Our Church’s Mission in Aotearoa New Zealand is to reflect and proclaim the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the world. The Treaty of Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing relationship, and will guide how we undertake mission.

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May 2016

Web Site Address: www.methodist.org.nz
Greetings from the Presidential Team...

“Living faith and life cross–culturally” was one of the main topics and focus for those attending the Trans-Tasman Presidents’ and Moderators’ meeting in Melbourne from the 2nd - 6th May, at which a significant amount of time was spent in sharing and discussion.

The delegates to this gathering were five Moderators from the Uniting Church in Australia’s Synods, the President of UCA, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and President Tovia Aumua representing the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa. Two other Moderators from two other UCA Synods weren’t present due to work commitments.

The main purpose of this cross–cultural session was to listen and learn from each delegate, by sharing and reflecting on the learning experiences of the last 30 years. The stories identified the challenges as well as issues which have been faced along the way; it was an opportunity to reflect, and search for opportunities to decrease, overcome or most importantly, resolve them.

From the background history of the Uniting Church in Australia, it was during the 1985 General Assembly that they recognised and declared that: “The UCA to become a Multicultural Church.” Coincidentally, this was two years after the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, at its Annual Conference, declared its commitment to become a Bi-Cultural Church.

From the Uniting Church’s perspective it has been clarified that multicultural ministry is not only for migrant members. “It is not a marginalised ministry. It is not an extension of overseas mission. It is an integral part of life of the whole church, involving every aspect of it and including every member – Aboriginal, Anglo-Celtic, migrant-ethnic and all other members.”

For the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, it was obvious that huge interest has been shown by the delegates, and willingness to learn more from our church; this followed a presentation which was tabled, beginning with a brief overview of our organisational structure, based on our Bi-Cultural Commitment that reflects equal partnership of power sharing between Tangata Whenua(Maori) and Taiuwi (non Maori). It has also been clarified that the Methodist Commitment was the response to what God requires from all, as the scripture says: To do Justice, To Love Kindness, and To Walk Humbly with God.

In further clarification, the Methodist structure also reflects equally the significance of the places for individuals and groups such as English Speaking Parishes and Synods, Sinoti Samoa, Vahefonua Tonga and Wasewase Ko viti Kei Rotuma who are pastorally, spiritually, theologically and cross-culturally contributing to the life, mission and ministry of Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa New Zealand.

In the closing, an acknowledgement was made of the issues and challenges the Uniting Church in Australia and the Presbyterian Church in Aotearoa have been facing, but which the Methodist Church of New Zealand had now mainly managed to find solutions to resolve. But we acknowledged that we too, encounter cross-cultural challenges from time to time, and work through them as best we can, to continuously improve the life and mission of the church.

The question was: How can we live out our faith and life cross-culturally? The suggestion we will build on could only be that to succeed we must have mutual respect for each other, accept and value every member for who they are, regardless of colour, culture, language, ethnicity, theology, sexuality - and the list goes on.

Hence, a forum was to be established in order for the conversation to continue between the leaders of the UCA and leaders of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand as well as our Methodist Church, Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

Tovia and Arapera
A Message from the General Secretary

From David’s Desk...


It seems timely. Last month I wrote my e-messenger contribution from Seoul as President Tovia and I visited the Methodist Church in Korea.

We had several conversations focussed on divided Korea. There is an awareness of the threat of North Korea now experimenting with Nuclear weapons. Professor J.C. Park the nominee for President of the World Methodist Council spoke of his hope that Methodist people from all around the world might make their opposition to nuclear weapons known. A world-wide peoples movement. We shared the stories of how New Zealand came to be nuclear free. How a local community movement grew into a Nation-wide declaration.

Breaking down barriers and building bridges may seem beyond us as individuals, and it is not until we are linked together in a common cause that a movement begins with a few and grows to incorporate the many. The Asia Sunday resources for 2016 are a timely introduction to on-going prayer and action. You are invited to use the resources in your congregations.

The rebuild of the Connexional Office is progressing well. The roof was put in place last week and if all goes to plan the building will be closed in and water tight by end of June.

Finding a name for the rebuilt Connexional Office has been on recent Board of Administration agendas. After considerable discussion, the name ‘Weteriana House’ was agreed. It picks up the bi-cultural partnership of our Church and the sense of ‘house’ being “home” of the family.

The Superannuation Fund of the Church is required, along with all such funds, to comply with new Financial Market Authority regulations on or before December 1st 2016.

Very good progress is being made, the required documentation has been approved by the Trustee of the fund and will be signed in July. An update is about to be sent to all Superannuation Fund members and supernumeraries advising the charges.

Recent cyclone damage in Fiji has devastated much of the country. What is the best way to respond?

The tendency has been to collect all sorts of “stuff” and arrange for it to be shipped to the location which has been affected. There are many stories of the wrong sorts of goods and all too often there is a significant cost in landing any goods sent.

Rotory has been working with countries in the Pacific to have emergency boxes stored in the Pacific which can be distributed as soon as disaster strikes. Last year using money from a trust fund bequest the Methodist Church contributed $4,800 to help provide 1000 emergency boxes for the Pacific. Each box costs $600. See www.rotary.org.nz/information.cfm?ID=1779.

Planning ahead can make a real difference as aid is more readily available. Is this something your Parish could contribute to?

David
It is with deep regret that we advise the Methodist Connexion of the sudden death of Vice President Bella's son, Shaun Stevenson, on April 1st. Shaun was the Principal at Waimahia Intermediate School in Manurewa. The Whanau and School communities he was involved with greatly mourn his loss.

A Funeral Service to celebrate Shauns life was held at Makarau Marae in Mangere and he was laid to rest at St. James Cemetery, Mangere Bridge.

Communications to Vice President Bella Ngaha a.ngaha@auckland.ac.nz

It is with sadness that we advise the Connexion of the death of Ludwig Felderhof on April 10th in Tauranga. Ludwig serviced in Glen Eden, Wellsford, Ranui, Woodville and Richmong. While Ludwig resigned from the Methodist Church in 2000 we honour him for his ministry.


It is with sadness that we advise the death of Sister Leslie Bowen on 1st February 2016.

Leslie was born and brought up in Blenheim. She was ordained as a Deaconess in 1971 in Wellington. Before entering Trinity College, Sister Leslie had served in the Overseas Mission from 1957. From 1957 - 60 she was on the staff at Helena Goldie Hospital. While on furlough in 1960 she took Plunket Training and returned to Skotolan and Kekesu. In 1967-68 she was the Methodist Women’s Fellowship organiser in the Solomon Islands Mission District and served in the Veila Larvella Circuit. She served in Buin Circuit (Tonu) from 1971 - 1986 and was one of the last Missionary Sisters from New Zealand.

Leslie resigned from the Methodist Church in 1999, we honour her faithful service.

It is with sadness that we advise the death of Mary Russell, nee Addison, at age 91. Mary was known as Sister Mary to many people whom she served in the Solomon Islands and in Bougainville from 1956 through to 1967. For the last seven years Mary had lived in Longview Home in Tawa, and a biography was recently prepared by Tawa Union Church minister Claire Lind for the parish magazine [attached]. It is also available online at http://tawaunionchurch.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Link-December-2014.pdf

The funeral service took place at Tawa Union Church, Elena Place, Tawa at 2:00pm on Thursday 21st April. Messages can be sent to Mrs Dreen Bradley, 6 Kahutea Terrace, Titahi Bay, Porirua 5022. We express condolences to Mary's family and friends.

It is with sadness that we advise the death of Roger Springett, husband of Rev Margaret Springett. The notice in the Taranaki Daily News records:

SPRINGETT, Roger Jocelyn:
At home on Monday, 25 April 2016, surrounded by his family, aged 81 years. Loved and loving husband of Margaret. Loved and loving father and father-in-law of Rosemary Springett and Bill Macdonald (Lower Hutt), Andrew Springett and Michael Tolley (Wellington), Rebecca and Brent Balemi (Nelson), and Rachel
Springett and Wayde Newbold (Patea). Loved and loving grandpa of Catherine, Matthew; Celia, William; Sophia, Manon, Tane, and Wiremu. Loved brother of Bob Springett (deceased) and Rosamund Fromings. Loved uncle of Daniel, Emma, Mary-Jane, and the late Anna. Garden flowers only, by request. Roger’s life will be commemorated and celebrated at the Wesley Methodist Church Regent Street Hawera, on Friday, 29 April 2016, commencing at 10.30am, after which a private cremation will be held. We express our love and sympathy to Margarett and family.

Messages may be sent to mspringett@farmside.co.nz.

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It is with sadness that I advise the Connexion of the death on Saturday 30th April at Northhaven Hospital, Whangaparoa of Rev Edna Garner after a long struggle with melanoma.

Edna pioneered Ministry to the deaf which had a profound and positive influence.

Her funeral was held at Mt Albert Methodist Church on Saturday 14th May.

Messages can be sent to Elaine.Baldwin@hcc.govt.nz

We extend our sympathy to Edna’s family and friends.

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I received news of the death of Rev Don Borrie, who passed away on 21 April.

Don was born in Dunedin and he attended Waimataitai Primary School, Wanganui Intermediate and Wanganui Boys’ College.

He was active in church youth work and was a foundation member of the locals Boys’ Brigade company and the local Bible class district committee.

He attended Otago University and completed a Master Arts (MA). Upon completion, Don married Lyndel in January 1964. Don then attended the Theological Hall between 1964 and 1966. He continued his studies with a 4 month period at the World Council of Churches Graduate School in Bossey, Switzerland, which was completed in February 1967.

From there he spent two months at a World Council of Churches European work camp, followed by three months at the Church of England Sheffield Industrial Mission.

More study was to follow, with a year at the Andover Newton Theological School studying pastoral counselling, Christian sociology and church mission.

Upon return to New Zealand, he was ordained and became the general secretary of the New Zealand Student Christian Movement, based in Wellington.

From there he moved to a Methodist appointment at Porirua East from February 1975 to June 1986. Don also served at St Martins, Porirua East, and was granted the status of minister emeritus in March 2005.

Don had a life-long passion for justice. This is most clearly demonstrated when he and others established the NZ DPRK Society in 1972. Over the next 44 years he advocated a peaceful non-military solution to the division of Korea as well as a better understanding within New Zealand of the injustice international geopolitics have inflicted upon the North Korean people. He worked at promoting better relations between New Zealand and North Korea, both at government level and with people to people exchanges.

We give thanks for Dons life and pray for Lyndel and their wider family. His funeral will be held next week on Wednesday, 27 April at 11am at Christ the King Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church in Porirua.

We express our sympathy and care to this family as they grieve and lovingly remember.
Mount Albert Methodist Church, Auckland

150th Anniversary Celebrations on 12 & 13 November 2016

This is an Invitation to all members of the Methodist Church and interested parties. Mt Albert Methodist is holding their 150th Anniversary Celebrations over the weekend of Saturday 12 and Sunday 13th November 2016. For further information and expression of interest, please contact through mtalbertmethodist150@gmail.com or phone the Church Office 09 846 7264. Please leave a message if the phone is not answered and we will contact you.

Professional Development Grants Committee (previously Travel and Study)

This is to remind everyone who is considering attending any of the upcoming international conferences or upskilling themselves with study— the next date for receiving applications is 15th May 2016.

Please take note that if your study is postgraduate you must discuss your suggested study programme with the Principal of Trinity College prior to applying.

Criteria and the application form are available on the Methodist website or from the committee secretary Mary West maryw@west.net.nz.

James and Martha Trounson Benevolent Trust Fund

Presbyters, Deacons and Lay leaders (where there is no ordained Presbyter)

If you are unsure how this fund is available to offer support, you can refer to the MCNZ website (organisations) or contact the convener maryw@west.net.nz.

This fund is available 365 days each year
We’re half way through our decade of ‘Let the Children Live’ – so how are you getting along so far?

Mission Resourcing has been dispensing $500 grants for the past two years to help fund projects. We thought we would share a few of those ideas with you all:

1. Establish a ‘Messy Church’.
2. Provide breakfast for school children.
3. Fund/sponsor parenting classes.
4. Run a school holiday programme.
5. Provide toys, books or games for church Kindies and creches.
7. Sponsor ‘mentors’ for teenagers in trouble.
8. Provide gift baskets for new born babies.
9. Support families through life threatening illnesses.
10. Encourage mum, dad, grandparents to roll about on the carpet with their toddlers (cost free this one).
11. Take the children of the parish to the zoo.

We could go on...there are some very creative things being done out there among the parishes. So why not share your idea with us? We want to build up a list of 101 Ideas for ‘Let the Children Live’ – will you help?

Send in your idea of what you have done or are planning to do to Mission Resourcing at nehulf@missionresourcing.org.nz and we will complete the list – just 90 ideas to go!

We will then turn that list into a poster to send to your church.

101 ideas for ‘Let the Children Live’
Chaplaincy Forum 2016

The 2016 Chaplaincy Forum will be held on Wednesday 8 June at 409 Great South Road, Penrose, between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Anyone conducting any type of chaplaincy role, whether ordained or lay, whether paid or voluntary, is welcome to join us. We can pay for a limited number of flights, so please apply at Mission Resourcing as soon as you can.

Media & Communication Endowment Fund Applications 2016

This is a reminder that the CLOSING DATE for applications to the Media & Communication Endowment Fund is 30 JUNE 2016.

Therefore, as long as your application is either emailed or post marked on that day, your application will be accepted for consideration.

A reminder also that part of the criteria is getting the application tabled and approved at parish council or leaders meetings, plus having approval from the Synod Superintendent.

PLEASE NOTE: Media & Communication Endowment Fund is a subsidiary of PAC. Use this fund if your application is for media or communication equipment, e.g. sound systems, data projectors, publishing costs for media etc. An Application Form and information leaflet are available on the Methodist website http://www.methodist.org.nz/organisations/media___communication_endowment_fund.

(For all other applications please refer to PAC Distribution Group applications http://www.methodist.org.nz/organisations/pac_distribution_group.)

Please read the instructions carefully and ensure you have filled out the correct forms and obtained all required signatures before sending in your application.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Trish Moseley-Taylor
Methodist Communications Fund
P O Box 125 194
St Heliers 1740 Auckland
patriciamoseley44@gmail.com

PAC Distribution Group Applications 2016

This is a reminder that the CLOSING DATE for applications to the PAC Distribution Group is 30 JUNE 2016.

Therefore, as long as your application is either emailed or post-marked on the due date, your application will be accepted for consideration by the group.

Please click on this link for the PAC Distribution Group funding request application instructions and information for 2016 http://www.methodist.org.nz/organisations/pac_distribution_group.

PLEASE NOTE: late applications will not be considered.

(If your application is for media or communications equipment, e.g. sound systems, data projectors, publishing costs for media etc, please use the information and application form for ‘Media & Communications Endowment Fund’. This is available on the Methodist website http://www.methodist.org.nz/organisations/media___communication_endowment_fund.)
To: The Connexion  
From: The General Secretary  
Date: 7 April 2016  
Re: LECTIONARY 2016-2017

The Lectionary for 2016-2017 will be distributed in July. To ensure we print sufficient copies please complete and return the order form below no later* than Monday 20 June 2016 (or email the relevant details required).

*Lectionaries will only be produced for those parishes which respond

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ORDER FORM – LECTIONARY 2016-2017

Superintendent/Minister: ________________________________

Parish Name: ________________________________

Parish Number: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Number of Lectionaries required for:

- Presbyters: ____________
- Supernumeraries: ____________
- Deacons: ____________
- Lay Preachers: ____________
- Others: ____________

Total Number: ____________

Send order form to:

Lectionary Orders  
Methodist Church of New Zealand  
PO Box 931, Christchurch 8140  
or email: wendyk@methodist.org.nz

[T] 03 366 6049  
[F] 03 358 7146

Please return by Monday 20 June

*All Lectionaries ordered after this date come at a charge of $2 per booklet
Kia ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Greetings everyone

A Climate Workshop for Churches is to be held 20th August in Auckland.

This Methodist event is to be hosted by Sinoti Samoa and Public Issues. It is for Ministers and church people. People from all churches are welcome.

The workshop will include theology for climate responsibility, and steps that churches can take in parishes as well as at Synod and Connexional levels.

Science and policy will complement theological interests and a feature focus on youth for climate will give the opportunity to involve young people.

TPP – Public Issues oral submission to the Foreign Affairs & Trade Select Committee: Regulation and Climate submission notes http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/pi_submissions

Regulation
• Thrust of the TPP is to remove non-tariff barriers to trade. This in effect means removing regulatory impediments to trade.

Climate
• Meeting Paris agreement targets requires phasing out fossil fuels globally and leaving 80% of fossil fuels in the ground.
• Investment needs to be shifted from high carbon assets to infrastructure and regulation for transitions to zero carbon – this requires renewable energy power generation, storage and distribution and new transport systems.

New Facebook Page for Public Issues
Philip Garside at Wellesley Taranaki St Wellington got us on Facebook, ‘Like’ us! https://www.facebook.com/PublicIssuesNetworkAotearoaNZ/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Refugees in Our Communities
A Public Issues resource for host communities . See ‘Refugees in Our Communities’
Job Vacancies

Hutt City Uniting Congregations

The Hutt City Uniting Congregations in Lower Hutt is seeking a Senior Minister to lead a Ministry Team of three.

If you feel called to join this team in a multi cultural setting please contact Rosemary at HCUC Parish Office, PO Box 30529, Lower Hutt 5040, for a pack describing all you will wish to know about the Parish.

Applications close on June 30th 2016.
If you have any questions, you can contact Rosemary Strahl on;

Mobile: 027 637 70 87
Email: rastrahl@hotmail.com

Waiuku Districts Combined Churches

(Methodist/Presbyterian)
Parish Assistant
Fulltime position in Waiuku
Urban/rural parish
Emphasis on youth and young families
For job description contact Parish administrator waiukchurches@xtra.co.nz or telephone (09) 235 2238
Send letter of application, together with CV and names and contact details for three referees, to P.O. Box 140, or by email to waiukchurches@xtra.co.nz
Subject Parish Assistant, by 27 May 2016

Te Taha Maori

Office Administrator

Te Taha Maori are seeking an experienced administrator to provide appropriate support and ensure the efficient operation of their office. The role requires a person with a sound administration background, strong computer literacy and an engaging manner who can communicate readily with people from all strata of society. They must be able to work independently and to maintain high levels of confidentiality as may be required.

The office is located in Penrose, Auckland and the Office Administrator must have a full and current Drivers Licence, good health and be of sound character. An understanding of Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, Tiriti o Waitangi and te reo Maori is an advantage.

For further information and/or Job Description please contact Arapera Ngaha a.ngaha@auckland.ac.nz

Closing Date for Applications is May 20th 2016

Applications complete with CV and References may be sent to:

Te Taha Maori Office, P.O.Box 11903, Ellerslie Auckland 1542
Attn: Vacancy

OR
dinamc@clear.net.nz
with 'Vacancy' in the Subject Line
Operation Refugee
Would you like to do something for Syrian refugees? Could you live on the same rations a refugee from Syria would receive? Operation Refugee is a great opportunity to raise funds to assist people who have fled a war zone and experienced unimaginable suffering. From 16-20 June, Christian World Service is inviting 100 concerned people to join Operation Refugee and help Syrians struggling to survive in Jordan and Lebanon. On registering, participants will be sent a box of rations and lots of tips for eating and fundraising. Money raised will go to the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees for food, education and medical care. You can register for the challenge, support someone doing it or simply make a donation. Please tell others about it – 4.8 million Syrians have already fled the country.

Refugee Sunday
CWS reminds parishes to set aside 19 June for Refugee Sunday. In the Anglican lectionary it is 3 July. For those who have been involved in settling new refugees into their communities, it is an opportunity to share their stories. Worship resources will be available by the beginning of June and CWS will be asking churches to have a special collection or hold an event to support the Syria Appeal.

Autumn Appeal
CWS is posting out the latest Autumn Story, Sharing the Secret of Success. It features some of the work done by Ama Takiloa in Tonga. If you need copies, please contact Emma.
Ecuador Appeal
In response to the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Ecuador on 16 April, CWS launched an appeal for ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) members distributing food, water, shelter, non-food items and psycho-social help. Please pray for those who lost loved ones and more than 20,000 people in evacuation centres. If you would like to help, please donate here.

Japan Appeal
Church World Service Japan is working with the Kumamoto YMCA to provide relief and comfort to people made homeless by the magnitude 7.3 earthquake in Japan. They are providing meals and shelter in the YMCA evacuation centre. CWS is receiving donations for those who want to help.

Nepal Report
Thank you for the significant support to last year’s Nepal Appeal. You can read Report from Nepal or watch some excellent YouTube videos to find out what was achieved and the next steps.

World Humanitarian Summit
ACT Alliance members will participate in the first UN Humanitarian Summit to be held in Turkey 23-24 May. Their first priority: to prevent and end conflict.
May Amendments

To the 2016 Yearbook

Names & Addresses (Pg 22)

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If you have any amendments or updates to the yearbook please feel free to email Wendy at wendyk@methodist.org.nz with the updates and they can be published here for the information of the Connexion.