

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

The Marlborough Convention Centre is over the road from Blenheim's main shopping precinct and just a 4 minute walk to the well appointed Wesley Centre. We plan to make good use of being close to other venues as a means of reducing the cost of Conference.

It has also been decided to 'live stream' the Service to Honour those who have Died, the Retirement event, the Ordination Service and selected Conference sessions. These will be available for viewing live and the services as archives to be viewed at any time. Details of how to do this will be made available closer to Conference. It is a way of enabling those who cannot travel to share in important aspects of the church's life.

KEY DATES

Friday 13 November

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

Tauwi Strategy @ 2:00pm – 5:00pm

[Note: this is not the open Tauwi 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

Tauwi & Te Taha Maori meetings @ 9:30am–12:00pm

Ordination Service @ 1:30pm

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.

ACCOMMODATION

There are still about 50 places left at Bings Motel. Approximate cost will be \$50 per person per night for shared accommodation in motel units. Bookings are to be made through the Blenheim Methodist Parish – see information below.

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 have bulk booked 24 units here and we 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'.

Priority will be given to those who will be at conference for the whole 5 days.

There will also be Marae accommodation available as well as the usual list of motels, hotels, B&B's and Backpackers which you can find online. Please see the information sheet on the website for a full list of accommodation options <http://www.methodist.org.nz/conference/2015>.

Do not leave your booking until the last minute!

CONFERENCE TRAVEL/TRANSPORT

In addition to air travel, some will travel by boat from Wellington. Shuttles can be booked from Picton and from Blenheim Airport.

Once again – please do not leave your bookings until the last minute.

Many of the motels are within walking distance of Conference venues. Check before you book, but for most you will not need transport once you get to Blenheim.

COSTS

The budget is not quite finalised but at this stage it looks like the registration fee will be close to \$400. The Yearbook and Conference Reports will be available separately as a paper copy (\$40) or electronic PDF copy (\$10).

CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS

Registration details will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Once again we encourage online registration.

Parish Councils/Boards when considering representatives are eligible for one lay representative for every presbyter appointed to the parish. A parish without a presbyter may appoint one lay representative.

It is possible to register and attend as an observer. Observers do not have the right to speak or participate in decision making. They may attend business Committees on the Monday.

Remember: All Conference members and observers must be registered.

EVENTS

The Conference Dinner on Saturday evening is not included in the Conference registration fee. It is optional and at additional cost.