



The Presbyterian Synod of Otago and Southland

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Charities Commission Number CC33597

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To all Synod of Otago and Southland Parishes and Presbyteries

Press Go - Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

As a result of decisions at the 2008 General Assembly the national church is seeking funding from parishes and presbyteries to fund promising growth initiatives. The new fund is called Press Go. You may have received or seen publicity material about this.

The Synod of Otago and Southland and all its member parishes and presbyteries are governed by the Otago Foundation Trust Board Act 1992 and the Synod Regulations. These documents limit to some extent how parishes and presbyteries may participate in something like Press Go. The limitations are that:

- Any money at all connected with property (land and buildings) may not be given or loaned to Press Go. This includes any funds held specifically for property from any source including sale of property money. No property may be donated to Press Go or used as security for any money given or loaned to Press Go.
- Any money allocated to you from Synod from any of the Synod funds is unable to be spent outside the Synod area so may not be given or loaned to Press Go.
- Any funds that have been given or raised for any specific purpose may not be used for anything other than the stated purpose, so unless they have been raised explicitly to be donated or loaned to Press Go they cannot be given or loaned to Press Go.

Interest from property funds may be used beyond the Synod bounds so may be donated or loaned to Press Go if a parish or presbytery so chose to do.

Our legal advice is that if any unencumbered money from parish or presbytery funds including interest, other than money explicitly raised to be donated or loaned to Press Go, is to be considered for donating or loaning to Press Go then a large majority of the Session, Deacons' Court or Board of Managers, Parish Council and Congregation should be in favour of this before any funds are sent to Press Go. This is similar to voting levels required when calling a minister.

This letter is not making any comments about the merits of Press Go. Rather we are informing you of the legal restrictions and limitations.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Fergus Sime
Executive Officer