

The following pages contain an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Reports and Resolutions of the Annual Conference

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

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

The Methodist Church
of New Zealand

MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Held at CHRISTCHURCH, 1965

Price: TWO SHILLINGS and
SIXPENCE

Procurable at the Connexional
Office

(c) **WESLEY HALL STUDENTS' HOSTEL:**

We have approximately £10,000 in hand towards extensions. It has been decided, however, to defer these in the meantime because we are heavily committed with other projects and feel that it would be unwise to extend the accommodation until we can increase the number to a minimum of 60 to make an economic unit. In the light of the latest Government subsidy, this is receiving further consideration.

(d) **KAWERAU FALLS HOLIDAY CAMP:**

Since the appointment of a permanent caretaker on a voluntary basis, the camp has been used far more, not only at holiday time, but also during the year. This year a new women's toilet block has been added to the house and a new toilet block has been provided for campers.

(e) **GLENWOOD-ANGLICAN/METHODIST OLD PEOPLES' HOME, TIMARU:**

This Home was opened in September, 1964, by the Minister of Health and was dedicated jointly by the Bishop of Christchurch and the Chairman of the South Canterbury District of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. The Home has a full complement of 21 guests in residence with a waiting list. The debt on completion was approximately £5,000. Half of this was advanced as a free of interest loan by the Methodist Central Mission and half by the Anglican Diocesan Trust Board of Christchurch.

(f) **DUNEDIN CITIZENS' DAY NURSERY:**

We are continuing to operate with reduced numbers in the Hall of Trinity Church. The building is not satisfactory, and we are eagerly looking forward to new premises in the new building.

3. OCTAGON CENTRE:

As is well known throughout the Connexion, Dunedin Methodism occupies a most strategic place in the heart of Dunedin. From the opening of the Octagon Hall in 1913 until the amalgamation with Trinity Church in 1952, both morning and evening services were held in the Octagon Hall. For the 11 years since the amalgamation, morning services have been held in Trinity Church and evening services in the Octagon Hall. At the beginning of 1965 both services were transferred to Trinity Church. This has proved a most happy arrangement.

(1) **Trinity Church:**

The Church Building and Loan Fund Board has approved plans for extensive structural strengthening, alterations and renovations to Trinity Church. These are expected to cost about £20,000 and will be commenced as soon as possible.

2. **New Building, Octagon Site:** At the present time our architects are preparing working drawings for a ten story building estimated to cost £320,000 and containing two floors of shops, seven rentable office floors and one floor for the Day Nursery. The Trust is at present seeking tenancies, and a number of enquiries have been made. Our preliminary enquiries regarding loan money have been most satisfactory. Providing new building regulations do not hold the work up, it is hoped to call tenders early next year.

(3) **Goodwill Store:** For over 11 years our Goodwill Store, staffed by a team of voluntary workers under the leadership of Miss C. Uren, has provided a most useful service in the city.

(4) **Newbold Trust:** We have informed the General Purposes Trust Board that we believe any children's work in Dunedin by the Methodist Church would best be carried out by the appointment of a Social Worker to work under the direction of the Central Methodist Church and Mission and that interest from the Newbold Trust be used to help finance this.

(5) **Finance:** We are grateful again to the many well-wishers who have helped us financially during the year by donations, especially to the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board, the Otago Savings Bank, the Otago Hospital Board and the Dunedin City Council for their continued support to the Dunedin Citizens' Day Nursery.

We acknowledge the following legacies received:—

Estate Minnie Ball	£602	4	3	
Estate J. R. G. Fry	£100	0	0	
Estate E. R. Cridland	£96	11	1	Annual.
Estate Jane Pearce	£50	0	0	
Estate G. H. Geeson	£13	4	6	Additional.
Estate H. H. Johnson	£200	0	0	
Estate G. Dixon	£1,050	0	0	

(6) **Thanks:** We appreciate the loyal service of our staff, committee members and church members and are grateful for the interest shown and the assistance given by the whole church in our Social Service area. Above all we give thanks to God for His blessings and guidance in the past, and put our trust in Him for the days to come.

D. B. GORDON, Superintendent.

G. F. PASCOE,

H. C. VINCE, Circuit Stewards.

RESOLUTION

That the Report be received and adopted.

QUESTION 52.—

III—Children's Homes

A—Auckland Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1965

In submitting this 52nd annual report of the work for the children under the care of the Auckland Methodist Children's Home Board we acknowledge again the guiding of our Heavenly Father and His continuing goodness through the many people who continue to take a practical interest in the children.

At the end of June 1965 there were 34 children under our care 16 of whom were actually in residence at Wesleydale. One girl is at Kurahuna Maori Girls' Hostel, two boys at Wesley College, and one girl at Rangiatia Hostel, New Plymouth. One boy and one girl are at the special schools at Otekaieke and Richmond and they return to Wesleydale in their school holidays. In addition, 12 children are living in 9 foster homes.

Our full time Social Worker has been kept busy contacting all foster parents and children living with them and counselling in many cases where needed, together with interviewing folk who desired children to come under our care. She has also visited Methodist people who through their ministers have offered as foster

parents, though more of these are needed. In addition, the Social Worker has given a considerable amount of time to many families in their own homes with a view to maintaining the family unit.

The present trend of care for children is not only for long term care but also for short term care while the mother is recovering from a mental breakdown or from excessive work caring for her children. In view of this our Board decided to take up to 20 children at Wesleydale in the meantime while Wesleydale is still available and eight of the 16 children at Wesleydale are in that category.

The policy of placing children in suitable Methodist foster homes is continuing and many of our children are still settled happily with their foster parents and are receiving loving care in their upbringing.

The annual accounts are under action and we expect that they will probably show a loss as we have received a reduced Connexional Budget amount and we have a full year of salary and expenses for the social worker.

We appreciate the continued practical interest of many folk who have continued to support the children's work with monetary donations and with gifts of clothing. We acknowledge with thanks the gifts of sewing materials and new clothing which are required not only for the children at Wesleydale but also for children in foster homes. We receive substantial help from the general public via the Auckland Community Chest through the Auckland United Orphanages Council.

During the long Christmas vacation many kind church folk offered their homes for holidays for the children and all our children were looked after in this way. The Ladies' Committee continued to take an interest in the Home and although again they have not had a great deal to do, the furnishings at Wesleydale have been kept up to date and replacements provided where necessary.

Wesleydale Home was opened in 1956 and is a very fine building. It has been Board policy to keep it in good condition by regular maintenance so that the appearance of the buildings is always good. The grounds are kept in good order. We are very grateful to those who with their interest and help have supervised the grounds and buildings.

The Education Department have under consideration the question of leasing Wesleydale for a Residential School for maladjusted children. The Board are awaiting an offer from the Department as to what rental they are prepared to offer for the lease of the buildings.

We look forward with confidence to the continued support of Christian folk in caring for the children through foster homes and in special hostels and schools and through family homes which we will build. Funds will still be needed for this work and to maintain smaller family homes for children not placed in foster homes. This will become increasingly apparent as our short term work develops.

The plans for the Milford enterprise are well advanced.

G. C. RIDDELL, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the present Board, in pursuance of the Conference policy, now hand over as a Board to the Auckland area M.S.S.A. the responsibility for the Church's work on the care of dependent children as from 1st February, 1966."
3. That the Committee be as printed on pages 7 and 8 herein.

B—South Island Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1965

It is with a deep sense of responsibility and gratitude to God that we present this Annual Report. This has been a busy year in the life of the Home, and one of great importance in the growth and development of the work of caring for needy children. The Board continues to implement the full caring programme of temporary care in the Home, seeking to re-unite parents and children wherever possible, together with the placement of some in Foster Homes. The Board is also moving towards the erection of a Family Unit Home. While increasing our financial commitments this further Home will provide care for some children that will be more suitable than in any other way.

Board Membership:

During the year the Rev. H. A. Cochrane was farewelled after five years of excellent and devoted service as Secretary of the Board. The Rev. Owen T. Woodfield has been welcomed and appointed as Secretary.

Child Care:

There are 54 children in residence in the Home. These continue to be cared for in Family Units within the Home, with a maximum number of 10 children in each unit as far as possible. These are proving most satisfactory. Five units are in operation, and with good continuity of staffing in the Home a strong bond of security is established. The average length of stay in the Home is now one year, the children being either placed in Foster Homes, or returned to their own parents.

There are 16 children in Foster Homes. On the whole this type of care has proved very worthwhile, though certain problems have been met at times.

Many children for whom admission is sought never enter the Home because of the good Counselling and Case work carried on by the Master, Mr E. J. Scott. In a recent report presented to the Board it was stated that during a 3-month period some 27 children from 13 families had been dealt with satisfactorily without having to be admitted to the Home.

Pre-School Centre:

This has been established for pre-schoolers and provides for an average of 14 children. It is under the capable direction of Miss Jean Hay (a specialist in this field), and is supervised daily by Miss K. Sandford. The Centre operates from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each school day.

The Home:

Repairs and renovations continue to be made, together with such modernisation of facilities as is required. During the year a number of beds and mattresses have been replaced with up-to-date furnishings, thus completing what had been begun two years ago. It is the Board's policy to carry on this work of renovating and modernising the Home until it compares favourably with other similar Homes. We are grateful for the assistance and counsel provided by the Child Welfare Department at all times.

Family Unit Home:

Two sections have been purchased on Barrington Street, Spreydon, close to both school and Church. The Board is in the process of considering plans for this new Home, and hopes to be in the position to proceed with its erection very shortly.

Staff:

Staff changes have again been at a minimum and we record our gratitude to Mr and Mrs E. J. Scott, Sister Rona Collins, and other staff members for their continuing loyal service to the Church.

In conclusion we look forward with confidence to the further development of Child care here in Christchurch. We are confident not only that God is leading us on to wider service, but also that He will continue to bless us in it.

HOWARD C. MATTHEWS, Chairman.
OWEN T. WOODFIELD, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That in view of the increasing calls upon it for assistance in the care of needy children and the success it has had in the establishment of up to four family units in the Home at Papanui together with a receiving unit, the Board be granted the approval of Conference to its continuing the operation of such units. It is understood that the Board will continue the Church's policy of placing children in foster homes wherever possible and of establishing family home units in other localities.
3. That the Board be as printed on page 8 herein.

QUESTION 53.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference with regard to (a) The Order of Deaconesses? (b) The Training of Deaconesses?

Methodist Deaconess Board

ANNUAL REPORT, 1965

The work of the Deaconess House has continued with effectiveness during the year. There have been 25 boarders and four deaconess trainees in residence. There have been some staff changes and we continue to be indebted to Mrs Gauntlett as Lady Superintendent and Miss Judith Ford of Leeston has been appointed as Assistant Matron.

House Committee. We express grateful appreciation for the support of the Methodist Women's Fellowship, which has been a constant encouragement to the Board. The Committee agreed to new winter uniforms and there is still a summer uniform to be finalised. A Badge for Deaconess trainees has been prepared with the approval of the President of the Conference.

The Property Committee has been watching the maintenance of the House. There have been alterations and improvements to parts of the building which have greatly improved the whole property. The Board is well served by the Treasurer, Mr F. T. Bartley.

Definition of the Work of a Deaconess. Various discussions have taken place with the Faith and Order Committee concerning the definition of the work of a Deaconess and other matters. During the year the Warden, the Rev. W. A. Chambers prepared a survey of the training of Deaconesses. The Board believes this to be a very valuable report and is most grateful to the Warden for its preparation. Certain sections were referred to the Faith and Order Committee and to the Trinity College Board of Studies.

Transfer of Training. The Board examined the statement on the Nature and Status of the Deaconess Order and after study made representations to the Faith and Order Committee. The Board has had correspondence with the Trinity College Board of Studies during the year concerning the Resolution of Conference (Minutes of Conference 1964, p. 213) that Deaconess Students shall be trained in Auckland under the Trinity College staff. The Warden has also had conversations in Auckland on this matter. The Deaconess Board has forwarded the following resolutions to the Trinity College Board of Studies:—

1. The Deaconess Board is not basically opposed to a three year course.
2. The Board believes in a thorough equipment of a Deaconess to fulfil her own office in the church.
3. The Board maintains that Deaconess training, while of an equivalent standard with that of a theological student, is not identical with it.

Further discussions are taking place with the Trinity College Board of Studies.

The Board has recently received a letter from the Education Committee of the Presbyterian Assembly in which it has asked for our opinion of the possibility of uniting the training of the Deaconesses of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. This training would be in Dunedin. The Board will secure all available information in regard to this matter and make a supplementary report to Conference.

Sympathy. The Board expressed sympathy to Mr S. Maunder on the death of Mrs Maunder who was at one time Lady Superintendent of Deaconess House.

The Board is very appreciative of the service rendered by the Warden, the Rev. W. A. Chambers, M.A. We have already seen something of the considerable contribution he is making to the work of the Deaconess Order.

H. C. MATTHEWS, Chairman.

J. D. GROCCOTT, Secretary.

G. R. TREBILCO, Asst. Secretary.

WARDEN'S REPORT

THE ORDER.

Personnel. At Conference 1964, Sisters Constance Fell and Shirley Ungemuth were received into the Order and Dedicated. During the year several Sisters have suffered ill health, for which reason Sister Janet Evans has found it necessary to apply for leave of absence. It is understood that two Sisters will be resigning at the end of 1965 in order to marry. With no Probationers due for Dedication and two students due to take appointment, the strength of the Order is barely being maintained.

During the year Deaconesses in Church appointments have been visited in all areas except Taranaki, Wellington and Manawatu. It is expected that these will be visited before the end of the year.

Convocation. During Convocation a panel of representatives from five women's Orders, covering four denominations (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and Baptist) gave information on the ideals, training, discipline and work of their respective Orders. In the light