out by Rev Mark Johnston in Coastal Hawke's Bay through a learning community.

This has also included supporting Hutt City Uniting Congregations as they begin a parish-wide discernment process involving all six congregations, establishing a partnership with City to City New Zealand, and exploring funding opportunities through PressGo. Similar strategic conversations have taken place with other congregations as they consider future ministry models, leadership structures, and the effective use of property for mission.

The Workgroup has also begun reflecting on how Presbytery best supports geographically distant congregations. Initial exploration has considered whether stronger regional partnerships may better resource ministry in areas such as Gisborne while allowing Presbytery to steward its leadership and resources more effectively.

30-Year Reflection and Strategic Planning

One of the Mission Workgroup's most significant pieces of work this year has been facilitating the **30-Year Reflection** across Presbytery Central. Many congregations have now participated in this process of prayerful discernment, reflecting on where God has brought them, the realities they face today, and where God may be leading them over the coming three decades.

The purpose of the reflection has been to help congregations listen together for God's leading and identify the strategic priorities that will shape the future mission and ministry of Presbytery Central. The themes emerging from these conversations will provide an important foundation for the development of the Presbytery Strategic Plan.

A clear and consistent vision has emerged. Congregations long to see Presbytery Central become a vibrant, outward-looking Christian community that helps people find and follow Jesus, grows spiritually and numerically, and strengthens its engagement with local communities through new expressions of ministry, partnerships, and opportunities for church planting. There is a strong commitment to remaining grounded in our Presbyterian identity and bicultural partnership while becoming increasingly relevant to younger generations and the diverse communities we serve.

The reflections also highlighted a number of common challenges, including ageing congregations, financial pressures, leadership succession, property sustainability, and the need to engage effectively with changing cultural attitudes towards faith. At the same time, congregations identified significant reasons for hope, including growing spiritual curiosity within New Zealand, strengthened community relationships, effective family and children's ministries, and a renewed commitment to prayer, discipleship, and local mission.

The Mission Workgroup will continue to invite congregations that have not yet participated in the 30-Year Reflection to do so during the coming year. Hearing from as many faith communities as possible will strengthen our collective discernment and ensure the Strategic Plan reflects the breadth of experience, wisdom, and hope found across Presbytery Central.

Intentionality

The Mission Workgroup remains committed to strengthening relationships across the diverse communities that make up Presbytery Central. While further work is needed, opportunities continue to be explored for deeper engagement with Te Aka Puaho, Methodist partners, and other ecumenical relationships, recognising that collaboration strengthens our shared witness to Christ.

Equipping and Resourcing Leaders for the Future

Perhaps the strongest theme emerging during the year has been the growing need to identify, encourage, and develop new leaders. Many congregations are increasingly dependent upon lay leadership and visiting preachers. While this reflects generosity and willingness to serve, it also highlights the importance of providing appropriate formation, theological reflection, mentoring, and accountability.

The Mission Workgroup has therefore continued to prioritise leadership development through strategic workshops, coaching, collaboration with the Leadership Workgroup, and support for Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership initiatives.

Looking Forward

The coming year will continue to focus on completing the 30-Year Reflection process across the remaining congregations, incorporating these insights into the Presbytery Strategic Plan, strengthening leadership development, encouraging cooperation across regions, supporting congregations undertaking mission reviews, and equipping faith communities to participate more fully in God's mission.

Across Presbytery Central there remains genuine hope. While many congregations face complex challenges, there is also a growing willingness to listen to God, imagine new possibilities, and work collaboratively for the sake of the gospel. The Mission Workgroup is grateful for the commitment of ministers, elders, volunteers, and congregations who continue to serve faithfully, and looks forward to continuing this journey together as we seek to build flourishing faith communities across Presbytery Central.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Mission Workgroup or Mission Catalyst don't hesitate to contact the Convenor, Heather Lange: mission@presbyterycentral.org.nz or the Mission Catalyst, Rev Stuart Simpson: stuart.s@presbyterycentral.org.nz.

Youth Ministry Workgroup

This has been an exciting year for youth ministry in Presbytery Central, providing many opportunities for our workgroup to connect with churches and Presbyterian schools across Presbytery Central Nukuhau Tapu.

Easter Camp continues to be one of the strongest examples of churches working together. Around 200 young people and leaders from 10 different youth groups, representing 14 churches across Presbytery Central, gathered over Easter. Planning for Easter Camp 2027 is already underway.

Another highlight was the Noho Marae at Te Maungārongo marae in Ōhope. Young people from three of our Presbyterian Church schools and five of our youth groups joined others from churches across Aotearoa New Zealand to learn about the history of Te Maungarongo, Te Aka Puahou and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It has been encouraging to witness the faith development of our rangatahi, the lifelong friendships they formed, and the strengthening of our partnership with Te Aka Puahou.

Building relationships and strengthening connections across the Presbytery has remained a priority throughout the year. We have enjoyed engaging with many of our church communities by leading workshops, training and mentoring youth leaders, supporting youth events, and helping congregations navigate health and safety and child protection requirements. We have also recommended resources and teaching material to help keep ministry with young people at the heart of congregational life.

Alongside our established coaching programme for incoming key leaders, we continue to offer Emerge Leadership Formation, a video-based leadership development programme for youth leaders aged 15 and over. Several churches have been running the programme this year, equipping emerging leaders with practical skills and confidence for ministry.

We were pleased to host Karo Wilson, Presbyterian Children & Families Ministry Director, at the March Presbytery Gathering. She encouraged churches to reflect on the importance of intergenerational ministry and, at the Ministers' Gathering, shared practical guidance on creating safe environments for children and young people. Karo's visit has helped raise the profile of our work in intergenerational ministry, alongside the development of our Intergenerational Ministry Workshop, which has already been delivered in two congregations.

We have also been developing new resources to strengthen youth ministry across the Presbytery. The Neurodiverse Youth Ministry Resource has been warmly received, with workshops attracting positive feedback and helping churches become more inclusive and welcoming places for all young people. And in partnership with the Presbyterian Youth Ministry team, we have also developed a national Zoom-based discipleship group that creates space for youth leaders to reflect on their own spiritual wellbeing, engage in thoughtful conversations about discipleship, and build relationships online.

In June, Gordon Fitch stepped down from the Youth Workgroup after ten years of service. We give thanks to God for Gordon's commitment to youth ministry throughout our Presbytery and are grateful that he continues to support the youth ministry at St John's in the City.

Finally, the Workgroup expresses its sincere thanks to our Presbytery Central Youth Enablers Nga Rolston and Kyle Hastelow for the skill, passion, and expertise they bring in championing

youth ministry across Presbytery Central. Their leadership continues to strengthen and encourage young people, leaders, and congregations throughout the Presbytery.

Work Group Members

Convenor: Rev. Brett Reid

Members: Gordon Fitch, Hannah Dunne, Knoxanna Leasi, Rebecca Wilcox

Youth Enablers: Nga Rolston and Kyle Hastelow

Council Liaison: Rev. Allister Lane

Leadership Work Group

The Leadership Work Group (LWG) primarily manages processes related to ministry vacancies, establishing and supporting Local Shared Ministry's, communion licensing, as well as study leave and ministry reviews where required. The current LWG includes Tony Wood (Convenor - Wellington), Jean Harris (Central Hawkes Bay), Richard West (Taranaki), Reg Weeks (Wellington), Steve Jourdain (Taranaki- Manawatu) and Boyd Dunlop (Wellington).

We would ideally like 'on-the-ground' representatives in the LWG that represent all the regions and cultures of our Presbytery. At this time we are short of members from coastal Hawkes Bay and from the Tautai churches of the Presbytery. If you would consider this as an option for you please take time to talk with one of the existing LWG members about what it would involve, and your possible role within it.

During the past 12 months the roles LWG have been involved in include:

New Stated supply arrangements agreed for Reverend Kevyn Harris at Knox Fitzroy, and Reverend Stephen Lindsay at St Johns Hastings. Lay supply was extended for Llew King at St Andrews Marton. Stated supply was extended for Reverend Christo Viljoen at Napier North Presbyterian Church.

In new arrangements a Local Shared Ministry team was commissioned at St James Whanganui; Reverend Chris Lim was inducted at St Andrews Whanganui; and welcome to Jaun Roux and family who arrived from South Africa and are on a pastoral contract with the parish of St Johns Hawera. The Hawkes Bay Churches' Learning Community Project co-ordinated and lead by Reverend Mark Johnston were also arranged by the LWG, and we want to thank Mark for undertaking and committing to that role with the dedication he displayed.

The Leadership Workgroup want to especially acknowledge Reverend John Mattock from St Andrews Stratford on his retirement; Reverend Shirley Spooner whose retirement is coming up in November 2026; and Reverend Brett Walker who retired from St Columba Taradale. We want to thank you all for your faithful service and commitment to your parishes and the Presbytery. Also leaving ministry roles in the Presbytery region this year have been Seb Murrihy from Knox Waitara, Greta Müller from Knox Fitzroy, Shelley Alexander from Pathways Palmerston North, and Simon McLeay from his role of Chaplain at Iona College.

Ministry Settlement Boards are currently in place and active for St Timothy's Titahi Bay, Knox Fitzroy, Knox Waitara, Pathways Palmerston North, St Columba Taradale, and St David's Multicultural Church Petone. We are very grateful to everyone who provides their input and time to serve these parishes.

LWG also gives thanks to Reverend Silvia Purdie, who stepped down from her role on the LWG in December 2025. Silvia continues to undertake roles for the LWG from outside the workgroup, and we are very grateful for that.

Reverend Tony Wood. Convenor, On behalf of the Leadership Work Group.

Uniting Parishes Oversight Group

UPOG has met regularly, bringing together leadership from both Presbytery Central and the Methodist Lower North Island Synod to consider matters relating to our shared Cooperative Ventures.

UPOG gives partner oversight to 33 local churches – 4 of which presbytery has no capital investment in. Most are Methodist/Presbyterian unions, but we also relate to the Anglican Dioceses of Wellington (1 parish), Waiapu (3 parishes) and Taranaki (4 parishes). We are associated with 1 Congregational Union parish and 1 Christian Churches NZ parish.

An event for parishes was held on 18 April at Kapiti Uniting – on an extremely windy and wet Saturday. This did give an opportunity for people to meet and talk about life as a CV. One topic of discussion was the Partner Commission on the future of UCANZ. The commission is preparing a report for release in August and there will be ongoing discussions.

Many Uniting Congregations are facing the same issues as the Partner Churches – higher costs, older members, unable to afford ministry, and property issues. There is, however, continuing resilience in the local churches and a determination to make the partnerships effective in the local context.

Geoff Donovan continues to give help as secretary of UPOG and presbytery is represented by Rev Doug Lendrum, Rev Tony Wood and Neil Skene. There is currently no independent convenor and the chair is shared between Peter MacKenzie and Neti Petaia (Synod Superintendent).

Peter MacKenzie

Gathering Workgroup

The Gathering Workgroup exists to strengthen the life and witness of Presbytery Central by creating opportunities for connection, learning, worship, and encouragement across our congregations, chaplaincies, and ministries.

Through our twice-yearly Central Gatherings, we seek to foster a sense of belonging within our Presbytery while equipping leaders and congregations for faithful ministry.

During the 2025–2026 year the Workgroup organised two successful Gatherings, each centred on a theme reflecting significant opportunities facing the Church.

August 2025 – Green Shoots: Flourishing Together, Serving God

Hosted by **Iona College** in Havelock North, this Gathering explored the future of the Church through the lenses of church schools, collaboration, and mission.

Participants heard keynote presentations from **Rev Simon McLeay** on the distinctive role of Presbyterian Church schools and **Rev Dr Mark Johnston** on collaboration between congregations in Hawke's Bay.

Workshops covered topics including neurodiversity, Forge Aotearoa, Presbyterian Support, and church schools, providing practical learning and opportunities for discussion.

March 2026 – Belonging: Every Person. Every Story. One Body.

Hosted by **St Alban's Presbyterian Church**, Palmerston North, this Gathering focused on cultivating churches where people of every age, ability, and experience know they truly belong.

We were privileged to welcome **Karo Wilson** (Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership), whose keynote on intergenerational ministry challenged and encouraged us to nurture faith across the whole church community.

Workshops explored children's ministry, conservation projects, baptism and communion, climate change, the priesthood of all believers, and creating safe spaces for neurodiverse people. Participants also heard about the *Te HaHi* Police Referral Programme, highlighting innovative community engagement.

The Workgroup is grateful to St Alban's and Iona College who **hosted** us, to our **keynote speakers** and **workshop leaders**, and to the many **volunteers** whose hospitality and practical support made each event possible.

Throughout the year we have continued to refine the format of the Gatherings, seeking to balance worship, learning, business, storytelling, and relationship-building. The consistently positive feedback reminds us that these Gatherings are valued not only for their content but also for the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues in ministry and to experience the wider life of the Presbytery. **We appreciate feedback and interest** in how we make Gatherings more valuable.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Gathering Workgroup for their creativity, generosity, and commitment throughout the year. Their willingness to serve behind the scenes continues to make these Gatherings a significant ministry of Presbytery Central.

Allister Lane

Convenor, Gathering Workgroup

Property Work Group

1. The Year in Review

Over the 12 months ending 30 June 2026 PWG assessed 12 applications from parishes wishing to upgrade, develop or sell property. This compares with 12 applications in the previous year. All applications were supported, in some cases after receiving further supporting information. One project, Levin Uniting's upgraded hall, required a CARG review.

The sale of Knox Feilding's church and manse is complete.

A meeting of all the Presbytery work groups was held in June. This was a useful time to meet in person and also discuss more opportunities for collaboration between work groups.

The relaxation of seismic strengthening standards has to date not resulted in buildings being strengthened to less than 67% NBS. The final details of the government legislation have not yet been published.

2. The Year Ahead

PWG expects there will be further sales of surplus property in 2026/27. The future of St Andrew's Gisborne and the Matawhero Church in Gisborne is still being discussed with community groups. In the meantime the properties became Presbytery's responsibility from 1 July 2026.

The new \$5.52m hall for Church of Christ the King in Porirua is about to start construction and is proceeding on programme.

PIPC Newtown are working through the early planning, design and estimating stages for a major redevelopment of their church which is likely to cost circa \$5m. It is likely the church will be looking for some future financial support from Presbytery.

3. Issues

The PIC Porirua new hall project continues to highlight the benefits and value a professional project manager can bring to the early stages of the project – developing a brief, engaging consultants, managing the design, budget, approvals, tendering and construction phases.

A number of union parishes have managed to secure Green Grants from a Methodist fund, where the property is on a Methodist title. Such grants have been used to enable buildings to operate more sustainably with, for example, solar panels. It would be helpful for Presbytery to more widely publicise funds that are available for similar purposes.

It is expected that the current insurance round will not result in large premium increases, providing some relief for most parishes.

As convenor I remain very grateful for the contributions and support given by PWG members, Robin Dunlop and Murray Arnold as well as CARG members Ric Slessor and John Grant.

Simon Shaw

Convenor, Property Work Group

Grants Work Group

Activities		
	The 2025/2026 Year	
This report follows the report for the year ended June 2025. It has been another very quiet year, but activity is increasing in the period beginning July 2026. Grant applications from St Columba’s Havelock North, St Ronan’s Eastbourne, St Margaret’s Upper Hutt and St Andrew’s New Plymouth have been received for the 2026/27 year. The outstanding item from last year’s report was the request from Council to develop an MOU with Khandallah for a Council initiated grant of \$20,000. That MOU was not completed in the 25/26 year but next year’s report will confirm that the MOU has been finalised.		
Matters Pending		
	Description	Status
	St James – New Plymouth – WITT Chaplaincy (follow up)	Under action



Neil Gyde
 Presbytery Central
 Convenor- Grants Work Group
 021 578515 neil.g@presbyterycentral.org.nz

Finance Work Group

Membership of the Finance Work Group consists of three members together with the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary, with a rotating convenorship. The Work Group is currently looking for another member to join the team.

The primary functions of the Work Group relate to the stewardship of Presbytery's finances, which continue to be in sound state. Members meet every second month to review the financial state of Presbytery, which includes scrutiny of the Bank Statements, Finance reports, Variance Reports and Property Assessments. For the year to June 2026 the presbytery had a (preliminary pending final accounts) operating deficit of \$265,000 and ended the year with assets of \$9,058,000.

During the year the Work Group rationalised the presbytery bank accounts, reviewed its Terms of Reference and also reviewed the presbytery policies relating to Expense Guidelines, Financial Sustainability, Travel Reimbursement, Conflict of Interest and Gifting. A new Investment Policy was finalised and approved, dealing with the longer-term investment of a significant portion of Presbytery funds.

An annual undertaking is the analysis leading to the levy recommendation and the preparation of the annual budget. For the upcoming year to 30 June 2027, levies did not change and an operating deficit of \$101,000 is projected.

In addition to the above, the Work Group is responsible for the preparation and audit of the annual financial statements. The June 2025 audited accounts were approved and adopted by the presbytery on 5 November 2025 and work on the June 2026 audit is proceeding.

The Work Group was pleased to also participate in the Strategic Plan workshops. Subsequently the Work Group recommended that clear objectives be set with regular reporting, commenting that the costing of initiatives and the provision of good communication would help to ensure success."

John Melville

Convenor

Finance Workgroup.

Presbytery Central Budget Year to 30 June 2027

	2026-27 Budget	2025-26 Budget
Income	\$	\$
Gathering Fees	4,400	-
Investment Income	413,000	385,000
Parish Levies	142,000	153,174
Property Income	-	-
Total Income	559,400	538,174
Less Operating Expenses		
ACC Levy	1,200	800
Accounting Fees	800	800
Administration Costs	1,000	-
Audit Fees	3,500	3,500
Bank Fees	40	-
Beneficiary Fund Contributions	-	10,384
Catering/Accommodation	-	100
Consultants	5,000	-
Contracts for Services	15,000	15,000
Easter Camp Expenses	7,000	
Electricity & Gas	100	200
Equipment	4,000	6,000
Event Expenses	18,700	8,200
General Assembly	-	8,000
Gifts	-	500
Honorarium	2,000	
Insurance	4,150	3,100
Kiwisaver Employer Contributions	-	5,674
Leasing Costs	7,200	
Legal Expenses	2,000	1,000
Mission Enterprise Fund Grants	43,202	208,745
Postage	-	200
Property Sundry Expenses	-	3,000
Rates	500	300
Rent	17,868	17,700
Salaries and Wages	432,500	396,000
Software	2,500	1,500
Staff Amenities and Entertainment	500	500
Staff Training	2,900	6,699
Stationery	700	700
Sundry Expenses	-	12,243
Superannuation (KS & Benef Fund)	18,630	
Supervision	4,140	3,560
Telecommunications	3,130	4,130
Travel & Vehicle	38,400	46,440
Work Group Expenses	24,100	
Total Operating Expenses	660,760	764,975
Net	- 101,360	- 226,801

Notes on the Budget

The 2026-27 Budget has some differences in coding due to the government and audit requests.

- Easter Camp has been entered as a separate line item.
- Event expenses have been consolidated (instead of being with different workgroups)
- Sundry expenses have been included in actual line items.
- KiwiSaver and Beneficiary Fund payments for staff have been consolidated.
- Postage has been included in stationery.
- Property Sundry Expenses covers the period of time Presbytery is responsible for a building until it is sold after dissolution.

Fewer Mission Grants are currently on the books.

There is a deficit between income and expenditure of just over \$100k. This supports mission projects and our staff working in mission areas.

A summary of our overall assets is included below the budget page.

Property Expenses is an item related to property that comes to presbytery through a parish dissolution – we pay rates, security, etc until the property is sold. There may also be income but this cannot be budgeted for.

Levies

The Finance Work Group has recommended the 2026/27 levies remain the same again this year which is as follows:

Presbyterian parish levy amounts have been calculated as 1.35% of the net parish income - using the same formula that PCANZ use for Income and Expenses. (last year 1.35%).

				As at	
Assets				31st Mar 26	
Bank accounts (8000)				72,804	
Receivables (8100)				33,373	
PIF balances (8020,8034,8053)				9,130,877	
St Andrews CHB Bridge Loan				80,000	
Land (8505)				-	
Buildings (8510)				-	
Total Assets				9,317,054	
Liabilities					
Current liabilities (9000)				1,250	
Bequests (9954)				107,574	
Total Liabilities				108,824	
Net assets as at 28 Feb 2025				9,208,230	
Less projected deficit for balance of year	-	84,998			- 84,998
Accumulated fund as at 30 June 2026					9,123,232

Book of Order Amendments subject to the special legislative procedure

The proposed amendments are required to proceed under the special legislative procedure (see section 14.9). This means that, to be effective, the amendments need to be remitted to church councils and presbyteries for approval before being voted on again at the next General Assembly.

1. General Assembly Review

This change arises from a decision at General Assembly 2025 to change the requirements relating to attendance at General Assembly.

That Chapter 14.2G of the Book of Order be amended by adding a new section (5) as follows:

“A General Assembly may be held with a proportion of participants joining by electronic means in accordance with the rules imposed under standing orders.”

2. Review of Congregations

Presbytery commissions have faced challenges in consistently applying the Book of Order provisions regarding the review of congregations under chapter 5.10. In response, the Book of Order Advisory Committee developed guidelines. In addition, amendments were needed to be made to the Book of Order to provide greater clarity to commissions.

That chapter 5.10 in the Book of Order be amended to read as follows:

5.10 Review of a congregation on the initiative of presbytery

- (1) A presbytery may appoint a commission to review the future of a congregation with the possible outcomes of continuing its mission, renewing its life and mission or, if need be, dissolution.
- (2) The presbytery commission will comprise no more than 5 members, including persons suited for appointment, having regard to
 - (a) the nature of the congregation under review;
 - (b) an understanding of contemporary theological and mission practice;
 - (c) the legal and administrative requirements of the Book of Order. The majority of members must be members of presbytery.

The role of the presbytery commission is to enhance the mission of the Church by engaging with a congregation to discern how its life and mission fulfil the functions of a congregation as described in section 2. It will do this by

- (d) informing the congregation that a review is being undertaken
- (e) stating at a congregational meeting the possible outcomes of the review process
- (f) undertaking such research as it sees fit
- (g) setting a date by which the congregation will report to the commission as in subsection (5)

- (h) making a determination as described in subsection (7)
- (3) A presbytery commission appointed under this section must require the church council to call a congregational meeting in accordance with subsection (3). The meeting must be chaired by a member of the commission.
- (4) The purpose of the meeting called in accordance with subsection (4) is to inform the congregation that a review of the congregation's future has been initiated by the presbytery and that one option being considered in the review is the dissolution of the congregation. The reasons for the review must be given. The commission must ask the congregation to provide a report as to its life and work in fulfilling its functions under section 2. This report may be in verbal and written form and must be presented to the commission within three months of the congregational meeting.
- (5) The processes of the commission must be carried out in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- (6) Having considered the report, the commission must decide on one of three outcomes
 - (a) direct the presbytery to recognise that the congregation is fulfilling the functions set out in section 2 and that it should continue in its life and mission, or
 - (b) determine that although some of the functions in section 2 are being fulfilled the performance of the functions is inadequate or the viability of the congregation is marginal, and direct the presbytery to work closely with the church council to find creative ways to stimulate the Church's life and mission. Among other things, the commission may recommend that the presbytery amalgamate the congregation with a neighbouring congregation. The commission may recommend that the presbytery undertake a further review within a defined period, or
 - (c) dissolve the congregation.
- (7) Before issuing a final report, the commission must issue a draft report and give the congregation, the church council and any other affected party an opportunity to comment on the draft report within three weeks.
- (8) The commission must then consider any comments received. After consideration of any comments received it must issue a final report.
- (9) If the commission decides to dissolve the congregation, the Commission may encourage the presbytery to consider facilitating and resourcing a restart worshipping community in the premises occupied by the dissolved congregation, under the leadership of another congregation within the presbytery.
- (10) The presbytery must ensure the continued pastoral care of members of the congregation.

3. Changes regarding the oversight of congregations

Discussion of a Book of Order amendment at the last Assembly highlighted that the Book of Order did not take a consistent approach to oversight of congregations. In particular, where there was little prospect of the calling of a minister of word and sacrament, there was no requirement that a moderator be appointed. Also, presbyteries reported that there are parts of the church in which it is very difficult to find ministers able to exercise interim moderators.

The principle of mutual accountability is an important dimension of our polity. Basic principles of Presbyterian oversight include that a church council is accountable to the presbytery. That accountability needs actual embodiment which is through the moderator. Accordingly, the role of moderator is more clearly defined, that presbytery appoint a moderator for every congregation, that the role of moderator can be filled by ministers as at present and in addition by elders who are trained and commissioned for the role, and that the Church's expectation that the Church be formed by word and sacrament continue to be emphasised. Presbyteries will need to be aware of what congregations need in terms of governance and ministry oversight and make appointments to suit. Questions about reimbursement should be discussed by the presbytery and congregation.

That the Book of Order be amended as follows:

That chapter 7.6 (1) of the Book of Order be amended by adding the words "or the moderator appointed by presbytery" after the word nominee, so that the provision reads "*The minister or his or her nominee or the moderator appointed by presbytery shall be Moderator of the church council.*"

That chapter 7.6 of the Book of Order be amended by adding a new provision 7. 6 (2) as follows and that the subsequent provisions be renumbered.

7.6 (2) The Moderator must:

- a. Fulfil the moderator's responsibilities set out in the Book of Order including under chapter 7.16 and chapter 7.18;
- b. Ensure that the church council is aware of and complies with its responsibilities set out in the Book of Order, Code of Ethics and Supplementary Provisions;
- c. Facilitate the effective functioning of the church council to perform the functions outlined in chapter 7.2;
- d. Lead the church council to facilitate the effective functioning of the congregation to perform the functions outlined in chapter 5.2;
- e. Ensure as far as possible that where there is no settled ministry, the functions of ministry are exercised;
- f. Report to the presbytery any sustained inability of the church council or congregation to perform their functions.

That chapter 7.7 (1) (a) of the Book of Order be amended by deleting the word "interim" before the word moderator so that the provision reads "The session of a congregation consists of (a) any minister or ministers inducted, or local shared ministry team commissioned, by presbytery or any moderator appointed by presbytery, and ... "

That chapter 10 of the Book of Order be amended by: repealing 10.1 (1) and renumbering the following provisions.

in the new 10.1 (1) replacing the words "The occasion for ..." with "A change in" so the provision reads "A change in ministry settlement is an opportunity for the congregation to review its life and mission and the way it fulfils its functions and its financial viability.

In 10.2 replacing the word “The” in the first sentence with “An” so the provision begins “An opportunity for ministry settlement occurs in a congregation ...”

In 10.3 (1) making the changes as set out in the following track changes version: **Interim Moderator** ~~If it is satisfied that there is an opportunity for~~ Where there is no ministry settlement in a congregation, the presbytery must appoint ~~a one of its members as~~ Interim Moderator of the congregation.

In 10.3 (2) making the changes set out in the following track changes version: The Moderator is usually a minister, but where circumstances demand, may be an elder. ~~presbytery may appoint a minister from the congregation as Interim Moderator.~~

In 10.3 (3) by deleting the word “interim” so the provision reads “The ~~Interim~~ Moderator must ensure that ministry of word and sacrament is available to the congregation as set out in chapter 6.”

In 10.4 (1) by making the changes set out in the following track changes version:

When a ~~a minister informs his or her presbytery that he or she intends to leave the congregation,~~ the presbytery must, without delay, appoint ~~presbytery decides that there is an opportunity for~~ ministry settlement it must, without delay, appoint as its representatives on a ~~m~~Ministry ~~s~~Settlement ~~b~~Board

- (a) one of its members who is not a member of the congregation as convener and
- ~~(b) — two of its other members to be members, or~~

~~(c)~~(b) two members who may be elders from within the presbytery’s area of responsibility or elsewhere.

In 10.4 (4) by deleting the word “Interim” so it reads: “A presbytery may appoint the same person to act as both Moderator of the congregation and convener of the ministry settlement board.”

In 10.4 (12) by adding the words “or retire” after the word resign so it reads: “A minister who has given notice of his or her intention to resign or retire from the congregation must not interfere in the process of establishing the ministry settlement board or in the deliberations of the board once it is established.”

In 10.6 (1) by deleting sub-paragraph (c) as below.

- (1) The presbytery must invite each of the participating partner churches in the congregation to appoint one representative to the ministry settlement board if, in a co-operative venture
 - (a) there is an opportunity for ministry settlement, and
 - (b) the Church is the church responsible for the ministry settlement, and
 - ~~(c) — the co-operative venture wishes to seek a ministry settlement.~~

by deleting chapter 10.4 (3) as below.

- (2) Where there is one or more ministers serving in the co-operative venture local ministry team, the presbytery must appoint the minister or ministers to the ministry settlement board.

~~(3) — If the number of members appointed under subsections (1) and (2) exceeds the number of members from the congregation permitted under section 4 (7)(c), the presbytery must permit the congregation to elect sufficient members to exceed by at least one the members appointed under subsections (1) and (2).~~

4. Changes regarding proposals to the General Assembly

The last Assembly asked the Book of Order and Advisory Committee to review chapter 8.5 in the Book of Order to enable greater clarity of decision-making by presbyteries about forwarding church council proposals to the General Assembly. The Committee undertook the review and consulted interested persons and presbyteries in doing so. Clarity was needed about how presbyteries made

decisions relating to the three options in 8.5. The need for clarity surfaced because a presbytery decision declining to forward a proposal to the General Assembly was overturned on appeal. The Judicial Commission ruled, among other things, that the presbytery had used the wrong criteria in making a decision not to forward a proposal. Having been consulted, presbyteries advised that in ten years there had been only three decisions declining to forward a proposal, including the one that was overturned. The decisions were so rare that presbyteries did not have the history of interpretation that enabled them to make confident decisions.

The Committee considered several possibilities. The proposal expands the options for presbyteries. Paragraph 8.5 (1) (a) enables a presbytery to adopt a proposal as its own. (b) enables a presbytery to decide not to express an opinion. (c) enables a presbytery to express an opinion including in disagreement with the proposal. This is similar to an option available for such proposals in the Church of Scotland.

Discussion of this option in a presbytery might lead the presbytery to recognise that while a majority of the presbytery disagrees with the proposal, there will be people in the church who would value a discussion of the subject matter. Option (d) sets out more clearly the grounds to be used when not transmitting a proposal to the General Assembly. Normally, where a draft proposal is not in proper form, the Assembly Business Work Group and other Assembly bodies work with the presbytery to put it in proper form. An important aspect of the Committee's approach has been that the General Assembly is the sole legislative body and presbyteries cannot usurp that role by preventing proposals from being considered by the General Assembly without good reason.

That chapter 8.5 (1) of the Book of Order be amended so it reads as follows:

If a church council presents a legislative or other proposal to a presbytery, the presbytery may:

- (a) adopt and transmit the proposal to the General Assembly; or
- (b) transmit the proposal to the General Assembly without expressing any opinion on it,
or

- (c) transmit the proposal to the General Assembly expressing an opinion on it including in opposition to it, or
- (d) decline either to adopt or transmit the proposal if the presbytery considers the proposal is trivial, lacks proper form or is offensive or for some other similar reason.

5. Disciplinary provisions

The Book of Order presently requires that a church council must be promptly informed when a complaint has been made against a minister or church worker. The Complaints and Disputes Manager had reported difficulties in implementing that

requirement. There are times prompt advice is not appropriate. Accordingly, the Committee is recommending an amendment that gives more discretion.

To help in education, many professions disseminate disciplinary findings without

disclosing details that would identify parties. The Ethics Seminars conducted by the Church have highlighted the value of helping people in the Church learn from

experience. Accordingly, an amendment aims to give more discretion about publication of a summary for the purpose of education.

Changes to the disciplinary process made by recent assemblies have altered the way complaints are dealt with by disciplinary commissions. Whereas previously the complainant had onerous and sometimes harmful responsibility for driving the

disciplinary process, the responsibility now mainly falls to the Church for which the complainant is a witness. That led the view that if presenting counsel reaches a view that a disciplinary commission has erred in some way, the responsibility for lodging an appeal needs to belong to the Church in the person of the Assembly Executive Secretary rather than the complainant. A proposed amendment attends to that dynamic.

Chapter 15.47 has long required that the relevant presbytery bear the cost of legal counsel in the disciplinary process. The proposed amendment to 15.47 makes this evident and requires the Assembly Executive Secretary to develop with the presbyteries, presumably through their executive officers, a mechanism by

which those costs are borne without surprise to the presbyteries.

Changes to Chapter 15 regarding advice to church councils, publication of disciplinary decision, adding a right for the AES to appeal a disciplinary

commission and presbytery responsibility for costs

That chapter 15.14 of the Book of Order be amended by replacing the words “must promptly inform” with the words “may, if appropriate, inform” so that it reads “Where a complaint has been made against a minister or a church worker, the Complaints

and Disputes Manager **may, if appropriate**, inform a senior officer of the relevant church council that a complaint has been made, and provide a summary of the nature of that complaint; the officer may, if appropriate, provide such information to the church council.”

That chapter 15.31 (4) be amended by adding the words highlighted in bold italics so that it reads: “If the disciplinary commission considers it appropriate, the full

decision or a summary of it may be provided to the employer, employing body, congregation or faith community of the respondent, or any other party. ***A redacted version of the decision or a summary may be published by the Assembly***

Executive Secretary for the purpose of education in the Church.”

That chapter 15.36 of the Book of Order be amended by adding a new section (3) as follows and the subsequent sections be renumbered “(3) *The Assembly Executive Secretary may appeal a decision of a disciplinary commission on the advice of the presenting counsel. The Assembly Executive Secretary may also seek advice from the Book of Order Advisory Committee.”*

That chapter 15.37 be amended by replacing the words “Assembly Executive Secretary” with the words “Complaints and Disputes Manager” so that it reads “An

appeal under section 33 must be lodged with the Complaints and Disputes Manager not later than 15 working days after the written reasons for a decision have been delivered in accordance with section 28.”

That chapter 15.47 of the Book of Order be amended so that it reads as follows:

- (1) The expenses and allowances relating to contact persons, the Complaints and Disputes Manager, assessors, presenting counsel and the disciplinary commission appointed in relation to a complaint proceeding must be met by the relevant presbytery. Without breaching confidence, on receiving notice of a complaint, the Assembly Executive Secretary must advise the presbytery of possible costs and the basis on which they will be charged. The presbytery and the Assembly Executive Secretary must agree on how the costs are to be charged to the presbytery.
- (2) There is no entitlement for a respondent or complainant to have legal costs met but, in exceptional circumstances, the Assembly Executive Secretary may authorise payment of legal counsel. In any proceeding where legal counsel is retained, the following provisions apply
 - (a) Without breaching confidence, the Assembly Executive Secretary must advise the presbytery that a complaint relating to a person in the presbytery’s jurisdiction has been referred to a disciplinary commission and that legal counsel needs to be appointed, the cost to be borne by the presbytery.
 - (b) A description of the scope and content of intended legal services must be agreed between the Assembly Executive Secretary and legal counsel providing the legal services, and agreed by the presbytery, before the service is provided.
 - (c) The legal counsel must provide an estimate of fees for the intended legal services, stipulating the counsel’s hourly rate and anticipated time for the task. The Assembly Executive Secretary must, if appropriate, with the agreement of the presbytery, approve that estimate in writing, in whole or in part prior to the legal services being provided.

- (d) The legal counsel must provide the Assembly Executive Secretary and the presbytery with a report on the legal services which have been provided, and the professional fees incurred.

6. Change to Local Shared Ministry provisions

Presbyteries advise that the present provision relating to the appointment of the local shared ministry team is unrealistic and often impractical. The amendment is recommended to enable a more workable approach.

That the Book of Order be amended as follows:

That chapter 10.18 (2) in the Book of Order that presently reads: “The presbytery must meet (a) the proposed team members named in the recommendation and (b) examine their suitability for local shared ministry.” be amended to read “The presbytery must: (a) receive a report from the enabler outlining the proposed team members and their suitability for local shared ministry and (b) approve or disapprove the formation of the local shared ministry team.

7. Change to Chapter 16 regarding Assembly Property Commission approval

Experience arising from a particular application that was dealt with by the Assembly Property Commission highlighted the need for a small amendment to slightly expand its responsibilities. The amendment achieves that purpose.

That the Book of Order be amended as follows:

That chapter 16.6 (10) be amended by adding in line 3 the words highlighted in bold italics “of which the General Assembly or a presbytery is ***or is proposed to be*** the beneficial owner.

8. Changes to Chapter 16 relating to audits and reviews

The Assembly Audit and Risk Committee advised that the Book of Order provisions relating to audits and reviews use varying and inconsistent terminology and the

terminology is not clearly defined. Further, it advised that Book of Order requirements are not entirely consistent with statutory requirements. That chapter 16 be amended as set out in the following table, the words in the left column being replaced by the words in the right column:

Current section:	Replace with:
5.2(4)(c) The church council must ensure that the accounts of the congregation are prepared each year and, if required by the Assembly Executive Secretary or the Assembly, make those accounts available for examination or review by an approved external party.	5.2(4)(c) The church council must ensure that the annual accounts of the congregation and any related entities are prepared each year, and that a qualified auditor audits or reviews them if required by New Zealand legislation, the Assembly Executive Secretary, congregation, Presbytery or funders.
7.12(1) A board of managers or deacons' court or a committee formed under section 19 must administer the property and finances of the congregation, including ... (e) preparing budgets and statements of accounts, and having the accounts reviewed or audited,	7.12(1)(e) preparing an annual budget and annual accounts for the congregation and any related entities, 7.12(1)(f) ensuring that the annual accounts are either audited or reviewed by a qualified auditor if required by New Zealand legislation, or if otherwise required by the Assembly Executive Secretary, the congregation, Presbytery, or funders.
11.3(2) The duties of Te Aka Puahou are ... (o) to appoint a suitably qualified person at each annual meeting to review or audit the accounts of Te Aka Puahou for the following year in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act.	11.3(2)(o) to have Te Aka Puahou's annual accounts audited or reviewed by a qualified auditor if required by New Zealand legislation, or if otherwise required by the Assembly Executive Secretary, Te Aka Puahou or funders.
14.12(2) The responsibilities of the Council of Assembly are to ... (i) adopt the accounts of the General Assembly, report these to the General Assembly, and appoint a person to review or audit the accounts.	14.12(2)(i) adopt the annual accounts of the General Assembly and any related entities, ensure that those annual accounts are audited or reviewed by a qualified auditor if required by New Zealand legislation and report on those accounts to the General Assembly.
16.8(7) The church council must ensure that accounts for the congregation are prepared each year and, if required by the Assembly Executive Secretary or the Assembly, make those accounts available for examination or review by an approved external party.	16.8(7) The church council must ensure that the annual accounts of the congregation and any related entities are prepared each year, and that a qualified auditor audits or reviews them if required by New Zealand legislation, the Assembly Executive Secretary, congregation, Presbytery or funders.

Current section:	Replace with:
16.10(6) The presbytery council must ensure that the accounts of the presbytery are prepared each year and subject to examination by an external party approved by the Assembly Executive Secretary. The presbytery council must ensure that the presbytery and any related entities of the presbytery comply with all requests from the Assembly Executive Secretary for the provision of financial and compliance information where that information is required for statutory reporting purposes. 16.10(7) The presbytery must appoint annually a suitably qualified person to review or audit the accounts of the presbytery.	16.10(6) The presbytery council must ensure that the annual accounts of the presbytery and any related entities are prepared each year, and that a qualified auditor audits or reviews them if required by New Zealand legislation, the Assembly Executive Secretary, Presbytery or funders. 16.10(7) The presbytery must appoint annually a suitably qualified person to review or audit the accounts of the presbytery. 16.10 (8) The presbytery council must ensure that the presbytery and any related entities comply with all requests from the Assembly Executive Secretary for the provision of financial and compliance information where that information is required for statutory reporting purposes.
16.11(9) The Council of Assembly must ensure that accounts of the General Assembly are prepared, reviewed or audited and certified at the end of each financial year. 16.11(10) The Council of Assembly must appoint annually a suitably qualified person to review or audit the accounts of the General Assembly.	16.11(9) the Council of Assembly must ensure that the annual accounts of the General Assembly and any related entities are prepared and are then either audited or reviewed by a qualified auditor if required by New Zealand legislation. 16.11(10) The Council of Assembly must appoint a qualified auditor as defined in New Zealand legislation to audit the accounts of the General Assembly.

9. Right of review

Chapter 14.10 in the Book of Order provides a right of review that had not been taken up by the Church. The amendment set out the procedure to be followed when an application for review is made.

That Chapter 14.10 be amended by adding a new provision 14.10 (5) as follows and renumbering (5) as (6)

Except in relation to disciplinary matters dealt with under chapter 15 or matters that can be dealt with by appeal under chapter 14, the General Assembly may, in its discretion, appoint a judicial commission to review a decision made by a presbytery, the Church Property Trustees or other body that reports to or is accountable to the General Assembly.

Strategic Plan Implementation

The [Strategic Plan](#) adopted by Presbytery Central sets a clear direction for our shared life and mission.

The reason for implementing this Strategic Plan is to advance the priorities of Presbytery Central using the resources available to us. To do this effectively, we need to ensure that our finances, assets, people, technology, and structures are being applied in ways that support the Plan's implementation and help us fulfil our vision of a flourishing, collaborative network of faith communities.

As the Strategic Plan Implementation Workgroup appointed by Council, we have spent the past 8 months building a picture of our Presbytery's current reality. This has included examining the resources available across the Presbytery, levels of participation both locally and at Presbytery-wide activities, and some of the practical challenges facing congregations and ministry contexts.

In developing this understanding, we have drawn on information from the Mission Work Group's Snapshot Summary, PCANZ and Uniting Church data, and reports provided by the Youth Enablers. While these sources have provided valuable insights, we recognise the importance of testing and refining our observations through ongoing conversations with workgroups and staff, whose experience and knowledge are essential in shaping robust, evidence-based, yet faith-filled plans for the future.

Recognising that we cannot address every aspect of the Strategic Plan simultaneously, the workgroup identified four priority areas that we believe will have the greatest impact in the first year of implementation:

- Leadership
- Presbytery Engagement
- External Mission Clarity
- Children, Youth and Families

These priorities were presented to and discussed with the Presbytery's workgroups at an all-day hui in June this year. It was encouraging to see the positive engagement with the Strategic Plan, the broad endorsement of the identified priorities, and the willingness of workgroups to explore how their existing goals and activities contribute to these areas.

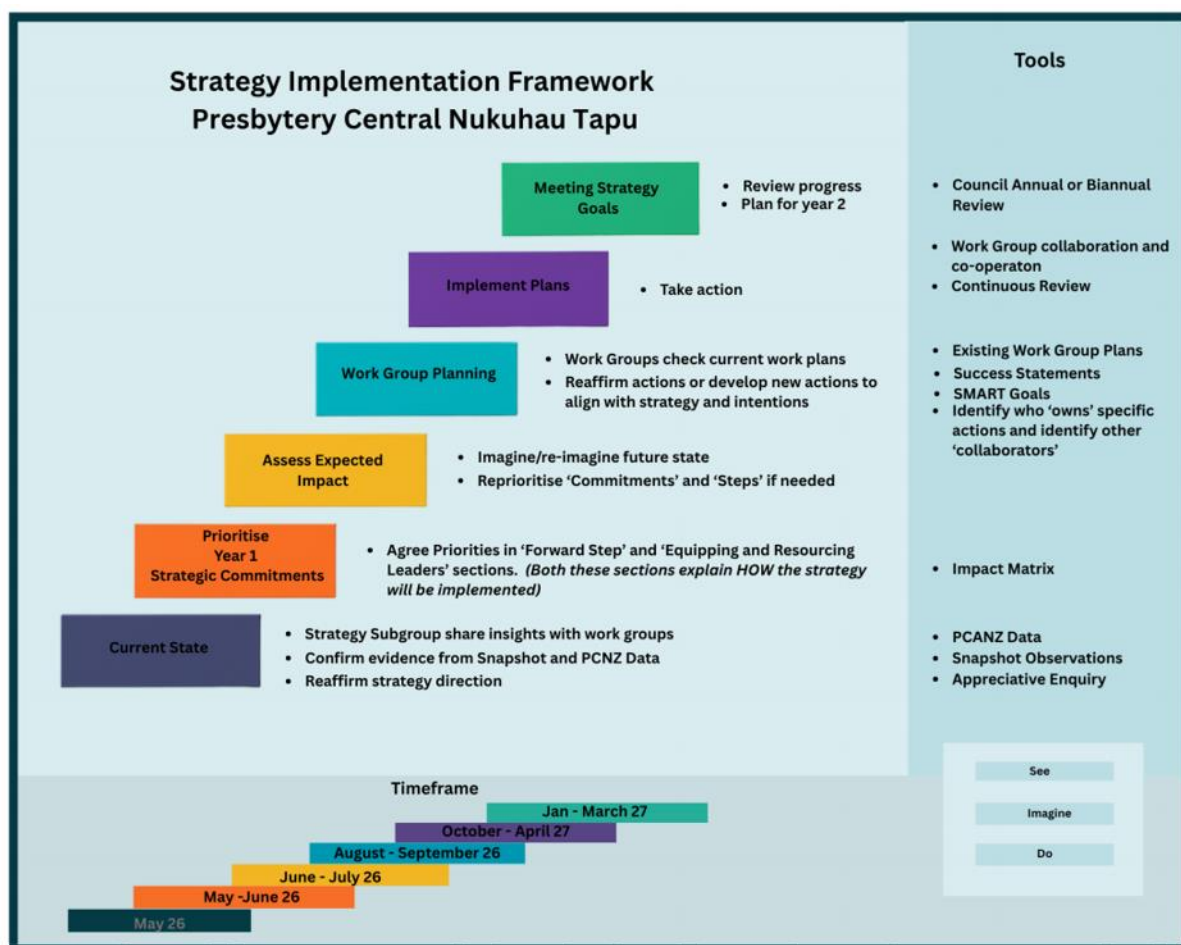
Workgroups are now encouraged to

1. Report regularly to Presbytery Council on the progress of their work where it contributes to the four priority areas and the wider Strategic Plan.
2. Collaborate with other workgroups wherever appropriate, while continuing to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in their Terms of Reference.
3. Ensure new proposals/initiatives to Council are well developed, supported by appropriate research, identify likely costs, consider opportunities for collaboration, and include clear objectives and intended outcomes.

We are grateful for the commitment shown across the Presbytery and look forward to seeing the Strategic Plan increasingly shape and strengthen our shared mission in the years ahead.

Leanne Munroe, Allister Lane, and Fiona Purchas

This picture displays the progression of Strategic Plan implementation



Council Meetings next 12 months [2nd Tuesday of the month, reports by 1st Tuesday of month]

Friday 14 August 2026	10am	In-person, St Albans
Tuesday 13 October 2026	10am	Zoom
Tuesday 8 December 2026	10am	Zoom
Tuesday 9 February 2027	10am	Zoom
Friday 12 March 2027	10am	In-person, St Albans
Tuesday 11 May 2027	10am	Zoom
Tuesday 13 July 2027	10am	Zoom