



The Methodist Church of New Zealand

Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

25 November 2021

Kia ora koutou katoa

In keeping with our recent Conference commitment to provide leadership on our Covid-19 response, we have considered where we find ourselves in light of the Government's recent information release on their Protection Framework and Vaccination Pass process. While we recognise that there will be those among us who consider the position we outline below as overreach, our consistent position has been to protect the most vulnerable among us. As the mandated leadership of the Methodist Church of New Zealand we take our responsibility seriously and therefore share the following:

- Vaccination, mask wearing, and physical distancing are crucial tools in the efforts against Covid-19. The Church endeavours to be an open church that is welcoming, hospitable, and safe for everyone.
- To offer maximum protection for those who meet with us, all who are in active ministry (lay and ordained) and medically able, must be vaccinated.
- Church members and other groups using church premises will need to verify vaccine passes as a condition of building use.
- Alternative arrangements are encouraged for worship and pastoral care for those people without a valid vaccine pass.
- We encourage kōrero on issues of ongoing concern and will be running a series of webinars next week to provide a forum for questions and concerns.
- We will have a small team of communicators/facilitators available to accompany parishes in their ongoing discussions on Covid-19 and its implications for their churches and faith communities. Contact either by calling Trudy Downes on 027 457 4196 or by email to healthandsafety@methodist.org.nz.

We are aware of the rapidly changing environment regarding government information on next steps for Covid-19 protection, and we will be providing further details as they develop. In particular, we are waiting on the latest information for Parishes that have paid staff who are affected by vaccine mandates.

We recognise our position will be unpalatable for some. Even if, after having engaged with the webinar and communications processes outlined above, you still feel yourself unable to comply with the Church's requirements, please be free to contact the President on 027 378 7861, or at president@methodist.org.nz

Yours sincerely

Andrew Doubleday
President
Methodist Church of NZ

Yours sincerely

'Etuini (Edwin) Talakai
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Yours sincerely

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