

Conference Staff

Auckland

President	:	John Roberts
Vice-President	:	Olive Tanielu
Ex-President	:	Desmond Cooper
Ex-Vice-President	:	Susanne Spindler
Secretary	:	David Bush
Associate Secretary	:	Bruce Anderson
Office Staff	:	Wendy Keir
	:	Peter van Hout
	:	Greg Wright
Daily Record	:	TBC
Journal Secretary	:	TBC
Business Sheet Updates	:	Esme Cole
	:	Nehu Te Pou
Legal Adviser	:	David Smith
Chaplains	:	Lynne Wall
	:	Mataiva Robertson
Hosts	:	Paula Taumoepeau
	:	Meleane Nacagilevu

Conference Day to Day

Auckland

Venues:

- Logan Campbell Centre, ASB Showgrounds, Greenlane Road, Auckland
(**N.B. these times may vary during the course of the Conference**)

<i>Thursday 3 November</i> (held at Epsom Methodist Church, cnr Manukau & Pah Roads, Epsom)	
10:00am – 1:00pm	Pre Conference Stationing Committee
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Tauiwi Strategy
7:00pm Additional Activity	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Friends Network Dinner (held at Me Ne Frego, 301 Manukau Road, Epsom) RSVP Susan Thompson susanthompson@clear.net.nz

<i>Friday 4 November</i> (held at ASB Showgrounds)	
10:00am – 12:30pm	Whakatau [Welcome] Tauiwi and Te Taha Maori Meetings
<i>12:30pm – 1:30pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30pm – 5:30pm	Tauiwi and Te Taha Maori Meetings continued...
5:30pm	Rehearsal for Induction Service
6:00pm	Wesley Historical Society AGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 6:30pm – Dinner (\$29.50 pre booked on your registration form or email Wendy wendyk@methodist.org.nz) – 7:15pm – Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Lineham. The early history of Methodism on Auckland's North Shore (held at Epsom Methodist Church, cnr Manukau & Pah Roads, Epsom)
8:00pm Additional Activity	Pilgrim Productions – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat (held at Pitt Street Methodist Church, 78 Pitt Street, Newton. \$18 per person for Conference members pre-booked on your registration form or email Wendy wendyk@methodist.org.nz)

<i>Saturday 5 November</i> (all sessions held at ASB Showgrounds, unless otherwise noted)	
7:30am – 8:30am	<i>Evangelical Network – Prayer Breakfast at Epsom Methodist Church</i> (cnr Manukau & Pah Roads, Epsom)
8:30am – 9:30am	Introduction to Conference: Jill van de Geer
9:30am – 10:30am	Powhiri
10:30am – 12:30pm	Induction Service
<i>12:30pm – 1:30pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i> <i>Lunch and time of remembering with families of the deceased</i> <i>(under Grandstand)</i>
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Guest speaker: Rt Rev John Bluck, Claiming our Place
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Book launch: <i>Kitchen Theology</i>
<i>3:30pm – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Recognition of Ministry Service
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Rehearsal for Ordination Service
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Dinner
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Social Cultural evening

<i>Sunday 6 November</i> (all sessions held at ASB Showgrounds, unless otherwise noted)	
Sunday Morning	
10:00am – 12:00pm	Ordination Service and Reception into Full Connexion
<i>12:00pm – 1:00pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
12:15pm	Lay Preachers Lunch and AGM (no cost - held at Epsom Methodist Church, cnr Manukau & Pah Roads, Epsom)
1:00pm – 3:30pm	Children and Youth Focus
<i>3:30pm – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Business Committees
5:30pm	Close of day
6:30pm – 9:30pm	Evangelical Network and Liberal Society Light Dinner (\$25 per person held at the Parenting Place, 360 Great South Road)

<i>Monday 7 November - Theology at Work</i> (all sessions held at ASB Showgrounds)	
8:30am – 9:00am	Opening Worship (Te Taha Maori)
9:00am – 9:30am	Introduction to Conference Staff, Observers, Visitors, Council of Elders Consensus Decision Making – reminder of Conference Process Process for President and Vice President Selection Questions 1-24 (General Secretary)
9:30am – 10:15am	Partnership Reporting: Council of Conference
<i>10:15am – 10:45am</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>
10:45am – 11:45am	Partnership Reporting: <i>Te Taha Maori and Tauwiwi</i>
11:45 – 12:30pm	Mission Resourcing
<i>12:30pm-1:30pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Mission Resourcing
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Methodist Mission Aotearoa / Social Services
<i>3:30pm – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Mission and Ecumenical
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Faith and Order
<i>6:00pm – 7:00pm</i>	<i>Evening Meal</i>
7:00pm – 8:45pm	After the Christchurch Earthquakes: Jill Hawkey
8:45pm – 9:00pm	Close of Day

<i>Tuesday 8 November - Theology at Work</i> (all sessions held at ASB Showgrounds)	
8:30am – 9:00am	Opening Worship (Te Taha Maori)
9:00am – 10:00am	Trinity College
<i>10:00am – 10:30am</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>
10:30am – 11:30am	Board of Administration
11:30am – 12:00pm	Board of Administration
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Ex President & Vice President
<i>12:30pm – 1:30pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i> <i>Lunch time Communion</i>
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Communications
2:30pm – 3:30pm	PAC Endowment Review Connexional Mission Priorities Churches Forum for Christian Unity
<i>3:30pm – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Public Questions
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Law Revision
<i>6:00pm – 7:00pm</i>	<i>Evening Meal</i>
7:00pm – 8:30pm	Hope in this Time and Place: David Poultney and Joan Tofaeono
8:30pm – 8:45pm	Close of Day

<i>Wednesday 9 November - Theology at Work</i> (all sessions held at ASB Showgrounds)	
8:30am – 9:00am	Opening Worship (Te Taha Maori)
9:00am – 9:30am	World Methodist Council and Conference Report.
9:30am – 10:30am	Unfinished Business
<i>10:30am – 11:00am</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>
11:00am – 12:00pm	Unfinished Business
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Thanks and Acknowledgements
<i>12:30pm – 1:30pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Covenant Service
3:00pm	Finish

Business Committees

Auckland

- A. COUNCIL OF CONFERENCE**
Convenors: Gillian Laird and Barbara Peddie
Council of Conference
Budget Task Group
- B(i) TE TAHA MAORI**
Convenors: Keita Hotere and Lana Lazarus
Te Taha Maori
Grey Institute Trust
Wellington Charitable & Educational Trust
- B(ii) TAUWI**
Convenors: Alison Molineux and Lani Tupu
Tauwi Strategy & Stationing
Evangelical Network
New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship
Wasewase ko viti Kei Rotuma
- C. LAW REVISION**
Convenor: David Smith
- D. ADMINISTRATION/CONNEXIONAL PROPERTIES & FUNDS:**
Convenor: Ruth Silverstone
Administration Division
Connexional Trusts
Investment Advisory Board
Methodist Trust Association
Robert Gibson Trust
Wesley Historical Society
Travel & Study
- E. MINISTRY:**
Convenor Trinity College: Max Thomson
Convenor Mission Resourcing: Hamish Ott
Ministry Education (Trinity College)
Mission Resourcing
Tauwi Youth Ministry
Diaconate Task Group
Methodist Lay Preachers Network
Churches Education Commission
Chaplaincies
Trounson Trust
Wesley College
Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa NZ

F. FAITH & ORDER

Convenor: Terry Wall

G. SOCIAL SERVICES

Convenor: Ruth Silverstone

Methodist Mission Aotearoa

Upper North Island Social Services

- Methodist Mission Northern
- The Lifewise Trust
- Airedale Property Trust
- One Double Five
- Bainbridge
- Employment Generation Fund
- Ministry with Deaf Trust
- Tamahere Eventide Home & Retirement Village
- Methodist City Action
- Vahefonua Tonga Mission
- Sinoti Samoa Mission

Lower North Island Social Services

- Christian Social Services Wanganui
- Wesley Community Action
- Palmerston North Methodist Social Services

South Island Social Services

- Christchurch Methodist Mission
- Dunedin Methodist Mission
- Community Outreach Activities Lindisfarne Methodist Church, Invercargill

H. MISSION & ECUMENICAL

Convenor: Uesifili Unasa

Partner Mission Church Relations

Ecumenical Relationships

Inter-religious Relationships

World Methodist Relationships

Christian World Service

I. COMMUNICATION/ORGANISATIONS

Convenor: Nicola Grundy

Methodist Publishing Board

PAC Media & Communications

J. SOCIAL ISSUES

Convenor: David Hanna

Interchurch Bioethics Council

Public Questions Network

Mission Statement

Our Church's Mission in Aotearoa New Zealand is to reflect and proclaim the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the world. The Treaty of Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing relationship, and will guide how we undertake mission. In seeking to carry out our mission we will work according to these principles:

Ko te putake a to tatou Hahi Weteriana i Aotearoa nei, he whakakite atu, he kauwhau hoki i te aroha whakatahuri o te Atua, he mea whakaatu mai i roto i a Ihu Karaiti, me nga Karaipiture. Ko te Wairua Tapu e whakakaha ana i a tatou kia tu maia ai hei tuari ma te Atua i roto i te ao. Otira, ko Te Tiriti o Waitangi te kawenata e whaka o rite ana i ta tatou noho hei tangata whenua, hei tauwi hoki, ki tenei whenua. Ma tenei Tiriti tatou e arahi i roto i nga whakariterite o tenei whakahau, tono hoki, ki roto ki te ao.

Christian community

To be a worshipping, praying, and growing community, sharing and developing our faith and working through its implications in our social context.

Evangelism

To challenge people to commitment to Christ and Christ's way.

Flexibility

To be flexible, creative, and open to God's Spirit in a changing world and Church, so that the Church is relevant to people's needs. To release energy for mission rather than to absorb energy for maintenance.

Church unity

To foster networks and relationships with communities of faith having similar goals.

Inclusiveness

To operate as a Church in ways that will enable the diversity of people (e.g. all ages, all cultures, male and female) to participate fully in the whole life of the Church, especially decision-making and worship.

Every member a minister

To encourage each person to develop his/her full potential by accepting and nurturing each other, developing skills and providing resources, challenging and enabling for service in the Church and community.

Cross-cultural awareness

To become aware of, and challenged by, each other's cultures.

Justice

To work for justice for any who are oppressed in Aotearoa New Zealand, keeping in mind the implications of the Treaty of Waitangi. To share resources with the poor and disadvantaged in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

Peace

To be peacemakers between people and in the world.

Healing

To listen for hurt and work for healing.

Ecology

To care for creation.

Procedure for election of...

President & Vice-President

SECTION 7:5.1.7

- (d) Tauwiwi and Te Taha Maori will each select its preferred candidates for the offices of both President and Vice-President according to their own procedures.

Process

1. Hui Poari and Tauwiwi Strategy Committee each nominate five members for the Conference panel from the membership of their respective Council of Conference members.
2. The Panel is not the Council of Conference (Council membership is a convenient way of selecting Connexionally experienced people).
3. The first task of the panel is to choose two Convenors, one from each of the groups of five.
4. The five members of Taha Maori and the five from Tauwiwi bring to the panel the names agreed by their caucus groups as being appropriate people to lead Te Haahi for the following Connexional year.
5. In conversation as a group, the panel's task is to come to a consensus as to the names of the President and Vice President Elect. Only those names which are common to both caucus groups are to be considered. The panel does this as a Conference panel, having listened into the discussions in their respective caucus groups as to both the task of the Presidency and the qualities required in this coming year.
6. The Panel should, from the names acceptable to both caucus groups for Presidency, select the President, having regard to the qualities and skills necessary for that office. The panel should then, from the names acceptable to both caucus groups for the Vice Presidency, select the Vice President, having regard to the qualities and skills necessary for that office and the person whom the Panel believes would be able to work in a complementary manner with the President as a Presidential team.
7. If there are no names in common for either President or Vice President, the two caucus groups shall reconvene to enquire whether any names not previously forwarded to the 5+5 from the list of nominations in the Conference agenda, would then be acceptable. If additional names are agreed upon, the panel meets again and follows the process from paragraph 4 above.
8. (a) In the event that it is still not possible to have any names in common for the presidency, then the current President and Vice President remain in office for a further year.
(b) In the event that there is a commonality which enables the selection for President but not the Vice President the existing Vice President will remain in office with the newly elected President for a further year.
9. If the panel members at any point in their conversations require any assistance that may help them reach a consensus they may call on the General Secretary and the Legal Advisor.
10. The request for assistance is conveyed to both parties by one or other of the Convenors.
11. The request for assistance, noting the specific reasons for the assistance, is to be put in writing by the panel.
12. The assistance given by General Secretary and Legal Adviser is also noted in writing by the two Convenors and checked for accuracy prior to the General Secretary and Legal Adviser leaving the panel.
13. Having come to a consensus, the Convenors report to the General Secretary that the appropriate process has been followed, and name the President and Vice President for the next year.
14. At an appropriate time the General Secretary reports to President that this is the decision of the panel.
15. The names of the duly appointed President and Vice- President Elect are then announced by the President.

Guidelines for...

Conference Decision Making

The primary goal of the decision-making process is to enable Te Taha Maori (Tangata Whenua, the people who are of the land) and Tauwiwi (the people who came later and settled here) – partners of Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, the Methodist Church of New Zealand – to make decisions which demonstrate partnership.

The first step in decision-making is for Te Taha Maori to reach general agreement and Tauwiwi to reach general agreement on the decision before them. Then the two groups meet together to see if they can agree with a suggested decision.

Facilitation of the partnership decision-making process requires particular skills, which not all elected leaders will have developed, so an experienced facilitator may be asked by the President or Vice-President to lead the Conference at such times.

PRINCIPLES

The following are principles for making decisions in a manner which demonstrate our Treaty Partnership: i.e. between Taha Maori and Tauwiwi.

- The aim of Conference decision-making is to discern what is best for the Church.
- A decision is made only when it is clear that both partners – i.e. Taha Maori and Tauwiwi can state that they can agree with the suggested decision.
- Taha Maori/Tauwiwi may caucus if this will enable their group to reach general agreement so a partnership decision can be explored.
- Partners may choose their own language for the discussion. (Tauwiwi will need to decide the language(s) appropriate for them).
- When the partners do not agree, no decision can be made. Instead a process will be established which may lead to agreement in the future.
- The Council of Elders will monitor the process and may guide it.

DECISION-MAKING STRATEGIES

Consensus is a term often used when general agreement or substantial support, rather than majority rule, is a group's aim. "Consensus" as generally understood in relation to decision-making in large groups, enables:

- participation by a larger number of members
- the opportunity for minority options to be acknowledged
- a greater chance of obtaining unity of purpose in a group with a variety of values
- more stable, longer lasting decisions.

Consensus does not mean unanimity or total agreement. Rather it is the group agreeing to work together in a certain way, even though some members might prefer not to, e.g.

We are prepared to accept this decision because:

- it is for the good of the group
- we see it is so important
- we feel that our viewpoint has been adequately expressed
- we do not agree, but in the interests of the Church we will allow this to be the decision.

In consensus decision-making, if it is clear that no agreement is possible at the time of the discussion, before the topic is adjourned the President may choose to ask the Council of

Conference to meet to explore whether there is any way forward. If Council reports that there is no way forward then plans will be made for other approaches which may lead to consensus in the future. In the meantime the status quo will continue.

MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Consensus decision-making requires a high level of member responsibility and individuals need to be aware of how they can contribute in a helpful manner.

Members should:

- expect to contribute briefly, to the point, and only once on a topic
- prepare what they have to say and speak only if that point has not already been made
- contribute material if it assists the discussion or reconciles an apparent difference
- keep silent if they cannot contribute in a way which aids the discussion.

PROCESSES

Some processes help us to listen to each other and find a way forward for the Church.

For example:

Discussion

Contribution which assists decision is about

- The issue
- Theology of the issue
- Suggested ways forward

Consensus

The process of seeking consensus can use a number of techniques which may assist the group to reach its **general agreement**.

Some of these are:

- caucusing
- brainstorming to collect ideas
- buzzing in pairs or threes to clarify a position
- dividing into small groups to respond to the same of different parts of the topic
- having a prepared presentation of the issues involved
- adjourning the topic till later in the agenda and having two or three people work at finding an alternative way forward
- a majority decision
- having members indicate non-verbally if they agree/disagree with the ideas being expressed
- identifying common ground and then working on areas of difference
- asking those with a different opinion if recording their view will enable them to allow the decision to be made.

Caucusing is a method used in large groups to assist decision making. It is a meeting of group(s) within the larger group. Caucusing enables any group to clarify its position on the business in hand. Conference does not continue when it divides into Taha Maori/Tauwiwi caucus groups, so it is not appropriate for the President, Vice-President or facilitator of the Conference to continue facilitating any of the smaller groups.

In the Conference Taha Maori or Tauwiwi can call for their group to caucus, but only if doing so seems likely to assist the full group to reach a decision.

There are 3 ways for this to happen:

- or (a) the person presiding over the Conference may determine that caucusing is appropriate
- or (b) Tauwiwi may call for a caucus
- or (c) Taha Maori may call for a caucus.

Conference then divides into Taha Maori and Taiwi groups. The people who facilitate the full Conference do not lead the small groups, so these groups need to have their own facilitators ready.

Caucus process

Each group decides its own process for establishing its position on the topic.

- or
- (a) They may work in one group
 - (b) They may divide into smaller groups, e.g. ethnic, gender, district or interest groups, who discuss their position regarding the topic.

The sub-group(s) come to their decision so they rejoin the larger group and report their position. Then that group seeks to reach agreement. This continues until all the sub-groups have rejoined the caucus. A sub-group may decide it cannot reach an agreed position but that it is prepared to support the one reached by the full group.

If at any time a sub-group cannot reach an agreed position and this prevents a decision being reached by the full group, then the sub-group may ask for a specified time to explore other approaches if that is expected to result in an eventual decision.

The caucus then discusses its position to see if it has been able to reach a common mind. If it has, the caucus rejoins the Conference.

What does the Conference do?

When Taiwi and Te Taha Maori groups rejoin, Conference reconvenes, so the person presiding resumes his/her role. Normally the group which called the caucus reports first, then the other group reports its position. If the person presiding called the caucus, he/she will determine the order of reporting back. Then the whole Conference works toward a consensus decision.

When the process is complete the person presiding shall make a clear statement of the decision.

SUMMARY

- Conference decision-making is a process which demonstrates Te Taha Maori-Taiwi partnership agreement and enables full participation from all member groups.
- Consensus agreement using caucus groups, and other methods of assisting decision-making is an appropriate mode for making partnership decisions.
- For such processes to be successful all group members need to participate in an informed and responsible manner.

Facilitation of these processes is a skilled task and the President and Vice-President may request experienced people to lead some sessions.

Decision-making Procedures through a Consensus Process

Information/Clarification for Conference

CAUCUSING

a) Calling for a caucus

According to present procedures, calling for a caucus only relates to the convening of Te Taha Maori and Tauwiwi caucuses. However, interest groups can meet within the Tauwiwi caucus. If an individual or an interest group in the life of the Conference wishes to raise a process issue, they should approach their caucus facilitators and express their concern. The facilitators are:

- **Tauwiwi:** Lynne Frith and Paula Taumoepeau
- **Te Taha Maori:** Will choose their facilitators at their pre-conference meeting

The facilitators will then take what action they feel is appropriate

b) Steps for making Treaty partnership decisions

In the process of making Treaty partnership decisions, we have discerned the following 5 steps:

- **Step One: Starting together**

Both treaty partners are present. Caucusing does not occur in this step. The report is received. A presentation is made outlining the contents of the report and the suggested decisions. Space is made for questions seeking clarification etc.

- **Step Two: Testing out how the Treaty partners feel about the issues under discussion**

Focus is now upon the 'suggested decisions'. The President/Vice-President seeks the mind of Conference on 'suggested decisions' where there appears to be consensus, and these are processed. Where a consensus is not obvious on specific 'suggested decisions' there is clarification as to lack of consensus. For example, is it related to differences between the Treaty partners or within a partner? At this point either partner may request caucusing, or the President/Vice-President may suggest it. An initial time limit is proposed for the caucusing. The President/Vice-President clarifies for the whole Conference, what both caucuses will be addressing when they meet separately.

- **Step Three: Sharing responses from the caucuses**

When both caucuses are ready to report back, both sets of facilitators will meet with the President and Vice-President to share the responses. This is suggested for two reasons. Firstly, it will avoid the President/Vice-President having to react 'cold' to what is reported to the Conference. Secondly, the sharing will indicate if either or both caucuses need to give reasons as to why they have arrived at a particular point. For example, if both caucuses were in agreement, there would be no need to share reason.

If a caucus does not achieve a consensus, this will be reported to the whole Conference. It would not be appropriate for the other caucus to indicate its response at this point. If finally within a caucus there is no consensus to proceed, no decision by Conference can be made (see page 9, last paragraph).

- **Step Four: Making a Treaty Partnership decision**

If there is agreement by both caucuses, Conference can make a decision. Conference can only make a decision if both partners agree.

If there is no agreement between caucuses, or within a caucus, the areas where there is a lack of agreement will be clearly identified. Some or all of the following questions might

then be asked: Is more information required? Is it necessary to caucus again? Could an 'ad-hoc' representative group meet during Conference to address the areas of disagreement and seek a way ahead? If there is still lack of agreement between the two partners, then no decision is made by the Conference, and the status quo remains. The President/Vice-President will define the 'status quo'.

- **Step Five: Moving on to the next business**

Before this happens, Conference is asked if there are any concerns/issues arising from the discussion that need to be addressed and reported back to Synods/Conference the next year. This is important where Conference members agree 'in principle' with a particular proposal, and expect that their concerns will have been addressed when the 'fleshed-out' principle returns to the next Conference for final endorsement. Consequently, a decision might read "We have agreed that ... and the following concerns/issues have been referred to ... for consideration and a report to Synods and Conference next year".

If any Conference member wishes to record their dissent from a Conference decision, they should put it in writing and hand it to the Daily Record Secretaries.

Procedures to enable the business of Conference...

to be taken "En-Bloc"

- (1) Committees/Boards will be asked to advise the Conference as to those reports/resolutions that can be presented to the Conference En Bloc. On the recommendation of the Committees or Boards they will be put to the Conference En Bloc. Reports/Resolutions to be taken En Bloc will be highlighted on the PowerPoint presentation.
- (2) In order to safeguard the rights of members of Conference to speak on any report/resolution, any member may by simple request to the Chair, have removed from the "En Bloc" procedures any report/resolution.

(Minutes of Conference 1978, Resolution 1, page 564, amended 2004)

FUNCTION – COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Council of Elders shall enable and assist the Church in its Bicultural Journey by seeking to model the equal partnership prefigured in the Treaty of Waitangi, and at Conference specifically will:

- (a) monitor and recommendations of all Conference Committees and Boards of the Conference, and
- (b) reflect and comment on the style, processes, work and priorities of all Conference Committees and Boards, Conference discussion and decision making, and
- (c) refer back for further consideration any report or recommendation which the Council of Elders considers will hinder or divert the Church from its Bicultural Journey, and
- (d) report each year to the Conference.