



The Methodist Church of New Zealand
Mission Resourcing



Tauiwi Stationing Manual

Face to Face Meeting Guidelines

The Face to Face Meeting is conducted on the basis that this is the best possible matching for the Presbyterian and Parish.

Purpose

The purpose of the Face to Face meeting is to affirm the provisional matching made by the Tauiwi Stationing Committee by;

- Beginning to develop a relationship
- Developing a shared understanding regarding leadership styles and expectations
- Clarifying the Presbyterian or Deacon's tasks in this particular Parish, and to clarify their expectations of the Parish
- Identifying any relevant issues arising from the discussion or the profiles.

This meeting is not an interview or trial, nor is there a trial preaching service. It is a creative and open conversation, seeking to determine if the profiles match.

Parishes vary in their understandings of the many aspects, roles and tasks involved in ordained ministry. So it is important to identify the expectations for each particular situation. Clarification at this point will help to develop openness and trust, strengthen the ministry of the whole Parish, and minimize conflict later in a ministry.

Any notes gathered at the meeting indicating any changes to profiles, ministry descriptions or any other agreements, should be recorded by the Synod Superintendent and sent to the Parish, Presbyterian and Mission Resourcing. These notes are kept for purposes of Lay – Clergy dialogues or first year and subsequent reviews.

Any agreements (E.g. Housing) made at the Face to Face meeting must stand for the first year of ministry, unless significant changes arise.

Roles

The Face to Face meeting involves;

- Presbyterian being appointed
- Parish leaders
- Congregation members
- Synod Superintendent
- Other Synod staff (Optional)
- The Chair person

The Presbyterian comes to the Face to Face with the support of the Tauiwi Stationing Committee as the best possible matching in terms of the staff and the positions available.

The Synod Superintendent of the Parish has a key role in this process, and is responsible for ensuring that the process is set up and conducted with sensitivity and honesty.

Note: An incumbent Presbyterian or Lay Supply or stationed Lay Appointment must not be involved in any part of the stationing decision-making process relating to his or her successor, and in particular the Face to Face meeting process.

Costs

Travel and reasonable accommodation costs for;

- The Presbyterian, will be paid by the Connexional Office (Please note that the Presbyterian may be billeted)
- The Spouse / Partner / or other significant person (where there is no spouse or partner) of the Presbyterian, will be paid by the Parish
- The Synod Staff (Synod Superintendent and Lay Representative), will be paid by the Synod

Process

The Synod Superintendent in consultation with the Parish and the Presbyterian will organise a mutually agreed date, time and venue for the Face to Face meeting.

Please note that various meetings may need to take place as part of the Face to Face meeting, therefore this may take a full day or maybe 2 days to complete well.

Included in the Face to Face process shall be;

- An opportunity to view the Church property, the parsonage, and any other property considered significant to the mission and ministry of the Parish
- A meeting with the Parish Stewards or their Co-operating Venture equivalents and any other stationed, ordained staff, or Ministry team personnel
- A meeting with the Parish Council and / or Parish Leaders' meeting personnel.
- A meeting with Congregational members or groups within the Parish. (E.g. Youth groups, worship committee, etc)
- A meal with Congregational members (Optional)
- A Special Congregational Meeting, which is normally the final meeting which makes the final decision on behalf of the Parish

The Synod Superintendent must arrange a chair person for this meeting. This person must be present at the Face to Face meeting and must be appropriately briefed.

This person could either be;

- The Synod Superintendent
- The Synod Lay Representative on the Tauwi Stationing Committee
- Another appropriate person who has been present at Stationing Conversations

Before the conclusion of the final meeting, the Synod Superintendent will meet with the Parish / Presbyterian for their response as to whether there is a match or not and the reason for their decision.

At the conclusion of the Face to Face meeting, the Synod Superintendent will normally convey the response of the Parish to the Presbyterian, and vice versa. The Synod Superintendent must also inform Mission Resourcing (and the Principal of Trinity College if a Probationer is involved).

If the Face to Face meeting is successful, the Parish should have discussions about closure regarding their current ministry, farewell, grief, closure of projects, issues and any unfinished business.

If the Face to Face meeting is unsuccessful, the Synod Superintendent in consultation with the Mission Resourcing Directors will investigate any other possible matchings if available.