



# Creating a Vibrant, Active Conference

*What Makes a Conference Vibrant, Active, and Satisfying for its Members?*

After researching our most successful Conferences across New Zealand, we've identified several key elements that contribute to a thriving, engaging, and spiritually fulfilling Conference experience:

## 1. STRONG LEADERSHIP

**Effective leadership is the cornerstone of a successful Conference. The President should genuinely desire the role, rather than stepping in reluctantly or by default.**

**Strong leaders:**

- Understand the skills and strengths of each member.
- Delegate tasks accordingly to ensure balanced workloads.
- Promote a holistic approach that includes welfare, spiritual development, activities, and social connection.

## 2. STRONG PARISH CONNECTION

**Our Parish is the primary source of support and new membership. Strengthen this connection by:**

- Maintaining regular communication through Parish newsletters.
- Keeping the Parish Priest and leadership team (e.g., Pastoral Workers) informed and engaged.
- Building a positive, collaborative relationship with Parish leadership.

## 3. PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

**This is central to our Vincentian identity. A spiritually rich Conference meeting helps members grow in faith and service. Suggestions include:**

- Appoint a spiritual coordinator or invite the Parish Priest to guide this component.
- Emphasize prayer, reflection, and the Gospel message during meetings.

## 4. INVITING NEW MEMBERS – THE “SHOULDER TAP” METHOD

**Recruitment should be ongoing and intentional.**

**Strategies include:**

- “Shoulder tapping” – personally inviting individuals with desired qualities.

- Hosting an annual Parish-wide invitation and promotion campaign.

## 5. MEMBER CARE

**Care for members as they care for others. A vibrant Conference supports its own people by:**

- Assigning meaningful tasks aligned with their talents.
- Ensuring no one is overloaded or under-utilized.
- Offering social gatherings to build relationships.
- Being attentive and responsive to personal challenges members may face.

## 6. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CHARITIES

**Working with local charities can expand the impact of our mission. Benefits include:**

- Enhanced support for clients through referrals.
- Resource-sharing and skill development from other organizations.

## 7. COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY PRESENCE

**Visibility is vital for recruitment and recognition. To stay connected and promote your work:**

- Share success stories and impactful moments regularly.
- Highlight the values of the “Good Samaritan” in your storytelling.
- Celebrate the work of the Conference within your community.

**For local guidance or more information, contact:**

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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