

The Methodist Alliance is a formal alliance of the Methodist missions, parishes and community based social services and trusts. This is the first and founding strategic plan for the Methodist Alliance. Decision making is by consensus in accordance with the practice of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa. The Methodist Alliance is accountable to the Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa. The membership of the Methodist Alliance approves the overall strategic direction at the biennial forum and the Steering Committee is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the strategic plan.

**Our Vision:** Working together to achieve a just and inclusive society in which all people flourish.

**Our Mission:** The Methodist Alliance is grounded in the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the bi-cultural journey. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing relationship, and will guide how the Methodist Alliance undertakes its mission.

The mission of the Methodist Alliance is to work together to affirm the journey from ka mate (death in the midst of life) to ka ora (life in the midst of death) and will be nourished by our Methodist theological understandings.

**Our Values** are derived from these principles and include:

- *Respect for people* – and every person's unique value
- *Inclusive of all* – ensuring that appropriate services recognise the diversity of peoples
- *Social justice* – inequality, unfairness and exclusion will be challenged
- *Integrity* - actions speak louder than words
- *Partnership* – strength is found in cooperation
- *Empowerment*– every person deserves the chance for choice and change
- *Sustainability* – we are here for the long haul
- *Celebration* – we acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of our membership

**Our Theological Principles:**

As part of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, the following theological principles underpin our work.

We believe:

- God has called us to stewardship of all of creation and we recognise God's loving presence among all people at all times. It is the love of God that empowers us in our struggles towards justice and unity and calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are struggling
- that Christ leads us to affirm the dignity and worth of every human being
- that we are bound in covenant relationship with tangata whenua and we seek to live as people of the Treaty
- that for us the Good News of Jesus Christ contains the message that will promote effectively the regeneration and reconstruction of society
- in the words of John Wesley,

- that our faith in God means loving God with all our heart, soul and strength and loving every soul that God has made
- there is no holiness but social holiness; personal holiness is for changing the world, not just the individual
- in the integrity and the inter-dependence of all creation and therefore we are required to live as stewards of life and work in connected ways
- that all of life is infused with an inherent dignity and worth in the sight of God and we seek engagement in activities which transform dehumanising and depersonalising social behaviour
- that together with others, we are called to bring hope, work for equity and justice and challenge unjust systems and structures.

**Our Social Principles:** we adhere to, and action the social principles of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

**Partnerships:** We are committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all our work and to working in partnership as Māori and Tauīwi.

Goals What we are striving for	Objectives 2018 - 2021 How we will work towards our goals	Measure We'll know we're on track when
1. Work towards a bi-cultural future for Aotearoa New Zealand.	1. Resources developed for Methodist Alliance members to build understanding of the Methodist Church's bicultural journey and commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.	1.1 An induction toolkit/resource is available for boards and employees on the Church's bi-cultural journey and commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi has been developed (including the MCNZ resource) and is being used by 80% of all members. 1.2 Resources for Treaty workshops (including facilitators) are shared with all members. 1.3 80% of members report they are engaged in activities for staff and Board members to strengthen their knowledge of Te Tiriti, the bi-cultural journey or Te Reo. 1.4 Members are living the bi-cultural journey by using models, resources and practices available.
	2. Strengthen the relationship between the Methodist Alliance members and Te Taha Maori.	2.1 Bi-annual hui are being held for Maori staff to build supportive relationships. 2.2 Members report stronger relationships with Te Taha Maori.
	3. Support Methodist Alliance members in developing culturally safe and inclusive programmes.	3.1 Members have policies and programmes in place to promote culturally safe programmes. 3.2 Members report that Maori clients have confidence in the services provided to them

Goals What we are striving for	Objectives 2018 - 2021 How we will work towards our goals	Measure We'll know we're on track when
<p>2. Lift our impact through collaboration, and sharing skills and resources across the membership.</p>	<p>1. Enable &amp; support communities of practice on selected issues across the membership. Eg. Best practice; exchanges or secondments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children &amp; families/whanau</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Community development/neighbourhood building</li> <li>• Fundraising &amp; communications</li> <li>• Positive aging</li> <li>• Maori staff</li> </ul>	<p>1. Communities of practice are established, have developed and are implementing their own action plans.</p>
	<p>2. Relationships within the membership of the Methodist Alliance are strong enough that:</p> <p>2.1. Members collaborate on joint initiatives to respond to issues of poverty, injustice and inequality.</p> <p>2.2. Members strengthen and draw on the social service work of the ethnic specific synods &amp; parishes</p> <p>2.3. Members inform the Steering Group of issues and concerns in their geographic or cultural area</p> <p>2.4. Establish and develop a programme of peer review within the membership</p> <p>2.5. All staff are knowledgeable about the Methodist Alliance and the wider MCNZ, as appropriate</p> <p>2.6. Strengthen the relationship between the missions and parishes</p>	<p>2. A reference data base is established within the membership with subject matter experts available to support members.</p> <p>2.1. Joint programmes and nationwide services are established.</p> <p>2.2. Joint programmes have been developed between Missions, Parishes and the ethnic specific synods that address the particular needs of the Pacific community</p> <p>2.3. Steering Group is well informed of issues and concerns of the membership through reporting</p> <p>2.4. Peer review programme is in place and being implemented</p> <p>2.5. Staff are seeking opportunities to work collaboratively as part of the Methodist Alliance.</p>
	<p>3. Hold a national forum every two years</p>	<p>3. National forum in 2019 is well attended with stronger relationships formed and information shared</p>

Goals What we are striving for	Objectives 2018 - 2021 How we will work towards our goals	Measure We'll know we're on track when
3. Influence public policy so that the conditions that perpetuate injustice and inequality are confronted and provide platforms for people to participate in change.	1. Common submissions on issues	1. Two to three submissions are made to Government each year on relevant issues
	2. Active participation in NZCCSS, Equality Network and SSPA.	2. Methodist Alliance representatives on external committees are sharing information to the wider membership regularly and encouraging appropriate action
	3. Encourage debate, and analysis of current issues	3. The Methodist Alliance is proposing positive solutions based on the experience of members and the programmes they provide.
	4. Media & PR strategy	4. Develop and implement a communications policy.
	5. Alliance voice	5. Coordinated media work
Goals What we are striving for	Objectives 2018 - 2021 How we will work towards our goals	Measure We'll know we're on track when
4. Increase the visibility of the work of the Methodist Alliance.	1. Co-branding implemented	1. All websites and printed material of members organisations have started co-branding by 30 December 2018
	2. Communications plan will be developed: 2.1. Internal communications within the membership 2.2. Internal communications within the MCNZ (between Methodist Alliance & MCNZ) 2.3. External communications including the media	2. Communications strategy is developed and implemented: 2.1. Bi-monthly newsletter sent to all members 2.2. All Tauwiwi and Hui Poari meetings to be provided with regular structured reporting from the Steering Group 2.3. The Methodist Alliance is featured in Touchstone four to five times per year.

Goals What we are striving for	Objectives 2018 - 2021 How we will work towards our goals	Measure We'll know we're on track when
5. The Methodist Alliance is well established with appropriate infrastructure	1. Steering Group representation reflects the membership including the missions, ethnic specific synods and geographic spread, and is skills based.	1. Conference 2018 approves the membership of the Steering Group which shows representation across MCNZ.
	2. Strong, transparent, effective and efficient financial management systems 2.1. Timely and comprehensive budget variance reporting 2.2. Administration of funds	2. At each Steering Group meeting, accurate financial updates are provided. 2.1. Prompt responses are given to questions from members of the Steering Group. 2.2. All payments are made on time and reimbursements paid within two weeks of being requested. 2.3. Administration of funds is transparent and decided by the funding subcommittee who reports to and is guided by the Steering Group.
	3. Appropriate secretariat staffing	3. The Methodist Alliance is sufficiently financially viable to employ a National Coordinator and to meet the needs of the Methodist Alliance.
	4. Development of policy and procedure documents, as required, and review process established.	4. Appropriate policies and procedures have been developed to ensure the effective functioning of the Methodist Alliance.