

NZCMS ETHOS STATEMENT

The New Zealand Church Missionary Society (NZCMS) was formed as an independent organisation by the Church of the Province of New Zealand, and nurtured within the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia. It was, and is, an evangelical mission community, seeking to mobilise the Church in New Zealand for God's mission in the world. We partner with individuals and churches who share a common vision. We seek to obey the call of God to proclaim the Gospel of God's grace in Christ Jesus to all peoples and extend Christ's Kingdom throughout the world, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

Theological underpinnings

NZCMS seeks to uphold the Lausanne Covenant that unites evangelicals around the world in prioritizing the Gospel.¹ The Gospel includes the declaration that Jesus is Lord over all things, which means our mission is to call people to follow Jesus the Lord *and* to see God's Kingdom coming in all of life.

NZCMS affirms the Christian faith as uniquely revealed in the Bible and expressed in the Church's historic creeds. We also affirm our belief and trust in:

- God's love for all of His creation, and especially for human beings, who are made in God's own image.
- The divine inspiration of the Bible and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and life.
- The brokenness in humanity and the world caused by human sinfulness, and our need of forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Salvation is by God's grace, through faith in Christ.
- Jesus Christ is God's only Son, fully human and fully divine, who reveals God, lived a life on earth without sin, died on the cross to atone for our sins, rose from the dead, and is forever Lord and the Saviour of the world.
- The mission of the Church to passionately share the Good News of Christ through word and deed with all peoples, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Christ's future return in glory, to judge the living and the dead, to establish a new heaven and earth where those who belong to Christ will live with Him forever.

¹ The Lausanne Covenant, available at <https://www.lausanne.org/content/covenant/lausanne-covenant#cov>

Founding principles

NZCMS has always followed the missional principles that were first expressed by John Venn at the founding of the Church Missionary Society in the UK in 1799. We seek to:

- a) Follow God's leading
- b) Send out people of the highest calibre
- c) Start small
- d) Put money in second place, not first
- e) Depend on the Spirit of God for success

Values: What drives us

Our Foundational Values are the starting place and the 'fabric' of who we are and who God has made us to be. They are our collective DNA and strongly bind us to each other. They are woven together, operate together, and all equally important. Our Values guide how we do our work.

Our Whakapapa. We are rooted in our history as CMS which is part of our DNA. CMS began as a voluntary mission movement: communities of followers of Jesus sending and being sent to proclaim Christ in the world. We both affirm our Anglican identity and work within the wider body of Christ.

Faithful to the Whole Gospel. We are committed to the authority of Scripture that proclaims the Lordship of Christ over all things. Consequently our mission is to call people to follow Jesus as Lord and to see God's Kingdom coming in all of life. We are evangelically orthodox.

Deeply Relational. Because God is love (a 'community of oneness') we seek to ensure that everything we do is done in relationship. We seek to be equal partners, recognising the vital place of humility, mutuality, respect, and reciprocity in mission.

Kingdom Vision. We are always listening to the Spirit; open to creativity, new opportunities and seeking to join where God is at work for transformation.

Whole-hearted. We joyfully surrender our lives fully to the Lordship of Christ in response to His call on us to serve Him who gave His life for us. We passionately commit ourselves fully to the work of God's kingdom on earth.

Our Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a historic agreement signed between representatives of the British Crown and Māori chiefs in Aotearoa New Zealand in 1840. It was translated, advocated, and witnessed by CMS missionaries who had promoted the Gospel of God's love, salvation, justice, and peace. The friendship and trust between Māori and the missionaries were critical factors in the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.

NZCMS stands firmly within the New Covenant made by God with us through Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are covenantal people. As such, NZCMS believes Te Tiriti is a sacred covenant that continues to be relevant today. This echoes the belief of the missionaries, especially Henry Williams, and many Māori chiefs who saw the Treaty as a covenant; a solemn promise that formalises an ongoing commitment and relationship.

NZCMS acknowledges the good and the difficult aspects of the history of Aotearoa New Zealand, including within the Church, and recognises the challenges that were faced in meeting these commitments. Healing broken Treaty relationships requires making amends for injustices of the past. NZCMS continues to seek to live out these commitments in its present-day ministry of ongoing partnership and friendship in the Gospel including working towards restorative justice. Today the Treaty is widely seen to be a constitutionally foundational document and the basis of national identity.