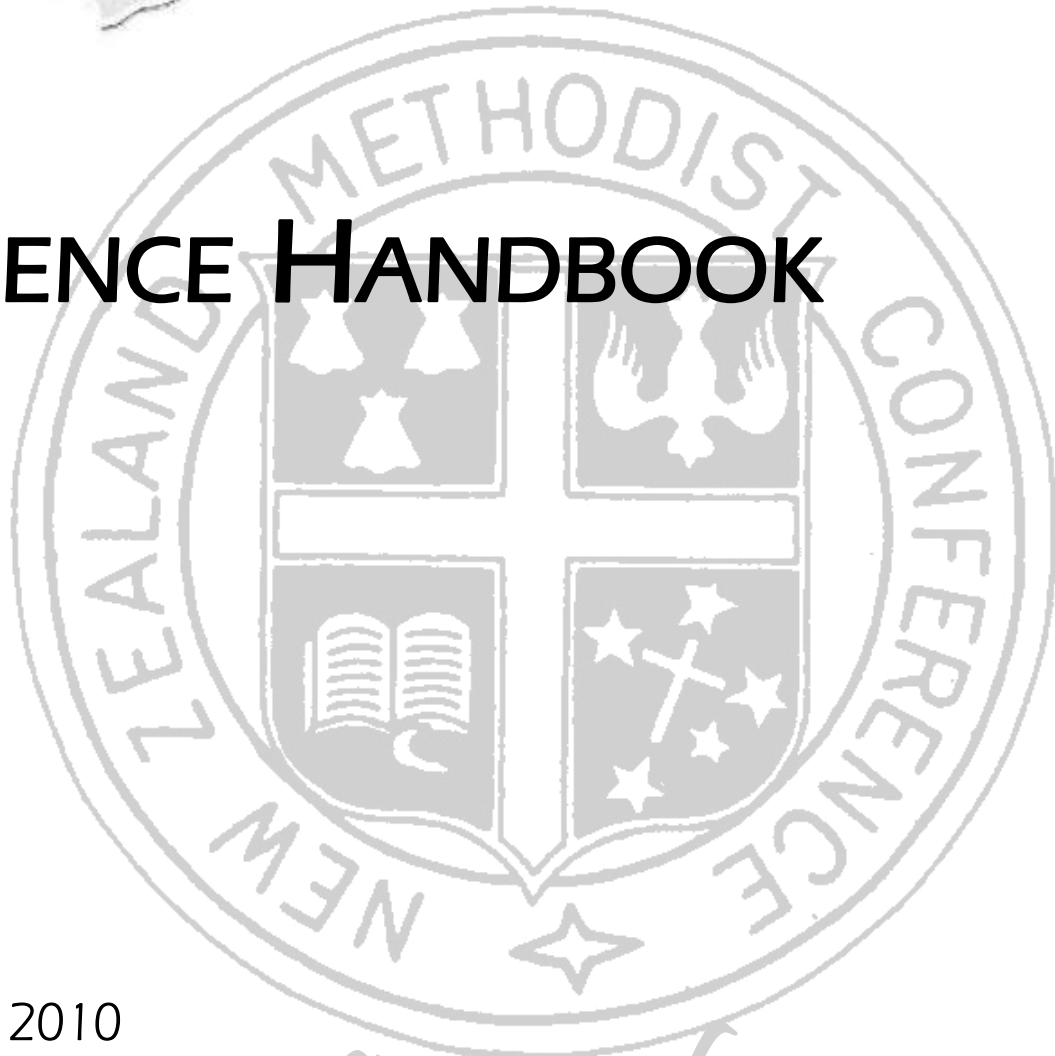


CONFERENCE HANDBOOK



Methodist Conference 2010

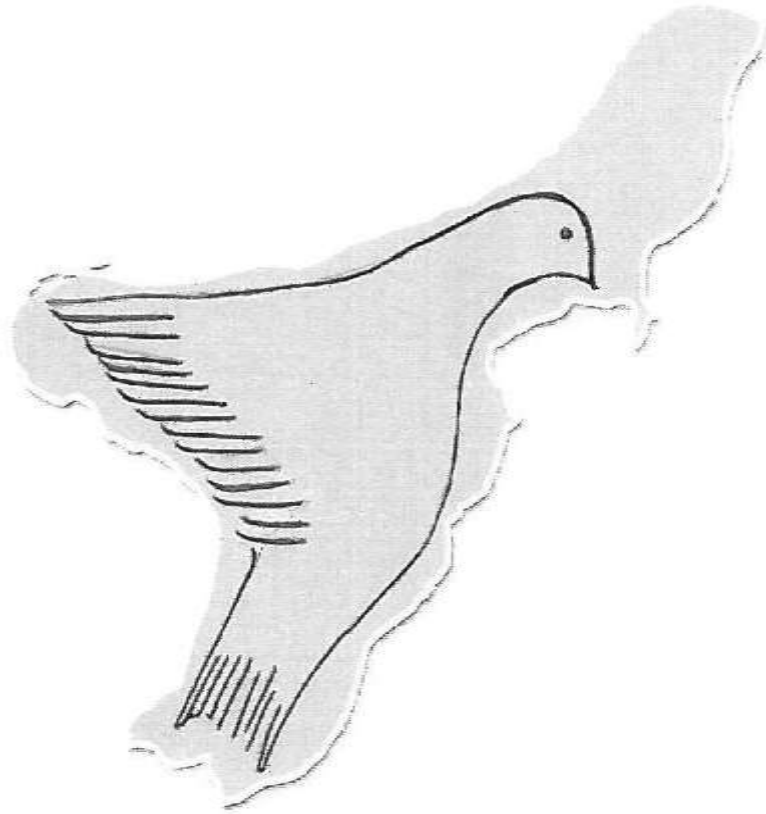
Palmerston North

Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

CONTENTS

The Dove of Peace	Page 1
Welcome to Conference 2010	Page 2
Powhiri: Welcome to Conference	Page 7
Those who have died during the year.....	Page 8
General Information	
<i>Introduction to Conference</i>	Page 9
<i>Registration</i>	Page 9
<i>Conference Arrangements Committee</i>	Page 9
<i>Membership</i>	Page 9
<i>Acknowledgements and Thanks</i>	Page 9
<i>Parking and City Travel</i>	Page 10
<i>Telephones and Faxes</i>	Page 10
<i>Bank and Postal Facilities</i>	Page 10
<i>Meals</i>	Page 10
<i>Information/Help Desk</i>	Page 11
<i>The President & Vice-President</i>	Page 11
<i>Chaplains</i>	Page 11
<i>Taxis</i>	Page 11
<i>First Aid</i>	Page 11
<i>Emergency Dentist</i>	Page 11
<i>Medical Clinics</i>	Page 11
<i>Fire and Emergency Wardens</i>	Page 11
<i>Conference Hosts</i>	Page 11
What will happen at Conference	Page 12
Theology at Work (Business) Sessions	Page 13
Other Events During Conference	Page 14
Roles of People & Groups at Conference	Page 16
Location of the Convention Centre	Page 19

The Dove of Peace settles over us.



The lower North Island District Synod came into being at Conference last year.

We have been working on a design that we could call our own. Shirley-Joy Barrow has designed the above for use on our letterheads and other stationery. It was agreed that we use it as this year's conference logo.

WELCOME TO CONFERENCE 2010

Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou Katoa

We welcome you all to this, the ninety-eighth Methodist Church Conference. It was in 1913 that the first conference was held at Taranaki St Wellington, a conference that celebrated the union of the New Zealand Wesleyan Methodist Church with the Primitive Methodist church. It is our hope that this conference will also be a conference of celebration. We have spent a lot of time in recent years discussing the value of two yearly conferences. To date we have maintained the idea of an annual conference, the stumbling block has always been our desire to be together, that alone is worth celebrating.

The conference will be made up of two distinct parts. We will begin with the celebrations of Powhiri, the Induction of President and Vice President, the celebration of Ordination as well as remembering those who will retire and those who have died. The second distinct part is what we call the Business sessions, held from Monday to Wednesday. These two parts are often considered as being the sacred and the secular parts of the conference. We would invite conference members to consider both parts to be sacred for in each part our responses and our responsibility is to listen to what the “Spirit is saying to the church”. Each part is dedicated to God and guided by the Holy Spirit. To assist with this the business sessions are to be called “Theology at work” sessions. It is hoped that in this way we continually remind ourselves of our unique theological perspective on all that we say and do and that we will attend to the work and make decisions while caring pastorally for each other remembering that conference will be daunting and confusing for many.

We also remember that we are a bi-cultural church, Te Taha Maori and Tauwiwi are equal partners, sharing in the life of Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, the Methodist Church of New Zealand. Tauwiwi includes all of those groups who have journeyed to this land more recently. In practice this means that we do not use the weight of numbers to arrive at our decisions but rather a “partnership agreement” approach. So rather than voting we choose a consensus model of decision making that is inclusive of all people and respectful of our bi-cultural partnership. You can find more details on our decision making process in the “blue pages” of your conference book.

The theme of this conference is “Tell out my Soul” for this is the calling of the church, to speak out our conviction that life is enriched by the love of God, that society is best maintained by such values as love, joy, and

peace, by compassion and the care of each other, as well as those who will be affected by our decisions.

The Rev Dr Jim Stuart will be leading our devotions both at the start of each morning session and at the start of the afternoon sessions. We also hope to take short musical interludes from time to time. This is to help with concentration and the change from one issue to the next.

The Monday to Wednesday “Theology at work” sessions are primarily a time of decision making. Can we do this in a celebratory manner? As a member of conference whether from a CV or a Methodist Parish you are invited to share in the policy making of the Methodist Church, Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa. This in essence is what our conference is about, a celebration of being together and an opportunity to share in the governance of the church. For those in CV’s conference is an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and to help shape the MCNZ. The Methodist church takes great care to maintain those serving in CV’s and being at conference is one way of doing that.

To enable the conference to work effectively and as inclusively as possible we have asked committees and boards to consider presenting shorter reports, highlighting their purpose, vision, successes and their risks. Shorter presentations will leave more time for informed debate/discussion and lead to more informed and better decisions.

We have invited three people to speak at the conference. Our first speaker will be the Hon. Dr Pita Sharples the co-leader of the Maori party. Our second speaker will be Mohammad Amir the Imam of the Wellington Mosque. Rosemary McLeod the columnist is our final speaker. It is our hope you enjoy these speakers and their contribution. We have also invited the youth of the church to share what they want to say to the church in “Connex: YouthVoice @ Conference” on the Saturday evening.

As you can see it won’t be all work. We hope there will be some creative play. To this end there will be a joke d’jour with a prize for the best and the worst joke told at conference. All in all we are hoping this will be a memorable conference, one where we can enjoy each other, enjoy some good theological debates, own the decisions we made and go home refreshed, inspired and pleased we came.

Desmond Cooper, President
Sue Spindler, Vice President

Introduction

In 2008 Taranaki/Wanganui, Hawkes Bay/Manawatu and Wellington District Synods merged to become known as the Lower North Island Synod who in November this year will host the Annual Conference of our church.

Gisborne in the East, New Plymouth to the west, and Wellington to the south all bring their unique stories, histories, dialects and customs. It is 22 years since Conference was last in Palmerston North. Conference 2010 will meet in the heart of the city. We welcome you and take this opportunity to share who we are.

Our history

Palmerston North was founded in the 1900 acre bush clearing of Papaioea in 1866 with the Manawatu River serving as its only link to the Port of Foxton and the outside world.

The local tribe Rangitaane claim descent from Kupe, Whatonga and Turi. Many skirmishes with Te Rauparaha ensued. Although spared the agony of the land wars, Te Awe Awe went on to fight with distinction for the government of the day. In recognition of their loyalty the Government presented them with a large flag incorporating the Union Jack and the name Tane-nui-a-rangi (the ancestor after whom the tribe is named).

Palmerston North is also renowned for being the centre for Agricultural Research through Massey University Dairy Research and Land care.

Geographical interests

The Tararua Ranges displaying its rough and rugged beauty is also home to some of the largest windmill installations in New Zealand with 4 developed Windfarms. Locals either like them or hate them.

The Manawatu Gorge is the road between Manawatu and southern Hawkes Bay. It was built in 1871-72, a most difficult road to construct with road builders being suspended off the top of the cliffs by ropes. Several theories have been advanced to account for the striking geomorphic feature of a young river slicing through the North Island's mountainous backbone. Defying logic the Manawatu River rises in the eastern Ruahine Range (North of Norsewood), and instead of flowing

east into Hawke Bay, it cuts back through the Manawatu Gorge to reach the sea at Foxton. Maori history tells us that a mighty totara tree which once grew on the Puketoi range smashed through the mountains as it journeyed to the sea, carving out the Manawatu's river bed.

Whakarongo, a rural area between Palmerston North and the Gorge is so named as it means listening post. A Tribe living on the banks of the river had a sentry posted at night to listen for the war cries of any marauding tribe coming through the Gorge from the Bay so that other tribes along the river could be alerted.

The square is a 6.8 hectare (17 acres) of ground in the centre of the city surrounded by commercial buildings and inner city apartments. The square is named Te Marae-O-Hine and the name was chosen by a gathering of the principal Maori people of the Manawatu district about 1878. These chiefs had assembled at the invitation of the Rangitaane people to discuss the suitable selection of a Maori name for the central courtyard of the new township.

The name "Te Marae-O-Hine (which means the Courtyard of the Daughter of Peace) was suggested by Matene Te Whiwhi, the senior representative of Ngati Raukawa and was unanimously agreed to. The name originates from the Waikato district, where it was the name of the home of a Ngati Raukawa chieftainess named Te Rongorito, who was famous for her activities as a peacemaker. Her home, Te Marae-O-Hone, was a place of peace, where no weapons were to be used and where people of all tribes could find sanctuary. The name was chosen by the Maori people of Manawatu to symbolise their hope that people of all tribes and all races would live together in lasting peace (maungarongo) and love.

The square has a statue to the Rangitanae Chief Peeti Te Awe Awe (1820-1884) and was erected by his sister Ereni, and recalls the chief whose father was one of the few to survive a massacre engineered by Te Rauparaha at a feast he had invited a number of Rangitaane.- the guest was quick to repay in kind Te Rauparaha's lack of hospitality. The Square is dominated by the clock tower which has been changed since the original was built. The square also includes a fountain dedicated in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII.

Methodist Church – The Methodist church is very significant to the history of the City. Wesley Broadway centre and in particular the brick building is sited where the first church in Palmerston North was built. In those days it was known as Broad Street.

The first service is believed to have been held on 14th July 1872, conducted by a layman Mr D McHardie and based on the text Psalm 116 v1. At that time Palmerston North was part of the Rangitikei district. The first meeting held to consider the erection of a Wesleyan Chapel for the use of the English and Scandinavian congregation was held in the house of Richter, Nannested & Co on 7th January 1875. It was resolved that the building would measure Length 40 feet, width 20 feet and have a stud of 14 feet and also have a porch.

Palmerston North has a very good library, and art gallery within the same block as the conference centre. The Rugby Museum also attracts many visitors annually. There is an esplanade that has many bush walks, bird aviary, hot house, Education Centre and café.

We hope you are able to take the time to enjoy what we have to offer Conference members.

Welcome, as a representative, visitor, or observer to this Conference. Greetings, as you prepare to participate in the many different aspects of the 2010 Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

We begin with the welcome of a Powhiri at the Palmerston North Convention Centre, the venue for this year's Conference. Here we will acknowledge significant people within the life of the Church who have died since Conference last met.

The two important Conference services of Induction and Ordination will also take place at the Convention Centre on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The 'work' of Conference is from Monday to Wednesday at the Convention Centre.

POWHIRI: WELCOME TO CONFERENCE

The Powhiri (welcome) of Conference will be held in the The Convention Centre, 354 Main Street, Palmerston North, commencing at 10.45am on Saturday, 6 November.

Lower North Island Synod members arrive in advance, by 10.30am, and are seated in the Convention Centre. The remainder of Conference will assemble between 10.30am and 10.45am outside the Convention Centre.

As the Karanga begins, Conference members will make their way slowly into the centre, led by the President and the Vice-President, kaumatua of Te Taha Maori and the families of those who have died during the year. This procession is a solemn event where we remember those who have died during this last year.

The seats nearest the front are for the President and Vice-President, the President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect and the families of those who have died during the year.

The Powhiri continues with mihimihi (speeches) and tributes to the dead, first by tangata whenua then by Conference. Each speaker will be followed by a waiata. After the mihimihi and waiata the officials of the Conference and the tangata whenua will greet each other with the hongi.

Lunch will be served upstairs. Families of the deceased will lunch with the President and Vice-President in the Seminar Room. The Induction Service will commence at 2.00pm. Sponsors for the President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect will gather in the Seminar Room. Please ensure you are seated before 2.00pm

Please note: No photography is allowed during the powhiri or other Conference services except by the Official Photographer.

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED DURING THE YEAR

Judy Gore (nee Barwick)

Audrey Nina Dickinson

Anke Bouchier

Robin Murdoch Seymour

Kirikowhai Evelyn Ivy Rose Kingi (nee Te Wiata)

Douglas Howard Burt (Doug)

John Edwin Scott (Ed)

Ivan John Whyle

Christina Mary Te Whare (nee Sealey)

Hendrik Gerritsen

Edmund David Grounds (Ted)

Alalafagamali'i Faleseu Iulio Palelei

Geoffrey Thomas Gilbert

Andre Le Roux

Robert Albert Mannall (Bob)

Marjorie Annie Mannell (nee Hale)

Eileen Fay Schick

Miriel Abernethy Fisher

We carry their memories with us into the Powhiri
and on into the life of Conference.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Introduction to Conference

For those people who are new to Conference Jill van de Geer will hold a workshop to explain how Conference works in the Seminar Room on the Mezzanine Floor of the Convention Centre, Main Street, Palmerston North from 9.30am – 10.30am.

Registration

Your **NAME TAG** and **CONFERENCE BAG** will be available to you at the **REGISTRATION DESK** at the Convention Centre on Friday, 5th November, from 8.30am. These will also be available on Saturday from 9.00am to 10.30am and after 4.00pm, following the Induction Service. On Monday, 8th November, they will be available from 8.15am.

Conference Arrangements Committee

The Arrangements Committee welcomes you to Conference 2010. We hope that your stay in Palmerston North will be enjoyable. We have worked hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly but if something is not right or you require particular details please contact the **Information/Help desk**.

Membership

Tony Bell (Convenor) David Bush, Desmond Cooper, Susanne Spindler, Jenny Olsson, David Harding, Clive Reynolds, Margaret Taylor, Silvia Purdie,

Acknowledgements and Thanks

As a committee we want to express our sincere thanks to R.D Begg & Co Ltd for their co-operation with the Musical equipment for Conference, to the staff of Destination Manawatu, and the co-operation of the Convention Centre staff. We appreciated the hospitality offered for meetings by Wesley Broadway and to hosting the Lay Preachers Annual meeting.

Our thanks to:

- Those who have offered billets.
- Shirley-Joy Barrow –Conference Logo and banner.
- Woodville, Feilding and Wesley Broadway parishes for the floral arrangements.
- Organist, Don Sievwright.
- The staff from the Connexional Office.

- The parish people who have staffed the information desk.
- Rongotea, Foxton Shannon and Ashhurst Bunnythorpe Pohangina parishes for catering pre Conference Stationing meeting.
- Conference hosts – David Harding & Jessica Rabone.

We give our sincere thanks to all the people we have noted as well as all the others who have contributed in any way to the arrangements of conference.

Parking and City Travel

There is on site parking at the Convention Centre but it is subject to parking meters. There is free unlimited parking around the parkland on Main Street that is one block further south of the convention Centre. There is a layby in the front of the Convention Centre but this will only be available as a drop off/pick up facility. It is able to cope with buses.

The Conference Arrangements Committee encourages you to avoid using your car during your time at conference. All of the accommodation that is recommended is no more than two blocks from the Convention Centre and all meetings and events are on the one site.

Telephones and Faxes

Should you need to be contacted urgently please phone the Convention Centre Office (06) 358-0000. Faxes can be received on (06) 355-5480. The email address for the Convention Centre is info@ccpm.co.nz

Bank & Postal Facilities

Kiwi Bank and full postal services are available one block away on Church street. A number of other banks have facilities around the square and there are a number of ATM machines within a block of the Conference.

Meals

All meals will be served in the upstairs conference room of the Convention Centre, Families of the Deceased will have lunch with the President and Vice President in the Gallery space of the Convention Centre. Nametags should be worn for all meals, as they indicate your entitlement to a meal.

Billets are on a bed and breakfast basis.

Information/Help Desk

This will be staffed throughout Conference commencing on Friday morning.

The President & Vice-President

Those who would like to see Desmond Cooper or Susanne Spindler during Conference should make arrangements through the Chaplains, John Murray and Kathryn Walters.

Chaplains of Conference

John Murray and Kathryn Walters are the Conference Chaplains. John and Kathryn are also available as Chaplains to members of Conference during Conference.

Taxis

Palmerston North Taxis, phone 355-5333
Gold & Black Taxis, phone 351-2345

First Aid

If you require immediate first aid assistance or treatment please see the Information/Help Desk volunteers.

Emergency Dentist

Weekends and Statutory Holidays only. Payment in full is required at time of consultation /treatment. 021 294 8669

Medical Clinics

City Doctors, 22 Victoria Ave, phone 355-3300
Radius Medical, The Palms, 445 Ferguson Street, phone 354-7737

Fire and Emergency Wardens

In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the Convention Centre staff and make your way out of the building through both the carpark and main entrances.

Conference Hosts

David Harding and Jessica Rabone are the Conference Hosts. They will be looking after the well being of official visitors, and representatives from other Churches and agencies.

A Reminder

Smoking is not permitted in any of the complexes used for Conference.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT CONFERENCE?

Wednesday 3 November

The Ordinands are in retreat from Wednesday afternoon 3 November to Friday morning 5 November.

Thursday 4 November

Pre Conference Stationing Meeting (11.00am – 1.00pm): *Wesley Broadway Methodist Church, 264 Broadway Avenue. (Please note, this is for Taiwi Strategy and Stationing Committee members and Te Taha Maori representatives only)*

Taiwi Strategy Meeting (2.00pm – 5.00 pm): *Wesley Broadway Methodist Church, 264 Broadway Avenue. (Taiwi Strategy and Stationing Committee members)*

Friday 5 November

Taiwi / Te Taha Maori Meetings (10.00am – 5.30pm): *Convention Centre.*

Wesley Historical Society AGM and Dinner (6.00pm): *Seminar Room at the Convention Centre.*

Saturday 6 November

Evangelical Network – Pancake Breakfast, Worship & Annual Meeting (8.00am): *St Andrews Presbyterian.*

Introduction to Conference (9.30am – 10.30am): *Seminar Room at the Convention Centre. Run by Jill van de Geer.*

Powhiri (10.45am): *Convention Centre.* The first act of gathering as a full Conference. We remember those who have died during the year.

Lunch with the President and Vice-President for families of those who have died during the year: *The Seminar Room.*

Induction of the President and Vice-President (2.00pm – 3.30pm): *Convention Centre.* Followed by afternoon tea.

Recognition of Ministry, with tributes to those retiring and Connexional thanks (4.30pm – 5.30pm): *Convention Centre.*

Youth Event (7.00pm – 9.00pm): Upstairs, – Connex:
YouthVoice@conference

Sunday 7 November

Members of Conference conduct or attend morning services at local churches (see Preaching Plan on Page 22).

Lay Preachers' Association Service (10.00am): Wesley Methodist Church, 264 Broadway Avenue. Lunch to follow.

Ordination and Reception into Full Connexion Service (2.00pm – 4.00pm): *Convention Centre*.

Dedication of Plaque (5.00pm), in the square.

Evangelical Network and Liberal Society dinner (6.00pm): *Double Shotz Café*.

THEOLOGY AT WORK (BUSINESS) SESSIONS

Monday to Wednesday we gather each morning at The Convention Centre, 354 Main Street, Palmerston North 4410, for the Theology at Work (Business) Sessions of Conference. Each day begins at 8.30am with the Opening Worship led by Rev Dr Jim Stuart. The times of the various committee presentations of their business are outlined below (for more detailed information see the Business from Day to Day, on page 2 of the Conference Agenda):

Monday 8

- Council of Conference (9.30am)
- Te Taha Maori & Tauwiwi (10.45am)
- Two Year Presidency (11.45am)
- Mission Resourcing (1.40pm)
- Methodist Mission Aotearoa/Social Services (2.40pm)
- Board of Administration (4.00pm)
- Faith & Order (5.00pm)

Tuesday 9

- Task Group on Governance (9.00am)
- Mission & Ecumenical (10.30am)
- Trinity College (11.30am)
- Ex President & Vice President (12.00pm)
- Communications (1.40pm)
- Trinity College (2.30pm)
- Public Questions (4.00pm)
- Law Revision (5.00pm)

Wednesday 10

Mission Resourcing (9.00am)

Unfinished Business (9.30am)

OTHER EVENTS DURING CONFERENCE

Conference is an opportunity for a number of Methodist groups to host special purpose gatherings. Full details have been publicised by the groups concerned and in some cases advance notice is required for catering purposes.

Wesley Historical Society AGM and Dinner

The Wesley Historical Society AGM and Dinner will be held on Friday 5 November from 6pm at The Convention Centre, in the seminar room. The dinner is \$20 per person. If you would like to attend, please register on the Conference Registration Form. If you are not attending Conference as a delegate but would like to attend, please contact Amy at the Connexional Office to book - amys@methodist.org.nz – or phone 03 364 9427. Attendance at AGM or the Book Launch is free.

At 7.30pm, all members of Conference and visitors are warmly invited to the Wesley Historical Society's launch of **Susan Thompson's book *Knowledge and Vital Piety***, which considers the history and development of ministry training for New Zealand Methodists since 1840. Noted church historian the Rev. Dr Allan Davidson states that in so doing this book 'reveals a great deal about the history of the Methodist Church and many of its leading personalities' and 'goes to the heart of denominational identity'. As well as dealing with issues of combining theoretical and practical training for ministry, among the recurring themes are 'the place of Maori in the church, relationships between the church and the university, the inclusion of women, the response to war and public issues, ecumenical relationships, and the needs of Pacific Islanders'.

Susan has written a most readable, scholarly and informative story – an important contribution to the life of New Zealand Methodist Church/ Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

The Evangelical Network & The Liberal Society Dinner & Art Display

The Evangelical Network and The Liberal Society Dinner and Art Display will be held on Sunday 7 November from 6pm at Double Shotz Café, 138 The Square, Palmerston North, \$22 per person. If you would like to attend, please register on the Conference Registration Form. If you are not attending Conference as a delegate but would like to attend, please contact Amy at the Connexional Office to book - amys@methodist.org.nz – or phone 03 364 9427.

Lay Preachers Service/Meeting/Lunch

The Methodist Lay Preachers service/meeting/lunch will be held at Wesley Methodist Church on Conference Sunday morning 7 November from 11.30am – 1.30pm, \$15 per person. If you are not attending Conference as a delegate but would like to attend, please contact Amy at the Connexional Office to book - amys@methodist.org.nz – or phone 03 364 9427.

Connex: YouthVoice@Conference

Young people always make an important contribution to the life of Conference. YouthVoice@Conference will be an opportunity for young people to inform, challenge and entertain. All Conference members are most welcome. Held, upstairs in the Convention Centre, Saturday evening 7pm – 9pm.

Dedication of Plaque

In 1988 Methodist Conference met in Palmerston North. The President Eric Laursen was invited to plant a Kowhai tree in the square. A plaque is to be laid at the base of the tree to commemorate our gathering in Palmerston North in 1988 and 2010. Held, in the square at 5pm on Sunday.

ROLES OF PEOPLE & GROUPS OF CONFERENCE

President:

Reverend Desmond Cooper fills an important pastoral role in the life of Conference and beyond. He shares leadership with the Vice-President and brings a sacramental ministry to the Conference.

Vice-President:

Ms. Susanne Spindler shares with the President in the leadership role of Conference, and brings a pastoral concern, as well as sharing in the leadership team.

Tumuaki:

Rev Diana Tana fills this position and provides leadership for Te Taha Maori.

Executive Officer, Taiwi:

The Rev Aso Saleupolu provides leadership for Taiwi.

General Secretary:

The General Secretary, Rev David Bush, acts as the Secretary of Conference and has responsibility for the ordering of the Theology at Work (Business) Sessions of Conference. He is responsible for seeing that the reports are collated and that the business of Conference is dealt with.

Council of Elders:

Present at Conference will be members of the Council of Elders. The Council consists of four people, two representing Te Taha Maori and two representing the Taiwi part of the Church (i.e. Pakeha, Pacific Island, African, Asian etc).

Their responsibilities include observing the way things are said and decided at Conference, against the background of the Church's bi-cultural journey. They may take opportunities to comment on what they see happening, and may intervene if they believe something taking place is contrary to the Church's bi-cultural commitment.

When a member of the Council speaks in Conference it is on behalf of the whole Council and after consultation with **all** Elders. The Council seeks to model an equal partnership, with half the Elders representing Te Taha Maori and half Tauwiwi (the rest of the Church), and makes its decisions through consensus.

Legal Advisor:

David Smith is appointed by the Conference and attends the Conference to ensure that the finer details of Church Law are adhered to. Presently the Legal Adviser checks all decisions that come to Conference, so as to ensure that the decision can be understood at a later date.

Te Taha Maori & Tauwiwi:

Are the partners who make up the life of Conference. Te Taha Maori are Tangata Whenua (the people who are of the land). Tauwiwi is the name used within The Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa to describe the people who have come later to settle here from Europe, Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and other places.

Council of Conference:

Conference has appointed a Council of Conference made up of 20 members. Ten members are nominated by Te Taha Maori and ten members nominated by Tauwiwi. The President, Vice-President and General Secretary are members and act as resource people. The work of the Council is focused on vision, policy and monitoring processes for the Church, rather than decision-making.

Wasewase ko viti kei Rotuma e Niu Siladi:

The Fijian Advisory Committee of the Methodist Church.

Vahefonua Tonga 'o Aotearoa:

Vahefonua is the Tongan Synod of the Methodist Church which meets during the year to make decisions relating to the life and work of Tongan Congregations.

Sinoti Samoa:

The Samoan Synod meets through the year and makes decisions relating to the Samoan section of the Church. It reports to Conference.

Boards & Standing Committees:

The Conference has a number of Standing Committees that meet throughout the year. Each carries out tasks asked of them by Conference and reports to the Conference. The Committees relate to matters such as Ministry, Faith and Order, Mission and Ecumenical and Social Issues.

Youth Delegation:

The Conference has determined that there will be a youth delegation of 10 present at Conference. In addition, individual parishes may choose to nominate a youth person to represent them. The Youth Delegation tends to sit together in order to caucus as youth and sometimes comment to Conference as youth.

Media Liaison Officer:

Jill van de Geer is the Media Liaison Officer for Conference.

