

LAW REVISION

The major review of the Laws and Regulations are almost complete. The Committee thanks Parishes, Synods and Hui Poari for their careful critique of this work recognising this can be a task which takes significant time.

The Committee brings to this Conference the following sections for approval.

Section 2

During the debate of Conference 2014, new matters were raised by Te Taha Maori with respect to Candidates and Ordinands. Significant consultation has taken place during the year and the Committee now believes that Section 2 is in a form which represents the decisions of Conference. This section will be printed as a supplementary report.

Section 7 – The Conference

This section was sent to Synods and Hui Poari in February. The responses have been incorporated in the document.

Section 11(D) – Trinity Methodist Theological College

Saw Revision brings revisions of the Laws and Regulations for Trinity College.

The Committee also considered, at the request of Trinity College Council the section of the College Handbook 'Dismissal of Students at Trinity College'. This is an important though fortunately seldom used section of the Handbook. It is printed in the report for information.

It was noted that the requirements for Ordination were last revised in 1991. The Committee believes as a matter of process that the criteria should be reviewed and resubmitted to Conference for approval. Such a review would be the task of Council of Conference to facilitate.

Trinity College Disciplinary Procedure

At the request of the College Council the Committee considered and commented on the College procedure for dismissal of students. This is printed below for your information.

Dismissal of Students at Trinity College (pg. 21 College handbook)

1. The College has the right to discontinue a student from Trinity College and their studies at any time upon the following grounds:
 - a) Falsification of all or any part of an application
 - b) Acts of violence towards any other student or member of staff
 - c) Dishonesty
 - d) Being charged with or convicted of any criminal offence
 - e) Failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress
 - f) Plagiarism
 - g) Failure to demonstrate satisfactory progress towards training for Methodist ministry
 - h) Failure to meet any of the requirements for students as specified in the College Handbook
 - i) Any other serious breach or conduct which in the opinion of the Student Review Panel constitutes grounds for discontinuance.
2. The College has the right to suspend any student for breach of any of the provisions in 1.a. – d. inclusive with immediate effect. In this event, the student shall be barred from attending any class, event, or function at the College. Without the express consent of the Principal being upon College property shall constitute an act of trespass.
3. In the case of students who have been accepted by the Methodist Church of New Zealand as candidate for ministry, the Laws and Regulations of the Methodist Church of New Zealand will apply.
4. In the case of private students (that is all students who have not been accepted as candidates for ministerial training by the Methodist Church of New Zealand) the student will be asked to appear before the Student Review Panel where a determination will be made.
5. The Appeals Procedure outlined in the College Handbook in relation to assessments (p.15) will apply.

Memorial and Notices of Motion

In June the General Secretary attended the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain. In the UK memorials are submitted by a Parish, Synod, or Board in sufficient time for a written response to be made. The memorials and the responses are printed as part of the Agenda of Conference. The written response is 'draft' until it has been accepted by Conference. In our setting Memorials and Notices of Motion have almost become synonymous. Law Revision is recommending that the Laws and Regulations be amended to clarify the nature and purpose of memorials.

In the UK Notices of Motion also have a wider application. In addition to bringing last minute matters, Notices of Motion are used to signal change or amendment to resolutions listed in the Agenda. This allows more careful consideration than changes made during debate.

If Conference is of a mind to trial such changes, Law Revision will submit suggested law changes to Parishes, Rohe, Synods and Hui Poari in 2016 with a view to using them on a trial basis in 2016.

Connexional Resource Appointments

Section 6 specifies that there are five Connexional Committees of Conference: Council of Conference, Te Taha Maori, Tauwi Strategy and Tauwi Stationing, Council of Elders and Budget Task Group.

It also specifies Connexional and Resource Appointments: General Secretary, Tumuaki of Te Taha Maori, Directors of Mission Resourcing, Principal of Trinity Theological College, Superintendents of Methodist Mission Northern, Christchurch Methodist Mission, Dunedin Methodist Mission and Wesley Wellington Mission Inc, Director Mission and Ecumenical, Chaplain Wesley College.

MMA are suggesting that there be only one 'Connexional Appointee' for all the Missions. This would not pre-clude using a bi-cultural appointment process for Directors of individual missions.

Law Revision also asks the Church to consider why the list of 'Connexional' Committees and the list of appointees do not match.

It is the view of the Committee that the list of appointments include some which are not truly 'Connexional' in nature and that it would be more accurate to have two headings; Connexional Appointments and Resource Appointments.

Missions are not Parishes

Law Revision has previously reported to Conference that it believed Missions should no longer be seen as and governed by the Laws and Regulations pertaining to Parishes. This was agreed by Conference.

Law Revision welcomes the report of MMA into the on-going structure and governance of Missions. If Conference accepts the proposed direction, new Law to reflect the changes will be prepared in 2016.

Ex-Officio Membership of Synods

Correspondence was received from Mission Resourcing as an outcome of the continuing dialogue with the Korean Methodist Church in New Zealand. It was noted in the Korean setting that the President and Vice-President are ex-officio members of every Synod. The question was also asked. Would it make sense to have the General Secretary and Directors of Mission Resourcing in that ex-officio capacity.

Section 4.1(a) notes that the President or Vice President are members of Synod.

Law Revision is not recommending that the General Secretary and Directors be ex-officio members, rather that: The General Secretary and Directors of Mission Resourcing may attend.

Suggested decisions:

1. That the report be received.
2. That Conference asks Council of Conference to initiate a process to review the criteria for Ordination to ensure they reflect the current needs and priorities of the Church.
3. That Conference agrees that the membership of synods be amended *"That the General Secretary and Directors of Mission Resourcing may attend"*.
4. That Conference adopts Sections 7 and 11 (D) of the Laws and Regulations as revised.
5. That the Law Revision Committee for 2016 be: Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel, Jill van de Geer, Peter Williamson, Jan Tasker, Stuart Grant, Lynne Frith, Rowan Smiley, Fatuatia Tufuga, Kathleen Tuai Ta'ufu'ou, The General Secretary, Donald Phillipps (corresponding member)

Question 27(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Presidential rulings which have been made during the year.

1. Alipate Livani – appointment as non-stipended presbyter to Hamilton East Fijian.
2. Setaita Kinahoi-Veikune – appointment as Director of Mission Resourcing.
3. Appointment of David McGeorge as Chair of Trinity College Council.
4. Appointment of 'Ema Wolfgramm-Foliaki to Trinity College Council.
5. Appointment of David Ahn to Motueka Uniting Parish (supply).
6. Laura Black appointed as Methodist representative to NZ Council of Christian Social Services.
7. Appointment of Jan Lemman Christiansen as Chairperson of Trinity College Student Review Panel.
8. Approved revised constitution for the Christchurch Methodist Mission.
9. Approved decision by the Board of Methodist Mission Northern to discontinue the 4+4 process for appointment of the Superintendent.
10. Change of name of Stoke Waimea Parish to Richmond – Stoke.
11. PAC Endowments dispensed with for 2015.
12. Appointment of Mr Rangi Whakaruru and Mr Andrew Caughey to the membership of Wesley College Trust Board.

Suggested decisions:

1. That the report be received.

SECTION 7 - THE CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

When the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa meets in its annual Conference it recognises the partnership of the tangata whenua/Te Taha Maori and Tauīwi.

Conference possesses certain powers and privileges, based on those set out in the Laws and Regulations, and including the exercise of discipline. It cannot stand above or apart from these Laws and Regulations. Its powers and privileges are exercised at every stage under the judgment of God. Presbyters, deacons and laypersons, meeting as Conference, are responsible to God, seeking to interpret the mind and will of God in every situation.

AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, meeting annually, which has vested in it final authority on all matters of the Church. Its decisions are accordingly final and binding on both Ministry and Laity.
- 1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5-1.1 Conference shall have no power:
 - (a) to revoke, alter or change any doctrines of the Church as contained in the Standard Sermons of John Wesley and his notes on the New Testament, nor to establish any new doctrine contrary thereto.
 - (b) to revoke "The General Rules of the Societies".
 - (c) to do away with the itinerancy of the Ministry.
 - (d) to do away with the right of trial and appeal of Members and Ministers of the Church.
- 1.3 The Conference shall be the final authority within the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, with regard to all questions concerning the interpretation of its doctrines.
- 1.4 Conference shall act in a manner consistent with and in regard to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 1.5 Subject to the provision of Clause 7.1.2 hereof, and in accordance with the provisions of Clause

7.1.1 hereof, the Conference shall have power to do whatever it from time to time considers appropriate for the mission work and order of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa provided that no change shall be made affecting what the President, acting on the advice of the President's Legal Adviser, deems to affect constitutional matters or the rights and privileges of the Ministry or Laity, unless such changes shall have been previously submitted by the Conference to the **Synods and Hui Poari** ~~Districts and Regions~~, and confirmed at the next succeeding Conference by a resolution passed by a consensus decision. ~~of not less than fifty-five per cent of the votes of the members present and voting.~~

1. 6 The Laws and Regulations of the Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa shall be those contained in these Laws and Regulations, as from time to time amended by the Conference. If there shall be any translation into another language, the English version shall always be paramount and definitive, and will therefore always prevail over any translation.

MEMBERSHIP

2. 1 Conference members are entitled to exercise their own judgment and are not delegates subject to instruction on how to vote. A member may however be under a moral obligation to present the mind of the appointing body unless fresh information constrains otherwise, but is not legally bound to support the same.
2. 2.1 Membership of the Conference shall comprise:

Te Taha Maori

2. 2.2 (a) **Presbyters and Deacons in Full Connexion with the Conference.**
(b) Such **Lay** persons as the Hui Poari appoint to represent the tangata whenua, Te Taha Maori.

Tauwi

2. 2.3.1 Ministerial Representatives who are:
- (a) Presbyters **and Deacons** in Full Connexion with the Conference.
 - (b) ~~Ordained Deacons.~~ **Stationed or appointed Lay Ministers**
 - (c) Ministers of other denominations who are appointed to any Union or Co-operating Parish or other Co-operative Venture on the Station-Sheet of the Conference.
 - (d) Theological students preparing for ordination are accorded associate membership of Conference. They may speak in Committees of Detail and remain present when Conference goes 'into Committee,' except when the 'in Committee' discussion has to do with matters pertaining to students. Unless otherwise appointed as a member of Conference, a student may not speak on the floor of Conference or participate in voting on any issue, and shall, therefore, not be regarded as a member of Conference except to the limited extent provided in this clause. (see 2.5.11.1)
 - (e) Probationers are entitled to participate fully in Conference decision-making processes, except where such processes have to do with ordination or reception into Full Connexion. Probationers attending Conference shall be full members of Conference, subject only to the limitation set out in this clause.
2. 2.3.2 Lay Representatives shall include:
- ~~(a) Any Lay President or Vice President, Lay President-Elect or Vice President-Elect shall be included in the number of Lay representatives. [Note these are ex-officio members see 7.3.1]~~
 - (a) Each Parish/Circuit or Central Mission shall be entitled to one Lay representative. An additional representative may be appointed for each additional Presbyter in Full Connexion appointed to that Parish/Circuit or Central Mission.
 - (b) Each such lay persons to be eligible for appointment shall be a member of the Church. The Parish representative shall be a member of the appointing Parish.
 - (c) Each Union and Co-operating Parish, or other Co-operative Venture on the Stations of Conference shall be entitled to one Lay representative.
 - (d) Each such representative shall be a member of the Co-operating Parish or Venture, appointing the lay representative.
 - (e) An additional Lay representative may be appointed for each additional Presbyter appointed to that Parish or Venture (whether by the Conference or other participating Church).
 - (f) A Candidate for the Ministry shall be deemed a Lay Representative, if appointed.
 - (g) With the prior consent of the Conference given through the President, all Lay Representatives on ecumenical or confessional Bodies of which the Conference and other Bodies of the Conference, including the N Z Methodist Women's Fellowship has membership.
 - (h) Any lay person(s) filling a Connexional Appointment.
 - (i) ~~Empower your Youth Board~~ **Tauwi Children, Young People and Families Ministry** shall be entitled to one lay representative.

- (j) Lay Supplies may attend Conference as Parish representatives, or if a Board appoints them as members of Conference, but not otherwise.
- 2.2.3.3 The General Secretary shall, with the approval of the President, appoint additional lay representatives in order that their numbers are approximately equal to the number of ministerial representatives. These may include:
- (a) persons under the age of 30, (appointed after consultation with the **Tauwi Children, Young People and Families Ministry** ~~Tauwi Youth~~ Coordinator and Hui Poari;
 - (b) other representatives, in **whose** ~~the appointment of whom~~ the General Secretary shall take into account age, race, gender, and geographic distribution.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE

- 3.1 The following persons shall be ex officio members of the Conference:
 The President and Vice-President.
 The President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect (being the persons to be inducted to their offices at that Conference).
 The immediate Ex-President and Ex-Vice-President (~~being the persons who retired from their Offices at the preceding Conference~~).
 General Secretary.
 President's Legal Adviser.
~~Members of Council of Conference, not otherwise members of the Conference.~~
 The National President of the Women's Fellowship.
 Synods shall be represented by one ordained and one lay person; ~~one of whom shall be a Superintendent.~~ **their Tauwi Stationing members.**
~~Members of the Council of Elders.~~

[Note: Added to Section 6.6.1 Council of Elders:

Members of the Council of Elders shall attend, but are not members of Conference.]

- 3.2 Each person who is a member of the Council of Conference or Tauwi Strategy and Stationing and Hui Poari shall be a member of the Conference in that year, if such person is not already appointed as a member of Conference in any other capacity. No substitute may be appointed to attend Conference under this provision.
- 3.3 Each Division, Board, or Committee of the Church to which a Minister in Full Connexion or other Minister is appointed **stationed** shall be entitled to appoint one Lay representative for each Minister so appointed. The Lay representative(s) shall be appointed by the Board from among its members.
- ~~3.4 Wasewase ko Viti koi Rotuma e Niusiladi shall be entitled to appoint two of its members as representatives.~~
- 3.5 Each of the following shall be entitled to appoint one Lay representative:
~~Wesley College [covered in 7.3.3]~~
 New Zealand Methodist Trust Association
 Investment Advisory Board
 Grey Institute Trust
 Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments Trust
 New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship (additional to National President)
 Wesley Historical Society (N.Z.)
 Robert Gibson Trust Board
~~Evangelical Network~~
- 3.6 It shall be competent for each appointing Body to appoint a substitute representative to attend the Conference in the event of the appointed representative being unable to attend.

OFFICERS

- 4.1 There shall be the following officers of the Conference:
 The President and Vice-President
 The Secretary of Conference
 The President's Legal Adviser

THE PRESIDENCY

- 5.1.1 There shall be a President of the Methodist Church who exercises leadership through service, and as the chief Pastor of the Church guards its faith and discipline, supports its work and mission, has a prophetic voice in its pursuit of justice, and shares in the administrative work of the Church as authorised. The President shall preside at Conference.
- 5.1.2 There shall be a Vice-President of the Methodist Church who shall be the deputy of the President.
- 5.1.3 Both the President and the Vice-President shall hold office until either shall resign or die, be incapable of acting or shall be succeeded in office.
- 5.1.4 The offices of President and Vice-President are open to Presbyters in Full Connexion, Deacons and Laypersons.

5. 1.5 The President and Vice-President shall be elected at the Conference preceding that at which they are to take office.
5. 1.6 A person eligible for either office shall be a member of the Methodist Church and be familiar with its polity and discipline. To ensure continuity of leadership, any person to be elected shall be a member of and present in person at the Conference at which he or she is elected, and shall have been present in person at no less than two of the preceding four Conferences.
5. 1.7 The nominations for both offices shall be in accordance with the following procedures:
- (a) Nominations shall be made by the nominating bodies: Te Taha Maori **and** the Synods, ~~Wasewase ke Viti~~, and may be for either or both offices. Each nominating body shall decide upon its own procedures for the making of nominations which may be of persons not members of that **body Synod**. Nominations shall be made in writing by the nominating body, and, in all cases endorsed with the consent of the nominee. All nominations must be communicated to the General Secretary by 31st August preceding the Conference at which the nomination is to be considered. The General Secretary shall promptly advise each nominating body of all nominations received.
 - (b) In respect of each person nominated for either or both offices, the nominating bodies making the nomination shall be responsible for supplying the General Secretary not later than 31st August with a brief profile of the person nominated for inclusion in a report to Conference.
 - (c) When a Presbyter is elected as President all Presbyters nominated for the office of Vice-President shall be ineligible for election to that office in that year; when a Deacon or Layperson is elected as President, all Deacons or Laypersons nominated for the office of Vice-President shall be ineligible for election to that office in that year.
 - (d) Taiuiwi and Te Taha Maori will each select its preferred candidates for the offices of both President and Vice-President according to their own procedures.
 - (e) There shall be a Conference Panel, (the Panel), representing the Partnership.
 - (f) Hui Poari and Taiuiwi Strategy Committee each nominate five members for the Conference panel from the membership of their respective Council of Conference members.
 - (g) The Panel is not the Council of Conference (Council membership is a convenient way of selecting Connexionally experienced people)
 - (h) The first task of the panel is to choose two Convenors, one from each of the groups of five.
 - (i) The five members ~~of~~ **from** Te Taha Maori and the five from Taiuiwi bring to the panel the names agreed by ~~their caucus groups~~ **Te Taha Maori and Taiuiwi Meetings** as being appropriate people to lead Te Haahi for the following Connexional year.
 - ~~(j) In conversation as a group, The panel's task is to come to a consensus as to the receive~~ **from each meeting the preferred** names ~~of the~~ **for the role of** President and Vice President ~~Elect. Only~~ **and determine** those names which are common to both **meetings** ~~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 the coming year.~~
 - (k) The Panel should, from the names acceptable to both **meetings** ~~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~~ **meetings** 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.
 - (l) If there are no names in common for either President or Vice President, the two ~~caucus groups~~ **meetings** 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.
 - (i) 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. Term. (two years)**
 - (ii) 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.
 - (m)
 - (i) If the panel members at any point in their ~~conversations~~ **deliberations** require any assistance that may help them reach a consensus they may call on the General Secretary and the Legal Adviser.
 - (ii) The request for assistance is conveyed to both parties by one or other of the Convenors.
 - (iii) The request for assistance, noting the specific reasons for the assistance, is to be put in writing by the panel.

- (iv) 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.
 - (n) 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.
 - (o) At an appropriate time the General Secretary reports to the President that this is the decision of the panel.
 - (p) The names of the ~~duly appointed~~ President and Vice-President Elect are then announced by the President **as duly appointed**.
- 5.1.8 If for any reason the President-Elect or Vice-President-Elect are unable to take office the Conference ~~at its first session shall fill the vacancy, using the procedures set out above. (see 7.5.1.7 d-h)~~ **the current President or Vice President shall remain in office.**
- 5.1.9 Should the President die, become incapable of acting, resign, or be absent overseas, the Vice-President shall assume the function of that office. The Ex-President or Ex-Vice-President shall assist in fulfilling the functions of both offices as appropriate.
- 5.1.10 Should the Vice-President die, become incapable of acting, resign or be absent overseas, the Ex-President or Ex-Vice-President as appropriate shall assist in fulfilling the functions of that office.
- 5.1.11 It shall be the duty of the General Secretary, should the necessity arise, after consultation with the President's Committee of Advice, to ensure that the provisions of paragraphs 7.5.1.9 and 10 are implemented. If the vacancy is caused by resignation, the persons so resigning shall not be regarded as having the rights and responsibilities of having held that office unless otherwise determined by the Conference.
- 5.1.12 When a Presbyterian or Deacon who is stationed by Conference and is in receipt of a stipend is elected as President, Conference shall ensure that a suitable supply is arranged. When a Lay or non-stipendiary person is elected President suitable financial provision shall be made if necessary. Such costs shall be a charge on the Connexional Expenses Fund.
- 5.1.13 The President and Vice-President shall be ex-officio members of all Conference committees and of all Courts of the Church, and shall be entitled to attend meetings of Boards or Committees of the Methodist Church. ~~Neither is entitled to vote at any meeting of which they are not a member.~~

FUNCTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

- 5.2.1 The functions and responsibilities of the Presidency are generally shared by the President and Vice-President. When acting corporately, and always in consultation, with appropriate advisers, they include:
- (a) being a focus of service and leadership throughout the Church, exercising prophetic, priestly and pastoral functions, and carrying out administrative tasks as are required by the Laws and Regulations of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa;
 - (b) having all the powers and exercising all the functions of the Conference in accordance with the Laws and regulations, except when the Conference is in session.
- 5.2.2 The President, acting in terms of Section 7.5.5.1 shall normally be advised by the Vice-President and General Secretary. The President shall take advice in others matters as follows:
- (a) Deployment of Ministers: Te Taha Maori, Synods, ~~Wasewase ko Viti, (as appropriate), The Executive Officer, Taiwi Strategy & Stationing~~ **The Directors Missions Resourcing for Stationing;**
 - (b) Pastoral concerns: President's Committee of Advice and/or Pastoral Committee, and the appropriate Synod;
 - (c) Interpretation of the Church's Laws and regulations: General Secretary, the President's Legal Adviser, and if appropriate the President's Committee of Advice, and such other persons or bodies as the President deems appropriate;
 - (d) Public concerns: Appropriate Standing Committees and/or Convener;
 - (e) General: President's Committee of Advice and/or such other Standing Committees, Boards, and Divisions as are relevant to the issue;
 - (f) In matters relating to the Disciplinary Procedures, the President shall immediately act on the advice of, and in accordance with the findings of, the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- 5.2.3 Should any question arise in the interval between two Conferences as to the meaning or intention of any Resolution of the Conference, or as to the interpretation of any Law or Regulation of the Church, the following procedures shall apply:
- (a) the ~~matter~~ **question** may be referred to the President, whose ruling thereon shall be binding until the next Conference;
 - (b) the ~~request~~ **question** shall normally be referred through Synods or Te Taha Maori. ~~within whose bounds the matter or question arises;~~
 - (c) any such ruling by the President shall be ~~made~~ **conveyed** through the General Secretary;
 - (d) the ruling shall be binding until the next Conference.
- 5.2.4 (a) **The President shall** Preside at the Conference Ordination Service.

(b) The Ordained member of the Presidential team will ordain.

~~5.2.5 The President and Vice-President may each deliver an address to the Conference.~~

SECRETARY OF CONFERENCE

6.1 The General Secretary shall act as the Secretary of the Conference (see 5.2.5.2)

6.2 The General Secretary shall:

- (a) ensure that all arrangements are made for the holding of the Conference;
- (b) order the business of Conference;
- (c) advise Conference and the President and Vice President in respect to Conference procedures.

PRESIDENT'S LEGAL ADVISER

7.1 A Legal Adviser to the President shall be appointed each year by the Conference on the nomination of a Committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Ex-President (who shall act as Convener), Tumuaki and General Secretary. S/he shall be ex officio a member of the Conference.

7.2 The Legal Adviser shall be a barrister and solicitor or barrister sole of the High Court of New Zealand who is in active practice.

7.3 The Legal Adviser acts as consultant to the President on all matters pertaining to the interpretation of the Laws and Regulations of the Church, and on such other matters of a legal nature as the President shall raise.

THE SEAL

8.1 There shall be a Seal of the Conference which shall remain in the custody of the General Secretary and be used on official documents and attested by the President or Vice-President.

GENERAL PROCEEDINGS

9.1 The Conference shall:

- (a) be opened by the ~~retiring~~ President;
- (b) induct the President and Vice-President;
- (c) receive Presbyters into Full Connexion, and ordain Presbyters and Deacons;
- (d) appoint its officials;
- (e) confirm Standing Orders;
- (f) elect the President and Vice-President of the next ~~ensuing~~ Conference;
- (g) ~~make arrangements for and~~ transact its business.

9.2 The President or Vice-President ~~or deputy or past President or past Vice President~~ shall preside over the Conference.

9.3 The attendance of forty percent of the members of that Conference shall constitute a quorum except that after it has opened its business the Conference may determine some other quorum for all or any part of its business. The quorum should always reflect the partnership between the tangata whenua/Te Taha Maori and Tauwiwi.

9.4 The sessions of the Conference shall be open to the public unless otherwise determined by the Conference.

9.5 Conference may decide to go into Committee. Business discussed by the Conference while in Committee shall not in any way be reported or published and shall be absolutely confidential to the members. The business of Conference while in Committee shall be recorded in the Journal and Daily Record but not in the Minutes unless Conference shall so direct. When Conference comes out of Committee the Secretary shall report to the Conference the content of its decision while in Committee.

9.6 Conference may agree to form itself, at any point during its business, into caucus **groups TeTaha Maori and Tauwiwi**, which represent the partnership of the tangata whenua/Te Taha Maori and Tauwiwi within the Church. (see also 7.14.1-5)

9.6.1 The initiative for this may be taken by any member of Conference in consultation with the caucus facilitators, and the decision to do so shall be announced by the President ~~or~~.

9.6.2 Each meeting will be facilitated by person(s) appointed by Hui Poari and Tauwiwi Strategy. ~~and Stationing.~~

~~9.6.3 Conference may decide at any point during its business sessions to convene such meetings, the decision to do so being made either by the President or at the request of the appointed facilitators.~~

9.6.4 Each caucus may choose to divide into ~~interest~~ groups of **common interest**..

THE ORDERING OF CONFERENCE BUSINESS

10.1 The hours of Session for the Conference shall be **determined by the Conference**. ~~as from time to time determined by it.~~

10.2 The ordering of the business of Conference shall be in the hands of the Secretary of Conference. The following shall be the Order of Business in the Conference day by day:

~~_____ The President shall take the chair at the hour to which the Conference may stand~~

~~adjourned, the members standing until the President is seated. The President shall then open the session, which may include singing, reading the Scriptures, prayer and other devotional acts. In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, an Ex-President may preside.~~

(a) Reports and recommendations - Conference Agenda questions.

(b) Any other matters which may be arranged for by sessional order from time to time.

- 10.3 Except for matters requiring urgency, Notices of Motion shall be received by the General Secretary for the consideration of Conference by 4:00pm on the Thursday prior to Conference. Unless the matter is urgent, Notices of Motion ~~will~~ **shall** be referred to a Standing Committee, to a Board or Division, to another or other Synod(s), for consideration at the next Conference.

~~As to whether a matter is urgent shall be determined by~~ The President **shall determine what is a matter of urgency.**

- 10.4.1 Committees of the Conference (hereinafter called "Business Committees") shall ~~be appointed at each Conference to report to the Conference on matters which may be remitted by the Conference to such Committees for consideration. These Committees shall be regarded as the advisory Committees of the Conference.~~

Business Committees

A Council of Conference

B i. Te Taha Maori

ii. Tauwi

C Law Revision

D Administration

~~E Ministry~~

E **Trinity College**

F **Mission Resourcing**

G Faith and Order

H ~~Wesley Com~~ **Methodist Mission Aotearoa**

I Mission and Ecumenical

J Communications & Organisations

K ~~Social Issues~~ **Public Issues**

- ~~10.4.2 Such Committees shall meet for the transaction of business at such times as shall from time to time be determined by the Conference. The Committees shall also meet during the sessions of the Conference as often as may be considered necessary.~~

- 10.4.3 Business Committees shall deal with their business in the following order of priority:

(a) Conference agenda items;

(b) Memorials.

(c) Notices of Motion

- 10.4.4 All ~~recommendations~~ **Notices of Motion and Memorials** to be brought before Conference shall be submitted by the Convenors of the Business Committees to a group appointed by the Law Revision Committee who will examine them in respect to:

(a) clarity and intelligibility;

(b) their relationship to existing laws and regulations;

(c) whether there are any financial implications for the Connexional Budget.

- ~~10.4.5 Convenors shall introduce the reports and recommendations of the Committee, and whether the report and recommendations represent the general view of the Committee. Representatives authorised by Te Taha Maori, Tauwi Strategy and Stationing, and other Connexional Divisions, Boards and Committees, may also share in the introduction of the Business Committees' reports and recommendations.~~

- 10.4.6 Business Committees of Conference will advise the Conference as to those reports/decisions that can be presented to the Conference en bloc, and received without further discussion. The following procedure will apply:

(a) Reports/decisions to be taken en bloc will be clearly marked on the papers distributed to the Conference.

(b) On the recommendation of the Business Committees they will be put to the Conference en bloc.

(c) In order to safeguard the rights of members of the Conference to speak on any report/decision, any member may by simple request have removed from the "en bloc" procedures any report/decision.

CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

- 11.1 The business of the Conference shall be conducted under the following questions and under such further questions as the Conference may from time to time prescribe, the answers to such questions shall be recorded in the Minutes of Conference.

- 11.2 The official work of the Conference, comprised under the Questions constituting the ordinary routine of business, shall be introduced by the Secretary. The Questions are:

1 Who are members of this Conference?

- (a) those in Full Connexion.
~~(b) ordained Deacons~~
 (c) representatives
- 2 What Members from other Conferences and Churches are associated with this Conference?
 3 What Candidates are now received for training?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
 (c) Minita-a-iwi
- 4 Who are to continue in training for ordained ministry?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
 (c) Minita-a-iwi
- 5 Who are to be stationed by Conference as Probationers?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
 (c) Minita-a-iwi
- 6 Who are now admitted as Presbyters or Deacons in Full Connexion with the Conference?
 (a) those who have completed their probation
 (b) from another Church
- 7 Who are now ordained Deacon or Presbyter?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
- 8 What Minita-a-iwi:
 (a) are received as candidates
 (b) have completed their training
- 9 (a) What Deacon is reinstated into Full Connexion?
 (b) What Presbyter is reinstated into Full Connexion?
- 10 (a) What Deacons now ceases to recognised as in Full Connexion with the Conference?
 (b) What Presbyters now ceases to be recognised as in Full Connexion with the Conference?
 (c) What Presbyters now ceases to be recognised as a Probationer with the Conference?
 (d) What Deacon(s) now cease to be recognised as a Probationer with the Conference?
 (e) What students are discontinued in their training?
- 11 What appointments are authorised to provide remuneration at a rate less than Standard Stipend?
 A. For full-time or part-time Local Ministries (with no remuneration) with Ministry Covenant (full or part-time):
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
 B. For part-time Ministries (remuneration pro rata) with a Ministry Covenant:
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
- 12 What Deacon(s) or Presbyter(s) is transferred to, or is now exercising ministry in, another Conference or Church, whether overseas or in New Zealand, and has the right to return to the Conference on the completion of service with that Conference or Church?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyters
- 13 What Deacon(s) or Presbyter(s) has been received from another Conference or Church?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
- 14 What are the decisions of Conference on Disciplinary matters?
 (a) Which are required to be reported to the Conference?
 (b) Which have been processed during the preceding year, under the Disciplinary Code?
- 15 For what Deacon(s) or Presbyter(s) is no appointment available?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
- 16 What Deacon(s) or Presbyter(s) are not available for Stationing this year?
 (all ministries recorded under this question shall have prepared a Ministry Covenant)
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
 1) Chaplaincies

- 2) Other
- 17 What Deacon(s) or Presbyter(s) retire at this Conference?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
- 18 What Deacons and Presbyters continue in retirement?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Presbyter
- 19 What Deacons, Minita-a-Iwi and Presbyters have died since last Conference?
 (a) Deacon
 (b) Minita-a-Iwi
 (c) Presbyters
- 20 What Laypersons who have given leadership in the Conference have died since last Conference?
 (a) Te Taha Maori
 (b) Tauivi
- 21 (a) Are there any congregations where, for imperative pastoral considerations, others than Presbyters should have authority to administer the Sacraments?
 (b) Who are now given special authority to administer the Sacraments?
- 22 (a) Does the Conference sanction the amalgamation or division of any ~~District~~ **Synod** or Parish?
 (b) What other Agreements affecting Parishes and/or Use of Buildings are approved by Conference?
- 23 (a) To what Parishes/Rohe are additional Deacons, Minita-a-Iwi or Presbyters appointed?
 (b) From what Parishes/Rohe are Deacons, Minita-a-Iwi or Presbyters withdrawn?
- 24 How are the Presbyters, Deacons, and Minita-a-Iwi stationed for the ensuing year?
- 25 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Council of Conference?
 (a) What is God saying to us now?
 (b) What more can be done to promote the work of God?
 (c) Connexional Budget
(d) PAC Distribution Group
- 26 (i) What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the tangata whenua, Te Taha Maori?
 (a) Grey Institute Trust
 (b) Wellington Charitable and Educational Endowments Trust.
- 26 (ii) What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Tauivi?
 (a) Tauivi Strategy
 (b) Evangelical Network
 (c) New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship
~~(d) Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma~~
- 27 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Law Revision?
 (a) New or amended laws to be brought to Conference
 (b) Presidential Rulings which have been made during the year
- 28 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Administration Division?
 (a) Investment Advisory Board
 (b) Methodist Trust Association
 (c) Connexional Trusts
 (d) PACT 2086 Trust
~~(e) PAC Distribution Group~~
 (f) Robert Gibson Trust
 (g) Statistics
 (h) Wesley Historical Society
 (i) Travel & Study
- 29 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Ministry Trinity College?
~~(a) Mission Resourcing~~
~~(b) Ministry Education (Trinity College)~~
~~(c) Churches Education Commission~~
~~(d) Diaconate Task Group~~
~~(e) Lay Preachers~~
~~(f) Tauivi Youth~~
~~(g) Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa NZ~~
~~(h) Chaplaincies~~
 _____ i. _____ Tertiary
 _____ ii. _____ Hospital
 _____ iii. _____ Defence Force

- iv. ~~Prison~~
- (i) Wesley College

30 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Mission Resourcing?

- (c) Churches Education Commission
- (d) Diaconate Task Group
- (e) Lay Preachers
- (f) Tauwi Youth
- (g) Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa NZ
- (h) Chaplaincies
 - i. Tertiary
 - ii. Hospital
 - iii. Defence Force
 - iv. Prison

31 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Faith and Order?

32 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Methodist Social services?

- (a) Methodist Mission Aotearoa
- (b) Methodist Mission Northern
- (c) Wesley Wellington Mission
- (d) Christchurch Methodist Mission
- (e) Dunedin Methodist Mission
- (f) Palmerston North Methodist Social Services
- (g) Hamilton Methodist Social Services
- (h) Vahefonua Tonga Mission**
- (i) Sinoti Samoa Mission**

33 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Mission and Ecumenical affairs?

- (a) Mission and Ecumenical Committee
- (b) Christian World Service
- (c) World Methodist Council**

34 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Communications and Organisations?

- (a) Methodist Publishing
- (b) ~~PAC Communications Endowment~~ **Media and Communications Fund**

35 What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Social Issues?

- (a) ~~Public Questions~~ **Issues Network**
- (b) Inter-Church Bio-ethics Council

36 (a) Who is elected President of the Church for induction at the next Conference?

(b) What arrangements are made for the President's supply?

37 (a) Who is elected Vice-President for induction at the next Conference?

(b) What arrangements are made for the Vice President's supply?

38 Who is elected the President's Legal Adviser?

39 Who are elected to the following Synod and Regional positions for the ensuing year?

- (a) Superintendents
- (b) Secretaries
- (c) Financial Secretaries
- (d) Property Secretaries

40 Who are appointed as members of the following Standing Committees and their Conveners?

- (a) Pastoral Committee
- (b) President's Committee of Advice
- (c) Council of Elders
- (d) Budget Task Group

41 When and where shall the next Conference be held?

42 When shall the Annual Synod and other Synod Meetings be held?

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

12.1 The Decisions of Conference shall be published as the Minutes of the Conference.

12.2 The Conference Journal shall include the Decisions of the Conference together with copies of all reports and papers of the Conference and the recommendations from Committees or Boards. At the conclusion of the Conference, the Journal shall be confirmed by it and signed by the President, Vice-President and the General Secretary.

12.3 A Daily Record shall be kept of the business considered by the Conference at each session. It shall incorporate a brief record of the proceedings. ~~and shall include the number of votes for and against any resolution or amendments submitted if so directed by the Conference. A person may ask to~~

have their name recorded in the record noting their opposition.

THE ORDERING OF CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

- 13.1 A member of the Conference wishing to speak shall so indicate to the person presiding. The person presiding shall ~~name~~ invite the member ~~who shall then~~ to speak.
- 13.2 Members shall speak only from a rostrum except when asked, or asking, a question.
- 13.3 No member shall speak more than once on the same question without the leave of the Conference.
- ~~13.4 If the person presiding over any session of the Conference shall stand, all proceedings then before the Conference shall immediately cease and shall not resume until the person presiding is again seated.~~
- 13.5 The person presiding shall call to order any person who departs from the matter under discussion or who violates the courtesies of debate.
- 13.6 A member who thinks that he/she has been misrepresented by a speaker may, by the indulgence of the Conference, interrupt the speaker to correct the misstatement, but shall not enter into argument.
- 13.7 It shall be competent for any member to propose that any subject shall be considered in Committee ~~of the whole if determined by the~~ Conference. ~~If seconded, a vote on the proposition shall be taken without debate.~~

CONFERENCE DECISION-MAKING

The principal goal of the decision-making process of Conference is to enable the *tangata whenua*, Te Taha Maori and Tauwiwi, partners of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, to discern what is best for the Church, and to make decisions which demonstrate partnership.

- 14.1 When a report has been presented and discussed and the suggested decisions have been canvassed, the President/Vice-President will seek the mind of the Conference on whether there is a consensus on these decisions. If, in the judgement of the presiding officer, consensus has been reached, and Conference accepts this judgment, the presiding officer will state that the decision is now the decision of Conference.
- 14.2.1 the President/Vice-President may suggest, or the appointed facilitators may ask for a meeting of either or both of Te Taha Maori and Tauwiwi if this will enable their group(s) to clarify the issues and to reach general agreement so that a partnership decision can be explored. (see 7.9.6)
- 14.2.2 The President/Vice-President shall make clear the matters which both meetings will be addressing, and will propose a time-limit for the process.
- 14.3.1 When both meetings are ready to report back, their facilitators will meet with the President/Vice-President to share the responses. In doing so they will indicate if either or both meetings need to give reasons to Conference for their having arrived at a particular point. This would be necessary only if the meetings were not in agreement.
- 14.3.2 If a meeting does not achieve a consensus within itself, this will be reported to the Conference. It will not be appropriate for the other meeting to indicate its response at this point.
- 14.3.3 Either meeting may ask for further time to deliberate the outstanding issues, or a representative group from among that meeting may be appointed on an ad hoc basis to address the areas of disagreement and seek a way ahead.
- 14.3.4 If, finally, within a meeting, there is no consensus to proceed, no decision by Conference can be made.
- 14.3.5 When there is no agreement between the two partners the status quo remains, and the President/Vice-President will define the 'status quo.'
- 14.4 Conference may decide to refer the unresolved issues that need to be addressed to the Church for discussion by **Hui Poari and Synods** ~~Districts and Regional Courts~~ and report to the following Conference.
- 14.5 If there is agreement by both meetings, the presiding officer will advise the form of the decision, and state that such is now the decision of Conference.

REVISED SECTION 11(D) – TRINITY METHODIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

- 7.1 Trinity College Council may set up appropriate sub-committees and shall determine their functions.
- 7.2 STUDENT REVIEW PANEL AND CURRICULUM REVIEW PANEL**
 - 7.2.1 Trinity College Council delegates to the Principal the authority to convene and manage all functions and decisions of the Student Review Panel and Curriculum Review Panel, whose functions shall be as follows:
 - 7.2.2 Terms of Reference: Student Review Panel
 - 7.2.2.1 Membership of the Student Review Panel: Directors of Mission Resourcing, Tumuaki, Principal, up to two members appointed by Trinity College Council and College Manager who shall act as secretary.
 - 7.2.2.2 Meeting purposes

1. (a) To review the progress of all students
- (b) To determine the nature and setting of the preparation for ordination of candidates accepted by the Methodist Church
- (c) To determine the nature and setting of the preparation for ordination of those in the probation programme.
2. Against the background of the Church's commitment to its bi-cultural journey, each student preparing for ordination shall pursue a programme of study under the direction of and to the satisfaction of the Principal and the Student Review Panel.

The course of study shall be as follows:

- (a) Training for Ordained ministry will normally include study in each of biblical studies, Christian thought and history, Methodism, pastoral and leadership studies, the practice of ministry and Maori studies;
Special courses may be devised to meet the needs of individual students, and prior learning shall be taken into account where relevant.
- (b) No student shall enter upon any course without the consent of and approval by the Principal and the Student Review Panel of all the subjects proposed;
- (c) If the relationship status of an accepted candidate is to change, the Principal shall be advised at the earliest possible date;
- (d) Receive regular reports on candidates progress from parish placements, academic progress, and other such reports as are required by the Principal.
- (e) Receive regularly each year the Portfolios of candidates in College and on probation;
- (f) Ensure that Trinity College requirements are met as laid out in the college handbooks and recommends to the Connexional Ordination Assessment Panel those candidates who are to be considered to be ready for Ordination.
- (g) The Student Review Panel in consultation with the Principal may require a written or oral examination and/or interviews with any student to determine academic progress and/or ministry suitability.

7.2.3 Terms of Reference: Curriculum Review Panel

7.2.3.1 Membership: Principal, teaching staff of Trinity College, up to two members appointed by Trinity College council and the College Manager who shall act as secretary.

7.2.3.2 Meeting purposes:

- (a) To review on a regular basis the overall shape of the curriculum for all programmes offered by Trinity College.
- (b) To arrange staff training on an annual basis, including evaluation of performance.
- (c) To appoint a Moderation Panel.
 - 1) The Moderation Panel will consist of four members including the Principal, at least one representative of the Curriculum Review Panel and the College Manager who shall act as secretary.
 - 2) The Moderation Panel is a sub-committee of the Curriculum Review Panel for the consideration of Recognition of Prior Learning, Cross crediting and any other matters referred from the Curriculum Review Panel.
- (d) To ensure that:
 - 1) moderation (internal and external) for all courses is completed;
 - 2) the curriculum is in line with the Tertiary Evaluation Indicators;
 - 3) it addresses any issues of academic integrity pertaining to either students or staff.

STAFF

8. Trinity College Council shall ensure there is a Principal and such academic and administrative staff as is required to achieve the aims and objectives of Trinity College.
- 8.1 The Principal shall be a suitably qualified person.
 - 8.1.1 Is the leader of a team of educators, and is qualified to teach at tertiary level.
 - 8.1.2 Supervises the overall work of Trinity College in the provision of theological education, ministry formation and professional development;
 - 8.1.3 Fosters a sense of community in the life of the College and ensures adequate pastoral care of students and staff.
 - 8.1.4 Promotes and fosters ministry formation appropriate to the needs of the Methodist Church of New Zealand;
 - 8.1.5 Ensures the Church's academic and formation requirements are met by students;
 - 8.1.6 Advocates for and promotes the work of the College and Ministry Education within the tertiary educational context to the benefit of the Church;
 - 8.1.7 Is available to the life of the church as a resource person in education and ministry
- 8.2 Teaching staff members may be designated as the Ranston or Wesley Lecturer.
- 8.3 The appointment of stationed staff shall be in accordance with section 2 of the Laws and Regulations.