



Methodist Church of New Zealand

Connexions - July 2022



Methodist Mission Southern: Young Mum's House, Waihōpai

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." Proverbs 31:25

It's happening!

MMS's Young Mum's Transition house, [Waihōpai](#) is getting ready for supporting teenage mums and their babies.

Unlike our Youth Transition Houses where the rakatahi are of mixed genders; (27.5% male, 65% female and 7.5% transgender/gender-diverse/non-binary residents), our new Young Mum's House is a dedicated physical space where young teen mums and their pēpi are provided for in a nurtured environment that is a whānau-centred space of self-care, a space of practical support and a space of sharing skills.

While teenage pregnancies have been on the decline in New Zealand, our statistics remain high compared to other countries. The teen birth rate is particularly high amongst Māori and Pacifica teens compared with other ethnicities.

Socio-economic circumstances determine the success of teenage parents, and teenagers who do not have awareness of, or access to, the resources that are available to them are at greater risk of negative outcomes – for them and their babies.

Where we can, we will bring the young mums into our Youth house first, before the pepi is born to help her get stabilised before everything changes again! Referrals are expected from a combination of Govt agencies, NGO/community providers, and self-referrals from rakatahi and their whānau, and we are fortunate that there is a keen interest already amongst helping agencies.

With timely support, MMS will not only be able to provide a specialist support person (Taituarā a Hāpori) as in our transitional houses but also the specialist nurturing that is required after giving birth. With our strength-based, client-led practices, we can measurably prepare these teenage mothers to have a less rocky future.

We will be empowering these young mums, expected to be under 18 years old, to be successful and self-reliant mothers raising healthy, resilient, and able tamariki. They will be able to move beyond the painful experiences that have led to disengagement with their whānau being strong, independent parents, who are supported and accepted by their community.

MMS will, with the help of those able to chip in, work to 'clothe' these young women, who are often living in unsupported and unsafe situations, with strength and dignity.

Please join us to set up our Young Mum's House.

Contact Julie julier@mmsouth.org.nz



Let the Children Live

Only Two More Rounds of Grants Left

Up to ten grants of \$500 have been distributed to parish projects four times a year, and by the end of this year, that means approximately \$200,000 will have been made available to helping children thrive. Over my various adventures with

Mission Resourcing over the last seven years, I have witnessed many amazing projects encompassing the incredible passion and creativity of adults and children as they have worked together, creating intergenerational bonds and other aspects of what it means to truly prosper.

There are only two more rounds of grants left. Ever! I want to encourage all parishes to dream about the possibilities of helping children live – to flourish in their own development and within their communities.

Who knows? Perhaps children and teenagers could be given the opportunity to attend training and go take living histories from older people in a rest home for the local library or their families or if there were an ugly space or wall in your community, to partner with other churches or community organisations to give your young people the opportunity to paint a mural. Perhaps there is a budding group of youth who would welcome opportunities to develop their creative skills in journalism, or video production and create a report on the huge range of 'Let the Children Live' over the last ten years? Or perhaps your group have musical talent who would enjoy musical tuition with a view of providing a pop-up choir at Christmas time at the local mall?

There will only be two more allocations of this grant – in August, and in November and no more than 10 applications will be accepted at each allocation. Don't miss out, get your application in to me, no later than the 2nd of each of those months at admin@missionresourcing.org.nz

As you send in your applications, don't forget to include a copy of the Parish minutes authorising the initiative.

by Mission Resourcing



Cheryl Banks of Methodist Mission Northern is retiring.

Cheryl has worked with Methodist Mission Northern for 20 years and will be sorely missed.

Her meticulous minute taking at Board meetings has enabled the history of the Mission to be effectively documented. Cheryl also acted as Secretary to the Auckland Synod for many years. Her contribution to the life of Te Haahi Weteriana has been outstanding.

We wish her well and thank her for her hard work, guidance and friendship.

by Helen Gillian
Social Impact Specialist, Lifewise



Sometimes we Starve

Premalatha shares her story in our Winter Story, Sometimes we Starve.

She grew up in rural Sri Lanka but at 18 began sewing clothes in one of the country's export processing zones. At the Women's Centre, Premalatha has found friendship and support. She is working with other women workers to improve their pay and working conditions.

The last few years have been challenging, but now Sri Lanka [is experiencing](#) its worst economic crisis. Prices are skyrocketing and the country is rationing fuel. Sri Lankans are facing severe shortages and more frequent hunger. Please remember them in your prayers.

Read the [Winter Story](#) for her firsthand account. Please support our [Winter Appeal](#) so workers earn enough to support their families.

By Christian World Service



East Africa Appeal

CWS is appealing for people facing famine in East Africa after four consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall.

An estimated 18.4 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are [facing](#) an acute shortage of food but the global response has been slow. Many more people are in danger of starvation and death.

ACT Alliance is distributing emergency cash, food, fast growing seeds, animal feed, water and sanitation, and other assistance but much more help is needed. Your [donation](#) will help families survive. Please keep families throughout the world facing hunger in your prayers.

by Christian World Service



Afghanistan Earthquake Appeal

CWS's partner Community World Service Asia is responding after last month's 5.9 magnitude earthquake in Afghanistan.

More than 1,000 people [have](#) lost their lives. Homes and livelihoods have been destroyed. CWSA staff carried out a rapid assessment and have released the first of three

emergency cash grants of NZ\$157 to 200 severely affected families in the worst affected Geyan district.

Donations to the [Afghanistan Emergency Appeal](#) will assist people with food, hygiene, shelter, and other urgent needs in the immediate aftermath of the quake. We value your prayers for all people in Afghanistan.

by Christian World Service



Peace Sunday

Peace Sunday will be August 7, the day after Hiroshima Day.

CWS is preparing **Peace!** It is a collection of worship resources for groups and churches interested in praying and taking action together. Resources will be available shortly.

by Christian World Service



Deep in the Human Heart

***Deep in the human heart the fires of justice burn;
With visions of a world renewed through radical concern.
As Christians we are called to set the captives free,
To overthrow the evil powers and end hypocrisy.***

This hymn was written by William Wallace, a retired New Zealand Methodist Minister, not the famous Scot who fought for Scottish independence. I think our William Wallace captures the core of Methodism and John Wesley's radical movement that is grounded in the Weteriana belief in justice

and equality for everyone.

***This is our task today, to build a world of peace;
A world of justice, freedom, truth, where kindness will increase;
A world from hunger freed, a world where people share,
Where every person is of worth and no-one lives in fear.***

Members of the Methodist Alliance are working all over Aotearoa to build a world of peace, of justice, freedom and truth. Many Parishes and Missions operate foodbanks for those that would otherwise go hungry. These foodbanks report an increase in people accessing their services who are "the working

poor.” They are working, but their income does not cover the increasing costs of rent, power, etc. The sad reality today is that many people are living on a deficit budget with not enough money coming into cover the basics and so they are faced with difficult decisions of what bills to pay, and what to go without.

If you are unwaged and are surviving on a benefit, the sad reality is that the benefit levels are so very low, that it is unlikely that it will cover all the basics of food, rent, power, and phone.

People living on low incomes are very skilled at making their dollar stretch. And the increasing costs of power, petrol and food is particularly hard during winter. It is a tough choice deciding whether to be warm, to feed yourselves, or be late in your rent payment.

***Taking the step of faith, we leave the past behind
And move into the future's world with open heart and mind.
By grace we work with Christ, as one community,
To bring new hope and fuller life to all humanity.***

The Methodist Alliance working group campaigning to increase benefit and abatement rates is working with ActionStation's Fairer Futures, lobbying MPs and raising public awareness of this issue. Working together we can achieve more. We can dream of a better future with new hope of a life where everyone can thrive.

The Methodist Alliance has shared a discussion paper about living life in its fullness and a greater sharing of wealth to support living incomes for everyone. We hope you find time to discuss this in your Synod and Committee meetings and share your feedback with us.

We have already received some great feedback acknowledging the inequities and the need for a substantial shift in sharing resources. We welcome your feedback in how we can fine tune our suggested decision to Conference. Deep in our human Weteriana hearts, the fires of justice are burning. Our vision of a just and inclusive society in which all people flourish, is a vision we all share, and,

***By grace we work with Christ, as one community,
To bring new hope and fuller life to all humanity.***

If you would like more information about how you can support the Methodist Alliance, the Methodist Missions, or to join the campaign workgroup, please check out their websites or contact me.

Carol Barron, National Coordinator
Methodist Alliance
03 375 0512 | 027 561 9164
Carol@MethodistAlliance.org.nz



Operation Refugee

It may be winter but there are good reasons to get together for some fun. Operation Refugee is a great excuse to share a warm, nourishing meal, go for a brisk walk, join in a Bible study, or simply share stories from places where people are hurting.

We invite you to raise funds for refugees from Afghanistan, Palestine, Syria and Ukraine. The need is significant and so we ask you to help with your prayers and if you can, your gifts.

Our churches have helped many refugees and migrant people settle in Aotearoa New Zealand over many years. Yesterday we heard that some years ago Beckenham Methodist Church organised two weddings for former refugees in Otautahi Christchurch. Let us not forget these stories of how we as church have welcomed people who have fled violence and persecution.

[Welcome](#) is a collection of worship resources and stories prepared for Refugee Sunday last month or check out Operation Refugee resources for recipes, quizzes, a Bible study and ideas for organising Gathering. Or simply call National Director [Murray Overton](#) to discuss how you might be involved: 0800 74 73 72.

by Christian World Service

World Council of Churches Statement on the Holy Land

In a public statement focused on the Holy Land, the WCC central committee expressed “deep solidarity with the member churches and Christians of the region in their life and work, keeping the Christian faith and witness in the Holy Land alive and vibrant, as well as with all people in the region.”

The governing body also urged “all member churches and ecumenical partners, members of Jewish and Muslim communities, and all people of good will, to support the member churches and Christian communities of the Holy Land as essential components of the diverse multi-religious and multicultural nature of society in the region, including the Christian presence in the region.”

The central committee welcomed the WCC’s continuing relationships with the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations and the World Jewish Congress, and the opportunities which they provide for dialogue on these issues.

The statement “the government and authorities of Israel to ensure equal human rights for all people living under their responsibility, and to ensure accountability for attacks and violations against Palestinians, against the holy places, churches, Christian communities, Muslims and other groups, and to ensure free access to places of worship and holy sites.”

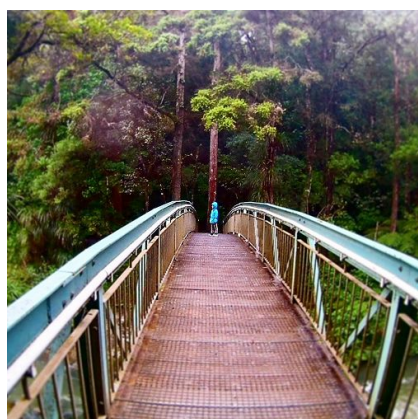
The central committee also appealed “to all members of the international community and all WCC member churches and ecumenical partners to stand up for international law and to speak out against the looming evictions in Masafer Yatta and other threatened displacements of Palestinian communities in the occupied territories.”

The statement concludes by reiterating “the WCC’s constant call for an end to the occupation, and for equal human rights for all in the region.”

The full statement can be found here: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/wcc-central-committee-statement-on-threats-to-a-just-peace-in-israel-and-palestine-and-to-the-christian-presence-in-the-holy-land>

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa
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Phone: 021-481 816 (Mobile)
E-mail: mm-e@methodist.org.nz
www.methodist.org.nz/mahi/mme



Senior (Lead) Pastor

Whangarei Central Baptist Church

Are you who we are looking for?

- A shepherd/collaborative leader who loves God, lives for Him, listens to Him and will do life with us as/where God leads.
- One who encourages others to function with their God given gifts.

Applicants must have the right to live and work in Aotearoa New Zealand for this full time position.

Is God giving you a prod? We want to hear from you! Please

email search@whangareicbc.org.nz



World Council of Churches Elects New General Secretary

The Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay of South Africa was named as the ninth World Council of Churches (WCC) General Secretary Central Committee at its 17 June meeting.

Pillay is a member of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa who is currently dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria.

In a hybrid press conference at which he was asked about his vision of the WCC, when he takes up his post, and other questions, he said, "Our task here is not to play church. Our task is actually to follow God's command."

"Important for me is the idea of justice and unity. I think unity is the task of the WCC—to continue to work at visible unity, and Christian unity is so important. And I will say it again, that a divided church presents a very weak and feeble and fragile witness to a very fragmented world."

Dr. Pillay said that unity is important, as justice is important. "Some people tend to favour one over the other. I hold both in equal terms." He said that the God of justice demands for us to care for the poor and the neglected....and to stand with the oppressed in their situations.

"And the WCC has done this in the past. Me coming from South Africa, it's bigger than my personal experience of how the WCC played a very vital role in dismantling apartheid, in standing with Christians in solidarity," explained Pillay. "So we will continue to do with other parts of the world as we stand with the oppressed."

When Pillay studied at university in the 1980s, the institutions were segregated for undergraduates, and as an Indian South African, he attended the University of Durban Westville. Later, he got a PhD from Rhodes University, which had been for whites.

One journalist asked Pillay about Moscow's Patriarch Kirill "supporting Russia's brutal war of aggression" in Ukraine and if it could result in the Russian Orthodox Church being suspended from the WCC. "The WCC would advocate dialogue, conversations, bringing people across the table and asking, what is it that prompts and inspires as well?" said Pillay. "We need the Patriarch; we need the Russian Orthodox Church with us in these conversations; we can't have them without them. So, suspension is not on the cards at the moment, especially if we advocated things like dialogue."

Pillay said that is the way to get a "deeper understanding and appreciation of the issues and be able to make more calculated decisions based on incisive wisdom."

Pillay was asked about his origins in South Africa and said he was born and bred as a South African Indian - of Indian descent, "but I have had no connections whatsoever with India; my great-great grandfather, probably five generations ago, came to South Africa. have visited India many times; I've tried to look at some of these connections. But for myself, I'm really of South African descent, as an Indian."

Asked about the South Africa of Desmond Tutu and Gandhi, Pillay said one of the things about South Africa specifically that kept them sane in the midst of the insanity of apartheid "was our spirituality."

"In those dark days of apartheid, I would go into the (black) townships, and I would be so deeply inspired, and yet even sometimes troubled by the fact that I would see people laughing and praying and rejoicing and dancing on the streets. And I would ask myself, how in the world can you do this in the midst of suffering? And then I realized very quickly the spirituality in that suffering."

Pillay believes that growing up during a period of conflict and suffering in South Africa will stand him in good stead when he takes up his position as the head of the ecumenical body in January as a leader who believes in dialogue.

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

E-mail: mm-e@methodist.org.nz
www.methodist.org.nz/mahi/mme



New Outboard Motor Donated For Sasamunga Hospital

The current outboard motor for the Sasamunga Hospital boat is ageing, and has broken down in an emergency situation. It is repaired and functional, however the secretary of the Hospital, Rev Caleb Kotali, requested that Methodist Mission & Ecumenical fund a replacement to ensure the reliability of the running of the hospital boat.

Previously Caleb had requested assistance with the running of the hospital boat, in particular during the COVID pandemic and its use for taking medical teams to more remote locations during the vaccination programme. Funds were raised by MME in a 'mini appeal' of \$3,975, and a first tranche of fuel costs covered. Rather than seeking further fuel costs, a more urgent need has arisen for the motor.

The MME Board in its July meeting affirmed supporting this purchase, granting NZD10,000 to be funded through remaining donations received for Sasamunga and the interest earned on the Designated Funds held for such purposes.

Meanwhile, the Solomon Islands government is progressing to reopen its borders, though Covid protocols for domestic and international travels will still apply.

Uniting Church in the Solomon Islands General Secretary, Brian Bird, notes, "Omicron is picking up in the country but with mild effects compared to delta variant. The ground situation is often tricky, as many people ignore wearing mask. As of 5th May, the average vaccination rate was 66% for at least 1 dose. There is still a long way to go. Part of the problem is people are also resisting injection."

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

E-mail: mm-e@methodist.org.nz
www.methodist.org.nz/mahi/mme

Have you thought about your Study leave in 2023?

- Perhaps there is a conference that interests you
- How many weeks study leave are you planning for in 2023
- Do you have members in your congregation who are ready to explore study, this is now available at Trinity College in Tongan and Samoan languages.
- **Now is the time to start dreaming and planning**
- If you plan to start your course in **Semester 1 2023** you need to make your application to PDG for the cut off date of **November 15.2022**

I am happy to hear from you when you have questions, and will do my best to support you.

Mary West PDG secretary maryw@west.net.nz

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS COMMITTEE

STUDY OPTIONS

"Poipoia te kākano, kia puawai", Nurture the seed and it will blossom

Trinity Methodist Theological College

Certificate in Lay Preaching
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LTh Samoan, Tongan
New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies

Advanced Diploma in Religious Studies
Bachelor of Theology
And many more ...

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Phone: 09 521 2073

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Arts & Culture in Christian Ministry & Mission
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Te Wānanga O Aotearoa

Courses in te reo Māori, tikanga, raranga (weaving)
And many more ...

Website: <https://www.twoa.ac.nz>

MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses)

edX: <https://www.edx.org/>
Future Learn: <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
Coursera: <https://www.coursera.org/>

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Website: <https://www.cpe-nz.org.nz> for 2022 courses & application forms

Centre for Courage & Renewal, Australasia

A programme of retreats for leaders, clergy & people of faith, educators, health care professionals and people interested in life, work & aging

Website: <https://www.couragerenewal.org>



Community Assistance for Tonga

When a volcanic eruption and tsunami in January devastated the small Island nation of Tonga, not only did it destroy homes but the crops that provide their food were damaged by the high level of ash and stones, waterways became undrinkable and members of the Napier based Methodist Tongan Church congregation were concerned for their families back home.

A single shipping container was to be sent from Auckland but it allowed only one barrel of items per family so the Napier locals chose to send their own container and asked for support from the community.

Trinity Methodist Church, other community groups and local retailers including PaknSav rallied behind the group with donations that went toward the purchase of items for the construction of a water gathering system, storage tanks, along with water, food, clothes and bedding.

Once donations arrived at their home, the local women packed the barrels with specifically selected items for each of their extended families, the men loaded the container and finally at the end of March it was ready for shipping. It arrived in Tonga at Easter and was distributed under strict Covid protocols to each recipient family.

Tongan culture requires gifts to be shared amongst families but as the original gifting took place here in New Zealand and had been 'shared' by the local family when it arrived in Tonga there was no need to share again.



Fellowship of the Least Coin

The circle represents the whole world and the logo includes folded hands in prayer that encircle a small plum flower. The hands are different colours to represent people of all backgrounds. Together, these praying hands form the image of a lotus flower.

The lotus plant grows in muddy ponds but its flower rises above the murky water and opens beautifully, without blemish. In the same spirit, although women and girls all over the world face oppression and injustices of many kinds, with prayer and support they, too, can rise above these circumstances with dignity and grace.

Why is it called “Fellowship of the Least Coin”?

Often the name of the movement, called Fellowship of the Least Coin, puzzles people who hear it for the first time. Possibly the name sounds strange especially when we profess that this is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation.

This movement emerged as a vision Mrs Shanti Solomon of India had when refused a visa to travel with a mission team to Korea in 1956 and is a discipline for finding peace within ourselves. After offering a prayer for peace and forgiveness, each member puts aside the least coin of their currency as a symbol of their covenant with God to forgive and love her enemies. The “Least Coin” never meant literally the smallest coin. Members can put in any coin of their currency, which can be given away without feeling the pinch of giving according to their economic status. Therefore, the least or the smallest coin has a significance for each member.

Secondly, the least coin is a tangible token of our equal status in fellowship with each other. No matter who and where the members are and their economic and social status, in this Fellowship all are equal. Together we are learning to love our enemies and have concern for everyone in need. The “Least Coin” is a reminder of its significance in this movement of prayer and becomes a visible token of our love, reaching out to the groups of women in their struggle for development, justice and peace as we share the concerns of women around the world. It binds the members together in Christian love and concern for each other and gives a platform for global solidarity among women.

GIFTS OF LOVE

It is to be remembered that FLC is not primarily a fundraising project. It is a movement of **PRAYER** for **PEACE** and **RECONCILIATION** and **JUSTICE** for all. It is difficult for women to find peace and justice in many countries of the world, but because of these “Gifts of Love”, these Least Coins, many women have learned to have the dignity of being able to earn a living. Grants have been given over the past decades for many projects throughout the world, where women have learned to read and write, tailoring and dressmaking, attended adult literacy classes, learned economics and other life changing skills.

The funds of FLC are administered by an International Committee, which meets annually. This Committee sets policies and guidelines for the administration of the funds, awards scholarships and selects projects. Priority is given to any projects initiated and administered by women. Block grants are given to regional and global ecumenical organisations. Grants are given to any Christian groups for programmes of literacy, health, social concerns and leadership among women. Programmes for world peace, justice and reconciliation are supported. Emergency grants may be available for relief programmes in cases of national disasters. A portion of the fund is used for ICFLC administration.

You may wish to visit the website <https://www.fellowshipoftheleastcoin.org/flc> to view PowerPoint presentations of the amazing range of 23 projects supported in 2020, 2 scholarship winners and recipients of emergency grants.

Church Women United Aotearoa NZ is responsible for the organisation and promotion of the Fellowship of the Least Coin on behalf of the International Committee. It is also the link for New Zealand women with the Asian Church Women's Conference. CWU ANZ uses material provided by IFLC to hold an annual 'Ingathering Dedication Service' where local groups may bring their contributions,

Every 2 years ICFLC publish the Circle of Prayer which includes 24 meditations and prayers written by Christian women from diverse backgrounds and traditions. Follow this link to see [Circle of Prayer v.26](#) which has a reflection contributed by Rev Margaret Neate (former member of CWU ANZ Committee).

Please consider promoting the Fellowship of the Least Coin in your church or group as an ongoing project or having a retiring offering to raise awareness of this global ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation.

Bank account details for donations – Bank – Westpac

Account Name – Church Women United in Aotearoa/NZ Fellowship of the Least Coin

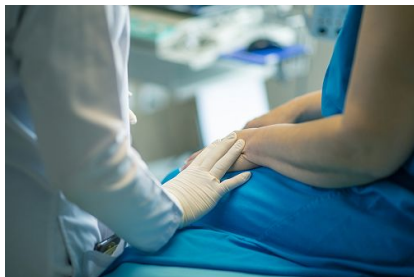
Account No. – 03 1702 0106242 03 Please use YOUR NAME/GROUP NAME as reference

For receipt or further information please contact –

Jennifer Delaney billdelaney@extra.co.nz – or – Lynne Scott scottieslb@gmail.com

Lynne Scott

Church Women United Aotearoa NZ



Hospital Chaplain with Māori (Part Time 0.5FTE)

Waikato Hospital, Te Whatu Ora - Waikato

Part time Hospital Chaplain, 20 hours based at Waikato Hospital (General Health) Te Whatu Ora – Waikato.

Closes: 4pm, Friday 29th July 2022.

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/57683109>

Employment Claim Process and Personal Safety

**Thursday 14 July 2022
5pm – 6pm**

Register now!
Learn about the Church's employment insurance claim process and managing your day with regards to personal safety, with Wendy Anderson and Trudy Downes.

For more information, visit:
www.methodist.org.nz/tangata/connexional-resources/webinars/
or email
trudyd@methodist.org.nz

Employment Claim Process & Personal Safety

Webinar - Register Now!

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For more information visit:

[Webinars » The Methodist Church of New Zealand](#)

or email

trudyd@methodist.org.nz

FULL TIME MINISTER REQUIRED

Are you looking for a change or a new calling?

We have a fantastic opportunity for an ordained minister in the beautiful suburb of Johnsonville in Wellington.

JUC is a congregation with a vibrant mixture of theological and spiritual viewpoints, backgrounds, cultures and ages.

Are you energetic? Are you able to work with us as we connect with the people of JUC, our community and surrounding parishes? Could you walk with us as we explore our use of Te Reo Māori? Then let's talk.

Contact the MSB convenor on MSB@JUC.org.nz for shortlisting by the end of July 2022.

JUC

Full Time Minister Required

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Yearbook Updates

Details that have changed are in *italics*.

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