



e-messenger

The Methodist Church of New Zealand ~ Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

“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”.

Contents:

July 2005

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

<i>A Message from the President</i>	Page 2
<i>A Message from the Vice President</i>	Page 3
<i>A Message from the General Secretary</i>	Page 3

PRESIDENT'S PRESS STATEMENT – LONDON BOMBINGS	Page 4
--	--------

FAITH & ORDER – CIVIL UNIONS	Page 5
---	--------

NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Page 7
---	--------

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION	Page 9
---	--------

TAUIWI YOUTH MINISTRY	Page 11
------------------------------------	---------

METHODIST MISSION & ECUMENICAL	Page 12
---	---------

SITUATIONS VACANT

<i>Board of Ministry</i>	Page 14
<i>Wesley Community Action</i>	Page 21

ECUMENICAL NEWS & VIEWS	Page 22
--	---------

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

June has been a delightful and encouraging month as I have travelled. Early in the month I attended the regional synod meeting of the North Otago, South and Mid Canterbury section of the new Central South Island District at Timaru. It was a well attended and very positive meeting. Comments after suggested those present had enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to future meetings like this, where “nuts and bolt business” does not dominate, and there can be opportunity for training, networking, mission and ministry to be a more prominent focus. Meetings with some of the congregation at St Andrew’s Co-operating Parish Geraldine, preaching at St David’s Union at Allenton to a large and vibrant congregation on the Sunday morning, and a lunch meeting at Baring Square Methodist, Ashburton all added to a very full but most enjoyable weekend. Thanks to all involved for your very warm welcome and excellent hospitality.

By the next weekend, along with Vice President Kenneth and Helen, Kay and I were in Tonga enjoying the warmth of welcome and 26 degree temperatures on Tongatapu. We attended the 82nd Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Tonga. Rising two days at 5 am to attend a service at 6 am and then have a full day of Conference sessions and services until around 10.30 pm and on one day until midnight, before the Conference day finished, was invigorating. The night Kenneth and I along with Dean Drayton the President of the Uniting Church of Australia, addressed the Conference, a New Zealand 60 piece orchestra organised by our Dominion Road church, accompanied by soloists and choirs, performed for an extended period between each address. All in all, a very good 3 hour programme.

A week of fine days greatly helped the organisers and meant the 400 conference delegates and the 2000 people who joined them at each of the 4 meals per day under open sided marquees, enjoyed feasting in very comfortable conditions. There is much more one could say about the amazing seven days we spent at the Conference. It was wonderful to be there and we were accorded very privileged treatment at all times. We met visiting Church leaders from other countries, lunched with members of the Tongan royal family, ministers of the government and members of the parliament, as well as leaders of some of the other denominations in Tonga. We were supplied with interpreters when needed and given the use of car so that we could travel to and from our hotel and could spend some time sightseeing. It is 31 years since I worked in Tonga and there were many changes to observe. The most obvious was the number of motor vehicles and the consequent traffic jams they are causing in Nuku’alofa. We are indebted to those who hosted us. A big thank you to the Tongan members from our New Zealand Church who were present, especially those who performed with distinction in choirs, the orchestra and those who in many ways assisted us.

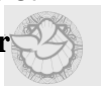
Finally, a statement on the basis of a Robust Civil Society which has been 6 months in the making, has been completed and has been given, or sent, to each of the leaders of the political parties who will be contesting this year’s general election. Copies are being circulated to the members of the Churches whose leaders have contributed to the preparation of the statement and whose names appear on it. I have been part of that process and I commend it to you.

Grace and peace

Ron

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

June was an Island hopping month for the Smiths. Helen and I went over to Great Barrier Island for Queen’s Birthday Weekend and I celebrated a Communion Service on Sunday morning for the Combined Parish. In the evening we attended and I shared in the alternative Great Barrier Christian Fellowship Service. The Parish is unique in that its membership is Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and everyone else. The oversight is held by the four denominations. We were well and truly welcomed and hosted while over there. I appreciated the opportunity to share some Methodist



things and to gain an understanding of the life and work of this committed group of Christians who want to share their wonderful church house (for free) with needy folk from the Island (N.I.) to which we returned on Tuesday 7th.

On Thursday the 16th June we travelled to the Pacific Island of Tonga to attend the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga Conference. President Ron and Kay were there also. The weather was wonderful with the temperature up to 28 degrees and no rain. We attended some Conference sessions, attended two feasts out of the four provided each day, drove to all the interesting places, and went very short on sleep. We danced on the stage during the fund raiser event that was held on Friday night. I even had some money tucked into my collar but I don't do dances in the Islands of New Zealand. We attended a 6:00am Communion Service on Wednesday morning and also attended two out of the three evening Choral Services. It was my privilege to be invited to join in the laying on of hands for the first four Ordinands during the Ordination Service. Rev Ted Grounds replaced me for the remainder. Ron and I each had a speaking slot during the Saturday night service. My dietary difficulties overtook me for one day, which I thought, wasn't too bad. We were seated beside the Deputy Prime Minister, (twice) the Speaker of the House, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Lands, once each for different feasts. The dancing at the feasts was magnificent. So were the other interesting items presented together with the tapa cloths and mats that were brought forward each time for presentation purposes. Our welcome was warm and courteous. We were faultlessly looked after. It was a great experience delivered at an easy pace and we tried to suppress our Western perspective on events and appreciate all that was offered from another viewpoint. It was good to be reminded that God is bigger than the Western concept of the Divine. We still feel amazed at the way in which the Conference was run and the incredible amount of time, work, and food that the folk from each village contributed. A remarkable effort, which made it all seem so easily and effortlessly, achieved. Thank you to the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga and to our Connexion for gifting Helen and me the experience of the Tongan Conference.

We returned to the North Island at 5.30am on Friday 24th June and settled down to some serious sleeping when we arrived home at 7.00am!

With every good wish and Blessings to you all

Kenneth

A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

This is the second year of the revised format of Conference. A key part of this new format is the consideration of Board and Committee reports at August Synods. All people who are attending Conference are encouraged to attend their local Synod even if they are not official members.

This year I am encouraging Boards not to send their full report to Synods but to send only those parts of the report where there is a policy change which Conference is being asked to approve. E.g. The sections of the Administration report that will be circulated will be Property, Provident Society and possibly PAC Distribution Group. Synod Superintendents will all have been contacted by Friday 15 July to advise them which specific reports they are being asked to deal with. A Synod may choose to address reports other than those allocated.

Methodist Provident Society

Applications for Grants to be distributed this year are to be received by 31 July and Application Forms may be obtained from Viki Forscutt, P O Box 931, Christchurch.

There are 2 categories – General and Developmental - share your story, dreams and aspirations. All applications must be signed by a member of the Provident Society.

Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 September at 7:00pm at Morley House, 25 Latimer Square, Christchurch.

Jill



THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS STATEMENT – London Bombings

Press Statement

Released Friday 8 July 2.30pm

London Bombings

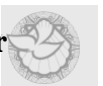
The headlines in this morning's papers of the bombings in London, will have left all of us and especially those who have ever visited or worked in London, and those with family and friends traveling at present, completely shocked.

Our sympathy goes to the families who have lost loved ones. Our prayers for healing will be for those who are injured and to the even greater numbers who will have been close by. Along with the emergency service personnel who responded, they will have had their confidence shaken and their inner being scarred by what they have witnessed.

I am sure that it won't need encouragement from me for our Methodist and Union Churches throughout the country this Sunday to remember the victims and their families in our prayers.

I am already aware of at least one service that was held at short notice this Friday morning in the Hospital Chapel at Gisborne, where hospital staff, patients and visitors joined together in prayers of remembrance, consolation and aroha in response to this tragedy.

Ron Malpass
President
Methodist Church of NZ
Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa



FAITH & ORDER – Civil Unions & the Methodist Church

What's the issue?

In 2004 the Civil Union Act established a new form of legal relationship open to same-sex and different sex couples. This gives those who are unable to be married or who choose not to marry the ability to make a commitment to each other which is recognised and protected by the law.

For Christians, the Act raises questions about the appropriate level of the Church's involvement in civil union ceremonies.

Civil unions vs marriage

The Faith and Order Committee's March 2005 statement suggested that civil unions are of a lesser status than marriage. It argued that because civil unions set out to be something other than marriage, they "don't go as far" as marriage. For this reason, it contended, the Church should continue to urge heterosexual couples to consider the "fuller commitment" of marriage.

The institution of marriage

One reality of our day is that there are many heterosexual couples who regard the institution of marriage in an unfavourable light. Often due to past experience, they see marriage as an oppressive, patriarchal and even abusive institution. This perception of marriage helps to answer the question of why a heterosexual couple would enter into a civil union when there is no legal difference between that form of relationship and marriage.

While many Christians would regard such forms of marriage as inappropriate expressions of what it means to love, it needs to be acknowledged that significant numbers of people have turned their back on marriage as an institution. Civil unions offer these couples an alternative form of commitment.

What matters most?

Just because civil unions are different from marriage does not mean that they are any less loving, faithful or committed. A marriage license does not in itself guarantee a strong and healthy partnership. What matters most about our relationships is whether they are based on qualities of mutual respect, love and fidelity.

A gay or de facto heterosexual couple who have been together for over twenty years, sharing a house, a dog and a barbecue, and growing in love as time goes by might well ask, what else do we have to do to 'go as far' as marriage?

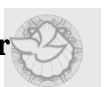
Love as a gift from God

A basic tenet of Christianity is that love is a gift from God. Where there is love, so too there is God. When two people come together in an intimate, self-giving connection, they witness to the greater Love at the heart of life. In a world where so many people feel lonely and isolated and where self-interest and violence often rule, love is surely a miracle to be celebrated. As Christians, we are called to affirm all loving, committed relationships to the best of our ability.

"Civil" ceremonies

The Faith and Order Committee's March 2005 statement also suggested that civil unions are purely "civil" ceremonies. It is opposed to them being conducted by presbyters and in church buildings. To do so, it said, would cause confusion by turning civil ceremonies into religious acts and making them appear to be marriages.

It argued that civil unions should not be conducted in church buildings, and that presbyters should lead services of blessing on a couple's relationship after their civil service has taken place.



God at the heart

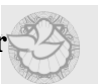
Yet, for couples for whom faith is an important part of life, there is no way that making a lifelong commitment can be anything other than a religious act. For such couples, an acknowledgement of God is, of necessity, at the heart of their ceremony. It is not something to be tacked on at the end as an afterthought.

Many presbyters and congregations see offering the hospitality of the church to civil union couples as a matter of inclusiveness, justice and equal rights. They argue that to deny such couples the welcome of the community of faith would be discriminatory.

A way forward

Rather than trying to make a blanket ruling, it would be better for the Church to accept the diversity of views within its life. We recommend leaving the decision regarding their involvement in civil union services to individual presbyters and congregations.

Faith & Order Committee
June 2005



NZ METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR JUNE 2005

Noa'ia e Mauri, Ni sa Bula Vinaka, Talofa Lava, Namaste, Malo e Lelei, Kia Orana, Tina Kotou Katoa, Leana

Warmest Greetings to you dear Fellowship Friends from National Executive. What a wonderful blessing is the gift of friendship. Wanda Fulton wrote

"What is the best gift you ever received? Better still what is the best gift you ever gave? Perhaps you will recall that in each instance the best gift was one that was tied with the heartstrings of the giver, one that included part of self."

As Margaret and I moved around on our visit to Waikato/Thames Valley District last month we became increasingly aware of the close bonds of friendship that exist between members of our Fellowships throughout the country. We felt we were truly amongst "family" wherever we went.

When Frank and I celebrated our Golden Wedding 4 years ago I managed to make contact with my second bridesmaid who I hadn't seen since that very special day so long ago. June was not able to attend our celebrations but through that contact we renewed our friendship and when she was able to come and visit me for several days it was like the gulf of 50+ years hadn't existed. It reminded me, however, that if we want to keep friendships or relationships alive we do need to work at them. It's the same with our relationship with Jesus if we want it to be real and meaningful we must journey with Him, be constantly in his presence and move on with Him in faith. As the old song we have all sung so many times reminds us, "What a friend we have in Jesus." He will sustain us whatever life dishes up to us if we keep close to Him. I wish you joy as you journey on with Him and may His peace with you at all times. With love and blessings, Nelma

National Council 2005

Date Friday 30 September (4 pm) to Sunday 2 October (after lunch)

Venue Waiwhetu Uniting Church of Hutt City Uniting Parish,
6 Trafalgar Street, Waiwhetu, Lower Hutt.

Theme "Moving On In Faith"

Registration forms have already been sent out. Please complete and return to: Marie Smith, National Treasurer, 18 Sunny Glen, Waikanae 6010 as soon as possible.

President Elect closing date for nominations 31 July 2005

Host Convention 2006 please send in by 31 July, 2005

Recommendations for Council closed on 31 May 2005.

Tributes for members (who have served on National Executive) who have died during the past year.

These should be sent by

31 July to ensure inclusion in the Council Handbook.

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Annual return forms

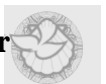
By now you will have received your Annual Return forms. Please complete and return these as soon as possible after your Annual Meeting as we need them for mailings relating to Council as soon as possible.

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Sympathy is extended to Adele Forrester, one of our two Missions ladies, on the recent death of her 102 year old mother,

Mrs Florence Cooke. Our loving thoughts are with you and your family at this sad time, Adele.

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Thanks to all those who have contributed articles for the World Federation's publication "Tree Of Life" (for possible inclusion in the issue in which there will be a portion focusing on the South Pacific Area), our sincere thanks.

From Liaison Officer, Margaret King, What a pleasure it was to accompany Nelma on her first Presidential visit which was to the Waikato/Thames Valley District. The warm welcome and forward planning of the itinerary made for a very good District Meeting at Matamata on the Monday and we were delighted that some members of Bay of Plenty District were able to join us. A pot luck tea with members of the past National Executive and current District Executive, also Past President, Margaret Birtles, gave opportunity for informal chat and "catching up". Dessert and coffee another evening with Te Aroha Fellowship members was also a valuable time.

Of special delight to us and something we regarded as a great privilege was the joy of visiting past members no longer able to play an active part in MWF, some still in their own homes and some in Rest Homes. We salute these dear ladies and thank them for the years they have given in the service of NZMWF.

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Also from Margaret – Some money-making ideas

Lolly bags. Pickled onions. Christmas cakes.
Silent auction. Note paper & envelopes.
Second hand book sale. Calendars
Serve lunches, 2 types of soup & savouries/sandwiches.
A flower show without flowers – showing of tea towels, china, novelty items, paintings, all decorated with floral patterns.
Secret voting @ 5 cents each.

"Storms make oaks take deeper roots."
George Herbert (1593-1633)

A special message to our Tongan Sisters

Malo e lelei, Kuo ke ma'u e ongoongo ki he M.W.F.? Kapou 'oku te'eki ai ke ma'u, pea ke kataki 'o 'omai ho tu'osila totonu.

Kataki 'o fetu'utaki kia Linda Wilkins, 3 Goldsborough Av., RAUMATI BEACH.

And one to our Sisters from Samoa

Talofa lava. Fa'amolemole po'o outou mauaina faamatalaga mai le M.W.F. O lo 'o matou popole, ma matou te manaomia sao.

Faamolemole, siaki ane ma lafo ia Linda Wilkins, 3 Goldsborough Av., RAUMATI BEACH.

Smethurst Grants are available for any women who are involved in a Methodist or Uniting Congregation in NZ. Study courses must be within the beliefs and principals of the Methodist Church. A wide variety of courses have been supported, the exceptions are MWF Convention and Council Meeting and NZ Methodist Church Conference.

School age girls are not eligible, neither are 1st year University students who attend University immediately after leaving school.

Application forms are usually displayed on each parish notice board. MWF District Secretaries have application forms & information leaflets. The application form is also available on the Methodist web page.

The final date for 2005 applications is 20 October. Mary welcomes thoughts as to the best way to promote Smethurst application forms and information, ideas by 15 July 2005 please. Contact can be made through Mary West, Convenor maryw@west.net.nz.

"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace."

Numbers 6: 24-26.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION

CONFERENCE – FEES & GST

Thank you to everyone who has correctly filled in their Registration Forms in regard to the new setting out of the Fees and GST.

Just a small reminder that when paying by **PERSONAL CHEQUE** GST charges will be incurred. If you need clarification regarding this please contact Viki on (03) 364 9427 or email vikif@methodist.org.nz

LECTIONARY

By now most people will have received their copies of the 2005/2006 Lectionary. Copies are still available by contacting Viki on (03) 364 9427 or email vikif@methodist.org.nz

SONJA DAVIES FUNERAL

Lynne Frith attended Sonja Davies funeral in June, as District Superintendent, and representing the church as Acting President.

Lynne shares the following:

"This week I attended the funeral for Sonia Davies, a woman wellknown and respected for her lifelong passionate commitment to peace and justice.

Parishes may wish to make a memorial donation to the 'Sonja Davies Peace Award', New Horizons for Women Trust, P.O.Box 12 498, Wellington.

*Lynne Frith
Wellington District Co-Superintendent"*

JOHN SELBY SPONG'S NEW BOOK – THE SINS OF THE SCRIPTURE

HERE IN JULY

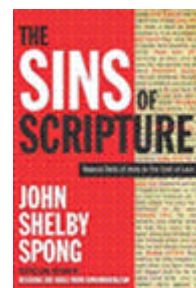


John Shelby Spong was the Episcopal Bishop of Newark, NJ, for more than twenty years and is one of the leading spokespersons in the world for an open, scholarly, and progressive Christianity. Bishop Spong has taught at Harvard, and at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkely, California. He has also lectured at universities, conference centers, and churches in North America, Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific. He is the author of 15 books including the bestselling *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, *Living in Sin*, *Liberating the Gospels*, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, and his latest book *The Sins of Scripture*.

History will recognize him as one of the major change agents in modern Christianity.

Email your order now to Whirlwind Distribution at robinson.howard@xtra.co.nz or phone or mail order to **Whirlwind Distribution, 10 Westhill Road, Point Howard, Eastbourne, Wellington**. Ph 04 5682794. (Invoice will be included with purchase. Send no payment beforehand.)

\$36.00 plus p&p



HYMNBOOK TRUST

New CDs have a role in Chaplaincy Services

The new Hymnbook Trust CDs, providing keyboard accompaniment to hymns by Shirley Murray ('Singing Faith') and Colin Gibson ('Singing Love'), will find a place within hospitals, prisons, resthomes, retirement villages and learning institutions. For more information contact John and Gillian Thornley, Hymnbook Trust, by telephone 06/3569681) or email info@hymns.org.nz

EVANGELICAL NETWORK – CONFERENCE 2005 EVENTS

Come early and start Conference 2005 in a relaxing environment with a challenge for your soul.

Thursday (3 Nov) Evening

Body & Soul @ The Boardroom,
meal, artwork, worship and speakers - from 5.30pm
Venue: The Boardroom, 118 Hereford Street, Christchurch
Speakers- tba

Also

Saturday (5 Nov) Morning

Evangelical Network pre-conference breakfast, worship & annual meeting [breakfast provided]
8.00-10am
Venue: Shirley Methodist Church, Cnr New Brighton Road & North Parade, Shirley.

If you need any clarification on this, please call/email Rev Nigel Hanscamp.

Nigel





A letter from Tauivi Youth Ministry....

Kia Ora Koutou,

Recently I attended a road show on *The State of Youth Work in Aotearoa*, which was presented by the National Youth Workers Network (Ministry of Youth Development). At this road show some of the key findings from the *National Youth Work Research Project* which was carried out last year were shared. From this, on the issue of significant initiatives for young people, 'Faith Groups' (i.e.: Church Youth Groups) were one of the most commonly recognised ways in which positive youth development was nurtured.

Although such a finding is not unusually surprising, it is certainly refreshing to be reminded once in a while that even on a national more secular footing, both youth groups and youth programmes within churches play significant roles in the nurturing and development of youth.

This road show was also a beneficial opportunity to meet with a range of people who work in many different advocacy, support and educational organisations specifically with youth in mind. One organisation in particular was the Global Education Centre, an education and information service on global and development issues. I recommend their website to anyone who has not yet gone to visit it: www.globaled.org.nz.

Another website which I recommend is www.justfocus.org.nz. This is especially for any budding writers/journalists who are keen to contribute an article on any chosen social issue, or for people who are just interested in a new website which is set up for young people, by young people.

Then after all that surfing on the net, if your anywhere near Manukau City on Friday 12th August, Excel School of Performing Arts will be presenting "Download Overload", a theatre stage show at the new Telstra Clear Pacific Events Centre. For those who may not know, Excel is a Christian based School which has taught the likes of Ben Lummis as well as our very own "Methodist to the bone" Naina and Vii Tupa'i (Adeaze) to name a few. Tickets are available from Ticket Direct.

I am very interested to hear your reviews on the websites/services mentioned above. Please also feel free to get in touch with me regarding anything to do with Tauivi Youth Ministry.

Lastly (but certainly not least), I would like to take this opportunity to thank and farewell Kiersten Boughen who has moved on from her work for Youth Ministry in our church to now work for the Cancer Foundation. Kiersten has shared so much of her experience, energy, wisdom, time and dedication over the past years. We give thanks for all that she has shared and we wish her well for the future!

God Bless & Good Bye for now.

Naku noa,

TeRito Peyroux

Facilitator, Tauivi Youth Ministry.

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical

Newsletter

July 2005

Secretary: John Roberts, 22a Penney, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1004
Phone 09-626-3771 Fax: 09-6266137 E-mail mm-e@clear.net.nz

Visit to Church in Papua New Guinea

The Mission and Ecumenical secretary's visit to the United Church in Papua New Guinea (UCPNG) 17 April to 5 May was of considerable benefit in strengthening the relationship with that church. He visited Buka in the Bougainville region, Rabaul and Rarongo Theological College in the East New Britain region, Mendi in the Southern Highlands region and Kerema in the West Gulf region, met with assembly office staff and provided input into a chaplains' conference. The secretary met many bright and able people, determined to produce a hopeful future for their church and country. In several small ways Mission and Ecumenical has been able to contribute to that outlook.

2005 special appeal. This is to assist the UCPNG in its work with children and youth. 69% of the membership of UCPNG is under 30 years of age. Children and youth in PNG are at risk from HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual and domestic violence, marriage breakdown, breakdown of law and order. This appeal will assist the church to bring leaders together for quality training events. So far \$2,047 has been received. The target is \$7,000. Donations may be sent to the secretary.

Bougainville. A PAC grant will fund a new church administration centre at Buka, to replace the one destroyed in the recent conflict on Bougainville Island. The architect is currently considering tenders for the project

Rarongo scholarships. Mission and Ecumenical is now providing funding in three areas at Rarongo Theological College. Scholarships which cover payment of course fees have been provided for four students in training for ministry at Rarongo Theological College. Students were selected by Rarongo faculty staff on the basis of financial need and study potential.

Rarongo library. Funds raised from the 2003

library appeal continue to be used for the purchase of books for the Rarongo library. Dr Keith Carley, a former lecturer at Rarongo and now at St John's College Auckland, is assisting in the purchase of books. Funds have also been provided for the purchase of materials for a new library shelving unit for additional books. The unit will be built by students at the college.

Rebuilding Rarongo. Many of the facilities at Rarongo have fallen into a poor state of repair, hastened by the fallout from nearby volcanic eruptions. In 2005 this resulted in a decision not to have an intake of new students. The United Church of Australia has launched an appeal and will be sending work parties to Rarongo to assist in the rebuilding effort. Mission and Ecumenical has provided NZ\$14,000 towards the cost of the rebuilding effort.

News from the Solomon Islands

Assembly office communications strategy. The UCSI assembly office has been without telephone, e-mail or fax links from November 2004 to the present. The assembly office has sought financial assistance from Mission and Ecumenical to reinstate these facilities. A communication strategy for 2005/06 was provided and in June 2005 NZ\$12,000 was provided toward the first stage of the strategy, which involved reconnection, reinstallation of equipment, equipment rental costs, purchase of a computer, and setting up a communications room. The second stage in 2006 will see Mission and Ecumenical funding the installation of a PABX system.

Helena Goldie Hospital. Outstanding work on the building of the Nurse Aide Training School Dining Hall which was built with a grant from the PAC fund has now been done and all costs met. Hospital staff have lacked adequate office facilities, so at the request of the hospital it was agreed to fund an extension estimated to cost SBD9,800. This building project is now 90% complete. The next project which will begin this year is the Davinia Taylor Memorial Hall, to be used for staff training and social purposes, and funded from donations received by Mission and Ecumenical.

Choiseul centennial. The United Church held a week-long celebration in May to mark the 100 years of the arrival of the church in Sasamunga, Choiseul Province. Events included church services, re enactments of the arrival of the church 100 years ago, feasting and dancing. Amongst those attending were Graeme and David McDonald, from Auckland, sons of Rev Alister and Alice McDonald who served on Choiseul Island 1952-1963.



Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Sir Allan Kemakeza, used the occasion to call for national unity in his address to more than 2000 people who took part in the celebrations. He reiterated the popular political saying “United we stand, divided we fall” to highlight the need for Solomon Islands to remain one country. The call was intended to ease the people’s anxiety following calls for secession from the rest of Solomon Islands by some political leaders from the bigger neighbouring Western Province.

New ecumenical initiative

The Conference of Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand will finish its life at the September 2005 forum in Papakowhai, Wellington. This is to make way for a new ecumenical initiative which it is hoped will be more widely representative of churches in this country. A Strategic Thinking Group (STG) is currently working on proposals which will be put to the churches. Bob Scott a member of the STG has provided the following report on work to date.

“The Strategic Thinking Group (STG) was set up to make proposals for an ecumenical structure following the demise of CCA-NZ. We are representatives from different denominations and none of us has known each other well. From our very first meeting we agreed:

1. This might be a long task which might not be completed before the CCA-NZ actually ended its work
2. It would be a spiritual journey for each one of us – not merely an exercise in management or project models
3. The final proposals would most certainly emerge, not from the special experiences and skills we each brought to the table, but from what we learned together.

I think that is why, a little tongue-in-cheek, we proposed the name, “Strategic Thinking Group”. We wanted to be strategic in our task and not merely see it as an exercise of pooling ideas and picking what seemed like the best one. Somehow the name has stuck with us.

We have met a number of times and had some early learning experiences. One was that we had to be careful we understood the meaning of words we were using. For instance, we had different ideas of the word “churches”. To some

it means ‘congregations’, to others it means ‘denominations’. Even the word ‘ecumenical’ evokes different responses in people. We began speaking about words that “bring baggage with them”. So we have learned to choose our words carefully and not to assume we are always clearly understood. That might seem simple enough but, personally, I think it might well be one of the significant barriers in cross-church, cross faith exchanges.

The most important learning experience has been that we must not take one another for granted. That again might sound simply enough, and even obvious, but it is, in its own way, a spiritual journey.

Gradually, after long discussions, prayer, biblical study and playing the models and grids, some possibilities began to emerge. Certainly not clearly, more like discovering some principles and possibilities that must undergird any final proposals.

Now we are ready to start sharing these more widely. As a first step we met with some church leaders at a recent Vision Network NZ conference in Waikanae. Even the brief time we had there brought new insights and we saw that the business of sharing our ideas and diagrams would soon become a vital part of shaping a final result.

So we are off “on the road” in the coming months. “Coming to a church or town near you”, as they say. Some months back we asked for the prayers of the entire ecumenical family to accompany us in our deliberations. We still need those and we deeply appreciate the indications we have had that people have taken that request seriously.”

Studies

There have been encouraging reports on the use of the studies distributed at the last Methodist Conference. Additional copies of the “**Transforming Mission**” and the “**Being Ecumenical**” studies are available on request. They are designed to assist parishes and groups reflect on these two important areas of church life.



SITUATIONS VACANT

The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa



Board of Ministry

Private Bag 28907, Remuera, AUCKLAND 1136

Phone: 09 521 2073; Fax: 09 521 2664; Email: trinitycollege@auckland.ac.nz

24 June 2005

Nominations or applications for the positions of:

- 1 Director, Taiwi Pakeha Ministries, Mission Resourcing**
- 2 Director, Taiwi Pasifika Ministries, Mission Resourcing**

The Board of Ministry is now calling for nominations or applications for the above positions.

Job descriptions are attached.

Nominations, with the person's permission, are to be forwarded through the Synod Superintendent to the Secretary to the Board of Ministry, with supporting material attached.

Applications come directly from an applicant.

Applications and nominations close on 1 August 2005 and should be sent to:

The Secretary
Board of Ministry
Methodist Church of New Zealand
Private Bag 28907
Remuera,
AUCKLAND 1136

JAN TASKER
Chairperson





The Methodist Church of New Zealand - Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Board of Ministry

Job Description

Position Title: Director, Taiui Pakeha Ministries, Mission Resourcing
(Hereinafter referred to as “The Director”)

Preamble: The Director, Taiui Pakeha Ministries and the Director, Taiui Pasifika Ministries will work in a team as Directors, Mission Resourcing.

This position acknowledges the relationship with Te Taha Maori and the commitment to the Bicultural Journey of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

Job Purpose: This position exists to promote the development and resourcing of Pakeha ministries within Taiui, Synods, Parishes and Ministers within the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

This is a key leadership position.

The Mission Resourcing Directors will assist Taiui Strategy Committee and Taiui Stationing Committee to keep a focus on vision and purpose, and provide an executive function in respect of Taiui policy and procedures, as well as a strategic overview of both current and future developments.

One Director will be identified each year by the Board of Ministry as the Facilitator for the Taiui Strategy Committee and the Taiui Stationing Committee (previously known as the Executive Officer). Both will be members of Taiui Strategy and Taiui Stationing Committees.

This position includes Connexional responsibilities encompassing Taiui Pakeha Mission Resourcing activities.

A new initiative will include the establishment, development and oversight of proposed separated Synod Superintendents.

Job Location: This position is Auckland based, located at 409 Great South Road, the Mission Resourcing Office, Penrose.

The Director will service Taiui Pakeha Ministries and parishes nationally.



Job Focus: RESPONSIBILITIES :

The Director, Taiuiwi Pakeha Ministries will be a Connexional person responsible for:

- Facilitating and implementing:
 - a The vision and purpose determined by Taiuiwi Strategy Committee and Taiuiwi Stationing Committee.
 - b The strategy of the Board of Ministry concerning Mission Resourcing.
(One Director will be identified each year by the Board of Ministry as the Facilitator for the Taiuiwi Strategy Committee and the Taiuiwi Stationing Committee (previously known as the Executive Officer). Both will be members of Taiuiwi Strategy and Taiuiwi Stationing Committees.)
- Convenor, English Speaking Stationing Task Group.
- Development of ministry recruitment strategies/processes and co-ordinating candidating.
- Deployment of ministers from other countries/churches (other than Pacific) according to the policies of the Methodist Church of New Zealand - Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.
- Developing links with Asian congregations who have links with the Methodist Church of New Zealand - Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.
- Working jointly with the Director, Taiuiwi Pasifika Ministries on orientation programmes on Bicultural commitment and the ethos of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa, in consultation with Te Taha Maori, for new Connexional leaders, presbyters from other countries and ministers appointed to UCANZ congregations with a Methodist component.
- Synod Superintendent training in consultation with the Director, Taiuiwi Pasifika Ministries.
- Implementing the proposed policy of Separated Synod Superintendents.
- Facilitating professional development for Taiuiwi Pakeha Ministries.
- Providing resources for Parish Reviews and Ministry Covenants.
- Encouraging and supporting the development of new ventures to strengthen churches, parishes and faith communities.
- Oversight of Methodist Chaplaincy appointments.
- Ecumenical relationships with Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Employment of office/support staff jointly with the Director, Taiuiwi Pasifika Ministries.

Relationship and Reporting:

The Director, Taiuiwi Pakeha Ministries:
Reports directly to the Board of Ministry.

Works with:

- Director, Taiuiwi Pasifika Ministries
- Tumuaki, Te Taha Maori
- Principal, Trinity Methodist Theological College
- General Secretary, Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa
- Taiuiwi Stationing Committee and Taiuiwi Strategy Committee
- Council of Conference
- Synod Superintendents
- Leadership of Vahefonua Tonga 'O Aotearoa, Sinoti Samoa, and Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma E Niu Siladi
- Secretary of Methodist Mission and Ecumenical



- Partner churches in association with the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa within New Zealand
(The Director who is Facilitator Taiuiwi Strategy Committee and Taiuiwi Stationing Committee will be a member of the President's Pastoral Committee and President's Committee of Advice.)

Personal Attributes of the Appointee:

- Active membership of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa
- Significant Connexional experience
- Analytical and strategic development skills
- Ability to implement Taiuiwi Mission Resourcing policy New Zealand wide
- Ability to translate strategy into achievable outcomes
- Motivational skills
- Proven communication skills
- Ability to interact cross-culturally
- Working knowledge and understanding of Te Reo Maori and Tikanga Maori
- Ability to work collaboratively and harmoniously
- Ability to work within the ethos and discipline of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana
- Ability to work as a member of a team as well as on their own
- Regional and national leadership experience and skills
- Successful staff management
- Ability to travel extensively

Conditions: Performance in the position is subject to annual review.
The job holder will be required to undertake appropriate professional supervision.

Remuneration: Stipend and allowances as approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa for an ordained appointee, or as negotiated for a lay appointee.

Job description: The content of the job description will be reviewed after six months.

Term of appointment: The initial appointment is for six years, with a review during the third year, initiated by the Board of Ministry



The Methodist Church of New Zealand - Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Board of Ministry

Job Description

Position Title: Director, Tauwi Pasifika Ministries, Mission Resourcing
(Hereinafter referred to as “The Director”)

Preamble: The Director, Tauwi Pasifika Ministries and the Director, Tauwi Pakeha Ministries will work in a team as Directors, Mission Resourcing.

This position acknowledges the relationship with Te Taha Maori and the commitment to the Bicultural Journey of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

Job Purpose: This position exists to promote the development and resourcing of Ministries with Vahefonua Tonga ‘O Aotearoa, Sinoti Samoa, and Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma E Niu Siladi within the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

This is a key leadership position.

The Mission Resourcing Directors will assist Tauwi Strategy Committee and Tauwi Stationing Committee to keep a focus on vision and purpose, and provide an executive function in respect of Tauwi policy and procedures, as well as a strategic overview of both current and future developments.

One Director will be identified each year by the Board of Ministry as the Facilitator for the Tauwi Strategy Committee and the Tauwi Stationing Committee (previously known as the Executive Officer). Both will be members of Tauwi Strategy and Tauwi Stationing Committees.

This position includes Connexional responsibilities, encompassing Pasifika ministries within Mission Resourcing.

A new initiative will include the establishment, development and oversight of proposed separated Synod Superintendents.

Job Location: This position is Auckland based, located at 409 Great South Road, the Mission Resourcing Office, Penrose.

The Director will service Tauwi Pasifika Ministries and parishes nationally.



Job Focus: RESPONSIBILITIES –

The Director, Tauivi Pasifika Ministries will be a Connexional person responsible for:

- Facilitating and implementing:
 - a The vision and purpose determined by Tauivi Strategy Committee and Tauivi Stationing Committee.
 - b The strategy of the Board of Ministry concerning Mission Resourcing. (One Director will be identified each year by the Board of Ministry as the Facilitator for the Tauivi Strategy Committee and the Tauivi Stationing Committee (previously known as the Executive Officer). Both will be members of Tauivi Strategy and Tauivi Stationing Committee.
- Development of ministry recruitment strategies and processes for Pasifika ministries.
- Building and maintaining co-operative and functional relationships with the Superintendents of Vahefonua Tonga ‘O Aotearoa, Sinoti Samoa, and Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma E Niu Siladi and with parishes and ministers.
- Working with the Superintendents of Vahefonua Tonga ‘O Aotearoa, Sinoti Samoa, and Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma E Niu Siladi in the preparation of Stationing appointments.
- Deployment of ministers from Pacific countries / churches according to the policies of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.
- Working jointly with the Director, Pakeha Ministries on orientation programmes on Bicultural commitment and the ethos of the Methodist Church of New Zealand - Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa, in consultation with Te Taha Maori, for new Connexional leaders, presbyters from other countries and ministers appointed to UCANZ congregations with a Methodist component.
- Synod Superintendent training in consultation with the Director, Tauivi Pakeha Ministries.
- Implementing the proposed policy of Separated Synod Superintendents.
- Assisting Pasifika ministries and mission in the preparation of strategies for growth and development.
- Facilitating professional development for Tauivi Pasifika Ministries.
- Providing resources for Parish Reviews and Ministry Covenants for Tauivi Pasifika Ministries.
- Employment of office/support staff jointly with the Director Pakeha Ministries.

Relationship and Reporting:

The Director, Tauivi Pasifika Ministries:
Reports directly to the Board of Ministry.

Works with:

- Director, Tauivi Pakeha Ministries
- Tumuaki, Te Taha Maori
- Principal, Trinity Methodist Theological College
- General Secretary, Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa
- Tauivi Stationing Committee and Tauivi Strategy Committee
- Council of Conference
- Synod Superintendents
- Leadership of Vahefonua Tonga ‘O Aotearoa, Sinoti Samoa, and Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma E Niu Siladi
- Methodist Consultative Council of the Pacific
- Secretary of Methodist Mission and Ecumenical



- Partner churches in association with the Methodist Church of New Zealand – Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa within New Zealand
(The Director who is Facilitator Taiwi Strategy Committee and Taiwi Stationing Committee will be a member of the President’s Pastoral Committee and President’s Committee of Advice.)

Personal Attributes of the Appointee:

- Active membership of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa
- Significant Connexional experience
- Analytical and strategic development skills
- Ability to implement Taiwi Mission Resourcing policy New Zealand wide
- Ability to translate strategy into achievable outcomes
- Motivational skills
- Proven communication skills
- Ability to interact cross-culturally
- Ability to be fluent in a Pasifika language
- Must have the confidence and support of Pasifika ministries, and have the understanding and appreciation of Pasifika theology
- Working knowledge and understanding of Te Reo Maori and Tikanga Maori
- Ability to work collaboratively and harmoniously
- Ability to work within the ethos and discipline of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana
- Ability to work as a member of a team as well as on their own
- Regional and national leadership experience and skills
- Successful staff management
- Ability to travel extensively

Conditions: Performance in the position is subject to annual review.
The job holder will be required to undertake appropriate professional supervision.

Remuneration: Stipend and allowances as approved annually by the Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand -Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa for an ordained appointee, or as negotiated for a lay appointee.

Job Description: The content of the job description will be reviewed after six months.

Term of Appointment: The initial appointment is for six years, with a review during the third year, initiated by the Board of Ministry.



Director, Wesley Community Action

Wesley Community Action provides a range of residential and community based services for young people, families and the elderly. We take a vibrant and innovative approach to making a difference in the lives of people within the community. We act to support people in their immediate needs, and to address the issues of injustice that drive those needs.

We seek a Director to drive and integrate our strengths- based approach to service delivery and social change. We are in a time of significant development and we require a Director with proven competence and a commitment to supporting organisational change and the development of new services.

You must ensure sound managerial and theological leadership for Wesley Community Action and take accountability for its strategic, financial and organisational health.

You will be responsible for:

- Working closely with, and being accountable to the Board
- Interpreting the Board's policy initiatives into well planned, risk evaluated and prudently managed service delivery
- Leading and inspiring staff
- Building and maintaining sound working relationships with all stakeholders
- Furthering and driving change initiatives as part of our long term strategic
- Planning

You will need to demonstrate proven, highly practical, management skills, particularly within the not-for-profit sector, as well as confidence in operating within a dynamic environment. Excellent communication skills are essential, particularly adopting a bicultural approach and applying Christian principles and ethics in the workplace. Experience in operating with governmental processes and agencies, and an understanding of Methodist Church structure and ethos would be an advantage.

To apply please email your CV pqlensor@xtra.co.nz or write in confidence to:

"Director Vacancy" WCA, PO Box 9932, Wellington.

For further information phone the Board Chair, Peter Glensor, on (04) 5864119. Applications close 6 August 2005.



ECUMENICAL NEWS & VIEWS

CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

Zimbabwe Appeal

CWS has launched an appeal to assist the tens of thousands left homeless and without income in the latest political crackdown by the Mugabe regime.

Zimbabwean police and army personnel have targeted street children, homeless people, street traders, foreign-currency dealers, informal businesses and purportedly illegal houses/structures across the country. "These people have been struggling to survive in a country facing massive inflation, unemployment of 70% and food shortages," says Jonathan Fletcher, CWS National Director. "Now all market traders, stalls, temporary shops and informal salespeople have had their livelihoods taken away. Fifty-thousand homes have been destroyed and conservative estimates put the number of displaced individuals at 250,000. Many people have been traumatised by events, particularly children, increasing the general feeling of fear and helplessness. Some children have now been killed in the 'cleaning up' process."

CWS has a local partner, Christian Care, already providing relief. They have issued an appeal through ACT International, of which CWS is a member, to fund immediate shelter needs (June and July are the coldest months of the year in Zimbabwe), cooking utensils, jerry cans, soap, basic food and trauma counselling for displaced people.

Please remember those who have been displaced and pray for a just solution to the situation in Zimbabwe.

To donate: phone 0800 74 73 72 or go to www.cws.org.nz (credit cards only) or send your donation to PO Box 22652 Christchurch.

For background on the crisis in Zimbabwe see the Churches' Agency on International issues Hot Topic. Available from CWS (international@cws.org.nz) or download from <http://www.cws.org.nz/Resources/international.asp>

Build a Better World Competition

The 50th issue of World Watch, CWS's magazine for children, is now available. To celebrate the occasion, CWS is holding a competition inviting readers to write a story or design a poster with the theme of building a better world.

World Watch, for 7 to 12 year olds, provides a way for children to explore global issues through stories, games and other fun activities. The latest issue, available now, highlights how disasters such as the Darfur conflict or South Asian tsunami affect children. World Watch is available free of charge and comes with a leader's kit. Contact youth@cws.org.nz to order your copies and get more details on the competition.

Make Poverty History

Make Poverty History was launched in New Zealand on 1 July with a series of 'white band' events. The white band is the international symbol of the campaign. Wear one around your wrist to show your support. Bands are available from CWS: cws@cws.org.nz, 0800 747372 or send a \$2 donation to PO Box 22652 Christchurch.

There will be more actions nationally and internationally throughout the year. The next major actions will be held around the UN Millennium Goals Summit on September 10. CWS will be preparing resources for churches, available early August, and is calling for a special day of worship in September. Watch out for further details. For more information: www.cws.org.nz or contact gillian.southey@cws.org.nz

Thanks to all the Christchurch people who helped wrap Christ Church Cathedral!

Wipe Out Poverty Week, 5-11 September

CWS's annual week of action by young people is coming up. Time to start thinking about what your youth group, school or family can do to help Wipe Out Poverty. This year's materials feature House of Passage, Brazil, a CWS partner working with disadvantaged children and teens from the slum communities – building their confidence and providing training and support to find new opportunities. Contact youth@cws.org.nz to sign up or get further information.



From Ron & Alison O'Grady's Desk

In a curious twist of geography the New Zealand Churches of Christ established their first overseas mission in Southern Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe. For decades there has been a thriving church led by many New Zealand missionaries. Sir Garfield Todd, an early missionary even became Prime Minister of the country. Today, Church of Christ members are among the many victims of Robert Mugabe's madness. Former missionaries here receive letters such as the following:

From Harare:

"We are all terrified at what they are going to destroy next ... I mean they are actually ploughing down brick and mortar houses and one white family with twin boys of 10 had no chance of salvaging anything when 100 riot police came in with AK's and bulldozers and demolished their beautiful house - 5 bedrooms and pine ceilings - because it was "too close to the airport"...so we are feeling extremely insecure right now...

There is no way we can leave so that is not an option. I just ask that you all pray for us in the way that you know how, and let me know that you are thinking of us and sending out positive vibes, that's all.

You can't just say "oh you attract your own reality". The petrol queues are a reality, the pall of smoke all around our city is a reality, the thousands of homeless people sleeping outside in 4 degrees Celsius with no food, water, shelter and bedding are a reality. Today a family approached me, brother of the gardener's wife with two small children. Their home was trashed and they will have to sleep outside. We already support 8 people and a child on this property and electricity is going up next month by 250% as is water. How can I take another family of 4 - and yet how can I turn them away to sleep out in the open? I am not asking you for money, or a ticket out of here - I am asking you to FACE the fact that we are in deep and terrible danger and I want you to pass on our news and pictures and don't just press the delete button for God's sake...

From Bulawayo:

"Today I write from a devastated Bulawayo. When I said that after the election there would be greater repression I could not possibly have imagined what is happening in Zimbabwe now, first in Harare starting nearly two weeks ago, and now coming to us. There are piles of rubble everywhere lying in chaos and the police are trying to shovel it away. Late this morning they attacked the sellers along Lobengula street, dumping their wares into police trucks and burning the stalls. Smoke was wafting everywhere.

Our brains are evidently not equipped to absorb or give meaning to the destruction that has been perpetrated. We are not, as far as we know, at war, but that is what appears to be happening. Our government is making war on the nation. We cannot attempt to explain it, and everyone is in a state of shock. We cannot "adjust" any more to our fate, but as a people we are paralysed by fear and desperation. There will be prayer meetings of the faithful, all night vigils, but when the Amen is said, nothing will have changed. Hopelessness in the face of unspeakable evil and violence is our future."

Ngairi Lennox
Executive Secretary
Conference of Churches in Aotearoa NZ
P O Box 22 652
Christchurch
Phone: 64 3 377 2703
Fax: 64 3 377 2702
email: admin@ccanz.net.nz
www: ccanz.net.nz



12TH OXFORD INSTITUTE OF METHODIST THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
August 12-21, 2007 - Christ Church, Oxford

I am pleased to share with you the CALL of the Twelfth Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies which will take place August 12-21, 2007 at Christ Church, Oxford, the college of John and Charles Wesley. We would be glad if you could help us locate scholars, theological school faculty, and scholarly pastors who take a leadership role in the teaching office of the church and who could make a good contribution to the work of this Institute. We are particularly interested in promising younger scholars.

Where possible, we would ask you to support financially persons coming from your church. Though our funds are limited, there will be some subvention for those coming from the Third World.

With prayers for God's blessings on your work, I am
Sincerely yours,
M. Douglas Meeks

**TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE, OUR CALLING TO FULFILL
Ecclesiology, Mission, and Vocation**

Taking our theme from the Charles Wesley hymn, in the year of celebrating the 300th anniversary of his birth, the Twelfth Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies will devote itself to considerations at the intersection of ecclesiology, mission, and vocation.

It is a given in the Wesleyan tradition that participation in God's redemptive mission in the world is central to both our personal Christian vocation and to the nature and mission of the church. As such, serving the present age is not an optional commitment for some to embrace. It ought to be an integral dimension of our lives and our ecclesial structures. Given the dynamic nature of the "present," it should also be a recurrent focus of our theological investigation.

This Institute invites proposals that contribute to this overall focus. It is expected that all proposals will be developed with some attention to the character of our present age in the context of historical developments within Methodism and the contemporary pressures of globalization (social, economic and political), increased inter-religious conflicts, and "post-modern" currents. Though some proposals may focus primarily on such analysis, we are particularly interested in studies that explore such questions as:

What are the currents that are shaping and changing our world?

What is God's redemptive mission in the world—the mission in which we are called to participate?

What have been characteristically Wesleyan/Methodist emphases about this participatory mission?

What "service" does our present age really need?

What skills or sensitivities are crucial for the church/Christians to develop, if we are truly to serve the present age?

How do Christians in the range of vocations contribute to this mission of serving the present age?

How is concern for matters like evangelism, worship, formation, and oversight integral to the church's mission serving the present age?

M. Douglas Meeks
Cal Turner Chancellor Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies
The Divinity School
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37240
(615) 343-3988 (O)
(615) 343-9957 (F)
m.douglas.meeks@vanderbilt.edu