

FIRST SHEET

1

CONFERENCE WELCOMES the following Guests and gladly associates them with all the sessions of Conference.

OBSERVERS & GUESTS:

Methodist Church in Fiji	Rev Dr Semisi Turagavou
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand	Erin Pendreigh Dr Rod Watts The Right Reverend Peter Dunn
Methodist Church in Samoa	Rev. Dr. Eteuati Tuioti & Mrs. Maselina Tuioti Rev. Faulalo Leti Pa'aga & Mrs. Fialelei Leti
Uniting Church in Solomon Islands	Rev Armstrong Pitakaji
Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand Standing Committee	Rev Andrew Howley
Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga	Rev 'Alifeleti 'Atiola

CONFERENCE STAFF 2026

President	:	Alisa Lasi
Vice-President	:	Tau'ataina Tupou
Secretary	:	Tara Tautari
Office Staff	:	Caitlin Griffiths Licinda Wait Ady Shannon (Touchstone) Keri Page-Kreis Stephen Walker Wendy Anderson
Business Sheet Updates	:	Nicola Grundy
Legal Adviser	:	Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel
Chaplains	:	Suiva'aia Te'o 'Etuini Talakai

CONVENERS OF BUSINESS:

A:	Council of Conference	:	Ngaire Te Ahu and Metui Tafuna
B(i):	Te Taha Māori	:	Arapera Ngaha and Maungarongo Tito
B(ii):	Tauiwi	:	Dale Peach and Paulo Leli
C:	Law Revision	:	Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel
D:	Administration/Connexional	:	Nan Russell
E:	Ministry: Trinity College	:	Richard Biddle
	Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri	:	TeRito Peyroux-Semu
F:	Faith & Order	:	David Poultney
G:	Social Services	:	Hamish Jarvie and Jill Hawkey
H:	Mission & Ecumenical	:	Jackie McGeorge
I:	Communications/Organisations	:	Pauline McKay
J:	Social Issues	:	Arapera Ngaha

LEGAL COMMITTEE:

Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel, General Secretary, Members of the Law Revision Committee

DECISIONS OVERVIEW:

Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel, Members of the Law Revision Committee

GREETINGS:

- A. That greetings and good wishes of Conference be extended to the following:
- Supernumerary Ministers and Widows
 - To those Ministers/Deacons who attain their Ministerial Jubilees:

50 Years since first appointment

50 Years since ordination

Michael Greer

JOURNAL:

The checking of the Digital Journal shall be the responsibility of the Secretarial Staff.

HOURS OF SESSION AND AGENDA:

Are as printed in the Reports page 2 or as may be decided from time to time.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “A” Council of Conference

CONVENERS: Metuisela Tafuna and Ngaire Te Ahu

QUESTION 25: What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Council of Conference?
Report pp A1-11

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference acknowledges the service of retiring Council member Metuisela Tafuna and thanks him for his valuable contribution to the mahi of the group.
3. Council of Conference membership for 2027: Te Taha Māori: Ngaire Te Ahu (Co-convener), Alamaine McGregor, Faye Blossom, Maungarongo Tito, Te Wehenga Laird, Patria Tamaka, Laura Maruera, Iriana Rountree and Eriata Peri. (1 more to be confirmed at conference). Substitutes: Ada Brown, Shirley Rivers. Tauwi: Pauline McKay (Co-convener), Hiueni Nuku, Edwin Talakai, Freddy de Alwis, Toleafoa Tuimaunga, Michael Lemanu, David Poultney, Akanesi Havea, Myra Tautau. Substitutes: Mause Palu Lavulo; Kuli Fisi'iahi. (1 more TBC)
4. Council of Elders membership for 2027 is: Te Taha Māori: Te Otinga Rogers and Sarah Laird. Te Taha Tauwi: Margaret Birtles and Bob Franklyn.
5. Conference approves a formal review and refresh of the 2003 Vision Statement, with consultation across Te Taha Māori and Tauwi, and that any revised Vision be presented to Conference for discernment and approval.
6. Conference mandates the development of a Connexional education and formation framework to strengthen understanding of Vision, Mission, and bicultural commitments.
7. Conference approves that the governing regulations of the Council be amended to formally expand membership to include dedicated youth representation, as follows: Te Taha Māori will have 2 additional designated Rangatahi seats added to the existing 10 seats, bringing the total to 12; and Tauwi will have 2 additional designated Rangatahi seats added to the existing 10 seats, bringing the total to 12.
8. Conference initiates a review of the 4+4 Connexional Appointments process.

QUESTION 25(a): What is God saying to us now?

QUESTION 25(b): What more can be done to promote the work of God?

QUESTION 25(c): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Connexional Budget?
Report pp A12 - 14

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The membership of the Budget Task Group for 2027 is: President, Vice President (Chair) General Secretary, the Tumuaki of Te Taha Maori or their representative, Shirley Rivers, Maungarongo Tito, Hiueni Nuku, Naasona Teo and Una Tikoinaka.

QUESTION 25(d): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the PAC Distribution Group?
Report pp A18 – 22

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The PAC Distribution Group membership for 2027: Kelvin Aird, Talatoka Ducivaki, Alamaine McGregor, Claudia Koroheke, Sarah Laird and Sina-i-Faleū Pupulu, Lupeti Finau.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “B(i)” Te Taha Māori

CONVENOR: Maungarongo Tito & Arapera Ngaha

QUESTION 26(i) What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the tangata whenua, Te Taha Māori? *Report pp B(i) 1-5*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The Report is received.
2. We acknowledge and thank the Pou Whakarae and administration staff, Sharon Tito, and Rangimarie McDowell whose work helps make our operations run smoothly.
3. We acknowledge and thank our staff who have stepped up and supported the teaching at Trinity during the course of President Te Aroha Rountree’s term of office. Their commitment to serve in that capacity has been commendable.
4. The members of Hui Poari for 2027 will be: Tumuaki (to be confirmed by the President), Chair; Maungarongo Tito, EMT members; Keita Hotere, Hoana Flay, Te Aroha Rountree, plus Kaiwhakamaurea-tū (to be confirmed by the President), Rohe Delegates; Eva Pirini, Sarah Laird, Faye Blossom, Ngahina Ranui, Patria Tamaka-Pairama, He ngaru hōu; Te Otinga Rogers, Maree Rogers, Te Wehenga Laird.
5. Liaison Persons for 2027 are yet to be confirmed and will be appointed by the President’
6. Membership of Te Rūnanga Whakawhanaunga i ngā Hāhi o Aotearoa for 2027 will be Tara Tautari, Te Aroha Rountree and Maungarongo Tito.
7. Finally, we wish to acknowledge and thank Tumuaki, Rev Dr Arapera Ngaha for her dedication and unfailing service to Te Taha Māori and te Hāhi puta noa. We wish her well into the future.

QUESTION 26 (i) (a) What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Te Taha Māori Property Trust? *Report pp B(i) 6-8*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The Report is received.
2. We acknowledge and thank the Connexional Staff Jane Pinney, Peter Van Hout and Wendy Anderson who work so diligently on our behalf.
3. We also commend the staff in the Te Taha Māori Office, Sharon Tito, Rangimarie McDowell, Isaac Robinson, Pou Whakarae, Peter Baltus, and Jason Peters, National Property Co-Ordinator, for their work that makes our role much easier to carry.
4. We acknowledge the contribution of the Trustees of Te Taha Māori Property Trust whose governance, oversight and strategic guidance continue to ensure the responsible management of Trust assets for the benefit of present and future generations.
5. The Membership of the Te Taha Maori Property Trust for 2027 is Arapera Ngaha, Tara Tautari, Ngaire Te Ahu, Harry Tawhai and Akinihi Hotere.

QUESTION 26 (i) (b) What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments Trust? *Report pp B(i) 8-10*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The membership of the Board for 2027 is: Alamaine McGregor (co-Chair), John Willis (Treasurer), Kathryn and Kelvin Lane, Lute Taufalele-Vute, Neville Price, Patria Tamaka-Pairama, Rev Neti Petaia (co-Chair), Rev So’otaga Misikei, Shelly Rao (Secretary), and any others appointed by the President.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “B(ii)” Tauwiwi

CONVENERS: Dale Peach and Paulo Ieli

QUESTION 26(ii)(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Tauwiwi?

Report pp B(ii) 1-2

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report be received.
2. Conference approves a review of the Council of Elders to reflect on the original purpose when set up in 1986, and assess its current effectiveness, purpose and ongoing relevance, and requests that the General Secretary initiate this review, with recommendations to be reported to Annual Synods and Hui Pōari and Conference 2027.
3. Conference appoints Mause Lavulo and Kulimoe’anga Fisi’iahi as additional members of Tauwiwi to Council of Conference for 2027
4. Conference appoints Rev Tavake Manu to Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri Standing Committee for 2027.
5. Conference appoints Rev Bob Franklyn as a Tauwiwi Elder.
6. Tauwiwi Strategy and Stationing wish to acknowledge the leadership and contributions of President Te Aroha and Vice President Peter as they finish their term.
7. We also acknowledge members of Tauwiwi Strategy who have finished their involvement because they have had a change of position in the Church or are concluding their appointment – Rowan Smiley, Margaret Birtles, Kalolo Fihaki, Metuisela Tafuna, Bob Franklyn and Tau’ataina Tupou. Thank you for your wise contributions to all our deliberations. We look forward to Taina joining us again next year in his role as Vice President alongside President elect Rev Alisa Lasi.

QUESTION 26(ii)(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the New Zealand Methodist Women’s Fellowship?

Report pp B(ii) 3-4

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report is received.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “C” Law Revision

CONVENER: Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel

QUESTION 27(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Law Revision?

Report pp C1-4

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The Law Revision Committee for 2027 is: Dr Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel (Legal Advisor), Tara Tautari (General Secretary), Peter Williamson, Jan Tasker, Rowan Smiley, Tuluvao Claudia Futi, Tanya Asa Faiai, Suliana Mone, David Bush, Richard Small.
3. Law Revision Committee thanks and acknowledges the work of long-standing member Jill van de Geer for her service on the committee.
4. Conference affirms the Council of Conference as a valued body for shared discernment, governance and bicultural partnership.
5. Conference refers the Council of Conference review's questions on the Council's primary purpose, mandate, relationship to implementation and membership structure to Te Amorangi Ō Ki Mua, to be considered as part of its exploration of future partnership models.
6. Conference requests the Council of Conference to strengthen its reporting and communication, develop role descriptions, induction and succession planning, provide ongoing formation, and explore interim means of including rangatahi and emerging leaders, and to report on progress to Conference 2027.

QUESTION 27(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Presidential Rulings which have been made during the year?

Report pp C12

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference notes the Presidential Rulings for the current Connexional year as listed below:

Appointments:

Wesley College Trust Board: Te Aroha Rountree, Peter Norman, Tara Tautari, Sonia Pope, Nicola Grundy, Alisa Lasi, Taina Tupou, Te Rito Semu-Peyroux, Keita Hotere, and Maungarongo Tito

Sacramental Licenses:

Approvals:

- Letter of Confirmation for Tauivi Youth Rep Amelia Takataka Kaur to Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri Appointment – 17 January 2025

Other Presidential Rulings:

- Presidential Ruling – Takapuna Methodist Church – 21 April 2026
- Presidential Ruling – Trinity College Council – 29 May 2026
- Memorial – Auckland Synod

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “D” Administration Division

CONVENER: Nan Russell

QUESTION 28: What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Administration Division? *Report pp D1*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference thanks David Ayers and Rev Tovia Aumua for their faithful service and valued contribution as members of the Board of Administration.
3. Conference affirms the continued appointments to the Complaints Review Panel: Susan Thompson (Chair), Goll Manukia, Uesifili Unasa, Peter Williamson, Kathleen Tuai-Ta'ufo'ou, Mafua Lolohea, Ngaire Southon and Sharon Waaka.
4. Conference affirms the continued appointments to the Disciplinary Tribunal: Kate Davenport KC (Chair), Royden Hindle (Deputy Chair), Ian Boddy, Kathryn Walters, Tovia Aumua, David Poultney, Arapera Ngaha, Jeff Sanders, David Ayers, Carol Dale and Melenaita Taumoefolau.
5. That the members of the Board of Administration for 2027 be: Nan Russell (Chair), Ruby Manukia-Schaumkel, Dale Peach, Marama Hotere, Mataiva Robertson, Paul Wells, Arapera Ngaha and Tara Tautari (General Secretary).

Statistical Reporting – Waka Hourua

Report pp D2 -3

1. Receives the report.
2. Adopts the Waka Hourua Framework for Statistical and Narrative Reporting as the basis for Connexional reporting.
3. Establishes a Waka Hourua Implementation Group, appointed by the Board of Administration in consultation with Te Taha Māori and Tauīwi, to oversee implementation of the Framework..
4. Directs that current statistical reporting continue until the Implementation Group confirms the new processes are ready, and requests the Group to report to Conference 2027.
5. Affirms the Terms of Reference for the MCNZ Redress Scheme.

Stipends Committee

Report pp D15-16

1. The report is received.
2. The stipend for 2026-2027 for full-time stipendiary ministry as of 1 July 2026 is \$65,203.29.
3. That Standard Reimbursing Allowance increases to \$4,360.32 per year.
4. The Book and Resourcing Allowance increases to \$1,575.
5. Supervision Fees are increased to \$1,800 per annum.
6. The Travelling Allowances for reimbursement of Church related travel within Information Leaflet No. 25 be increased those provided by the Inland Revenue Department.
7. The annual study leave subsidy within Information Leaflet No. 7 is increased to \$350 per annum.

Methodist Connexional Property Committee & Insurance

Report pp D21-25

1. The report be received
2. Conference approves the discussion paper on Housing Support for Retiring Presbyters be circulated to Synods and Hui Poari for consideration and feedback, with recommendations to be brought to Conference 2027.
3. Conference adopts the Shared Mission and Property Strategy Process as the guiding framework for incorporating parishes of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa within existing parishes.
4. Conference encourages parishes already sharing spaces to participate in Parish the discernment processes.
5. Conference directs the Connexional Property Strategy Group to provide a progress report on strategy implementation to the Conference in 2027.

6. That the annual Removal Fund levy be increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per member parish, from 1 January 2027.

QUESTION 28(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Connexional Trusts? *Report pp D48*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 28(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Methodist Trust Association? *Report pp D48-56*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report be received
2. The 2027 Board of the Methodist Trust Association be: David Johnston (Chair), David Bush, David Curtis, David Taumoepeau, Jennie Moreton, Julie Adamson, Meleane Nacagilevu and Tara Tautari.

QUESTION 28(c): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the PACT 2086 Trust? *Report pp D56-58*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report be received.
2. The 2027 Board of PACT 2086 Trust be: David Johnston (Chair), David Bush, David Curtis, David Taumoepeau, Jennie Moreton, Julie Adamson, Meleane Nacagilevu and Tara Tautari.

QUESTION 28(d): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Robert Gibson Trust? *Report pp D58*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received
2. Conference approves the following disbursements

Manaia Hall	\$5,000
Synod Superintendents for Taranaki/Whanganui Youth Work	\$10,000
Tertiary Student Grants	\$150,000
Te Hapai o Ki Muri (Formerly Mission Resourcing)	\$15,000
Wesley College	\$100,000
General within the Scheme. (at Trust Board Discretion)	\$15,000
Manna Centre	\$40,000
3. The Robert Gibson Trust Board membership for 2027 is: Preston Bulfin, John Chittenden, Mark Hughson, John LeFleming, Steve Nicholas, Mataiva Robertson, Nerida Sullivan, Bill Yateman, The General Secretary (ex officio) and the Superintendent of the Lower North Island Synod or their nominee (ex officio).

QUESTION 28(e): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Statistics? *Report pp N1-3*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 28(f): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Wesley Historical Society? *Report pp D47-48*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received
2. Conference expresses its appreciation to retiring Secretary Rev Dr Lynne Wall and thanks

- her for many years contribution to the work of the Society.
3. Conference expresses its appreciation to retiring Executive Committee member Rev Brian Turner who has maintained contact with the Society from a Christchurch base and provided informed and focused feedback on the work of the Society.
 4. The executive committee for 2027 be as determined by the Annual General Meeting associated with Conference.

QUESTION 28(g): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Professional Development Grants Committee? *Report pp D*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. No report was received.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “E” Ministry

CONVENER: Trinity College: Shirley Rivers
Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri: TeRito Peyroux-Semu

QUESTION 29: What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Ministry Trinity College?
Report pp E1-12

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. That the service of the outgoing Council members be acknowledged.
3. That Trinity College Council members for 2026-2027 are: Rev Uesifili Unasa, Sonia Faulkner, TeRito Peyroux-Semu (Chair – Te Hāpai o Ki Muri), Ngahina Ranui, Christina Partridge, Rev Kuli Fisiahi, Dr Emily Colgan (Acting Principal).
 Resource People: Academic Registrar (Secretariat), Student Representative, Staff Representative.
4. That the Student Review Panel membership be extended to include two more members.

Appointment of a Lay Principal at Trinity Methodist Theological College

1. Receives the report.
2. Affirms that there is no theological barrier to a layperson being appointed as Principal of Trinity Methodist Theological College.
3. Directs the Law Revision Committee to amend Law Book Section 11(C), clause 8.1, to provide that the Principal shall be either a Presbyterian in Full Connexion or a suitably qualified lay member of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, and to prepare any consequential amendments.
4. Requires that, where the Principal is a layperson, the College staff team include an ordained minister with designated responsibility for the ministry formation of those preparing for ordination.
5. Directs Trinity College Council to make the appointment on the basis of the competencies required for the role, with clear accountability structures and careful attention to the College's cultural and denominational identity.
6. Directs that remuneration and employment matters, addressed in a separate paper, be resolved before any lay appointment is made.

Stipended Ministry and Employment of Presbyters

1. Asks the General Secretary, in consultation with Tauwi Strategy and Hui Poari, to convene a working group to further explore the theological, legal, financial, and practical implications of moving stipended presbyters to a formal employment relationship.
2. Directs the working group to consult with presbyters, Synods, and Hui Poari during 2026 and 2027.
3. Requests the working group to bring a full proposal, with recommended resolutions and any necessary Law Book changes, to Conference 2027 for decision.

QUESTION 29(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Wesley College Trust Board?
Report pp E12-16

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference acknowledges and thanks the previous Trust Board for their valued support and engagement with the Governance Review.
3. Conference affirms the work being undertaken to strengthen safeguarding, student wellbeing and Methodist Special Character.
4. Conference encourages continued collaboration between the Trust Board, Conference, College leadership and the wider Church in support of Wesley College's future as a strong Methodist educational institution.

Grafton Downs*Report pp E39 - 43*

1. The report is received.
2. Notes the continued progress of Paerata Rise, including the opening of Paerata Rail Station, progress on Woolworths and the town centre, and ongoing community and environmental initiatives.
3. Acknowledges the contribution of Paerata Rise toward Methodist Church social housing, Wesley College, climate justice and long-term community development.
4. Notes the Directors appointed by the Wesley College Trust Board, PACT 2086 Trust and Te Taha Māori Property Trust.

QUESTION 30: What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri
Report pp E17-31

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference records its appreciation of Joshua Robertson as a member of Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri and thanks him for his contribution to the committee.
3. Conference adopts the changes regarding membership of the Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri Standing Committee outlined in the Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri report to conference, page E40, and requests these changes be added to the Laws and Regulations.
4. Noting the support from all Synods of the pilot process for the appointment of Synod Superintendents in 2025 and 2026, Conference adopts the process as the church's appointment process for Synod Superintendents from 2027.
5. Conference approves the establishment a work group whose focus is to:
 - a. Monitor the emerging demographic trends in New Zealand and inform Synods of these urban developments.
 - b. Support Synods to strategize where pioneering expressions of church in developing residential areas can be established.
 - c. Foster collaboration between existing pioneering expressions of ministry in developing residential areas and share the emerging learnings from these ministries with the wider church.
6. Conference approves the establishment of a Ministry Advisory Group as set out in the Te Hapai O Ki Muri report to Conference page E40 to provide theological, strategic, and practical advice on ministry leadership, formation, development, and practice, and to assist the Church in responding to emerging ministry opportunities and challenges in ways that reflect its bicultural partnership.
7. Conference approve the revised Safeguarding Policy, including the amendments arising from the 2025 review process, and commend it to all Synods, parishes, agencies, and ministries for implementation.
8. Conference requests Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri to provide a progress report to Synods and Hui Pōari and Conference 2027 on:
 - Implementation of the revised Safeguarding Policy;
 - Safeguarding training and capability development;
 - Compliance and accountability measures;
 - Development of the Inclusion Policy; and
 - Emerging safeguarding priorities across the Church.
9. Conference support the formation of a Connexional Rangatahi Reference Group to provide rangatahi perspectives and guidance on matters affecting youth ministry, leadership development and participation across the Connexion.
10. Members of the Connexional Rangatahi Reference Group for 2027 will be: Kai Hapai Rangatahi – Luisa Fuimaono, Te Hapai O Ki Muri – Amelia Takataka-Kaur and Ngahina Ranui, Tauwi - Teukialupe Havea, Helen Tuilaepa, Misinale Ofa, and Jeremiah Biukoto and e Taha Māori -to be confirmed.
11. Membership of Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri for 2027 is: TeRito Peyroux-Semu (Chairperson), Kai Hāpai Nicola Teague Grundy (ex-Officio), Te Taha Māori: Keita Hotere, Hoana Flay, Shirley Rivers; Tauwi: Tavake Manu, Amos Muzondiwa, Dilys Davis; Rangatahi: Ngahina Ranui, Amelia Takataka-Kaur

Te Amorangi Ō Ki Mua Report to Conference

Suggested Decisions:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference endorses the continued exploration of models for the future, including the “two whare” model, as a faithful expression of bicultural partnership.

James & Martha Trounson Benevolent Trust

Report pp E32-33

Suggested Decisions:

1. The report is received.
2. Trustees for 2027: Paula Moala (Convenor), Sera Toduadua, Robyne Conway, Sylvia O’Leary and Dianne Sundburg.

QUESTION 30(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to The Churches Education Commission? *Report pp E33-36*

1. No report received.

QUESTION 30(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Interim Diaconate Task Group? *Report pp E26-28*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report is received
2. Conference approves the re-establishment of the Diaconate Task Group.
3. Conference requests Faith and Order to develop liturgical resources for the induction of Deacons within local communities, including resources that support the participation and recognition of this Diaconal ministry within Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.
4. Conference notes that Trinity College in consultation with Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri are developing a pilot training programme for Deacons to be implemented in 2027.
5. Conference requests the Diaconate Task Group to report to Synods and Hui Poari in July 2027 on the implementation and outcomes of the pilot programme.
6. The membership of the Diaconate Task Group for 2027 be: Keita Hotere, Julie-Ann Barney Katene, Margaret Birtles, Maikali Bulicakau, Falakesi Filiai, Falanesesi Hafoka, Katrina Hampton, Robyn Holt, Siniva Isaia, Eseta Lemanu, Ngahina Ranuia representative from Faith and Order, a representative from Trinity College.

QUESTION 30(c): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to The Methodist Lay Preacher’s Network? *Report pp E36-38*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report be received.
2. The Methodist Lay Preachers Network Convenors continue to be included in conversations with Te Hāpai ki te Muri and Trinity College and other groups within Te Hāhi around theological education.
3. The Methodist Lay Preachers Network Team be: Viv Whimster (Convenor), Seluvaia Pouono, Ngaire Southon, Evangeline Williams (Co-convenors).

QUESTION 30(d): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Tauīwi Youth? *Report pp*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

2. No report received.

QUESTION 30(e): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand? *Report pp E37-38*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report is received
2. Conference affirms the continuing value and contribution of Co-operating Ventures as significant expressions of ecumenical partnership, Christian witness, and local mission throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
3. Conference endorse the principle that any future arrangements arising from the UCANZ Commission's work should strengthen, rather than diminish, opportunities for local ecumenical collaboration.
4. Conference requests Te Hāpai Ō Ki Muri to act as the coordinating body for the Methodist Church in the transition to regional oversight, facilitating communication, consultation, and discernment across the Connexion, and providing regular updates on the progress of the Commission of Church Partners and its implications for Co-operating Ventures
5. Conference expresses its appreciation to the UCANZ Standing Committee, Methodist representatives serving within UCANZ, Rev Andrew Doubleday and Rev Andrew Howley for their faithful leadership, service, and commitment during this period of discernment and transition.

QUESTION 30(f)(i): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Tertiary Chaplaincy? *Report pp E44-45*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 30(f)(ii): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Aotearoa New Zealand Chaplaincy Association (ANZTCA)? *Report pp E45-46*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 30(f)(iii): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa? *Report pp E46-48*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

2. The report is received.

QUESTION 30(f)(iv): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Defence Force Chaplaincy? *Report pp E*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

No report in 2026.

QUESTION 30(f)(v): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Prison Chaplaincy? *Report pp E48-49*

SUGGESTED DECISION:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference appoints Sela Finau as the Methodist representative to Te Tira Tūhāhā – Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE "F" Faith & Order**CONVENER:** David Poultney**QUESTION 31:** What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Faith & Order?
*Report pp F1-2***SUGGESTED DECISIONS:**

1. The report is received.
2. Members of Faith & Order for 2027 will be David Poultney (convenor) Faiva Alaelua, Margaret Birtles, John Carr, Craig Fairhall, Faleatua Faleatua, Tony Franklin-Ross, Robyn Allen Goudge, Peter Lane, Foukimoana Sipu, Rowan Smiley and any such persons as nominated by the President.
3. Members of the Methodist team in the Methodist - Anglican Dialogue 2027 will be Tony Franklin-Ross (co - convenor) Kim Chiwoma, David Poultney.
4. Members of the Methodist team in the Methodist - Roman Catholic Dialogue 2027 will be David Poultney (co-convenor) Tony Franklin-Ross.
5. Members of the Liturgical Writing Group 2027 will be David Poultney (convenor) Mary Caygill, Darryn Hickling, John Carr, Te Aroha Rountree, Tara Tautari.
6. Conference acknowledges with thanks the service of Cathie Hoggard to Faith & Order and Trevor Hoggard both to Faith & Order and to the Methodist Roman Catholic Dialogue.
7. Conference acknowledges the legacy of Methodist involvement in ecumenical dialogue.
8. Conference while acknowledging there are challenges to ecumenical engagement encourages and supports its continuation in whatever forms seem appropriate at this time.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “G” Social Services

CONVENER: Jill Hawkey and Hamish Jarvie

QUESTION 32: What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Methodist Social Services: *Report pp G1-20*
 Methodist Alliance
 (a) Its life and work
 (b) Services provided by members
 (c) Collation of Conference report from members for approval by Conference
 (d) Recommendations regarding membership of boards, NZCCSS Methodist members, social justice and social advocacy.

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The reports are received.
2. Conference asks the Presidential team to write to the leadership of the newly formed government post the general election requesting:
 - changes in the abatement threshold regime for beneficiaries to incentivise work that meets their needs,
 - changes to our taxation system to better promote equity and fairness,
 - Increased investment in social and affordable housing.
3. Conference requests the Presidential Team to write to the leaders of all political parties requesting the repeal of the Gangs Act 2024, on the grounds that it represents a significant breach of the human rights of a group of New Zealand citizens and, as such, undermines the human rights of all.
4. Conference asks the President, Te Taha Māori, Kai Hāpai, Methodist Alliance to meet with the WMCEE trust to support their operations and alignment with Methodist bicultural approach.
5. Conference receives and affirms its support for the Constitution of the Hamilton Methodist Social Services Trust.
6. Conference thanks the Grafton Downs Board for the contribution of \$650,000.00 towards the Methodist Social Housing Fund.

The CMM Board for 2026-27:

Pam Sharpe (Chair), Martin Hadlee (Deputy Chair), David Caygill, Andrew Donaldson, Andrew Hercus, Losana Korovulavula, Jan Wright, Moana-o-Hinerangi, Graeme McGlenn

The Board of Wesley Community Action Board 2026-27:

Eugene Ryder (Co-Chair), Roger Blakely (Co-Chair), Hiueni Nuku, Patria Tamaka-Pairama, Murray Wu, David Hanna, Leah Haines, Simulata Pope, Kevin Jones

Methodist Mission Northern Board for 2026-27:

Ruth Bruce; Chair, Abhishek Solomon, Rev Arapera Ngaha Ph.D, Leon Wijohn, Ruanna Letalu, Sonia Pope, Pam Elgar (ex-officio) and another to be appointed by the President.

Methodist Mission Southern Board 2026-27:

Dean Delaney (Tiamana Chair), Carla Werder (Kaitiriwā Tiamana Deputy Chair), Dr Sebastian Gehricke (Tarahiiti Trustee), Prof Richard Greatbanks (Tarahiiti Trustee), Julie Pearce (Tarahiiti Trustee), Jamie Smith (Tarahiiti Trustee), Rev Adam Taylor (Tarahiiti Trustee), Moana Wesley (Kāi Tahu Tarahiiti Trustee), Dr Michelle Schaaf (Tarahiiti Trustee), and Laura Black (Kaihautū Director).

Sinoti Samoa Board members for 2026-27:

Tumema Mita'i (Convener – Interim), Taito Malavai Levao (Secretary), Ruanna Tagaloasa Letalu, Olive Amani Tanielu, Toleafoa Tuimauga, Feagaimalii Naasona Te'o

Tamahere Eventide Board Members 2026-27:

Emma Falconer (Chairperson), Shane Vanin (Deputy), Leeanne Wilson (Secretary), Paul Bennett, Peter Schaare, John Walsh, Jason Jack, Lesila Halauafu and Carole Fleming.

Hamilton Methodist Social Services Board 2026-27:

Faye Blossom (Te Taha Māori Representative/Chair), Rev. Paula Moala (Hamilton Methodist Parish), Rev. Asaeli Tulagi (Independent), Irena Wetere (Independent), Lisa Campbell (Independent)

SIAOLA Board 2026-27:

Reverend Kalolo Fihaki (Chair), Dr Suliana Mone (Vice Chair) , Secretary – (role to be confirmed by AGM in September) Meleane Nacagilevu (Treasurer) Tauataina Tupou (Vice President Elect), Reverend Edwin Talakai (ex Vice President), Reverend Hiueni Nuku, Dr Manatu Fia, Dr Edmond Fehoko, Sami Paea Fifita

Levin Uniting Church Parish Council / Board (elected August 2026):

Rev. Sandra Williams (Minister & Parish Chair), John Brown (Lay leader), Ruth Rushton (Lay leader)

Levin Uniting Parish Council:

Richard Brendon, Denny Waihi, Barrie Buck, Susanne Carroll, Sharron Brizzle, Peter Cameron, Sally Kerr

Palmerston North Methodist Social Services Board 2026-2027:

Pat Handcock, Tim Kendrew, Robin Scott, Margie Comrie, Sanusi Fasilat Aramide

Ministry with the Deaf Trustees:

Peter Grundy (Interim Chair), Kathy Hohepa (Treasurer), Glenn Schischka (deaf representative), Marilyn Welch and Sandra Gibbons.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “H” Mission & Ecumenical**CONVENER:** Jackie McGeorge**QUESTION 33(a):** What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Mission and Ecumenical Affairs?
*Report pp H1-2***SUGGESTED DECISIONS:**

1. The report is received.
2. Conference affirms ongoing relationships in partners in mission with the United church in Solomon Islands and the United Church in Papua New Guinea.
3. Conference affirms its commitment to foster unity, which includes its continued engagement in the Anglican/Methodist and Methodist/Roman Catholic bilateral dialogue, and through the National Dialogue for Christian Unity and Te Runanga Whakawhānau Nga Hahi O Aotearoa (Maori Council of Churches).
4. Conference reaffirms Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa (MCNZ) representatives to National Dialogue for Christian Unity (NDCU) shall be President, General Secretary, Rev Dr Susan Thompson, Rev Keita Hotere and Director MME.
5. Conference reaffirms its membership and participation in the World Council of Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia, the Pacific Council of Churches, Methodist Consultative Council of the Pacific, and the World Methodist Council.
6. Conference affirms Rev Dr Susan Thompson as a member of the Central Committee of WCC which is also a representation of the three WCC member churches from Aotearoa/New Zealand being Anglican Methodist and Presbyterian.
7. Conference reaffirms the role of MME as a stakeholder in the Religious Diversity Centre.
8. Conference affirms Rev Keita Hotere as a Programme Committee member of the Christian Conference of Asia.
9. Conference thanks Catherine Petaia for her work of looking after the MME finances.
10. MME membership for 2027 be Jackie McGeorge (Chair), Rev Ian Faulkner, TeRito Peyroux-Semu, Te Aroha Roundtree, Rev Abhirshek Soloman, President, Vice President, General Secretary, Rev Dr Susan Thompson WCC rep, Rev Keita Hotere CCA and NDCU rep, Marama Hotere WCC rep, and Rev Tony Franklin-Ross WCC rep.

QUESTION 33(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Christian World Service?
*Report pp H4-7***SUGGESTED DECISION:**

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 33(c): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to World Methodist Council?
*Refer Report pp H***SUGGESTED DECISIONS:**

1. No report received.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE "I" Communications and Organisations

CONVENER: Pauline McKay

QUESTION 34(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Communications Committee? *Report pp 11-6*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. That the report be received
2. Adoption of the media policy for inclusion in the Law Book
3. Communication Committee members for 2027 will be Pauline McKay (Convenor) John Carr, Peter Norman, Barbara Peddie, Michael Lemanu, Lavoni Manuka, Moerah Feaunati and Naomi Taserenavanua and Te Taha Māori representative as appointed by the President on advice from Te Taha Māori.

QUESTION 34(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Media & Communications Fund? *Report pp 16-7*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. We encourage Conference to explore how the Prince Albert College Trust can enable more funds to be available to assist congregations and Rohe in the Media & Communications projects.
3. The Committee Membership for 2027: Convenor -Trish Moseley Taylor, Robyn Allen Goudge, TeRito Peyroux Semu, Gillian Laird, Peter Norman.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE “J” Social Issues

CONVENER: Arapera Ngaha

QUESTION 35(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Public Issues Network? *Report pp J1-6*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. Membership of the Public Issues Network Coordinating Group for 2027 is: Tara Tautari, Mataiva Robertson, Hoana Flay, Arapera Ngaha, Soana Muimuiheata, and George Zachariah.
3. Membership of the Climate Justice Working Group for 2027 is: Co-Convenors– ‘Elisapesi Havea and Iriana Rountree, Siutaisa Tukutau, Siniva Isaiah, Gillian Laird, Alilia Molitika, Lupe Havea and Peter Lane.
4. Membership of the Anti-Racism Working Group for 2027 is: Hoana Flay, George Zachariah, Simon Williams, Ada Brown, Sateki Lolohea, Dorothy Lolohea, Alamaine McGregor, Laura Maruera, Metuisela Tafuna, Joohong Kim, Kim Chiwona, Lopiseni Fungalei, Sootaga P-Misikei
5. Membership of the Disability Inclusion Reference Group for 2027 is: Rhonda Swenson, Hoana Flay, Tau Lasi, Suega Tanielu, Williame Toduadua. Resource People: Tara Tautari, Sonia Pope.
6. Conference thanks George Zachariah, Rev Joeli Ducivaki, and Rev Mark Gibson as they conclude their service on the Climate Justice Working Group. Each has given generously of their time, wisdom, and commitment to climate justice, and to the decade *Rekindle the Vā of Papatūānuku*.
7. Conference supports the endorsement of the critical document *Kairos Palestine II: A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide* and encourages both individual and collective study of it in 2027 within parish, synod and rohe groups.
8. Conference requests that the Anti-Racism resource kit be shared with every parish and synod as soon as it is released, with a simple way to track how widely it is used.

QUESTION 35(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Interchurch Bioethics Council? *Report pp J7-9*

SUGGESTED DECISIONS:

The purpose of the ICBC is to be an ethical resource for our member Churches and wider Christian community. As such we welcome opportunities to engage in discussion and provide resources. Our recommendations are:

1. The report is received.
2. We continue to encourage member churches to take all practical steps possible to reduce ecological impacts due to climate change (as found on the EcoChurch Aotearoa website), and to be active in helping community adaptation (as discussed in the ICBC ‘Churches and Climate Adaptations’ resource on our website).
3. We encourage our church communities to question party candidates and be fully informed in preparation for the government elections by using the ICBC starter questions resource.

The Council thanks the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia; Methodist Church New Zealand, Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa; and the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand for their continued support of the ICBC.