

The following pages are an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Minutes of the Annual Conference .

The extract contains the reports to Conference for the following three Methodist Children's homes:

- The Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage, Mt Albert and Epsom
- Masterton Methodist Children's Home
- South Island Orphanage and Children's Home

The Methodist Church of New Zealand

MINUTES of the ANNUAL CONFERENCE

held at Wellington
1969

Price: Fifty Cents
Procurable at the Connexional Office

this past year, but the men's ward and extension to the lounge in the hospital have now been completed and will be opened in August. The Health Department has approved in principle the provision of a new boiler house, so that our three present boiler rooms can be consolidated under one roof and new equipment installed. Our present equipment is not able to cope adequately with the load.

It would seem, however, that the subsidy will not be available for this work until 1970.

(b) **WESLEY MANOR:**

After serving most faithfully as Matron of Wesley Manor for five years, Sister Ruth Farnsworth resigned in July. We have continued to care for a number of elderly men at Wesley Manor, but are greatly looking forward to the opening of the hospital wing at Company Bay, so that several men needing hospital attention can be transferred there.

(c) **WESLEY HALL STUDENTS' HOSTEL:**

During the year the Board hopes to have discussions with the University as to the future of Wesley Hall. Unfortunately, in its present state Wesley Hall has always been an uneconomic proposition because of the few students who are able to be accommodated.

(d) **KAWARAU FALLS HOLIDAY CAMP:**

During the year a new kitchen block and sewerage plant were completed. Mr and Mrs Patey continue to serve most faithfully as voluntary caretakers.

(e) **GLENWOOD ANGLICAN-METHODIST OLD PEOPLE'S HOME, TIMARU:**

This has proved how well churches can work together if they have a will to do so.

The Board has been under the capable chairmanship during the past two years of the Rev. N. W. Olds, Chairman of the South Canterbury District.

(f) **DUNEDIN CITIZENS' DAY NURSERY** has continued to fulfill a useful place in the community during this past year.

(g) **GOODWILL STORE:**

During 1969 the Store has been reorganised and more voluntary workers have assisted us. Because of the reorganisation, the store has had its largest turnover since its inception in 1952.

We are tremendously grateful to those ladies who so willingly staff the store.

4. Octagon Building:

Work has been progressing satisfactorily through 1969 and it is hoped that the shell of the building will be completed towards the end of the year and that shops on the ground floor will be occupied before Christmas.

It is not expected that all the floors will be completed and occupied until mid-1970, but by May almost all the building will be finished and it is planned to open the building then to coincide with the Annual Meeting of the M.S.S.A. which will be held in Dunedin.

D. B. GORDON, Superintendent.

H. C. VINCE, Circuit Steward.

V. J. TIE, Circuit Steward.

F. W. WILSON, Social Service Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the report be received and adopted.
2. That Conference expresses its delight at the opening in May, 1970, of the Octagon Building in Dunedin.
3. (a) That Conference authorise the Dunedin Methodist Central Mission to negotiate with the Social Services Board of the Diocese of Dunedin in order to establish a Joint Board for the purpose of Family and Child Care in the Otago-Southland District.
(b) That the constitution of the Board be subject to the approval of the Church Building and Loan Fund Department.
4. That the Board for 1970 be as printed on page 8 herein.

Auckland Methodist Care of Dependent Children Committee

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1969

In submitting this 56th report of the Auckland Methodist Children's Homes Board we are still challenged by the continuing needs of deprived children. We give thanks to God for His guidance and grace and for all who have helped financially, voluntarily and in any other way.

During the year there were requests for help from 72 new families. 32 children were admitted to our care and 37 discharged. Of these 30 have returned to their own families. The maximum number in care was 61. 58 families have received continued counselling and help. 68 holiday homes—apart from family relations—have been used, some on several occasions. To these families we give our sincere thanks.

Of the 54 children in care at the end of June (27 in Wesleydale, 27 in foster homes or schools), 4 are orphans, 4 children of unmarried mothers, 13 have one parent living and 33 are from broken families.

Staffing: There have been several changes in staff. After 2½ years of devoted service Mr and Mrs M. J. Smith resigned as Master and Matron of Wesleydale. The Board were fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr and Mrs Roy Bowden to fill the vacancy.

It is especially helpful when staff stay with the Home for a period of time and in this respect thanks are due to Miss Betty Davison and Miss Anne Dacey for their length of devoted service. We are grateful to all staff, past and present, for their patience, love and understanding and for the many extra hours they work in caring for the children.

Miss Boniface continues to serve with much acceptance and devotion in the capacity of Social Worker.

Property is cared for by the Master with help and oversight from the Property Committee.

The property at Milford, left to us by the late Florence Findlay, has been sold and the proceeds set aside for future development.

The Women's Committee continues to give financial, material and practical help to Wesleydale. The Board is grateful for their untiring interest and concern.

Future Plans: Although much time has been spent in discussion and in seeking advice from qualified people, no definite future plans are in hand concerning the Wesleydale Home and property.

Informal talks are at present taking place with the Presbyterian Social Services Association concerning joint action for emotionally disturbed children. A sub-committee met informally with the P.S.S.A. and Anglican Social Services regarding ways to co-ordinate our work in Child Care. The Social Workers have already embarked on a scheme of co-operation in visits to country foster homes.

Grants: The Board would find it impossible to carry on its work without the assistance of bequests, donations from many friends together with grants from recognised bodies such as Auckland Orphanages United Council, J. R. McKenzie Trust, Door of Hope, Auckland Savings Bank, Robert Gibson Trust, etc.

Personal: The Board pays a tribute to the work of the late Mr Percy Dellow who passed away in November, 1968. Mr Dellow was made a member of the Board and its Hon. Treasurer in 1946. From then, until his death, he gave of his time, patience and talents in several different spheres. The need of the children was one that was always near to his heart.

It is with regret that the Board has accepted the resignation, because of failing health, of Mr A. L. Caughey. For over 47 years Mr Caughey gave generously materially and practically with devotion and love. Both he and Mrs Caughey were previously made Life Members of the Board in honour of their selfless services rendered in so many ways.

We are deeply concerned for each child in our care and pray that all decisions made will be for their spiritual, mental and physical development.

R. F. CLEMENT, Chairman.
J. DIVERS, Secretary.

Note: After serving for nearly two years as Secretary of the Board, the Rev. A. R. Penn resigned from office. The position was advertised and the Board is fortunate in obtaining the services of Mrs J. Divers, widow of the late Rev. W. Lloyd Divers, as Secretary.

R. F. CLEMENT.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Committee for 1970 be as printed on page 8 herein.

Masterton Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1969

Homeleigh has again been fully occupied throughout the past year with 30 children in residence. Where possible priority has been given to applications in which there have been children of a family group who could thus be kept together. During the year applications for the admission of a large number of children were declined through lack of vacancies. The average length of time that children now in residence have been in the home is 2 years 5 months. The range is from long term residence of 9 years down to temporary cases.

The Social Workers in Wellington and Manawatu co-operate in the work with dependent children and in holiday home placements for children of this home. This Committee assumes formal responsibility for the foster placements and directs funds towards the dependent children work done through those centres. The number of cases dealt with through the agency of the centres will be dealt with in other reports.

A further stage of interior improvements along the lines recommended in the 1967 inspection report of the Child Welfare Division was completed during the year. The work has qualified for 50 per cent Government subsidy. Subsidy has also been approved for the replacement of the shed damaged in the April 1968 storm and a tender for the work has been accepted. The assistance of the Child Welfare Division in these and other matters has been much appreciated. The work of Homeleigh has been favourably reported upon and we are grateful to Mr and Mrs Jolly and other members of the staff for the vital part they play in this situation.

A tender has been accepted for exterior painting of the building. After a deficit of \$1695 in our accounts for the year ended June, 1968, and a reduced grant from the Connexional Budget for 1968/69, the recognition of a claim for an increased share from the 1969/70 Budget has been appreciated. The Robert Gibson Trust has contributed \$1200 for the 1968/69 year compared with \$1000 in the previous year. We meet with a measure of success in collecting reasonable maintenance from parents but we have a number of cases in which little or nothing is available. We expect that it will be necessary to continue to apply legacies or other capital funds to meet the annual deficit on running costs.

The following grants have been received with great appreciation: J. R. McKenzie Trust, \$500; Sutherland Self-Help Trust (for recreation), \$400; Masterton Trust Lands Trust (school requisites and library), \$140.

C. E. ARCHER, Chairman.
J. F. CODY, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Management Committee for 1970 be as printed on page 8 herein.

South Island Methodist Children's Home Board

ANNUAL REPORT 1969

The following statistics again reveal the complete nature of the work being carried on by the Board through the excellent work of those giving leadership and service in the two Homes in Christchurch: Children in Papanui Home at 30/6/68: 45. At 30/6/69: 41. Children in Foster Homes at 30/6/68: 15. At 30/6/69: 11. Admissions during the year ending 30/6/69: 40. Demissions during the year ending 30/6/69: 48. Children in the Barrington Street Unit Family Home: 7.

The drop in the number being cared for in the Papanui Home is accounted for because of the alterations being carried out in the centre block and west wing, and the changeover to a new system. There are now only three Family Units, with larger Receiving Centre accommodation being provided, in the Home. Each Family Unit still has its own Mother, and there is assistant staffing for the Receiving Centre. Sister Rona is now taking a larger share of the Casework and Foster-care supervision.

There has been a tendency for children to remain in care for a longer period over the last two years. We are constantly being asked by Social Service agencies to accept more emotionally disturbed children, and the Board is watching this development closely. There appears to be a growing demand for this longer care such as at our Unit Family Home, and this could mean the delegating of our Family Units at the Papanui Home for this purpose in the future.

The following are the figures of those under care at 30th June, 1969:

From Broken Homes	33
Parent(s) under Psychiatric Treatment	15
From Parents who are Alcoholic	4
Due to Mother's Death	4
Special Cases	3
	—
	59
	—

Of the 48 Demissions during the year: Adoptions, 2; to Foster Homes, 1; Boarding and working, 1; Returned to Parents, 44. Of the 44 returned to parents, one parent remarried and 4 children were returned.

Case Work: In case work with parents it is noted that there is a greater degree of mental and physical disturbance among those coming for help. This year there have been 96 children from 74 families dealt with and not admitted.

Courses: Both the Matron, Mrs J. E. Scott, and Sub-Matron, Sister Rona, of our Papanui Home have been taking courses during the year to fit themselves further for their work. We have also been involved with a girl from one of our high schools one day per week in the Occupational Training School Pilot Scheme. She has been working in the Home under normal working conditions and assessing these.

Deputation: There have been eleven groups, both of church and outside organisations, that have been addressed during the year.

Building Alterations: The Board received a Government grant of \$16,216, and a tender has been let for the work in the Papanui Home. This involves complete internal renewal of the kitchen, alterations in the centre block and west wing, with modernisation of various facilities to bring them up to the required standard. The heating has been converted from coal to oil-burning, and the electrical installations completely renewed. We hope to have these alterations completed by the end of the year, and then to proceed with the modernisation and alteration necessary in the east wing to complete work in the Home.

Unit Family Home: This Home at Barrington Street has had another year of effective work among the children. Teachers at the local schools, and Welfare Department officials have remarked on the excellent work being done there for the children by Mr and Mrs E. J. Overton.

Financial Support: With the increasing demands on the Connexional Budget, and the difficulty to provide adequately for this work throughout New Zealand in our Homes, we continue to depend on those who provide through legacies, donations and other gifts. We receive generous annual donations from the J. R. McKenzie Trust, the Canterbury Savings Bank and also from the Combined Children's Homes Appeals Trust Board. Without these we would find it impossible to carry on the amount of work now undertaken in the name of the whole Methodist Church of New Zealand by our Board and others.

Gratitude: We would again record our deep gratitude for the services rendered to the church by Mr and Mrs J. E. Scott, Sister Rona Collins and other members of the staff at our Papanui Home, and by Mr and Mrs E. J. Overton and those who assist at the Unit Family Home.

Our thanks above all is to God for all His provision in these

various ways, and for the work we continue to be enabled to do for needy children and families in this area.

H. C. MATTHEWS, Chairman.

O. T. WOODFIELD, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Board for 1970 be as printed on page 8 herein.

QUESTION 43.—What are the resolutions of the Conference in regard to:

- (a) The Connexional Office of the Methodist Church of New Zealand?

Report of the Board of Management of the Connexional Office

The annual financial statements will be presented to Conference along with this Report.

The statements reveal a deficit on the year's operations. Although most costs were held at earlier levels the main contributory factor was the increase in wages and salaries in a year when appropriations were static. Increases were caused by several factors—a full year's salary being payable to the General Treasurer compared with 5 months for 1967-68, there was an increase in wages following the Wage Order of August, 1968, and some additional staff was necessary from early in 1969. It has not been possible to reduce the loan from the Fire Insurance Fund on the General Secretary's residence nor to repay the loan from the General Purposes Trust Board necessitated by the renovations and renewals of 1966.

To ensure that the finances of the Connexional Office are placed on a sound footing the Board requests Conference approval for an increase in appropriations for 1970-71 from the following Funds administered at the Office: Supernumerary and Allied Funds, General Purposes Trust Board, Church Building and Loan Fund, Connexional Fire Insurance. The Board also requests permission to negotiate increased appropriations for 1969-70.

Internal Administration:

The Board continues to take an interest in the internal administration of the Office.

Special consideration has been given to the auditing arrangements. While not under-valuing the work of voluntary auditors over many years, the Board has come to the conclusion that one firm of auditors should be employed to audit all the Funds administered in the Office that possess capital funds of their own. Some of these Funds are now of such a size and complexity as to demand much more constant and close attention than a voluntary auditor, however highly qualified, can reasonably be expected to give. The Connexional Fire Insurance Funds is the most notable example.

Appointment of General Secretary:

The 1968 Synods and Conference approved of the designation of Rev. W. R. Laws for a further term of six years as from February 1, 1970, the appointment to be made at the 1969 Conference.

The necessary recommendation is appended.