



COVENANT SERVICE

Methodist Conference 2022

Kerikeri, Northland

Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

President: Rev. Peter Taylor

Vice-President: Ms. TeRito Peyroux-Semu

General Secretary: Rev. Tara Tautari

Te Taha Māori Minita: Rev. Dr Arapera Ngaha

**Directors Mission
Resourcing:** Rev. Setaita Taumoepeau K Veikune
Rev. Siosifa Pole

Chaplains: Rev. Tovia Aumua
Rev. Keita Hotere

Musician: Rev. Ieremia Amituana’i

Theme: *He hokinga mahara. Ka haere whakamua.*
(Reflecting on our past, and moving forward)

Call to Worship

President: Whakapaingia te Atua e whakamine nei i a tātou.
(Blessed be God who calls us together.)

All: **Whakamoemititia te Atua kua kotahi nei tātou.**
(Praise to God who makes us one people.)

Reflection

President and Vice-President reflect on our time together.

President: In this our Bicentennial year we have looked back on the history and traditions of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa. Here in the far north of this land we have traced our starting points and places where the covenant, te Tiriti o Waitangi, was first signed. Today we celebrate another covenant, that between God and his people. This is an everlasting covenant through Jesus Christ.

Vice-President: As we look back over Conference we officially opened with a pōwhiri, and remembered those who have died since the last Conference, and who have been a significant part of our journey. Following our induction as the new Presidential Team we honoured those whose journey of ministry has taken a new stride in retirement.

President: On Sunday afternoon we affirmed the varied ministries within Te Hāhi and celebrated those who have graduated through Trinity College.

Vice-President: In our business sessions we have looked back over the work of the past year and resolved to move forward with God in the next year.

President: We are covenant people who look back at how God has served us over two hundred years, and now commit ourselves to the future which God has in store for us.
Let us stand to recall our heritage in this land.

Hymn: *“Where mountains rise”*

Where mountains rise to open skies
Your name, O God, is echoed far,
From island beach to kauri’s reach,
In water’s light, in lake and star.

Your people’s heart, your people’s part
Be in our caring for this land,
For faith to flower, for aroha
To let each other’s mana stand.

From broken word, from conflict stirred,
From lack of vision, set us free
To see the line of your design,
To feel creation’s energy.

Your love be known, compassion shown,
That every child have equal scope:
In justice done, in trust begun
Shall be our heritage and hope.

Where mountains rise to open skies
Your way of peace distil the air,
Your spirit bind all humankind,
One covenant of life to share!

Words: Shirley Murray

Prayers of Praise and Confession

Chaplains:

We praise the God of all ages who created heaven and earth and placed humanity to be partners in creation's care.

We confess we have abused that partnership and plundered the earth for personal gain.

We praise the God who has forever wanted to be in relationship with humanity, establishing an eternal covenant.

We confess we have ignored that covenant, withdrawing from relationship for fear of God's anger.

We thank God that Māori and Pākehā chose to work together in a treaty, a covenant for this land of Aotearoa.

We confess with shame the many breaches in that covenant and our part in the pain which followed.

We thank God that God's voice still calls us forward, still honours the covenant, and renews us in our commitment to each other and to the work of Christ on earth.

Through God's mercy we know forgiveness and renewal, and share in the servant ministry of Christ.

Reading:

Mark 10.35-45
(Minita)

Dialogue:

President and Vice-President

Response to the Word

The Business Committee Convenors come forward.

Conference Question 25: General Secretary

- (a) What is God saying to us now?
- (b) What more can be done to promote the work of God?

The Conference affirms its work and pledges itself to action as each Convenor responds to the Conference questions.

Convenor: This is our commitment to action.

All: **May God give us grace and courage so to do.**

General Secretary: This 'Conference Journal' contains the deliberations and decisions we have entered into during the Conference.

Signing of Journal

All: **The signing of the Journal indicates our commitment to incorporate our Conference deliberations and decisions into our ongoing life and witness.**

Vice-President: We now move into our final act of worship as we share together in re-affirming the Covenant.

Renewing the Covenant

President: In covenant God chose Israel to be a servant people. Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God has declared the covenant to be with all who trust in Christ. We stand within this covenant and we bear Christ's name. On one hand, God promises to give us new life in Christ: on the other, we pledge to live not for ourselves but for God.

Vice-President: As we prepare to leave this Conference, we have gathered as have generations before us to renew the covenant which bound them and which now binds us to God.

Hymn: **"Take my life and let it be"**

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Iesu le Alii e
oute tu'u atu nei
lo'u ola ma taulaga
e pa'ia ma lelei.

Sisu, ke ke ma'u ma'au
'eku ngaahi mea kotoa;
taleniti, ngaahi ta'u
fanau, fale, mo e koloa.

Take my silver and my gold
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Na ligaqu na Kalou
mo ni taura tu oqo
me'u sa ogataka ga
ka ni bula vou ko ya.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

*Words: Frances R. Havergal
Tune: German melody*

Congregation remains standing

President:

Let us claim this covenant for ourselves and
take again the yoke of Christ upon us.
To take this yoke upon us means that we are
willing for Christ to appoint us our place and
work, and for Christ alone to be our reward.

All:

**He maha ngā mahi a te Karaiti;
he māmā ētahi, he uaua ētahi atu;
e whakahōnoretia ētahi, e raruraru ana ētahi
atu;
he pai ētahi ki tō te whakaaro me te wairua
māori i te ao kikokiko nei,
he rerekē ētahi atu whakaaro;
ka aru ai mātou i te Karaiti, ā, i ō mātou ake
whakaaro;
e kore e taea e mātou te piri ki te Karaiti,
hāunga ki te whakakāhore mātou i a mātou
anō.
Nā te Karaiti te kaha i tukua ai ki a mātou,
māna anō mātou e whakakaha ai.**

*(Christ has many services to be done;
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring reproach;
some are suited to our natural inclinations*

*and material interests,
others are contrary to both;
in some we may please Christ
and please ourselves;
in others we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things
is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.)*

Vice-President: Loving and holy God, with joy we take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience and for love of you commit ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

All: **Ehara ahau i a au anō, engari nāu.
Tukua ahau ki tāu e pai ai;
tātaritia ahau ki tāu e pai ai;
mahia ahau ki tāu e pai ai;
tukua ahau kia pā ai te mamae;
māku mōu e mahi, ā, e kore anō rānei;
ka whakahōnoretia mōu, ka whakahekea
rānei.
Whakakīia ahau e tō wairua, ā, e kore rānei;
tukua mai ngā mea katoa, me noho kore rawa
rānei;
ka whakapau kaha ahau ki te tuku i ngā mea
katoa ki tāu e pai ai.
Nā reira, e te Atua korōria nui, Matua, Tama
me te Wairua Tapu, nāku koe, nāu ahau hoki.
Waihoki, ko te kawenata i hangaia nei i runga
i te whenua, kei te pērā tonu i te rangi.
Āmine.**

*(I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will;
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing; put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you*

*or laid aside for you;
exalted for you or brought low for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty;
let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours
So be it, and the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.)*

Congregation sits

Ministry of the Sacrament

President: We, many as we are, are one body in Christ.
If we do not love our brothers and sisters whom
we have seen, how can we love God whom we
have not seen?

President: The peace of God be with you.
All: **And God's peace be with you.**

The communion cloth covering the elements is removed.

Congregation stands.

The Communion

- Vice-President:** The Lord is here.
All: **God's Spirit is with us,**
- Vice-President:** Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Vice-President:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is our joy to give God thanks and praise.**
- Vice-President:** It is our joy to praise you who created all things and called us into a covenant relationship with creation and with you, based on love and mercy.
- President:** When the time was right you revealed yourself in your servant Jesus who, in humility and sacrifice, demonstrated your healing grace. With thanksgiving we remember that through the cross and resurrection a new covenant was offered to all peoples and the vision of your new creation made known to all the earth.
- All:** **Tapu, tapu, he tapu te Ariki
Te Atua o te mana me te kaha.
Kī tonu te rangi me te whenua i tōu korōria
Ohana i runga rawa.**
- President:** On the night he gave up his life Jesus had supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them:
- All:** **“Tangohia, kainga, ko tōku tinana tēnei ka hoatu nei mō koutou. Meinga tēnei hei whakamahara ki ahau.”**

President: After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them:

All: “Inumia tēnei, ko ōku toto o te Kawenata hou i whakahekea mōu, mō te katoa, hei murunga hara.”

All: **Glory to you, Lord Christ:
Your death we proclaim;
Your resurrection we celebrate;
Your coming we await. Amen.**

The congregation sits.

President: We rejoice that your Spirit has accompanied us on our journey of two hundred years in Aotearoa.
We rejoice that you call us forward to a new future in a renewed covenant.
As a covenant people may we embody your vision of being a community of hope, offering our common life as servants for you.

Vice-President: Come, Holy Spirit of God,
bless these gifts of bread and wine.
Through them and your eternal love transform us to a life of servanthood within Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa and the world at large.

All: **We offer our prayer with all your people
in this land and beyond this land
in this church and beyond this church
in this time and beyond time
to praise Your name. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

President: This bread is broken, as Christ was broken.
This cup is shared, as Christ shared his life.
Come now, for Christ who gave his all for you,
welcomes you to his feast.

Silence is kept for a time.

Communion will be distributed to each table.

All the wafers will be gluten free.

President: Please serve the elements to each other
around your tables.

The Sending Forth

President: We have committed ourselves and our way to
God in a solemn declaration of our intent to
follow the path of servanthood ordained for us.
As we leave today, let us go in confidence and
strength, assured that the best is yet to be, and
that it is in following the way of Christ that
fullness of life is experienced – even in its
challenges and uncertainties.

Vice-President: Haere i runga i te aroha.
Haere i runga i te rangimārie o te Ariki.
Kia puta ki te wheiao ki te ao mārama.

All: **Ka haere mātou i runga i te ingoa o te Ariki.**

The Conference Candle is extinguished

Hymn:

“Mā te mārie” (sung unaccompanied)

Mā te mārie a te Atua
tātou katoa e tiaki.
Māna anō e whakaū
ō tātou ngākau ki te pai.

*The peace of God
keeps us all.
He will confirm
our hearts in
goodness.*

Mā te Atua Tamaiti ra,
mā te Wairua Tapu hoki
rātou, Atua kōtahi nei,
tātou katoa e whakapai.
Āmine.

*May the Son of God
and the Holy Spirit too,
one God
bless us all.
Amen.*

*Ngā Inoi me Ngā Hīmene
a Te Hāhi Weteriana
Tune: Old 100th*

Recessional: Aho (by Anna Coddington), and
35 (by Ka Hao)