



Caring for Our People

Manaakitia ā tātou tāngata

December 2017

Malo e lelei! Talofa lava! Ni sa bula! Greetings! Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa!

I am the still-new Health and Safety Coordinator for The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, and my name is Trudy Downes.

Thank you to the people that have welcomed me into their places of worship, their meetings and their workplaces. Thank you to the people that have taken their time to listen to me and for all your efforts in Caring for Our People, ensuring they are healthy and safe.

Mapping the Methodist Church

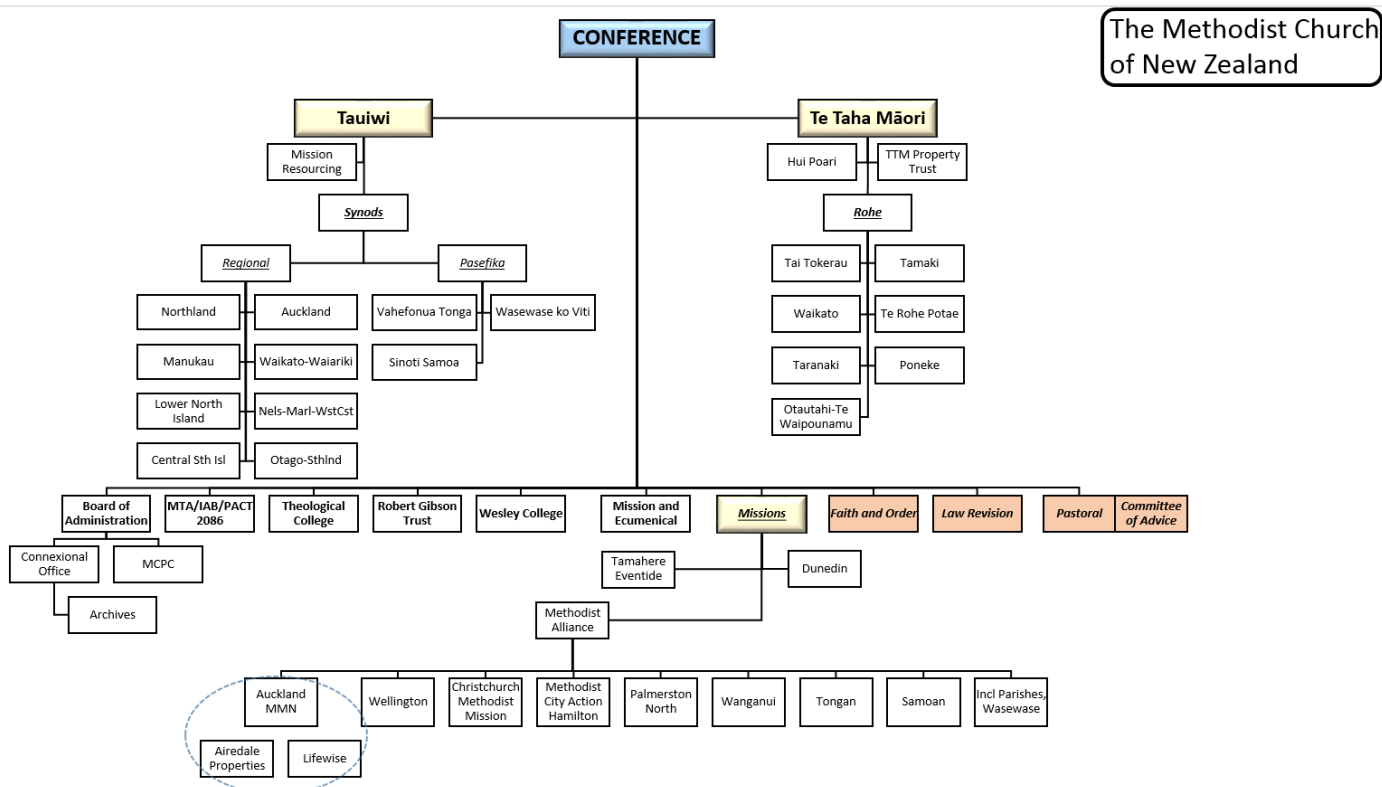
I have been with our Hāhi for just over 2 months now and when I first started, I thought “Wow! The Methodist Church is not a little undertaking!” However, I also found that no-one person could provide the single view of what the Church is involved in. Therefore, I have been given the privilege of time, to explore the Church to gain an understanding of what we all do. To map the Church, if at all possible!

There are some key reasons for producing this map. The primary reason is that if Conference (and therefore our President, Vice-President and General Secretary) is not 100% aware of what is actually being undertaken, and where, then Conference does not know where our key health and safety risks may lie.

What I am also finding is that we are duplicating effort... that different health and safety documents are being created for the same activity at different locations.

Wouldn't it be easier to have a core set of excellent documents that can then be shared with minor adjustments for location variations? And wouldn't it be great if we could learn from someone else's earlier effort rather than having to do the hard slog (and hard lessons) ourselves?

We just have to find out what and where all the activities are before we can start sharing!



Pilot Programmes

Side-by-side with the mapping we are running some pilot programmes. These pilots are the start of sharing information. We will work out an excellent set of health and safety documents for an activity, then we will trial them at a second location (to prove the first time wasn't a fluke). Lastly the documents will be available to the wider Church.

Current pilots include one:

- Early childhood centre: to adapt the existing health and safety system and upgrade the rating in the next Education Department Review
- Church emergency response plan: to create a plan for all the groups that use the church and its buildings.
- Small office: to create a health and safety system
- Building project reporting: to capture construction health and safety reporting

Would you like to help with other pilot programmes? I am looking for other unique pilot programmes to start up which may include a Retirement Village or Retreat or Camp or Gym and even a Youth group!

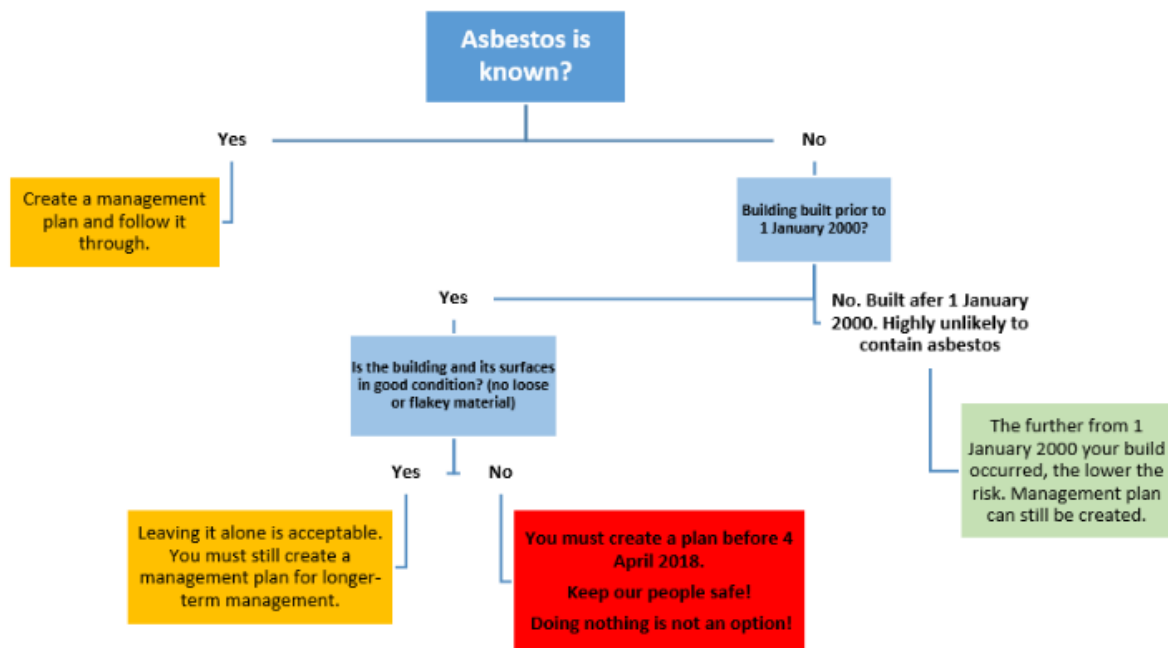
Asbestos!

Recently I have been contacted regarding "what is the Church policy regarding Asbestos?".

At this stage, no policy has been developed regarding asbestos but below is a quick flow chart to help your decision making. Ideally we will have a central asbestos register, with asbestos management plans.

Where asbestos has been identified, we have a duty to develop an asbestos management plan by 4 April 2018.

There is some excellent material on the Worksafe website! <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/>



Nāku te rourou nāu te rourou ka ora ai te iwi. *With your basket and my basket the people will live.*
(With co-operation and the combination of resources we will get there).

Meri Kirihimete me ngā mihi o te tau hou ki te whānau katoa o Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa!
Merry Christmas and New Year greetings to all the family of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa!

Nā Trudy Downes

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