

## Overture from the South Island Presbytery OMB as a national board

The South Island Presbytery respectfully overtures Synod 2014 as follows:

**That the OMB becomes a national board rather than a regional one.**

### **Grounds:**

1. This will provide a larger base of expertise from which to draw. The scope of the work of the OMB is increasing and being able to include people with greater or different experience would be beneficial.
2. Being a national board will prevent the work being unsettled and disturbed through it being transferred from one presbytery to another.
3. It would also provide a greater continuity for those missionaries we support as they will not need to make new 'connections' with a new board.
4. It would allow for institutional knowledge to be retained rather than a new board needing to begin all over again.
5. Should permanent staff be appointed it will provide opportunity for longer term commitment.
6. It is the way that many of our sister churches oversee and administer mission work
7. Given that the OMB is suggesting that the board relocate to the South Island Presbytery, seizing this moment to reshape it as a national board will not provide any additional disruption to our mission workers. In fact, because some of the present board may be willing to continue on a national board, continuity may be enhanced and overall disruption minimized.
8. In this day and age, especially with the ease of transportation between the major cities and technologies such as SKYPE, there should be no large increase in transportation costs. In addition, there are currently presbytery delegates/liaisons who attend board meetings and a national board may make it possible for those who serve on the board to serve also as liaisons to each of the Presbyteries (As is the case with RTC deputies now) and obviate the need for a non-board member to also travel.
9. One of the benefits of a regional board has been the ease of meeting to respond to a 'crisis.' At the moment, for example, the board is based mostly in Masterton and they have been quickly able to meet with the Hastings session in connection with the PNG work. A move to the South Island Presbytery, however, as has been proposed, will already make similar meetings harder to arrange. A national board (with a dedicated 'crisis' team perhaps?) could have personnel ready in each presbytery who are 'connected' with our sending churches and ready to act when needed, and/or an 'executive' that meets to handle crisis situations.

This is a change from the current rules (see Section 2.2 of the revised MPH, and the OBH Rules for Overseas Mission, Section C, Rules 3-16) which state that the committee must be formed from one presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Swanepoel  
Stated Clerk  
South Island Presbytery