



## December 2025 Newsletter

### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND JOYFUL NEW YEAR FROM FORMER PRESIDENT

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**Ngā mihi o te rā ki te whānau e hui mai nei.**

**Kia tau te rangimārie. Kia whakatapua tātou me ngā mea e whakapono ana tātou. Mauri ora. Tēnā koutou katoa, malo e lelei and warm greetings to you all.**

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Leader of the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship over the past two years. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all Districts for your dedication, commitment, and hard work in upholding and advancing the mission and vision of NZMWF. This journey has brought challenges, but through your unwavering support and prayers I have been able to serve to the very best of my ability. I could not have done this alone. It is only by the grace of Almighty God, and through the encouragement of each of you, that this has been possible. May God richly bless all that you continue to do within your Districts and beyond.



Over the past two years, NZMWF has comprised nine districts with nearly 1,700 paying members. Beyond this, many more women across Aotearoa actively participate in our activities and events. This year we celebrated the re-establishment of two Women's Fellowship groups, North Taranaki, which is working towards becoming a District, and Masterton, which has joined the Wellington District.

I acknowledge and thank all those who worked faithfully to revive Women's Fellowship in these communities.

During my time as President, I have been blessed to visit each of our Districts, from Te Tai Tokerau in the Far North to Ōtautahi in North Canterbury. It has been a privilege to witness the richness of our communities and to share in fellowship with so many of you. I thank God for safe travels, and I extend my deepest gratitude to each District for the incredible manaakitanga you have shown.



To our District Leaders, thank you for your leadership, guidance, and steadfast service. One of the greatest joys of this role has been experiencing the beauty of our diverse cultures and the many meaningful ways in which we gather, worship, and serve.

During my time in office, we have farewelled some of our beloved matriarchs who faithfully served as leaders within NZMWF. We give thanks for their commitment, wisdom, and years of dedicated service. May they rest in peace and love, and may their legacy continue to inspire us.

Our two Special Projects for 2025 to 2026 will support elderly people across the Pacific through our partnership with Christian World Service for our international project, and the Starship Foundation for our local project, supporting children with significant health challenges across New Zealand.

In recent months the Executive Team has been active in visiting several Districts. In August, we had the privilege of visiting the Tonga Unit at the invitation of Her Majesty the Queen of Tonga, who also serves as President of the Tonga Unit. We were honoured to participate in a three day workshop focused on how Women's Fellowship continues to stay connected under the umbrella of the World Federation. This was an empowering and unifying experience.



NZMWF has also been represented internationally. In February 2025, I was blessed to attend the Pacific Conference of Churches in Nadi, Fiji, a gathering enriched by strong representation from across the Pacific. In March, I also attended the South Pacific Area Leaders Meeting, also in Nadi, where Presidents from each Unit shared updates on their districts. From that meeting it was agreed that Units will fund their own youth or young leaders representatives to attend the upcoming SPA Convention.

This year's Women's Fellowship Convention welcomed more than 120 delegates. The three day gathering was held at Jet Park Hotel, with the closing service at Pulela'a Tongan Methodist Church in New Lynn. We celebrate and congratulate Judith Herbert from Waikato Thames as our new President for 2025 to 2027, along with her Executive Team, who were commissioned and inducted during the closing service.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host the 2026 World Assembly in Auckland, where we expect to welcome up to 1,000 Methodist women from around the world. Our Vice President, Simulata Pope, as Convenor of the Local Arrangements Committee, has been working tirelessly with her team, alongside the World Officers, to prepare for this significant event. The Assembly will be held at the Due Drop Event Centre in Manukau from 25 to 30 August 2026, with registrations opening soon. Judith, our incoming President, will serve as the Unit representative to the World Assembly.

This year also provided an opportunity to review and update the Job Description for the NZMWF Executive Team, which was endorsed at Convention. While we had hoped to continue work on reviewing the Constitution, the busy calendar made this challenging. After discussions with the incoming President, Convention endorsed the establishment of a task group to lead the Constitution Review, with legal support from Ruby Manukia, Legal Advisor to the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

Communication with members continues through the President's Newsletter, the monthly Touchstone magazine, and regular updates on our website.





Finally, I wish to acknowledge the 2023 to 2025 Executive Team for their dedication, commitment, and voluntary service over the past two years. Your hard work has been seen and deeply appreciated. Thank you also to your whānau for their support behind the scenes. It has been an incredibly busy term, from organising the travel and participation of 74 members at the South Pacific Area Seminar in Samoa during our first year, to supporting preparations for the upcoming World Assembly in 2026.

I have grown in strength, faith, and understanding throughout my time in office. It has been a blessing to meet and fellowship with so many groups and individuals.

As NZMWF continues its aim to unite all in prayer, study, fellowship, and service, we remain committed to creating new opportunities to connect, especially with our young women.

May the Good Lord continue to guide the work and vision of NZMWF. Our theme for the past two years remains close to my heart, Grow in Christ and be Life Givers.



***Meri Kirihimete, Merry Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year.***

***Tu'a ofa atu***

***Lesieli Tiulipe Pope  
NZMWF President 2023 to 2025***