

*The Methodist Church of New Zealand*

MINUTES  
of the  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
held at Christchurch  
1970

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*Price: Fifty Cents*  
*Procurable at the Connexional Office*

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

Dudley, the Octagon Building was opened on 6th May, 1970, by the President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, the Rev. Dr J. J. Lewis.

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 the Board for 1971 be as printed on page 6 herein.

### Auckland Methodist Care of Dependent Children Committee

#### ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1970

Care of children in Wesleydale and Foster Homes continues. The average number in care through the year was 58. At present there are 34 in Wesleydale, 17 in Foster Homes, 2 in Schools and 3 others (working, etc.). 11 of the Wesleydale children are at High School.

There have been 17 admitted into care and 14 discharged, 10 of these returning to their parents.

58 families have received counselling and help. 59 different holiday homes have been used, some on several occasions.

**Staffing:** Mr and Mrs Bowden and staff continue to serve with dedication and endeavour to create a warm homely atmosphere for the children, and to give to each the time and affection necessary for individual well-being. There have been several changes of House-mothers.

The Board is aware of the need for more and better trained staff to cope with the emotional problems of many of the children who come into care.

After 4 years of devoted and commendable service Miss Joyce Boniface resigned from the position of Social Worker. Mr L. P. Parker has been appointed to this position for a period of one year.

**Property:** Staff rooms have been re-papered and carpeted. Two dormitories have been partitioned, giving single room privacy and study facilities to 16 senior children.

Steam heating has been extended to the dormitories. Dining and playroom floors have been recovered.

An area of about 3½ acres of land, previously uncultivated, has been rotary hoed and grassed.

Frequent enquiries are received from tenants regarding the possibility of freeholding the leasehold properties at Epsom and Mt Albert. This is being given consideration.

It is the intention of the Board to proceed with the establishment of a Family Home.

**Co-operation:** Social workers from the P.S.S.A. and the Anglican Social Services have worked together in visiting country Foster Homes.

Residential staff from the 3 agencies have met together and discussed points relevant to the work, and representatives from the

3 Boards are to discuss ways of joint action for the care of dependent children.

**Women's Committee** continues to give very acceptable practical and financial help.

**Grants** from Auckland Savings Bank, Auckland Orphanages United Council, J. R. McKenzie Trust, Robert Gibson Trust, etc. assist in financing the increasing costs of our work.

Legacies received from the estates of the late Jessie and Nora Buttle, Mabel A. Isbister, Robert Ewbank, Bertha Avann, Gertrude F. Daldy, plus income from endowments and investments, have largely met the \$21,639 deficit on the Revenue Account.

**Costs:** It costs approximately \$20 per week to keep a child in Wesleydale. This includes all overhead expenses. To feed, clothe, care for and pay all necessary expenses has cost \$11.20 per week per child as against a little over \$10 last year. Donations from interested people and Churches are gratefully received towards this costly work.

**Thanks:** The Board expresses thanks to all Trusts, Fellowships, Boards, individuals, etc., who have in any way helped with the work of dependent children in our care.

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

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the report be received and adopted.
2. That the Committee for 1971 be as printed on page 7 herein.

### Masterton Methodist Children's Home

#### REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1970

Throughout the past year the work of Homeleigh has been continued satisfactorily and without major changes. The average number of children under care was 27. There were 14 new cases (a family of 5 and two families of 3) and 3 children were placed in foster homes. There were 10 departures of which 7 were returned to parents and 1 commenced at Training College. The demand for admission to Homeleigh fluctuates. During the first half of the year there was an unusually large number of applications which could not be dealt with.

The larger family groups dealt with often bring difficulty in collecting adequate maintenance. The position has been worse this year than for some years. The Committee has furnished evidence in support of the application of the Council of Christian Social Services for increased Government capitation subsidy.

A good standard of care of the children has been continued and this is largely due to the genuine interest in their welfare taken by the Manager and Matron, Mr and Mrs A. N. Jolly.

The completion of the outside painting has left the buildings looking in very good condition. A new general purpose shed replaces the old barn. Plans are in hand for the provision of cubicles in the girls' dormitories.

In conjunction with the Wellington Board (in which the land is vested) the Committee is looking into the long term use of the land

adjacent to the Home and which has, over the years, given the children many of the advantages of country life within a town setting.

The work of Homeleigh has been helped by many who have shown their interest in a practical way and particularly by those who have opened their homes to the children during school holidays and by the social workers who have made the necessary arrangements. Of particular interest was the gesture of a visiting women's group who donated over \$80 as the commencement of a fund for a deep freeze.

Our work is dependent to a large extent on financial support of the Church and certain charitable trusts. In particular we record appreciation of the following grants:—

1. A reinstated allocation from the church budget which totalled \$3708.
2. An increased grant of \$1400 from the Robert Gibson Methodist Trust.
3. The J. R. McKenzie Trust Board, \$500.
4. Masterton Trust Lands Trust, \$150.
5. Government subsidy on capital works.

D. H. SPRINGER, Chairman.  
J. F. CODY, Secretary.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the report be received and adopted.
2. That the Committee for 1971 be as printed on page 7 herein.

## The South Island Methodist Children's Home Board

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1970.

Again we report a further year of caring for needy children in all aspects of child-care work as the following statistics reveal:—

**In the Papanui Home:** Children in the Home as at 31/7/69, 56. As at 31/7/70, 65. Admissions during the current year, 37. Demissions during the current year, 28. 31 children were short-term admissions. 3 children were long-term admissions. 2 children were received for admittance from other denominations. 1 child has been adopted. Children in Foster Homes as at 31/7/70, 11. Children in the Barrington Street Unit Family Home, 7.

During the year counselling, referrals and help has been given to 67 families, involving 145 children in case-work by the Master, assisted by the Assistant Matron.

**Training:** Sister Rona Collins, the Assistant Matron, successfully completed her first year of the Social Services course with the University of Canterbury, and is finishing this course this year.

**Alterations and Renewals:** The main task this year for the Board has been the work at the Papanui Home where most of the work in the Central block, in the Kitchen, together with the renewals of electrical installations and fittings and the conversion to oil-burning is practically completed, together with other alterations and the provision of renovated accommodation in another part of the building for the Master and Matron. To date this has involved expenditure

of over \$40,000 for which approximately half the Government subsidy has been received, \$8150, the rest of which will be received when final payments are made.

Plans and specifications for the final stages of this work to complete the renovations for the whole Home, at an estimated cost of \$27,000, are in the hands of the Government Welfare Department.

All this has meant a great deal of inconvenience for both staff and children, and this has been met with great patience and understanding by all concerned. Despite the difficulties under which they have laboured there have been no resignations, and we are grateful to the Master and Matron, Mr and Mrs J. E. Scott, the Assistant Matron, Sister Rona Collins, and to the whole staff for their response in this trying time.

**Management:** Mr and Mrs J. E. Scott have indicated to the Board that they will be terminating their service early in January, 1971. The Board will be advertising shortly for applications to fill their position. They have given wonderful and loyal service to the Church since their appointment in 1960, and in addition Mr Scott has done a tremendous task in the case-work that he has so successfully undertaken. The latest report from the Welfare Department again speaks highly of the work that they have done, and Mr and Mrs Scott are held in the highest estimation both by this Department and its officers together with those of other denominations in this work. They will not be easy to replace. We express our gratitude for their years of service, and wish them and their family well for the future.

Mr and Mrs E. J. Overton continue to give excellent service in the Barrington Street Unit Family Home. The latest Welfare Department report also speaks favourably of the fine work they are doing, and of the happy relationship with the children there.

**Death:** We suffered a sad loss to the staff of our Papanui Home recently in the sudden passing of Miss Betty Looms. She had given much in her service as a Family Mother and will be greatly missed.

**Finance:** This year we have needed to draw heavily on our capital resources to finance the work done. With the steady and increasing demand for Child Care in our area we could not maintain the service given without the generous support from Trusts, Legacies and Grants, including the amount received each year from the Christchurch Children's Homes Combined Appeals Trust Board. The McKenzie Trust particularly give generously each year. If we are to continue to maintain this work at the level required it calls for the fullest support the Church can give.

H. C. MATTHEWS, Chairman.  
O. T. WOODFIELD, Secretary.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the report be received and adopted.
2. That Synod expresses its gratitude to the Master and Matron of the Papanui Home for their 10 years of outstanding service to the Church, and conveys to Mr and Mrs J. E. Scott best wishes for their future.
3. That the Board for 1971 be as printed on page 7 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. An excess of income over expenditure for the year to 30th June, 1970, was \$175 compared with a deficit of \$1328 in 1969.

Although the Merivale Lane Parsonage is recorded in the ledger at only \$5243, it is still true that the Accumulated Funds and reserves of \$5406 as at 30th June, 1970, are quite inadequate for a Board which has to provide a Parsonage, Office Equipment and Furnishings and a measure of working capital. It will be evident that attention must soon be given to the problem of increasing the capital funds at the disposal of the Board.

### Appropriations (1969/1970)

In view of rising costs and impending staff changes, the Board sought and obtained the approval of Conference 1969 to increase the appropriations from the various Funds administered in the Office, if necessary. The appropriations were reviewed in February of this year, a total increase of \$800 being agreed upon (Church Building and Loan Fund \$100, General Purposes Trust \$600, Fire Insurance Fund \$100). Further adjustments may be necessary to the appropriations for the year 1970/71.

### Allocation from Connexional Budget 1971-1972

It was with great reluctance that the Board asked through the Finance and Stewardship Committee of Detail for an increase in its allocation of \$3,000 to \$3,750. Should the increased allocation not be granted, the Board will need still further to increase appropriations and again seeks the approval of Conference to do so, if necessary.

### General Secretary's Residence—17 Merivale Lane

Most needed renovations have been carried out to the exterior and interior of the house and living room partly refurnished.

While the house is in reasonable order and condition and is in a most suitable locality, the need to make provision for its replacement is becoming more obvious every year. In this connection, the Board regrets that it has not been possible to reduce the loan from the Connexional Fire Insurance Fund.

### Children's Fund

With the advent of the Connexional Budget and the transfer of the Children's Fund to the Connexional Office, payment of allowances is made immediately following notification of the birth of a child. This necessitates an alteration to the church law and a recommendation to this effect is appended.

### Furnishing of Parsonages (Mins. of Conf., 1968, p. 96, Res. 4)

During the year, the Board has been in consultation with the Standing Committee on Stipends and the Welfare of the Church Committee regarding the issues involved in the ministers owning

their own furnishings. A memorandum prepared by a sub-committee was forwarded for the consideration of both Committees. The Church Welfare Committee is bringing recommendations to Conference.

### Role of the President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand (Mins. of Conf. 1969, p. 114, Res. 12)

The Board prepared a memorandum for the consideration of the Church Council. The Church Council is bringing a recommendation to Conference to amend the definition of the role of the President as set out in the Law Book, Section 162, page 24.

### Financial Statements (Mins. of Conf., p. 243, Res. 5)

Some consideration has been given by the Executive Officers to the statements of accounts to be published annually in the Minutes of Conference. The issue is many sided and the Board requests leave to continue its deliberations.

### Centralisation of Accounting (Mins. of Conf., 1968, p. 121)

The Board considered a memorandum which was duly made the subject of a discussion at Church Council.

Church Council has referred the whole matter to the Committee on Structure for examination and report.

The Board is aware of the proposal to establish a Council of Mission with five divisions, one of which is a Division of Funds and Administration. Centralisation of accounting would appear to be one of the principal issues to be determined if such a Division were to be created.

### Role of the Board of Management

In the light of changes in church structures, in inter-church relationships and in society generally, the Board of Management acknowledges the need to review its role in the Methodist Church of New Zealand from time to time. A memorandum prepared by the executive officers was the subject of discussion at a meeting of the Board specially convened for the purpose and a sub-committee has been appointed to bring recommendations to the Board during 1971.

### Property Returns and Financial Statistics

The Board took the initiative in calling a meeting of the District Financial Secretaries and District Property Secretaries for North and South Canterbury to re-design the property schedule forms and the circuit financial returns forms required for budgeting—local and connexional—and for applications for Home Mission and other grants. A revised set of forms has been prepared and comments and suggestions are being sought over a wide field.

### Overseas Travel and Training for the General Secretary

With the knowledge and encouragement of Church Council, the Board of Management is making arrangements for the General Secretary to travel overseas in 1971 (end of May to beginning of September). The Board is desirous that the General Secretary should meet Church leaders in other countries, visit certain Methodist Church Offices and attend selected Conferences. The Board believes that a visit of this kind will be of great value with enduring benefits for the Church. The General Secretary is closely involved, not only in matters of administration but in negotiations for Church Union, and he is also the channel through which much information from overseas churches and organisations flows into the life of the Church. Direct contact will enrich the life and work of the connexion in the future.