



WESLEYCOM

- coordinating the social service ministries of the
Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

CYCLES OF HOPE

- a reaffirmation of Breaking the Cycle

We continue to affirm and commend the journey from ka mate (death in the midst of life) to ka ora (life in the midst of death).

The “Breaking the Cycle” document was accepted by Conference in 1999 as a creative way forward for the whole church. It was an acknowledgement that the Gospel is ever challenging the church to confront the conditions that perpetuate injustice.

The church’s commitment has encouraged and enabled Missions and Parishes to incorporate searching questions into every aspect of planning. It has encouraged a changing focus. When that commitment is acted upon, Missions and Parishes have discovered new possibilities and achieved positive, life changing outcomes.

We reaffirm the commitment required.

We are all encouraged:

- to recognise we live in a changing, damaged and fragile world
- to seek innovative solutions as well as continuing to respond to immediate need
- to liberate people for life
- to enable people to achieve their own goals, rather than impose goals upon them
- to strengthen children and adults of all ages and build a better sense of neighbourhood
- to move away from “charity” to the transformation of society through partnership with all people of goodwill.

Our commitment is challenged by the economic and social divisions in New Zealand society. Our commitment is challenged by the resulting pain and the incontrovertible evidence that the rich are getting richer and the poor are becoming poorer; evidence that *ka mate* still prevails.

Acknowledging these challenges, the people called Methodist in Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa, declare again that there is an alternative way: to organise society as a neighbourhood, where we belong to each other, rather than compete *against* each other.

With that determination, whether Mission, Parish or community based, the social services ministries of our church reaffirm their commitment to listen to the voice of the voiceless; to be the responsive connection of gospel values to neighbourhood need.

Our social service ministries will continue to:

- represent a bicultural future for Aotearoa New Zealand
- model high standards of care
- respond with compassion, working alongside any who require support
- be truly ecumenical in working for partnership with all who have a vision of justice, peace and sustainability
- be committed to social analysis exposing the pathologies of society
- challenge structures or processes which ignore poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Cycles of Hope is a reaffirmation of Breaking the Cycle. It is a calling to listen and respond in humility to the stories of the people, tangatawhenua and tauwi. It is a commitment to support individuals, tamariki and whanau to reach their goals and build true neighbourhood.