

Methodist Church of New Zealand

Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Administration Division
P O Box 931
CHRISTCHURCH

Information Leaflet No. 176

May 2012

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF SYNOD

Associate Membership of a Synod is a means by which the Methodist Church of New Zealand welcomes the participation of ordained ministers of another Church in the life of a local synod. Such ministers could be employed by organisations other than in a Parish ministry in the life of a local Synod (e.g. they may be employed in education, chaplaincy or other form of service.) It also allows Methodist Ministers from other countries living in New Zealand to have a role and collegiality in a local synod, without being in Full Connexion with the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

An Associate of the Synod must:

- Be an Ordained Presbyterian or Deacon in good standing with their church of Ordination or their most recent appointing Church.
- Request to be an Associate of the Synod through the Directors of Mission Resourcing – normally via the Synod Superintendent.
- Be commended to the Synod by the President after full consultation with the President, Directors of Mission Resourcing, and General Secretary.
- Take seriously their commitment to the Synod by regular attendance and participation.

An Associate of the Synod may:

- Take full part in all Synod discussions and activities, including Ministerial Synods.
- Be available for resourcing Synods and parishes.
- Maintain and express collegiality within the Methodist church.
- Provide and be provided with support from a local / regional base.
- Attend Conference as an Official observer

An Associate of the Synod may not:

- Participate in the selection of nominees for any National or Synod church positions, though they may participate in discussion around such nominations or selection.

Note: The title “Associate of the Synod” does not infer or convey membership of Conference.

The status of Associate of the Synod for each person will be reviewed every year by the March President’s Pastoral committee.

It is expected that a Synod would give a ‘visible welcome’ to the Associate in the first year the Associate status is conferred.

Associates of Synod will be listed in the Green pages with the initials “AS” beside their name. They will also be listed under question 13 in the Conference Questions.

Background: The 2007 March meeting of the Council of Conference asked the Faith and Order and Law Revision committees in consultation with the Directors, General Secretary and President to discuss establishing a new category of Synod membership called “Associate of Synod”. This was a proposal to welcome the participation of ordained ministers of another Church employed by Methodist organisations other than in a Parish ministry in the life of a local Synod. Those in mind were ordained presbyterians working at Wesley College (Paerata), and an ordained UMC (USA) minister in an independent parish in Nelson. The committees responded positively, seeing this as one way in which a Synod might offer hospitality to those who were in this situation. Approval was given by all those involved in the consultation in 2008 for this new category of synod membership .