

Conference Update

Please note that more detailed information will be placed on the Methodist website, sent out via eMessenger email and published in the eMessenger Newsletter as it becomes available

METHODIST CONFERENCE 2015 14 – 18 November Blenheim

Planning for conference 2015 in Blenheim is progressing well. This first update is to ensure that those who will be attending are able to make appropriate plans for travel and accommodation.

KEY DATES

Friday 13 November

Stationing Committee @ 10:00am – 1:00pm

Taiwi Strategy @ 2:00pm – 5:00pm

[Note: this is not the open Taiwi meeting, it is for appointed Synod Superintendents and Lay Reps only]

Saturday 14 November

Introduction to Conference @ 9:30am

Powhiri and Welcome @ 11:00am

Service to Honour Those Who Have Died @ 12:00pm

Recognition of Retirees/End of Ministries @ 2:30pm

Sunday 15 November

Taiwi & Te Taha Maori meetings @ 9:30am–12:30pm

Ordination Service @ 3:00pm

Monday to Wednesday 16-18 November

Conference Theology at Work (Business) Sessions @

8:30am Monday to 3:00pm Wednesday

Wesley Historical Society – Friday 13 November from 5:30pm

Conference will conclude at 3:00pm on Wednesday 18 November

Note: Nelson Marlborough West Coast Synod advise that David Poultney will be inducted as their new Superintendent at 4:00pm on Wednesday 18 November.

CONFERENCE DAY TO DAY

The Conference Day to Day timetable will be sent out as soon as it is available to assist with planning.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS

The Conference registration online form is scheduled to 'go live' during the first week of August. An emessage will be sent out as usual when this is available.

Remember: all Conference members and observers must be registered.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS

This year Conference is to bring names for President and Vice President Elect who will serve from 2016-2018.

The Presidential Team is Ordained and Lay. Please try and ensure there are Ordained and Lay nominated for both President and Vice President.

Formal nominations will come from August Synods – but now is the time to think and pray about who might serve the church in these roles.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL

The Opening of Conference is later on Saturday to allow travel on Saturday morning which reduces the need for one night's accommodation.

Air New Zealand are putting larger planes on the Blenheim route from July and this will increase the number of seats.

We also invite people to car pool to reduce travel costs.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a wide range of accommodation available. The Criterion Hotel backpackers is across the road and Bings Motel have offered a special rate (*see below*). It would also be worth looking at Bookabach <http://www.bookabach.co.nz/baches-and-holiday-homes> or similar if you have a group of people.

Please see the attached information sheet for a full list of accommodation options.

BINGS MOTEL

This motel is 8-10 minutes' walk from the Conference venue. This is recommended by us as good value, basic accommodation.

Group Bookings

We are looking at bulk booking 24 units here and then we would ask people to register with us, either in groups that would want to share with people they know, or indicate that they are willing to share and be allocated a room.

The best use of this motel will be made if we coordinate bookings and then we could potentially get close to 100 people in there relatively cheaply, rather than 24 individuals booking their own units.

If you are interested in this offer please email wesley.blenheim@xtra.co.nz and in the subject line put '**Conference Accommodation Coordinator**'.