



## **Tuiwi Children, Young people and Families Ministries Conference Report 2016**

TYTANZ – *Tuiwi Youth Together Aotearoa New Zealand*  
Kids Loving Church – *Kids who love Church AND Churches who love kids*

It was with gratitude and thanksgiving that I present the report for *Tuiwi Children, Young people and Families Ministries (TCYFM)*. This report marks two years for this ministry, and I give thanks to God for His guidance through every season, challenge and blessing that has been experienced thus far. I also acknowledge the hard work, commitment and passion of every children and youth worker/volunteer across the Connexion. Thank you for continuing to champion the voice of young people locally, regionally and nationally, through your service.

### **This is our House**

In the last 12 months, I have come to understand our church as a *house with many rooms*. Each room is characterised culturally or geographically. Each room has things that make it distinctively unique, and more things that represent a common thread. Each room should be respected and celebrated always, but with the understanding that it also belongs to a grander, living, breathing house. As the Aristotle saying goes “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”.

I sense that across our Haahi, our young people have an increasing desire for their local churches to more often look beyond the room when possible, and engage more with the *house*. It’s my hope that in a connexional ministry such as this, that we never lose sight of this, and always in seek in our work to have a heart for the house.

### **Connect**

The first year of work was predominantly focussed on connecting with parishes, as well as children and youth ministries across the Connexion. Although I have done an extensive amount of travelling, visiting and workshopping around the country in that time, I acknowledge there is still much more to be done, particularly when it comes to the cultural rooms of our house. This is something though that I’m confident in strengthening in the coming months with grace and support! Connecting with children and youth ministries on a local level is always a great reminder of my belief in the local church being the hope of the world.

### **MYLN – Methodist Youth Leadership Network**

Also in relation to *Connect*, [www.missionresourcing.org.nz/myln-sign-up](http://www.missionresourcing.org.nz/myln-sign-up) is the place to go to add your children and/or youth ministry leaders to our database. This database is our primary source of contact, where any updates, events and important information are communicated via. Please ensure that anyone in your parish who works with children or youth is on this database!

## **CEC – Churches Education Commission**

A memorial was brought to Conference 2015 suggesting the MCNZ moves to end its membership and association with the CEC. This memorial was not affirmed by Conference. Since then, we have made endeavours to connect with CEC and take steps towards establishing a stronger relationship.

We believe that there has been a great deal of misinformation about the work of the CEC, leading to parishes being misinformed about what the CEC is, its mission, vision and ethos. In response to this, we will be giving opportunities for parishes and synods to invite CEC to present on these things, in the hope of creating a better understanding of their work.

We aim in the next 12 months to accomplish some work toward producing a statement of support for our membership to CEC, similar to that of other member denominations. Be on the look-out in March synods 2017 for more information on this.

## **Resource**

By the time of this report being presented at Conference, we will have our online database of resources, *The METHOD*, up and running, and ready to use. The aim of *The METHOD* is to have a hub of resources and support for effective, engaging and faith-strengthening children and youth ministry. The resources on offer are a culmination of home-grown and tried-and-true material which we believe will assist our children and youth workers in a ground breaking way.

I acknowledge those who have contributed an array of resources to *The METHOD* thus far and also invite anyone who may be interested in contributing their own material to be used across the Connexion to head to [www.missionresourcing.org.nz/the-method](http://www.missionresourcing.org.nz/the-method) for more information.

## **Conference Youth Internship**

Conference 2016 sees the very first *Conference Youth Internship Programme*. This is an exciting initiative, born from the Presidential teams' experience at the Christian Conference of Asia meeting earlier in the year.

Our interns have been carefully selected from all across the Connexion and are an excited group of *present* leaders who we hope will continue to grow and journey in the life of the church for many years to come! The heart behind this programme is to simply give young people a greater sense of worth at Conference, beyond what is normally a tokenistic performance on stage. We intend to give interns a taste of what Methodist Conference is, as well learn from their experiences what we can do better in years to come.

Thanks in advance to our interns, for their dedication, servant hearts and willingness to be our very first team of young Conference interns.

## **MYC 2017**

After prayer, reflection and patience, I'm pleased to announce our national youth leadership conference is booked for February 3-6, 2017 at Ngaruawahia Christian Camp. At this time of writing, I can't confirm too much detail, but I can say we as a team are extremely excited and believing that God is knocking on the door of this generation of young believers and leaders.

For information and registration, go to [www.missionresourcing.org.nz/myc-2017](http://www.missionresourcing.org.nz/myc-2017). Spaces are limited!

### **Overall thoughts and thanks**

I continue to feel extremely blessed and fortunate to experience our church in its many different shapes and forms. There is no doubt in my mind that we continue to have an incomparable amount of passionate and committed people who are dedicated to walking with children and youth in our church. So as long as we have these people, let's continue as leaders and a Conference to prayer for, support and empower these leaders.

I wish to acknowledge all members of our Tauivi Youth and Tauivi Children's ministry teams. For the work they do, both seen and unseen, within their own contexts and also for the wider Connexion. The work is plenty, but I believe with your continued leadership and dedication, we are heading in the right direction. Thank you!

I'd also like to thank both directors Setaita and Trevor, along with the MRU board for their support in the first year of TCYFM. I am grateful for the patience and unwavering support, as well as the boards backing of the vision and mission of TCYFM.

Lastly many thanks to all leaders, presbyters, and members who have walked alongside our young people in all areas of church life. For your love, guidance, patience and willingness to hear the voice of our young people be heard and received, we say thank you. We continue to be at the front end of the journey for TCYFM, so your continued prayer and support is always much appreciated.