

President
Setaita Taumoepeau K VeikuneVice President
Nicola Teague Grundy

Report from President and Vice President

From President, Setaita Taumoepeau K Veikune and Vice President, Nicola Teague Grundy

In case you weren't aware, the national election is coming up. What are we expecting? The process so far has been interesting and, we are sure will become even more interesting as policies are announced, challenges made and assertions about who is more suited to governing our country.

Of course it is easy to be critical of our government and political parties, but it is important that we play our part. How can we be critical if we are not prepared to participate? But what is our responsibility in terms of making our decisions?

It is of course important to at least think about the issues that we are passionate

about, the values we hold dear, the things that we are concerned about and what we look for in order for improvements to be made. We need to take time to research what the various parties are planning to do on our behalf and think about how these things will impact on our communities.

We also need to think about how policies impact on the whole, elections are not just about how we personally will benefit, they are about the whole. The whole in terms of those who are the most vulnerable in our community.

Lest we think that religion and politics don't mix, we only need to open our bibles. The Jesus story is a political story. It is a story about a time of great injustice. A story of absolute power and a story of cultural revolution. Jesus showed us through his actions that it is possible to transform the world in

which we live in. The implication of this story is that we have a responsibility to carry on this legacy, to participate, to seek the best for our nation, and for our people, particularly in terms of love, justice and mercy.

Our Methodist ancestor John Wesley looked upon the whole world as his parish. He said, "If doing a good act in public will excite others to do more good then 'Let your light shine to all.' Miss no opportunity to do good."

If we choose not to take this

opportunity to participate, to register, to get out of our houses, to put a tick on a piece of paper, are we denying our commitment to live a Christian life? We encourage you all to participate in this election, to learn about the policies, to consider all the options and choose carefully and prayerfully your response.

Once again our dear fellow Methodists, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." John Wesley.



Seminar Explores Future Church, Different Church, Ready Church

In July Rev Mark Gibson and Trudy Downes teamed up to co-host an online seminar to discuss lessons we have learned from the crises we have faced in Aotearoa over recent years and how church might respond differently in the future.

Major unexpected events over the past decade include shootings, earthquakes, a volcanic eruption, a measles outbreak, floods, fires, a gas explosion and a pandemic. The adage "It will never happen here" no longer applies.

Mark, a Methodist Minister of two uniting parishes which were hugely affected by the Christchurch earthquakes, brought insights from the recent lockdown period. Having lived through many disasters Mark is keen to see "a resilient church that carries forward the good lessons from the events we have been through, in a creative and life-affirming way".

Trudy Downes is responsible for Caring for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata for the Methodist Church of New Zealand (Health and Safety with less limits). Her aim is that things run efficiently and effectively. If technology can help then that's a bonus.

Trudy and Mark spent an hour offering fellow participants an overview of what lessons we can take from recent experiences particularly given climate and other ongoing changes of major proportions and crises facing church. Mark said, "I am keen to see a church more resilient and ready to move and respond in future. We need to develop a culture of preparedness as there is security in being ready and prepared to react to situations." Trudy cited the value of fire drills as an example of having an effective plan in place that acts as a reference when we are required to react effectively to crisis.

Suggestions included having a kete that includes a range of ways to react. Working collaboratively with parishes was also identified as a way of achieving better outcomes rather than trying to operate as a single parish. This collaborative approach has many advantages including sharing stress for individuals leading communities

and pooling resources so that each partner can share their particular strengths and knowledge.

Mark said, "In a crisis situation we need to refocus and tune in to the hardship. We already know who is suffering most in our community. When we tune in we can focus out in ways that can make an enormous difference to those most vulnerable."

Making clothing, food and household resources available is hugely important as is having a Gospel-driven approach to providing solutions. "As we head into a prolonged recession there is the danger of attitudes of hostility and judgement towards those on the edge, struggling. Blaming the victim. We need to draw on our spiritual resources," Mark says.

Mark cited a Māori proverb "Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi". This translates as "With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive".

The seminar concluded with the hosts calling on parishes to respond with ideas on what they would like to see the Connexional Office provide. Trudy said, "The Connexional Office's role is to provide what parishes want. The more we know, the better we can respond to those needs. It's about how we can learn to care better for ourselves and for others, not about being fearful of control by Big Brother or Big Sister."

The seminar can be viewed: www.methodist.org.nz/caring_for_our_people/future_church

Webinar 2: Learn, reflect and project - change into the future.

Tony Franklin-Ross will join the panel as we explore the way forward. Date and time to be confirmed.



Methodist Trust Association

INCOME DISTRIBUTION RATES TO 30 JUNE 2020

	3 Months	12 Month Average
Income Fund	4.50%	4.31%
Growth and Income Fund	1.94%	2.64%

Income distributions for the quarter totalled \$2,285,276

Growth and Income Fund depositors received an additional \$3,127,527 capital distribution, lifting the total annual return to 4.77%

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