



COVENANT SERVICE

Hui Tōpu/Methodist Conference 2025

Online/Ōtepoti, Dunedin

Covenant Service 2025

Theme:	God's Aroha – A Call to Sacred Transformation
President:	Te Aroha Rountree
Vice-President:	Rev Peter Norman
General Secretary:	Rev Tara Tautari
Tumuaki:	Rev Dr Arapera Ngaha
Kai Hāpai:	Rev Nicola Grundy
Chaplains:	Maungarongo Tito Rev Dr Mary Caygill

Call to Worship

President: Whakapaingia te Atua e whakamine nei i a tātou.
(*Blessed be God who calls us together.*)

Katoa: **Whakamoemititia te Atua kua kōtahi nei tātou.**
(*Praise to God who makes us one people.*)

Himene: ***“It is well with my soul”***

A pei se vaitafe le fifilemu
Pe lutia nei i le sou
I le olaga nei, ou te molimau pea
E lelei. E lelei le Alii.

Chorus: *E lelei. E lelei. E lelei.*
E lelei. E lelei. E lelei le Alii.

A tau mai Satani i lona sauā
Ou te le to'ilalo iai
Ou te pi'imau pea ia Iesu le Alii
O ia ou te malosī ai.

Chorus: *E lelei...*

O lona satauro ma lona maliu
E maua ai le ola tumau
Le toto na tafe i lona itu
E ola ai e fa'avavau.

Chorus: *E lelei...*

E fia foa'i le olaga nei
Ma lona malosī lelei
Ia fai ma taulaga ia viia ai
Le Alii alofa lenei.

Chorus: *E lelei*

Reflection

President and Vice President reflect on our time at Conference.

President: We have gathered once more to be with one another as the people called Methodist, to talanoa, kia whai whakaaro, to worship together, and to make meaningful and informed decisions as a Conference

Vice President: We have affirmed our belonging in the tradition of the pōwhiri, we have remembered those who have died since the last Conference, and we have celebrated those who have exercised faithful service and ministry

President: We have been in wānanga, we have discussed and debated our commitment to *Whakapapa & Faith – Past, Present and Future*.

Vice President: We have been in wānanga, we have discussed and debated our commitment to *He Tangata, he tangata, he tangata - Relational Transformation*.

President: We have been in wānanga, we have discussed and debated our commitment to *Ecological Transformation*

Vice President: We have broken bread together, we have shared laughter, sadness, joy and sometimes pain, and we remain faithful to the presence of God's aroha

President: We have been in Connexion with one another, and we have been challenged and motivated to know God's aroha and hearing the call to sacred transformation

Prayers for those in Ministry

- President:** We as Weteriana, Methodists in Aotearoa, celebrate the many seasons that have brought change and transformation
- Katoa:** **He taima anō kua takoto mō ngā mea katoa, me te wā mō ngā meatanga katoa i raro i te rangi**
(For everything there is a season, and a time for matter under heaven – Ecclesiastes 3:1)
- Vice President:** We celebrate the many expressions of the living Gospel shared by those in dedicated and faithful ministry
- Katoa:** **Ka rerekē nei ngā mea i homai ki a tātou, he mea e rite ana ki te aroha noa i homai ki a tātou**
(We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us Romans 12: 6)
- President:** We give thanks for the ministry of Deacons, Presbyters, and Lay Leaders, of Kaikarackia, Minita ā Iwi and Minita i Tōhia
- Katoa:** **Calling us to be agents of sacred transformation**
- Vice President:** We give thanks for those working within our educational institutions of Wesley College and Trinity Methodist Theological College
- Katoa:** **Encouraging us to be open, in mind and heart**

- President:** We give thanks for the ministry of musicians, choir leaders and all those who reflect our Methodist tradition of song
- Katoa:** **Revealing to us the beauty of worship in music and song**
- Vice President:** We give thanks for the ministry of Rangatahi/Young people who bring creativity and passion to church and community
- Katoa:** **Showing us the wisdom and grace of the future**
- President:** We are thankful for the ministry of the Missions, the Connexional Office, the Property, Finance and Legal leaders, and the General Secretary
- Katoa:** **Supporting us to responsible and sustainable practice**
- Vice President:** We are thankful for the ministry of those who serve in quiet reverence, as stewards and communion servers, as cooks and parking wardens, as florists and cleaners, and many others unnamed
- Katoa:** **Diligently serving the needs of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.**

Prayers of Praise and Confession

Chaplains:

We praise the God of all ages who created heaven and earth and humanity in God's image.

We confess we have thought ourselves as superior to creation and not a part of it.
We have abused and plundered the earth for personal gain.

We praise the God who has forever wanted to be in relationship with humanity, establishing an eternal covenant.

We confess we have ignored that covenant, withdrawing from relationship for fear of God's anger.

We thank God for the coming together of our peoples through, He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirenī (Declaration of Independence 1835), an encounter of beginnings.

We thank God that our forebears chose to work together in the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi 1840), a covenant for this land of Aotearoa.

We confess with shame the many breaches in that covenant and our part in the pain which followed.

We thank God that God's voice still calls us forward, still honours the covenant, and renews us in our commitment to each other and to the work of Christ on earth.

Through God's mercy we are forgiven, renewed, and share in the servant ministry of Christ.

Himene:

“Great and Deep the Spirit’s purpose”

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
hidden now in mystery;
Nature bursts with joyful promise,
ripe with what is yet to be.
In a wealth of rich invention,
still the work of art unfolds -
barely have we seen, and faintly,
what God's great salvation holds.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
making Jesus seen and heard.
Every age of God's creation
grasps new meanings from the Word.
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us
your new work begun today;
eyes and ears and hearts are open,
teach us what to do and say.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
all God's children brought to birth,
freed from hunger, fear and evil
every corner of the earth.
And a million million voices
speak with joy the Saviour's name;
every face reflects his image,
never any two the same.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
nothing shall be left to chance.
All that lives will be united
in the everlasting dance.
All fulfilled and all perfected,
each uniquely loved and known,
Christ in glory unimagined
once for all receives his own.

Marnie Barrell (1988)

First Reading: Acts 2: 42-47
(*Tumuaki*)

Second Reading: John 13: 34
(*Kai Hāpai*)

Response to the Word

General Secretary: (Conference Question 25):

- (a) What is God saying to us now?
- (b) What more can be done to promote the work of God?

The Conference affirms its work and pledges itself to action.

General Secretary: This is our commitment,
to live out our shared purpose.

Katoa: **May the Spirit of Life grant us wisdom
and courage to fulfil it.**

General Secretary: This digital Conference record holds the
reflections and decisions we have
embraced together during Conference.

President: In place of signing, we acknowledge this
record in the spirit of our Methodist
tradition, affirming our shared commitment
to compassionate action and faithful
witness as Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

Vice President: We honour God when we honour the
sacred connections with each other and

Creation, we pledge to be faithful kaitiaki
(guardians) and to live out God's will

Katoa:

**We as the people called Methodists,
In this land of Aotearoa New Zealand
Proclaim and renew our covenantal
relationships**

Himene:

"Loving Spirit"

#HW8846.40

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be –
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me

Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be --
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Shirley Murray (1987)

Renewing the Covenant

President: As we prepare to close this Conference, we gather, as generations before us have done, to renew the covenant that bound them, and which now binds us to each other and to the Source of Life.

Congregation stands

Vice President: Let us claim this covenant for ourselves and take again the call of Christ upon us. To take this call upon us means we are willing for Christ to guide us in our place and work, and for Christ's love to be our reward.

Katoa: He maha ngā mahi a te Karaiti;
he māmā ētahi, he uaua ētahi atu;
e whakahōnoretia ētahi, e raruraru ana ētahi
atu; he pai ētahi ki tō te whakaaro me te
wairua māori i te ao kikokiko nei,
he rerekē ētahi atu whakaaro; ka aru ai
mātou i te Karaiti, ā, i ō mātou ake whakaaro;
e kore e taea e mātou te piri ki te Karaiti,
hāunga ki te whakakāhore mātou i a mātou
anō.
Nā te Karaiti te kaha i tukua ai ki a mātou,
māna anō mātou e whakakaha ai.

*(Christ has many services to be done;
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring reproach;
some are suited to our natural inclinations
and material interests, others challenge us;*

in some, we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others, we cannot please Christ without denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.)

Vice-President: Loving and Holy Presence, with joy we take upon ourselves this call of service, and in love, commit ourselves to seek and live your will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

Katoa: **Ehara ahau i a au anō, engari nāu.
Tukua ahau ki tāu e pai ai;
tātaritia ahau ki tāu e pai ai;
mahia ahau ki tāu e pai ai;
tukua ahau kia pā ai te mamae;
māku mōu e mahi, ā, e kore anō rānei;
ka whakahōnoretia mōu, ka whakahekea
rānei.
Whakakīia ahau e tō wairua, ā, e kore rānei;
tukua mai ngā mea katoa, me noho kore rawa
rānei; ka whakapau kaha ahau ki te tuku i
ngā mea katoa ki tāu e pai ai.
Nā reira, e te Atua korōria nui, Matua, Tama
me te Wairua Tapu, nāku koe, nāu ahau hoki.
Waihoki, ko te kawenata i hangaia nei i runga
i te whenua, kei te pērā tonu i te rangi.
Āmine.**

*(I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will;
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing; put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you;
exalted for you or brought low for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty;
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, glorious Source of all,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it, and the covenant now made on Earth,
let it be sealed in Heaven. Amen.)*

Congregation sits

Ministry of the Sacrament

President: We, many as we are, are one body in Christ.
If we do not love those around us whom we can
see, how can we love the Divine whom we have
not seen?

President: The peace of God be with you.
Katoa: **And may God's peace be with you.**

Congregation stands

The Communion

Vice President: The Divine presence is here.
Katoa: **God's Spirit is with us.**

Vice President: Lift up your hearts.
Katoa: **We lift them to the Source of all life.**

Vice President: Let us give thanks to the Creator.
Katoa: **It is our joy to give thanks and praise.**

Vice President: It is our joy to praise you, Creator of all things,
who called us into a covenant relationship with

creation and with you, grounded in love and compassion.

Vice President: At the right time, you revealed yourself in Jesus, who in humility and sacrifice, embodied your healing grace. With gratitude, we remember that through the cross and resurrection, a new covenant was offered to all peoples, and the vision of your renewed creation made known to all the earth.

Katoa: **Tapu, tapu, he tapu te Ariki,
Te Atua o te mana me te kaha.
Kī tonu te rangi me te whenua i tōu korōria.
Ohana i runga rawa.**

(Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.)

Vice President: On the night before he gave his life, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Katoa: **“Tangohia, kainga, ko tōku tinana tēnei ka
hoatu nei mō koutou. Meinga tēnei hei
whakamahara ki ahau.”**
("Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.")

Vice President: After supper, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks, and offered it to them, saying:

Katoa: **“Inumia tēnei, ko ōku toto o te Kawenata hou
i whakahekea mōu, mō te katoa, hei murunga
hara.”**
("Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the

new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.")

Katoa: **Glory to you, Christ:
Your death we proclaim;
Your resurrection we celebrate;
Your coming we await. Amen.**

Congregation sits

Vice President: We rejoice that your Spirit has accompanied us on our journey of two hundred years in Aotearoa.
We celebrate that you call us forward into a future of renewal and hope.
As a covenant people, may we embody your vision of being a community of hope, offering our common life as servants for you.

Vice President: Come, Spirit of Life,
bless these gifts of bread and wine.
Through them and through your eternal love,
transform us to live lives of service
within Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa and in the wider world.

Katoa: **We offer our prayer with all your people
in this land and beyond this land,
in this church and beyond this church,
in this time and beyond all time,
to praise your name. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Vice President: This bread is broken, as Christ was broken.
This cup is shared, as Christ shared his life.
Come now, for Christ, who gave everything for

you, invites you to this sacred feast.

Silence is kept for a time

(The bread will be gluten-free.)

Vice President: Please come forward and receive the elements of bread and wine as symbols of our renewed covenant with the Divine.

Communion will be distributed

Himene: ***“We are many, we are one”*** FFS 67

We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole
when we honour ev’ry soul,
find the life of God in ev’ry you and me,
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.
as the threads upon the loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation’s song,
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,

as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

Words and music by Colin Gibson (1998)

The Sending Forth

President: We have committed ourselves as covenantal people, not just in word but indeed. As we leave today, let us go in courage and hope, assured that God guides us in our mission of transformation and reconciliation.

Vice President: Haere i runga i te aroha. Haere i runga i te rangimārie o te Ariki. Kia puta ki te wheiao ki te ao mārama.

(Go in love. Go in the peace of the Lord. Step from darkness into the light.)

Katoa: **Ka haere mātou i runga i te ingoa o te Wairua Tapu.**

(We go in the name of the Holy Spirit.)

The Conference Candle is extinguished.

Himene: *Mā te mārie (sung unaccompanied)*
Mā te mārie a te Atua
Tātou katoa e tiaki.
Māna anō e whakaū
Ō tātou ngākau ki te pai.

Mā te Atua Tamaiti rā,
Mā te Wairua Tapu hoki

*Rātou, Atua kōtahi nei,
Tātou katoa e whakapai.
Āmine.*

Recessional:

Hei Kōnei Rā

Patea Māori Club 2015

Please remain standing while Presidential party, process out.