



Covenant Service

Methodist Conference 2021

Online Conference

Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

President: Rev. Andrew Doubleday

Vice President: 'Etuini Talakai

General Secretary: Rev. Tara Tautari

Te Taha Māori: Rev. Keita Hotere

Chaplains: Rev. Dr Susan Thompson
Rev. Tevita Finau

Musicians: Rev. Ieremia Amituana'i
Ivan Fuimaono
Wesley Machee

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: We opened this Conference with a pōwhiri. We remembered and honoured those who have passed before us in death, and gathered with their families to provide succour and strength.

Vice President: We acknowledged the second year of our current Presidential team, and were reminded that we have been called to the way of Life – following the one who declared that he came that we might have life, and have it in all its fullness.

President: We honoured those who have served us down through the years and have now moved on to new forms of ministry, some through retirement, others through answering a fresh call of God on their lives.

Vice President: We constituted our business sessions with a reminder that each one of us matter, each have a part to play, each have a unique mix of gifts and energies, and that without each of us offering our unique contribution we are all the poorer.

President: As we prepared to finish our Conference tomorrow morning with the recognition of those who formally retire from Presbyteral ministry

among us, we affirm that this church is God's church, our ministry is God's ministry, our lives are ultimately in God's hand, and we find the fullest expression of whose we are by trusting the whole back to serve God's purpose.

Vice President: Let us recommit ourselves to the work of God as we sing together.

Hymn: ***“These hills”***

These hills where the hawk flies lonely,
beaches where the long surf rolls,
mountains where the snows meet heaven,
these are our care.

Pastures where the sheep graze calmly,
orchards where the apples grow,
gardens where the roses cluster,
these are our prayer.

Forests where the tree ferns tower,
rivers running strong and clear,
oceans where the great whales wander,
these are our care.

Race meeting race as equals,
justice for age-old wrong,
worth for every man and woman,
these are our prayer.

Cities where the young roam restless,
lives brought to deep despair,
homeless and powerless people,
these are our care.

Places where the Word is spoken,
hands held in serving love,
faiths of our many cultures,
these are our prayer.

All that the old world gave us,
all that the new world brings,
language, ideas and customs,

these are our care.
Life finding joy and value,
faith seeking truth and light,
God heard and seen in all things,
this be our prayer.

Words & Music: Colin Gibson

Vice President: We now have one more Conference Question to attend to.

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?

President: Question 25 will continue to inform our life. It will continue to be asked and waited upon over the next twelve months.
What is God saying to us now? And,
What more can be done to promote the work of God?
We will continue to keep these two questions in the front of our minds as we implement the decisions we have made, and continue to wrestle in a life-giving way with the many other questions posed to us throughout this Conference.

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: Furthermore, we commit ourselves to working out these Conference and subsequent questions in our life, with these words of Scripture ringing in our ears and hearts:

Eph 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ And to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

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. Today we meet as generations before us have met, to renew the covenant which bound them and which now binds us to God.

As we prepare to leave this Conference, in a closing act of worship we gather 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.

Samoan

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

Tongan

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.

Fijian

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
(c1740)*

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.)

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.)*

Hymn

“Ko Ihu Tōku Taunga”

Verse:

I see a Saviour with arms outstretched
I hear Him calling me
Haere mai, He bids me come.

I see a stranger outside alone
I know their story
Haere mai, He bids them come.

Pre-Chorus:

Jesus says “Come to me,
all you weary and weak,
lay your burdens down,
find your rest in Me”.

Chorus:

Ko ia tōku tūmanako (*He is my hope*)
tōku rongo (*my peace*)
tōku ruruhau (*my refuge*)
tōku kaha (*my strength*)
tōku mea katoa (*my everything*)
ko Ihu, tōku taunga (*Christ is my resting place*)

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Bridge:

As Christ has loved me
so shall I love, give all my love
Christ in me, hope of the world.

Chorus end:

Ko ia tō tātou tūmanako (*He is our hope*)
tō tātou rongo (*our peace*)
me ngā ruruhau (*our refuge*)
tō tātou kaha (*our strength*)
tō tātou mea katoa (*our everything*)
ko Ihu, tō tātou taunga (*Christ is our resting
place*)

House of Misfits
Isaac Graham, Charles Looker
(Edits: Siu Williams, Michael Lemanu)

The Sending Forth

President:

We've committed ourselves and our way to God in a solemn declaration of our intent to follow the path 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's in following the way of Christ that fullness of life is experienced – even amidst its challenges and uncertainties.

Go this day in peace.

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 kotahi 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 sung unaccompanied*

Recessional