

*In memory of
Those who have died*



Conference 2025

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Marcia Jean Baker

1929 – 2025

Marcia Jean Baker, nee Powell, was born in Marton on the 6 May 1929 and grew up on the family farm in Halcombe. In 1949 Marcia started her Deaconess training, which was followed by two years' service in the North Invercargill Parish, followed by two years serving in the Dunedin Methodist Central Mission.

Marcia's time as a Deaconess finished when she married Methodist minister, Fred Baker, in January 1955, however this did not end Marcia's own ministry. She supported Fred in his many appointments with her own ministry of open-hearted loving support for others, especially those in need, always displaying her strong faith and trust in God's love and purposes.

In 1979, after Fred had been appointed to the Christchurch East Methodist Parish, Marcia was asked to take on the role of Connexional Archivist. Thus began a significant and lasting contribution as Archivist at the Connexional Office, a role she held until 2005, 26 years. Together with a team of volunteers, Marcia helped to build up the core of the Methodist Archives Collection. She also wrote regular articles for Methodist Church publications about interesting information she discovered.

Marcia always felt it was an injustice that she had to resign as a Deaconess when she married. Given changes in both society and the Church, along with support from many people, especially Fred, Marcia applied to be reinstated to ministry, as a Methodist Minister. This was a trail blazing move, and her persistence led to Marcia being ordained in 1987. Marcia served as Presbyter to Richmond and to St David's Wairakei Road – two Christchurch parishes.

Marcia retired from presbyterial ministry in 1993. She continued to work in the Archives and helped with Handiscope at Papanui Methodist. Along with researching family histories and arranging family reunions, Marcia now had time for another of her passions –

storytelling. In 2004 Marcia published her first book, 'You Go Where', about the five significant years, from 1969, Fred and Marcia, along with their children, spent ministering in an isolated village in Papua New Guinea, under the Methodist Overseas Missions. This publication was followed by 'For Others with Love – A Story of Early Sisters and Methodist Deaconesses', in 2007, and 'Archives are Fun: Twenty-six Years of Re-collecting and Researching', in 2013. Her final book, written with Fred, was 'Wokabout Wantaim: Travelling Together for Over 60 years'.

Family was always important to Marcia. Over time, the original family of six children increased with partners, grandchildren, then their partners and great grandchildren, and Marcia delighted in them all. On 29 March 2025, in her 96th year, Marcia died peacefully, and the church and her family lost a very special lady – a good and faithful servant indeed.

Jeanette Boddy

1956 – 2025

Jeanette was born Jeanette Nancy Dine, to a Napier Methodist family. She left home in 1975 aged 18 to go to Palmerston North Teachers College to train as a kindergarten teacher and paired up with Ian Boddy at Easter Camp. They married at Trinity, Napier in 1977, and both continuously picked up leadership roles in the Methodist church.

Jeanette learnt piano as a child, and Rev Jock Hosking taught her to play organ.

Jeanette was a wonderful kindergarten teacher, and for several years an innovative Church Young Family Worker. She attended Conference as Wesley Broadway representative, and as a member of the Empower Our Youth team and representing Children's work in the 1990s and 2000s.

Ian became a Presbyterian at age 59 and (after 33 years living in Argyle Ave, Palmerston North) in 2011 they were appointed to Blenheim

Methodist Parish (at the Face to Face the plural 'ministers' was informally spoken!) Ian and Jeanette worked well as a team. They were members of the 2015 Methodist Conference organising group for the Conference held in Blenheim. Jeanette often played organ or piano for church services at Blenheim, Picton and Synod meetings. She was Girls Brigade Captain. They moved back to the North Island, Levin (2017) and Palmerston North (2018) and Jeanette was currently Pastoral Work coordinator, one of the church musicians, and on Leaders Meeting at Wesley Broadway.

She has entertained and fed Presidents and Vice-Presidents (5 of each as far as Ian can remember!) in her home over the years. Jeanette walked marathons before being diagnosed with heart problems. She got a pacemaker, but her faulty heart valves became inoperable. She remained energetic and active, volunteering at the Methodist Social Services and at Palmerston North City Library (Baby-Bops programme). She belonged to a ukulele group.

Jeanette played piano at Wesley Broadway on Sunday 27 July. Three days later, Wednesday 30 July, Jeanette Boddy died her heart disease suddenly caught up with her.

Jeanette was the wonderful wife of Rev Ian Boddy. Their children are James and Martin (Marty), and grandchildren Catherine, Violet and Otto.

Every day she smiled and looked forward to tomorrow.

We all love Jeanette, and she will be sorely missed.

Stewart Collis

1930 – 2025

Church and community people in the Manawatu celebrated the life of Stewart James Collis (28 March 1930 – 2 October 2025) in the funeral led by Rev Kalo Kaisa in Wesley Broadway Methodist Church in Palmerston North on Tuesday 7 October. Stewart lived on the same

land for more than 86 years. He was the fourth generation of his family to manage the farm.

From the 1950s to the 1980s, he managed the church finances for both Trinity parish and St Pauls parish in Palmerston North. He initiated stewardship programmes in both churches, using his own knowledge of finances and his skills in teaching, to assist leaders to conduct their own campaigns. This was during the time the two churches came closer together, joining on the same site of the St Pauls church on Broadway Avenue, under the new name of Wesley Broadway Methodist Church, Palmerston North.

Stewart served as Vice-President of the Methodist Conference in 1979. In his presidential year he saw how many churches were struggling with issues of finance and maintenance of buildings. This led him to conduct throughout the country further stewardship programmes in the 1980s. Since 2011 he has served as the Methodist Church of New Zealand Director of the Response programme.

Stewart and his wife Nola and family attended both Trinity and later Wesley Broadway, as their home church. They contributed to the many activities in church life. After handing over daily running of the farm to his sons, Stewart was free to contribute to community services, including the Manawatu Hearing Association, the Manawatu Historic Vehicle Collection Trust, and the Feilding Rural Trading Society. Stewart liked to help people out whenever he could. 'I'm not a person who talks all day and then walks away. I'm a doer.' In 2016 Stewart received a Civic Award from the Palmerston North City Council for services to the community.

In his spare time, he still enjoyed getting out on the farm. 'I go outside most days and just enjoy what I can see. Sometimes I go out on the motorbike and take it all in.'

Hugh Douglas Dyson

1935 – 2024

Born in Tokoroa on the 1st of March 1935 to George & Alma Dyson, the third of four sons. Hugh's early life was spent on different farms where his father worked as a farm manager. Hugh (Dad) was involved in the Youth Group at the Methodist Church in Hamilton where he met Dorothy, who was later to become his wife.

They had three children, Karen, Janice and Colin. Hugh was singing in the choir, playing the organ on occasions, being involved in some of the administrative duties relating to the church and various groups. It was while attending church in Hamilton that Hugh and Dorothy put forward their wishes to be missionaries.

In 1967 they were off to Munda on the island of New Georgia in the Solomon Islands. At that time, the Solomon Islands was still part of the British Protectorate. Hugh's role while stationed at Munda was Business Manager/Secretary to the church.

His time there was remarkably busy and often stressful trying to meet the needs of the church while coping with minimal resources and huge expectations, but as those that know Hugh, he would give it his best attention and was always very particular in his attention to detail and organisation. One of the items that took up some of his time, was his involvement in the formation of the United Church, which came to fruition just after our family's return to New Zealand in 1970 at the end of a three-year term of service.

On our return to New Zealand, Hugh went back to working for a printing office supply company as a Sales Rep then Manager. Our family returned to the folds of the Methodist church in London Street, Hamilton and once again Hugh was involved in being an active participant in Church life.

A shift to Rotorua in 1972 brought our family to the Bainbridge Methodist Church, and once again Hugh was involved in some of the behind-the-scenes roles that are part of being an active member of the church.

In 1990, in the role as support to his wife Dorothy who was there in her official capacity as a Registered Nurse, Hugh found himself back in the Solomon Islands at Munda. On a voluntary basis he provided help where needed and once again, his attention to detail and organisation was very much recognised and valued.

In 1994 Hugh's life changed immeasurably when after many years of struggle, he acknowledged that he was not living life the way that was right for him, and he came out to his family, friends, and the church, as gay.

This was by no means easy and there were many relationships that then changed because of this. At this time, Hugh then moved to Auckland where his new life started. It must be said that Hugh was always a man of his faith in God.

Often his faith was obviously challenged as it was not easy for a man in his very late fifties to come out as gay.

As a family we never stopped loving him, and even though the early years of life in Auckland were a struggle with new relationships, and a new way of being, it was ultimately his faith that helped him become comfortable in himself, and to be the true Hugh. His friends that he met through the Auckland Rainbow Community Church at St Mathews in Auckland City Centre, and the Pitt Street Church in Auckland became a very important part of his life, and it was here that he met his dear friend Li'a.

Hugh's final years spent in Selwyn Village were very typical of Hugh and where he became an active participant in this community. One of his most special moments was successfully keeping the bus service that goes through the village, enabling those that are more independent, easy and safe access to transport out of the village to shopping and other facilities.

Unfortunately, because of an accident Hugh did not make his ninetieth birthday, one that as a family we had started to discuss with him in preparation of celebrating.

It is with sadness but also with wonder that I reflect on his life, and all that he navigated and achieved. A life well lived seems contrite, but

acknowledging the struggles he had and overcoming them are the signs of a man that did his best.

On a personal note, I, Karen remember my father, Hugh Dyson as a man of many talents, more particularly his love of music, and singing, painting, gardening and his DIY projects, and more particularly, his love for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and he is a man worth recognising and acknowledging for the good that he did.

There are two hymns that I always think of, when I think of my father and that is Psalm 23, The Lord is My Shepherd, and How Great Thou Art. I can hear his beautiful voice singing and I hold these two hymns close to my heart. Janice, his second daughter, was very proud to be his daughter. Colin, his son noted that his dad was a very accomplished pianist and organist. Thank you, Dad, for these memories.

Edna Evans

1938 – 2025

Edna Grayson was born in and lived around the Palmerston North, Rongotea area, and before her family shifted to Hamilton in 1951, she had several roles in office work and after marriage went farming for several years. Using her secretarial skills, she worked for the Anglican Diocese of Waikato after first applying to be secretary, to the archbishop. She was twice involved as Christian Education Secretary/personal assistant. Two of her 'bosses' became bishops, and one a bishop's chaplain, all good training for ministry. With Methodists and Anglicans, she was involved in Christian Education Camps for families, youth, adults, and Week Aways for 60- to 90-year-olds.

In her 40s Edna was guided into candidating for the ministry of deacon, from Hamilton Methodist Parish. This was early days for the new diaconate, and she was excited about being among a handful of people pioneering something new. She felt the church used her as a pioneer, a motivator and leader with new ideas and with an ability to

follow through. Entering her training in 1979, she was part of the Home Setting Programme that presbyters were also doing at the time.

It was a challenge as she entered the world of theological education and completed seven papers toward her L. Th extramurally. Edna was ordained in 1981 at Christchurch, served the Hamilton Methodist Parish (1979 – 1982), Chartwell Co- Operating Parish (1986 – 1992), Wesley Methodist Church, Tauranga (1996 – 2002). This was not an easy time for her as Deacons are encouraged to make connections in the wider community, but she also was committed to working closely in the churches she belonged to. Her specific role was in Workplace Support, (chaplaincy in several workplaces) and self-advocacy for intellectually disabled people. Edna also contributed significantly to the Diaconate Task Group from 1990 – 2020, with several years as co-coordinator.

Family life was always very important to Edna as mother of Grant and Fiona, Derek and Rebecca, Craig and Kylie, and treasured grandmother of Eliza, Jackson, Finn, Grayson, Lucas and Ashley.

She moved from Tauranga to Tamahere Eventide, where she enjoyed her own villa and the company of friends around her. Deteriorating health meant she spent her final months in the Rest Home, receiving the amazing care and support of their wonderful staff.

Edna continued to challenge those in ministry to “work with your heart with people but also learn to distance yourself from pressures others will create for you. Take time to play and to reflect and to be in the worshipping community.”

The church is grateful for the ministry Edna offered, and thanks her family for the time she was able to give. Our love, prayers and support go with you.

Jennifer Jones

1940 – 2025

We gather today to give thanks for the life, faith, and service of Jennifer Dawn Jones (née Stowell) — a woman of quiet wisdom, warm presence, and steadfast devotion to the life of the Church. Jennifer was born in Timaru on 1 August 1940. Her middle name, Dawn, reflected the hope and light she carried throughout her life.

Her lifelong connection to the Methodist Church began at Bank Street Methodist Church in Timaru, where she was actively involved in Sunday School, Bible Class, the junior and senior choirs, and the Methodist Women's Fellowship — serving as its secretary the year before she married. While training as a School Dental Nurse in Christchurch, Jennifer joined the choir at Durham Street Methodist Church, continuing her commitment to worship and fellowship.

Jennifer met Barry in her early teens at Bank Street Church. Their bond of friendship grew into a partnership of over 70 years — including 63 years of marriage and shared ministry. Across Barry's four full-time appointments and four part-time ministries in retirement, Jennifer was a steadfast and faithful companion — supporting not only Barry, but the wider life of the Church with insight, hospitality, and grace.

While a young mother and member of St Stephen's Methodist Church in Tawa, Jennifer served on the national executive of the Methodist Women's Fellowship, helping to give shape to the voice and witness of women in the Church. She held a deep belief in participation, in presence, and in community — not as abstract ideas, but as lived and embodied values.

During the twelve years Barry served as Superintendent of the Church's Development Division, Jennifer parented their three children largely on her own while Barry travelled for Church work. Yet she continued to offer gracious hospitality, welcoming overseas guests

and Church leaders who were hosted in their parsonage with warmth and dignity.

Jennifer also made significant contributions at a Connexional level — working with Rev. Richard Randerson at the InterChurch Trade and Industry Mission, and later with the Methodist Development Division. Her professionalism, warmth, and dependability quietly strengthened the Church's wider mission.

Since 2018, Jennifer and Barry have been much-loved members of the Northcote Takapuna Parish. Jennifer also played a key role in the Hobsonville Point support group from 2021 to 2025 — offering hospitality and encouragement to this new expression of church, always with a welcoming spirit and a plate of home-prepared refreshments.

Even in retirement, her care for others continued. Jennifer volunteered with North Shore Hospice, offering time and compassion to those in their final journey. Her service was an act of love and faith — a living expression of Christian compassion.

In 2022, Jennifer and Barry moved into the Fairview Lifestyle Village, where Jennifer embraced community life with her usual generosity — attending bowls, movie nights, and fitness classes with enthusiasm and joy.

She was deeply proud of her children and grandchildren and delighted in her great-grandchildren, whose lives brought her joy and pride.

As Kai Hāpai Rev Nicola Teague Grundy expressed so movingly: Jennifer was known throughout the Church for her quiet strength, gracious presence, and deep faith. Her support and commitment were unmistakable — not only in her partnership with Barry, but in her dedication to the wider life of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa. She did not seek the spotlight, yet her constancy, care, and quiet leadership touched many lives across the Connexion.

Jennifer lived a life of thoughtful action, of faith-in-practice, and of hospitality that healed and held. She was a gracious friend, a wise presence, and a woman who exemplified the love of Christ in word and deed.

We remember her today with deep affection and admiration, and we honour her life and legacy within the life of our Synod and Church. In giving thanks for Jennifer, we give thanks for the countless ways God's love was made visible through her.

Cedric Russell Marshall

1936 – 2025

When Russell completed his secondary schooling at Nelson Boys College, he attended Christchurch Teachers College. His teaching appointments following Training College were Nelson Intermediate School, sole charge teacher at East Takaka and then a position at Reefton High School.

In 1957 Russell candidated for the Ministry from St John's church in Nelson. He attended Trinity College from 1958 to 1961. In his final year at Trinity, he was elected Senior Student by his peers.

At the beginning of 1961 Russell married Barbara Watson.

Russell's first appointment on leaving College was to the Spreydon Parish in Christchurch where he served from 1961 to 1967. In the Parish Russell had oversight of the Lincoln Road, Halswell and Sockburn congregations.

His next appointment was to the Masterton Parish from 1967 to the beginning of 1972. It was during his ministry in Masterton that Russell began to explore ways of practically applying the Biblical imperatives of the pursuit of justice and the practice of compassion. For Russell,

implementing these two Biblical imperatives naturally led him to seek a career in politics.

In 1972 Russell retired from the ministry to contest the Whanganui seat for the Labour Party, which he won. Both he and the Methodist Church agreed that he would remain a Methodist Minister. This reflected Russell's enduring commitment to Christian values, and the Church's endorsement of him entering politics.

Russell had a distinguished career in politics and civic affairs. In the Fourth Labour Government Russell was successively the Minister of Education and then Minister of Foreign Affairs. On his retirement from politics Russell served a term as Chancellor of Victoria University, Wellington.

In 1991 the World Council of Churches asked Russell to be among its 84 advisors at its Seventh Assembly held in Canberra Australia, 7th – 20th February. Russell's ready acceptance of that role was evidence of his ongoing commitment to the work of the Christian Church.

Marion Peterson

1944 – 2024

Marion was born in Paeroa in 1944 and moved in her teens from their family's farm in Hikutaia to Waipipi, south of Auckland, to a farm still held by a family member.

From her childhood, Marion was beset by health challenges, but these rarely held her back. She graduated from teachers' college in Cambridge and started her successful teaching career, excelling in teaching children with special needs.

Marion's faith shone from an early age. She led Girls Brigade and Youth Group and early on became involved in the Oakura Methodist beach mission at Christmas time. It was here that she met Brian, who

had only attended to check out “the talent!” After meeting up for three Christmases, the relationship became serious – with travel between Cambridge and Taranaki most weekends until Marion and Brian were married in 1972. In September 2024, they celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Initially, they lived in Ngamotu Road, New Plymouth, where their three children were born – Steven, who was full term but stillborn, Rachel and Shaun and another the following year, who was miscarried in about the third month of her pregnancy. Motherhood was Marion's full-time job, with some relief teaching thrown in.

Marion and Brian continued to be active in the church, and hosted a thriving home group, ably supported by John and Brenda Fawkner, Many of the Youth groups came from the local church and also attended the yearly Beach mission event.

In 1988, Marion and Brian moved to Waitara to do a short term lay supply while also applying to attend Trinity theological college, which happened the following year. They had received a prophecy from Rev. Duncan Graham, that this was to be a shared ministry - and it was, Marion was always the big picture person, a visionary who came up with weird and wonderful ideas. Brian was her help meet, who took her ideas and made them work – from a star flying over people's heads, to a motorbike driven up the worship aisle, to the Christmas Time Tunnel at Napier, or whatever.

Marion was a creative – from cake icing, to banner-making, to sewing and patchwork, card-making to gardening. She was also a gifted musician, playing piano and piano accordion.

Her real forte was as Peacemaker - and where there is church, there is a need for this skill! Her pastoral skills were second to none – drawing anger and stress out, bringing calm to the process and making sound decisions that people could embrace.

Marion and Brian's first Parish was at St Mark's, Greenmeadows which for 8 years was a truly happy time. Unfortunately, the Greenmeadows congregation chose to withdraw from the Methodist Church and Marion and Brian felt called to stay. They were stationed at Halfway Bush / Waikari in Dunedin for 4 years, then headed north to Auckland – Marion to Meadowlands, Howick and Brian to Tuakau, a joint 1.5 ministry.

During the 1990's, Marion took a prominent Connexional position, becoming the Evangelical Network Superintendent. This was a time of considerable tumult within the Church, and it was here that Marion's peacemaking skills came to the fore. She worked extremely hard to ensure that the beliefs and values of all Church members were upheld and respected, during a time marked by pain and division, and occasional personal disapprobation.

Her health and these difficult times took their toll, and she took early retirement in 2007. She and Brian were disappointed that the Church did not appreciate how much of a toll her peacekeeping had taken and felt somewhat abandoned.

Marion spent the early part of her retirement in Napier, moving to Ōtāne to be close to Rachel. Her health problems continued, finally requiring her to have an electric wheelchair, which for Marion meant that she was given new opportunities to get out and enjoy life again.

Marion passed away on the 6th of December 2024, just six days short of her 80th birthday.

Marion touched the lives of countless people in ways both immediate and eternal. She was a family person who adored Brian and their children and grandchildren.

We acknowledge Brian, Rachel and Shaun and their families and thank them for sharing their wife and mother as Marion served her Church and her communities well.

Donald James Phillipps

1932 – 2025

It is perhaps no more than an accident of the calendar that Donald Phillipps was born on Armistice Day 1932, it is fitting however that such a committed and knowledgeable historian should have a birthdate of such significance.

Donald was born to Methodist parents – Jack and Freda Phillipps - and an extended Methodist family in Wellington. Methodism seemed to be in his DNA and as was observed at his funeral his faith was profoundly Methodist.

Donald was married to Barbara - who died in 2019. They had three children Sara, Martin (now deceased) and Rachel. Barbara was a Laurenson and the connection between the Phillipps and Laurenson families has been deep and enduring. One thing that comes out time and again talking to Donald and Barbara's daughters is how their home was a loving and welcoming place and a home from home for their friends and for so many people in the community. If a history of The Chills – Martin's band – is ever written that home will be part of the story.

If Donald began life in Wellington he came to have another hometown, Dunedin. He lived out much of his ministry here and nearby and Dunedin was where he lived out his long and fruitful retirement.

He served as chaplain to Otago University, where he made many connections with staff and students. He also became a regular at the Staff Club there, where he was a regular at the snooker table.

He served as District Superintendent and has travelled from Dunedin to Invercargill to support that parish when there have been gaps in the provision of Ordained Ministry.

Donald served as President of Conference in 1986-7

He enjoyed a long association with Radio Church – an outreach began by the Dunedin Parish a century ago - 1980s up to April 2025.

He was active on the Dunedin parish preaching plan up into the first quarter of this year. He was involved in the group organising the Colin Gibson Memorial Lectures, an educational outreach programme at Mornington.

Donald was a passionate advocate for the Bicultural Journey; it was something that he believed was of the essence of living out the Gospel in Aotearoa. He lived it out and had wealth of connections and friendships with both Taha Māori and the local Iwi, Ngai Tahu. It is a mark of Donald's mana and the esteem he was held in that he was offered burial at the Urupa at Otakau Marae.

Beverley Pullar

1930 – 2025

Rev. Beverley (Bev) Pullar's (nee Taylor) faith journey began in the Stoke Methodist Church, Nelson. In 1955 she began her Deaconess training. As a Deaconess she served one year in Fielding, followed by 18 years in the Pitt Street Methodist Church in Auckland. Here Bev ran Lay preachers training courses, and during a study tour of the Pacific, she was able to meet the Pasifika families of those she was working with in Pitt Street.

After a supply ministry in New Plymouth, Bev moved back to Auckland in 1976 and spent the next eight years ministering to the Otahuhu and Mangere East Methodist Churches. It was during this time that Beverley, along with seven others, became the first Deaconesses to be ordained into Presbyterian Ministry. The following year, in 1980, Bev became the first woman Presbyterian in the MCNZ to become a Parish Superintendent. While serving in these south Auckland parishes Bev helped with Community Bible in Schools programme; and through her efforts the local churches commenced services at the High Street Courts. As a result of that outreach Bev was made a

member of the Otahuhu Periodic Detention Centres Advisory Committee.

In 1983 Bev married Walter Pullar, in the Otahuhu Methodist Church, and two years later they moved to Richmond (Tasman) when Bev was appointed to the Richmond/Waimea Methodist Parish, serving congregations in Richmond, Brightwater and Wakefield. During that time Bev spent five weeks in Vanuatu as part of a 36 strong mission working team and studied and wrote a thesis on *The Role of Women in Vanuatu*.

Bev retired from ordained ministry in December 1986, allowing her and Walter to spend more time enjoying tramping, photography, reading and gardening. Sadly, Walter died in 1995. In retirement Beverley continued to serve the Richmond Waimea Parish as parish archivist, coordinator of the prayer chain, member of the Parish Council, participating in worship, and faithfully supporting the Women's Fellowship at local and national levels. In 2008 Beverley's book '*My Memories*' was published in time for the church's 170th Anniversary. It was a labour of love and a gift to that church community and beyond.

On Friday 2 May 2025 the Methodist Church of New Zealand lost one of its most faithful servants, when Rev. Beverley Pullar passed away peacefully, aged 94, after a full and productive life which embodied the Christian faith. It was fitting that Beverley's funeral was held in the Nelson Tasman Methodist Parish Church in Stoke where her Christian journey began.

She leaves a legacy of friendship, exemplary commitment, dedication and service to her church and parishioners, and to the communities in which she lived and worked.

Hilda May Schroeder

1928 – 2025

Schroeder, Hilda May, on Tuesday, 26th August 2025 passed away peacefully at Tamahere Eventide Home, aged 97 years.

Hilda Dickie was born in St Clair Dunedin in 1928, the youngest of 5 children.

She commenced a career of nursing in Dunedin hospital and through friends in Christchurch met Leonard (Len) Schroeder and they married in 1949.

Family life was very important to her, as they welcomed, Peter, David & Pauline into their family. She was also busy supporting Len in his ministry in Dunedin, Remuera, Upper Hutt, Whitely church New Plymouth, and Palmerston North. Being the minister's wife was only 1 part of her life as she was back Nursing in New Plymouth, and District Nursing in Palmerston North.

Hilda and Len spent 4 years as missionaries in Botswana before returning to Auckland, where she nursed in an older person's hospital and then their final move to Hamilton. Tamahere Eventide was their place of retirement, and Hilda worked very hard in the development stages of this Methodist retirement village.

Methodist Women's Fellowship was also an important interest of Hilda's, and she was Missions convenor on the National Executive 2002 to 2004.

After Len's passing, Hilda continued to be involved with Tamahere and received loving care from the staff.

She is a cherished mother & mother-in-law of Peter & Marilyn, David & Andrea, Pauline & Ken, and a much-loved grandmother and great grandmother.

We recognise a very long life full of love and joy, heartbreak and tears, a life well lived.

Marangai Tupaea

1935 – 2025

Minita-a-lwi, Te Taha Māori

Ka whānau mai a te 9 Pepuere, 1935, Ka hoki atu ki te Atua 1 Hanuere, 2025, he uri nō ngā hapū katoa o te Wahapū o Waikato.

Loving husband of the late Moemaitawhiti (Paka) Tupaea. Father of Vicki, Ngaire, Arnold, Taikaora, Maria, Tony, Faron and Hira. Proud Grandfather to all his mokopuna, tuarua, tuatoru hoki. He was devoted not only to the people of Tainui, to the Kingitanga, but his wise words also stretched far across the motu.

Affectionately known as Uncle Maara, we in Waikato Rohe and Te Taha Māori remember his wisdom and his care for his people. He lived his life in Tuakau surrounded by his people and his hapū. His whakapapa connections stretched as far as Port Waikato to the West and across the confederation of Tainui.

Maara was encouraged to consider ministry in 1973 by the late Rev. Hana Hauraki who was stationed in Tuakau at the time. She held high regard for te tikanga o Tainui and because of this he often accompanied her as she ministered to the people. Uncle Maara took great pride in that mahi and it was no surprise that he soon became Kaikarakia and then Minitā-a-lwi for the Waikato Rohe providing spiritual support and continuing to serve his people of the 'Port' even long after his retirement in 2018.

He was true to his calling and served as Kaumātua on the Wesley College Trust Board in the early 2000s. He was a valued member of Hui Pōari engaging in robust discussions on what a Māori theology looked like, felt like, sounded like, adding Tainui tikanga into the mix and bringing a perspective unique to his people. In 2022 his dedication was recognised and acknowledged by the church being awarded his Minitā-ā-lwi Stole on his home marae, Te Kotahitanga.

Uncle Maara, we remember him with aroha, a Rangatira who in answering his call to ministry served his people faithfully in giving his life to God.

E te pou o te Kiingitanga, te reo o te Pūaha o Waikato, moe mai rā

Haere, Haere, Haere atu rā kua oti ō mahi, e moe, Pai Marire.

Su'a Malaeloa Vili

1947 – 2025

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Late Su'a Malaeloa Vili, was born and raised in Samoa.

His father the Late Rev Losua Vili and his mother, Popoai Brown were simple and humble Christians citizens who believed in the love and grace of God as revealed in Jesus Christ

Because Su'a was a minister's son, his father sent him to sit for the Lay Preachers' examinations in Samoa while he was still attending High School. Su'a succeeded in these exams coming top of the class and at this point Su'a came to realise his calling and inspiration to become a Lay Preacher.

On the 12th of June 1970 - He was appointed Lay Preacher in the Methodist Church of Samoa.

On the 15th of October 1972 – He Arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand and immediately joined with his loved church, the Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

He was a member of the Ponsonby parish from 1973 – 1977, Onehunga 1978 – 1983, and Mangere Central Bader drive from 1984 – to the 23rd of February 2025.

Su'a Vili was appointed and served as a Lay Minister in 2000 and retired after 50 years of service on the 12th of June 2022. The Methodist Church affirmed his commitment and consistent ministry awarding him a certificate of long and unbroken service (50 years) during Conference at Kerikeri in 2023.

Su'a passed away on the 23rd of February 2025 at 6pm in Middlemore Hospital.

Su'a Malaeloa Vili is survived by his wife Faimanifo Vili, seven children as well as 23 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

May his soul rest in peace.

Graeme Russell White

1947 – 2025

Graeme and his twin sister Robyn were born at St Kilda, Dunedin 17 May 1947.

While at Secondary School Graeme studied accountancy, played soccer and learnt to play the Viola. Singing and classical music became Graeme's passion from then onwards. He remained a staunch Otago supporter all his life.

In the South Dunedin Methodist Parish, Graeme served at both Caversham and Hillside Rd churches as Sunday School teacher and Bible Class leader. It was at Hillside Road Methodist Church that he met his wife, Lynley, when she became a new member in 1971.

He candidated for ministry at the Whangārei Conference in 1972, the same year the Church celebrated 150 years of Methodism in New Zealand. He was part of the first intake of Methodist students at St

John's Theological College in 1973. In 1976, he was appointed on probation to Balclutha, a shared Methodist and Presbyterian ministry, and was ordained in November of that year.

Throughout his long years of ministry, Graeme faithfully served in a range of appointments across Aotearoa, beginning in Balclutha (1976–79), followed by Willowby in the Ashburton Circuit (1979–85) and New Brighton Union Parish (1985–93). He then ministered at Whangaparāoa (1993–99) before undertaking supply ministry at Kingsland for 10 weeks, followed by the remainder of 1999 at Takapuna. In 2000 he moved to Te Atatū Union Parish where he remained until 2012.

Beyond his parish appointments, Graeme was deeply committed to the broader work of the Church, actively serving in Synod leadership and Connexional roles throughout his ministry. He spent 10 years as Journal Secretary at Conference, contributed as a member of the PAC Media and Communications Committee and the Mission Resourcing Board, and served as Synod Secretary for one year in North Canterbury and four years in Auckland. From 2020 to 2021, he held the position of Auckland Synod Superintendent. Additionally, he served as District Candidates Convenor in both South Canterbury and North Canterbury, providing support and guidance to those discerning a call to ministry.

Graeme had a lifelong commitment to ecumenical ministry, spending 24 years in union parishes or shared ministries and six years on the Standing Committee of UCANZ (2005–11). He contributed significantly to the work of Joint Regional Committees (JRCs), serving on the South Canterbury, North Canterbury, and Combined Auckland JRCs, and acting as Secretary of the Auckland JRC for five years. His ecumenical engagement extended to Clutha, Christchurch, and Auckland Presbyteries, where he actively participated in various committees.

After retirement and a return to Whangaparaoa Methodist Parish, Graeme became an active member of the parish. At both Manly and Red Beach churches Graeme is remembered for his strong singing voice leading the hymns, preaching down-to-earth sermons to touch our everyday lives, and his pastoral care of our congregations.

Graeme's dedication, wisdom, and service have left a lasting impact on the Church and all those who journeyed with him. We give thanks for his faithful ministry, his loyalty to his congregations and the Connexional church, his faith and courage.

Richard Williams

1941 – 2025

Deacon Richard Williams entered training in 1993, was Ordained in 1999. Served at Northcote Parish, Airdale Street Inner City Ministries, Glenfield Local Ecumenical Project and Whanganui City Mission and Trinity Methodist Church. Retired 2010. Died in 2025.

Richard Matthew Williams was born in Devonport in 1941. Richards father Matthew and mother Lucy (nee Haggett) were church folk, because of family circumstances Richard started school in Kampala, Uganda, and then when he was seven or eight, he returned to New Zealand with his family.

After a short time, the family moved to Thames, where Richard attended Primary & Secondary schools. Richard shared about attending Sunday School at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the where Richard expressed many good memories of teachers, pianists, and some of the ministers.

Richard joined the large Devonport Methodist Bible class run by Dave Alley and his wife, a very social group. Richard had been part of the

Northcote Parish since his marriage at St Pauls Church in 1966 having been involved with the Boys Brigade, Youth Work, every committee you can think of and was Trust Secretary for both trusts at different times. Richard's early working life was mostly in offices until his accidents in 1998 both life threatening and definitely life changing.

Richard called his two motorbike accidents "part 2" of his life. Both accidents were life threatening. But thanks to Rev Brian Sides, the hospital chaplain, and Rev Brian Turner the minister at London St Methodist Church, both of whom spent hours by his bed, Richard was finally sent home with a very changed attitude to life and his place in the world. Richard had lost a leg, but in no way did that stop him doing and being exactly what he wanted to be.

With the enthusiastic support of Phil Taylor, Northcote Church and Rev Susan Thompson, Richard candidated for the Diaconate. After four years training and a two-year probationary period, Richard was ordained in 1999 at the Conference in Auckland. Richard was a member of the Diaconate Task Group through the 1990s and attended Diaconate conferences in Melbourne and Fiji. Travel with a disability, staying in places on multi levels was never easy for Richard.

In the Diaconate the service of foot washing was of great importance and whereas an amputee, the foot washing service was one he had always avoided. It was in Fiji that Richard experienced a beautiful and loving experience. Instead of going out of the Conference to avoid the foot washing he attended without his prosthetic and the Presbyter in charge only washed one foot of each of those present. In years later Richard shared that that was the most powerful experience in his ministry, the act of inclusion was incredibly meaningful for him, and I believe for those present for this service.

Richard then moved to Whanganui to work in the City Mission and continued his involvement at Trinity Parish into retirement accompanied by his faithful little friend, Millie the dog. Richard returned in retirement to Thames a place he had loved living. As his health deteriorated, he moved to Tamahere Eventide hospital, where he was able to mend bridges, form closer links with his family, wife, daughters, son and grandchild in a way that brought laughter and smiles.

Richard's ministry, wherever he was, was one of sharing with people in need, sitting alongside them as they struggled with who they were through the changes in their lives, something he knew a lot about. Challenging judgemental attitudes and trying to help those with both visible and invisible disabilities. He felt that diaconal ministry is more about Action - times, places, meeting needs, giving of self -rather than words, customs, forms and liturgy.

He talked of a "personal theology - God in action - God in our hands, rather than God in our minds - laying out your soul and heart, rather than searching within the confines of the church community."

Thanks for your ministry, Richard.