

A Celebration of Life & Leadership

Gathering & Welcome

Opening Words

President The Christian life is a journey with others;
we travel as a people, sharing our lives,
our experiences, our hopes and fears.

At times, with joy and in hope, we welcome
new travellers to share our lives,
committing ourselves to them,
wanting to learn from and with them,
to become the people you want us to be.

Vice-President

With gratitude and pain, we farewell
fellow travelers who move into retirement.
Together, we thank you
for the gift of their lives, shared with us.
Together, we seek to support each other
through this time of transition,
and wait in expectation of the new
beginnings that your Spirit will bring.

A silence is kept

Vice-President

Both in laying-hold and letting-go,
we celebrate your goodness to us.
We affirm again the continuing presence of your Spirit,
blowing where you will,
forming and leading the life of your people.
Journey with us, sharing our triumphs and struggles,
and bring us safe into your eternal home. Amen.

Hymn 'Now thank we all our God'

Now thank we all our God,
 With hearts, and hands, and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done,
 In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
 Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in His grace,
 And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
 The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
 With Them in highest heaven:
The one, eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.

*WOV 14
Martin Rinkart*

Those who retire this Conference

Faiva Alaelua
Shirley-Joy Jennifer Barrow
David Stanley Bell
Donald (Don) Biggs
Neil Keesing
Dr Ilaitia Sevati Tuwere
Sandra Gibbons

Those who retire from other Connexional positions

Greg Wright

**We celebrate the life and ministry of each person.
David McGeorge will have a conversation with each of
the retirees who will be presented with a gift
by the President and Vice-President.**

Hymn

Where the road runs out and the signposts end,
where we come to the edge of today,
be the God of Abraham for us;
send us out upon our way.

*Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.*

*We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and earth.*

When the coast is left and we journey on
to the rim of the sky and the sea,
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ;
lead us on to eternity.

*Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.*

*We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and earth.*

When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,
when tomorrow's storm draws near,
be the spirit bird hov'ring overhead,
who will take away our fear.

*Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.*

*We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and earth.*

Words for Letting Go & Moving On

President

Loving God, you are our caller and companion;
in you we live and move and have our being.

The call to follow Christ and to grow in Christ like-ness has been both blessing and challenge.

We have learned and are still learning to share in joy and suffering.

We look back now, knowing some seed has come to harvest.

There have been times of dancing, of praise, and laughter, and times of affirmation;

there have been mistakes made and lessons learned;

there have been times when we have hidden our vulnerability behind excuses and much busy-ness.

Loving God, you hear our remembering.

Encourage us to explore today and each new successive day with energy, excitement, courage and faith.

Help us enter into this new beginning with the vision of the Holy Spirit to shed light and love on our future. Amen.

Blessing

1 God speed you on your way,
safe keep you ev'ry day,
give you wing, cause to sing—
all this we wish and pray.

2 God give you space to thrive,
all senses kept alive,
health and hope, means to cope,
joyfully to arrive.

3 God lead you to the new,
places and points of view,
paths to take, friends to make,
more life to travel through!

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The individual tributes are available in the agenda and on the Methodist website www.methodist.org