

TAUIWI STRATEGY & STATIONING

This year the Tauwi Strategy and Stationing Committees continued to meet in the spirit of the stated purpose of the committee;

To give expression to the partnership between the cultural groups within Tauwi and other expressions of diversity and to pursue visioning, strategy, planning and decision making on behalf of Tauwi.

In its March meeting, the Tauwi Strategy Committee took time to worship together, and to pray for the earthquake victims. The General Secretary led the meeting with a reflection on 'rebuilding', reading from Exodus 35:20-29, then reflected on *The Home We Build Together*, a book by Jonathan Sachs. Christchurch members of Tauwi Strategy committee had a chance to share their stories and experiences of the earthquake. Small candles were lit and presented to each Christchurch member symbolizing Christ's presence and the support of the wider Church.

Tauwi Strategy and Stationing Meetings 2011

Due to the financial impact of the Rugby World Cup, the second meetings of the Tauwi Stationing and Tauwi Strategy Committees were held differently this year than normally. The Tauwi Provisional Stationing met in July, attended by a reduced membership comprising of superintendents and representatives from Synods who were seeking stationing appointments for 2012, and observers. The Strategy Committee met in August via a Video Conference between two groups, one based in Auckland and the other in Christchurch. There were some initial difficulties as this is first time we met in this way. However there is also positive feedback from members about videoconference as a possibility for future Tauwi meetings as it would save both time and money.

Who is Tauwi Strategy?

Tauwi Strategy continues to seek to clarify and to define its purpose. The aim is to become clearer about who the Tauwi Strategy committee is, who it represents, and what its function is. It is hoped that the answers to these questions would further define the purpose and focus of the Tauwi Strategy Meeting. To this end, the Tauwi Facilitators have prepared a Discussion Paper which will be one of the main foci in its 2012 meetings.

Stationing Probationers to CV's with Anglican Partners

Nigel Hanscamp led discussion over this concern. Due to the Anglican requirements for ordained celebrants for Sacramental Ministry, stationing of Methodist probationers to such parishes would mean they would not be able to celebrate an Anglican Eucharist or Baptism. Possible options for further conversations include adequate consultation between the local Synod Superintendent and Bishop; Tauwi Stationing meeting to consider implications of avoiding stationing probationers to CV's with Anglican Components; and the urgent need to move forward on Mutuality of Ministry with the Anglican Church.

Exploring and Rebuilding relationships with Presbyterians / Partner Churches

It was noted that Methodists take Ecumenism seriously while our general experiences of some of our partner churches (particularly the PCANZ) is that they do not always express the same practical commitment to ecumenism. The meeting believed there is an urgent need to hold a conversation with the Presbyterian Church to explore ways of working together. This meeting should involve the President, General Secretary, Mission Resourcing and the Presbyterian counterparts. This item should also be on the Council of Conference agenda as it is an issue for the whole Church.

Place of Tongan and Samoan Methodist Congregations in CV's and in English Speaking Methodist Parishes

Conference 2010 encouraged the Tauwi Strategy Committee to continue working through the issues and implications bearing on the relationships of the Tongan and Samoan Methodist congregations within CV's to their respective cultural synods. The main issues identified then included accountability, communication and payment of synod and presbytery levis. While these issues are becoming more significant and urgently needed to be resolved, it is also believed that

the problem is not confined to those issues alone. It is perceived that, in some parishes and ministers of other denominations, the undergirding issues include a lack of understanding of the Methodist ethos of multiculturalism, and the general disregard for the Guide to Procedures. The Tauivi Strategy Committee decided that an urgent meeting should take place between Peter McKenzie, Presbyterian leaders and Methodist representatives to address these concerns.

Tauivi Strategy also recognized that the relationships between the Vahefonua, Wasewase and Sinoti Congregations within English Speaking Parishes and their respective cultural synods, vary with synods and parishes. In some places they get on well and different groups and congregations are supportive of each other. In other places, there are blurred relationship edges, communications and multiple misunderstandings. The administration and care of properties, the questions around the appropriateness of kava parties on Church properties, and the frequent use of property by one group over others, are some of the major issues needing urgent attention. There is a need for honest conversations about what we expect of each other so that congregations can grow alongside one another. For new Pasifika congregations founded alongside established English speaking Parishes, there need to be a shared understanding of protocols and relationships. As a step forward, Tauivi Strategy encouraged the superintendents of Vahefonua Tonga, Sinoti Samoa & Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma to hold conversations with the Mission Resourcing Directors and General Secretary over these concerns. There is also a need to carefully explore the practical, structural and relational implications of the principle agreed to by Conference that all Tongan, Samoan, Fijian, Rotuman Speaking congregations come under the oversight of their respective synods.

Inclusiveness

Tauivi Strategy committee continues to reflect on ways the Tauivi Partner expresses inclusiveness by all means of the word. This year we encouraged the sharing of stories about how the local parishes and synods implement this principle in their life and work. The committee also decided to include in the parish stationing profile a question about being an inclusive parish. Nelson Marlborough West Coast synod takes this issue further by focussing their School of Theology on the question of, 'What do we mean when we call ourselves an inclusive church?'

Synod Reports

Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma

Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma consist of three Circuits [Auckland, Waikato/Waiariki and Lower North and South Island] and two congregations who are not affiliated to these Circuits [Kingsland Rotuma and Khyber Pass]. In this 3 Circuit, there are two stationed Presbyters (Auckland and Lower North/South Island Circuit) and Lay teams in the Waikato/Waiariki Parishes.

Ministry Training

A few years ago, Wasewase seek from within it's congregations, potential candidates with leadership qualities and with the willingness and enthusiasm to go into Ministry training. Wasewase have identified two potential candidates - Alivereti Uludole and Joeli Ducivaki and supports them in their candidating process. Wasewase would like to express their gratitude to Superintendent Rev. Norman Brooks and the Auckland Synod for their support and all the effort that went towards this process. There are few others who will follow in the not too distant future.

Immediate need

The priority for Wasewase in 2012 is to find a Fijian Presbyter to fill the vacant position in the Waikato/Waiariki Fijian Circuit (Tabacakacaka). This has come about after the passing away of Rev. Apakuki Ratucoke. In the July 2011 AGM, Wasewase identified this need to be a critical mission. Wasewase seeks the assistance of the NZMC. Rev. Ilaitia Tuwere is currently looking after the Pastoral oversight.

Wasewase- Strategic Goals for the Future

- (a) Fijian congregations to work towards meeting the requirements of a full time probations/full time Presbyters after training.
- (b) Local Fijian congregations who are part of local parishes must work towards becoming independent and to stand on their own two feet. This will also be of enormous help to the life

of the parishes who have been committed to our development.
(c) Local Working towards becoming a Synod between 2012 – 2014.

Long Term Goal for Wasewase Circuits/Congregations (5-10 years)

Wasewase's to add two more Circuits to the current structure: Central Auckland, West Auckland, Kingsland Rotuma Congregation, Waikato / Waiariki, Lower North Island (*It is anticipated that this will be separated into two Circuits – for Lower North Island and South Island*), South Island

Vinaka vakalevu.

Rev. Peni Tikoinaka, Superintendent, Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma e Niusiladi

Auckland Synod

“Building relationships” are the key words to describe the Auckland Synod’s work in 2011. On the ecumenical front this has involved working with Anglicans to celebrate the Covenant between the two Churches. This culminated in a well attended Service at Pitt St in May when the Bishop of Auckland was the preacher.

On the English speaking Methodist front this has meant developing a much closer working relationship with the Manukau Synod as well as planning for further initiatives both with Manukau and with Northland in 2012. In terms of wider Methodism in the region it has meant taking a lead in establishing a Consultative Committee for all ethnic groups in Auckland Methodism. This is enabling us to get an overview of Methodism in the region and to learn from one another. Amongst the parish Presbyters “building relationships” has meant the setting up of a bi-monthly fellowship gathering, “Koinonia” when we share in informal worship, have a meal together, and enjoy input from one of our presbyters. Along the way the Synod has also reached out to the people of Christchurch.

Alongside these initiatives all the normal Synod activities: the work of stationing, consulting with parishes and others on various issues, Youth Services, dealing with property matters, along with other events, continue. We give thanks to God for all who give leadership and look forward to a creative year in 2012.

Norman Brookes and Christine Peak

Waikato-Waiariki Synod

2011 began with four induction services in the Waikato-Waiariki District, as well as the recognition of Ngaire Southon as our new Synod Steward. The Synod Steward and the Superintendent work together in a lay-ordained partnership and we continue to be well-served by the very high quality of our lay leadership.

During the year the position of the separated Synod Superintendent was reviewed. The Synod affirmed the work being done in this role by Rev. Dr Susan Thompson and agreed to increase her hours to three-quarter time. At its August meeting Synod was reminded that it is the first Synod to choose an openly gay presbyter to be its pastor and leader.

The provision of good quality training and professional development to those engaged in lay and ordained ministry has continued to be a priority in 2011. The Synod hosted six Trinity College intensives covering a range of topics (including Music and Worship; the Bible and Empires and Training for Parish Stewards, Treasurers and Secretaries). Other educational events included lay preacher training days, our annual Synod retreat (renamed Synod Refresh) and a Ministerial Synod workshop on “How to get the best out of supervision”.

The Synod includes a large number of Union and Co-operating parishes and we value our interaction within two active JRCs. We continue to be committed to broadening our relationships across denominational, cultural and language groups. Synod life is being enriched by a growing number of Pasifika ministers and congregations.

Synod Executive has worked hard throughout the year to ensure that Synod gatherings can be freed to be places of both business and inspiration. One new initiative over the last year has been

the sharing of Synod members' spiritual and life journeys.

Susan Thompson & Ngaire Southon

Lower North Island Synod

We have had a successful Face to Face for Upper Hutt Uniting Parish and this is good news for the Wellington region. We are still awaiting clarity around Hutt City Uniting/Petone- this is a more complex situation than would first appear. Also we are still actively seeking a suitable presbyter for the Manawatu Regional Church, this position has been given top priority by Stationing. Napier is now settling down under Graeme McIver as Supply Presbyter. We need to give Napier some time to work their way through the past so as to be able to discern the future. Graeme is there until the end of January 2012. Robert Allan finishes his 2 year Supply at Okato/Oakura at the end of November. Discussions are to be held with the Anglicans regarding change of Church of Oversight there. Alan Upson has indicated he will be retiring from New Plymouth in 2 years time. Desmond Cooper has indicated he will retire from Wellington South at January 2013. Tony Bell has indicated he is available to continue for another 3 years when he will retire. The picture is that the LNIS needs to get current vacancies well filled as it is facing a time of much change.

Tony Bell and Jocelyn Boys

Sinoti Samoa

The year 2011 has been a busy year for Sinoti Samoa. It focused on several main areas:

- The work of the Sinoti Senior Youth-Tupulaga Talavou
- Creating opportunities in building and reaffirming relationships with other partners within our church family.
- Providing opportunities for re evaluating and reviewing Sinoti Samoa structures.
- Looking at ways of how Stand Alone Superintendency work for Sinoti Samoa
- Continuing efforts of searching for suitable land/property for the Sinoti Samoa centre.
- Creating new initiatives and strategies for future general work of Sinoti Samoa

Investment for the Future

During the last twelve months, much of our work was focused on new initiatives in creating opportunities for our young people to learn and to equip themselves for the future of the Sinoti Samoa Ministry.

These initiatives were designed through Leadership training workshops, seminars, camps and annual gathering as well as through local youth group activities.

Many of these activities were initiated and planned by the Tupulaga Talavou, including an EXPO which is a major event coming up in the early part of next year.

Working with our Church Partners

One of the prime considerations for a closer working relationship with our church partners is openness and trust. Our bi-cultural journey has brought us into a relationship where we had to find out who we are and what we stand for in relation to our commitment to Christ and His Mission. It has been a hard road for all of us but we have come a long way; identifying our strengths and weaknesses have made our working relationship much more challenging as we strive for common ground to work together and understand each other better. It is from this common ground that we seek a way to establish a closer working relationship with our other church partners within Te Haahi O Weteriana o Aotearoa.

Sinoti Samoa has made inroads in our working relationships with the Palagis, Tongans, Fijians for some time now; and while we have been in association with Taaha Maori, our major partner for a long time, our closer working relationship with them has only been channelled through our work with the Tauivi side. An opportunity has now been created for Sinoti Samoa to establish closer working relationship with Taaha Maori; and initiatives will be sought to affect that approach in the near future. A closer working relationship with all our church partners is our primary focus and is to be continued and maintained.

Reviewing and Re-evaluation of Sinoti Structures

During this year, Sinoti Samoa has reconsidered its structures which resulted in reviewing the style of reporting to our annual Synod meetings as well as looking at the restyling and re-evaluation of the work of our Executive and other working committees within our Ministry. This work is continuing in the ensuing year.

A Stand-Alone Superintendent

A stand-alone Superintendent is still one of the main issues Sinoti Samoa is considering to be in line with the rest of our Church. However, for now the timing is not right for Sinoti Samoa as other considerations have to be taken into account such as costs including stipend, housing travelling etc. At its annual Sinoti meeting in July this year, it was resolved that the functions and responsibilities of the Superintendent be delegated and shared with the six (6) Regional leaders (Ta'ita'I Itumalo) until sometime in future when Sinoti Samoa is ready for a separate Superintendent. This model will be implemented forthwith.

A Search for a Cultural and Educational Centre

Sinoti Samoa and the Mafutaga Tama'i ta'i (Samoan Women's Fellowship) have been searching for a suitable land/property to establish a cultural and educational centre for some years now. Efforts have been made and some properties have been identified but none was suitable for our purpose.

At the moment, negotiations are currently being discussed with the vendor of one of the property owner in the Auckland area, but no firm decision has been reached. For the last few years, the Mafutaga Tama'ita'i and Sinoti Samoa have been engaged in fundraising for this project and efforts towards this end will continue for sometimes yet.

New Initiatives for Sinoti's Work

In recent years, there have been numerous reports by government departments and many researchers about the rise of serious violence and child abuse in many families across the board within our society.

Education is vitally important in terms of making our people aware of these concerns and Sinoti Samoa took the initiative of planning and running workshops on Family Violence in all our six (6) Regional Districts (Itumalo) for our people. This programme has already been started and will continue over to next year and some follow ups will also be planned to ensure that our people understand fully the impact of such serious social ills which affects the core fabric of every family in our society.

Sinoti Samoa is most grateful to PAC and MMA who provided grants which made these Workshops and Seminars possible and will continue into next year. Another initiative Sinoti Samoa will be engaged in is running Workshops and Seminars on Peace Building.

The Workshops and Seminars conducted at the beginning of the year through our national church have inspired some of our people who attended these sessions. Sinoti Samoa have set up a team of presenters to run similar Workshops in all of our six (6) Regional Districts (Itumalo) for our people. These workshops will commence early next year in parallel to Violence programmes.

This is part our Sinoti strategy in the coming months

Over Labour weekend in October of this year, Sinoti Samoa will hold a National Education and Development Camp for Samoan Lay Preachers for the first time. There will be a full weekend schedule including Bible study, workshops and discussion groups. The camp curriculum is designed to inspire participation in the Lay Preacher Programme. Registration for participants are already coming in and it is expected to have 110 to 130 people to attend.

Inspections of parsonages

The programme already started of visitation to parsonages under Sinoti Samoa care is continuing. This is to ensure that all parsonages are well cared for and maintained to our Church's Property standard.

Volunteer working Team

Finally, Sinoti Samoa at its last annual meeting passed a resolution to form a volunteer working team who will offer their services to travel possibly at weekends, to help carrying out repair work or assist in building projects initiated by Samoan congregations in the connexion. Details of this programme have yet to be worked out but we hope to do this in the near future.

Tovia Aumua

NOTE: Further synod reports will be added in the supplementary report

Suggested Decisions:

1. The Report is received
2. Conference acknowledges the valuable leadership and contributions made by President Desmond Cooper and Vice President Susanne Spindler to the work of Taiuiwi Strategy & Stationing, and Council of Conference.
3. Conference thanks Prince Devanadan and Bruce Anderson for their valuable contributions to the work of the Taiuiwi Stationing and Strategy.
4. Conference thanks Aso Samoa Saleupolu for the wisdom and leadership he provided from 2009 to 2011 as Taiuiwi Executive Officer.
5. Exploring and Rebuilding relationships with Presbyterians and other ecumenical Partner Churches
 - a) Conference asks the Council of Conference Co-conveners to add this item to the Council of Conference agenda, as this is a Church to Church matter.
 - b) Conference asks the General Secretary to initiate a meeting with the President, General Secretary, Mission Resourcing and the Presbyterian counterparts to discuss the following 2 items;
 - (i) The difficulties experienced by some Cooperative Ventues and regional courts when working between the PCANZ and the Methodist Church of New Zealand.
 - (ii) How we can work better together
6. Stationing Probationers to CV's with Anglican Components
 - a) Conference asks the Faith and Order Committee to put Mutuality of Ministry as a priority item for the next Anglican Methodist Dialogue meeting to begin conversations.
 - b) Conference encourages the Taiuiwi Strategy and Stationing to do further work on this issue and report back to Conference 2012.
7. Pacific Congregations in CVs & Methodist English Speaking Parishes:
 - a) Conference asks the Mission Resourcing Directors to arrange a meeting with the General Secretary, Presbyterian and UCANZ representatives to discuss the issues relating to Pasifika Methodist Congregations within CV's.
 - b) Conference asks the superintendents of Vahefonua Tonga, Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma and Sinoti Samoa to initiate conversation with the Mission Resourcing Directors and General Secretary over the issues of relationship as highlighted in this report.
8. Taiuiwi Membership of Council of Conference for 2012 will be: Barbara Peddie (Co-convener) Nigel Hanscamp (Taiuiwi Executive Officer), Desmond Cooper, Jan Fogg, Mark Gibson, Motekiai Fakatou, Olive Tanielu, Susan Thompson, Thelma Efford, Viv Whimster.
9. Taiuiwi members of the Council of Elders will be: Garth Cant. Gloria Zanders.
10. New Taiuiwi member of PAC Distribution Group for 2012 will be: Lyn Heine.
11. Taiuiwi Strategy Committee for 2012 will be: President John Roberts, Vice President Olive Tanielu, General Secretary David Bush, Taiuiwi Executive Officer Nigel Hanscamp, Director Pasifika Ministries Aso Samoa Saleupolu, Taiuiwi Facilitators Lani Tupu, Alison Molineux, Principal / Director Trinity College David Bell, Rosalie Gwilliam and Norman Brookes (Northland), Norman Brookes and Christine Peak (Auckland), Setaita Kinahoi Veikune and Edwin Talakai (Vahefonua Tonga), Tovia Aumua, and Edna Te'o (Sinoti Samoa), Norman Brookes and Kuovatisi Uasi-Fononga(Manukau), Viv Whimster and Susan Thompson (Waikato - Waiariki), Jocelyn Boys and Tony Bell (Lower North Island), David Martin and Jill van de Geer (Nelson – Marlborough – West Coast), two

persons to be named (Central South Island), Rachael Masterton and Martin Oh (Otago – Southland), Peni Tikoinaka and Niko Bower (Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma), Alan K Webster (Evangelical Network) and other current full members of Council of Conference not named in the committee, Barbara Peddie, Jan Fogg, Mark Gibson, Motekiai Fakatou, Olive Tanielu, Thelma Efford, Desmond Cooper.

12. Tauivi Stationing Committee for 2012 will be: President John Roberts, Vice President Olive Tanielu, General Secretary David Bush, Tauivi Executive Officer Nigel Hanscamp, Director Pasifika Ministries Aso Samoa Saleupolu, Principal / Director Trinity College David Bell, Rosalie Gwilliam and Norman Brookes (Northland), Norman Brookes and Christine Peak (Auckland), Setaita Kinahoi Veikune and Edwin Talakai (Vahefonua Tonga), Tovia Aumua, and Edna Te'o (Sinoti Samoa), Norman Brookes and Kuovatisi Uasi-Fononga (Manukau), Viv Whimster and Susan Thompson (Waikato - Waiariki), Jocelyn Boys and Tony Bell (Lower North Island), David Martin and Jill van de Geer (Nelson – Marlborough – West Coast), two persons to be named (Central South Island), Rachael Masterton and Martin Oh (Otago – Southland), Peni Tikoinaka and Niko Bower (Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma), Alan K Webster (Evangelical Network).

EVANGELICAL NETWORK

The year 2011 has been a year of continuing conversations with many different parts of the Methodist Church of New Zealand te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa. At the time of writing we have been invited to make a particularly evangelical response to an invitation from the liturgy reform committee of Faith and Worship as they look at communion orders of service for the coming years, to lecture at Trinity in a variety of different areas such as communication, leadership models, and evangelism in the 21st century. Current intentions are for the superintendent, Rev Alan K Webster (please note the “K” in your address-book and correspondence files!) to attend the Conference of the World Methodist Council’s World Methodist Evangelism Institute in Jerusalem early 2012, representing NZ Methodism on an international evangelical stage.

We have been given a generous grant of \$6000 from PAC this year towards a retreat at Living Springs, Christchurch in October with an invitation to all our brothers and sisters to come aside to what is all too often seen as a broken city for refreshment and renewal: receiving and giving from resources undamaged by the trauma of the earthquakes in our region. Part of the intention of this retreat is an ongoing series of conversations as to the purpose and direction of the Evangelical Network of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, in the light of the changing face of the church in New Zealand, in recognition of new ways of understanding the future of the church and where an evangelical understanding fits into that future. We will report on this directly at Conference if there is an opportunity to do so.

This year we continue what has become a valuable practice of working together with our supposed opposite wing (?) the Liberal society as continuing demonstration both of the fuzziness of definitions and the intentions of mutual good will expressed in our annual Sunday Evening Conference Event, to be held this year at the Parenting Centre 300 Great South Road, 6:30pm with Robyn Gouge providing entertainment and the people’s judging of this year’s art exhibition (It may not be too late to come: ask someone!) In this way we all hope that we may demonstrate a willingness to hold strong and careful opinions without arrogance or intransigence: in the spirit of John Wesley’s call that has been part of the Evangelical Network’s credo right from its inception, when Wesley exegetes II Kings 10 v15

“If your heart is with my heart, then give me your hand”

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God. He that does not love, does not know God; for God is love" (4:7, 8). "Not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another (verses 10, 11).

All men approve of this; but do all men practice it? Daily experience shows the contrary. Where are even the Christians who "love one another as he has given us commandment?" How many hindrances lie in the way! The two grand, general hindrances are, first, that they cannot all think

alike and, in consequence of this, secondly, they cannot all walk alike. However, in several smaller points their practice must differ as their opinions differ.

But even though a difference in opinions or modes of worship may prevent an entire external union, yet need it prevent our union in affection? Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without doubt, we may. In this all the children of God may unite, even though they retain these smaller differences. These remaining as they are, they may help one another increase in love and in good works.
The Catholic Spirit sections 2A-3.

NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Supplementary Report

WASEWASE KO VITI KEI ROTUMA E NIU SILADI

Introduction

Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma consist of three Circuits [Auckland, Waikato/Waiariki and Lower North and South Island] and two congregations who are not affiliated to these Circuits [Kingsland Rotuma and Khyber Pass].

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- b. Local Fijian congregations who are part of local parishes must work towards becoming independent and to stand on their own two feet. This will also be of enormous help to the life of the parishes who have been committed to our development.
- c. Working towards becoming a Synod between 2012 – 2014.

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- 1) Central Auckland
- 2) West Auckland
- 3) Kingsland Rotuma Congregation
- 4) Waikato / Waiariki
- 5) Lower North Island (*It is anticipated that this will be separated into two Circuits – for Lower North Island and South Island.*)
- 6) South Island