



METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER - June 2021

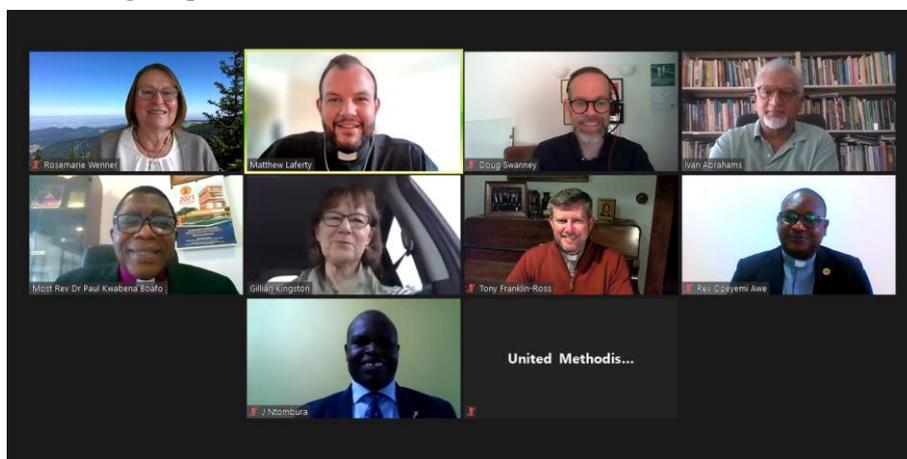
METHODIST CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF THE PACIFIC (MCCP)

The Methodist Consultative Council of the Pacific met on 18/20 May via Zoom. President Andrew, Vice President 'Etuini and General Secretary Tara represented MCNZ at this online meeting; and Tony Franklin-Ross attended representing the World Methodist Council. As part of the conversations over the three days, common themes emerged:

1. Addressing climate change, and climate justice. This is a pressing issue. Rising sea levels; affecting food sources; displacement of people; climate refugees. (Our response/care for creation is set within the context of participating in God's healing and renewal of the whole creation)
2. Eliminating gender-based violence – engaging women and men in promoting/modelling/living relationships of equality, mutuality and respect arising from the Biblical and theological foundations that every person is created in the image of God, infinitely loved and invited into their fullest humanity.
3. Extractive industries and their impacts on the Pacific (Areas of concern include the extraction of human labour such as RE workers to Australia and NZ, and land based & deep-sea mining).
4. Nuclear fallout - the ongoing effects of the fallout from nuclear testing in the Pacific. The danger of nuclear weapons. (see the UN treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons). Ships that have sensitive cargo that come through our oceans, causing substantial risk to Pacific nations. Nuclear waste being discharged into the oceans.
5. The engagement of youth and young adults in shaping the present and future of our churches.
 - hearing their voice, contributing to the reform and transformation of our churches
 - their leadership in areas of justice, including addressing the climate crisis
 - some concerns about their disengagement with education (in some of our contexts)
 - concerns about young people's disengagement with the church
 - how will the church embody the concerns of people (including young people) in such a way that the church is relevant and connects the Gospel with people's lives in meaningful ways? (Rather than a focus on drawing young people into the church, we call the church to engage in relevant ways with young people.)
6. Alleviating poverty – addressing needs in our particular contexts including - affordable and secure housing, food security, addressing the effects of COVID19 which has accentuated underlying poverty and the impacts of climate change.
7. Focus on evangelism, sharing the hope of the Gospel of Christ. How do we represent and share the Gospel in public spaces? Issue of those contexts where there are growing numbers of those who have 'no religion'.
8. Migration and refugees, including issue of extractive labour and climate refugees.
9. The church has a prophetic voice – calling government to account – continuous fight for good governance and justice.

These themes have been shared with the wider Methodist family through the World Methodist Council (WMC) at a meeting organised by the WMC ecumenical team, of which Tony Franklin-Ross is the Ecumenical Relationships Committee Chairperson. This was part of a series of Zoom

meetings that have been organised this month, to hear from Methodist regional councils regarding their work together and ecumenically, and included Officers of WMC. Particular emphasis was made on the themes of migration, peace-building, and climate change. Two meetings so far have been with African & European, and Asian & Pacific regional Methodist groups (screenshots respectively below); with meetings to come with North American and Latin/South American groups.



ANGLICAN-METHODIST COVENANT- anniversary observance

On 23 May, Pentecost Sunday, the Anglican Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Auckland, hosted an Evensong Service to mark the anniversary of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant. Rev Tony Franklin-Ross, Methodist Co-Chair of the Dialogue, was guest-preacher; with the service hosted by Bishop Ross Bay, Anglican Co-Chair of the Dialogue. (Pictured with Dean Ann Mills).

The first meeting of the Dialogue since the start of the Covid pandemic was held earlier in May, to set its forthcoming work. Dialogue members reflected on the experiences that people bring to this dialogue which reflected a common exposure to ‘ecumenism by osmosis’, that is, it comes from lived experiences ... such as:

Growing up with ecumenism simply the ‘norm’ of one’s early church experiences, or growing up in family life with a diversity of traditions;



Seeing ecumenism as an enrichment of life and ministry;
Acknowledging that theological training and formation gave exposure to denominational and faith diversity eg when St Johns-Trinity colleges operated closely together and student bodies mixed on the same site, or at other institutions such as Carey, Bible College, University etc;
Realising that our own theology is not the only one;
The experience of local ecumenical relationships in parish and ministry life, or within co-operating/union parishes.

The next Dialogue meeting is planned to be in Kerikeri later this year, and will include pilgrimage to sites of Methodist and Anglican significance. This may lay some groundwork for recognising our longstanding ecumenical relationships at the Methodist Bicentenary Conference in 2022.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – 16 to 23 May

In Auckland, as in other parts of the country, an ecumenical service was held to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in May. This year's service was hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese at Christ the King Catholic Church in Owairaka. A range of denominations were represented: Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican, Methodist, Cook Island Churches, Coptic Orthodox, and Jacobite Syrian Orthodox (who will be hosting the 2022 service). The liturgical resources can be used at any time of the year, and can be found at:

http://www.methodist.org.nz/mission_and_ecumenical



MISSION AND ECUMENICAL - Office Relocation

MME will be exiting the office it has been renting at the MCNZ Building at 409 Great South Road, Ellerslie. This will be effective as of 1 July 2021. The Acting Director will be working from his home office. Please phone or email to arrange a meeting as required – with meetings likely to be by sampling a local café!

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

Methodist Church of New Zealand

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