

Methodist Lay Preachers' Network Newsletter

October 2022

Tēnā koutou katoa, malo e lelei, talofa lava, ni sa bula vinaka, greetings from the Methodist Lay Preachers Network to all Lay Preachers in congregations with a Methodist component. You may be retired, accredited with many years' experience, just accredited or in training – we hope there is something of interest for you in this newsletter.

In this communication you will find:

- Information about our November Zoom Meeting
- details about the Lay Preachers lunch at Conference
- the Methodist Lay Preachers Network report being presented to Conference.
- Update details plea

November Zoom Meeting

The Methodist Lay Preachers Network zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday 14 November at 7.30pm.

You do not need to register and can join the meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85494488198?pwd=NmpjaHJTOWV5Q1VUNDI4SWk5K255dz09>

or opening Zoom on your device and entering these details

Meeting ID: 854 9448 8198 and

Passcode: 114630

This is a few days before the Methodist Conference which will be held in Kerikeri from 19-23 November.

Lay Preachers Lunch at Conference

We will be holding a Lay Preachers lunch at 11:00am at Kaeo Kerikeri Union Church, 144 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri 0230; there is no charge for this, but you will need to register for it by contacting Wendy Keir in the Connexional Office [Ph] 03 366 6049 Ext. 827 [E] wendyk@methodist.org.nz

This link to the MCNZ website will give you the latest information on Conference <https://www.methodist.org.nz/whakapapa/conference/2022/>

Methodist Lay Preachers Network Conference Report

This is the Network Report which is being presented at Conference. We are circulating this for information and also to give an opportunity for comment to those Lay Preachers who will not be at Conference.

We remember

We pay tribute to those Lay Preachers who have died during the year:

Rod Fleury

Ron Malpass

Keith Knox

Susau Strickland

Bruce McKeague

Sheila Thorne

We express deep gratitude for their years of ministry as Lay Preachers and extend our sympathy to their whanau.

We welcome

Accreditation Certificates have been issued by the NZLPA for several Methodists.

Prosper Narthex Adunarh	Pomana Otukolo
Vivienne Ball	Te Rito Peyroux
Matthew Barnett	Craig Robinson
Kathleen Dixon	Mata'afa Fano Roebeck
Puletiuatoa Utaulu Faaa'e	Kenneth Skinner
Seuseu Sammy Fakalago	Ian Stewart
Leaupepe Sene Fuimaona	Doreen Sunman
Sesilili 'Otunuku Kato	Ina Tagata
Tahi 'Atalangi Kato	Tui Tagata
AiTee Koh	Siofilisi Taukolo
Lei'ataua Ioane To'oto'o Lei'ataua	Tilisi Tongatu'a
Leaupepe Genevieve Lei'ataua	Fakalesi Tu'inauvai
Amanda Lötter	Soane Vaipulu
Dianne Claughton	Ruth Whittmore

We congratulate them on completing the requirements for accreditation. We encourage them to commit to on-going training and urge Parishes to ensure that they are included regularly on their preaching plans.

We affirm

We acknowledge the effective work of training and resourcing of Lay Preachers in the cultural Synods and raise the question as to what is the role of the Methodist Lay Preachers Network for Vahefonua Tonga, Sinoti Samoa and Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma. We invite these cultural Synods to discuss this issue and give us some guidance during the coming year.

We express concern

Most English-speaking congregations are relying more heavily on lay leadership for worship and the Network believes that this increases the urgency for effective training and resourcing.

We ask that a working group be formed with representation from Trinity College and Mission Resourcing along with the Network to develop a clearer process for the training, accreditation and on-going education of Lay Preachers in the English-speaking Synods.

We gather

In past years, the Lay Preachers Gathering and Lunch has been squeezed into Sunday's Conference events between morning worship and an ordination service. We are not a decision-making group but value the chance to share experiences and concerns; this short time frame doesn't provide much opportunity time for discussion and is restricted to those who are attending Conference or live in the immediate area.

In 2021 we took our call from the on-line Conference and met by zoom prior to the days of Conference. This proved much more inclusive and gave us more time, so we are planning to meet again by zoom in 2022 and will be sending out a link directly to Lay Preachers and via the Connexional mailing closer to the time.

We update

We are exploring a different process for updating Lay Preacher details, in which parishes take the names of their Lay Preachers (those who are in-training, accredited, retired and who have died during the year) to June Synods for the Methodist LP Network Synod Rep to pass on to the Network Convenor.

Suggested decisions:

1. That the report be received.
2. That Vahefonua Tonga, Sinoti Samoa, Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma advise the Methodist Lay Preachers Network on the role of the Network in the life of their respective Synods.
3. That a working group be established between Mission Resourcing, Trinity College and representatives from the Methodist Lay Preachers Network to develop a clearer process for the training, accreditation and on-going education of Lay Preachers in the English-speaking Synods.
4. That the Methodist Lay Preachers Network Convenors be:
Viv Whimster (Convenor), Syd Easton, Ngaire Southon (Co-Convenors)

Update details

Far fewer than half our accredited Lay Preachers send an update form – without it, we do not know if you are still active, have moved, or retired... there is hopefully one attached with this newsletter. Please complete and send it back to me if you don't recall doing it recently (vjwhimster@gmail.com). If the form doesn't work for you, just let me know how many services you took during the year July 2021-June 2022, please!

Next Newsletter

Do you have anything you would like to contribute to the next newsletter? It would be good to hear of ways that your Parish supports Lay Preachers, for example, or know of concerns that could be addressed in a wider group. Please send your contribution to one of us named below.

Syd Easton eastonps@inspire.net.nz

Ngaire Southon ngaire@southon.net

Viv Whimster vjwhimster@gmail.com