



CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

Hui Tōpu/Methodist Conference 2026

Tāmaki Makaurau/ Auckland

Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

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WELCOME TO CONFERENCE 2026

WHERE WE GATHER

Wesley College: A Historical Overview

Wesley College is one of New Zealand's oldest schools and has been serving students for more than 180 years. Its origins date back to 1844, when land was granted to Reverend Walter Lawry, Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission in New Zealand, for the establishment of a Wesleyan Native Institution. From its earliest beginnings, the College was founded by the Methodist Church with a vision of providing education, leadership development and Christian formation, particularly for Māori communities. In 1924, the College moved to its present site at Paerata. Girls were first admitted at senior level in 1985, and in 2016 Wesley became fully co-educational, welcoming girls across all year levels.

Over the decades, Wesley College has grown into a unique educational community with a strong commitment to faith, service and learning. The College has remained closely connected to the Methodist Church of New Zealand, which continues to be the Proprietor and guardian of its Special Character. Methodist values such as compassion, justice, respect for others, generosity and service to the wider community continue to shape the life of the College today.

The College has played an important role in the development of many generations of young New Zealanders, including significant Māori leaders, educators, church leaders, sportspeople and community servants. Throughout its history, Wesley College has sought to educate the whole person, nurturing academic achievement alongside character, spiritual growth, leadership and a commitment to serving others.

As a State Integrated school, Wesley College remains grounded in its Christian and Methodist heritage while embracing the opportunities and challenges of contemporary education. Guided by its faith, bicultural commitment and enduring sense of mission, the College continues to prepare young people for lives of leadership, service and purpose. The vision that shaped its founding in 1844 continues to inspire the College as it looks to the future.

PŌWHIRI: WELCOME TO CONFERENCE

The pōwhiri (welcome) to Conference will be held at Wesley College, 801 Paerata Road, Paerata, Auckland, at 10:00am on Saturday 3 October 2026.

The pōwhiri is a formal process through which we recognise and acknowledge the coming together of two peoples: those of the place of gathering, and those arriving from elsewhere. It provides a means by which we may collectively mourn our dead, honour one another, and celebrate and share in a spirit of community and family. We have adapted this process to reflect the bicultural character of our church and our deeply held commitment to social justice as we begin our Methodist Conference each year. It belongs to us all.

Members of conference, manuhiri (guests), will wait outside of the Rec centre where the karanga (welcoming call) will be the signal to advance into the Rec centre.

Te Taha Māori, the Presidential team and families of the deceased will lead members of conference into the Rec centre.

The speakers for the manuhiri will take the front row of seats, the families of the deceased will take up the next few rows and all other conference members will enter and take up seats throughout the Rec centre.

Speeches of greetings and acknowledgements will then commence.

The Induction Service for the incoming President and Vice President will begin at 2:00pm.

Please note photography is not permitted during the pōwhiri or other Conference services, except by the official photographer. Mobile phones should be switched off.

Conference Theme

Maranga! Tula'i Tu'u Hake, Tucake, Arise – Be the Light of Christ to All

Our presidential /conference theme brings us together as the church in Aotearoa NZ, before sharing the Love of God with others.

Two hundred years plus, after the arrival of the gospel, we gather, as the Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, living life as transformed people, because of this good news. We relook at who we are and what/who we represent as The Methodist Church of New Zealand today.

As Methodists in Aotearoa, migrants from around the world, we stand in solidarity with Jesus Christ alongside tangata whenua, the people of the land. Our commitment to and faith in the living God brings us together for Conference 2026.

These indigenous kupu (words) for Arise, accentuate our differences, that we are truly different and from different backgrounds. These kupu represent Taha Maori & the ethnic synods within our Hahi (church).

We are spiritually stronger when united. All groups, brings God-given gifts and strengths, as well as weaknesses. Together, we sharpen, encourage, and support one another with grace, enabling us to stand and arise stronger—just as iron sharpens iron.

The world today, is in need of the divineJesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith. Christ is our common Saviour, Is he not?

We can live and share that Life & be His aroha to all we meet, albeit our family, those on the street, community groups, & churches.

Christ is the Light that brings hope, compassion, justice, discernment and peace on earth. We are blessed to know this truth and to live this truth.

Aligned with our theme, a hymn has kindly been composed by Rev Suiva'aia Te'o, which can be sung in your own contexts. We share that here. Please sing it with gusto and meaning as Methodists always sing.

May Conference 2026, empower each one of us as the “Body of Christ” as we glorify his name here in Aotearoa and Beyond.

Maranga! Tula'i Tu'u Hake, Tucake, Arise – Be the Light of Christ to All
Presidential Team 2026

Hymn ARISE - Be the Light of Christ to All

ARISE - Be the Light of Christ to All

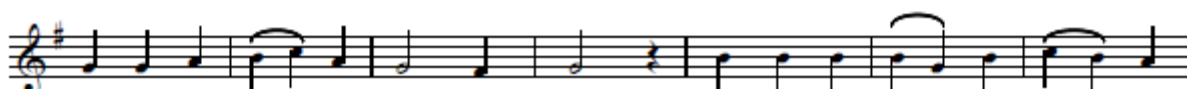
Lyrics Suiva'aia Te'o. Tune Blauenwern (adapted)



1) A - rise Ao - te - a ro - a, a - wa - ken, As night is fad - ing
2) Tu - la'i, young pro - phets, dream - God's fu - ture, Rise - up, Ra - nga-
3) Tu'u - ha - ke as co - ven - ant peo - ple Where jus - tice, truth, and
4) Mo Tu - ca - ke with all Christ em - bra - ces, Whose gifts the world has



in - to dawn; The Light e - ter - nal now has bro - ken,
- ta hi with grace; The Spi - rit breathes through all ge - ne - ra - tions,
a ro - ha meet; Through Te Ti - ri - ti still God calls us
ov - er - looked; The weak made strong, the hurt up - lift - ed,



The ris - en Lamb of God has come. From eve - ry tribe and tongue u -
Call - ing each i - wi to their place. Let sons and daugh - ters speak with
To walk to - geth - er at Christ's feet. Let Mao - ri voi - ces lead with
The last and least are first in God. For eve - ry per - son bears God's



- ni - ted, By grace and Spi - rit we are called, To bear the fire of
bold - ness, May eld - ers bless with wis - dom's flame; To - geth - er shaped for
cou - rage, May all who jour - ney here be - long; For eve - ry cul - ture
im - age, And eve - ry life is sac - red ground; The Bo - dy joined in

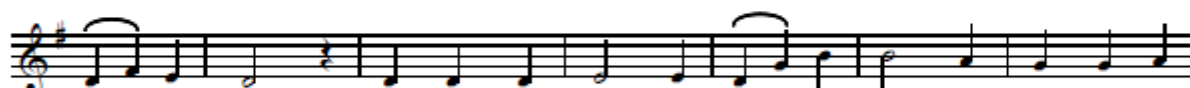


God's own king - dom, And be the love of Christ to all.
sac - red miss - ion, Our nat - ion pro claim - ing Je - sus' name.
is a trea - sure With - in God's vast re - deem - ing song.
love and hon - our, Where all are seen and all are found.

Words © 2026 Suiva'aia Te'o in honour of the first Pasifika Presidential Team.
This setting by Suiva'aia Te'o and Vivien Chiu 2026.



5) Ma-ra - nga Ake all, filled - with Spi - rit, As flames of Pen - te-
 6) A-rise, though sha - dows still - sur - round us, Though fear and suff - er-
 7) Ma-ra - nga Ake, till all God's cre - a - tion is filled with hea - ven's



- cost des - cend; The Word made flesh now sends us for - ward, To heal, pro-
 - ing re - main; For Christ goes ev - er on be - fore us, And death it-
 ho - ly flame; Till - each i - wi stands re - joic - ing And eve - ry



- claim, re - store, de - fend. Through Mao - ri, and Pa - si fi - ka voi - ces,
 - self has lost its reign. The Cross now shines with re - sur - rec - tion,
 voice ex - alts Christ's name. Then God shall be our light for - ev - er,



And eve - ry lang - uage, land, and race, The gos - pel speaks with
 The em - pty tomb pro - claims God's reign; So lift your hearts and
 And tears and sor row will pass a - way; Aotea-roa a - rise, and



liv - ing po - wer, De - clar - ing hope and sav - ing grace.
 sing with cou - rage: The Light of Christ shall ev - er reign.
 bear Christ's bright - ness, Un - til God's ev - er - last - ing day.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Introduction to Conference

For those new to Conference, an Introduction to Conference session will be held in the Rec centre to explain how Conference operates.

This session enables attendees to understand how the various components of Conference function. Feedback from previous participants indicates that this preparation enabled them to gain considerably more from Conference than would otherwise have been possible.

Code of Conduct for the Methodist Church of New Zealand Annual Conference

The Methodist Church of New Zealand is committed to ensuring that all participants in the Annual Conference experience a welcoming, respectful, and safe environment. This Code of Conduct outlines the expected behaviour of all attendees to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all. By adhering to these guidelines, we reflect our Christian values of love, respect, and justice for all.

1. Respect for All People

- All attendees are expected to treat others with dignity, respect, and kindness, regardless of race, gender, age, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation, or religious belief.
- Harassment, discrimination, or bullying in any form will not be tolerated. This includes verbal, physical, or online harassment.

2. Commitment to Inclusivity

- We strive to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected. Conference attendees should be mindful of the diverse backgrounds and experiences represented, ensuring that all voices are heard and honoured.
- Bicultural partnership in line with Te Tiriti o Waitangi must be respected, with Māori and Tauīwi perspectives both acknowledged and upheld.

3. Safe Conduct

- All participants are expected to maintain a standard of conduct that ensures the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of others.
- Aggressive behaviour, intimidation, or the use of abusive language is not acceptable.
- Conference activities, whether formal or informal, should take place in environments that promote a sense of safety and comfort for all.

4. Alcohol and Substance Use

- The Annual Conference is a place of fellowship and Christian witness. The use of alcohol or illicit substances during the conference is not permitted.
- Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all.

5. Safeguarding Vulnerable People

- All participants must adhere to the safeguarding policies of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. This includes ensuring the protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
- Any concerns or suspicions of abuse, neglect, or harmful behaviour must be immediately reported to the designated safeguarding officer at the conference (Safeguarding Director – Sonia Pope).

6. Confidentiality

- Attendees must respect the confidentiality of sensitive discussions, particularly those relating to pastoral care or personal information.
- Information shared in a private or sensitive context should not be disclosed without permission.

7. Handling Disputes

- Disputes or conflicts should be addressed in a spirit of reconciliation.
- If a conflict arises, attendees are encouraged to seek mediation or assistance from conference leaders or chaplains to resolve matters respectfully and constructively.

8. Environmental Responsibility

- We are committed to care for God's creation. Attendees are encouraged to reduce waste, use sustainable resources, and minimise their environmental footprint during the conference.
- Respect for the environment also includes adhering to venue rules and maintaining cleanliness in all areas used.

9. Compliance with the Law

- All participants must comply with the laws of Aotearoa New Zealand, including health and safety regulations, public health measures, and any venue-specific policies.

10. Digital and Social Media Etiquette

- When using digital platforms or social media related to the conference, attendees should maintain respectful and positive communication.
- Social media posts should not defame or harm the reputation of any individual or the Church.

11. Consequences of Breaching the Code

- Breaches of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the conference, depending on the severity of the behaviour.

- All attendees are encouraged to report any behaviour that violates this Code of Conduct to the General Secretary or designated pastoral care leaders.

This Code of Conduct reflects our shared commitment to living out the values of the Methodist Church. By fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment, we honour our call to be in full connexion with one another as followers of Christ.

Registration

Your name tag and conference bag will be available for collection at the Registration Desk in the Gymnasium, Wesley College, 801 Paerata Road, Paerata, Auckland 2676, at the following time:

Monday 5 October 2026, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Conference Arrangements Committee

The Arrangements Committee welcomes you to Conference 2026. We hope that your stay in Auckland will be enjoyable. We have worked hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly but if something is not right or you require details, please contact the **Information/Help desk**.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

Our thanks to:

- Organists
- Conference Chaplains, Rev Suiva'aia Te'o and Rev 'Etuini Talakai
- The staff from the Connexional Office.
- The Conference Arrangements Committee.
- Vahefonua Tonga o Aotearoa Synod who will host the hākari on Saturday evening.
- The many who have volunteered to assist conference during the whole period.
- The tech team.
- Pastoral Team: Maungarongo Tito, Rev Dr Mary Caygill and Rev Lopiseni Fungalei.

We give our sincere thanks to all the people we have noted as well as all the others who have contributed in any way to the arrangements of conference.

Meals

All meals will be served in the dining hall at Wesley College excluding morning/afternoon teas which will be served in the foyer of the Rec Centre. Nametags should be worn for all meals, as they indicate your entitlement to a meal.

Information/Help Desk

This will be staffed throughout Conference commencing on Friday morning.

The President & Vice President

Those who would like to see Rev Alisa Lasi or Tau'ataina Tupou during Conference should arrange this with the Chaplains, Rev Suiva'aia Te'o and Rev 'Etuini Talakai.

First Aid

If you require immediate first aid assistance or treatment please see the Information/Help Desk volunteers.

Medical Centre:

Pukekohe Family Doctors (GP)

12 Glasgow Road, Pukekohe, Auckland

Phone: (09) 238 6696

Pukekohe Family Health Care

10 West Street, Pukekohe 2120

Phone: (09) 237 0280

Pharmacy

Unichem Pukekohe Pharmacy – 16 West Street, Pukekohe.

Fire and Emergency Wardens

In the event of a fire or other crisis, the main aim is to reliably clear the buildings as soon as possible and to verify that this has been done.

The evacuation is signalled by a prolonged bell

Assembly Area

On the flat area of the rugby field (see evacuation map)

Block Warden

- the Block Wardens (or nearest person to the fire) will ring a fire alarm if a fire is discovered
- ensure that their block is completely clear of staff and students (see Block Warden list below)
- lock block exit doors
- move to the assembly area
- report to the Area Warden confirming block is clear
- notify Area Warden if there is a person with physical disabilities that has been moved to an area of safety for the fire brigade to evacuate on arrival
- Chief Warden (Principal)
- The Chief Warden will
- ensure the fire service has been notified per 111 call
- await block clear reports from Area Warden
- report to the fire service upon their arrival
- Caretaker
- check all gates are unlocked and open
- report to Principal at the TOD room
- assist Principal with any communications necessary, e.g. with police, fire, ambulance

General

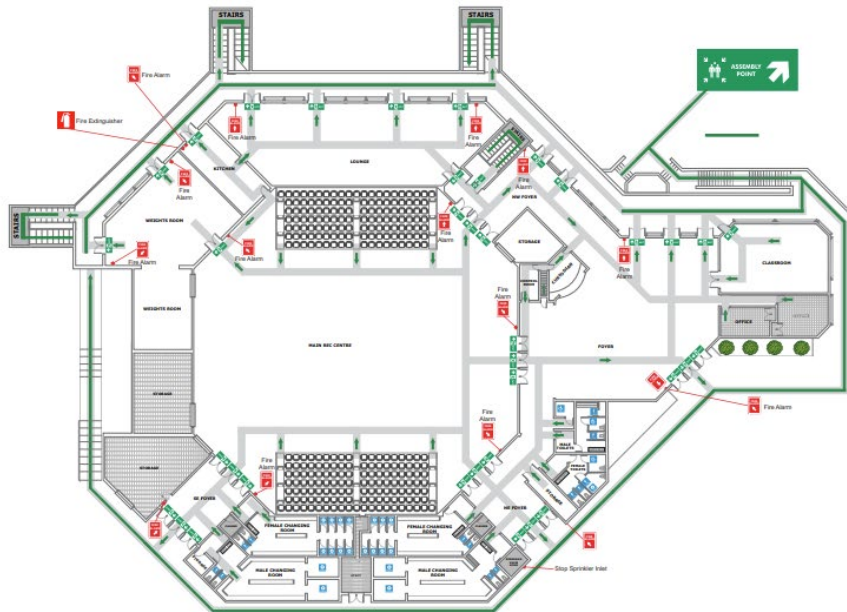
No one is to leave the assembly area until all clear has been give

A Reminder

Smoking is not permitted in any of the complexes used for Conference.

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

Rec Centre | Upper / Entry Level Showing Evacuation Paths



IN CASE OF FIRE

- 1. REPORT**
 Fire Alarm
 Call the Fire Services
111 Fire Service Number
- 2. EXTINGUISH** - if it is safe to do so
 Extinguisher
- 3. EVACUATE**
 Follow the Emergency Evacuation Routes to the Fire Exits
- 4. ASSEMBLE**
 Proceed to your Assembly Point

ASSEMBLY POINT

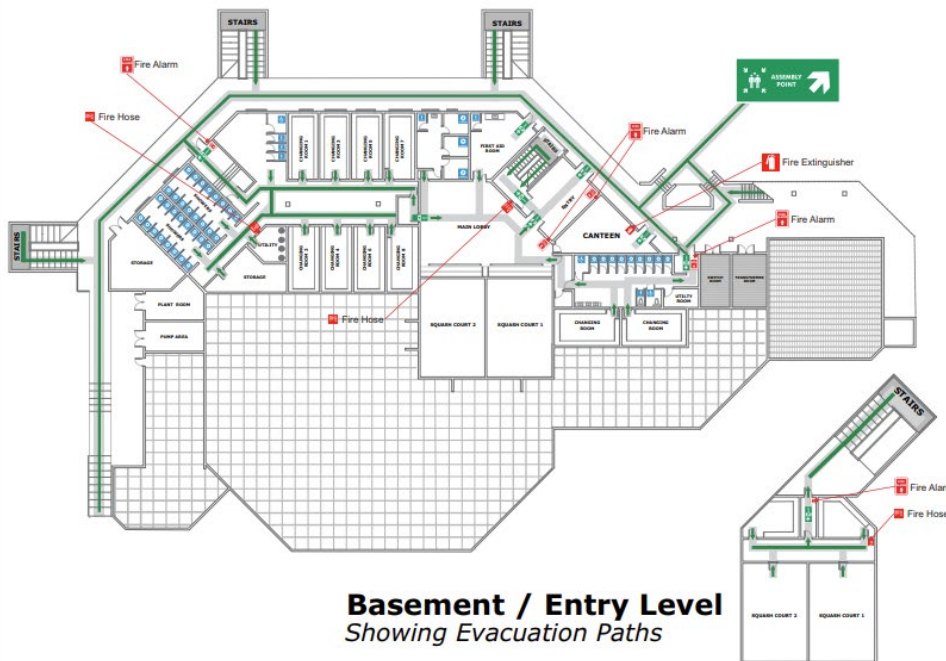
YOUR ASSEMBLY POINT IS LOCATED AT:
SPORTS FIELD

FOR YOUR SAFETY

DO NOT stop to collect personal belongings.
 DO NOT re-enter the building unless told it is safe to do so.

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

Rec Centre | Lower / Entry Level Showing Evacuation Paths



IN CASE OF FIRE

- 1. REPORT**
 Fire Alarm
 Call the Fire Services
111 Fire Service Number
- 2. EXTINGUISH** - if it is safe to do so
 Extinguisher
- 3. EVACUATE**
 Follow the Emergency Evacuation Routes to the Fire Exits
- 4. ASSEMBLE**
 Proceed to your Assembly Point

ASSEMBLY POINT

YOUR ASSEMBLY POINT IS LOCATED AT:
SPORTS FIELD

FOR YOUR SAFETY

DO NOT stop to collect personal belongings.
 DO NOT re-enter the building unless told it is safe to do so.

Basement / Entry Level
 Showing Evacuation Paths

