

# Supplementary Report

(Continuation from page C-14)

## LAW REVISION

### SECTION 2 - THE MINISTRY

#### INTRODUCTION

The Methodist Church of New Zealand - **Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa (hereinafter referred to as 'The Church')** believes that the ministry of Jesus Christ in, to, and for the world is one ministry; that Christ continues this ministry through the Church; that all those who are 'in Christ' by virtue of their baptism, share in this ministry. Within this ministry of all who are baptised there are particular ministries.

The Methodist Church authorises these particular ministries through the ordained ministries of presbyter and deacon, and through specific **stationed** lay ministries.

A minister of the Methodist Church of New Zealand is one who has heard the call of God and whom the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, receives into one of these particular ministries.

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 1.1 Throughout this Section the term "Minister" shall be a generic term referring to a minister as commonly understood and includes ~~and Presbyters Deacons~~ **and Stationed Lay Ministers** as hereafter defined.
- 1.2 A Minister is not an employee of the Church.<sup>1</sup> Ministers are persons in a special relationship with and appointed by the Conference of the Church, with powers, duties, rights and functions as set out in this Law Book, and entitled to such living allowance (a stipend) and other allowances as from time to time determined by the Conference.

#### MINISTERS

- 2.1 A Presbyter is one who is ordained by The ~~Methodist Church of New Zealand~~ to the particular ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care and to leadership within the community of faith.
- 2.2 A Deacon is one who is ordained by The ~~Methodist Church of New Zealand~~ to a ministry shaped by the community whom they are appointed to serve.
- 2.3 A ~~designated~~ **stationed** Lay Minister is one who has been authorised for an identified period by The ~~Methodist Church of New Zealand~~ to carry out a specific function within the Church. The specific roles and tasks of any ~~designated~~ **stationed** lay minister will be defined in a covenant.
- 2.4 Minita-a-iwi, Kaikarakia, and Liaison Persons within Te Taha Maori shall be appointed in accordance with guidelines set by Hui Poari. They shall minister to people in their own Takiwa/Rohe. (see 7.3.5 - Tupu Whakaritorito)

#### CANDIDATES

- 3.1 A Candidate may offer for the ~~general work ministry~~ **general work ministry** of a Presbyter or Deacon ~~or for a specific sphere of ministry~~, either of which may be full or part-time ministry, and either fully, partially or non-stipended. Candidating shall be for ministry in a specified language setting.
- 3.2 Candidates for the ministry of Presbyter or Deacon in the Methodist Church shall:
  - (a) have been baptised;
  - (b) have been confirmed, and **be** in active membership in the Church;
  - (c) give evidence, in the case of a candidate for the presbyterate, of their acceptability and potential as a preacher;
  - (d) be persons finding general acceptance in the community and in the Church;
  - (e) be persons who live out a commitment to The ~~Methodist Church of New Zealand~~, including its Mission Statement, and bicultural journey;
  - (f) be persons whose gifts, insight into the Gospel, and ability to relate to people indicate a potential acceptability in this vocation; and
  - (g) have a general understanding of the role of the Presbyter and Deacon in The ~~Methodist Church~~.

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<sup>1</sup> This position has been upheld by the Court of Appeal, July 1998, in their judgement on *Mabon v Methodist Church of New Zealand*.

- 3.3 A person desiring to offer for the Presbyteral or Diaconal ministry shall be referred by the Superintendent of the Parish in which membership is held to the Synod Candidates Convenor.
- 3.4 Where a Candidate has resided for less than two years in the Parish from which s/he is candidating, adequate enquiries shall be made in previous Parishes and reported to the Parish ~~Meeting~~ **Council** and ~~District~~ **Synod** Candidates Committee.
- 3.5 Candidates shall have read:
- the "designated" sermons of John Wesley, ~~or~~ **and** any other early Methodist documents, as set out by ~~the Board of Studies~~ **Mission Resourcing**.
  - the Laws and Regulations of The Church and declare willingness to accept the polity and discipline of The Church.
- 3.6 Procedures regarding the selection and acceptance of Candidates for the Presbyterate and Diaconate shall be determined from time to time by the Mission Resourcing Board. The Mission Resourcing Board shall from time to time publish regulations for the implementation of the procedures. These procedures shall include provision for:
- determining the degree of support of the local Church which will be conveyed in a report prepared by the Synod Candidates Convenor to the ~~District~~ Ministerial Synod;
  - encouragement and guidance for prospective Candidates through the candidate's support group;
  - the presentation of the Convenor's report to a Ministerial Synod which may comment on or add to the report, and the adoption of the report's recommendations regarding the candidate. ~~The District Ministerial Synod shall vote on the Report. The number voting for, against and neutral in a particular case shall be recorded~~ **level of support shall be recorded** and reported to the Mission Resourcing Board. ~~only if the Ministerial Synod so decides;~~
  - each Candidate to attend a National Assessment Event as arranged by the Mission Resourcing Board;
  - a process of Appeal against the recommendation of the National Assessment Event, the appeal to be solely on the grounds of abuse of and/or incorrect use of candidating procedures.
- 3.7 Each candidate shall complete an application as prescribed by Mission Resourcing. The application shall include:
- Information regarding prior learning experience including academic transcripts from all tertiary institutions in which the candidate has been enrolled.
  - Evidence of Commitment to The Methodist Church of New Zealand** and its Laws and Regulations including full and candid disclosure of all facts that may have a bearing upon ministry training and /or ordination.
  - A police report ~~of~~ **on** an approved form.
  - A medical report.
  - Proof of New Zealand residency qualification.
  - Competency in English **and** in the language in which they will minister **and a knowledge of Te Reo.** ~~and, if necessary in Te Reo.~~
  - Any other information or report that the Board from time to time may require.
- 3.8 Candidates shall provide personal financial information as required by the Mission Resourcing Board in order to satisfy the Conference as to their ability to meet any necessary financial obligation. ~~during the total period of training.~~
- ~~3.8.1 At the time of candidacy of persons offering for a Non-Stipendiary ministry, it shall be clarified and recorded in a Ministry Covenant, whether the Candidate and his/her spouse should be granted exemption from Membership of the Supernumerary Fund on the grounds of insufficient financial resources. The Supernumerary Fund Trustee shall be involved in the discussions and no exception shall be granted without its concurrence.~~
- ~~3.8.2 Such exemption may only be by resolution of Conference on the recommendation of the Mission Resourcing Board at the time of candidacy.~~
- ~~3.8.3 In all cases where exemption is granted an appropriate Deed of Acknowledgment exempting the Methodist Church of New Zealand from any liability shall be entered into by the Candidate.~~
- ~~3.8.4 If an exempted minister shall subsequently become partially or fully stipendiary, the exemption shall cease to apply.~~
- 3.9 At the March meeting of the Synod ~~Ministerial Committee~~, and on other suitable occasions, the names of prospective Candidates shall be brought to the attention of the ~~Ministry~~ **Synod**.
- 3.10 The Synod shall appoint a Synod Candidates Convenor who shall provide guidance to candidates and to the Synod about the Candidating processes, and shall make a recommendation to the Synod regarding the candidate.
- 3.11 The Synod Candidates Convenor shall ~~see~~ **ensure** that the requirements of the Mission Resourcing Board with respect to candidates have been fulfilled. The Synod Candidates Convenor shall confirm

to the Mission Resourcing Board that a candidate has met the requirements laid down in 2.3.5-8 above and that the Ministerial Synod has agreed to a candidate continuing their candidature.

- 3.12 Prior to the acceptance of any Candidate who offers to exercise a full or part-time ministry, which may be partially or non-stipended, in the Parish from which they have candidated, the Mission Resourcing Board shall arrange for consultation with the Parish to determine Parish strategy implications.
- 3.13 The Mission Resourcing Board will receive all reports concerning candidates, including those of the Candidates Assessment Team. The Mission Resourcing Board will present its recommendation to the Conference. ~~Each Candidate who is accepted for training in the Theological College shall, through the Mission Resourcing Board, give an undertaking to observe the rules of the Theological College. [moved to 4.2 (b)]~~
- 3.14.1 A candidate who is informed by the ~~Ordination~~ **Candidate** Assessment Team that he or she will not be recommended for acceptance may, within twenty one (21) days, lodge an appeal through his or her ~~District or Regional~~ **Synod** Superintendent to the Mission Resourcing Board.
- 3.14.2 The General Secretary in consultation with the President shall establish an Appeals Committee of three people, **one of whom shall be the Legal Advisor**, who shall hear the appeal before convening of the Conference in that year. The only basis for an appeal is abuse and or /incorrect use of the candidating process. The Appeals Committee shall provide its decision to Mission Resourcing Board and such decision shall be final and binding.
- 3.14.3 The appellant shall have the right to engage their own legal representation for the appeal.**

### STUDENTS FOR MINISTRY

- 4.1 The Trinity College Council shall from time to time adopt rules and regulations relating to Scholarship allowances and the curriculum.
- 4.2 (a) Each accepted candidate is responsible for their studies and ministry to the Trinity College Council through the Principal until ordination.**4.2. (b) Each Candidate who is accepted for training shall observe the rules of Trinity College.**
- 4.3 Each accepted candidate for the ~~presbyterate~~ **ministry** shall normally undergo a course of training, and serve a term of probation in a Parish prior to ordination. The normal term of training, including probation, shall be five years.
- ~~4.4 Each accepted candidate for the diaconate will normally be trained under the oversight of the Principal.~~
- 4.5 The Trinity College Council on the acceptance of a candidate by Conference shall, on the recommendation of the Principal and of the National Candidates' Assessment Convenor, and through the Student Review Panel, determine the nature and setting of the candidate's preparation for ordination.
- 4.6 ~~Students in both home and residential settings~~ shall undertake a programme of studies in preparation for ordination under the oversight of the Principal, who shall report each year to the Trinity College Council through the Student Review Panel on the results of such study and the progress of each student.
- 4.7 ~~Against the background of the Church's commitment to its bi-cultural journey,~~ In light of The Church's commitment to the 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 for those preparing for:
  - (a) the presbyterate will normally include study in each of biblical, theological, pastoral and Maori studies (b) the diaconate will include biblical and theological studies, and such other studies as will prepare them for their particular serving ministry.
  - (c) All students will complete the required bi-cultural courses.**
  - (d) Special courses may be devised to meet the needs of those preparing for special and specific ministries. Prior learning shall be taken into account.**
- 4.9 The Student Review Panel may, in consultation with the Principal, require an oral or written examination of any student.
- 4.10 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.
- ~~4.11 If the marital status of an accepted candidate is to change, the Principal shall be advised at the earliest possible date in order that any housing or financial or other implications of such a change as they may affect the Church may be considered.~~
- 4.12 Students may be dismissed from Trinity College **for serious misconduct** and their studies discontinued under section 11 (D) 7.2.2.
  - (a) Grounds for immediate dismissal **and discontinuation of studies** of the student are:
    - (i) Falsification of an application.
    - (ii) Acts of violence towards students or staff.

- (iii) Dishonesty.
- (iv) Bringing The Church or Trinity College into disrepute**
- (b) Grounds for dismissal and discontinuation of academic studies will include:
  - (i) Failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress and/or ministry progress in relation to the criteria for ordination.
- (c) Any dismissal and/or discontinuation of studies shall be carried out by the President on the recommendation of the Student Review Panel.
- (d) The rules of natural justice will apply.

## PROBATIONERS

- 5.1 A Probationer is an accepted Candidate in Training who has been appointed to a Parish, **Synod** or ~~Division-Board~~. The normal term of probation shall be two years unless otherwise determined by Conference, on the recommendation of the Trinity College Council.
- 5.2 When a Probationer is appointed to a Parish the ~~District~~ **Synod** Superintendent shall arrange for their induction. (see 4.8.1(d))
- 5.3 When a probationer has been appointed to a parish, Conference shall appoint a presbyter in Full Connexion as Superintendent of any such parish. (see 4.8.3)
- 5.4 Every Probationer shall pursue a prescribed course of study approved by the Trinity College Council. The Trinity College Council shall arrange that in each ~~District~~ **Synod** there shall be a ~~District~~ **Synod** Assessor of Probationers who may be either ministerial or lay. The duties of the ~~District~~ **Synod** Assessor of Probationers are to support the Probationer in undertaking the prescribed course of study and to report accordingly to the Trinity College Council and the ~~District~~ Ministerial Synod.
- 5.5 ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing when stationing ~~appointing~~ a Probationer may invite the Trinity College Council to give special consideration to the training of such Probationer.
- 5.6 The Superintendent of each Probationer shall exercise such oversight as will enable such Probationer to derive the utmost benefit from personal counsel, studies and practical guidance.
- 5.7 Any probationer who desires to pursue University work during probation shall obtain the consent of the Principal and the Parish Superintendent so that such studies may interfere as little as possible with Parish work. (see 2.4.10)
- 5.8 The Superintendent of the ~~District~~ **Synod** shall, at the August Ministerial ~~Committee~~ of Synod, ~~examine~~ **facilitate the assessment of** each Probationer stationed within the ~~District~~ **Synod**. A report shall be made to ~~Mission Resourcing prior to the Ordination Assessment Event.~~ ~~the Trinity College Council through the Principal.~~ (see 4.8.1.(e))
- 5.9 A Probationer is a member of all official meetings of the Parish/~~Division~~ **Synod** to which such Probationer is appointed. The Superintendent may invite a Probationer to preside at any local meeting including a meeting of Trustees. (see 3.6.1.4)
- 5.10 A Probationer is a member of the ~~District~~ Synod and ~~District~~ Ministerial Synod and shall attend all meetings. A Probationer has no vote in the ~~District~~ Ministerial Synod and at any time the ~~Committee~~ **Synod** may request the Probationer to withdraw. (see 4.6.2)
- 5.11.1 Probationers may attend Conference and its Committees where they shall have the right to speak, but not vote, unless they are members of Conference by virtue of some other appointment.
- 5.11.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of 5.11.1, probationers shall be ineligible for appointment as members of Tauwi Strategy Committee and **Tauwi** Stationing Committee.
- 5.12 A Probationer shall be registered as a Marriage Celebrant under the Marriage Act 1955.

## RECEPTION IN TO FULL CONNEXION AND ORDINATION

- 6.1.1 When the Trinity College Council, in consultation with the Principal of the College, and in the light of reports from ~~District~~ Ministerial Synods and the Ordination Assessment Team, considers a Probationer is ready for reception into Full Connexion (~~in the case of presbyters~~) and ordination, it shall bring a recommendation to that effect to Conference. (see 5.3.3.1 (f))
- 6.1.2 In the presence of Conference, candidates shall give undertakings to accept the polity and discipline of the Church as set out in the Laws and Regulations of the Church, and to observe and maintain its discipline. Candidates shall also ~~promise~~ **undertake** that if, after taking full opportunity of testing their views with appropriate officers of the Church, they are unable in good faith and conscience to exercise the functions of ministry, then they will take such steps as are necessary to withdraw from the presbyteral or diaconal ministry of The ~~Methodist~~ Church of ~~New Zealand~~.
- 6.1.3 Candidates who are then accepted by the decision of Conference shall be received into Full Connexion.
- 6.2.1 Reception of a Presbyter or Deacon into Full Connexion with the Conference confers membership of the Conference as of right. Through acceptance of the Church's polity and discipline the Presbyter **or Deacon** exercises responsible mutuality within its Laws and Regulations.

6. 2.2 Presbyters ordained by another Church, while stationed by the Conference:
- (a) under a mutual availability of ministry agreement, shall be received into Full Connexion with the Conference; (see 2.27.2.1);
  - (b) not under a mutual availability agreement, shall complete a supply appointment of two (2) years before being recommended by the Mission Resourcing Board to be received into Full Connexion by the Conference;
  - (c) shall early in their first year of appointment complete a Mission Resourcing Board approved course of orientation to the ministry of The Methodist Church. of New Zealand.
6. 2.3 Every Presbyterian and Deacon admitted into Full Connexion and ordained shall have the date of their admission and ordination recorded in the Conference records.
6. 2.4 A Presbyterian or Deacon in Full Connexion shall cease to be recognised as such by the Conference upon:
- (a) Conference accepting the resignation of such Presbyterian or Deacon;
  - (b) Conference resolving that it ceases to so recognise such Presbyterian or Deacon;
  - (c) the Presbyterian or Deacon transferring from the Conference;
  - (d) the Presbyterian or Deacon ceasing to serve with the Conference under a Mutual Recognition of Ministry.
6. 2.5 Before acting in terms of 6.2.4.(b) above, and if appropriate the Conference Disciplinary Procedures shall be followed.
6. 2.6 A Presbyterian or Deacon who ceases to be in Full Connexion shall have the date of cessation recorded in the Conference Records.
6. 3.1 All candidates who have been accepted by the decision of Conference shall be ordained by the Conference with prayer and the laying on of hands.
- ~~6. 3.2 Through ordination ministers exercise their ministry in a covenant of lifetime commitment with all Christians, but especially with those whom they lead and serve in ministry. Through ordination the Church provides for the continuation of Christ's ministry, which has been committed to the church as a whole.~~
6. 3.3 The basic elements of the service of ordination shall be from time to time decided by Conference.

#### ADMISSION TO MINISTRY UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

7. 1 The Conference may, on the recommendation of the Council of Conference (who shall consult with Hui Poari or Tauivi Strategy ~~Committee and Stationing~~), admit as a presbyter or deacon of the Church a person who accepts the doctrines and discipline of the Methodist Church and whom it may in other respects approve.

#### TRANSFER TO AND FROM THE CONFERENCE

8. 1.1 Transfer to or from any other Methodist Conferences ~~of the Methodist Church~~, or other national or regional Church courts recognised by the Conference of The Methodist Church of New Zealand may be effected with the consent of the parties concerned without loss of ministerial status.
8. 1.2 ~~The relation to Connexional Funds shall be arranged by the Conferences or Church courts involved.~~ Transfer is subject to satisfactory medical certificates being supplied together with an official certificate that the applicants for transfer have met all liabilities to the Supernumerary Fund with which they are members.
8. 1.3 All applications shall meet the churches requirements for entry as laid out in information leaflet No. 177 Ministry Application Process". This shall include an acceptable statement of Good Standing from the minister's home church, (which shall be sought by the General Secretary), and a satisfactory Police Check, and other references and checks as may from time to time be required by Conference. The Council of Conference shall report thereon to the Conference.
8. 2.1 Presbyters, Deacons or Probationers of The Methodist Church of New Zealand who have been released by the Conference to exercise their ministry in Churches overseas shall have the right to return to the Conference on the completion of their service overseas if they are in good standing.
- 8.2.2 Presbyters, Deacons or Probationers are required to meet any liabilities to the Supernumerary Fund, Travel & Study ~~etc~~ and any other funds.

#### MINISTERS - TRAVEL OVERSEAS

9. 1 Ministers or Lay Persons in any Conference appointment who for any reason propose to travel overseas for more than ~~two~~ one months, shall **consult with the Synod Superintendent about the proposed travel** first obtain, normally not later than two months prior to the proposed travel, the consent of the Synod Superintendent or other person to whom they are accountable, who may consult before giving permission. and that adequate arrangements for the maintenance of ministry

~~shall have been made. by the minister concerned in consultation with the Synod Superintendent or other responsible person before consent shall be given.~~

## MINISTERS AND PUBLIC OR CIVIC OFFICE

- 10.1 No minister, or student for ministry, shall consent to nomination for any Parliamentary, Civic, or Public Office, or for any employment for which payment is received, or which will involve such measure of service as to interfere with ministerial duties except with the consent of:
- the Parish ~~Meeting~~ **Council**, Board, or other body to whom that minister is responsible;
  - the President together with the President's Committee of Advice who shall be empowered to grant or to withhold permission until the ensuing Conference. For this purpose the Superintendent of the Synod in which the applicant is stationed, or the Board chairperson shall be deemed a member of the President's Committee of Advice.
- 10.2 In the event of either or both of these authorities withholding consent and the minister or student for ministry deciding to go forward with such nomination or employment, the President may:
- require the minister or student for ministry to tender his/her resignation as a minister of the Church; and/or
  - consult as to the action that should be taken to ensure the continuity of ministry within the Parish or Board, and the welfare of the minister and family; and/or
  - refer the matter to the Hui Poari or Tauwi Strategy **Committee and Stationing**; and/or
  - refer the matter **to the General Secretary who may consider action for adjudication** under the Church's Disciplinary Procedures.

## APPOINTMENTS OF PRESBYTERS

- 11.1.1 The Church practises the itinerancy of the ministry through all Presbyters being available for stationing and by their being stationed by the Conference annually.
- 11.1.2 The term "stationed" shall be understood ~~in~~ **to** include those ministers:
- appointed (whether full- or part-time) to parishes, **Synods**, Boards, and other entities under Conference Question 24
  - who become, or continue as, ~~supernumeraries~~ **retired ministers** whose names are recorded under Conference Questions 17 and 18.
- 11.2.1 All Presbyters shall be appointed annually by the Conference, normally with effect from the 1st day of February in each year. Conference shall have regard in making such appointments to any special term of appointment made by it in respect of any particular minister.
- 11.2.2 Any Presbyter, having prepared a profile for two consecutive years, and not having been appointed by the Conference, shall not prepare a third profile without the consent of the Pastoral Committee. The Committee shall ask the Presbyter to address any areas of concern raised by Tauwi ~~Strategy and Stationing~~ . The Pastoral Committee shall appoint a "mentor" to assist the presbyter concerned.
- 11.3.1 Any Presbyter wishing to make themselves available for ministry in one of the Negotiating Churches first must seek permission from the Synod Superintendent.**
- 11.3.2 No Presbyter having been given permission to be available for a call to an appointment of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand shall be available for Stationing.
- 11.3.3 The Synod Superintendent shall inform the Director(s) of Mission Resourcing.**
- 11.4.1 A Presbyter may be placed by the Conference in any appointment year by year or for any number of years successively ~~without limit~~. (see 5.9.2.3)
- 11.4.2 In applying the Common Provisions for Co-operative Ventures, unless there are special circumstances the maximum initial period of appointment for a Methodist Minister in a Co-operative Venture **shall** be for 5 years.
- 11.5 No question concerning the pastoral tie shall be raised by either the Presbyter or by the Parish ~~Meeting~~ **Council** until the presbyter has completed three years in the appointment, except in exceptional circumstances
- 11.6 When a change or extension of appointment is being considered the following procedures shall apply:
- The Synod Superintendent or nominee shall be present at all meetings where the appointment is to be discussed including those in Co-operative Ventures.
  - If a Parish Superintendent is involved the ~~District~~ **Synod** Superintendent or nominee shall preside.
  - If the Synod Superintendent is involved, the President or nominee shall preside.
  - (i) It is desirable that decision-making shall be by consensus.

- (ii) If necessary a secret ballot maybe used to determine if a consensus exists.
  - (e) (i) In the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) year of an appointment; (refer 5.7.7.2.3)
  - (ii) On attaining the age of sixty-five (65); (refer 2.15.3; 5.7.7.2.3)
- the Synod Superintendent shall ask the Pastoral Committee to arrange a review.
- (f) The Synod Superintendent, not later than 31 March in each year, shall forward to the General Secretary the names of all presbyters not remaining in their present appointments and Parishes who are requesting appointment(s) for the next Connexional Year. The General Secretary in April shall issue a memorandum of these changes to all Ministers and Parishes.
11. 6.1 A Presbyter seeking a change of appointment shall notify the Synod Superintendent and Parish Stewards.
11. 6.2 The question of the change of appointment may be raised by:
- (a) The Synod Superintendent, or
  - (b) The Parish Stewards, or
  - (c) Any 5 members of the Leaders' Meeting and/or Parish **Meeting Council**.
11. 6.3 When such question is raised, the Synod Superintendent shall advise the minister and shall convene a Parish **Meeting Council** to discuss the question. Not less than 14 days notice of the meeting shall be given. Where requested a secret ballot will be held of all members present at the meeting to determine the Parish viewpoint before any decision or recommendation is made. The outcomes resulting from any ballot will conform to 2.11.6.(d) above.
11. 6.4 When the presbyter advises in terms of 2.11.6.1, or in the event of a decision being made to change the appointment in terms of 2.11.6.2, **the procedures set out from time to time by Mission Resourcing shall be followed. (see Annual Guide to Stationing)** ~~and within a time frame set by the Executive Officer Taiuiwi Strategy & Stationing, the following procedures shall apply:~~
- ~~(a) Each Presbyter shall prepare a profile in discussion with spouse, family, Synod Superintendent and other appropriate people. The Synod Superintendent shall forward all presbyter profiles to Mission Resourcing.~~
  - ~~(b) Each Parish shall prepare a profile in consultation with the Synod Superintendent. The Synod Superintendent shall forward all Parish profiles to Mission Resourcing.~~
  - ~~(c) Each student likely to be available from the Theological College in discussion with spouse, family, the Principal of the Theological College, and other appropriate people, shall prepare a profile. The Principal shall forward Student profiles to Mission Resourcing.~~
  - ~~(d) No Parish or Minister shall seek a change of appointment after 1 June in any year except in exceptional circumstances. What constitutes exceptional circumstances shall be decided by the Synod Superintendent concerned in consultation with the Executive Officer Taiuiwi Strategy & Stationing.~~
  - ~~(e) By 20 June Executive Officer Taiuiwi Strategy & Stationing shall distribute copies of:~~
    - ~~(i) All Parish profiles to all presbyters and students for ministry seeking appointments.~~
    - ~~(ii) All presbyter and student for ministry profiles to all parishes seeking a presbyter.~~
    - ~~(iii) All Parish and Presbyter profiles to the Synod Superintendents and members of Taiuiwi Strategy and Stationing.~~
  - ~~(f) Following receipt of the Parish Profiles,~~
    - ~~(i) the Presbyter shall meet and consult with the Synod Superintendent and prepare a response in terms of 3 or 4 possible matchings based on Parish profiles, and~~
    - ~~(ii) the Parish shall meet and consult with the Synod Superintendent, indicating its response in terms of 3 or 4 possible matchings based on presbyter profiles and shall respond through the Parish Stewards or others nominated by the Parish Meetings.~~
  - ~~(g) Each Synod Superintendent shall advise the Executive Officer Taiuiwi Strategy & Stationing by 30 July, of presbyter and Parish responses. The provisional matching meeting of Taiuiwi Strategy and Stationing will normally be in the last week of August.~~
  - ~~(h) The provisional matching sheet of Stations will be distributed through the Connexional Office by 20 September.~~
  - ~~(i) In September the Synod Superintendents and the Principal of the Theological College shall discuss with Parishes, ministers or students and their spouses, the appropriateness of the provisional matchings. Face to face consultations on the basis of the provisional matching between Parishes and the Minister or Student provisionally appointed shall be immediately arranged by the Synod Superintendent in whose region the Parish is situated. Spouses may participate at their own expense.~~
  - ~~(j) For Samoan Appointments to a Samoan Parish, there will not normally be a face to face consultation. When a Samoan Presbyter is to be stationed in a multi-cultural parish, an~~

~~appropriate form of procedure and consultation shall be determined by Mission Resourcing, Sinoti Samoa, and the Parish concerned.~~

- (k) ~~The outcome of each consultation will be communicated by Synod Superintendents to the Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing by the 30 September.~~
- (l) ~~On the initiative of the Synod Superintendent concerned, the Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing may explore alternative appointments where the provisional matching appears inappropriate, and report to the pre-Conference Meeting of the Taiui Strategy and Stationing.~~
- 11.7 The pre-Conference Meeting of the ~~Taiui Strategy and~~ **Connexional Stationing Committee** shall prepare and present to Conference the final Stationing Sheet for adoption at its first Business Session.
- 11.7.1 In special circumstances stationing may occur between Conferences. In such circumstances the following procedures shall apply:
- (a) The Synod, Board, or appointing body produces a strategic plan;
  - (b) The appropriate representatives from Taiui Stationing Committee ~~and Strategy~~, with the **Director(s) Mission Resourcing/Tumuaki** ~~Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing~~, prepare the necessary profiles **as necessary**.
  - (c) The ~~Taiui Strategy Committee~~ and Taiui Stationing **Committee** and Hui Poari/**Enabling Ministry Team** is advised of the progress;
  - (d) Suitable matchings are sought;
  - (e) There is a face-to-face meeting;
  - (f) If this is satisfactory, the **Director(s) Mission Resourcing/Tumuaki** ~~Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing~~ advises the President, who then makes the appointment, which shall be confirmed or otherwise at the following Conference.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF DEACONS**

- 12.1 The name of each Deacon ~~will~~ **shall** appear on the Stationing Sheet under a Parish **or Synod** on the recommendation of the Superintendent of the Synod following consultation with Parish officials.
- 12.2 The particular serving ministry of each Deacon shall be set out in the form of a covenant, describing the specific objectives and tasks agreed to in discussion between the Parish and the Deacon, under the guidance of the Synod Superintendent. **Covenants and the ministry they describe are subject to regular review as set out in the covenant.**
- 12.3 A Deacon may be placed by Conference in an appointment year by year, or for any number of years successively, ~~without limit~~.
- 12.4 No question concerning the pastoral tie shall be raised by either the Deacon or by the Parish ~~Meeting~~ **Council** until the Deacon has completed three years in the appointment, except under exceptional circumstances.
- ~~12.5 The Church, through the Taiui Strategy and Stationing Committee may, after due consultation, appoint a Deacon to a Parish other than the one in which he/she presently lives and works.~~
- 12.6 When a Deacon offers for ~~full-time~~ stipendiary service, the regulations applying to the appointment of Presbyters shall as far as possible apply to the appointment of Deacons.

#### **APPOINTMENTS - LAY MINISTERS**

- 13.1 A Lay person may be appointed to Ministry Supply or other significant ministry within a Parish/**Rohe** ~~or region~~ with the approval of the Parish/**Rohe** ~~or region~~ where that person is to serve, the Synod Superintendent/**Hui Poari** and the **Director(s) Mission Resourcing/Tumuaki** ~~Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing~~. Such person shall enter a Lay Ministry Covenant.
- 13.2 The Lay Ministry Covenant shall set out the specific objectives and tasks of ministry agreed to in discussion between the Parish or region, **the Lay Person** ~~the Deacon~~, and the Synod Superintendent.
- 13.3 Such a Covenant:
- (a) **in any Connexional year** shall be effective until the following 31st January;
  - (b) may be renewed on an annual basis, following discussion with the person concerned, and after the endorsement of the Parish ~~or region~~, the Synod Superintendent and the **Director(s) Mission Resourcing/Tumuaki**. ~~Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing~~;
  - (c) shall be reviewed at least annually by the Parish or region;
  - (d) may be terminated at any time on three months notice by either the Parish or the person covenanting.



- 13.4 Without the approval of the Conference, such Covenant shall not authorise any lay person to exercise a sacramental ministry. (see 1.4.3)
- 13.5 The appointment of a person working under a Lay Ministry Covenant shall not preclude the right of the Conference or the President, at any time, to station a Presbyterian in the Parish concerned.

#### APPOINTMENTS - GENERAL

- 14.1 The transfer of financial responsibility for Presbyters and Deacons who have been moved by the previous Conference shall take place on 31 January.
- 14.2 A Minister shall not be re-appointed to a Parish in which that Minister was previously stationed until five years have elapsed since the termination of the former appointment there.
- 14.3 No Parish shall engage a person to undertake a ministry similar to that of a Presbyterian or Deacon without the consent of the Conference acting on the advice of the Mission Resourcing Board.
- 14.4 If, as a result of the stationing process, there is a vacancy in any Parish, or if at any time a supply appointment is being considered, such appointment shall be overseen by the **Director(s) Mission Resourcing**. ~~Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing~~. The **Director(s)** ~~Executive Officer~~, after consultation with the Synod Superintendent, and other appropriate persons, shall recommend to the President, who shall confirm the appointment. Any such **supply interim** appointment must have the approval of the Parish Council, secured at a meeting called specifically for this purpose.
- 14.5 Where possible each Supply appointment shall be noted on the Station Sheet.
- 14.6 The **Director(s) Mission Resourcing** ~~Executive Officer Taiui Strategy & Stationing~~ shall be responsible in respect of each Supply appointment to see that proper arrangements and terms are agreed and recorded. (see 2.13.2)
- 14.7 Where any Minister's appointment by the Conference ceases for any reason other than by resignation the provisions of 2.17.1.(c) – (e) inclusive shall apply.
- 14.8 Appointments under the Stationing Procedures are expressly limited by the process of matching ministerial and parish profiles. It shall not be appropriate for an appointment to be made which is seen to disregard the principle of matching.

#### THE RETIREMENT OF PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS

- 15.1 A Minister who desires to retire shall:
- advise the Parish ~~Meeting~~ **Council** /Rohe and the Synod /Hui Poari by 31 March;
  - make application on the prescribed form and forward the same to the **Synod District** Superintendent /Rohe Liaison Person for presentation to the August Synod which shall report on the same to the Conference through **Conference question 17**. ~~Taiui Strategy and Stationing~~. Under special circumstances Conference may dispense with this requirement.
- 15.2 A Minister may elect to retire not sooner than the end of the Connexional Year in which such Minister attains 55 years of age. (see Appendix B-1 5.1.1)
- 15.3(a) The Pastoral Committee shall arrange **annually** for appropriate consultation, **which may include certification of medical and psychological fitness**, with any Presbyterian, Deacon or Lay Minister who, having attained 65 years of age, seeks to continue in a stationed appointment. (see 5:7.7.2.3)
- 15.3.(b) The Pastoral Committee will communicate annually with those of 65 who continue to be stationed.**
- 15.4 All retired Ministers shall be recorded in the list of Stations under **Te Taha Maori, the Synod where they reside or a National Synod**. ~~Parish of that Minister's choice.~~
- 15.5 Those Ministers in good standing who retire or who transfer to another Conference or Church shall be appropriately acknowledged.

#### MINISTERS WITHOUT APPOINTMENT

- 16.1 A minister who wishes to be unavailable for stationing by the Conference may apply to be listed under Conference Question 16 (see 7.11.16)
- 16.2 Such application shall be made to the Synod Superintendent, who shall report the ~~District's~~ **Synod's** response to the Pastoral Committee. The Pastoral Committee shall make its recommendation to the President or to Conference, who shall give final approval.
- 16.3 A minister granted permission to be unavailable for stationing by the Conference shall continue under the discipline and in accordance with the polity of the Conference. ~~and the name shown on the Stationing Sheet under a Parish~~. Such minister shall continue to have membership of Synod and of Conference **and be listed under the Synod where they reside or the National Synod of which they are a member.**

- 16.4 Permission for a minister to be unavailable for stationing shall be granted for one year only. A Presbyterian desiring to continue in this relationship to Conference shall make application as provided in 2.16.2 above each year.
- 16.5 A minister granted permission to be unavailable for Stationing shall, not later than the third year in that category, enter into such ministry covenant as Conference requires. The covenant shall define the mutual relationships and functions of such Presbyterian within and to the Church, and shall be administered by **Director(s) Mission Resourcing Executive Officer Taiuiwi Strategy & Stationing**.
- 16.6 A minister who has been without appointment for any period may **choose to be available for stationing**, with the approval of the Parish and Superintendent of the Synod apply to the Conference to re-activate that ministry.
- ~~16.7 A minister who has permission to be unavailable for stationing for health reasons, or for purposes of travel or study within New Zealand or overseas, shall not engage in any employment for which payment is to be received without the consent of the President. Such consent may be given for the remainder of the Connexional Year in which the application is made. Should a renewal of the permission be sought, a new application must be made in writing through the Superintendent of the Synod to the Mission Resourcing Board, which shall report thereon to the Conference.~~

#### **PRESBYTERS FOR WHOM NO APPOINTMENT IS AVAILABLE**

- 17.1 Where Taiuiwi ~~Strategy and~~ Stationing Committee **at its first meeting** considers that there is no appointment available for any minister seeking an appointment, it shall adopt the following procedures:
- (a) such minister shall be immediately notified by the General Secretary **that no appointment is available for the next Connexional Year** and that his/her present appointment by the Conference (if any) shall cease at the end of the then current Connexional Year;
  - ~~(b) such Minister shall have the right to make representations to the Taiuiwi Strategy and Stationing personally and/or through a person of that Minister's choice. Taiuiwi Strategy and Stationing shall report its recommendation to the next meeting of the Board;~~
  - (b) the **Stationing Committee Synod Superintendent of the Minister concerned** shall ensure that consultation and pastoral care through appropriate support persons shall be provided for the Minister while consideration is being given to this matter;
  - (c) **Such minister may request a consultation with the President to discuss the matter.**
  - (d) if such minister is currently in an appointment and fully available for Stationing, but there is no appointment available for such minister in the next Connexional Year, unless Conference shall otherwise decides, such Minister shall be entitled to a payment from the Connexional Expenses Fund equal to three months stipend without allowances on the cessation of the appointment.
  - (e) such Minister shall vacate any housing provided by the Church on cessation of the appointment.
  - (f) Such Minister shall continue to be under the Pastoral care and discipline of the Church.
- 17.2 Conference contracts no liability in respect to presbyters or students for ministry for whom no appointment is available beyond what is set out above. They are at liberty to choose their own place of residence and to pursue other occupations, provided always that the President may, after consultation, appoint them to a Parish or to other Connexional work.

#### **CESSATION OF MINISTRY DURING CONNEXIONAL YEAR**

- 18.1 Except in the case of resignation, if it is the opinion of the President, acting on the advice of the President's Committee of Advice and appropriate Synod Superintendent, that a Minister should cease exercising the ministry to which the Minister has been appointed, the procedures to be followed in bringing the matter to a decision shall be those set out in the Disciplinary Regulations. (see Section 8)

#### **~~NON-STIPENDIARY OR PARTIAL STIPENDIARY MINISTER~~**

- ~~19.1 On the application of a Minister, Conference may authorise such ministry as non-stipendiary or partial stipendiary ministry. Other than at the time of candidature any such application shall be presented through the Synod Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Officer Taiuiwi Strategy & Stationing.~~

#### **MINISTERS ENGAGING IN BUSINESS, OR OTHER PROFESSION**

- 20.1 A Minister appointed to a full-time **stipended** position in The Methodist Church of New Zealand who, without the consent of the Conference, carries on any business or other profession shall, on proof

- thereof be required to relinquish it or retire from the ministry except as herein provided.
- 20.2 Conference shall determine in each case what constitutes "engaging in any business or other profession".
- 20.3 Should the matter not be resolved, it shall be referred for adjudication under the Disciplinary Procedures.

### **ORGANISATIONS BRINGING THE NAME OF THE CHURCH INTO DISREPUTE**

- 21.1 A Minister shall not serve with any organisation which may bring the name of The Church into disrepute. All decisions on this matter shall be made by Conference.
- 21.2 The provisions relating to Ministers carrying on or engaging in any trade, business or profession shall not apply to **Retired Supernumerary** Ministers PROVIDED ALWAYS that such business or other profession, or association with another organisation is not one which may bring the name of The Church into disrepute.
- 21.3 Should the matter not be resolved, it shall be referred for adjudication under the Disciplinary Procedures.

### **STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES**

- 22.1 Conference shall from time to time determine the Standard Stipend as a living allowance for its Ministers.
- 22.2 No payment shall be made nor any agreement entered into to pay more or less than the Standard Stipend, without the consent of Conference.
- 22.3 Conference shall from time to time determine any travelling, housing, or other allowances.
- 23.1 Each person in a stipendiary or covenanted Ministry shall have appropriate supervision.
- 23.2 Conference shall from time to time approve guidelines for supervision.

### **HOUSING**

- 24.1 Accommodation shall be provided by the Parish/Division or other Body for **stationed** Ministers appointed by the Conference on such basis as shall be determined from time to time by the Conference.
- 24.2 The standard requirements of this accommodation shall be decided from time to time by the Conference. However, the Board of Administration on the recommendation of a Synod,/Hui Poari may approve different accommodation for a particular ministry.
- 24.3 Where a Minister dies, the spouse/partner shall be entitled to continue rent free occupancy of the house applicable to the appointment for three months after the death of the minister. Any other arrangements applying prior to the death shall continue during the three month period.
- 24.4.1 Where a Minister does not wish to live in accommodation provided by the Church, such Minister shall apply to the Synod Superintendent/ Tumuaki for permission to live in other accommodation. Before granting such permission the Superintendent must be satisfied that availability for stationing and ministerial effectiveness will not be diminished by such Minister residing in other accommodation.
- 24.4.2 Where permission is granted and the Minister is living in accommodation at the Minister's expense a housing allowance as from time to time determined by Conference shall be paid to such Minister.
- 24.5 Where the appointed Minister and the Parish/Division **Board** have made arrangements for a ministerial supply to occupy the accommodation provided by the Church during the appointed Minister's absence, no housing allowance shall be paid to the appointed Minister.
- 24.6 The **Synod District** Property Advisory Committee shall review, at least every three years, the adequacy of all accommodation provided, whether occupied by a Minister or not, and initiate appropriate action as required.

### **ANNUAL, STUDY, LONG SERVICE, MATERNITY ANNUAL, STUDY, LONG SERVICE, MATERNITY PARENTAL AND ILLNESS/DISABILITY LEAVE**

- 25.1 Conference shall from time to time make provision for annual leave, study leave, long service leave, ~~maternity parental~~ leave, and illness/disability leave. (see Information Leaflet No 7)
- 25.2.1 ~~Women ministers are eligible for and should be encouraged to take maternity leave for up to three months.~~  
**Parental leave provisions as legislated under New Zealand Law apply to Ministers.**
- 25.2.2 Arrangements for this leave shall be made with the Parish Stewards or appropriate officers and the Synod Superintendent. ~~Such leave may be taken at any time during pregnancy and/or after the birth, but must be completed within six months of the date of the birth and need not be taken continuously.~~

25. 2.3 During such ~~maternity~~ **parental** leave, the ~~Presbyter or Deacon~~ **Minister** shall ~~continue~~:
- (a) ~~to receive~~ **a top up to parental leave payments to the level of** the stipend to which she/he was entitled prior to the commencement of the leave;
  - (b) ~~to receive~~ allowances other than travelling allowances;
  - (c) ~~to pay rental and~~ Supernumerary Fund **and Kiwi Saver** contributions.
25. 2.4 Responsibility for meeting stipend **top up** and allowances ~~is~~ **are** as follows:
- (a) first month Parish/**Board**
  - (b) second & ~~third~~ **subsequent** months Connexional Expenses Fund (see 10.10.3.1.(j))
  - (c) **Stipend top up does not extend past the paid parental leave period.**
25. 2.5 ~~Maternity~~ **Parental** leave shall be additional to any other leave or holiday entitlement of the Minister.
25. 3 When a minister suffers illness or disability the Parish or ~~Division~~ **Board** or other responsible body is expected to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the minister (and family) is adequately provided for. Decisions made will depend upon the seriousness, length and extent of the illness/disability involved.

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

26. 1 No Minister shall permit anything to be done in any Church under the responsibility of such Minister which is not in accordance with the laws and ~~regulations~~ **usages** of The Church.
26. 2 A Minister shall be entitled to have their degree, diploma, fellowship or other academic qualifications, and their public honours printed in the Minutes of Conference. This shall be a responsibility of the General Secretary, in consultation with the Trinity College Council where appropriate. In the case of an academic award granted by other than a New Zealand University the place of origin shall be printed.
26. 3 A Directory of ministers of the Church shall be maintained and from time to time published on the following basis:
- (a) Normally the names of ~~ministers~~ **Presbyters, Deacons, Minita-a-iwi and Liaison Persons** are listed as from the date of first appointment by the Conference.
  - (b) The names of Presbyters/**Deacons** received from other Conferences appear under the year of their first appointment by their previous Conference.
  - (c) The names of Presbyters/**Deacons** received from other Churches into Full Connexion are listed from the year of their appointment by the Conference.

### MEMBERSHIP OF SUPERNUMERARY FUND

**Note: The Supernumerary Fund was closed to new members on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010. Provisions 27.1 – 27.4 apply to all Presbyters whose first appointment commenced prior to this date.**

27. 1 Each Presbyter shall be a Member of the Supernumerary Fund of the Church.
27. 2 Such Membership shall be in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Trust Deed from time to time in force. (see Appendix B-1)
27. 3 Membership shall be either (a) Full, or (b) fifty percentum, or (c) nominal in accordance with the provisions of the Deed.
27. 4 In very exceptional circumstances Conference may decide that a Minister be granted exemption from Membership.

### KIWI SAVER

- 28.1 **All Presbyters commencing their first appointment after 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 will be enrolled in Kiwi saver and will have a life insurance policy providing equivalent death in service cover to that provided by the Superannuation Fund.**
- 28.2 **Parishes/Boards making payments to Kiwi Saver and Life Insurance under clause 28.1 will not be required to also make payment to the Superannuation Fund.**

### MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF MINISTRY

28. 1 The Church recognises and accepts the ordination of all Ministers ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Christian Churches of New Zealand.
28. 2.1 All Presbyterian and **Christian Churches of New Zealand** ~~Associated Churches of Christ~~ Ministers stationed by the Methodist Church of New Zealand – Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa shall be received into Full Connexion with the Conference for the duration of their appointment.
- ~~28. 2.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of 28.2.1 such a Presbyterian Minister or an Associated Churches of~~

~~Christ Minister who is a full member of a Beneficiary Fund shall not be required to join the Supernumerary Fund.~~

## **PASTORAL DISCIPLINE AND TRIAL OF MINISTERS**

At Ordination each Minister receives, under the hand of the Church, the promise of God's Spirit and is commissioned to proclaim the Gospel, maintain the Faith, build up the Body of Christ and equip God's people for their work of mission. Each Minister is placed at the disposal of Christ and accepts the discipline of His Church. (see Section 8 - Disciplinary Regulations)

29. 1 When the processes and procedures of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations have been completed, and a decision has been made to suspend or expel a minister, the following conditions shall apply to that minister:
- (a) A Minister suspended by Conference shall not take part in the business of any Church Court without the permission of Conference, and shall have no claim upon the Conference for financial support during the period of suspension unless Conference shall otherwise determine.
  - (b) A Minister who is expelled shall immediately cease to be recognised as a Minister of the Methodist Church, and the Minister's name shall appear in the Minutes of Conference under Question 9 (see 7.11.2.9)
  - (c) No person being a suspended or expelled Minister shall, without the prior consent in each case of the ~~Synod District~~ Superintendent, **Hui Poari and Tumuaiki** hold any leadership position in the Church, or be authorised to preach or participate in the leadership of any Worship Service of the Church.
  - (d) For the purpose of the restoration of relationship the President after seeking advice from the President's Committee of Advice may give leave for a person against whom a charge is proved to seek forgiveness of the Conference.

## **SECTION 6 - CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEES OF CONFERENCE AND CONNEXIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. 1 In view of their specific tasks, functions and membership, the following Committees are recognised as Connexional Committees of Conference:
- Council of Conference
  - Te Taha Maori
  - Tauiwi Strategy and **Tauiwi Stationing**
  - Council of Elders
  - Budget Task Group

### **COUNCIL OF CONFERENCE**

2. 1.1 There shall be a Council of Conference which will, within the terms of the Mission Statement, answer the Conference questions: (see 7.11.2.26)
- (a) What is God saying to us now?
  - (b) What more can be done to promote the work of God?
2. 1.2 It shall be accountable to the Conference and will meet at least annually.

### **Purposes and Tasks**

2. 2.1 The purpose of the Council of Conference is to:
- (a) have a visioning, decision-making, and processing role;
  - (b) model the partnership between Te Taha Maori and Tauiwi;
  - (c) assist in the shaping of broad policy and direction for Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa;
  - (d) make such decisions as are from time to time required by the Conference.
2. 2.2 The tasks of the Council of Conference are to:
- (a) develop, in consultation with Hui Poari and Tauiwi Strategy and Stationing, strategic directions and policies for Te Haahi Weteriana, and bring recommendations to Conference;
  - (b) monitor the process of making Connexional Appointments, and report to the Conference on the process;

- (c) 1) bring to Conference the membership, and receive the report, of the Budget Task Group
  - 2) be sensitive to the sharing of Connexional resources
  - 3) finalise the Connexional Budget
  - 4) receive and adopt the Connexional Expenses Fund accounts;
  - (d) attend to such other matters as may from time to time be requested by Conference.
2. 2.3 The Council of Conference shall report annually to Conference.

### **Membership**

2. 3.1 Only a person who is a member of the Church, or a member of a partner Church in a Cooperative Venture constituted under a Constitution approved by the Conference, shall be eligible to be a member.
2. 3.2 The membership of the Council is:
- (a) ten members, nominated by Te Taha Maori according to its own procedures;
  - (b) ten members, nominated by Tauwi Strategy and Stationing according to its own procedures;
  - (c) the President, Vice-President, General Secretary shall attend. They shall not participate in final decision making.
  - (d) The Tumuaki, the Principal Trinity College, and the Director, Mission Resourcing shall attend. Their role is to act as resource persons. They shall not participate in final decision making unless appointed as members under either (a) or (b) above.

## **TE TAHA MAORI**

### **He Whakamarama**

3. 1 There shall be a Taha Maori under the control and direction of Conference representing tangata whenua of the Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand who shall be the Treaty Partner of Tauwi and where appropriate shall express tino rangatiratanga through its Hui Poari.

### **Kaupapa**

3. 2.1 Mission as expressed in the Statement approved by Conference 1989 (Introductory Document VI) is also the Mission of Te Taha Maori.
3. 2.2 The following goals are a particular concern:
- (a) Realising Maori styles of Christian Life, Witness and Service.
  - (b) Enabling every member to be a minister - within his/her own whaanau and community/Rohe.
  - (c) Becoming financially independent, self-sufficient and self-determining
  - (d) Producing resources for its own nurture and growth in the faith, and for continuing education, ministry and Mission in the world.
  - (e) To foster networks and relationships with communities of faith or other churches having similar goals and a vision for Aotearoa that rests firmly on an acceptance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the supreme basis of our nationhood.
  - (f) To realise te tino rangatiratanga whereby political, social, economic and spiritual change contribute to the transformation of Aotearoa.
  - (g) To nurture tamariki, rangatahi, wahine and encourage them to move into decision making and leadership roles.

### **Te Anga**

3. 3.1 The structure to assist in fulfilling the kaupapa shall comprise seven Rohe:
- Tai Tokerau
  - Tamaki
  - Waikato
  - Rohe Potae
  - Taranaki
  - Poneke
  - Otautahi-Te Waipounamu

- 3.3.2 Each Rohe shall have suitable centres where members may gather for study, fellowship and equipping for Mission. They shall serve as administrative centres for the Rohe.
- 3.3.3 There shall be:
- (a) an Enabling Ministry Team to enable, train, equip and encourage;
  - (b) Liaison Persons to facilitate communication between the Office, Enabling Ministry Team, and respective Rohe;
  - (c) a Hui Poari to be the policy making and final authority of Te Taha Maori;
  - (d) a Te Taha Maori Property Trust who will manage the properties and investments of Te Taha Maori
  - (e) An Office Staff, normally comprising a Finance Manager, and a Secretariat. The Staff shall be accountable to the Hui Poari at the policy level, and the Tumuaki for day to day operations.
  - (f) other such committees or work groups as Hui Poari may require from time to time;

### **Mema Tuturu-Awhina**

- 3.4.1 The basis of membership in Te Taha Maori shall be as provided in Section 1.1.1-1.4.4, 1.6.1-1.8.8.
- 3.4.2 Members are also expected to:
- (a) accept the kaupapa outlined above
  - (b) be committed to and active in pursuing the goals and fulfilling the mission of Te Taha Maori.
  - (c) participate in decision-making at local Rohe and Hui Poari levels;
  - (d) be open to new learning and changes;
  - (e) accept responsibility.
  - (f) possess a knowledge of the Methodist Connexion and the wider Church.
- 3.4.3 The membership initiated at baptism signifies entry into a ministry derived from Christ's. Its vision is a better world. Family, work, the community and world at large are amongst the places where this ministry shall be exercised, often on a group basis and in collaboration with others.

### **Tupu Whakaritorito**

- 3.5.1 To facilitate the nurture, education and training of members for Ministry, in their respective Rohe, there shall be the following:
- (a) Tumuaki, whose appointment shall follow the Connexional Appointments process, but with Hui Poari making the final decision within Te Taha Maori. Hui Poari shall seek the endorsement of the Council of Conference and of Conference.
  - (b) Enabling Ministry Team who shall be appointed according to the guidelines set by Hui Poari. They shall facilitate the training of Minita-a-iwi; Kaikarakia; Liaison Persons and members generally for Ministry and Mission where they live.
  - (c) One or more Educator-facilitators who shall be appointed according to guidelines set by Hui Poari, whose primary task is to produce resource material, and facilitate biblical, theological training at all levels in the life of Te Taha Maori.
  - (d) One or more Kaikaraki Rangatahi Workers who shall be appointed according to guidelines set by Hui Poari to encourage the development of rangatahi through support, encouragement and the production of resources and information sharing material.
- 3.5.2 The positions of Tumuaki, **and** Minita-i-tohia, shall normally be stipendiary and attract standard expenses as per ~~an ordained presbyter remuneration~~. **[Information leaflet 25]**
- 3.5.3 The positions of the administration staff **of Te Taha Maori shall be stipendiary paid a salary commensurate with the standard stipend** without expenses.
- 3.5.4 The positions of Minita-a-iwi, and Kaikarakia shall normally be voluntary. Any decision to offer financial help (e.g. travelling expenses) shall be made by the Rohe concerned and be provided for from its own funds.
- 3.5.5 The position of Liaison Person in each Rohe shall be allocated an Honorarium at a rate commensurate with their required tasks.
- 3.5.6 The Taha Maori Office staff shall administer policy on reimbursement of travelling expenses incurred by lay people who are requested to join the Enabling Ministry Team.
- 3.5.7 Minita-a-iwi shall be recommended to Mission Resourcing, on behalf of the Conference, for Ordination **assessment towards Minita-i-tohia** upon completion of the training programme as determined by Te Taha Maori that would also include Ministry formation training through Trinity College.

- 3.5.8 Minita-a-iwi shall be recommended for appointment according to guidelines set by Hui Poari. They shall minister to people in their own Takiwa/Rohe.
- 3.5.9 Kaikarakia shall be recommended for appointment by Rohe according to the guidelines set by Hui Poari. They shall work with other local members, and assist where appropriate.
- 3.5.10 Liaison persons shall be recommended for appointment by Rohe according to guidelines set by Hui Poari. They shall facilitate local meetings and act as communication channels between the Enabling Ministry Team, the Office Staff and the Rohe.
- 3.5.11 The responsibilities of Minita-i-tohia, Minita-a-iwi, Enabling Ministry Team, Educator-facilitator, and Rangatahi Worker/s shall be decided by the Hui Poari, through whom such persons are accountable to Conference.
- 3.5.12 The responsibilities of the Tumuaki shall be determined by Hui Poari and follows the Connexional Appointment process.

### **Hui Poari**

- 3.6.1 There shall be a Hui Poari comprising the Tumuaki, Enabling Ministry Team, Educator-facilitator, Kaikarahi Rangatahi Worker and representatives of the seven Rohe appointed locally, which shall meet at least three times a year.
- 3.6.2 The Hui Poari shall:
  - (a) have oversight of the life and work of Te Taha Maori;
  - (b) set policy and determine strategies;
  - (c) review annually the appointments of Minita-i-tohia, Minita-a-iwi, Enabling Ministry Team, Educator-facilitator, Liaison Persons, Kaiarahi Rangatahi Worker/s, and decide to continue or discontinue any person holding such a position;
  - (d) receive any resignations;
  - (e) direct policy formation through Te Taha Maori Property Trust to manage the financial investments and properties of Te Taha Maori;
  - (f) present to Conference an annual report and financial statement.
- 3.6.3 Subject to the authority of the Conference, decisions of the Hui Poari are final and binding upon both the ordained and lay members of Te Taha Maori.
- 3.6.4 The Hui Poari shall appoint those who represent Te Taha Maori in the following roles:
  - (a) ten members of Council of Conference;
  - (b) two members of the Council of Elders;
  - (c) the facilitator for the Te Taha Maori meeting(s) at Conference;
  - (d) five members of the Presidential Appointments Panel;
  - (e) three members of the Budget Task Group

### **Nga Rohe**

- 3.7.1 A Rohe shall consist of members residing within its boundary who maintain an active commitment to Te Taha Maori and the Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and who together, represent a visible expression of the Body of Christ there.
- 3.7.2 Minita-i-tohia, Minita-a-iwi, Kaikarakia, Liaison Persons and members share responsibility for maintaining life within the Rohe.
- 3.7.3 The Rohe shall:
  - (a) meet regularly;
  - (b) the Liaison Person shall draw up the Agenda using the agreed outline, and facilitate the meeting;
  - (c) meetings shall be conducted on a consensus decision-making basis;
  - (d) a secretary/note-taker and a treasurer shall be appointed;
  - (e) Rohe meetings shall consider all matters of local life service and witness, as well as matters referred by the Hui Poari, the Office, any Synod or Conference;

### **Putea**

- 3.8.1 The funds of Te Taha Maori shall be derived from:
  - (a) Income from properties and investments;
  - (b) Collections, subscriptions and donations;
  - (c) Gifts and legacies;
  - (d) Grants from Connexional Funds;
  - (e) Other sources approved by Conference.



- 3.8.2 Members shall be encouraged to practice Christian Stewardship - responsible, regular and loving giving - enabling Te Taha Maori to be self supporting and its participation in Mission to be enhanced and extended.
- 3.8.3 Membership of Te Taha Maori Property Trust will be the Tumuaki and two other senior members of Te Taha Maori and the Finance Officer for Te Taha Maori. ~~The Trust members will be with assistance, as required by at least two members from the Connexional Office staff. (Financial Services Manager/accountant), one accountant and the Executive Officer for the Methodist Trust Association who will provide advice and administrative support to the Trust as required.~~
- 3.8.4 Investment policy and investment decisions shall be made by Te Taha Maori Property Trust, with direction from Hui Poari
- 3.8.5. Te Taha Maori Office staff shall oversee the day to day administration of Te Taha Maori funds.
- 3.8.6 Each Rohe shall have a fund into which shall be paid all offerings donations and other monies received by the Rohe, from which shall be paid all Rohe expenses and the allocation to Te Taha Maori shall be paid from this fund.
- 3.8.7 Bank accounts shall have at least two signatories.
- 3.8.8 The financial year shall end on 30 June.
- 3.8.9 The Rohe accounts shall be prepared annually by the Rohe Treasurers and these are to be sent to the Finance Manager for Te Taha Maori.
- 3.8.10 The Finance Manager for Te Taha Maori will, with the Accountant from the Connexional Office, make the appropriate adjustments for G.S.T. and any other financial matters required and send Annual Reports to the Charities Commission. Note: GST must be returned monthly.
- 3.8.11 The Finance Manager for Te Taha Maori will, with the Accountant from the Connexional Office, prepare the annual accounts and submit these for auditing.
- 3.8.12 copy of the annual audited accounts shall be submitted to Hui Poari each year and a copy shall be made available to the Conference..

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## GLOSSARY

he whakamarama	an explanation
kaupapa	purpose
rohe	circuit/region
tamariki	children
rangatahi	youth
wahine	women
te anga	structure
hui poari	board meeting
tumuaki	rangatira of Te Taha Maori
mema tuturu awhina	membership
tupu whakaritorito	nurture, education and training
minita-a-iwi	self-supporting minister (non-ordained)
kaikarakia	worship leader
putea	finances

## TAUIWI STRATEGY AND TAUIWI STATIONING

- 4.1 There shall be Tauwi Strategy and Tauwi Stationing Committees, under the control and direction of Conference representing *tauwi* of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, who shall be the Treaty Partner of the *tangata whenua*, Te Taha Maori.

### Functions

- 4.2.1 The purposes of Tauwi Strategy and **Tauwi** Stationing are to:
- give expression to the partnership between Pakeha, Tongan, Samoan and Fijian Methodists in New Zealand Methodism, and to the variety of ethnic, cultural and other expressions of its diversity;
  - pursue visioning, strategy and planning, decision making and processing roles;
  - undertake the stationing and deployment of Tauwi ministry;
  - make such decisions as are from time to time required by the Conference.

4. 2.2 The tasks of Tauivi Strategy and **Tauivi** Stationing, which shall meet at least ~~three~~ **twice** times annually, are to:
- (a) bring to the Conference recommendations for the development and enhancement of the life and mission of Tauivi membership, local and regional and national structures;
  - (b) bring to the Conference recommendations for the stationing and deployment of Tauivi ministry;
  - (c) appoint those who will represent Tauivi in the following roles:
    - ten members of Council of Conference
    - two** members of the Council of Elders
    - the facilitators for the Tauivi Meeting(s) at Conference
    - five members of the Presidential Appointments Panel
    - three members of the Budget Task Group
  - (d) attend to such other matters as may from time to time be requested by Conference.
4. 2.3 Tauivi Strategy and **Tauivi** Stationing shall report annually to the Tauivi Meeting at Conference, and to Conference.

### Membership

4. 3.1 Only a person who is a member of the Church, or a member of a partner Church in a Cooperative Venture constituted under a Constitution approved by the Conference, shall be eligible to be a member.
4. 3.2 The membership of Tauivi Strategy and Stationing is:
- (a) the Superintendent and one lay representative from each of the Synods;
  - ~~(b) two representatives from Wasewase ke Viti kei Rotuma e Niusiladi;~~
  - (c) the Superintendent of the Evangelical Network;
  - (d) the Directors, Mission Resourcing;
  - (e) the Principal Trinity College;
  - (f) any Tauivi member of Council of Conference not otherwise attending **will be a member of the Strategy, but not the Stationing Committee.**
  - (g) the General Secretary;
  - ~~(h) the Tauivi Co-Convenor of Council of Conference if not otherwise attending;~~
  - (i) the President and Vice President.
4. 3.3 Tauivi will appoint its own facilitators. ~~who shall facilitate both the Tauivi Strategy Meeting and the Tauivi Meeting at Conference.~~
4. 3.4 The ~~Executive Officer~~ **Directors Mission Resourcing and General Secretary** ~~Tauivi Strategy & Stationing is~~ **are** responsible for the preparation of Tauivi Strategy & Stationing agendas and formalising the business of meetings.

### Stationing Meetings

4. 4 In carrying out its tasks of stationing and ministerial deployment ~~Tauivi Strategy and Stationing shall act as follows:~~
- (a) At the first meeting of Tauivi Strategy Committee, , matters relative to the decisions made at the previous Conference may be shared, and action taken if deemed necessary;
  - (b) At the second meeting, the Board Stationing Committee shall prepare a provisional matching sheet, which will be distributed through the Connexional Office but which shall not be otherwise published.
  - (c) Any Minister moving, one representative from each Parish seeking an appointment, and Students to be appointed, may attend the Stationing Committee at this provisional matching meeting and may speak at times specified by the chairperson concerning their prospective appointment, but not vote.
  - (d) Any Minister, Student or Parish shall have the right to request the pre-Conference stationing meeting, through the President, to receive a direct submission.
  - (e) the reasonable travel costs of Ministers, and the Lay Representative authorised by Parishes, attending the provisional matching meeting of Tauivi ~~Strategy and Stationing~~, or Stationing Consultations approved by Tauivi ~~Strategy and Stationing~~, will be paid in full, or on a pro rata basis, depending on the funding made available for this purpose by Conference in any particular year.

## Stationing Procedures

- 4.5.1 The procedures for the working of ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing, unless otherwise determined, shall be:
- (a) ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing shall not consider moving a Minister who will have been in an appointment for less than 6 years at the time the move would take effect unless there has been full and adequate face to face consultation by the District Superintendent, with such Minister and his or her spouse, and then with the Parish or Board to which such Minister is appointed.
  - (b) ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing shall have, as a guide to its deliberations the following information, to be prepared and presented by the **Directors of Mission Resourcing: Executive Officer Tauwi Strategy & Stationing:**
    - 1) the number of Ministers moving from existing appointments;
    - 2) the number of Ministers available for appointment at the beginning of the next Connexional Year;
    - 3) the number of Parishes/Divisions/Special Ministries requiring an appointment for the next Connexional Year.
  - (c) If there shall be insufficient ministers available for all appointments, ~~Tauwi Strategy Committee and~~ Stationing shall decide upon a strategy, determining which appointments, in the interests of the Connexion, shall have priority, and which may be left without appointment in the next Connexional Year, before proceeding to make any appointment;
  - (d) Once ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing has established which Parishes are to receive an appointment, and has reflected upon the implications caused by any decision not to appoint or re-appoint, ~~#~~ **Tauwi Stationing** shall then proceed to make appointments;
  - (e) When an appointment directly concerns them a Minister, Parish Steward or other Representative authorised by the Parish Meeting may communicate either personally or by letter with ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ **Tauwi** Stationing;
- 4.5.2 Where ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing considers that there is no appointment available for any Minister seeking an appointment, it shall adopt the following procedures:
- (a) such Minister shall be immediately notified by the General Secretary and that his/her present appointment by the Conference (if any) shall cease at the end of the then current Connexional Year;
  - (b) such Minister shall have the right to make representations to ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing personally and/or through a person of that Minister's choice. ~~Tauwi Strategy and~~ Stationing shall finalise its recommendation at its next meeting;
  - (c) the **District Synod** Superintendent of the Minister concerned shall ensure that consultation and pastoral care through appropriate support persons shall be provided for the Minister while consideration is being given to this matter;
  - (d) if such Minister is currently in an appointment and fully available for Stationing, but there is no appointment available for such Minister in the next Connexional Year, unless Conference shall otherwise decides, such Minister shall be entitled to a payment from the Connexional Expenses Fund equal to three months stipend without allowances on the cessation of the appointment.
  - (e) Such Minister shall vacate any housing provided by the Church on cessation of the appointment.
  - (f) Such Minister shall continue to be under the Pastoral care and discipline of the Church.
- 4.5.3 At the pre-Conference meeting The Connexional ~~Strategy &~~ Stationing Committee shall prepare the final Stationing Sheet which shall be presented for adoption by Conference at its first business session. [ The Connexional Stationing Committee is made up of the ~~Tauwi Stationing~~ Committee and Te Taha Maori Stationing representatives]
- 4.5.4 Conference shall not adopt the final Stationing Sheet until a reasonable time after any Minister, to whom Section 6.4.5.2 applies, has been notified by the ~~District or Regional~~ **Synod** Superintendent concerned that no appointment for such Minister appears on the final Stationing Sheet.

## COUNCIL OF ELDERS

- 5.1 There shall be a Council of Elders.

## Functions

- 5.2 The Council of Elders shall enable and assist the Church in its Bi-cultural Journey by seeking to model the equal partnership prefigured in the Treaty of Waitangi, and specifically it may:
- (a) monitor recommendations of all Conference Committees and Boards of the Conference;

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

### **Membership**

- 5.3 The Council of Elders shall be appointed annually by the Conference and shall consist of 2 persons nominated by Hui Poari and 2 persons nominated by Tauwi Strategy. ~~and Stationing.~~

### **BUDGET TASK GROUP**

- 6.4.1 There shall be a Budget Task Group which shall be a sub-committee of the Council of Conference.
- 6.4.2 The function of the Budget Task Group is to:
- (a) prepare the Connexional Budget according to the priorities and policies established by Conference;
  - (b) report and recommend that proposed budget to the Council of Conference for approval;
  - (c) raise with the Council of Conference issues of policy that have arisen out of the Budget Task Group's work.
- 6.4.3 The membership of the Task Group comprise:  
The President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary, three persons nominated by Tauwi Strategy ~~and Stationing~~, and three persons nominated by Hui Poari, all appointed by the Conference. Connexional Office Staff, relevant to the Task Group's task, shall be in attendance at the invitation of the President and General Secretary.

### **CONNEXIONAL AND RESOURCE APPOINTMENTS**

- 7.1.1 The Conference may appoint a minister or lay person to any Connexional or Resource Appointment, unless some other provision of this Law Book, or a Constitution provides to the contrary.
- 7.1.2 The Council of Conference shall monitor and report on the process of making Connexional Appointments, annually, or as necessary, to Conference.
- 7.2 The following shall be the Connexional and Resource Appointments:
- General Secretary
  - Tumuaki of Te Taha Maori
  - Directors, Mission Resourcing
  - Principal of Trinity Theological College
  - Superintendents of the Methodist Mission Northern, Christchurch Methodist Mission, Dunedin Methodist Mission, and Wesley Wellington Mission Inc.
  - Secretary, Mission and Ecumenical Committee
  - Chaplain, Wesley College
- 7.3 The Board responsible for any Connexional or Resource Appointment shall make provision for all financial and other commitments pertaining to the appointment.
- 7.4 Normally (and unless decided to the contrary by the Conference) each appointment shall be for an initial term of six years with a Connexional review at six years (individual Boards would undertake annual performance reviews). Thereafter, Connexional reviews would be on a three yearly basis. At a year nine review the Pastoral Committee shall arrange a consultation with the parties (the appointing Board, incumbent and Treaty Partner) and with them reach a decision regarding reappointment which shall be reported by the appointing body to the following Conference."
- 7.5 The appointment process shall be contained within a period of one year, although in most circumstances the appointing body will indicate in its report to Conference in the previous year the likelihood of an appointment needing to be made in the ensuing year.
- 7.6 The purpose of the process is to allow for and ensure that:
- (a) the wider Church receives clear information enabling careful and informed responses to such aspects as the position description, personal profile, and ministry covenant;
  - (b) the role of the appointee is clearly defined to facilitate unambiguous accountability to both the appointing body and the Conference;
  - (c) parishes who may be affected are able to promptly enter into the Stationing Procedures and not be unduly disadvantaged;

- 7.7 The process of appointment shall be as follows:
- (a) the Board or appointing body becomes aware of an impending vacancy;
  - (b) the appointing body shall immediately engage in consultation with Te Taha Maori and a 4 + 4 meeting is set up by the end of March;
  - (c) the Board shall prepare a draft Job Description and Personal Profile which shall be shared with the whole 4 + 4 group who shall together approve the final Job Description (either party within the 4 + 4 may ask for more time or for wider consultation);
  - (d) the Job Description is then circulated to all **Synods** ~~Districts and Regional Courts~~, to Hui Poari and Council of Conference, ~~prior to their June meetings~~;
  - (e) responses including suggestions as to the priorities for the future task of the appointment are received, the appointing body is able to offer comment on these responses , and the position is advertised;
  - (f) applications are received, the 4 + 4 short-list and interview the applicants, and make their recommendation to the appointing body;
  - (g) the appointing body brings their recommendation to the **September** ~~August~~ meeting of the Council of Conference;
  - (h) after notification by the Council of Conference of its endorsement of the process followed, the appointing body brings the nomination to Conference;
  - (i) Council of Conference reports to Conference on the appointment process, and Conference confirms the appointment when it adopts the List of Stations.
- 7.8 *The successful appointee will be expected to attend a bicultural orientation workshop as soon as possible after their appointment has been confirmed.*
- 7.9 At the beginning of the sixth year of the appointment, if a request for reappointment is made by either or both of the appointee and the appointing body, the Pastoral Committee shall arrange a consultation with the parties, and with them reach a decision which shall be reported by the appointing body to the following Conference.
- 7.10 In the event of a vacancy occurring for any reason in any Connexional or Resource Appointment the President, where possible, in consultation with the Board or Council concerned, and with Te Taha Maori and Tauwi Strategy and **Tauwi** Stationing, shall be responsible to make arrangements for the adequate function of the office until an appointment is made in accordance with this Section.
- 7.11 A Connexional or Resource Appointment that it made jointly or in consultation with a partner church shall as far as possible follow the provisions of this section.