

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

held at

TURANGAWAEWAE MARAE
NGARUAWAHIA
1975

Price: \$1.00

Procurable at the Connexional Office

vacated site with a new complex combining a new Rest Home with Dependent Flats.

We refinanced about a quarter of our half-million dollar debenture debt, receiving so much support from local Methodist people that the issue was not commercially advertised at all. Our five-yearly rental review on the **Octagon Office Block** will give us a modest lift in investment income but budgeting will still be tight for some years to come.

Some flexibility has been given to our finances by using a computer contract to distinguish our various funds in a single joint account. The benefits will show in more accurate budget control and better use of available funds.

Trinity Church moved from under our direct administration when the Dunedin Circuit was formed on 1 July, but the most harmonious relationships are being maintained, and the Misson is gaining new interest and support from the other Churches. Donations to **Associates of the Mission** continue to rise at a remarkable rate.

Wide support is also enjoyed in the area of voluntary helpers, over 100 now being engaged in **Goodwill Services**—two shops and a central warehouse—and in the **Friendship Centre** which is now serving tea-and-understanding to 600 folk in its 25 hours of opening each week, and other voluntary activities.

Anglican Methodist Family Care Centre continues to offer a fine standard of personal social work for needy people of all kinds; we have assisted staff member Anne Turvey to attend a Perth Conference on The Battered Child and to visit Central Mission work in Adelaide and Melbourne as she returns.

Families can still find reasonable holiday accommodation in Queenstown using our **Kawarau Falls Holiday Camp** whose elderly buildings remain efficient and pleasant due to the devoted efforts of the resident caretakers, Jack and Edith Patey, and their seasonal assistants, Ron and Meryl Dickson.

We are trying to improve the conditions for our **Child Care Centre** at present operating in makeshift premises in Wesley Church. A small Social Welfare Department subsidy is now available for parents who cannot afford our modest fees.

The Superintendent continues to act as Chief Advisory Officer of **Dunedin Budget Advisory Service** and has been involved in guest-speaking for the Service in many centres in Otago-Southland. He is also involved in the **Cameron Centre**, a Presbyterian social work and education programme, of which he is currently Acting-Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

We are grateful for receiving many opportunities of significant service for a fine staff and the means to fulfil our calling. What more could we ask?

D. S. MULLAN, Superintendent.
R. A. BURTON, Deputy Superintendent.
F. W. WILSON, Administrative Officer

Glenwood Home, Timaru

The Glenwood Trust Board, Anglican Methodist, extensions to the 30 bed Residential Home in Timaru, becomes a reality with the contract signed in March 1975 for 17 Investment Flats and a Community Room. The tender price was below estimates, and means the Board is selling each flat for \$13,500 (includes floor coverings, curtains, dual unit refrigerator freezer and washing machine).

These flats are for pensioners who do not qualify for Government

subsidised flats because of income limits, and who need to move from properties that are too demanding, but cannot afford an ownership flat, i.e. a special area of need.

About 10 of the 17 flats have been sold from the plans and specifications and now the first blocks are being built, the Board expects no difficulty in selling the remainder.

The Scheme widens the area of our care, without financial difficulty imposed on either purchaser or Board. Once the Community Room is finished we hope to provide occupational activities and encourage greater community life. Over recent years additional staff have improved the quality of Residential Home care.

NORMAN WEST, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. Membership of the Board to be approved by the President following the presentation of the revised constitution.

QUESTION 42—(c) Children's Homes?

AUCKLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOMES BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT TO SYNOD AND CONFERENCE FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1975

The year has been a busy one in the continuing oversight of 25 children in care at the time of writing: 11 in the two children's homes, 11 placed in foster home care and 3 Maori teen-age boys attending Wesley Paerata College. The Social Worker has also been involved in much counselling work with families and in a supportive ministry in strained or broken home relationships. He has ministered to 140 persons in such circumstances and this is regarded as high priority work; domestic reconciliation is a greater achievement than placing a child in care. Only when the former ministry fails, does the Social Worker embark upon taking children into care.

Family Homes

The situation with the house parents at the Manurewa Home became unsatisfactory last December and it became necessary to make a change. The Board was very fortunate in obtaining the services of two registered nurses as house mothers, the Misses Firth and Woodward. The arrangement is working excellently and the seven children at Manurewa are happy, well adjusted youngsters. Miss Beth Sutton, the house mother at Dominion Road, Roskill has 4 children in her care, and, assisted by friends and members of the Board's Women's Committee she is fulfilling her role with growing confidence and effectiveness.

Property

As reported last year the Wesleydale property at Roskill had a holding order placed on it for future rail and motorway development. Since then, the Minister for Social Welfare, Mr Norman King, has expressed his Department's interest in the building on a leasehold basis short term for social welfare purposes. Finality has not been reached at this date in negotiations but the Board has reason to believe that Department will definitely lease the property from us on an agreed basis.

A tender has been accepted for the erection of a third children's home at No. 20 Sunnynook Road, Takapuna. The builder has commenced work on the site and this home should come into service at the end of the year. The cost was \$70,000 but half of this is met by the Government subsidy.

The Board has two further sections, one at Titirangi and the other at Mangere, on which it proposes to erect additional children's homes. Sketch plans for these homes have been approved in principle by the Government which has also given an assurance of subsidy support for their erection in due course. The purchase of another section in the Hillsborough—Blockhouse Bay area is being investigated by the Board's property officer, Mr Harold Clark.

Incorporation of the Board

The question of whether the Board's work might be more effectively and expeditiously done under a formal Incorporation has been considered this year. Both the Board and the Model Deed Trust have approved the idea in principle. A special Synod committee has been appointed to assess the implications of such a step in the Board's relation with the Auckland Central Mission work.

AMSS Liaison

The working association with the Anglican Methodist Social Services (Auckland) continue to develop. This is a new and somewhat experimental step in the Board's operation but progress is being made towards more effective child care administration.

General Policy

In the economic climate of the times property and financial matters require the utmost care in decision-making. The Board is committed to long term budgeting of its resources in assets and investments. From its present resources, it plans to raise finance to pursue the project building programme, but it must at the same time ensure a continuing revenue from its remaining assets for the servicing of the child care work it is at present establishing on a wider front.

M. C. COPELAND, Chairman
L. GORDON HANNA, Secretary

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Board of Management for the Auckland Children's Homes for 1976 be as printed on Page 5f herein.

MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 1975

Seven children were admitted to the Home during the past year and there have been three departures leaving us with 21 children in residence at the end of the year.

The resignations of Messrs C. E. Archer and J. F. Cody as members of the Management Committee were received with regret. It was resolved to place on record, appreciation of the valuable

services rendered by both these members over a very long period of years. (Cliff Archer 20 years and Frank Cody 27 years). Mr and Mrs Keith McLeod and Mr Bruce Smith joined the Management Committee this year.

Mr and Mrs John Dubbeldam have continued as Manager and Matron and the Committee is most appreciative of the work done by these dedicated people. Miss Cathryn Gabites of Timaru is working on the staff for 1975 under the Order of St. Stephen and her service is much appreciated.

Construction of the staff house is now underway and this should be ready for occupation at the end of 1975. Progress on the subdivision at the rear of the property has been slow. It is now anticipated that this work will be complete by the first quarter of 1976.

The continuing work of Homeleigh has been made possible by the support received from many sources. We acknowledge with thanks the gifts received from church and community groups, and the financial support of Methodist people represented by giving through the church budget, and by direct donations. In particular, we record appreciation for the following grants and legacies: Robert Gibson Methodist Trust \$2,500, J. R. McKenzie Trust \$700, Masterton Trust Lands Trust \$150, Joan Watson and Gloria Joseph Trust \$75, Estate W. S. Potter \$600, Estate A. E. Cox \$1,000, Estate H. E. Collison \$200.

D. H. SPRINGER, Chairman.
B. D. SMITH, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That Conference place on record its appreciation of the long and faithful service of Messrs C. E. Archer and J. F. Cody as they lay down their work with the Masterton Children's Home after 20 and 27 years respectively.
3. That the Board for 1976 be as printed on Page 5f herein.

SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1975

The Need:

Although the number of "orphans" in children's homes may have decreased there is no decline in the number of needy children, and our Methodist homes are always full to overflowing with children whose parents, for one reason or another, are not able to cope, or who come from disrupted homes, or who are placed with us as "state wards" by Government Departments. Often the greatest need of these children is for some good, old-fashioned "loving" and for that personal attention which recognises them as individuals with their own hopes and fears and not just as pawns in some impersonal game of life.

There are a good many comings and goings. Some children are in our care for only a short stay during a temporary crisis at home; others have been with us for a number of years. At the end of July the position was: 48 children resident in the Harewood

Road Home; 8 children resident in the Barrington Street Unit Family Home, and 28 children being supported in foster homes.

Plant:
The old building in Harewood Road is divided into five "units" of about 10 children each in the charge of a family mother, while the well-equipped Barrington Street home, opened 8 years ago, provides an additional unit. One of the units functions on a "Monday-to-Friday" basis so that selected children who can benefit from the opportunity may return to their own homes each weekend and help to retain those very important links with their families.

Staff:
Following the resignation of Mr and Mrs R. Brown, Mr and Mrs L. B. Christian from Oamaru were appointed as the family parents at Barrington Street and took up their duties in May. There have been very few staff changes at Papanui. We are fortunate indeed in the over-all stability of our staffing. The children's confidence is strengthened when they can rely on the continuity of the care and love given them by their family mothers.

Staff Training:
Several staff members have benefited from training courses, some internal, some locally run, some organised by the Department of Social Welfare. The Board is glad to encourage attendance at such courses whenever possible. While realising the need for substantial increases in all staff salaries, the Board has also initiated moves to relate salaries to qualifications and training and to length of service and experience.

New Developments:
These are moving forward slowly. Architectural plans for a day-care centre and a recreation hall for older children are under action and will be followed by other necessary developments already approved in principle. In the meantime some experience is being gained with a few non-resident children joining on a day-care basis with the Home's own kindergarten group.

Finance:
In spite of increased capitation subsidy from the Government, it remains a difficult problem to meet rising costs and to make adequate provision for future extensions of work. Parents are expected to contribute towards the upkeep of children but in some cases are quite unable to meet this obligation.

Once again we are most grateful for help from various sources, through donations in cash and in kind. We are glad to acknowledge the very practical assistance of the Christchurch North Lions Club. And we recognise with gratitude the invaluable help of all those who assist in and contribute through the combined Christchurch Children's Homes Appeal which benefits equally the children's Homes work of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches. This is an important way in which all our circuits can co-operate in one aspect of the social service to the community which our Church undertakes in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

W. A. CHAMBERS, Chairman.
N. P. ALCORN, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That the Board for 1976 be as printed on Page 5f herein.

QUESTION 43—What are the Resolutions of the Conference in regard to—
(a) **The Connexional Office of the Methodist Church of New Zealand?**

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE
CONNEXIONAL OFFICE**

ANNUAL REPORT, 1975

The Board of Management of the Connexional Office has met on several occasions during the year and has been involved in the establishment of the Investment Board and the appointment of the Finance Manager and the staffing of the Connexional Office generally.

Financial Position:
The Annual Financial Statements are presented to Conference along with this Report. They reveal an excess of income over expenditure of \$23 compared with last year's surplus of \$1,430.

In consultation with the Special Committee appointed by the 1974 Conference, the Board of Management of the Connexional Office, has agreed to an arrangement whereby the Finance Manager is located in Christchurch, and while serving as the Executive Officer of the Investment Board, carries out some of the duties of the former General Treasurer. The Investment Board will be making an application to Conference for a grant through the Connexional Budget to meet the salary and expenses of the Finance Manager as from July 1, 1976. The Board of Management of the Connexional Office has agreed to meet the cost connected with this appointment from the date of commencement of duties until June 30, 1976.

The inevitable rise in costs, especially wage increases, means that the Board's estimates of expenditure have had to be revised. The Board is very grateful, therefore, that the General Purposes Committee of the Conference decided that for the years ending June 30, 1975, and 1976, the Board of Management of the Connexional Office should have the use of the third portion of the income from the investment of the proceeds of sale from the former Thordon property. This meant that at June 30, 1975, there was the amount of \$6,164 in the Salaries Fluctuation and Maintenance Reserve. It is hoped that this amount will enable the Board to finish the year ended June 30, 1976, with a small credit balance.

The Board has carefully reviewed its appropriations for 1976-77 and a suitable Resolution is appended.

Removal Expenses Fund:
The total cost of removals for the year ended June 30, 1975, was \$12,103. The grant from the Connexional Budget was \$12,000 and the excess of income over expenditure was \$497. This meant that the deficit in the Fund was reduced from \$2,212 to \$1,715.

While the Board has reservations about some of the demands made by Ministers on the Fund, the Board regards the overall position as most satisfying. A more detailed list of expenses allowed is in the course of preparation.

Analysis of Removals Paid by Fund

	No.	Total Cost	Ave.	1973-74 Ave.
North Island Changes	25	\$5,456	\$218	\$229
South Island Changes	10	\$1,765	\$176	\$232
	201			