



Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

FINANCE NEWSLETTER 180

TO: Parish Treasurers, Presbytery and Parish clerks
FROM: Brendan Sweeney, Manager, Financial Services
DATE: 29 February 2016

1.	Health and Safety Workshop update
2.	Xero for parishes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Automation of Tier 3 and 4 reports- Enhanced service level
3.	Power usage survey update

1. Health and Safety Workshop update

In the next day or two the Inter Church Bureau will release a communication and schedule for Health and Safety information workshops, scheduled to be held throughout the country, commencing in Auckland on March 15 and 17.

Workshop numbers are limited so there is an email registration process and attendance is limited to two representatives from each church. The cost of \$25 per person will be subsidised by each denomination (including this office for Presbyterian attendees) and a workbook which includes tools and instruction specific to church needs has been developed and will be made available to attendees.

Details will be provided in the ICB letter and schedule which I will forward to treasurers, ministers and session clerks as soon as it is released.

2. Xero for parishes

- Automation of Tier 3 and 4 reports

In the last couple of weeks, Xero have released reports that automate the financial data required under the new accounting standards. I think this is a significant development that will make reporting much easier for churches.

I have posted sample reports on the Church website that illustrate Tiers 3 and 4 reports, using General Assembly data to June 2015. Refer:

1. PCANZ annual report to Tier 3 standard

[http://presbyterian.org.nz/sites/public_files/for_parishes/Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa - PCANZ 2015 Annual Report to Tier 3 Standard 1.pdf](http://presbyterian.org.nz/sites/public_files/for_parishes/Presbyterian_Church_of_Aotearoa_-_PCANZ_2015_Annual_Report_to_Tier_3_Standard_1.pdf)

2. PCANZ annual report to Tier 4 standard

[http://presbyterian.org.nz/sites/public_files/for_parishes/Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa - PCANZ 2015 Annual Report to Tier 4 Standard.pdf](http://presbyterian.org.nz/sites/public_files/for_parishes/Presbyterian_Church_of_Aotearoa_-_PCANZ_2015_Annual_Report_to_Tier_4_Standard.pdf)

Note:

- These reports automate financial data only. Non-financial information such as entity details, activities and accounting policies require manual input for which I will provide guidelines and templates.
- The T3 report automates the statement of cash flow as required under the standards
- Also as required, both reports are structured to summarize income and expenditure and asset and liability information, supported by detailed analysis reports

Please refer to these reports and consider them if your church is contemplating implementing Xero for parishes.

Xero for parishes

- Enhanced service level

Over the past two years, Laurensons Chartered Accountants have proven to be a very valuable partner to this office and to churches in the development of Xero for parishes. It has been due to their direct assistance that we now have about 60 churches signed up for Xero.

Until now the level of support offered by Laurensons has been limited to the implementation of Xero and initial training of users, however with the automation of reporting offered by Xero we now wish to further promote the use of Xero by churches. To support this, it is planned that in the second half of this year the service level offered by PCANZ and Laurensons will increase to include ongoing support and advice on accounting procedures and the use of the software. It is envisaged that greater support will enable data to be entered and managed correctly so that minimal adjustments are required when reports are run.

Obviously the responsibility to maintain the general ledger will remain with the church, and there are budget implications to be considered by churches and PCANZ, but increased support, coupled with the improved reporting technology will greatly assist churches to comply with reporting requirements.

3. Power usage survey update

Further to the January newsletter, there has been a very good response to the power saving survey with about 60 churches completing the survey which is very pleasing. I have been advised that due to holes in our church database, not all Presbyterian and cooperating churches are listed in the drop down list contained in the survey. I have advised Nice 1 of this and they have done a slight modification:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PresbyterianChurches>

If you are completing the survey and can't see your church listed, go to the bottom of the drop down list and click on "Other". This will create a box that you can enter the church name into. Simply do that and complete the rest of the form as instructed.

If you wish your church to be eligible for the power cost savings, the deadline for completion of the survey is 18 March.