

Methodist Church of New Zealand

Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

Administration Division
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CHRISTCHURCH

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AGENDA GUIDELINES – MINISTERIAL SYNOD

APPENDIX TO SECTION 4

(of the Laws & Regulations of the Methodist Church of New Zealand)

Preface

The Ministerial Synod is a key “meeting of ministers” in the life of their Synod. The guidelines set out here are designed to help a Ministerial Session to (a) have a pastoral concern for ministerial families, (b) be sensitive to what the Spirit is saying to the Church, and (c) provide recommendations to Synod concerning matters of ministries and candidatures.

It is not intended that the guidelines be followed rigidly. It is hoped that the Ministerial Session would set aside time to encourage creative thinking in relation to the Church.

(Note: See Law Book Section 4-5.1 for membership of the Ministerial Synod.)

The Ministerial Meeting

The gathering of all ‘ministers’ on the stationing sheet, all supernumerary presbyters and deacons and any ordained associates of synods [Note: this includes stationed lay ministers].

The Ministerial meeting will meet at least once a year.

Synod Superintendents are also encouraged to find opportunities for stationed ministers to meet informally for collegial support.

What Happens When You Gather

The primary purpose is to provide spiritual refreshment, build collegiality and good relationships.

To reflect on and recommit ourselves to the Pastoral Resolutions.

To reflect on the stationing sheet, who has been appointed to the synod, who continues in retirement. Are there any who need our special support or care?

A. Pastoral Care

1. Read the Ministerial Roll (list of Stations) and allow time to consider each minister and family in relation to the following questions:
 - (a) What Deacons, Home Missionaries, Minita-a-iwi, and Presbyters (in the Synod) have died since last Conference? (See Section 6-3.2, Question 18).
 - (b) To whom are greetings or condolences to be sent, including to those who previously served in the Synod?
 - (c) Are there any pastoral matters relation to the personal or family well-being of ministers in the Synod, including ministers in Connexional and Chaplaincy appointments, Supernumeraries and widow/widowers of ministers? What actions need to be taken to provide pastoral care concerning these?
 - (d) Are there any pastoral concerns/issues relating to the well-being of the ministry being raised by Parish Stewards – through the Synod Superintendent.
 - (e) How can Synod assist with the availability and resourcing of the supervision of Minister within its Synod?
2. What is our responsibility for any wider pastoral concerns in the ministry or Community?
3. In conjunction with these questions the Revised Pastoral Resolutions should be read.

B. Creative Thinking

What is the Spirit saying to the Church?

(Note: No guidelines can be predetermined for this section. The Ministerial Session should look at ways of creatively raising issues of policy to help in raising the sights of Synod as to what the Spirit is saying to the Church).

C. Conference Questions (*August Session Only*)

1. What recommendations do we make to the Synod concerning the following Conference Questions? (See Section 6-3.2 as listed below)

Questions:

3. What Candidates are now (recommended) for training as (a) Deacon, (b) Presbyter?
5. Who are stationed by the Conference as Probationers (a) Deacon(s) (b) Presbyter(s)?
7. Who are now (recommended for) ordination as (a) Deacon(s) (b) Presbyter(s)?
10. What appointments are authorised to provide remuneration at a rate of less than Standard Stipend?
 - A. For full-time Minister requesting not to receive a full stipend (the balance to be paid to Supply Ministry Fund).
 - B. For full-time or part-time Local Ministries (with no remuneration) with Ministry Covenant.
 - C. For part-time Ministries (remuneration pro rata) with a Ministry Covenant.
15. What Deacon(s) or Presbyter(s) are not available for Stationing this year?
16. What Deacon(s), Minita-a-Iwi and Presbyter(s) retire at this Conference?
17. What Deacon(s), Home Missionaries and Presbyters continue in retirement?
18. What Deacons, Homes Missionaries, Minita-a-Iwi and Presbyters have died since last Conference?
- 20(a) Are there any congregations where through unavailability of Presbyter, the Sacraments are not being provided?

20(b) Who are now given special authority to administer the Sacraments during the ensuing year?

2. Are there any reports or matters which affect the ministry, training or status of Ministers which need preliminary discussion?

This is an invitation to exercise creativity.

Naming the members of the Synod is an intercessory/pastoral means of shared care.

The Synod will deal with matters relating to Candidates and Ordinands. This is not the business of the Ministerial meeting.

The Ministerial meeting may bring a concern or an issue to the Synod.

Pastoral Resolutions

These could helpfully be used as a key component of closing worship.