

SYNOD SALT

Because everyone needs salt in their life!

Newsletter of the Methodist Lower North Island Synod

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April/May 2022

From the Superintendent's Desk:

I don't know about you, but for me summer is usually time for reflection. The pace of life slows, there is space in the day to walk, to sit, to get into family conversations. I love that connecting time. Our family is less scattered now than it once was, but it's still an effort to get together. And when we do I marvel at how our grandchildren have grown, physically and in terms of the conversations they offer. I have learned so much from my wee village of grandies. They teach me about the animal world, about physics, and about life generally from their perspective.



Tomorrow (as I write this) Dawn's parents have their 70th wedding anniversary. And there's another perspective on life. At 94 there's more to look back on than to look ahead to. So many experiences to process and reflect on. Hard lessons; laughter amid tears. I've noted for myself that there are so many people I used to know who are no longer around to talk with or pick their brains when I'm perplexed. I have some people who are really vital to my well-being. A few. Not many. Without whom life would be so much harder. And when it's hard for them we share the load as best we can.

I have noted how the church has become older and there's huge lament about that. Age has become associated with passivity, and tiredness, with decreased faculty. The church seems to buy into the veneration of youth as the ultimate mark of success. We need young people, but not at the expense of discovering the value of age. We need both.

I've been reading about the human brain and ageing. I found this:

"An extensive study in the U.S.A found that the most productive age in human life is between 60-70 years of age.

The 2nd. most productive stage of the human being is from 70 to 80 years of age.

The 3rd. most productive stage is from 50 to 60 years of age.

The average age of NOBEL PRIZE winners is 62 years old.

The average age of the presidents of prominent companies in the world is 63 years.

The average age of the pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S.A. is 71.

The average age of the Popes is 76 years.

This tells us in a way that it has been determined, that the best years of your life are between 60 and 80 years.

A study published in NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE found that at age 60, you reach the TOP of your potential and this continues into your 80s.

Therefore, if you are between 60 -70 or 70-80 you are in the BEST and 2nd. level of your life.

SOURCE: N.Engl.J .Med. 70,389 (2018) .."

How we understand our older folk is a mark of the church's creativity. It's easy to think we have to coddle older folk, that we are past our energetic best, and that our task is to "look after them". Yes to all those. But that's not the whole truth. As we age we also come into our own. The challenge for an ageing church is to find ways to encourage the resource of age. To find ways to reflect together on the spirituality of growing older. Getting older is the challenge of our times. It's now more normal to be able to celebrate a 70th wedding anniversary, or to be 100 plus. Age is not going away. How might we take hold of the current reality and grow a church of vibrant ageing? How might we rediscover the ways God is a reality in the life lessons we have learned as we age? How can we share these discoveries? I look forward to hearing how parishes are wrestling with a whole new way of understanding the reality of age.

Arohanui, Rob

LNIS Mission Seeding Grant Reports

Manawatu Rangitikei Project Update

The MRP Project (for which we received a \$1000 seeding grant) was aimed at strengthening the Methodist profile in the Parish area and strengthening the relationship between MRP and the Tongan Parish.



The project aimed to develop the fledgling Tongan Youth Brass and send the band around to Church spaces and community places and play music, showing that Methodism is still alive in our Parish area. We would invite other young people to join the band if they were interested. This initiative could help in appealing to young people (our MRP age gap). Music is a Methodist tradition with an attractive appeal to a wider public. We aimed to have an impact during Advent and throughout the next months as venues are arranged.

The application for the Synod New Initiatives grant of \$1000 was successful. The money helped with transport costs, meals for out-of-town trips, and any venue costs. The first trip was to Pohangina. The Pohangina church has for many years held an evening Christmas Carols service for the local community. This year it was held in the Community Hall and the newly named "Methodist Band" played in three segments of the programme. The band was enthusiastically received.

The band played a number of times during the month, including at the combined MRP / Tongan Methodist Advent service, at the St Peter's (Anglican) church fair, at Aokautere, at Tongan Parish services, and accompanying the Wesley Broadway Annual Carol Singing night visiting a number of elderly shut-ins, when we were out there for five hours!



The Guardian newspaper did a very positive article on the Methodist Band. The Band played in the New Year for the Terrace End residents. Holidays and Covid slowed us down, but we are just beginning and aim to visit more venues throughout and maybe beyond the Manawatu Rangitikei Parish area with our Methodist Band.

Rev Sesipa Mausia
Rev Ian Boddy
Manawatu Rangitikei Parish

CrossWay Church Masterton

Greetings and Talofa lava from the CrossWay Youth Choir Masterton. The following is a brief report in regards an initiative undertaken by the CrossWay Youth Choir Masterton to try and instill the Christmas Spirit of 2021, especially as from the month of June things started to take a turn for the worse with lock downs and isolation etc.



Towards the end of November 2021, CrossWay youth and leaders started to hatch out a new initiative that included a singing and choreography performance as a way to bring the Christmas Spirit to our community. It took 2-3 weeks of practice mainly in the afternoons involving around 18 – 24 youths. My wife Pauna and I along with the Youth leadership team, Siatua, Sarai, Kelly, Malatai, Faiaoga and others encouraged our youth along not knowing how it would all pan out. We prayed and we sang and we practiced until we were ready for the set date of Saturday 04th December 2021. We emailed and called our local rest homes asking if they would like to have our Youth Choir sing and perform for them, and altogether seven rest homes requested us.

The CrossWay Youth Choir would like to thank Lower North Island Synod for the financial support via THE LNIS SEED GRANT which was used to help pay for the bus hired for the day. Without the bus this initiative for the community would not have been so successful. We have been requested by all seven Rest homes to be included in their monthly well-being programs throughout the year of 2022. Again, THANK YOU & GOD BLESS.

Rev Faleu Futi
CrossWay Church, Masterton



The above are two examples of what can be done with the **LNIS Mission Seeding Grant** of \$1000. This initiative was launched at the August 2021 synod, but so far only 5 parishes in the whole of the synod have applied for it. The grant is to encourage parishes to try **new** initiatives within their community, and to think of mission creatively in bold, new, different and exciting ways. Methodist, and Cooperative and Union ventures with a Methodist component within LNIS are encouraged to apply.

While we don't want to vet projects, we are really interested in knowing what you are planning to do with the grant. So when applying we ask you to reflect on how you identified your project. Who was involved in the decision? Where did the idea come from? These questions are not intended to pry, but to encourage parishes and decision makers to be deliberate and creative, and to involve as many people as possible in the life of your parish. There is no submission time frame, but we will review applications received every 2 weeks and advise applicants when the money has been deposited. When your project is completed we are really interested in knowing how the project went and we ask you to provide a brief report (including photos etc) for publishing in "SALT." That way we can share your good news with all the parishes in the synod as an encouragement.



It is Synod's intention is to review the future of the grant scheme at the August 2022 Synod.

Note: This grant not intended to help pay for existing programmes, nor is it intended for minister's expenses or property maintenance.

LNIS Mission Seeding Grant Application

Parish:

Amount applied for (up to \$1,000):

Bank Account number:

A brief description of what you intend to do with the Grant:

Who, and what process, was involved in deciding on this project:

Signature Parish Council Chair:

Date:

Please email your application to: Rosie Greening, secretary.lnis@methodist.org.nz

TARANAKI TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY

Kia ora koutou.

This is a brief piece about Lou Gane, our ecumenical chaplain at the Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki (WITT), based in New Plymouth. WITT is a provincial tertiary education provider, with about 300 staff members, and 5,000 students currently enrolled across mostly certificate and diploma-level courses.

Lou is actively involved with the West Baptist Church in New Plymouth and was employed by the Taranaki Tertiary Chaplaincy Board in September 2020 for 24 hours a week. She is part of the Wellbeing Hub team at WITT, involved in all areas of campus life and working alongside other support staff to meet the needs of students and staff across campus. The primary pastoral care Lou offers, based on the present need, is as a compassionate and confidential listening ear for students and staff in present emotional distress, regardless of their individual beliefs. Lou is a member of the Student Hardship Panel which distributes funding grants to assist students experiencing hardship and also administers a Hardship Foodbank. We thank Lou for her ministry and care of the students and staff at WITT and thank the Lower North Island Synod for their continued ongoing support and commitment to the work of the ecumenical chaplain.

Nga mihi

Rev. Keita Hotere

Taranaki Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board member



PLANNING A PROGRAMME OR PROJECT

Summary of a presentation by Richard Pittams at the March zoom meeting of the Lower North Island Synod



What is Planning?

Planning is ascertaining, prior to doing something, what you want to achieve along with an outline of how to go about it. The process begins with the developing of:

Aims, Objectives, Targets, Outcomes Etc

At this stage be bold and creative – think outside the square about what the **ideal** outcome etc would be regardless of resources – shoot for the stars!! Record all the ideas no matter how outlandish they may seem. Dreams are free and “Today’s radical idea is tomorrow’s conservative one.”

Once that is done then consider the:

Resources available such as:

Human resources - People’s knowledge and skills available. What is already known

Financial resources - availability and where they may be sourced

Materials etc – source and availability

References for information – people, library, internet etc.

Once the resources have been identified, go back and **evaluate** the Aims, Objectives, etc in the light of the resources available, and make any changes, deletions, additions necessary.

Time:

Create a timeline - when do you expect to start and how long should it take. Set supplementary objectives along with estimated time for each stage, **evaluate** them constantly and make any changes necessary.

Introducing the Project

How are you going to introduce the project – motivation – getting people “on board.”

Find out what others already may know and discuss together how that knowledge can best be used.

Action/Implementing the Plan

Develop tasks to meet the main objectives etc with people involved

Set supplementary objectives with each task - and again evaluate them as they’re completed.

Allocating the resources, organising labour and purchase of resources

It is important to work together and to hear what others may be saying.

Evaluation or Review -*This is important and often gets overlooked.*

Monitor the plan constantly during its implementation in the light of the aims and objectives of the project and be prepared to make changes where necessary. When finished, evaluate the whole project to see:

- Which objectives were met. Which objectives were not met. Which were partially met.
- What worked well and what could be done better.
- Was good use made of the resources available and if not how could they have been used better. Make a short summary for future reference.



The test of good planning is the programme in action along with/or the final result of the project or programme

Synod Property Updates – Property Approvals

Ian Harris – Property Secretary LNIS

If the project is below \$50,000 excluding GST and does not require Consents, documentation is less complex than outlined below, with approvals given by Synod Property Advisory Committee (SPAC).

If a proposed building work requires Building or Resource Consents or has a value of more than \$50,000 ex GST, supporting documentation needs to be appropriate and approvals of SPAC and MCPC – and for Cooperative Ventures the other Partner(s) – are required. This level of approval also applies to property sales and purchases.

Large/complex works also require a credible supporting Mission Plan and 5 year projected parish budget. Large projects reflect the parish’s medium/long future rather than ‘just a building project’, so SPAC will be requesting the additional assistance of the Synod Executive members in reviewing these documents.

We can best help you if we are engaged early in the process especially for large projects so that plans can be discussed and explored as they evolve with the assistance of SPAC members. Parishes need to be familiar with and follow the progressive steps outlined in the booklet Bricks and Mortar published by the Connexion Office and available for downloading from the website. Your parish may also have a physical copy.

If you are a Cooperating Venture, Union or Uniting parish, this process also applies to you if the building title is held by the Methodist church. The other Partner(s), eg Presbytery, will also need to be informed and give their approval before MCPC will give approval to proceed. Similarly if it is a Partner-titled building, Synod needs to be informed and to give its approval before the Partner will authorise work. Both the Partner(s) and Synod will work together to assist the parish through their approval processes.

There are basically 3 approval stages – as noted in Bricks and Mortar p111 & 112

1. Concept/Feasibility

Identify what is needed or the issue(s) that needs fixing. Parish develops options with sketches or concept plans. Identifies the preferred design and has a high level cost estimate prepared by a qualified person/organisation, identifies funding, gains support of parish members, Parish Council and other Partners – if a CV. Synod and MCPC are involved at this concept plan stage as this is where changes can be made with less expense than later on.

- ⇒ Parish submits documents to SPAC: and if supported
- ⇒ Submits documents to MCPC for
 - Approval of concept plans and cost estimate
 - Approval to proceed to working drawings and lodge a Resource Consent if required.

2. Working Drawings, Updated Costs

Parish obtains (pays) for working drawings from architect or builder. More detailed cost estimate is developed, need for Building Consent identified. Documents are prepared to support the project, being

- a Mission Plan to answer 'Why do this work/spend this money?',
- sources of funding to pay for the work,
- a 5 year budget projection to demonstrate that loss of income from interest or borrowing costs, will not financially cripple the parish.
- For a CV parish, written support of the Partner(s)

- ⇒ Parish submits all documents to SPAC: and if supported
- ⇒ Submits documents to MCPC for
 - Approval of working drawings
 - Approval to lodge building consent and invite construction tenders

3. Obtain Consents and Invite Tenders

Parish or external agency submits plans for Consents and calls for costed proposals/quotes from companies able to do the work. When a preferred contractor is selected, remember to check their Public Liability Insurance cover. Formal parish meetings are held to demonstrate support for the project from parish members and Parish Council.

- ⇒ Parish submits tender and preferred contractor documents and the approval of any Partner to SPAC: and if contract terms are satisfactory and consistent with previous documentation and costs estimates, SPAC
- ⇒ Submits documents to MCPC requesting
 - Approval to award contract

Construction Starts

When the contract is executed, Contract Works Insurance is organised through the Connexion Office and contractor starts work under the oversight of a parish project manager.

Timing

SPAC members should be engaged early to guide parishes through the approval processes. Ultimately this saves time and frustration by ensuring that the case for the works is fully and properly made and includes all the necessary supporting documentation for SPAC to either approve or recommend approval to MCPC. For CVs this also includes informing the Partner(s) and gaining their progressive support as the details of the works are fully identified.

Apart from preparing the necessary supporting documentation, many parishes run into issues of timing for approvals. The MCPC monthly meeting dates and deadlines for all documentation to be received are given in

the table below. SPAC members are volunteers who are not necessarily available to instantly consider a parish proposal and obtain clarification or additional information from the parish. Please make every endeavour to provide documentation to SPAC on or before the dates shown, so there is a reasonable time frame for SPAC to undertake it's role and submit to MCPC by their Agenda close-off date. If you have a project, please mark these dates in your diaries now.

SPAC Close off Dates	MCPC Agenda Close Off	MCPC Meeting Dates
4 April	18 April	28 April
2 May	16 May	26 May
30 May	13 June	23 June
4 July	18 July	28 July
1 August	15 August	25 August

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or questions or you are planning some building works. Our role is to support parishes.

Golden Rule: if your contemplating some building work, please talk to SPAC members as early as possible.

An ANZAC Hymn -

During World War Two, the waiata 'Tama Ngakau Marie' was adopted as a troop song by the Maori Battalion serving with New Zealand forces in North Africa and Italy and sung as they buried their dead. A reading of the translation in the light of its simple but eloquent statement of faith, under warfare conditions in foreign lands so far from home, sheds a depth of meaning still relevant to current ANZAC Day rituals of war and peace.

The music provides, a memorable simple melodic line with the ring of an authentic indigenous composition, and amongst Maori is associated with tangi. In the 1960's it became popular with European congregations. The Maori text is relatively easy to follow, and Pakeha congregations have come to appreciate the euphonious sounds of the vowels in Te Reo Maori.

1. Tama ngakau marie,
Tama a t'Atua,
tenei tonu matou,
arohaina mai.

3. Takahia ki raro
tau e kino ai
kei pa kaha tonu
kei mga mahi he

5. Tenei arahina
a tutuki noa
puta i te pouri
whiwhi hari nui

2. Murua ra nga hara.
Wetemina mai
enei here kino,
whakararu nei.

4. Homai he aroha
mou I mate nei
tenei ra, e Ihu
tahina e koe

6. Tama ngakau marie
Tama a t'Atua
tenei tonu matou
arohaina mai

Translation – not for singing

Son of a powerful heart,
Son of God,
here we are,
love us

Trample underfoot
whatever is evil
lest the power remain
of the evil deeds

This the pathway
to the end through
the darkness
to receive great joy

Take away our sins.
Undo
these evil ties
which bind us.

Give us love
for you who died
This day, Jesus,
You lead us.

Son of a powerful heart
Son of God
here we are
love us

Provided by John Thornley

The next edition of SALT is for June/July.

*Please email any contributions to richardsue@extra.co.nz
at any time but by 20 May 2022*

