

The Enabler

*Acknowledgement: Barbara Wesseldine,
Anglican Diocese of Auckland*

Enablers need to be theologically trained, experienced, committed to collaboration, and comfortable working with groups.

They need to be interested and aware of, and ideally trained in, group process.

An Enabler needs to be able to plan and manage time effectively, prepare well, and be able to adjust to several different groups.

A key skill for an Enabler is to be able to ask the right questions.

Questions for Enablers

- What must I do **for** these people?
- What must I do alongside and **with** these people?
- What must we do **together**?
- What must I leave them to do **themselves**?
- How do I engender interaction **among** these people?
- How must I withdraw?



What impact does Enabling have?

Enabling:

- promotes prayer, biblical and theological understanding
- engenders interdependency
- empowers people
- distributes power
- provides for equal opportunities
- educates without being didactic
- builds a learning community

- is ecumenical
- contributes to every stage of human and spiritual development
- is deeply satisfying.

Enablers with the Ministry Support Team & Congregation

The Enabler facilitates monthly meetings with the Ministry Support Team to:

- build a sense of 'team' with the group
- offer support to each member
- pray together and for one another
- provide training for the team
- check on the progress of the team
- note any requests for training
- address any issues that have arisen
- provide supervision collectively and with individual team members

Ministry Support Team meetings are not:

- a time for doing rosters
- a time for catching up on gossip
- to be cancelled

but they are a time to make good use of the Enabler's expertise.

The Enabler is responsible for:

- facilitating a planning and visioning day at the beginning of the year.
- designing a programme for training each year
- conducting a retreat or quiet day for the team/ congregation each year.
- preaching in the unit about three times a year.
- checking/ communicating on any pastoral issues as required.

Enablers with the Parish and Parish Council

The Ministry Support Team undertakes ministry and mission.

Parish Council takes care of property and finance, policy, resourcing the Local Shared Ministry team.

Two members of the Ministry Support team may be on the Parish Council.

It helps to have the Administrator on both bodies.

The Enabler may attend Parish Council as regularly as required to assist the leadership and the communication between the Parish Council and the Ministry Support Team.

The Enabler may chair the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The Enabler may be called upon for pastoral issues if the situation requires it. Normally, pastoral care is undertaken by team members.

The Enabler and the Wider Church

The Enabler's role is a specific recognised ministry role within the life of the Methodist Church for the purposes of Team Ministries.

Training for Enablers is provided by the Church annually.

There will be a Ministry Covenant with the Enabler, the Parish and the Synod.

The Enabler is accountable to the Synod for their work.

The term of appointment of the Enabler is flexible, depending on the needs of the Ministry Unit, but would normally be for 3 years.

The Enabler is required to have ministry supervision, with costs met by the Ministry Units the Enabler is engaged with.

The Enabler may attend Conference as an Observer (if not already in Full Connexion).

Further information can be found on www.missionresourcing.org.nz under resources.

What is an Enabling Ministry?

An Enabler works with a ministry team. In Local Shared Ministry or Lay Ministry Team, the Enabler will be a professional person from outside the parish. In multi-congregational parishes the Enabler might be the stationed appointment. The role of the Enabler is to provide encouragement to the team and to bring in training resources for the ministry team and the congregation.

The Enabler works as mentor, teacher and spiritual companion to:

- assist the Parish to continue to identify its mission.
- foster relationships between Parish and Synod
- provide on-going encouragement through the process of change from one style of ministry to another.
- oversee the education and development of the Ministry Support Team
- maintain contact with the congregation and model effective worship leadership by leading worship on an occasional basis.
- attend Parish Council meetings as regularly as required to assist the leadership and the communication between the Parish Council and the Ministry Support Team.
- facilitate congregational/ Parish Council planning days to encourage a forward and outward looking way of being church in the community.
- meet monthly with the Ministry Support Team for training, encouragement, and planning.
- provide supervision for the Ministry Support Team through group and individual meetings.
- liaise closely with the Parish Council Chairperson and Parish Superintendent
- maintain an overview of how the Parish is developing and remind the Parish of their new form of ministry.