



The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

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14th October 2016

President's Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

Conference 2016, meeting at Wesley College, progressed well with its agenda. Business sessions were completed as planned.

However, it was not possible to complete the selection of the next President and Vice-President. The Conference 5 + 5 panel was not able to bring the names of a Presidential team. This was after both caucuses had been asked to consider if further names could be added for their consideration. At issue was not having names in common from Te Taha Maori and Taiwi to name a team, rather than the acceptability of any of the nominees.

This has been a very stressful time for those who allowed their names to go forward, for those who nominated them and also for members of the 5 + 5 panel. Please uphold them in your prayers.

Conference has put a process in place for 2017 to select a President and Vice-President Elect to serve the church from November 2018.

- Nominations for President and Vice-President will be called for immediately. These will be made through Synods in the normal manner.
- Profiles will be distributed after the closing date of July 3rd 2017.
- Hui Poari and Synods at their August meeting will engage in a process to indicate support for their preferred nominees.
- The 5+5 Panel will meet in September 2017 with the names of the President Elect and Vice President Elect to be advised to the church by the President.

We are aware that this has been a difficult time for everyone involved as we have sought to hear what the Spirit is saying to us as a church. By listening to each other and supporting each other prayerfully, we believe we will find a way forward in our life together as we select the next Presidential team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Prince Devanandan', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rev Prince Devanandan
President
Methodist Church of New Zealand