

Methodist Lay Preachers' Network Newsletter

October 2021

Greetings to all Methodist Lay Preachers Network members as we continue to lead services during the challenge of lockdowns. We hope this letter finds you well, whether you are currently meeting for worship, connecting on-line or by zoom, or sharing worship resources through letter box drops.

You may be reading this on your computer or as a hard copy, but either way, in this communication you will find:

- information about the 2021 Methodist Lay Preachers Network Gathering
- NZLPA
- Annual update
- holiday preaching opportunity

Methodist Lay Preachers Network Gathering

Our ability to adapt and be flexible is certainly being exercised! It is also the case that while some doors seem to be shutting, others are opening. One example is the decision to hold this year's Methodist Church Conference on-line. The Methodist Lay Preachers Network has generally held its gathering over lunch on the Sunday of Conference. This wasn't always an ideal time, and while it meant that Lay Preachers living in the area could attend, many missed out through not being Conference attendees. However, *this* year, any Lay Preacher can join our gathering by zoom, a couple of days before Conference starts. So here is a warm invitation to join us by clicking on this link on Monday 15 November from 7.00 to 8.30pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87106383910?pwd=SzE5S1Frd0JzVFY1K1EvNGVEa05HQ09>

or you can enter these details when you open zoom:

Meeting ID: 871 0638 3910

Passcode: 952919

If you do not have access to Zoom yourself, perhaps you could join another Lay Preacher in your area who does? Our agenda is still to be drawn up, so if you have any matters you would like to raise, please contact one of the convenors listed below.

New Zealand Lay Preachers' Association - NZLPA

The inter-denominational NZLPA has plenty of resources for leading worship on its website. Check them out at <https://nzlpa.wordpress.com>. If you have crafted some prayers or liturgy, or delivered a sermon or reflection that was well received, you may like to offer them for the site so that others can benefit.

- If you do not yet belong to the NZLPA, why not join this year? Membership is open to anyone interested or in training, as well as to those who have completed training; please complete part A of the Membership Form which may be downloaded from <https://nzlpa.wordpress.com/how-to-join/nzlpa-forms/> and follow the instructions for paying the subscription of \$25 by internet banking. The quarterly magazine *Word and Worship* contains excellent articles and now includes an insert in a Pacific language.
- Have you ever thought it would be a good idea to have a name badge for those occasions when you preach in a different parish? The distinctive NZLPA badge is available to members who can order one from the Treasurer/Membership Secretary, Valerie Marshall, at no extra cost when they join or renew their subscription.

Annual Update

It is time for the annual update forms to be returned so that the names of Accredited, Active and Upskilled Lay Preachers can be maintained on our database and included in the next Methodist Yearbook. You will find an Update Form attached to this email, through your Presbyter who will have been sent one, or on the Methodist website http://www.methodist.org.nz/board_of_ministry/lay_preachers . If you have not done so already, please complete it and return it promptly as it is the only way we can keep track of changed emails and status. No-one's "active" status will be withdrawn for leading fewer than 3 services this year, as COVID restrictions have disrupted many preaching plans.

Preaching Opportunities

Thinking about taking a break in a beautiful part of Aotearoa?

The Bay of Islands Co-operating Parish at Paihia offers accommodation at one of their on-site holiday units in return for leading worship on a Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Ann Pearson, email billannpearson@gmail.com or visit their page on the MCNZ website:

http://www.methodist.org.nz/find_us/northland/bay_of_islands_co_operating

Next Newsletter

Do you have anything you would like to contribute to the next newsletter? It would be good to have brief book reviews, and hear of resources you have found useful, websites you refer to or training events planned for your region. Please send in your contribution to one of us named below.

Kia ora tatou.

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