

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PREAMBLE

At Conference in 2003 a statement was received from Council of Conference in which it was suggested that a memorandum of understanding in relation to the issue of the ordination of gay and lesbian people be prepared. Conference resolved to receive the statement and asked the President and Vice-President in consultation with the Tumuaki and the Executive Officer of Tauwi Strategy and Stationing to initiate processes to enact the direction of the statement (see F-10, Resolutions of Conference 2003). They have now negotiated with representatives of those who do not support the ordination of gay and lesbian people, Tauwi, and Te Taha Maori who do support and endorse the ordination of gay and lesbian people.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to put in place protocols that respect the integrity of those who oppose the ordination of gay and lesbian people and at the same time to enable the church to move forward on this issue. In doing so it acknowledges that there are members within Tauwi who do not agree with the ordination of gay and lesbian people.

The following has been agreed by representatives of the Evangelical Network, Sinoti Samoa, Vahefonua Tonga 'O Aotearoa and Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma E Niu Siladi, who represent those within Tauwi who do not support or endorse the ordination of gay and lesbian people, and Te Taha Maori, and is confirmed by the President on behalf of Conference.

THE UNDERSTANDING

This memorandum has been agreed by all parties out of a desire to remain committed to the Methodist Church Of New Zealand/Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

1. This Memorandum enables both those who agree and disagree with the ordination of gay and lesbian people to stand together with integrity within the Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa. This Memorandum seeks to clarify the place of individuals and groups within the Laws and Regulations of the Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.
2. It is acknowledged there are criteria for ordination which all candidates must meet.
3. The Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa is committed to a practice of appropriate matching in its stationing process which takes account of the diversity and need within the Church.
4. This Memorandum affirms that the Mission Statement, Ethical Standards for Ministry and Pastoral Resolutions are the guidelines by which Ministry operates in our Church.
5. Any person approached for nomination to either the position of President/Vice President should take into account all the tasks they are required to undertake and make their decision accordingly.
6. Each individual ordinand responds to the Church's invitation to be ordained. Ordination acknowledges the unique gifts and graces brought to the Church by that individual.
7. Provision of appropriate leadership in the Church in local/district/regional contexts will recognise the diversity of pastoral need.

SIGNATORIES:

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Nigel Hanscamp
Superintendent, Evangelical Network

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Iakopo Fa'afuata
Superintendent, Sinoti Samoa

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'Epli Taungapeau
Superintendent, Vahefonua Tonga 'O Aotearoa

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Susau Strickland
Co-Convenor , Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma e Niu Siladi

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Diana Tana
Tumuaki, Te Taha Maori

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Lynne Frith
President