



Covenant Service

Methodist Conference 2016

Wesley College

Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

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| President: | Rev Prince Devanandan |
| Vice President: | Mrs Viv Whimster |
| Ex President: | Rev Tovia Aumua |
| Ex Vice President: | Dr Arapera Ngaha |
| General Secretary: | Rev David Bush |
| Tumuaki: | Rev Diana Tana |
| Directors Mission Resourcing: | Rev Setaita Kinahoi Veikune Rev Dr Trevor Hoggard |
| Chaplains: | Rev Kalo Kaisa Rev Peter Norman |
| Organist: | Rev Ieremia Amituana'i |

Call to Worship

Please stand

President: Let us worship God who has established an everlasting covenant and calls us through Jesus Christ to be a faithful people.

All: We are here to make our response to God.

Hymn: “We are many, we are one”

We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole
when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me,
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the threads upon a loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation’s song,
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

Affirmation

Tumuaki: We are a Covenant People.

All: **We stand within the historic Covenant of Grace affirmed by patriarchs, prophets, priests and people and especially revealed by Jesus of Nazareth.**

Tumuaki: We also stand within the Covenant of Grace as a particular people at particular times in our history.

All: **We honour the covenant renewal that is part of our Wesleyan heritage.
We affirm the covenant embraced in the Treaty of Waitangi.
We embrace our continuing commitment to be a Covenant people.**

The Congregation sits

Confession

Director Mission Resourcing: Rev. Setaita Kinahoi Veikune
It hasn't all been easy.

All: **At times we have faltered and stumbled.**

Director Mission Resourcing: Rev. Setaita Kinahoi Veikune
We make our confession:

Loving God, we open ourselves to you and each other in repentance and in faith.

Vice-President:
Life-Giving God during this Conference, we have committed ourselves to many actions: through these actions we aim to be your visionary people.

All: **But we know how easily we forget: We fail to act on our commitments, and we turn to follow other visions.**

Vice-President:

We understand ourselves as your church, and we claim to be a community of grace and love.

All: But we quickly betray that claim: We go our own ways, and we fail to care for each other.

Vice-President:

We have listened for your voice through the life of this Conference.

All: But our ears are often listening to other voices: We give priority to our own interests and concerns, and we cease to focus on your call to us.

Vice-President:

Faithful God, your love continues to be with us and to encourage us, even when we fail to live up to your life-giving vision.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Tumuaki: E Ihowa tohungia matou

All: E te Karaiti tohungia matou

Tumuaki: E Ihowa tohungia matou.

**All: E to matou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou ingoa.
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a matou aianei
he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.
Murua o matou hara,
me matou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.
Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Amine.**

Ministry of the Word

- First Reading:** Isaiah 49:8-13
Director Mission Resourcing: Rev Dr Trevor Hoggard
- Second Reading:** Acts 13:1–5
Tumuaki Rev Diana Tana
- Reflection:** Moving into Mission
President

Response to the Word

The Business Committee Convenors come forward

Conference Question 25: General Secretary

- (a) What is God saying to us now?
- (b) What more can be done to promote the work of God?

The Conference affirms its work and pledges itself to action as each Convenor responds to these Conference questions.

Convenor: This is our commitment to action.

All: **May God give us grace and courage so to do.**

*When all committee Convenors have spoken
the Conference Journal is signed.*

General Secretary:

This 'Conference Journal' contains the deliberations and decisions we have entered into during the Conference.

Signing of Journal

All: **The signing of the Journal indicates our commitment to incorporate our Conference deliberations and decisions into our ongoing life and witness.**

Renewing the Covenant

President: In covenant God chose Israel to be a servant people. Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God has declared the covenant to be with all who trust in Christ. We stand within this covenant and we bear Christ's name. On one hand, God promises to give us new life in Christ: on the other, we pledge to live not for ourselves but for God. Today we meet as generations before us have met, to renew the covenant which bound them and which now binds us to God.

Hymn: ***"Love divine"** Tune Blaenwern*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Sa dau yaco main a gauna [Fijian]
Kivei keda kecega,
Me da digitaka kina
Na vinaka se na ca:
Me da vakatudaliga
Ki na kaci i Jisu,
Se muria ga na meca
Era cati Koya tu.

'Ofaange ke lilingi [Tongan]
Ki he fakataha ni
'A e kelesi Hotau 'Eiki
Hono ivi ngaue mai!
Ka tau hao mei he kovi,
Ka tau laka pe ki mu'a
'O tau tupu ai ke ofi
Ki he anga he 'Otua.

Le Ali'i e, silasila
Ia i matou uma nei
O tagata agasala
Ma ua matua sese
A ia e sisila lava
I le maliu o Iesu
Le na matua saunia
O le olataga fou.

[Samoan]

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley
Tune MHB

Congregation remains standing

President: Let us claim this covenant for ourselves and take again the yoke of Christ upon us. To take this yoke upon us means that we are willing for Christ to appoint us our place and work, and for Christ alone to be our reward.

All: **Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suited to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.**

President: Loving and holy God, with joy we take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience and for love of you commit ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

All: I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you place me, in all that I do
and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me
and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done when I am valued
and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you,
as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so forever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Congregation sits

Ministry of the Sacrament

President: We, many as we are, are one body in Christ
If we do not love our brothers and sisters
whom we have seen,
how can we love God whom we have not seen?

President: The peace of God be with you.
All: And God's peace be with you.

Congregation stands

The communion cloth covering the elements is removed

The Communion

Vice President: Blessed are you, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts
to offer which earth has given
and human hands have made.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Vice President: The Lord is here.

All: **God's Spirit is with us,**

Vice President: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Vice President: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is our joy to give God thanks and praise.**

Vice-President: It is our joy to praise you
for from the beginning
in love and compassion
you have sought and found us.
Over generations
we have become aware of your presence,
elusive and disturbing.
Through grace you call us
into covenant relationship,
providing assurance
of your abiding presence.

All: **Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest.**

President: When the time was right,
the mystery of your presence
was revealed in Jesus
as healing and suffering love.

With thanksgiving we remember that
through cross and resurrection
the cost of new life has been declared.
In him your covenant
was offered to all peoples
and the vision of your new creation
made known to all the earth.

President:

On the night before he offered up his life
Jesus took bread, and after blessing it
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said,
“Take, eat: this is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup, offered thanks,
and gave it to them saying,
“Drink this, all of you:
for this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is poured out for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.”

All:

**Glory to you, Lord Christ:
Your death we proclaim;
Your resurrection we celebrate;
Your coming we await. Amen.**

The congregation sits

Vice-President:

We rejoice that your Spirit is present
accompanying us on our journey.
Give us grace, we pray,
to grow in our ability
to discern your presence within us
at all times and in all places.
As a covenant people
may we embody your vision,
being a community of hope,
offering our common life in service to you.

President: Come, Spirit of God
bless these gifts of bread and wine
which we set before you,
that your transforming love
might nourish and renew our life,
that we might be strengthened
as agents of your mission in the world.

All: **We offer our prayer with all your people:
in this land and beyond this land,
in this church and beyond this church,
in this time and beyond time,
to praise Your name. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

After a pause

President: The bread which we break is a sharing in the
body of Christ.

Vice-President: The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is
a sharing in the life of Christ.

President: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin
of the world.

Silence is kept for a time

Vice-President: Come, for all things are now ready.

Communion will be received at the front of the Church

All the wafers will be gluten free

Post Communion Prayer

President: As we return to our homes, our parishes,
and our communities,
All: **we celebrate**
that we are indeed your covenant people.
Thanks be to you, O God.

Hymn: ***“Faith has set us on a journey” FFS #14***

Faith has set us on a journey
past the landmarks that we know,
taking risks with no insurance
but the Word that tells us "go!"
Friend or job or home or lover
we may need to leave behind,
outworn truths and ways of thinking,
baggage to the past consigned.

Some are swags of easy conscience
who with others hitch a ride,
some are tourist-package Christians,
dollar-safe, with Book and guide.
There are others on this journey --
those who long and pray and search,
heave the stones to free the structures,
love the Christ and leave the Church.

We are this unlikely people
in the Body knit as one,
company of clowns and cripples --
some are wise and some can run.
Prophets are our travel agents,
gospel-makers lay this road:
to the place of peace and promise
faith will take us into God.

*Words © Shirley Erena Murray
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Chaplain to extinguish the Conference Candle

Chaplain: Let us pray:

Loving God, in whose light
we have journeyed through this Conference,
kindle in our hearts a flame of love
that may burn in us as we travel home,
giving light to others,
in Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

The Sending Forth

President: Go now into the world in the power of the Spirit,
taking with you these words of John Wesley:
Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.

All: **We go to serve in the name of Christ.**

Hymn: ***"Ma te Marie"***

Ma te marie a te Atua
Tatou katoa e tiaki;
Mana ano e whakau
O tatou ngakau ki te pai.

Ma te Atua Tamaiti ra,
Ma te Wairua Tapu hoki
Ratou, Atua kotahi nei.
Tatou katoa e whakapai.
Amine

*The peace of God
keeps us all.
He will confirm
our hearts in goodness.*

*May the Son of God
and the Holy Spirit too,
One God,
bless us all*

*Traditional Maori Hymn
Tune: Old 100th sung unaccompanied*

Postlude as recessional

Acknowledgements:

The Covenant prayer is taken from the British Methodist Church Worship Book.