

# Greenlane Presbyterian Church Profile And Ministry Expectations

For Ministry Settlement Board 2026

GPC



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# 1) Vision & Mission

## a) Vision

***To be a Bible-centred, prayerful, evangelistic and loving community that fosters spiritual growth in every generation. We will see more people coming to faith and being equipped to follow Jesus.***

The Vision statement above was refreshed in 2025 as a result of Greenlane Presbyterian Church engaging in the City to City programme, doubling as our five-year goal.

## b) Mission

***To help people find and follow Jesus.***

We believe it is our responsibility to be deliberate and intentional in working out the great commission by being a 'sent people', salt and light, to the world around us. Every member must play their part in proactively sharing the gospel of Christ with those with whom we come into contact.

We desire to see people growing in their knowledge of the Word of God and maturity in their walks with Christ (becoming more Christ-like) and well equipped to play their part in working out the great commission.

## c) Five/ Three/ One Year Goals

### i) Five to Ten Year Goal

In 5-10 years GPC will be a Bible-centred, prayerful, evangelistic and loving community that fosters spiritual growth in every generation. We will see more people coming to faith and being equipped to follow Jesus.

### ii) Three Year Goals

- (1) To develop and activate a succession plan for our ministry leadership (Minister, elders and other key leaders).
- (2) To have a leadership team running effective and engaging programs for children and youth resulting in their involvement and connection to the church.
- (3) To have an intentionally evangelistic culture where the congregation is equipped to share the gospel and we are generating new ways to connect with our community and draw them in.
- (4) To cultivate a culture of prayer across all ministries, encouraging regular corporate and personal prayer as foundational to our church life.

### ii) One Year Goal

In 1 year we will have taken the steps necessary to be developing leaders, fostering an evangelistic culture, enhancing our children and youth ministries, and increasing our focus on prayer.

## d) Values

Our church leadership has identified four core values that it holds to, alongside the Gospel.

- Biblical integrity
- Strength and courage in Christ together
- Compassion
- Missional focus

GPC has built up a reputation in the area for being a conservative, evangelical Bible teaching church. We are known for solid Biblical exposition and teaching ministry, based around the principle that the Bible is the word of God.

We also see ourselves as a family church where people of all ages and ethnicities gather together.

## e) Overarching Strategy

Our overarching strategy is guided by our Vision, Mission and Five & Three-year goals as set out above. Our leadership is actively working out the key initiatives and actions under each of the three-year goals, and these are reported and monitored through monthly Session meetings. We are seeking to actively engage our congregation in sharing the work required to achieve these goals.

### i) Reaching Out Strategy

GPC's primary strategy/programs for reaching out, in word and deed, with the gospel of grace into our community include:

- The primary way we reach out is through teaching God's word Sunday by Sunday, with regular calls to surrender to Christ at the conclusion of the service.
- Booklets on how to come to faith are regularly offered, together with the opportunity to speak with the minister or one of the elders.
- We run an Alpha course once a year or a Christianity Explored course.
- We hold a Light Party annually with the intentional aim of drawing in children and families from the community. We distribute handbills in the area to advertise this event.
- We distribute handbills in the area to advertise our Easter and Christmas programmes.
- We have an active EE3 visitation program. We have a small group who do street evangelism.
- The men's and women's breakfast ministries are used to invite non-Christians to attend.
- We have a large billboard on the roof of the church aimed at making us visible to the thousands of people going through the busy intersection on which we are situated. Billboards are always intentionally challenging or provocative.
- We have had some connection with Presbyterian Support Northern over the years/ This has resulted in some community engagement through the youth programme (e.g. – wrapping donated Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children, food donations).
- We have also had some connections with local schools at times, including with Launchpad (formerly Bible in Schools).

### ii) Drawing in Strategy

GPC's strategy/programs for seeing newcomers welcomed and included into the life and ministry of our church as members include:

- We seek to build community through events like the International lunch. The International lunch also affirms the cultural diversity of our congregation.
- When a new person drops in, we seek to be intentionally welcoming without placing too much pressure on them. If they return, we gather information from a visitors form and encourage them to check out the website to find out more about our church.
- We run Newcomers' Lunches as required, probably once or twice per year on average. These are done as a way to specifically welcome new people into our community, to give them some basic information about the church, and to begin building relationships with them.
- We encourage all congregation members to get involved in some form of service or ministry in the church on the basis that this is a way to feel needed and to build relationships. We sometimes express the motto that we don't want to be a friendly church, but rather, we want to be a church of friends.
- The Pastoral Care team plans the events for the year aimed at building community. These include the International Lunch, shared soup & buns lunch in the hall, Christmas morning tea, meals in people's homes.
- The after-service morning tea and fellowship time is also a key part of our strategy for building friendships within the congregation.

### iii) Spiritual Growth Strategy

GPC's strategy/programs for seeing members grow in maturity as disciples of Christ include:

- The style of ministry under Rev Ben Dykman has been designed to teach Sunday by Sunday as we preach through books of the Bible, section by section and verse by verse.
- Our home groups and Bible studies are designed to help those attending to grow in Christ and in spiritual maturity.
- The youth programme is designed to build Christian faith as well as to provide a fun and friendly environment.
- The Children's programme is also designed to build knowledge of the Bible and the basics of the Christian faith in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

## 2) The Community of Greenlane

### a) Locality

Greenlane Presbyterian Church is situated in a mixed location where there are a number of car dealerships and a large Woolworths. The area is near a main motorway and the church is situated at a very busy intersection (one of the busiest in NZ). There are hospitals, large schools and retirement villages in the area. We are on a busy bus route and close to the Greenlane train station. We are also close to a number of other larger churches that including Grace City Church, 3C Church and Auckland Bible Church.

## b) People

Greenlane is an area of slightly higher than average affluence that, like many parts of Auckland, is undergoing change towards higher density housing. The area is very mixed both socially and ethnically. GPC is situated literally and figuratively at a crossroads:

- Just across the road is the 'Grammar Zone', an area of Auckland that typically sees higher incomes and more expensive housing. Neighbouring suburbs include Epsom and Remuera which are typically more affluent.
- But there is also a large average- to below-average-affluence population just south of Greenlane, and we are not far from the Penrose & Oranga suburbs which have a higher proportion of social housing.

## 3) History of Greenlane Presbyterian

The church was started in 1911. Sometime later a wooden church structure was erected. In 1956 the wooden church structure was moved to become the hall and a more modern brick structure was erected. In 2007 the church was refitted and modernised to its current standard.

### a) Key Milestones

- The church was originally a Congregational Church.
- In the late 1960s an opportunity came up to transfer to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ). The congregation elected to make this transition.
- As a Presbyterian Church, we are closely linked to the Northern Presbytery and attend monthly regional meetings.
- This church is also part of AFFIRM, which is a denominational-wide group within the Presbyterian Church that works towards greater cooperation between evangelically minded churches.

### b) Legacy Issues

- There are no known legacy issues at present affecting the ministry.
- Around the end of the Keowns' time at GPC there was a significant debate in the wider church about Christian sexual ethics, and the views expressed by the Keowns resulted in some people leaving the church.
- Inevitably, a handful of people have also left GPC in recent years over the parish's Biblical stance on this issue.

## 4) The People of Greenlane Presbyterian

GPC is very mixed ethnically with up to 20 different nationalities. There is a fairly even balance between men and women. There is a broad age range, from children to young families, and significant numbers of middle aged and older members. We only have moderate numbers of children and teenagers. There are many people with tertiary qualifications, with a moderate proportion of professionals. There is a broad range of socio-economic statuses, but overall we would not see ourselves as a wealthy congregation.

Like many churches in Auckland, we tend to be a 'gathered' church, drawing attendees from all over Auckland. This means that we are in one sense not a 'local' congregation.

## 5) Worship Service Details

### a) 9.30am Service

The 9.30am service is the largest and main service at GPC. Historically GPC has sought to be a 'family friendly' church where people of all ages can gather together with something for everyone, and the content of the service aims to maintain that style. A typical order of service is:

- Welcome and call to worship
- First worship song (often a livelier praise song)
- Notices, greetings, celebrations
- Worship songs, normally three unless communion is to follow. Typically this bracket is more focused on confession, thanksgiving and worship
- Intercessory prayer
- Bible Reading (children normally leave for Kids Club at this point)
- Sermon
- Final Hymn or song, aligned with the sermon theme if possible
- Benediction

Worship songs tend to be a mix of contemporary songs and well-known hymns, with a focus on sound theology.

After the service the congregation gathers for morning tea in the lounge. Food is an important part of the GPC culture, and many who serve on the morning tea roster go to significant lengths to provide a substantial morning tea around which people can gather and talk. Many people stay for 30 to 60 minutes after the worship has finished. Children tend to gather in the adjoining hall for impromptu games.

### b) 12.30 pm Tongan Language Service

The Tongan congregation is officially part of the GPC congregation, running their own service in the sanctuary from 12.30pm. The two congregations combine for a service once or twice a year.

The Tongan Fellowship Sunday service starts at 12.30pm in a bilingual format, in English and in Tongan. The Sunday service is usually led with Praise and Worship before the sermon and before the children go to Sunday school. On the first Sunday, we have hymns and partake in the Holy Communion. There are three Home groups; i.e. the South, Central and West home groups and they meet at least once a month. We run Bible studies on Saturday evenings, and Youth Ministry on Friday evenings. Once a year, we have our Annual Children's Sunday service on the last Sunday of May, and this service is led by our Youth and Children, with the gospel message presented in drama.

We are led by the help of Rev Tani Haunga, and three ordained Elders; Iki, Saane and Pulia, and one Steward, Samoa. We also have lay preachers who share the Sunday preaching duty.

## 6) Church Life - Groups & Ministries

- **Missions committee** – oversees our support and funding to selected Missions organisations. GPC seeks to donate 10% to 15% of income annually towards missions organisations or specific people engaged in mission/ evangelism work.
- **Home Groups/ Bible Studies** - Four home groups/ Bible study groups meeting either in people's homes or at the church. One of these is led by Rev Ben Dykman. Recently we have started using RightNowMedia as study material which seems to be working well.

- **Worship team** – We have a reasonably solid pool of musicians who are rostered three-monthly to lead the worship in our Sunday 9.30am service (The Tongan service has its own musicians). Typical team includes leader, guitar, keys/organ, bass, drums and sometimes sax/ clarinet/ violin. There has also been a youth band on occasions in the last couple of years. We have recently shifted our approach with the youth by encouraging several of them to get involved in the regular worship roster rather than keeping them as a separate youth band.
- **Finance & administration team** – We have been blessed with good numbers of people with finance and property skills for the past 30 years.
- **Pastoral Care team** – Leads the organisation of events aimed at building relationships/ friendships across the wider congregation. Also oversees care and support to congregation members who may be in need of assistance, e.g. Meal Train. The congregation is also encouraged to be deliberately hospitable, and monthly ‘Hospitality Sundays’ are an opportunity to encourage this. The Pastoral Care team arranges a number of events throughout the year aimed at building community and ensuring all in our congregation feel valued and supported. These events include the International Lunch, Christmas morning tea, games evenings and shared meals in homes.
- **Kids Club** – Led by Trevor Yuan (paid role), the aim is to provide a vibrant Sunday morning programme that is engaging and fun, while grounded in Biblical truths. This ministry suffered significantly during the Covid pandemic period when several families ceased attending, and we have struggled somewhat to rebuild it since then.
- **Youth** – This is a Friday evening programme aimed at the ten- to fifteen-year-olds, currently also led by Trevor and Amber Yuan. We have sought for over 25 years to build up the youth ministry but have found that this is extremely difficult to do, as many teenagers prefer to go to larger groups when they hit the early- to mid-teens. We have also sought to employ youth leaders for many years, with modest success. The call was made earlier this year that rather than continuing to run our own programme, it would be better to encourage the youth as a group to attend Greenlane Christian Centre’s Friday evening programme. Trevor has been accompanying the youth who wish to attend this.

Youth are also catered to on Sunday mornings. Once per month the youth come out from the service and gather separately for discussion and Bible study about the previous week’s sermon. Trevor Yuan leads this discussion (with other helpers taking Kids Club on those days)

- **Men’s breakfast** – Monthly, held in the church lounge. The programme consists of a shared breakfast followed by a speaker (sometimes Rev Ben Dykman and sometimes an external guest). A dedicated team of men prepare the cooked breakfast each month.
- **Women’s breakfast** – Quarterly breakfast & a separate monthly morning tea meeting. There is also a women’s Bible reading group which connects and encourages each other via a WhatsApp group.
- **Monthly ministers lunch** – Rev Ben Dykman has organized this for ministers in the area who are theologically aligned with GPC.
- **Hospital ministry** – a team of volunteers support the running of a Sunday service in Auckland Hospital
- **Communion service in local Retirement Village** – Ben leads a service in the local retirement village for people who are unable to attend church.

A number of other ministries have occurred in recent years. These are typically not ongoing, but more one-off in nature:

- **International lunch** – An annual event after church. The ethnic diversity in our church makes this a real highlight of the year, as culinary delights from across the globe are proudly offered by congregation members.
- **Alpha Course** – Rev Ben Dykman leads this normally once per year.
- **Alpha Marriage Course** - Rev Ben Dykman also leads this, up to once per year.
- **Christianity Explored** – Rev Ben Dykman led this in 2024 as an alternative to Alpha
- **Light Party** – An intentionally community focused event providing an alternative to Halloween.
- **Holiday Programme** – Several years ago the Kids Club team organised a school holiday programme in the July holidays. While successful in its delivery, it required an enormous amount of preparation and effort, and in recent years we have not had the resources to be able to continue this.
- **Christmas morning tea** – An opportunity to gather as a church in the lead up to Christmas

## 7) External Organisations using Greenlane

GPC has a number of external hall hire/ other users of our buildings

1. Martial arts class (3 afternoons/evenings a week)
2. Tae Kwando (1 hour on a Saturday afternoon)
3. Ballroom dancing (1 evening a week)
4. Milal Korean Missionary Choir (1 evening a fortnight)
5. South American Pentecostal church (Sunday evenings)
6. Singing classes - Julia (3-4 days a week)
7. Occasional users –
  - EE for training and board meetings
  - Gideons for board meetings

There are also people who hire parking during weekdays -

1. Project Cargo (2 cars)
2. Armstrongs (2 cars)
3. Dental clinic (3 cars)
4. Presbyterian Support (1 car)
5. Spectrum (3 cars)

Invoicing and administration of all these users is done by Sue Dykman in her Office Coordinator role.

## 8) Property

### a) Overall Site

The church sits on the corner of Great South Rd and Greenlane Rd, one of the busiest intersections in Auckland. Vehicle access is available from both the Greenlane Rd and Great South Rd sides, with a drive-through route available from Great South Rd.



## b) Church & Hall

The main church auditorium was built in 1956. The sanctuary seats up to 200 (at a squeeze) and was fully refurbished in 2005. At the eastern end of the sanctuary is a small prayer lounge, a music gear storage room and the minister's office. Above these spaces is a mezzanine level with one room which is available for Youth. The main sanctuary was re-orientated and the floor made level in the 2005 refurbishment. The sanctuary contains an ageing pipe organ which is (just) still in operation but its future is uncertain – the consol is at the left of the stage with the pipes at the back of the church. The stage area contains recently installed sound desk connections with a digital sound desk (installed in 2024) at the back of the sanctuary.



We have a lounge which is used for after-service morning tea and fellowship and other mid-size gatherings (with a well-appointed kitchen off it)...



A larger hall (the original church building on the site) is primarily used for Youth/Children's programmes and large celebrations. The hall was fully earthquake-strengthened and redecorated internally several years ago and is in sound condition despite its age.



There is a small administrative office off a modern foyer with six doors opening to the car park. There are three classrooms for Kids Club and Bible study groups, plus a fourth room available as a storage room. We rent out the big hall to community groups to provide some additional financial benefit and to ensure some utilization of the resource throughout the week.

Car parking on-site is limited to approximately 15 spaces. Some of these are earmarked as priority access for older/ less mobile congregation members' use on Sunday mornings. Presbyterian Support leases offices in the Public Trust building across Greenlane Rd, and we have negotiated to have full access to all their parking spaces on Sunday mornings. We have also negotiated free access on Sunday mornings to spaces at Flooring Direct (next door on Great South Rd) and Firestone (two doors down Great South Rd). Beyond those options, the nearest parking is on side streets off Great South Rd.

### c) Manse

The manse is approximately five minutes' walk away in Atarangi Rd. It is a two-story brick and tile construction. Downstairs contains a garage, entry foyer and rumpus areas which have been altered to accommodate separate livable spaces. Upstairs there are three bedrooms, a large lounge, dining and kitchen, plus one bathroom. There is ample off-street parking for multiple vehicles.



## 9) Staffing

### a) Recent History of Ministry Staffing

- The Rev Len Curry was minister for a long period up until the mid 1990s. The end of this period was somewhat challenging and saw attendance drop away. After a period without a minister, in the late 1990s the Rev Emma Keown (full time) and Rev Mark Keown (half time) were employed as a ministry team. Emma and Mark were both fresh from Theological College and had a young family. Their joint ministry was successful in growing the congregation again into the early 2000s, at which time Mark resigned to take up another ministry opportunity. Emma Keown resigned in 2004.
- The church was without a minister between 2004-2005. An interim minister was appointed by the Presbytery, until Rev Ben Dykman was appointed. Rev Dykman has pastored the church since then.

- The church has sought to employ additional ministry staff in the areas of Children's work and Youth work since the mid 1990s. There have been periods of success in this regard, and also some periods where it has not been possible to secure suitable staff in these roles. Currently we employ a Children's worker to lead the Sunday Kids Club programme with a small time allocation each week to also lead the youth.
- Sue Dykman has worked in the part time role of office manager since 2008.
- We recently employed Liz Kumaran for a fixed amount each month to maintain the church's Facebook page and website.

## 10) Governance Structure

The church governance is through the Eldership team (Session). Session invites others into the team as need arises, but any new Session members must also be approved by the congregation through a vote. The Session is currently slightly smaller than desired following the passing of one of our members in early 2025 and we are currently considering new names to invite onto the team, however the timing is not ideal given the impending change in minister. Current make-up is:

- *Alastair Peak (Session clerk for 8 years, Elder for 20 years)*
- *Rev Ben Dykman (20 years) – Minister and Chair of Session*
- *Ewen Hutchinson (Approx 30+ years, seeking to retire at the end of 2026)*
- *Johnny Lee (Approx 10 years)*
- *Narend Nair (Approx 7 years)*
- *Tim Roberts (Approx 13 years)*
- *Cherise Stevens (Approx 4 years)*
- *Tala Page-To'oala (Approx 5 years)*
- *Matthew Ransom (2 years)*

Other ministry teams report through to Session on a monthly basis, including Finance & Administration, Pastoral Care, Missions, Children & Youth. There are representatives from Session on each of these ministry teams.

## 11) Finances

GPC is in a sound financial position. We have typically run modest surpluses every year for the past twenty years. Giving declined slightly in the previous two years, but for the current year we are on track to meet budget giving targets (which were based on NIL growth from prior year actual giving). The FY25 giving was \$245,000 and total income was \$278,000. Assets total \$8.2m including \$7.8m of property, plant and equipment which includes the church and manse properties valued at current rateable value. Both the church and manse are owned freehold, with title being in the name of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.

The eldership has historically been reluctant to pressure the congregation to give more and it is rare throughout the financial year to talk openly with the congregation about our finances. On rare occasions when giving has tracked below budget, updates have been provided to the congregation. In general we have seen that God has provided for our needs as the leadership has remained faithful to its calling to serve God.

The surpluses achieved in the past two decades have enabled us to build up reserves of \$300,000 which are available for longer-term initiatives. The main items these funds have been tentatively allocated towards include Missions, earthquake strengthening, a Welfare/Emergency Fund, Future Ministry staff (including potential for an overlap of ministry staff as Rev Ben Dykman's time with us draws to a close or an increase in overall ministry staff) and additional Children's & Youth staff.

## 12) Web Site, IT & Technology

GPC has a website which was refreshed/ redesigned two years ago.

[\*\*Greenlane Presbyterian Church – A Bible-centered family church in Auckland, New Zealand\*\*](#)

Video recordings of weekly sermons are uploaded to YouTube with a link provided from the website. We have 250 subscribers to our YouTube channel.

A weekly email goes out to all who subscribe, which also contains a minister's blog and a link to the previous week's sermon.

We have a Facebook page which is updated regularly by one of our congregation members who is employed for a few hours each month for this purpose. [\*\*Greenlane Presbyterian Church | Facebook\*\*](#)

The church has a Wifi system installed. This was recently upgraded so that it can be accessed all around the site.

The main auditorium and lounge are equipped with data projectors (both front and back for the main auditorium).

The main auditorium sound desk was upgraded three years ago to a digital system with in-ear capability for musicians (replacing physical foldback speakers).

## 13) Attendance & Membership Statistics

From the PCANZ statistics form (based on June 2025 recorded data, the average church attendance (excluding the Tongan service) is around 80-120 adults (varying by month), 12-15 children, 8-10 teens. The church has seen periods of modest growth in the last 20 years, but we have also seen significant departures, often because people move out of Auckland to other parts of the country. Therefore, we see quite a big turnover from year to year.

Details of the PCANZ statistics form can be found in our Financial Report (Appendix B).

## 14) Ministry Expectations

The successful candidate would:

- Have a clear testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and God.
- Be firmly committed to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.
- Possess a mature Christian faith based on strong Biblical knowledge and experience.
- Have a solid prayer life and discipline in personal devotions and Biblical study.

## Theology

- Should be committed to historic Christian doctrine and Reformed theology, understanding Scripture to be the living and active Word of God.
- Applicants must be theologically aligned with the PCANZ statement of faith and creeds, and with the theological stance of the Presbyterian Affirm movement.

## Preaching

- A minister must labour to preach faithfully from the Scripture and to preach in such a way that the Spirit of God can apply the Word of Christ to the heart of the congregation. (Titus 1:9)
- Preaching should be exegetical, expository, gospel-focused, engaging and understandable.
- Minister must have a real sense of the holiness of God and treat the pulpit as holy ground.

## Pastoral Care

The successful candidate will:

- Have a passion for evangelism and community outreach, and desire that all people should come to faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Be warm and approachable but maintain respectful boundaries.
- Show wisdom in dealing with the spiritual and pastoral needs of congregants.
- Be able to cross cultural and socioeconomic divides and form positive bonds of friendship and trust with a wide range of people both in the church and the community.
- Have empathy held in balance with steadfastly upholding Biblical ethical standards.
- Have a heart for pastoral care, discipleship, and prayer.
- Offer counsel or practical help when needed, and delegate to the appropriate ministry or elder if necessary.
- Be forward-focused and think deeply about church development and growth, and have a vision of how GPC could better serve its congregation and community.

## Character

- A minister must believe that their primary job is to be a servant of Christ and to carry out the will of Christ. They will be content with their calling and clothed with humility. (1 Peter 5: 1-4 5)
- Must be a person of integrity and worthy of the respect of those both inside and outside the church as laid out in 1 Timothy 3:2-7.
- Must have a firm commitment to personal holiness. (Ephesians 5:3-4)
- Must have courage to stand on the truths of Scripture.
- Should have the ability to work collaboratively as a team member in the GPC leadership with church elders, leaders, ministry teams, and parishioners.

- Needs good organisational skills displayed in planning of preaching ministry, and leading, equipping, and encouraging ministry team (office staff, youth and children's leaders, home group leaders, women's and men's ministry leaders, music/worship team, and other volunteers).

#### Presbyterial responsibility

- Attending presbytery meetings.
- Collaborating with presbytery colleagues on various projects regionally and locally.

## 15) Expressions of Interest

For expressions of interest, please send the following to **[msb@gpc.org.nz](mailto:msb@gpc.org.nz)** by 24 July 2026.

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Links to recent sermons (if available)