

Methodist Lay Preachers' Network Newsletter

November 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa, malo e lelei, talofa lava, ni sa bula vinaka, greetings from the Methodist Lay Preachers Network to all Lay Preachers in congregations with a Methodist component.

Within this newsletter please find:

- a link for our annual gathering by Zoom on Monday 4 December at 7.00pm
- a brief report from Methodist Conference
- links to training opportunities
- Synod Network contacts

Methodist Lay Preachers Network Annual Gathering

We warmly invite all Lay Preachers and kaikarakia from all Synods, experienced, in-training or anyone simply interested to the Methodist Lay Preachers Network Annual Gathering by Zoom on **Monday 4 December 2023 at 19.00 (7:00pm)**.

You can join this Zoom Meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88349922145?pwd=STYrdmpPRERebGtDNWNXZ3pMb1lMdz09>

or open Zoom on your phone or computer and enter these details:

Meeting ID: 883 4992 2145

Passcode: 370228

Report from Methodist Conference

Our report was received and these changes to the Law Book have been referred to the Law Revision Committee.

2. That Section 1.8 of the Law Book on Lay Preachers be changed to:

Lay Preachers

8.1 A person who is on the Membership Roll of a local Church and who, having completed the requirements outlined in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Information Leaflet #153 or having been duly accredited by the New Zealand Lay Preachers' Association through a process recognised by another partner denomination, shall be recognised as a Lay Preacher.

8.2 A person who has been recognised as a Lay Preacher who ceases to be on the Membership Roll of any local Church shall cease to be recognised as a Lay Preacher.

8.3 Preachers' Meetings may be held in Parishes or Synods as may be appropriate.

8.4 The Parish Council shall from time to time decide which accredited Lay Preachers within its membership are to preach or conduct services in the Parish.

8.5 A member seeking to be a Lay Preacher shall apply to the Parish Council who shall consider their suitability for the role. A person so nominated shall thereafter be designated as a Lay Preacher in Training.

8.6 A Lay Preacher in Training shall pursue such course of study as shall from time to time be determined by Trinity College in conjunction with the Methodist Lay Preachers' Network. The period of training shall be normally not less than 2 years and shall normally include the conduct and/or significant leadership in not less than 10 services.

Lay Preachers trained overseas, on proof of study, will follow the process in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Information Leaflet #153.

8.7 Following the satisfactory

(a) completion of the prescribed course of study,

(b) report on a trial service, and,

(c) interview with the Parish Council as to his or her Christian faith and experience and commitment to the Methodist Church of New Zealand, including its Mission Statement, the Lay Preacher in Training may be recommended by the Parish Council to the Synod for accreditation. On application by the Parish Presbyter or Parish Superintendent, an accreditation certificate will be issued by the New Zealand Lay Preachers' Association.

8.8 There shall be a Methodist Lay Preachers Network.

The tasks of the Network shall be to:

(a) In liaison with Trinity College, periodically review all aspects of training and accreditation

(b) maintain records;

(c) liaise with Synods;

(d) liaise with New Zealand Lay Preachers' Association'

(e) provide support for members of the Methodist Lay Preachers Network

(f) report annually to Conference

8.9 The names of all those receiving initial accreditation as part of the Methodist Lay Preachers' Network shall be presented to Conference by the Methodist Lay Preachers' Network on behalf of the New Zealand Lay Preachers' Association.

3. That the Methodist Lay Preachers Network Convenors be: Viv Whimster (Convenor), Ngaire Southon (Co-Convenor) and up to two more to be appointed.

We were not able to compile a complete list of those who were newly accredited in 2023 as many update forms have not been returned and the dates of accreditation were not in the details sent to the New Zealand Lay Preachers Association. Communication between Synods, Parishes, individual Lay Preachers and the Network requires further work and commitment from us all.

NZLPA

Check out the interdenominational New Zealand Lay Preachers Association website <https://nzlpa.wordpress.com/> for worship resources and to download application forms for certificates.

Training Opportunities

Lead Worship and basic training

Those interested in the original Lead Worship course can download all the resources here [https://kiwicnexion.nz/view/view.php?id=129](https://kiwicconnexion.nz/view/view.php?id=129)

This offers a basic training that will equip those leading worship and preaching in their own congregation or parish.

Lead Worship can be adapted to local or new situations and we are trying to update this resource that has been widely used and appreciated. If you have benefitted from it or have some suggestions for revision, we would be pleased to hear from you (contact details below).

Trinity College

Trinity Methodist Theological College offers NZQA approved papers which give a greater breadth to biblical background, theology and preaching. Alongside the practical training and evaluated service, completion of courses at this level enables Lay Preachers to be fully accredited for Lay Preaching ministry in any Methodist Parish or Union or Co-operating Venture with a Methodist component.

<https://trinitycollege.ac.nz/study/programmes-of-study/certificate-in-lay-preaching/>

Theology at the University of Otago

Paul Trebilco, Head of Theology Programme at Otago, has asked us to pass on this information about courses on offer at Otago both on campus and by distance learning. We recommend these too.

- The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers the opportunity to think more deeply about Christian faith. Our students have found our papers to be constructive and helpful; such study can enrich, broaden and deepen your understanding of your faith. We study Theology from within the Christian tradition, with academic depth.
- The subjects on offer include Old Testament and New Testament Studies, Church History, Systematic Theology, Māori Theology, Ethics, Practical Theology and Ministry (including Chaplaincy Studies), and Biblical languages (Hebrew and New Testament Greek). The Theology Programme has a Centre for Theology and Public Issues, offering papers with a strong social justice focus on contemporary issues.
- You can study toward a qualification, or you can take a single paper (or more) for interest, or as part of another degree. Most University of Otago students can include up to 5 Theology papers in their degree.
- If you're looking for a qualification then we offer the Diploma in Theology, the Bachelor of Theology degree, as well as Postgraduate degrees in Theology, Ministry, Chaplaincy, and Faith-Based Leadership and Management, the MTheol and PhD. If you've already got another degree, we offer a Diploma for Graduates, which is 7 papers, 4 at 300-level. This is the equivalent of one full year's study of Theology, but can be split up across several years.

• Papers on offer in 2024 are in the attached posters and brochures, and a power point.
Further information: email - theology@otago.ac.nz or phone 03 479 8639
Or explore: www.otago.ac.nz/theology or www.facebook.com/theologyotago

And here's a video about the Theology Programme at Otago:
You can view it here: <https://tinyurl.com/theologyotagovideo>
Feel free to share it widely!

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Synod Network Reps at present are:

Northland – Rosalie Gwilliam
Auckland - TBA
Manukau - TBA
Waikato-Waiariki - Ngaire Southon
Lower North Island - Rosalie Sugrue and Maureen Calhaem
Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast - TBA
Central South Island - Margaret Woodcock
Otago-Southland - TBA
Sinoti Samoa - Rev Sioa Letalu
Vahefonua Tonga - TBA
Wasewase - TBA

**We would love to find two more people to join us as co-convenors on the Network!
Ideally, from the South Island and lower North Island. Can you recommend anyone?
We would like the Network team to be more representative of the many active Lay
Preachers in Methodist Parishes!!**

Convenor

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