



The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

12 June 2024

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care

Dear Friends,

I expect all of us are aware of the work of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. This work has been conducted in the understanding that such abuse occurred over the years, especially within state-care and faith-based institutions, including children's homes and schools. This commission has, of course, investigated many national churches including our own Hāhi.

I am saddened when I realise that such abuse has occurred within Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, The Methodist Church of New Zealand, and shocked to hear about those we might have known being involved, both as victims and as perpetrators. The Commission is about to release its findings and we will know more about how widespread this abuse has been.

Preparing ourselves for these revelations, and as part of its ongoing duty of care, the Church is implementing various safeguards to reduce the possibility of such abuse ever happening again.

Our Church has acknowledged in front of the Inquiry our collective part in this unChristlike behaviour, and has determined to support those involved, especially those abused, many of whom are still alive.

To this end we offer a liturgy prepared by one of our presbyters, Rev David Poultney of Dunedin, which can be used as each Rohe and Parish sees fit, to bring our concerns and sorrows to God.

Alongside this, we ask for each Rohe and Parish to be aware that there may be among us those for whom the issue is very personal and still undisclosed; for them we need to be ready to offer appropriate pastoral care.

Every blessing in Christ,

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