



Warm greetings

This year, the Church's highest court meets at St Andrew's College, Christchurch, from Wednesday 3 October to Sunday 7 October.

At General Assembly, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be at our best. It is an opportunity to showcase what it means to be Presbyterian.

To know and experience the heart and soul of Presbyterianism here in Aotearoa, your Church invites you to come and participate. It is a privilege to be involved at this level of our Church, be it as a Commissioner, guest, volunteer, worker, runner or observer.

GA18 is the main event in our calendar this year. Please come and bring your best.

Our focus for GA18 is relationship: the relationship between God and you, you and your maker, and the relationship between you and others. Relationship is basic and fundamental - it is the 'bread and butter' of Christian existence. The one who makes personal our relationships is the helper - the Holy Spirit.

The cross is our logo for GA18, and it reminds us that Jesus Christ is the heart of all such relationships. Indeed, the Lord Jesus is God's yes to a groaning world. May the Holy Spirit guide us in fulfilling the will of God.

In Christ,
Rev Fakaofu Kaio
Moderator Elect

This is the first of a regular series of GA18 Updates sharing information about this year's **General Assembly, 3-7 October in Christchurch**.

Please circulate this email in your newsletters and in any other way to members of your parish, presbytery or synod. You can download this email in letter format from "GA Updates" here <http://ga2018.nz/assembly-updates/>

General Assembly website



The General Assembly website <http://ga2018.nz> is now live and we are ready to take registrations. Here you will find information on the venue, registration costs, accommodation and more. More information and the programme, keynote speakers and events during Assembly will be added to the site as the details become available

How you can participate

- 1 For ministers only:** Assembly will again include a Ministers' Training Day on 3 October 2018. This is a day for ministers only, facilitated by Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML). Information about the programme and how to register for this event will be available in July.
- 2 For Commissioners:** As a Commissioner or Youth Commissioner you have an important role - to discern, deliberate and decide on the business of our Church. It won't all be business though; you can listen to our keynote speakers and attend evening activities. There's also free time scheduled so you can catch up with colleagues.
- 3 For other church members:** Non-business parts of Assembly – like the induction of the incoming Moderator – are open to all. You are warmly invited to attend these parts of Assembly. More information about the parts of the Assembly programme that are open to all will be published in coming weeks.

Register before 31 July to receive early bird registration fee

For the first time we are offering an early bird discount for registrations. We encourage you to register early (before the end of July) to take advantage of this. In keeping with the relational theme of this year's Assembly, main meals (lunch and dinner) are included as part of the registration rate. The food at St Andrew's is always well received, we see this as a valuable opportunity to build relationships and learn from each other over food. About General Assembly fees: <http://ga2018.nz/fees/>

Book accommodation early

This year, Assembly coincides with a number of other events in Christchurch. As such, *we strongly advise you to book accommodation early*. We have some accommodation available on site at St Andrew's College. Check out pictures of the

rooms on the GA18 website here <http://ga2018.nz/fees/>. If you are looking for accommodation options in the area they can be found here <http://ga2018.nz/accommodation>

We are looking forward to having you with us in Christchurch this year. General Assembly is a key gathering for us as a Church and as a team we would value your prayers at this time as we continue to plan and prepare for October.

Thanks,

Abi Trevathan and Liz Whitehead
Assembly Co-ordinators