



Celebrating a Legacy of Faithful Service

Hui Tōpu/Methodist Conference 2026

Tāmaki Makaurau/ Auckland

Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

President: Rev Alisa Lasi
Vice President: Tau'ataina Tupou
Chaplains: Rev Suiva'aia Te'o
Rev Edwin Talakai

Musician: Rev Ieremia Amituanai

Retirees

Robyn Dianne Alan-Goudge

Tovia Aumua

Iakopo Pope Fa'afuata

Kalolo Fihaki

Bob Franklin

Trevor Hoggard

Philomena Kinera

Mosese Manukia

Misilei Misilei

Arapera Ngaha

Simote Pomale Taungā

Makeleta Lute Tu'uhoko

Ian Faulkner

CELEBRATING LIVES OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua.

*Those who lead give sight to those who follow;
those who follow give life to those who lead.*

TRIBUTES TO FAITHFUL SERVANTS RETIRING

Robyn Dianne Alan-Goudge

Tovia Aumua

Iakopo Pope Fa'afuata

Kalolo Fihaki

Bob Franklin

Trevor Hoggard

Philomena Kinera

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LIGHTING OF THE CONFERENCE CANDLE

President: Jesus Christ said:

"You are the light of the world.

Let your light shine before others,

so that they may see your good works

and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Today, we light this candle in thanksgiving for Christ, the Light of the world, whose light has been reflected through the lives and ministries of those we honour.

All: We give thanks for those
who have carried the light of Christ
and shared it faithfully with others.

President: Arise, people of God.

All: We arise to be the light of Christ to all.

The Conference Candle is lit

Opening Hymn: Take My Life and Let it Be

Frances R. Havergal (1836–79)

1. English

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2.

O outou o tigaina
Tepa tonu ia Iesu;
Lona alofa tele lava
E maua ai le filemu.

3.

Sisu, ke ke ma'u ma'au
'Eku ngaahi mea kotoa;
Taleniti, ngaahi ta'u
Fanau, fale, mo e koloa.

4.

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.

5.

Na ligaqu na Kalou
Mo Ni taura tu oqo
Me'u sa ogataka ga
Ka ni bula vou ko ya.

6.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

President: He hōnore, he korōria,

he maungārongo ki tēnei hui.

Maranga, Tula'i, Tu'u hake, Tucake, Arise

Greetings and welcome to this special service as we gather to honour and celebrate those retiring from active ministry in Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa – Methodist Church of New Zealand.

Today, we give thanks to God for their years of faithful service, for the light they have shared, and for the ways their ministries have touched the lives of congregations, communities and the wider Church.

Through seasons of joy and difficulty, certainty and change, they have answered Christ's call to arise and serve. They have preached the gospel, offered pastoral care, administered the sacraments, sought justice, nurtured faith and accompanied God's people through many seasons of life.

All: We gather in gratitude, rejoicing in the work of God through these faithful servants.

Vice President: We remember the paths they have walked, the people they have served and the light of Christ they have shared.

All: We give thanks for their faithful witness and celebrate the legacy of their ministries.

Vice President: Let us worship the God who called them, sustained them and continues to lead them into a new season of life and service.

**All: Maranga, Tula'i, Tu'u hake, Tucake, Arise—shine,
for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us**

President: Gracious and loving God, you called light out of darkness and sent Jesus Christ to be the Light of the world.

We thank you for calling women and men to share in the ministry of Christ and to carry your light into the life of the Church and the communities we serve.

Today, we give thanks for these retiring presbyters. Thank you for their calling, their commitment, their sacrifices and their faithful service.

May your Holy Spirit surround us as we remember, honour and celebrate them.

As they enter a new season, assure them that their light has not diminished and their calling has not ended.

Lead them into new ways of living, loving and serving.

May everything we say and do in this service bring glory to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, we pray.

All: Amen.

A time of silence is kept.

YOUR MINISTRY STORY

Vice President: Every ministry is a story of God's calling and grace. It is a story shaped by people and places, by challenges and celebrations, by joys and sacrifices, and by the faithfulness of God through every season.

We now listen to the ministry stories of those retiring from active ministry. As we listen, may we recognise the light of Christ that has shone through their lives and service.

Retirees' Pre-recorded Ministry Stories Are Presented

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Vice President: For every call heard and faithfully answered:

All: We give you thanks.

Vice President: For the Word proclaimed, the sacraments
celebrated and the people nurtured in faith:

All: We give you thanks.

Vice President: For those comforted in grief, strengthened in
difficulty and given hope in times of uncertainty:

All: We give you thanks.

Vice President: For communities served, injustice challenged,
and the love of Christ shared:

All: We give you thanks.

Vice President: For sacrifices quietly made, burdens faithfully
carried and prayers offered through the years:

All: We give you thanks.

Vice President: For ministries that have been a light to the Church
and to the world:

All: We give you thanks.

Vice President: For the new season that now begins:

All: We give you thanks and entrust our retiring presbyters
to God's continuing grace.

Hymn: "Our Life Has Its Seasons"

Shirley Erena Murray and Colin Gibson

Our life has its seasons, and God has the reasons,
Why spring follows winter, and new leaves,
For there's a connection with our resurrection that
Flowers will bud after frost and snow.

**Refrain: So there's never a time to stop believing,
There's never a time to stop loving
These things go on.**

There's a time to be planting, a time to be plucking
A time to be laughing, a time to weep,
a time to be building, a time to be breaking,
a time to be waking, a time to sleep.

There's a time to be hurting, a time to be healing,
A time to be saving, a time to spend,
a time to be grieving, a time to be dancing,
a time for beginning a time to end.

PRAYER FOR THE RETIREES AND THEIR FAMILIES

President: Loving and faithful God, we give you thanks for your servants whom we honour today.

You called them into ministry, walked beside them through every season and enabled them to share the light of Christ with your Church and your world.

We also give thanks for their families and whānau, for the love, patience and encouragement they have offered throughout the years.

We acknowledge the sacrifices they have made, the responsibilities they have shared and the unseen ways they have supported the work of ministry.

Bless each family and whānau. Bring healing where the journey has been difficult, renewal where there is weariness, and joy as a new season begins.

May retirement bring opportunities for rest, time with those they love, and new ways to serve according to your calling.

Remind them that although one season of ministry is ending, their lives will continue to reflect your grace and shine with the light of Christ.

Keep them in your love, guide them by your Spirit and grant them your peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE TO THE RETIRING PRESBYTERS

(The retiring presbyters are invited to stand)

President: Sisters and brothers in Christ, today we honour you for the years you have offered in active ministry within Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

You have responded to God's call. You have proclaimed the gospel, administered the sacraments, cared for God's people, served communities and sought to embody the love and justice of Christ.

Through your ministry, people have encountered the grace of God. Your words have offered hope, your presence has brought comfort, and your service has helped illuminate the path for those who follow.

All: We honour your faithful service. We thank God for the light of Christ that has shone through you.

Vice President: Today does not mark the end of your calling. It marks the beginning of a different season. The wisdom you carry, the faith you have nurtured and the gifts God has placed within you remain a blessing to the Church. We commend you to God's continuing care and to the new life that lies ahead.

All: Arise, Maranga, Tula'i, Tu'u Hake, Tucake into this new season. Continue to shine with the light of Christ. Go with our love, gratitude and prayers.

President: As a people called Methodists, we celebrate your ministries and receive with gratitude the legacy of faith and service you entrust to those who follow. You have reminded us that the light of Christ is shared through faithful words, compassionate actions, courageous leadership and lives devoted to God.

All: Your ministry has made a difference. Your witness will remain among us. Your light will continue to encourage us.

Vice President: As you step away from the responsibilities of active ministry, may you know that you remain beloved members of Christ's Church and valued companions in God's mission.

May God give you rest and renewal, new opportunities and deep joy.

May Christ's light continue to shine within you, and may the Holy Spirit guide you through every day that lies ahead.

PRESENTATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE RETIREES

The President and Vice President present each retiring presbyter with the appropriate gift or symbol of recognition. (The retirees are invited on stage to receive their gifts)

President: People of God, let us express our gratitude to these faithful servants of Christ.

(The Conference offers its applause).

ACT OF SENDING FORTH

Vice President: Go into this new season with courage.

Retirees: We go in the strength of God.

Vice President: Continue to carry the love of Christ into your homes,
churches and communities.

Retirees: We will continue to share Christ's light.

President: Go with the gratitude and prayers of Te Hāhi Weteriana o
Aotearoa.

Retirees: We go in faith, trusting in God's grace.

All: Go with our aroha and gratitude. May the light of Christ shine
upon you, within you and through you.
May God bless the road ahead
and lead you into life in all its fullness.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CONFERENCE CANDLE

President: We extinguish this candle, but the light of Christ is never
extinguished.

It lives within us
and travels with us
into our homes, our churches,
our communities and our world.

All: We will arise and carry the light of Christ to all.

(The Conference Candle is extinguished).

FINAL WORDS

President:

Haere i runga i te aroha.

Haere i runga i te rangimārie o te Ariki.

Kia puta ki te whei ao, ki te ao mārama.

Go in love.

Go in the peace of the Lord.

Continue in change and transition into the world of light.

Retirees:

Ka haere mātou i runga

i te ingoa o te Ariki.

We go in the name of the Lord.

Sung Benediction “He Hōnore”

He hōnore, he korōria

Maungārongo ki te whenua.

Whakaaro pai e

Ki ngā tāngata katoa

Ake ake, ake ake.

Āmine

Te Atua, te piringa,

Tōku oranga.

Recessional led by retirees and their families