

The following pages are an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Minutes of the Annual Conference .

The extract contains the reports to Conference for the following three Methodist Children's homes:

- The Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage, Mt Albert and Epsom
- Masterton Methodist Children's Home
- South Island Orphanage and Children's Home

# **The Methodist Church of New Zealand**

## **MINUTES**

OF THE

# **Annual Conference**

OPENED IN

**TRINITY CHURCH,**

**DUNEDIN.**

*On Thursday, 22nd February, 1945.*

CHRISTCHURCH

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1945



The Committee reaffirms the Resolution of last year regarding the position of Deaconesses who marry. The Resolutions of Conference on page 145, Minutes of 1944, are being considered by the Committee, and a report will be presented to Conference. The names of members of the Committee for 1945 will also be presented to Conference.

J. H. ALLEN, Chairman.  
A. N. SCOTTER, Convener.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the regulations bearing on the position of Deaconesses who marry (Min. Conf., 1944, p. 144) be amended to read "Any Deaconess or probationer who decides to marry shall give as early notice as possible of her intention, etc.," and that the following words be added thereto: "If a Deaconess, however, has served ten years her name shall be placed upon the Honours List in the Members of Conference."
3. Having regard to the ever increasing need for young women in all departments of our Church, and particularly with respect to the problems that will confront the Church after the war, Conference requests and empowers the Deaconess Committee to select at least twenty suitable young women to train for Deaconesses, Nurses and for the institutional posts. If a sufficient number of such young women cannot be obtained within N.Z., enquiries be made overseas.
4. That Conference instruct the Deaconess Committee to take immediate steps along these lines this year.
5. That the thanks of Conference be extended to Miss Purdie, Sister Madeline Holland and the Tutors.
6. That application for admission to the Institution for Training be made to the Secretary not later than August 31st, and that the entrance examination be taken in September of each year.
7. That the Conference expresses its appreciation of the financial assistance given to the Institution and the Trainees by the Women's Missionary Union.
8. That the General Superintendent of the Home Missions review the Deaconess Travelling Allowances with a view to making a further grant based on the average annual mileage travelled in each District by the Deaconesses.
9. **Methodist Deaconess Committee, 1945:**—The Chairman of the District, Revs. E. Drake, A. N. Scotter, M. A. R. Pratt, R. Dudley, W. H. Greenslade, D. O. Williams, N. P. Larsen, F. O. Prosser, J. M. Blight, C. O. Hailwood; Mesdames H. E. Lamb, A. A. Sandford, R. Dudley, S. H. Provost, S. Orchard, and A. Allen; Sister Mabel Morley; Messrs. J. E. Purchase, E. H. Andrews, W. C. Francis, and A. A. Harrow; Mrs. W. R. Featherston for M.W.M.U. Also Mrs. G. Bowron and Mr. C. A. Newman (Life Members).

**QUESTION XLVIII.**—What are the Resolutions of Conference respecting Connexional Orphanages?

**A.—THE AUCKLAND CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE, MT. ALBERT AND EPSOM.**

In presenting this Report of the thirty-first year's work in connection with our Homes, we gratefully acknowledge the guidance and blessing of our Heavenly Father. The problems of management, staffing, and supply have been successfully met month by month, and every child under our care has been well fed, housed, and clothed.

**Admissions and Withdrawals.** During the year 22 children were admitted, and 25 withdrawn. Our numbers have remained in the vicinity of 70 most of the year, but on September 30th we had 32 boys at "Wesley," and 29 girls and 4 small boys at "Epsom"; a total of 65, with a staff of 9.

**Girls' Hostel.** The outstanding event of the year was the opening of the Girls' Hostel on May 20th in connection with our Epsom Home. The Matron reports:—"The Hostel has filled a long-felt want. The girls thoroughly enjoy living under the new conditions, and all are very happy and helpful in every way." The Board is satisfied that the expenditure of £1366 for building and furniture was fully justified, and that the Hostel will add to the efficiency of our work among the senior girls.

**Building Projects.** Although the building of the Boys' Home at Mt. Roskill has not been possible during the year, the Board has the matter constantly under review. It is sincerely hoped that priority will be secured for the erection of the Home in the new building programme.

**Home for Infants.** The May Synod of the Auckland District forwarded a remit asking the Board to make provision for the care of infants and small children up to 3 years of age. The Board recognises the great need there is to provide for numbers of war babies, and the matter of building and equipping an Infants' Home is being given earnest consideration.

**Street Appeal.** The Board gratefully acknowledges the largely increased donation of the Auckland Orphanages United Council's street appeal throughout the Province. The Methodist per capita proportion of the proceeds was £788/5/-, an amount equal to 4/7 per week for each child in our care, and an increase over the previous year of £354. The Board urges Methodist people throughout the Province to give all possible assistance in organising in their own locality for this united annual appeal.

**Finances.** The Treasurers report a total income from Churches and Young People's Organisations of £1006, which is an increase of £100 on the previous year, and a new record in income from these sources. The splendid service of our City Collector, Mr. J. H. Whitburn, has again yielded cash donations of £100, in addition to goods valued at £45/8/-.

Bequests received during the year (£1518) testify that the work of our Homes is appreciated by Methodists and others who make suitable provision from their estates. We again commend this cause to those making a will.

Excess Revenue of £1792, and Income from Legacies of £1518, enable us to transfer the sum of £3310 to Capital, for the new building fund. This includes the sum of £1366 for the building and furnishing of the Girls' Hostel, which has been paid out of the year's income.

**Appreciation and Thanks.** The sincere thanks of the Board are offered in appreciation of their services to the Honorary Medical Officers, Dr. J. Rule and Dr. J. Kirkwood; to Mr. K. W. White, Chemist; to Messrs. C. Martyn & Sons, Opticians; to Mr. L. S. Dearing, Butcher; to Messrs. Platt & Wright and Mrs. Freeman, for large gifts of fruit; to the Auckland Brush Co. for brooms; to the Wakefield Oil Co., for motor oil; to the Para Rubber Co., for sand shoes; to Robinson's Ice Cream Co. for supplies; to Miss Harbutt, for the provision of firewood; to Mr. and Mrs. Faulkner, for constant services of outstanding merit; to several Ladies' Guilds and Churches, for Harvest



Festival gifts; to the Ladies' Committees of both Homes; to the Ladies of the Auckland Travel Club, for making garments; to the Ladies from several Churches, who regularly assist with mending and darning; and to all the business Houses who have so generously responded to the appeal of the City Collector.

**Sympathy.** The sincere sympathy of the Board is tendered to those of its members who have suffered bereavement during the year; to the Board's Chairman, Rev. E. T. Olds, and Mrs. Olds, in the death of their son on active service; to Mrs. and Miss Frost in the passing of Rev. G. Front; and to the Misses Mason in the loss of their sister, Miss Agnes Mason.

**Board of Management for 1945.** Mrs. W. R. Emerson and Mr. W. Astley (life members), Revs. E. T. Olds (Chairman), F. E. Leadley (Secretary-Treasurer), E. W. Hames, M.A., H. E. Bellhouse, W. Walker, Ministers of Enson and Remuera Churches, W. Parker, A. E. Orr; Mesdames A. H. White, T. Clark, A. L. Caughey, A. Peak, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth; Misses E. Mason, E. Waddingham, I. Buttle, C. E. Wagstaff, B. M. Brooke; Messrs. J. E. Astley, T. Clark, F. Penn, A. Williams (on leave), F. L. Rudd (on leave), J. S. Caughey, A. L. Caughey, J. H. Whitburn, J. Hargreaves, J. Tyler, R. T. Garlick (on leave), G. W. Turley, D. E. Parton, W. H. Faulkner, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Goode, W. E. Burley, B.A., F. C. Matthews, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

E. T. OLDS, Chairman.

F. E. LEADLEY, Secretary-Treasurer.

17th October, 1944.

Resolved: That the Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet be received and adopted.

#### B.—MASTERTON CHILDREN'S HOME.

##### REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1944.

**Children.** At the beginning of the year there were 27 children in residence; admissions numbered 15 and removals 6—leaving 36 children in the Home at 30/9/1944.

The health of the children has been good and their school progress excellent.

**Staff.** With the increased number in the Home—particularly in the younger ages—it became necessary to add to the staff, and Miss C. Fell took up her duties in January as Assistant Matron.

While the Master and Matron were absent from the Home on annual leave—the Rev. and Mrs. Utting very ably controlled the Home, and cared for the children not then away on holiday. The Committee has expressed its appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Utting. The whole staff has given excellent services during the year.

**Committee.** The Committee suffered the loss of Mrs. J. Cocker, whose death occurred on 6th July, 1944. Mrs. Cocker had been a member of the Home Committee since its inception, until her death, and had given untiring and devoted service in the interests of the children.

By removal from Masterton the Committee also lost the services of Mr. T. H. Crosbie, who had been a most active member during his term of appointment.

Mr. J. H. Conly, having resumed civil duties after service overseas with the Forces, has again taken his seat on the Committee.

**Thanks.** The Committee extends thanks to the many kind friends and supporters of the Home in the circuits and Sunday Schools, through whose interest the sum of £505/17/1 (only once exceeded) has been received. Other donations amounted to £26/3/3. To the many who have made other gifts of books, fruit, hobby materials (and instruction), and to the good folk who received the children into their homes during the holiday periods—the Committee expresses its thanks. The ready assistance and co-operation of the Wellington Board, so promptly and cordially available at all times, has been most appreciated by the Masterton Committee.

**Bequests.** Several bequests have been reported through the Committee to the Wellington Board.

**Nominations.** The following nominations for 1945 are submitted: Mr. G. F. Whitlock (Chairman), Mr. J. H. Conly (Deputy Chairman), Mr. W. R. Nicol (Secretary-Manager and Treasurer), Mr. W. H. J. Watson (Assistant Secretary), Dr. N. H. Prior (Physician), Mesdames J. Elliott, F. C. Daniell, G. H. Goodman, Misses M. Burton, R. Elliott and L. Cocker, Rev. G. H. Goodman, Messrs. D. A. Barns, A. H. Daniell, W. H. Judd, and F. E. Wells.

For the Committee,

F. E. WELLS, Chairman.

W. R. NICOL, Secretary-Manager.

Resolved: That the Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet be received and adopted, and appreciation expressed of the splendid work of Mr. and Mrs. H. Bateup and the staff.

#### C.—SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST ORPHANAGE AND CHILDREN'S HOME.

##### 30th ANNUAL REPORT.

It is with deep thankfulness to God that we present this 30th Annual Report of the work in our South Island Methodist Children's Home.

From early beginnings in 1914 with 6 children on the Roll, up to to-day, when we have 79 under our care, the work has gone on with the fine support of our Church people and the faithful care of a devoted band of workers.

During the year ending 30th September, 1944, 10 children have been admitted and 7 discharged. The health of the children has been good, and school progress in most cases very satisfactory. We have at the present time, 13 at Secondary School, 1 at Otago University, and 5 working, 3 girls and 2 boys.

Staff problems, as in all institutions in these unsettled times, cause much concern to the Board. There have been numerous changes during the year, and at the moment we are seriously short of help.

It would be impossible to pay too high a tribute to the ability and inspirational leadership of our Matron, Miss Barclay, who, under most difficult conditions continues to direct the life of the Home.

Our thanks, too, go to our Chaplain, Rev. C. R. Taylor, for a notable contribution to the work among the children, and a faithful band of workers who, in Sunday School, B.C., Clubs, Scouts and Cubs, seek to further the work of the Kingdom of God in our midst.

During the year the Rev. E. Drake, after outstanding service as Secretary and Treasurer, was compelled to relinquish his duties, and the Board appointed Mr. George H. Coley as Secretary-Manager, thereby inaugurating a new order.



Our most sincere thanks goes out to the Ladies' House Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Pratt, for their untiring efforts on our behalf, to Dr. Orchard for medical services, and to Mr. Sevicke Jones for his continued help in caring for the eyes of the children. We would thank, too, that great company of friends who, with gifts of clothes, toys, and produce, help to make our work easier.

The Christchurch Combined Orphanages' Annual Street Appeal is becoming justly famous, and our share in the proceeds of this year's street appeal and Radio Concert was £739—a most acceptable addition to our funds.

We remember, too, with gratitude, the people of our Church in the South Island who, year by year, give their most generous help to our work among the children.

In these troubled days our hearts take courage in the knowledge that these young lives under our care, fraught with such fine possibilities, are being guided in the way of truth and sent out into the world with a knowledge of Jesus Christ as a loving Saviour.

#### Committee for 1945.

Chairman of District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Christchurch East, Cambridge Terrace, St. Albans, Woolston, and Papanui Circuits; Revs. W. Grigg, E. Drake and A. N. Scotter; Messrs. J. E. Purchase, H. de R. Flesher, F. A. Sheat, H. S. Harrington, W. S. Worner, W. G. Wright, C. Palmer, L. J. Dale, A. J. Harrow; Mesdames Pratt, W. Cock, M. Opie, F. C. Thornton, J. Allen, C. W. Barrell, R. A. Marsh, Miss Horrell. Secretary-Manager: Geo. H. Coley.

GEO. H. COLEY, Secretary-Manager.  
J. H. ALLEN, Chairman.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet be received and adopted.
2. That appreciation be expressed of the excellent services rendered by Rev. E. Drake as Secretary and Treasurer for a number of years.
3. That Conference re-affirms its resolution of last year that the annual list of circuit contributions to the South Island Children's Home be forwarded to the Synod Secretary in time for presentation to Synod.
4. That, having regard to the exacting nature of the work devolving upon members of Orphanage staffs and the high cost of living, Conference requests that where necessary the Orphanage Boards consider the urgent necessity of an adequate wage and pleasant working conditions for the staff, with special reference to the question of periodic leave where necessary.

**QUESTION XLIX.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference respecting Connexional Literature?**

#### A.—“METHODIST TIMES” AND LITERATURE COMMITTEE. REPORT FOR 1944.

The Committee has pleasure in reporting that the number of subscribers to the Church paper continues to increase. Since the Rev. H. E. Bellhouse undertook editorial duties in 1936 the circulation has advanced by 35.33 per cent. and is now higher than at any period in the last twenty years.

Under the Emergency Regulations the number of pages has been reduced by 25%, thus limiting its scope in relation to literary matter and to advertisements. The management has never used the full space sanctioned by Conference for advertisements. In the general interest of the paper current advertisements suffered a 33 1-3 per cent. cut, and many requests for large space contracts have recently been declined. Negotiations are now in progress for a return to a 16 page publication. When this is arranged we hope to make less use of the small type that is so trying to the eyes of many readers. Advice and opinions have been sought from journalists, printers and others in relation to the paper, its size, its format, its content, and all related matters. Every point raised has been carefully considered and where financially practicable and mechanically possible constructive suggestions have been adopted with a view to giving increased readability to the paper. The larger use of illustrations in the past year has given widespread satisfaction.

Before the contract was made with our present printers the Committee got tenders for various sizes and types of journal. Then and since it has had before it for consideration dummy copies of various sizes. These included Demy octavo (5 x 8 inches), Demy quarto (8½ x 10½), Royal (10 x 12), and Crown folio (10 x 14), which is the size now used. One journalist recommended a publication the size of the ordinary daily newspaper. Another advised the publication of a high class general magazine covering wide public, social and domestic interests, but incorporating a section to feature Church affairs. Those most familiar with the requirements of religious journalism made few suggestions regarding the contents of the paper and most favoured the size now in use as being easily handled and readily readable. The Committee has had before it reports from America and Canada on the whole aspect of Church journalism and it is giving close attention to every aspect of the paper.

Several years ago the Committee entered into negotiations with the Foreign Mission Department and the Youth Board with a view to incorporating their periodical publications with the Church paper. Both Departments felt that they could best foster their particular interest by publishing their own papers.

Many requests for regular copies of the paper for men and women of the Forces have been received from Chaplains of our own and other Churches, and from Y.M.C.A. workers, who have paid tribute to its wide acceptability.

The Committee has considered the whole matter of the conditions covering Editorial appointments, including a suggested departure from the custom of an annual appointment. Finality has not been reached and the subject will be further considered next year. In the meantime the Committee heartily recommends the re-appointment of the Rev. H. E. Bellhouse for next Connexional year, and at his request it nominates the Rev. G. R. Harris as Associate Editor and the Rev. R. E. Fordyce as editor of the LYM page.

The Committee places on record its appreciation of the services of the late Rev. R. B. Gosnell, who so long catered for the needs of the children.

The financial position is shown in the printed statement. Publication costs show an upward trend which will be emphasised when we revert to a larger paper. The Committee asks for the usual subsidy of £150 from the Connexional Fire Insurance Fund and for £75 from the Contingent Fund plus one-half of the honoraria for the editors and their contingent expenses in accordance with the standing regulations.