

Fact sheet: *researching Methodist Ministers*

Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives National Archive of the Methodist Church of New Zealand

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Hours: By appointment only. Closed weekends, public holidays, Christmas—New Year and Easter Tuesday

Sources of biographical information about Methodist ministers held in the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

Methodist Church ministers are given the title “Reverend” after ordination. They become a minister, by being ordained by the President of the New Zealand Methodist Conference.

Usually ministers have attended Theological College and have had 4 years’ probation before being ordained. Today, ministers are also referred to as “Presbyters”.

A minister’s full responsibilities are described in the Methodist Church *Law Book*. A pdf version of this can be seen on our website www.methodist.org.nz

The Connexional Office in Christchurch has always maintained a record of ministers, where they were stationed, and their birth and death dates if known. This information is included in the Methodist Archives People information files which can be viewed in the Methodist Archives Reading Room.

A list of deceased Methodist ministers is included on the Archives section of the Methodist Church website in the *In Memoriam* list.

Printed resources and indexes held at the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

- People information files
- Methodist newspapers index of baptisms, marriages, deaths and obituaries 1870—2000
- New Zealand Methodists name index 1840-
- *A history of Methodism in New Zealand* by William Morley
- Wesley Historical Society publications index
- Church histories collection
- *Minutes of the New Zealand Methodist Conference* (published serial)

Resources for in-depth research using original documents at the Methodist Archives

- Photographs collection
- Baptism registers, marriage registers, membership rolls
- Parish Archives Collection
- Personal Papers and Historical Records Collection
- Methodist Church of New Zealand Conference records (restricted access)
- Supernumerary Fund records which can include original application to be accepted to train as a Methodist minister (restricted access)

Inventories of our collection holdings are available on line:

http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives/archives_collection

See our fact sheet *internet sites for New Zealand Methodist research*

Written/email enquiries

If you are unable to visit in person, the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives may be able to offer a written research service. This depends on how long your research would take. We are unable to undertake research or copying on your behalf for large research projects.

Charges for this are detailed on our fact sheet *research fees and charges*