Kaimai Presbytery Council Minutes

23 September 2026 - 9:30 am – Bethlehem Community Church



KAIMAI PRESBYTERY COUNCIL MINUTES

Attendees:

Rev Ian Guy (Moderator), Vanya Wallis, Executive Officer (VW), Rika van der Linde, Administrator (RV), Graham Robertson, Convener of the Property Committee (GR), Rev Enosa Auva'a (EA), Rev Jono Lange (JL),

Associated:

Neville Watkins, Julianne Managh

Apologies:

Rev Philipp Potgieter (PP), Rev Douglas Bradley, Candidates Committee (DB), Eoin Crosbie (EC)

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1. Opening & Devotions

The meeting was opened with a prayer at 9:33

Rev Ian Guy led devotions with a reflection on Acts 15, which was highlighted as a model for the early church's council of elders gathering to navigate sharp dispute and debate. The speaker noted that conflict and deep disagreements over traditions and core beliefs are not new, pointing out how the early church faced intense debate regarding custom and faith. A challenge was brought

regarding the typical Presbyterian reliance on motions and voting—which can create a system of "winners and losers"—suggesting instead that Acts 15 illustrates a process centered on consensus and discernment rather than formal voting. Highlighting Acts 15:28 (*"It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us"*), the speaker emphasized that true biblical consensus requires moving beyond mere majority rule or surface-level compromise to keep the peace; rather, it emerges from deeply listening to one another and to the Holy Spirit before making decisions. In closing, the speaker encouraged the council to approach its work in this spirit, seeking genuine consensus and alignment with the Holy Spirit throughout the meeting's deliberations.

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2. Confirmation of Minutes & Procedural Matters

- AGREED: THAT the apologies are sustained.
- AGREED: Neville Watkins and Julianne Managh be associated with the meeting.
- AGREED: THAT the minutes of the last meeting be approved as accurate and correct.

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3. Key Decisions & Motions

St Aidan's, Putaruru

- **AGREED**: THAT the Kaimai Presbytery Moderator visits St Aidan's Putaruru and meets with their Council

St Andrew's , Matamata

- **AGREED**: THAT Rev Philipp Potgieter become Moderator of St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Matamata on 1 November 2026.

St Paul's Katikati

- **AGREED**: THAT Rev. Ken Harray be the interim MSB Convenor for St Paul's Katikati until 1 November 2026.

Finance

- **AGREED**: THAT the Kaimai Presbytery Council adopts the following financial reports and approves the payments made, including the balance sheet, aged receivables, and monthly payments (noting payments are made under delegated authority as listed in the monthly payments report).
- **AGREED**: THAT Future payments for the Oasis project be funded from the MEF

Property

- **AGREED:** THAT The Presbytery approve the application by St Peters Tauranga for the variation and renewal of its lease with St Peters Care and Counselling Trust.
- **AGREED:** THAT The Presbytery declines the request to use the Te Puke Hall for a men's shelter as it is committed to investigating the long-term future of all the Te Puke

buildings and a decision is not expected to be able to be made for some time and that the Administrator advise accordingly.

- **AGREED: THAT** Presbytery write to both the local Edgecumbe Committee and the Eastern Bay of Plenty Presbyterian Parish Coordinating Council stating it endorses and confirms the direction given by its Property Manager that no further work is to be undertaken in the church unless the Presbytery gives its approval. It notes that the passing of the relevant legislation in the past few days has not changed the current situation as it does not come into effect until 1 July 2027."

St James Greerton and St Paul's Papamoa

- **AGREED:** THAT Rev. Douglas Bradly be confirmed as the Moderator for St Paul's Papamoa from 1 November 2026
- **AGREED:** THAT Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke be confirmed as the Moderator for St James Greerton from 1 November 2026
- **AGREED:** THAT Rev. Philipp Potgieter be recognised as an Other Recognised Minister in Kaimai Presbytery from 1 November 2026.

Presbyterian Development Society of Aotearoa New Zealand

- **AGREED:** THAT Kaimai Presbytery affirms its ongoing membership with PDS.
- **AGREED:** THAT Eoin Crosby be approached to represent Kaimai Presbytery at the PDS annual meeting.

Comprehensive Motion:

- **AGREED:** THAT the inwards correspondence listed in Schedule 3 (S3.1 Inwards) be received, and the outwards correspondence listed in Schedule 3 (S3.2 Outwards) be confirmed.

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4. Meeting Closure & Next Meeting

- Meeting Closed: 2:05 PM with The Grace
- Next Meeting: 21 October 2026 at 10:00 AM at St Andrew's, Matamata.