

Dear Lay Preachers, Presbyters and Parish Administrators

Included with this year's statistics form is the Lay Preachers annual update form. Following conversations with several Lay Preachers and other leaders, we have suggested that accredited Lay Preachers should be listed under their Parishes in the 2026 Yearbook. We recommend that a Parish Administrator or a Lay Preacher takes responsibility for sending this in for the Parish.

Along with the names and details of those who are accredited, active, and upskilled (AAU), we are also asking for the names and details of Lay Preachers who are retired from Lay Preaching (R), in training (I/T) and those who are locally recognized and active but not officially accredited (L/R).

The number of services taken by each Lay Preacher should include those led outside the Parish as well as any conducted in a rest home, hospital or retirement village. This information will need to be supplied by each Lay Preacher to the person sending the return.

As a Network, we are here to support and encourage all involved in the vital ministry of Lay Preaching. Thank you for your help as we try to maintain accurate records. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or suggestions for improving our processes.

*Viv Whimster* (Methodist Lay Preachers Network Convenor)

*Ngáire Southon* (Co-convenor)