



ORDINANDS 2014

Methodist Conference 2014

Hamilton

Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Ordinands 2014



Rupeni Balawa Delai

I am a Presbyterian for the Fijian Congregation, Auckland Methodist Central Parish. I was a qualified Boilermaker for 30 years before attending Trinity Methodist Theological College in 2010 as a part time student.

I was first Stationed to Auckland Central Parish for Fijian Ministry in 2013. My involvement in the church goes back 20 years when I was leading the Khyber Pass Fijian Congregation in 1993. I assisted this small Congregation to be a part of the Fiji Advisory Committee in 1999 which then became a part of the New Zealand Conference in 2000. I am one of the pioneer members of the Fiji Advisory Committee before they became the Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma e Niu Siladi last year. At Easter 2010 I was involved in the start of a new Congregation down in the Hauraki Plains area. I have a wonderful family who support and love me dearly and are very proud of my achievements.



Nehilofi 'E-Moala 'Aholelei

I am Nehilofi 'E-Moala 'Aholelei, a mother of four children: Pa'ila Jr (21), Nanise Tu'ukaunga-'i-Moana (19), 'Opeti Tauengu (16) and Siosaia (12). I am married to my dear husband, Siosifa. I am really grateful for the tremendous support offered by my husband and children during the years of my study as well as during my ministry probation.

I was born and raised within a Christian family of five siblings. We lived in a village called 'Ahononou near the Fua'amotu airport. Our parents nurtured us with love, care, faith, and hope and disciplined us to live with morality. I offer my gratitude to our parents: Hameti 'Ofa (aka: "Sakeasi" - father) and Seini

Paea-‘i-Paluki ‘Ofa (mother) for shaping my life to become who I am today. Their hard work and big sacrifice enabled all of us to explore life with faith. My father died in 2002 but fortunately my mother is present here to offer her support in spite of her disability. I am so grateful that God has cared for me in upholding my faith until now. By faith, I am changed in perspective, attitude and actions. *“Glory be to God!”*

In regard to education, I studied at Queen Salote College and proceeded to Tupou High School. Both schools were under the authority of Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. I achieved the Tonga Higher Leaving Certificate and NZ School Certificate prior to my arrival in Aotearoa.

I migrated to New Zealand in 1984 and started raising a family of my own in 1992. We came to New Zealand to have better education, a good job, and other widespread opportunities that would uplift our living standard.

My heart is full of gratitude for the resourceful training offered by the principal and staff of Trinity Methodist Theological College in equipping me to be effective in my ministry. I trust God with my all. Consequently, I am dedicated to serving God realistically, humbly, faithfully with great endurance and patience under the governance and discipline of the Methodist Church of New Zealand and its Conference.



Kalolo Fihaki

I was born and raised in Nukunuku, Tonga and grew up in the life of the Church. I became a lay preacher in 1994 then began to train towards ministry in 2010. I was awarded the the Diploma in Practical Theology from Trinity College.

For the last two years I have been stationed as a self-supporting presbyter to Fuakava Ta’engata ‘o Kenani, Otahuhu, part of the Auckland Manukau Parish of Vahefonua Tonga.

I am grateful to my wife Meliame 'Ahoako Fihaki and our 5 children for their support as I have trained towards Ordained ministry.



Kuli Fisi'iahi

I grew up in a family which is a dedicated member of the Siasi Uesiliana Tau'ataina 'o Tonga (The Methodist Church in Tonga), in a village called Niutoua located in the main Island of Tonga. I am the youngest of four brothers and five sisters. When my mother died while I was seven years of age, I found out in later years of study that I grew up with what Victor Frankl mentioned on, Search for Meaning, "I could simply identify myself with the top category of youngsters concerned with finding a meaning and purpose in my life".

I studied at Tonga High School and Tonga College, Sia'atoutai Theological College, Tonga (Batchelor in Divinity). Trinity College of Theology, New Zealand (Diploma in Practical Theology). I have been to a lot of jobs, from Office Worker to landscaping and cleaning jobs.

A devoted member of the Dominion Road Tongan Methodist Congregation and the Waterview Parish where I candidated for Ministry. I married to Luseane Fisi'iahi (Lucy) and we have three children, Fotu (13) 'Amone (11) and Kalisi (9). I am currently in my second year as a Presbyter of Wesley Methodist Dargaville.



Ruta Galo

Ruta Galo is the daughter of the late Liusuavai Falu'ula Galo and Susana Uelese Galo; she is the second youngest child of six. She is the mother of a 16 year old son, Fau'ula Joe Galo and Ruta is a year six teacher at Southern Cross Junior School in Mangere.

She has been a member of the Mangere-Otahuhu Methodist Parish since 1970, but credits Reverend Setaita Kinahoi- Veikune for helping her “get serious” about her calling within the church. Ruta acknowledges that many others, such as the Loving and Caring Group, Doctor David Bell, Rev Kalo Kaisa, Orakei Parish and her Church family were instrumental in her success.

Ruta attended Viscount Primary, Arahanga Intermediate and Mangere College where Mr Peddie and Mr and Mrs Faulkner were once either her Dean or subject teacher in 1988, where she received her Diploma then later at Auckland University with her Bachelor of Education and Post Graduate Diploma of TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

Her next point of call is to make her Deacon role become more of a lifestyle rather than a duty, as encouraged by Rev Val Nicholls.



Manoa Havea

Imagine a 40 year old father. He has served as a local preacher, congregational steward and deputy chairperson for the Hutt City Uniting Congregations for a number of years. Though he grew up in the manse, he is bewildered by uncertainty, fear and anxiety. He has come on pilgrimage with the aim of trying to discern what God is calling him to be. And then he hears the words of God to the prophet Isaiah 6:8, *‘I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”* This father was over whelmed with emotion as he came to understand what it was God was asking of him. Seven years ago that father was me, and after much soul searching and prayer, I was led to offer myself for ministry. Now I have served my probationer terms in North Taranaki Parish with great cheer, primarily because I know I am responding to the Lord’s call. Praise God for the tremendous support of my wife and four children, and it is immensely encouraging to know that I am held in so many peoples prayers.



Ilaisaane Langi

I am a Probationer stationed at the Auckland Central Parish for the Epsom and Mt Eden congregations. This is the second year of my probation, preparing to be ordained as a Presbyterian for the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Ministries from Bible College of New Zealand (now called Laidlaw College) in 2003. This is where I gained biblical knowledge together with experience of adjustment to life living in Aotearoa. My struggles to survive in Aotearoa prompted me to work in the community for more than 14 years in both voluntary and paid positions.

After these years I decided to respond to God's call to continue my passion to work with people in the ministry. I enrolled in 2010 at Trinity College and graduated with a Diploma of Practical Theology in 2013. I now reside in Epsom with my husband Ben Langi and our 4 boys; Paluki age 9, Semisi age 6, Mohulamu age 4 and 'Eveni age 2.



Sione Lea'aetoa

Kia ora tatou katoa, greetings and Malo e lelei from "Taka He Monu" Glen Innes Methodist Church.

I started my secondary school at Tonga College in Tonga, with my last four years at Otahuhu College. I am a Social Worker, also graduated with Bachelor of Theology (Auckland) before I Candidate for Presbyterian. I like preaching and I enjoy my pastoral visits to both the parishioners and community. I have been a Lay preacher for 25 years and am proud of it. In addition to ministry, I like singing, reading, fishing and an enthusiastic Auckland Blues fan. I have a beautiful family, my wife Seini any our five children. Malo 'aupito, tu'a 'ofa 'Eiki 'atu.



Neti Petaia

Greetings and Talofa lava, My name is Neti Petaia; I'm in my first appointment at Christchurch North Methodist Parish, Papanui Christchurch. This appointment provided numerous challenges, as the city is still in recovery mode so as the churches, with outstanding leadership by the Synod and Connexional Office we are well on our way and as a probationer the timing couldn't be better.

Another chapter in my life starts today, and I'm ever so grateful to those who have contributed to my journey up to this point, and may it continued, you know who you are and I will say this to you, "Fa'afetai tele lava - thank you very much - God bless".



Tania Shackleton

I was born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in 1961. My daughter Sherilee, (the best thing that ever happened to me) moved to New Zealand in 2002. I am grateful to New Zealand for making it possible for me to realize my calling to Ordained Ministry. I completed my BTHEOL at Otago University and the Diploma of Practical Theology at Trinity College. My first stationing is at Devonport Methodist Church. My adventure in Faith continues and thanks for not giving up on me!



Abhishek Solomon

I started my ministry at the Northcote-Takapuna Parish before moving to the Mahurangi Methodist Parish in February 2014. It has been a real gift to take the path of ordained ministry. When I think of ordained ministry I think of sacredness. I see sacredness in people and what they offer to make ministry happen. I see sacredness in the work of parish treasurer; in the work of Parish Council, I see sacredness in the ministry of preaching; I see sacredness in the

ministry of the Holy Communion and the ministry of baptism and even at the property meetings, even with a group of people who think they are doing nothing more than just estimating roof repairs. Indeed, I seek sacredness in all aspects of the parish life.

Seeking an ordained ministry of the Word and sacrament has come to mean more than simply to unlock the doors and turn on the lights on Sunday mornings or to simply attend committee meetings. Instead it is an ongoing discovery of sacredness in all dimensions of life - in all I do and be.



Mele Foeata Tu'ipulotu

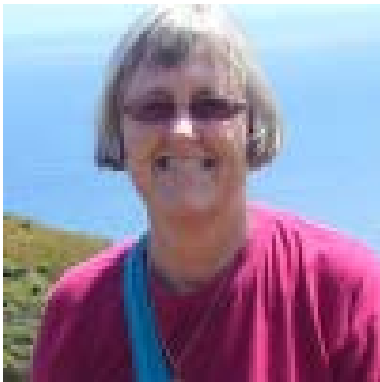
Originally from Tonga and a lay preacher at Ellerslie Tongan Methodist church of the Auckland/Manukau Parish. I am currently a probationer presbyter at Lotu Hufia – East Tamaki Tongan Methodist Church. The Christian influences on my life when I was growing up and my world were always under the church household. I was nurtured in a Christian family and this helped me to 'cope' with situations, circumstances and has contributed to where I am now, and what I am doing. Throughout the years I have had various experiences that shaped my life long journey. So the foundations remain the same but I ought to make room for 'modifications' in my life.

I migrated to New Zealand at the end of 1998 and lived in Christchurch. In 2000, I moved to Auckland and changed my pathway to study Theology. I studied at the University of Auckland and graduated with my BTheol in September, 2005.

I had a feeling and thought that God 'called' me through the Holy Spirit to go further seeking faith and trying to know Christ. When the thought was clear I sat back and reflected how much can a lay person share the gospel. If I was in ordained ministry, how much more could I have to share? How much more do I have to offer and contribute to the life of the Church if I was ordained?

The thoughts of entering ordained ministry still linked with me. I shared with my mum and family members. They supported and encouraged me through prayers. My 'call' and vision - to proclaim and reflect the Word of God, to love God and to serve Him, with all my heart reaching out to everyone.

The practical training offered me the space to develop a theology of healthy Shepherd to feed the flock, a theology that I not only grasped with enthusiasm but also lived in my practice of ministry. I have discovered that 'God is bigger than my own beliefs.'



Andrea Williamson

My name is Andrea Williamson. I am married to Peter who is also a Methodist Presbyterian. We have a much loved family of 2 daughters, their partners and 3 granddaughters.

Over the years I have held many roles in the church as a lay person, but more recently have sensed the call to ordination as a Presbyterian. The calling for me is not to parish but to Police chaplaincy, and to offering spiritual formation and spiritual direction both within and outside the church.

The Communion service as the central and most moving ritual of our faith is at the heart of my calling. As a Police chaplain and previously as a Hospice chaplain, I have had dispensation to celebrate the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism and they have been most meaningful and an important part particularly of the Hospice chaplaincy. I look forward to now celebrating them as a Presbyterian and to being able to offer a sacramental aspect to Quiet Days and Retreats, spiritual direction and teaching, as well as in the Police chaplaincy.