

Mission Resourcing Report to Conference 2016

After a year of staff comings and goings which we reported to Conference 2015, we have had a much more settled time this year. The only major change has been the Director Pasifika Ministries taking up her appointment on a full time basis.

Mission Resourcing is a very busy office with wide-ranging responsibilities. Whilst some of those can be mentioned in this report to Conference, the Board is aware that much of the work done over the year will not feature in this report because Mission Resourcing works in partnership with many agencies around the connexion and much of the Directors' input will be subsumed within the reports from various bodies which report to Conference each year. Bearing that in mind, what follows is an overview of activities undertaken by Mission Resourcing since Conference met last.

Lay Ministry Support

Whilst the number of invitations has not been as high as we initially anticipated following the enthusiasm shown at Conference 2014 to this initiative, several members of the group have engaged in various seminars, workshops and schools of theology around the connexion. However, members of the team are busy people and so perhaps it is as well that we have not been overwhelmed by requests. It is also sometimes difficult to know when members of the team have been invited as part of our Lay Ministry Support programme, or whether they are present in some other capacity, whilst leading a training programme that could be classified as LMS work. Members of the team have visited events in Whangaparaoa, Northland, NMWS synod, LNI synod, Otago-Southland, Taumarunui to name but some. The ball is in your court, parishes and synods – if you have a training need we will do our best to find someone to help: Contact Rev Val Nicholls or the Directors for further information.

Korean Dialogue

The dialogue with representatives of the Methodist Church of Korea resident in New Zealand continues well. Meetings are held four times a year and this year sees the significant new initiative to invite two representatives of the Korean Methodist Church resident in New Zealand to become full participating members of Conference.

Chaplaincy Forum

This event was smaller than last year, but was well received and the Board urges all those, lay or ordained, full time or part time, who are engaged in any type of chaplaincy work to consider attending this gathering. It is a time of fellowship, affirmation and structured learning. Chaplaincy Forum meets every year during June. Please look out for advertisements in e-messenger or contact the MR office.

Candidates

We processed five candidates for ordination this year to appear before the Assessment Panel of whom three were accepted. At the time of writing the number coming forward for ordination at this Conference has not yet been determined by the Ordination Assessment Panel, but Mission Resourcing would wish to take this opportunity of recording its gratitude to those members willing to take on the onerous responsibility of serving on these assessment panels. We are particularly grateful to the two convenors – Rev David Poultney and Rev Lynne Frith and all Synod Candidates' Convenors.

Orientation

The biennial Methodist Orientation Day was held this year with a record number of participants. Whilst we hope the event was a useful meeting, and we have received several expressions of appreciation, we are concerned that the participants were so diverse that it made the event difficult to run. In future we will hold a biennial Methodist Orientation Day which involves senior connexional leaders and is aimed at ministers who are new to MCNZ,

being from another denomination or an overseas Methodist Church, and also hold a separate Leaders' Orientation Day for people who are newly appointed to connexional positions who already have years of experience within our connexion, but may benefit from looking at areas of connexional life they have not previously encountered. The CV Orientation Day for those newly appointed to a CV parish will continue to be held after Conference each year. Mission Resourcing endeavours to identify those people who might wish to attend an Orientation event, but please feel free to take the initiative and register with us in advance.

Taiwi Sexuality Work Group

A report was presented to Conference 2015 which endorsed the continuation of this Work Group under the wing of Mission Resourcing. Conference 2015 resolved that the Work Group should meet with Te Taha Maori as a regular part of its programme.

Various members of the group have been invited to address the topic of human sexuality and tell the story of the theological and spiritual encounter members of this Work Group have experienced through their dialogue. Again, these events are sometimes subsumed within LMS or other training events, but Conference needs to be assured that the work has continued and the conversation has been promoted. The Work Group met with Hui Poari on 30 July 2016.

101 Ideas for 'Let the Children Live'

Mission Resourcing has continued to process \$500 grants to parishes undertaking 'Let the Children Live' initiatives. There are 10 grants available, 4 times a year. Repeat awards are possible if there are no new applications received. Please do publicise the existence of these grants to all Methodist parishes and CV parishes with a Methodist component.

Mission Resourcing is also producing a large poster with '101 Ideas to Let the Children Live'. This poster is to help boost the initiative at this half way point of this 10 year campaign. Ideas have come from the ideas submitted to Mission Resourcing for grants and from other sources, including, at the time of writing, several contributions from the Shadow Minister for Pacific Island Affairs and Inter-faith dialogue, Mr Su'a William Sio. Conference members from Mangere please pass on our thanks for having responded to our initiative.

ICHC developments

A separate report will be presented to Conference from the Methodist representative on the ICHC Board of Trustees to update Conference on some of the changes that have taken place over the last year or so. This has been a time of some radical changes in procedures and representatives of ICHC management have met with the General Secretary and Director of English-speaking Ministries in the company of Presbyterian and Anglican national officers to further clarify the situation. Rev David Poultney, Methodist representative to ICHC Board, will present a report under Mission Resourcing business.

CEC

Conference 2015 resolved to affirm the Methodist Church's continuing membership of and support for Churches Education Council (CEC) and Michael Lemanu has made contact again with CEC on behalf of our connexion.

Review of National Coordinator for Taiwi Children, Young People & Families Ministry

This post was created for a trial period of three years due to expire in 2017. In anticipation of moving to a two-yearly Conference, we have initiated an early review of the position to seek the mind of the Church on whether this post is considered to be of significant benefit to the connexion and should be retained beyond the initial three year trial period. A questionnaire has been sent to synods and we thank all those synods which have responded to our enquiry. We take heart from what we have heard, and whilst there is still some work to do in some areas of the country to link the work of the parishes, synod and Connexional Children

and Youth Ministry Teams and the National Coordinator, we feel encouraged to bring before Conference a proposal that the position of National Coordinator be continued.

Other areas of work

As indicated above, it is not easy to trace all the various contributions made by Mission Resourcing over the course of a whole year because the Directors work in partnership with so many other agencies within the Methodist Church and beyond, but any list for 2015/2016 must include – Methodist Alliance establishment committee, ECB, Manurewa, Mount Maunganui and Durham Street parish strategies, MCPC property strategy, UCANZ Standing Committee, NZDF chaplains, ICHC developments, review of UCANZ procedures, review of parish and ministry reviews, Council of Conference, Ministry Covenants, Partnership Committee, advising synods on stationing procedures, grants to cover Long Service Leave, Sick Leave, facilitating Tauwi Strategy and Stationing and countless other small contributions via telephone or email.

Perhaps it is understandable that Mission Resourcing has its fingers in so many pies because understanding, defining, and promoting the Mission of the Church lies at the heart of everything we seek to achieve together for Jesus Christ. We make what contribution we can with a staff of three full time people – the two Directors and their PA and with the support of the members of the Mission Resourcing Board.

Suggested Decisions

1. That the report be received.
2. Conference affirms the commitment of the Mission Resourcing Board to continue with the post of National Children's, Youth and Young Families Coordinator beyond the initial three year trial period and their pursuit of funding to allow this to happen.
3. Members of the Board for 2016-2018 shall be: Marilyn Welch (chairperson), Freddy de Alwis, Graeme White, Sireli Kini, Chris Johnston, Tovia Aumua.
4. Members of the Tauwi Human Sexuality Work Group shall be: Jill van de Geer, Susan Thompson, Opeta Amani, Barbara Peddie, Mary Caygill, Melanaite Taumoefolau, Michael Lemanu, David Poultney, Mataiva Robertson, Ikilifi Pope, Nasili Vaku'ata, Andrew Donaldson, Paulo Ieli, Eseta Penaia, the Directors of Mission Resourcing who shall act as convenors.