



28 July 2023

WELCOME BACK!

In this second GA update, we introduce you to our keynote speaker and let you know of the ways in which you can participate in GA.

A MESSAGE FROM REV ROSE LUXFORD, MODERATOR ELECT

Warm greetings to you all.

I have invited the Rev Dr Andrew Callander to be the keynote speaker at Assembly and he will be speaking twice – on Thursday and Friday afternoons.

I met Andrew a few years ago when we both did some training for transitional ministry. Part of the training focussed on some work by Rob Voyle “An appreciative inquiry paradigm for transitional ministry”.

The idea of this is to focus on what is working in a parish and build on that, rather than putting all the focus on what is wrong and sinking into despair. Yes, we need to be realistic about what is happening, but we also need to see what is working, see where the energy and the signs of hope are, and build on that.

Since our training, Andrew has written and spoken on this theme in relation to how we present the gospel and I believe his work to be stimulating, thought-provoking and helpful. Andrew has woven into his keynote addresses my theme of ‘Authentic and Hopeful in Christ’.

Over my years in ministry, I have seen how important it is to be authentic in the different contexts we are in. Being who we are in Christ, being comfortable in our own skin, and being in tune with our particular context, can really enrich and encourage our places of ministry.

We live in challenging times in the Church, and it can sometimes be a struggle to keep a sense of hope. And yet we are people of the resurrection and as such are bearers of hope.

A little blessing that I like that seems apt for us all:

*May the God of dreams and visions,
Enable you to dream creatively
And to hear the dreaming of others –
Young and old – in your community.*

*May you be open to new ideas,
Dare to share visions,
Be encouraged to hope.**

Rev Rose Luxford
Moderator Elect

**Jan Sutch Pickard in A book of blessings by Ruth Burgess*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Rev Dr Andrew Callander will deliver two keynote addresses to the Assembly: “Authentic and Hopeful in Christ—beginning with what is wrong” and “Authentic and Hopeful in Christ—beginning with what is life-giving”.

Andrew’s message to General Assembly can be read here on the GA2023 website ga2023.nz/keynote-speakers/

GA UPDATE No. 2

We have two months to go until this year’s General Assembly to be held in Auckland from 27th September to 1st October.

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 “Assembly Updates” here ga2023.nz/assembly-updates

The General Assembly website ga2023.nz has information on the venue, registration costs, accommodation, and much more. Further information about the programme, and events during Assembly, will be added to the site as details become available.

FAQs ga2023.nz/frequently-asked-questions/ If you have any questions, email them to the GA Coordinator ga23@presbyterian.org.nz who will reply in person and add them to the FAQs.

Register here ga2023.nz/register/ **before 31st August to receive the standard fee**

It’s been encouraging to see people registering early. A reminder to register before the end of August to avoid having to pay a late fee surcharge.

Lunch on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, and dinner on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday are included, as are morning/afternoon teas. NOTE: Breakfast is ONLY included for those guests with a confirmed booking at Bruce House.

Book accommodation early!



On site accommodation at Bruce House is filling up fast. The nightly rate of \$75 includes a continental breakfast, served from 7.00 – 8.00am in the Bruce House dining hall.

Available room options have 4, 5 or 6 beds. All bedding will be supplied but bring your own towel.



The **Upper Villa, Lower Villa, and the Lodge**, have shared bathroom facilities - each will house either men or women. The Quad accommodation block, which will house both men and women, has separate bathroom facilities for each. These facilities are external to the Quad accommodation block.

There is a car park adjacent to Bruce House.

Alternative Accommodation

Alternative options in the area can be found [HERE](#).

How you can participate at GA:

- 1. For Commissioners:** As a registered Commissioner, or Young Adult 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 speaker and attend evening activities.

The business sessions will be held in the Sports Centre gymnasium, where seating on the main floor will be available for Commissioners and Young Adult Commissioners only. Are you a new Commissioner to General Assembly? Check out helpful videos here ga2023.nz/new-commissioners/

- 2. For all other church members who have registered for GA:** You are warmly invited to attend the powhiri, the opening and closing services, the induction of the incoming Moderator, and the evening activities.

Registered Observers, Interns, and guests are welcome to view the business sessions from the gallery of the Sports Centre gymnasium. Only Commissioners and Young Adult Commissioners are allowed on the main floor.

Until next time

Pamela Day

Assembly Coordinator

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ga2023.nz