

*In memory of  
Those who have died*



*Conference 2026*

## Contents

|                                                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Gordon Abernethy.....                                  | 3  |
| Bruce James Anderson.....                              | 4  |
| Trevor Lewis Bennett.....                              | 6  |
| Dakai Bolatagici .....                                 | 7  |
| Jean Bruce .....                                       | 9  |
| Mathune (aka) Mathena Ngaronoa Dixon nee Cassidy ..... | 11 |
| Maxwell Hornblow.....                                  | 12 |
| Finau Silila Kilikiti.....                             | 14 |
| Peter James Moss .....                                 | 17 |
| Sharon Te Mangu Tito .....                             | 18 |
| Barney Winikerei.....                                  | 20 |

# **Gordon Abernethy**

1938 – 2025

## ***Presbyter***

Rev Gordon Sydney Abernethy was born in Sawyers Bay, Dunedin on the 7th August 1938; one of 7 children. The family relocated to Christchurch in 1946.

After school, Gordon trained as a draughtsman with the Ministry of Works. He married Anne Kinvig in 1961, and the newly married couple relocated to Dunedin; Gordon with a job at the Ministry of Works as a draughtsman and Anne at Social Welfare. Between 1962 and 1971 their five children were born.

The family attended the Mosgiel Methodist Church and where Anne and Gordon were active in many different roles, including Gordon taking a lead role in developing a choir. He also got involved, in the latter stages, of the development of the hall at Mosgiel.

After 16 years working for the Ministry of Works, Gordon decided it was time for a career change. Therefore, in 1973 he began training as a primary school teacher, and taught until 1993, when the downsizing of many schools resulted in him being deemed redundant.

In the late 1980s Gordon began training as a Lay Preacher; becoming an accredited Lay Preacher in 1991. In 1994 Gordon was appointed as the Lay Minister to the St Kilda congregation while continuing to lead services in the other Dunedin Parish churches. This led Gordon to ministry training, which included completing a Diploma of Theology at Otago University and the Methodist Church Home Setting ministry training course.

Following ordination at the 1997 Methodist Conference, Gordon accepted itinerancy and became the Presbyter of the Ashburton Parish in 1998, where he remained until his retirement in 2005. During his retirement speech at Conference Gordon expressed deep appreciation for the privilege of being involved in full-time ministry and

encouraged everyone not to wait as long as he had before entering ministry.

Gordon and Anne returned to Dunedin in 2013, settling into life at the Mornington Methodist Church. He remained active in leading services until his health no longer allowed it. One of the joys of Gordon's retirement was being able to officiate at the marriage of his eldest grandson, in 2019.

Anne died in December 2023, and Gordon died peacefully at home nearly two years later, on 30 October 2025, much treasured by his biological and faith families.

## **Bruce James Anderson**

**1958 – 2026**

***Presbyter***

Rev Bruce James Anderson passed away on the 22nd February 2026, following a period of ill health.

While he grew up in a non-Church household, Bruce's first introduction to church was at about 9 years old after his best friend invited him to attend the local Team Section of the Boys' Brigade. As well as attending the Team Section on a weekday evening, they both went to Sunday school. From that point on church was always a constant and important part of Bruce's life.

After leaving High School, Bruce began working for the New Zealand Meteorological Service. One of his appointments was to Invercargill where he began attending St Peter's Methodist Church, met his future wife Glenda and they were married in 1981. In 1983 Bruce was transferred to the Weather Office on Whenuapai Air Force Base, attended the Henderson Methodist Church and a few years later candidated for Presbyterian ministry, and was ordained in 1999.

Before then Bruce was at the Henderson Leader's Meeting and the Waitakere Parish Meeting. He was a Parish Lay Representative to Synod and Conference and joined the Development Division Board in the time of Rev Norman Brookes. In November 1992, as a result of restructuring within the Meteorological Service, Bruce was made redundant and early the next year commenced private theological studies at Auckland University, going on to complete a Master of Theology degree.

Bruce's first appointment was to Levin Methodist Parish for four years. He then served for two years in part-time supply positions for the Feilding-Oroua and Marton Methodist Parishes. Bruce was stationed at the Timaru-Temuka Parish (2004-2011), where he also superintended the Waimate and Oamaru Union Parishes. His next appointment in 2011 was to the Wellington Parish where Bruce became the Parish Superintendent. Bruce has also served on a number of boards and committees across the Church. These included convening the Wellington District Property Advisory Committee (2000-2002); member of the Wellington Synod Executive (which became the Hawkes Bay - Manawatu Synod Executive when those two Synods merged); Administration Division Board member (2005-2011); member of the Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments committee (2013-2014); member of the PAC Distribution Group; Board member of Wesley Community Action (Wellington Methodist Mission).

From 2008 Bruce was the Synod Superintendent for the Central South Island Synod. Bruce and his wife have 4 adult children and 3 grandchildren but separated in 2013. Being a family man was an important part of his life. In 2014 Bruce moved to the United Kingdom where among other things he served in three circuits for the Methodist Church in Britain.

He returned to New Zealand in 2022, but due to ill health needed to retire from ministry and has been an integral part of Hamilton East Methodist Church up until his death.

The church is grateful for the ministry Bruce offered, and thanks his family for the time he was able to give.

## **Trevor Lewis Bennett**

*1930 – 2026*

*Presbyter*

Rev. Trevor Bennett (Father of Conference) passed away at Tamahere Eventide in Hamilton on the 28th March, aged 95.

He was a wonderful family man, and his upbringing was on a small dairy farm in Te Kowhai a farming community west of Hamilton, where he was taught to waste nothing. He and Barbara knew each other from childhood, a friendship developed and they became engaged prior to him joining Trinity College for ministry training. A three year engagement followed while completing training and once having asked permission from the Church to marry, they had a week to prepare for the wedding. The next two years they lived on a single man's stipend, their only transport being a motorbike.

Ministry began in Marton, then Willoughby, Upper Hutt, Te Aroha, Langley USA, Mangere, and Morrinsville. Trevor was chaplain for the Air New Zealand engineering workshops at the time of the Erebus disaster. In his parishes he was known to help out practically, where necessary, with fundraising projects, building etc. all which helped getting to know those in church and community. Wherever they went, they made special friends, but because of distances, it was difficult to keep in touch with family.

While most ministry life was in Parsonages, they did buy their first own home in Point Wells, where they could enjoy freedom, holidays and family activities. Then on retirement they bought in Raglan and later in Chartwell, Hamilton.

In all he did Trevor was supported by Barbara and together they have ministered and raised a lovely family – Paul, Wayne, Gavin and Robyn. They are proud of their extended family – 11 grandchildren

and 20 great grandchildren, whom they frequently visited or had to stay.

In 1990 after 36 years in ministry, they retired, but there was still plenty of activity to follow, including a short period of outreach building work in the Solomon Islands.

As well as ministry, gardening was another skill of Trevor's, learnt from his father, developing new plants, especially roses, raising money for church groups by selling plants. His gardening skills won him the Waikato Gardener of the Year in 2007 and he went on to receive the Inaugural NZ Gardener of the Year award. They lived in Raglan for 11 years, before retiring to Chartwell, and then Sommerset Down The Lane in Hamilton. Every home had a beautiful garden, always having plants for sale, which had been raised from seeds or cuttings.

Of special significance was that in 2024 he was given the honour of Father of the Methodist Conference, in recognition of his long ministry.

Latterly, Trevor and Barbara moved to Tamahere Eventide, where Trevor has been cared for. Here they also celebrated 71 years of marriage, and continued to have much family support.

Quoting his own words, "it's been a wonderful journey – one that we could never have visualised all those years ago, and one that it has been a privilege to travel, when the time comes, we will be content."

Thanks Trevor, for a life well lived and a ministry well served.

## **Dakai Bolatagici**

2026

Dakai Bolatagici hailed from Rukua Village, Beqa, in the Fiji Islands. He arrived in New Zealand in 1970 and married Olivia Seruvatu, with whom he had three children. Grounded in a strong church upbringing, he became a pillar of the Fijian congregation in Auckland.

### **Dakai Bolatagici's Church Participation**

He was among those who started the Fijian congregation at Pitt St, Auckland, before it moved to Mt Eden Methodist Church.

He was part of the group that arranged, through Te Hāhi Weteriana, for Rev. Elia Samusamuvodre to come from Fiji to serve the Auckland Fijian Church. In 1987, a split occurred within the church. Dakai and his group brought over Rev. Mosese Naivolasiga and began congregating at Kyber Pass Anglican Church. He began a self-supported ministry of social service within the church, funding his own travel and expenses.

**Overseas Mission:** He organised insurance cover for patients travelling from Fiji to receive treatment in Auckland hospitals, and also assisted students coming from Fiji for tertiary studies. He had been a preacher since 1995.

In 2000, he was nominated Co-Convenor of the Upper North Island by the Fijian Advisory of the Methodist Church of New Zealand — a role covering Hamilton, Auckland, and up to Tai Tokerau. He resigned from this position in 2004.

In 2001, the Fiji Methodist Circuit Auckland was officially registered with the Methodist Church in New Zealand, encompassing Mt Roskill, Kyber Pass, and Patumahoe. Dakai was part of the media team and worked closely with the late Rev. Dr I. S. Tuwere. He continued his social service ministry within the Parish — the ministry he was most passionate about — and held the convenor position until he passed. During the church amalgamation in Auckland, he moved from Kyber Pass to Mt Roskill in 2004, and then to Meadowlands when the Parish relocated there in 2013.

His donations to the Leprosy Mission and to the church were a constant throughout his years in the congregation — his September donation never missed a year. He was a man who did things in style, always wanting to give more than anyone else.

Every Sunday during worship, he would thank the choir for singing. Every Wednesday, he attended his cell group, which he spoke of often and always looked forward to.

At Men's Fellowship, he was the oldest man in the group, always there among them.

Two years before he passed, he returned home to Rukua, Beqa, to build his tomb. When he passed away in May, the church escorted him home to farewell him at the resting place he had prepared.

**Rest well, Dakai. You are surely missed in church, but heavenly angels are there with you. Amen and amen to your journey.**

## **Jean Bruce**

1939 – 2026

### ***Presbyter***

Rev Jean was born in Christchurch where she spent most of her formative years. While attending Avonside High School she became involved in Crusaders and came to faith at a Crusaders camp at Okains Bay. She later attended the Shirley Methodist Church where she was baptised and confirmed and became a member of the church community including the choir.

Jean was 21 when she began lay preaching as a Methodist, and so she gave about 65 years to leading worship and writing sermons.

After leaving school Jean worked for the National Bank in Christchurch, Hokitika and Papanui before moving to Dunedin to train as a primary school teacher. She later worked in legal offices as an accountant in Balclutha and Nelson. It was in Nelson that Jean discerned her call to ministry.

Jean trained at Theological Hall, Knox College from 1986 to 1988, graduating with a Bachelor of Theology. She went on to serve in parishes at Sumner Redcliffs Union, Ashburton, Dunedin/ Mosgiel, Oxford District Union. She was deeply appreciated by those she served, and remembered for her warmth, faith, and for her commitment to bringing the gospel to people in meaningful ways

Jean and Andy shared many years of marriage before his sudden death, shortly after their 30th wedding anniversary. Andy was a constant and supportive presence in her life.

Following her retirement, Jean made her home in Rangiora, living in the house that she and long-time friend Chris had earlier purchased. Jean remained connected to her community and church and initially undertook short term ministry at Durham St Parish in Christchurch and Rangiora. She developed skills in PowerPoint presentations for children and had a very expressive way of reading the scriptures. While we knew Jean could be determined, we learned to love her and work with her in those moments.

Also, it was her love of music as a pianist and organist, her singing and choir membership which added to her creative approach to worship that she is remembered for. She had an ability to encourage others to participate fully in church life.

Following Chris's retirement from full-time ministry, they shared their Rangiora house and then spent the last two years of Jean's life at a shared life Villa at Linrose Lifestyle Village in Christchurch. Jean enjoyed happy years there and made Durham St Methodist Church her place of worship.

We remember Jean's son Stuart, daughter Janet and family, and her friend Chris.

Jean is remembered with gratitude and affection for her faithful service, her generosity of Spirit, and the lasting impact she had on the lives of so many.

Thanks be to God for your life Jean.

## **Mathune (aka) Mathena Ngaronoa Dixon nee Cassidy**

1941 – 2026

### ***Deaconess***

Mathena was of Ngāti Hine and Te Māhurehure descent, born into a strong Methodist whānau with footholds in Waiomio, Kawakawa and into Te Māhurehure of Waima, Hokianga. Her parents moved to Auckland and lived in Te Koa Rd, Panmure. Their home was one of those spaces in the community where whānau who had moved to Auckland from Hokianga and Pewhairangi during the ‘urban drift’ gathered in fellowship.

Mathena’s mother had two sisters who had served the church, Te Atawhai George as a Deaconess and Huia Martin as Minita-ā-lwi in Auckland. Mathena’s whānau made the determination that she too would become a deaconess.

She began her service in the Kawakawa, Waiomio region and in 1972 was assigned to work as Supply Deaconess at Te Rāhui Wāhine Hostel for Māori Methodist young women. These women were primarily from rural areas and had come into Hamilton for training and work opportunities under the mentoring and support of Rev. Arthur John Seamer known affectionately as Father Seamer, Sister Irene Hobbs, Sister Grace Clements and Sister Heeni Wharemaru. Mathena was one of the staff assigned to their care. Whilst there she met and then married Oscar Dixon who became an Anglican Minister in his later years and served his parish in Morrinsville and across the Ngāti Hauā area.

Mathena and Oscar had 5 daughters whilst living in Hamilton and moved to a dairy farm at Pukemoremore Cambridge and retired in Morrinsville. Mathena is survived by 16 mokopuna and 11 mokopuna tuarua with 2 more on the way.

As a deaconess Mathena's service was primarily working to help better the lives of Māori women and their families in Hamilton and the wider Waikato area and as far as Whatawhata. Her move to Te Rāhui extended that service in a different way, but still working to help whānau. At her tangihanga, people spoke of her caring nature and her willingness to help wherever she was needed especially around the local marae, kohanga reo, kura kaupapa and community. People remembered with love this very gracious lady with the big, beautiful smile, whose manaakitanga was unsurpassed.

Moe mai e te whaea Mathena kua oti tō mahi, takoto i raro i te āiotanga o te Atua. E moe, e moe, moe mai rā!

## **Maxwell Hornblow**

1932 – 2025

*Presbyter*

It was with sadness the NZ Methodist Connexion was informed that Rev Max Hornblow had died on 23 October 2025 in the Kensington Court Retirement Village in Stoke, Nelson.

Max died peacefully with his family alongside, one month short of his 93rd birthday.

An anonymous writer once stated "The Main goal in life is to live. To live fully and joyously, aware of all the possibilities life has to offer." Max Hornblow would most certainly have said 'Amen' to those thoughts. He lived a long, full and productive life, one with so many passions and practical endeavors which enriched the lives of countless people.

Max was born in Wellington in 1932, the oldest of four brothers, including Edgar, John and Andrew, two of whom also became

ministers. The family attended Karori Methodist Church where Max's spiritual journey began. After leaving Wellington College Max worked in the Bank of New Zealand where he first met his dearly loved wife to be Margaret. They remained a very close couple for sixty-four years, during which time they had three sons Roger, Craig and Grant, of whom they were immensely proud and who gifted them a much-loved extended family in whom they took great interest.

In 1959 Max responded to God's call on his life and trained for the Methodist Ministry at Trinity College, Auckland. He was ordained in 1962 and appointed to the Greytown-Featherston Parish. After cutting his teeth there ministry took Max and Marg to the South Island to Balclutha (South Otago), Stoke (Nelson), Beckenham (Christchurch) and finally to St Andrews Uniting Church (Motueka and Riwaka.)

During these ministries Max's leadership qualities were soon recognised. He was well grounded in Methodist history and procedures. He also had the confidence in himself to persuasively articulate his vision for ministry, along with a practical 'we can do this' mentality. These qualities, together with his warm, outgoing, cheerful personality and wide range of interests (especially his family, plus flower gardening, raising prize chooks, yachting, rugby, cricket, and education) quickly endeared Max not only to his parishioners of all ages, but to the many people he met in the wider community. His ability to easily connect with people was complemented in no small way by Margaret.

Max's lengthy ministry in the South Island was significant. He was the inspiration and driving force behind many parish projects. Notable among those in Stoke was the growth of a very active Bible Class with programmes including walking the Heaphy (2x) and Abel Tasman tracks, youth services, youth camps, and social events with other Bible Classes. It is significant to note that two assisting leaders and a member of that Bible Class became ordained Methodist clergy. Max

with his practical knowledge (property and finance) was also very 'hands on' when it came to church property and was responsible for the building of a new parsonage near the Stoke Church and the construction of flats for elderly folk on vacant land adjacent to that church.

From 1986 to 1991 Max served as District Superintendent of the Canterbury Synod. While ministering in Beckenham he also developed a close connection with the Methodist Tongan fellowship and assisted them in finding and developing a building for worship. Following his retirement from parish ministry Max and Margaret were very active in the life and worship of the Mapua Community Church with Max leading worship on a number of occasions. They also had time to turn their new property Bon Accord, near Mapua, into a veritable Garden of Eden. Sadly, they eventually had to sell up and move into a retirement village in Stoke where Margaret died in 2023.

Max returned to the Stoke Methodist Church to worship where he was still fondly remembered. He was thrilled to be invited to speak at Stoke's 175th anniversary in 2024 given his lengthy ministry there. Max's well attended funeral service fittingly was held in the Nelson Tasman Methodist Parish church in Stoke, in the area where he and Margaret had served their Lord so well. Well done, thy good and faithful servants.

## **Finau Silila Kilikiti**

2026

### ***Lay Person***

A Lay Leader of Significant Service to Vahefonua Tonga o Aotearoa

Mrs Kilikiti was not ordained, yet her ministry carried the depth, discipline, and devotion of one fully given to God's work. She served with humility, courage, and unwavering commitment, becoming one of

the most influential lay leaders in the Tonga District Women's Fellowship.

Her leadership spanned more than ten years, making her one of the longest-serving presidents of the fellowship. She guided women across Auckland Manukau and Vahefonua Tonga with wisdom, prayerfulness, and a heart anchored in Christ.

Her life reflected the words of the Apostle Paul: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Under her guidance, the spiritual rhythm of the fellowship flourished. Women's gatherings and Bible studies grew in depth and participation. The 'Akau 'o e Mo'ui (Tree of Life) programme became a central tool for Scripture learning. Prayer chains and early morning Lotu Hūfia strengthened intercession across congregations. Good Friday worship, crusades, and special services created sacred spaces for women to pray, learn, and support one another.

She believed deeply in passing faith to the next generation. Through the Akotapu programme, she ensured that simple Gospel stories and prayers were shared with fanga lami, our precious children, so that the Church would remain strong long after our own season of service had ended.

Her leadership brought together women from across Aotearoa. The 2025 report recorded 1,097 members in the Tonga District Fellowship, each one representing a family, a church, a prayer, and a story of service. She understood that unity does not happen by accident; it must be prayed for, organised, encouraged, and lovingly maintained.

She also strengthened Vahefonua's connection with the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship, the South Pacific Area, and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Through these relationships, she helped Tongan Methodist women see themselves as part of a global Christian sisterhood.

Her leadership combined prayer with practical compassion. Under her guidance, annual contributions supported education, medical assistance, leadership development, overseas mission, and the World Federation.

To lead for more than a decade is to face seasons of joy and seasons of difficulty. Mrs Kilikiti met each season with courage, discipline, and unwavering faith. She encouraged women to keep praying, learning, giving, and serving, even when the road was demanding.

Her 2025 report honoured women "who fought for the Cross." Today, those words return to embrace her. She now joins that great cloud of witnesses who have served faithfully and entered God's rest.

We offer our deepest gratitude. Leadership of this kind asks much not only of the leader but also of the family who supports her, waits for her, prays for her, and carries the hidden cost of her service. May God's comfort surround you, and may you find peace in knowing that her labour in the Lord was not in vain.

Her finest memorial will not be words alone. It will be the continuation of the work she loved.

The seeds she planted remain alive: in the programmes she shaped, the leaders she encouraged, the children who heard the Gospel, and the communities strengthened through her compassion.

This is the legacy of a faithful lay leader: that many others are now better able to see and serve Christ because she passed their way.

We entrust Mrs Silila Finau Kilikiti into the eternal care of the God she loved and served.

*Silila: Kuo ke tau 'a e tau lelei, Kuó ke lava'i 'a e fakapuepue, Kuó ke tauhi mai 'a e tui totonu. (2 Timothy 4:7)*

May her faithful soul rest in the peace of Christ. May light perpetually shine upon her. May the God of all comfort strengthen her family, Vahefonua Tonga, and all who grieve her passing.

# Peter James Moss

1935 – 2026

## *Lay Person*

A safe stronghold Our God is Still.

As a 12-year-old schoolboy at Wellington College, 1947, Peter and his schoolmates regularly sang this Martin Luther hymn in German: Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott.

The text became very important to Peter, and he asked that it be read, in English, at the beginning of his funeral.

Peter was the dearly loved husband of Anne for 60 years, and much-loved father of Timothy, and Andrew, a loved uncle of his nieces and nephews.

The whole Methodist Connexion expresses thanks to Anne, Timothy and Andrew for the many hours they spent without Peter's presence around the home as they gave love and support which enabled him to offer a highly skilled ministry of voluntary service, attending meetings or working away in his study preparing for meetings.

Peter began his Connexional involvement after he and Anne joined the Christchurch West (Upper Riccarton) Parish in 1969, and it is not surprising he was immediately invited to work on the engineering design of the new church building, which opened in 1971. The Synod were quick to recognise that Peter, who had a prestigious academic career, as a Structural Engineer, and was an Associate Professor at the University of Canterbury had brought into their midst a set of skills that would be invaluable to the National Church Building and Loan Fund Committee, which later became the Methodist Connexional Property Committee, as well as to the Synod and Parish, and so ensured that his name was put forward for nomination. Peter was appointed to the Church Building and Loan Committee in 1971. After serving the Methodist Connexional Property Committee for 56 years, Peter indicated that he would retire from the Committee at the May

meeting on May 28, 2026, four weeks after his death. This concluded fifty-six years of service to the Connexion.

Peter and Anne were a team. In 2019 Anne was invited to join the music team at Wesley Care and for three years she offered a wonderful music ministry to the chapel playing for a monthly Sunday service and Wednesday at least once a month. As well as this commitment always undertaken together, Anne has for many years been part of the music roster at their Parish Church, Christchurch West.

She did not do this alone. Peter was always present sitting close to the piano offering the same loving support and encouragement that Anne and the boys had always offered to him in his ministry.

The Church gives thanks for Peter's commitment to the God he served his whole life. His warmth, gentle care, wisdom, support, and willingness to serve will be greatly missed. Well done, good and faithful servant. Rest in peace.

## **Sharon Te Mangu Tito**

**1961 – 2026**

***Lay Person***

E te Atua Kaha Rawa, e te Matua i te rangi, tēnā koe.

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā kārangatanga maha, tēnā koutou katoa.

I tēnei wā o te poroporoaki, ka whakanuia, ka whakamihia hoki tō tātou tuahine aroha, a Sharon Tito, mō tōna whakapono pūmau, tōna ngākau pono, me tana mahi nui i roto i Te Taha Māori o Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

E Sharon, kua roa koe e ū ana ki te mahi a te Ariki. He kaimahi ngākau tapatahi koe, he pou whakakaha mō te Hāhi. Nāu ngā mahi whakahaere i kawē mārire, me te manawanui, kia pai ai te rere o ngā kaupapa o te Hāhi. Ahakoa ngā taumahatanga, i ū tonu koe ki te

mahi, ehara mō te whakamoemiti a te tangata, engari mō te korōria o te Atua.

He kaikarakia pono hoki koe mō Tāmaki Rohe. Nā ō karakia i hiki ai te wairua o te tini, i whakakaha ai te hunga ngoikore, i whakamārie ai te hunga e tangi ana, ā, i ārahi ai te iwi ki te aroaro o te Atua. I rangona tō reo e inoi ana me te whakapono, e whakapūmau ana i te mana, te aroha, me te kaha o tō tātou Ariki, o Īhu Karaiti.

E kore e warewaretia tō whakapau kaha, tō atawhai, me tō ngākau hūmārie. Kua waiho e koe he tauira pai mō te hunga e whai ake nei—he tauira o te pononga pono e mahi ana i raro i te manaakitanga o te Atua.

He Manaakitanga

Kia manaakitia koe e te Atua Kaha Rawa i ngā rā katoa e takoto mai nei. Kia tau tonu tōna aroha ki runga i a koe, kia whakakāia tō ngākau ki te rangimārie, te hari, me te kaha hou. Kia haere tonu te Wairua Tapu hei kaiārahi, hei kaiwhakamārie, hei pou mōu i ngā wā katoa.

He Inoi

E te Matua i te rangi, ka tuku whakawhetai mātou mō te oranga me te mahi a tō pononga, a Sharon. Ngā mihi mō tōna whakapono, mō tana ū ki te karanga i homai e Koe, me tana mahi aroha ki roto i tō Hāhi.

E te Ariki Īhu Karaiti, kia mau tonu tō ringa kaha ki runga i a ia. Whakapaingia ia i roto i tō aroha mutunga kore, tiakina ia me tōna whānau, ā, kia kaha tonu tōna whakapono ki a koe. Kia noho tonu ia hei rama e whiti ana i tō māramatanga, hei kaiwhakaatu mō te Rongopai, ā, kia kitea tonutia te mana me te kaha o tō aranga ake i roto i tōna oranga.

Nā te mea nāu te korōria, te honore, me te mana, ināianei, ā, ake tonu atu.

Āmine.

## Barney Winikerei

1939 – 2026

### *Minita-a-Iwi, Te Taha Māori*

“I te tīmatanga ko te kupu,

Ko Te Atua te kupu.

Ko Te Atua anō taua kupu,

i te tīmatanga.”

Barney, the eighth child of Nguru and Hinekino Winikerei (née Huirama), was born on August 25, 1939, in Marokopa, a tight-knit community on the rugged west coast of the King Country. As a proud son of Korokī-Kahukura ki Pōhara Pā, Waikato, and Maniapoto, his very identity was firmly anchored in the spiritual and historical legacy of his tūpuna.

Leaving school at the tender age of thirteen to work the land, Barney quickly developed a strong work ethic. A gifted sportsman, farmer, and talented musician, he eventually journeyed south to Bluff, where he worked at the Ocean Beach freezing works. He remained there for two decades, until the call of his elders brought him home.

Faith and service were woven into the fabric of Barney’s whakapapa. His father, Nguru, and grandfather, Aihe, were both devout men who preached the gospel throughout the Waikato and King Country. In a deeply meaningful continuation of this legacy, Barney was called by his elders to take up the mantle of spiritual leadership for his whānau, hapū, and iwi.

In 1986, he was stationed as a Minita ā-iwi to Te Rohe Pōtae. He served under the mentorship of Mōrehu (Buddy) Te Whare, the Tumuaki ā-Rohe District Superintendent. During his early years of ministry, Barney walked alongside fellow stalwarts of the faith, including Canon Rua Anderson and Rev. Robert (Bob) Emery from Te

Hāhi Mihinare; Te Pare Kai Joseph, Āpotoro Takiwā o Te Hāhi Rātana; Stan Gilmore; Phillip Te Uira; and many others.

Barney became an orator of distinction, a trusted spokesman, a wise adviser, and a staunch advocate for the wellbeing of his communities. Yet, it was often his quiet counsel, his infectious humour, and the simple, profound gift of his presence that left the deepest impact on the multitudes he helped.

His commitment to service extended far beyond the pulpit and marae. Barney provided spiritual guidance as a Chaplain for both Te Kūiti Hospital and the New Zealand Police. He also served as Chaplain for the 28th Māori Battalion – D Company, and was a revered kaumātua who supported numerous kura, District Councils, and local organisations.

Barney passed peacefully at home in Te Kūiti on Thursday, 18 June 2026, at the age of 86.

He was among the last of a remarkable generation of leaders, a generation whose unwavering faithfulness shaped both the church and the wider community. His forty-year ministry as a Minita ā-iwi stands as a testament to a life completely devoted to service, faith, and his people.

“Ko ia tōku piringa, tōku pā; tōku Atua, ka whakawhirinaki ahau ki a ia.”