

# Methodist Lay Preachers' Network Newsletter

July 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa, malo e lelei, talofa lava, ni sa bula vinaka,  
greetings from the Methodist Lay Preachers Network.

**In this newsletter** you will find:

- information about *Lead Worship*
- 2025 Update forms reminder
- Local recognition discussion
- NZLPA and Methodist LP Network overlap
- names of Methodist Network Synod reps – and vacancies!
- Details of two forthcoming Network zoom sessions.

## ***Lead Worship***

This course aims to teach basic lay preaching skills, biblical background and theology. It is available to anyone but particularly suited to those exploring a call to lay preaching and those already beginning to lead worship. The topics covered also offer good on-going education. Rev Dr Lynne Wall led 4 excellent sessions on the First Testament earlier this year.

## **Lead Worship zoom session schedule for July – Oct 2025**

Our July and August sessions have a resource to read ahead of time, if possible, which will be sent out a few days beforehand.

### **Wednesday 30 July at 7.30pm – Resources for Lay Preaching**

with Philip Garside, Philip Garside Publishing and an accredited Lay Preacher

### **Wednesday 20 August at 7.30pm – Rivers of Connexion – on the Bicultural Journey**

with Rev Keita Hotere, Minita-i-tohia, Taranaki

and TeRito Peyroux, ex-Vice-President MCNZ and an accredited Lay Preacher

### **Wednesday 24 September at 7.30pm - Parables Session 1**

with Rev Dr Geoff New, Principal of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership

### **Wednesday 29 October at 7.30pm - Parables Session 2**

with Rev Dr Geoff New

Each of these sessions will start at 7.30pm with the link often opening earlier:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84939560503?pwd=FcLVPrPaseGuM0xtae1VzENG2JEL6.1>

Meeting ID: 849 3956 0503

Passcode: 437291

Please circulate this to anyone in your parish or Synod who would be interested in some basic training for the ministry of Lay Preaching.

If you are interested in joining us or would like to find out more information, please contact

Viv Whimster [vjwhimster@gmail.com](mailto:vjwhimster@gmail.com), 07 578 6056, 021 137 2349 or

Ngairi Southon [ngairi@southon.net](mailto:ngairi@southon.net), 07 578 7119, 021 0224 5165

For those interested in national accreditation or further study, we recommend taking Trinity College papers for the Certificate in Lay Preaching, and completing the accreditation process outlined in Information Leaflet #153.

<https://www.methodist.org.nz/tangata/information-leaflets/153-lay-candidates/>

### ***2025 Update forms reminder***

- We are making the move to list nationally accredited Lay Preachers under Parishes in the 2026 Yearbook.
- We ask Parishes please to complete and return the 2025 Update Forms to include those in training (I/T) as well as those preaching but not accredited (L/R).
- We recommend that one person in the Parish takes responsibility for this – an administrator if you have one, a Lay Preacher, Leaders'/Parish Meeting secretary or Presbyter.
- It is the responsibility of each Lay Preacher to complete an accurate update form for themselves and return it to the Parish person or directly to Viv and Ngaire (methlpn@gmail.com) – thank you!

### ***Local recognition discussion***

Many English-speaking Parishes are short of preachers and worship leaders so enlist the help of anyone willing and able to fill these roles. Not all these people feel a call to become accredited Lay Preachers, and while some have little or no official training, many have been doing these tasks well for a long time and already come with plenty of skills. We want to acknowledge the ministry of these people who are affirmed by their Parishes and include them as “locally recognised” (L/R). We have been encouraged that several Update forms have been returned using this category already.

We are still exploring what this means and welcome your feedback on these points:

- what basic training (if any) should be expected in terms of study, mentoring, practice and evaluation?
- should we formalise this recognition and if so, how?
- if a certificate is issued, should it be through the Network or through the NZLPA on the recommendation from the Parish?

### ***NZLPA and Methodist LP Network overlap***

Which brings us to the question of the overlap and duplication of members for the New Zealand Lay Preachers Association (NZLPA) and Methodist LP Networks.

- The NZLPA is the inter-denominational organisation which was formed from the Methodist Lay Preachers Association (MLPA) to reflect the partnerships in UCANZ.
- Funds and the authority to issue accreditation and long-service certificates at the direction of the appropriate denomination were passed from the MLPA to the NZLPA.
- Lay Preaching is a strong thread of ministry for Methodists who soon realised that we needed a group within this denomination to address issues such as training and on-going education – hence the formation of the Methodist LP Network.
- The NZLPA Executive and membership are predominantly Methodist, though hard work has been done to try to broaden representation to other denominations.
- How could the two groups become stream-lined? We would particularly value hearing from Presbyterians and those in Co-operating or Union Parishes.
- What would we lose if either group ceased to exist?
- How would these groups work best for YOU?

## ***Names of Methodist Network Synod reps – and vacancies!***

**Methodist Synod Network Reps** at present are:

Northland – Rosalie Gwilliam  
Auckland - TBA  
Manukau - Peter Lane  
Waikato-Wairiki - Ngaire Southon  
Lower North Island - Rosalie Sugrue  
now - | Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast - TBA  
South Island | Central South Island - Margaret Woodcock  
Synod | Otago-Southland - TBA  
Sinoti Samoa - Rev Sioa Letalu  
Vahefonua Tonga - TBA  
Wasewase - TBA

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**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 a better reflection of the diversity among our many active Lay Preachers in Methodist Parishes!!**

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### ***Methodist LP Network Zoom discussions***

Please join us for a discussion on Lay Preacher issues  
(especially local recognition and NZLPA/Network) on

**Monday 1 September at 7.30pm – Methodist Lay Preachers Network is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82150119728?pwd=20f1XnKJK9sKDu1BJCnXJ0W2xfu6rN.1>

Meeting ID: 821 5011 9728

Passcode: 481087

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**and our annual on-line Conference gathering on Monday 10 November at 7.30pm**

Methodist Lay Preachers Network is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

This is an opportunity to hear what is happening across the motu, listen to suggestions to how we operate and support Lay Preachers and raise any issues of concern.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85839240442?pwd=aJNW9RV3d7cxgwfpZav6cMxfuf7l5q.1>

Meeting ID: 858 3924 0442

Passcode: 352040

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**Convenor** Viv Whimster

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07 578 6056, 021 137 2349

**Co-convenor** Ngaire Southon

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