

Dear Lay Preachers, Presbyters and Parish Administrators

Included with this year's statistics form is the 2026 Lay Preachers annual update form. Accredited Lay Preachers are now listed under their Parishes in the Methodist 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 part of the Methodist Church's safeguarding policy, parishes are being asked to complete a Police Vetting Check for their Lay Preachers. For further information, please follow this link:

<https://www.methodist.org.nz/tangata/ministers-lay-and-ordained/police-vetting/>

The inter-denominational New Zealand Lay Preachers Association (NZLPA) is facing a critical shortage of office bearers and the probability of winding up. As the most recent NZLPA database does not include email addresses, we are asking Methodist Lay Preachers for their permission please to pass on their emails to the NZLPA so as many members as possible can be kept informed by email.

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

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