

## CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “B(ii)” Taiwi

**CONVENERS:** Lani Tupu and Sylvia ‘Akau’ola Tongotongo

**QUESTION 26(ii):** What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Taiwi

*Report pp B(ii)1- B(ii)18*

### INFORMATION

### DECISIONS:

1. That the report is received.
2. That Conference acknowledges the ministries of Val Nicholls, David Pratt, Trevor Hoggard, John Murray, Beverley Osborn, John Thornley, Jessie Kerr, Iakopo Fa’afuata, ‘Epeli Taungapeau as Synod Superintendents and thanks them for their faithful service.
3. Conference affirms the place of young people in the life of our Church.
4. Conference urges the Faith and Order committee to do further work with Taiwi Youth on its questions around the relationship between gospel and culture and what it means for us to be a multi-cultural church within a bi-cultural context.
5. Conference asks Parishes, Parish Councils and individuals to promote healthy relationships with young people within congregations and communities.
6. Conference asks Parishes to use the DVD MYC 05, the resolutions of Methodist Youth Conference 2005 and Taiwi Youth Facilitator as resources.
7. Conference encourages Parishes to use young people in leadership and committee roles e.g. Parish Council, worship leading etc.
8. Conference affirms the role of all adults (including older adults) in the formation and mentoring of young people.
9. Conference requests Parish Councils and Synods to reflect and have on going conversation on the following questions during 2007:
  - a. How have we kept the challenges from Youth Conference 2005 in front of us over the last year?
  - b. How can we as Synods, Parishes, individuals keep the challenges of Youth Conference 2005 in front of us during the next year?
  - c. Noting the resolutions from Youth Conference 2005, what other elements need to be considered for a Youth Ministry strategy for the next five years?
  - d. What do we need to do now?
10. Conference requests Taiwi Strategy and TYTANZ to meet in February to begin to formulate a national Taiwi youth strategy, and that the records from the Taiwi Meeting be forwarded as background material. This strategy should include identification of resources, training, and education opportunities.
11. Taiwi members of Council of Conference membership for 2007 shall be: Tovia Aumua (Co-Convenor), Mary Caygill, Desmond Cooper, Nigel Hanscamp, Kilifi Heimuli, Jessie Kerr, David McGeorge, Barbara Peddie, Fika Vucago and Alex Webster.
12. Taiwi substitutes for Council of Conference 2007 shall be: Derek Holland, Tevita Finau, Akisi Renner, Susau Strickland, Olive Tanielu, Susan Thompson, Uesifili Unasa and Gloria Zanders.
13. The Methodist representatives to Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand for 2007 shall be Tony Bell and Nigel Hanscamp.
14. That the membership for Taiwi Stationing for 2007 be: President, Vice President, General Secretary, Taiwi Executive Officer, Director Pasifika Ministries, Principal, Peter Williamson and Rosalie Gwillam (Northland District), Kenneth Smith and Keith Hopner (Auckland District), Setaita Kinahoi Veikune and Jean Collis (Manukau District), Alex Webster and Viv Whimster (Waikato/Wairiki District), Synod Superintendent and lay person (Hawkes Bay Manawatu District), Tony Bell and Dawn Armitstead (Taranaki Wanganui District), Lynne Frith and Ron Gibson (Wellington District), Alison Molineux and Bruce McKeage (Nelson Marlborough West Coast District), David Bush, Bruce Anderson and Sue Spindler (Central South Island District), Stuart Grant and Rachel Masterton (Otago Southland District), Tovia Aumua and Lani Tupu (Sinoti Samoa) Kilifi Heimuli and Tevita Finau (Vahefonua) Susau Strickland (Wasewase ko Viti Kei Rotuma) Marion Peterson and Alan Webster (Evangelical Network).
15. That the membership for Taiwi Strategy for 2007 be: President, Vice President, General Secretary, Taiwi Executive Officer, Director Pasifika Ministries, Principal, Peter Williamson and Roslaie Gwillam (Northland District), Kenneth Smith and Keith Hopner (Auckland District), Setaita Kinahoi Veikune and Jean Collis (Manukau District), Alex Webster and Viv Whimster (Waikato/Wairiki District), Synod Superintendent and Lay person (Hawkes Bay Manawatu District), Tony Bell and Dawn Armitstead (Taranaki Wanganui District), Lynne Frith and Ron Gibson (Wellington District), Alison Molineux and Bruce McKeage (Nelson Marlborough West Coast District), David Bush, Bruce Anderson and Sue Spindler (Central South Island District), Stuart Grant and Rachel Masterton (Otago Southland District), Tovia Aumua and Lani Tupu (Sinoti Samoa) Kilifi Heimuli and Tevita Finau (Vahefonua) Susau Strickland (Wasewase ko Viti Kei Rotuma), Marion Peterson and Alan Webster (Evangelical Network), Taiwi members Council of Conference not otherwise members.

## **Notices of Motion**

### **A. Moved by: Auckland Synod**

*That a full analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of Connexional communication be carried out by the Conference.*

#### **Decision**

No recommendation

### **B. Moved by: Otago Southland Synod**

*In view of the fact that Parishes that are at a great distance from Conference venues are at financial disadvantage, this Synod requests that consideration be given to the setting up of an equalisation process whereby the financial costs will be shared equitably.*

#### **Decision**

Conference asks the Board of Administration to consider this notice of motion during 2007 and report back to Conference 2007.

### **C. Moved by: Vahefonua Tonga o Aotearoa**

*The members of the Vahefonua 'O Tonga Aotearoa meeting would like to make amendments to the Law Book as appropriate.*

- a) *The President and Vice President of Conference (sec 7:5.1.13)*
- b) *The District Co-Superintendents, Secretary, Treasurer and members of the Executive Committee of Vahefonua Tonga 'O Aotearoa.*
- c) *All ordained Tongan Presbyters stationed by Conference and any Presbyter on secondment from the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.*
- d) *Two representatives from each congregation of the Auckland/Manukau Tongan Parish*
- e) *Two representatives (one male and one female if appropriate) from each of the Tongan Parishes, Congregations or Fellowships.*
- f) *One representative from the Tongan Youth;*
- g) *Eight representatives from the Tongan Women's Fellowship District.*
- h) *One Synod representative from each District where there is a Tongan congregation or Fellowship.*
- i) *The Parish Superintendent of Auckland/Manukau Parish will recommend ten people in consultation with Vahefonua Executive to be endorsed as full members of Vahefonua Tonga starting from 2007. This process will be on an annual basis.*

#### **Decision**

Conference refers this notice of motion to the Law Revision Committee for consideration during 2007.

### **D. Moved by: Auckland Manukau Tongan Parish**

*Conference resolution Number 7 under question 26(ii) in 2004 states: - "Tuiwi affirm the previous decision of Conference that there be no further seconded ministries at the conclusion of the current appointment to the Auckland Manukau Tongan Parish".*

1. *The Auckland Manukau Parish be given an opportunity to consult with its 6,100 Parish members concerning the issue of secondment*
2. *That the Conference reconsiders its decision on ending seconded ministries for the Auckland Manukau Parish for the following reasons:-*
  - a) *That the 6,100 Parish members were not consulted on the issue of seconded ministries.*
  - b) *That the information conveyed by the then Secretary of the Vahefonua, to the Tuiwi Caucus and the Conference, namely, that some consultation had been carried out, was misleading. There was no consultation at least at the Parish meetings and at the Congregations' meetings.*
  - c) *That the Conference be culturally sensitive to and considerate of the wishes of the Tongan members of the Auckland Manukau Parish in allowing them to discuss and decide on issues of seconded ministry and what is best for them.*
  - d) *That the majority of the adult population of the Auckland Manukau Tongan Parish are migrants from Tonga and are favourable towards seconded ministry.*
  - e) *It has been argued that a case against secondment is the immigration issue of seconded Tongan Presbyters taking advantage of their time in New Zealand to seek Permanent Residence status. This is a racist argument and does not align with the move toward the multi-cultural journey.*

**Decision**

Conference refers this Notice of Motion to Taiwi Strategy and Hui Poari for consideration and report to Council of Conference for their second meeting in 2007.

**E. Moved by: Brian Turner and Jim Stuart**

*That in response to the question from Te Taha Maori (per Hui Poari): "Would Taiwi accept a gay or lesbian person as President or Vice President?"*

1. *Conference 2006 re-affirms the commitment of Conference 1997 "to order its life and practice with the intent of the Human Rights Act 1993" including "to set aside" the exemptions granted to churches and religious groups.*
2. *Conference confirms that consistent with its 1997 commitment "to order its life and practice within the intent of the Human Rights Act 1993" and "to set aside" available exemptions, there is no impediment in principle to a gay or lesbian person becoming President or Vice President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand.*
3. *Conference therefore asks the Directors of Mission Resourcing in consultation with the Tumuaki of Te Taha Maori to prepare study and discussion material for the whole Church explaining the biblical and contemporary theological rationale for its position.*

**Decision**

That Conference refers this notice of motion to Taiwi Strategy for consideration during 2007.

**QUESTIONS 35(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Evangelical Network?**

*Report pp B(ii)2 – B(ii)4*

**INFORMATION****DECISIONS:**

1. The report is received.
2. The Executive for 2007 shall be: Marion Peterson, Alan K. Webster, David White, Andrea Williamson, Graham Older, Brian Peterson, Peter Williamson.

**QUESTION 35(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship?**

*Report pp B(ii)13 - B(ii)14*

**INFORMATION****DECISION:**

1. The report is received.
2. That Conference adopts the revised constitution of the Methodist Women's Fellowship.