



NZ Methodist Women's Fellowship
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

December 2021 edition

Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei, Nisa Bula Vinaka, Kia Ora and warm greetings from your National Executive Team – Suresa Tufuga Vice President and Chaplain, Rosalina Toilolo National Secretary, Rita Tuimaseve Treasurer, Sharlene Malaeimi UCANZ and Correspondence Secretary, Juanita Salevao Liaison Link, Leuluai P Lauaki-Ah Young Diaconate Link, Janice Auva'a-Walters Missions Links, Janine Tuivaiti National Council of Women Link and Lautalie Aumua World Federation Uniting Methodist Women's Church link.

We just like to wish everyone a wonderful festive season and hope you get to enjoy it with family whether face to face, or virtually but be thankful that we get to celebrate the annual anniversary where all Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. May we enter the new year being thankful that having God as our pilot we can only enjoy what his plans are for us all in 2022.

Let us pay our respects to those that have past since our Convention this year, may our Lord give comfort to the families as they come to terms in losing a loved one during these times and for some not being able to farewell how we would normally pay our respects due to the restrictions of the different levels the country faced in the last four months.

My first invite was to join Mafutaga Tamaitai Sinoti Samoa - New Plymouth branch in their WFMUCW Study Day programme, what an awesome event. The topic/theme for the programme was the UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 – water and sanitation, thank you Jeannie and your beautiful executive for leading the programme, providing the awareness that we take for granted because of its availability here in NZ. Other countries are not the same, some countries sanitation is not essential too costly, and women have to improvise to get by.

This year's Conference was held virtually and as amazing as it is that we have technology, it is not always reliable, but we got there in the end. This was my first ever Conference and it was so exciting to be part of this awesome event. Both myself and ex-President Siniva Vaitohi were your representatives at Conference and it was great to be acknowledged and very impressed to be bumped to the first day (Wednesday) of conference to have our report read and so great to have "women power" because those who were present would have heard the discussion about our recommendation for the conference to acknowledge and support our two annual meetings both National Council and Convention. We are declining in numbers and can't do it alone we need our church to support in any form of capacity whether financially or just having the support would be great.

We received awesome feedback from many and I believe the highlight was when ex-President Siniva Vaitohi received an email after conference from an attendee who was touched in her words "eloquent plea for funding from the connexion for MWF conferences." – she stated that in memory of her mother Elsie Neller who was part of the Auckland District as a Treasurer for MWF for 19 years wanted to put a donation to help members attend annual conference. This is truly wonderful. God is Good – All the Time.

Our Smethurst committee met in late November virtually and Rita and I are so blessed to be apart of this awesome committee and just the great support you give to our women of all ages to study in tertiary education, any financial help we can get goes a long way towards course related costs truly thankful that we can help to support them. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work both Dianne Claughton and Valmai Horlor over the last 4 years as their term came to an end at our

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last meeting and ex-President Siniva Vaitohi becomes Convenor, Lyn Frater our Secretary and Rita Tuimaseve Treasurer all the best to you all in your new roles for the Smethurst Committee.

Touchstone article this month reflected on our Convention and thought this would be a good place to show case your National Executive so for the next few editions we will talk about what is happening in the NZ Methodist Women's Fellowship and we will get a member of the National Executive to talk about themselves, so we are out there in the connexional space.

Liaison link Juanita Salevao sent out an email to Districts to advise what is happening in your space so we can share with our members. We would also like to link Districts so if we don't hear from you this means we will be linking your districts with another so you can share stories with each other, also if you would like me to visit in the next two-years whether virtually or face to face please let Juanita know so she can schedule this in.

I would like to acknowledge Roslie Sugrue for her ongoing support for MWF and Connexional with your wonderful resources and sending through information to us to share with Districts about Advent I am sure these have been a godsend for many to share with members.

Finally, to end my first newsletter as your President I have asked our Chaplain Suresa Tufuga to give us a Word of the Day and this will be a continued feature in my newsletters if you would like anything else to be the newsletter, please let me know.

"WORD OF THE DAY"

COLOSSIANS 3:12

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience"

We are the people of God he loved us and chose us for his own.

So then, we must clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, Gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of us has a complaint against someone else.

We must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

The peace that Christ gives is to guide us in the decisions we make, for it is to this peace that God has called us together in the one body.

And be thankful. Christ's message in all its richness must live in our hearts.

Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in our hearts. Everything we do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as we give thanks through him to God the Father.

Once again would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New year please be safe out there and whatever plans you have may our Lord be your protector throughout the festive season.

God Bless and signing out until my next newsletter.

Tui Salevao