



World Council of Churches

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Rev. Peter Taylor
President Elect

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Rev. Tara Tautari
General Secretary

Methodist Church of Aotearoa New
Zealand

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Warm greetings from the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

On behalf of the WCC member churches, I wish you many blessings on the Conference in Kerikeri, Northland, as you celebrate 200 years of Methodist presence in in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Celebrating 200 years of Methodism in your country, as in any such commemorative event gives us pause for reflection. It calls us to take account of how we have lived out our discipleship and served God in the world as church. How and in what ways has our witness been transformative, challenging and perhaps at times a stumbling block? What new signposts would we need to meet the challenges of the future?

It is part of the Wesleyan ethos to affirm, with other Reformation traditions, *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda: the church reformed is always being reformed by the word of God*. It is the ethos of never being satisfied with the way things are. As you reflect on the legacy and history of Christianity in Aotearoa, may you celebrate the different ways over the two hundred years the Methodist church has adapted, wrestled and changed in order to do justice in faithfully serving God's call in the world.

As you reflect over these next few days may you continue to find, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, new ways of being faithful to the word of God in a rapidly changing world and environment that continues to bring glory to our Triune God. May you never tire in the pursuit for justice, reconciliation, and unity and the zeal for manifesting God's kingdom on earth.

I wish you God's richest blessings on this significant occasion of marking 200 years of Methodism in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
Acting General Secretary, World Council of Churches