



Caring for Our People

Manaakitia ā tātou tāngata
November 2018

Malo e lelei! Talofa lava! Bula! Greetings! Goeie dag! Anyoung haseyo!
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa!



It's not that I am feeling lazy, but I have had a deluge of interesting information that I think would just be fitting to share with everyone. This is the only paragraph I am writing for this newsletter, I hope you find the following as interesting as I did!

Heitia Raureti, kaihautū (leader) at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, interviewed by Thomas Manch.
The words in te reo Māori that English doesn't have. (12 Sep 2018. www.stuff.co.nz)

Manaaki has entered into broad usage, understood as: to care, to respect and show generosity.

It is all of those things, Raureti says, but much is lost in this understanding. "Manaaki itself reflects our values and culture. It's about recognising that things have mana, and when you express manaakitanga [the application of manaaki] to someone or something, that in itself is an upliftment, an encouragement, an elevation of the mana of a person or thing.

"It's recognising that person or thing deserves that expression of manaakitanga, that you demonstrate towards them."

Broken in two, the word contains both mana, and aki, meaning to encourage.

"It's a duty as well. It's about relationships. When you express manaakitanga, it's the strengthening of a relationship and the expression ... actually requires a reciprocation," Raureti says.

Dr Arapera Ngaha. (Day 6, 21 Days Preparing for Methodist Conference 2018).

"The ongoing nature of relationships is promoted ... the whole idea of relationships, whānau, hapū, they were fundamental to Māori life, but also to survival."

Caring for and valuing our people resources stretches right across the Connexion. It is not an issue exclusive to one group of people, but it is a matter for us all to address. How do we value and show that we value those who give so much of themselves for us? How do we care for our people? Is this not a Christ imperative? What more can we do? What more should we do?

Rev Dr Lynne Frith. (Day 7, 21 Days Preparing for Methodist Conference 2018).

Being "in Connexion" is first and foremost about being in relationship – about such things as seeing the giftedness of all members of the body, about having a shared sense of mission. It's sometimes described as unity in diversity. This is not about sameness, or one group dominating or controlling decision-making, but rather about interdependence and mutuality. We are all members of the one body, as we are reminded in 1 Corinthians 12.

Dr Arapera Ngaha. (Day 17, 21 Days Preparing for Methodist Conference 2018).

Let us as a church return to village life, to be people-centred, to be in connexion, to be a faithful people of God, to build loving and respectful relationships, and to share our resources. The reason, when our people are thriving so too does the church.

He hono tangata e kore e motu, ka pa he taura waka e motu.

Unlike a canoe rope, a human bond cannot be severed.

Nā Trudy Downes, Mobile 027 457 4196 trudyd@methodist.org.nz

November 2018

13

e-messenger

