

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT 2015

PRESIDENT

NOMINATED BY

Prince Devanandan

Waikato Waiariki
Auckland
Northland
Manukau
Te Taha Maori
Nelson Marlborough West Coast

Trevor Hoggard

Central South Island

Alan Webster

Sinoti Samoa

VICE PRESIDENT

NOMINATED BY

Viv Whimster

Sinoti Samoa
Waikato Waiariki
Central South Island
Auckland
Northland
Manukau
Te Taha Maori
Nelson Marlborough West Coast

Prince Devanandan

Prince was born on 9 December 1961 in Sri Lanka. After high school he pursued theological education in Theological College of Lanka and completed B.Theo. He was ordained deacon in 1987 and priest in December 1988 in the Anglican Church of Ceylon, Diocese of Colombo. Prince is married to Ramani since 1989 and they are blessed with two daughters: Devashini and Devanjali.

Since 1987 served in Parish ministry for 11 years in urban and rural parishes in various parts of Sri Lanka. While on study leave from September 1993 to February 1994 completed Diploma in Ecumenism at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, Switzerland. In 1997/98 completed Bachelor of Divinity as an external student of Senate of Serampore, West Bengal, India. From 1995 to 1998 worked for National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCC–SL) as Executive Secretary of the Commission for Justice and Peace and as acting general secretary of for 7 months. While working for NCC–SL served as chaplain of CMS Ladies College, Colombo (Anglican girls' school yr. 1 to yr. 13).

Prince arrived in Auckland with family in 1999 with a scholarship from St. John's College Te Rau Kahikatea to read for M.Theo. In December 2000 completed M.Theo at the University of Auckland and returned to Sri Lanka. From January 2001 worked in the Anglican Diocese of Colombo as vicar of two urban parishes.

Prince with his family migrated to New Zealand in January 2003 to serve as Presbyter in the Waitakere Methodist Parish. During this time completed his Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) through AUT undertaking part time studies. He was transferred to Trinity Methodist Church Pakuranga in January 2008 and served as Presbyter till end of 2011. In addition from February 2009 to January 2012 he was Superintendent of the Manukau Synod. He relinquished these positions when appointed secretary of Methodist Mission and Ecumenical since February 2012. Prince is also member of the governing boards of Methodist Mission Northern since 2007 and Lifewise Trust until May 2015. Besides Prince represents the Methodist Church in the Friendship House Trust, Manukau since 2008.

In addition Prince served as the representative of the Methodist Church of New Zealand in the General Committee of Christian Conference of Asia from 2010 to 2015. He also convened the search committee for new general secretary for Christian Conference of Asia in 2014/15. As a member of the Constitution and Structural Review Committee from 2012 to 2015 presented the new constitution to the general assembly of Christian Conference of Asia in May 2015. Prince is a Methodist representative in the National Dialogue for Christian Unity of Aotearoa New Zealand and holds the responsibility as interim secretary. He is also in the Anglican Methodist Dialogue group. Prince teaches Community Development and Social change at Trinity College and organises the biennial school of ecumenism through Mission and Ecumenical.

Passionate about community development, public policy, living wage, human rights, climate justice and gender justice. Committed to ecumenism.

Trevor Hoggard

Marital/Family Information:

I am married with 3 adult children and two grandchildren.

Ministry or Work Experiences:

I have been in ministry since 1981 and my posts have included hospital, industrial, school and Armed Forces chaplaincies. I have served in small town, rural and city centre mission appointments. I have taught theology on a part time/occasional basis at the University of Durham, Parkin Wesley College Adelaide and the Pontifical University of the Angelicum, Rome.

I have been on the Faith & Order Committee since 2002. I served as Synod Superintendent of Manukau. Spent 5 years in Rome as Methodist Representative to the Holy See and member of the European Methodist Council.

I am currently Director of Mission Resourcing English-speaking Ministries, thereby serving on a number of Connexional committees such as the Partnership Committee, Tauwi Strategy & Stationing, Pastoral Committee. I convene the MCNZ-Korean dialogue, co-chair the Methodist-Catholic Dialogue in Aotearoa/New Zealand and am a member of the International Methodist-Catholic Dialogue.

General Information:

I am willing to offer my name for the Church's consideration for the office of President, but do so with the understanding of the Mission Resourcing Board that should I be so designated this time, I would return to complete my time as Director.

My passion in ministry is and always has been a desire to bring the life and theology of John Wesley to today's generation of believers, to explain Methodism's contribution to the worldwide and historic Body of Christ, and to inspire people to enjoy a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ within the Methodist tradition.

Alan K Webster

I was born in Rawene in 1954: the Waima is my river, Moehau is my mountain. I grew up in Wellsford and then Cambridge in the Waikato, and earned an MA in English and Zoology at Auckland University before marrying my wonderful wife Glenys who was a nurse at the time.

I became a secondary school teacher, and we began a family with our first daughter Nichola. We believed that God was calling us into ministry, so the family went to live in at Baptist Theological College for training for three years, and I graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity.

Our first church was Thames Baptist in 1984, where we ministered for five years, and I was given the additional responsibility as Waikato Superintendent. I went on to serve in Epsom Baptist and Green Bay Interdenominational Church respectively in Auckland, and then Opawa Baptist in Christchurch.

After concluding our five year appointment at Opawa Baptist in 2007 we believed that we should stay in Christchurch for the sake of our younger daughter Alys's education, but there were no appropriate vacancies at the time. God provided a solution when the neighbouring minister invited me to meet his regional superintendent with an eye to supply in a nearby Methodist church for the necessary two years. The neighbouring minister? Rev Andrew Doubleday, and the superintendent at the time, Rev David Bush...and so we began an eleven years ministry at Beckenham Methodist, initially on supply and ultimately into full connexion in 2009.

Ecumenical relationships have always been important to me, and over the years I have ended up convening the inter-church ministerial groups in every place we have ministered in. I have worked with other churches for community programmes in many different ways: with concerts, dramas, musicals, community galas and river clean-ups.

I have been fully involved in the life of te Haahi Weteriana from early days. I was appointed Evangelical Network Superintendent in 2008, and have been privileged to maintain and develop this role in the meantime. Together with Rev Andrew Gamman and leaders from the Wesleyans, the Church of the Nazarene and the Korean Methodists, we organised and ran a very successful training event, Equipt 09, in Ngaruawahia with the World Methodist Evangelism Institute. I have also been able to represent New Zealand in international expressions of Methodism, including the World Methodist Institute of Evangelism in Georgia, USA in 2011 and then again in Jerusalem in 2013. In 2014 I convened the inaugural event of the Christian Missionary Society's bicentennial celebrations, bringing across young Kenyan worship leaders for a big youth rally that we called "Gospel 200" at the Vodafone centre in South Auckland. I have helped organise and run district

youth camps with the young adults of Beckenham and the CSI Synod, and have helped in other synod events. I have also been able to contribute to the Haahi Weteriana church life by lecturing at Trinity College in preaching and evangelism, and am currently running two lay preaching courses: one online in Auckland, and the other in Christchurch with a more face-to-face emphasis

I have been part of Strategy and Stationing since 2008, and have been serving the church as a member of the Candidates Assessment team for the last nine years. It has been a privilege to watch “our” candidates come into full connexion over this time!

In the meantime our two daughters have grown up and given us great sons-in-law and five incomparable grandchildren from ages two to ten.

After thirty years of continuous pastoral ministry I am currently working half-time for the Central South Island Synod, equipping lay people in post-earthquake Canterbury in a ministry that I have called CLEAR (Canterbury Lay Empowering and Resourcing) for a three year term that concludes February 2016. My wife is a Pastoral Practitioner for St John of God Healthcare in Halswell.

I’m evangelical, ecumenical, enthusiastic, energetic, and enfolding. I have retained my passionate belief in the relevance of the gospel for today’s world: and am keenly interested in new ways of bringing that energy to a culture that has changed enormously since I came to faith as a child. I love the breadth of Methodism, and have a growing admiration for how John and Charles Wesley read their times to ground the gospel so effectively in their context. We have great resources in our heritage and in our ethos: I look forward to continuing to play my part in journeying with the Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa towards the best imaginable future that God has for us.

Viv Whimster

Marital/Family Information

- Married to Jeremy.
- We have four adult children and five grandchildren.
- We have lived in Tauranga and belonged to Wesley Methodist Church since 1974.

Ministry or Work Experiences

Work and life experience

- First career of several years as a hospital pharmacist.
- Home-maker and parenting.
- Varied volunteer roles which include: youth leader, study group leader, coffee morning group organiser, and worship committee convenor.

Ministry experience

- Completion of four-year Ministry Internship Diploma through the Bay of Plenty branch of the Bible College of New Zealand (now Laidlaw) and subsequent appointment as Lay Minister/Family worker at Wesley.
- Co-ordinator of the children’s and youth ministry at Wesley and responsibilities as a member of the Wesley Ministry Team, including pastoral care and hospital visiting.
- Accreditation as a Lay Preacher in 1998.
- Secretary of the New Zealand Lay Preachers’ Association Executive 2004-9.
- Currently Convenor of the Methodist Lay Preachers’ Network.
- Trainer for the *Seasons of the Spirit* resource for Christian education and worship, and part of the writing group for Lent-Easter 2014.
- Methodist Conference representative since 2003.
- Currently on the Waikato Waiariki Synod Executive and Synod Steward (Lay Representative) for 5 years, which involved being on the Tauwi Strategy and Stationing Committee.
- Served for 5 years on Council of Conference and currently substitute member.
- I have been part of the Spirit and Spice group, the Children’s Ministry Workgroup and the Consultative Group on Youth Ministry.

- Completed a BTheol in 2003 through the Otago Distance Learning programme and a Post-Graduate Diploma in 2015, majoring in Pastoral Studies. Other study includes: computing and adult education.

General Information

- Although I originally joined Te Hāhi because I married a Methodist, I have increasingly become Methodist by choice – I value the social conscience, lay participation and cultural diversity of a church that has the courage to embark on a bi-cultural journey and seek to live in partnership.
- Among the challenges ahead for Te Hāhi, as a Pakeha/*palangi* I see these to include finding ways to:
 - Work for justice in a world of increasing inequality;
 - Express our bi-cultural commitment in multi-cultural communities;
 - Continue to work together with theological diversity;
 - Express faith and witness to God's transforming love in a postmodern society that tends to be spiritual but not religious;
 - Resource ministry in the cultural synods and also in congregations at the limits of viability.

The Methodist Church is not alone in facing these challenges and I believe it has the heart in its people and leaders to hear what the Spirit is saying and to be the people of God for this time and place.

- To relax, I enjoy music and choral singing, cycling, reading, crossword puzzles, movies and time with family and friends.