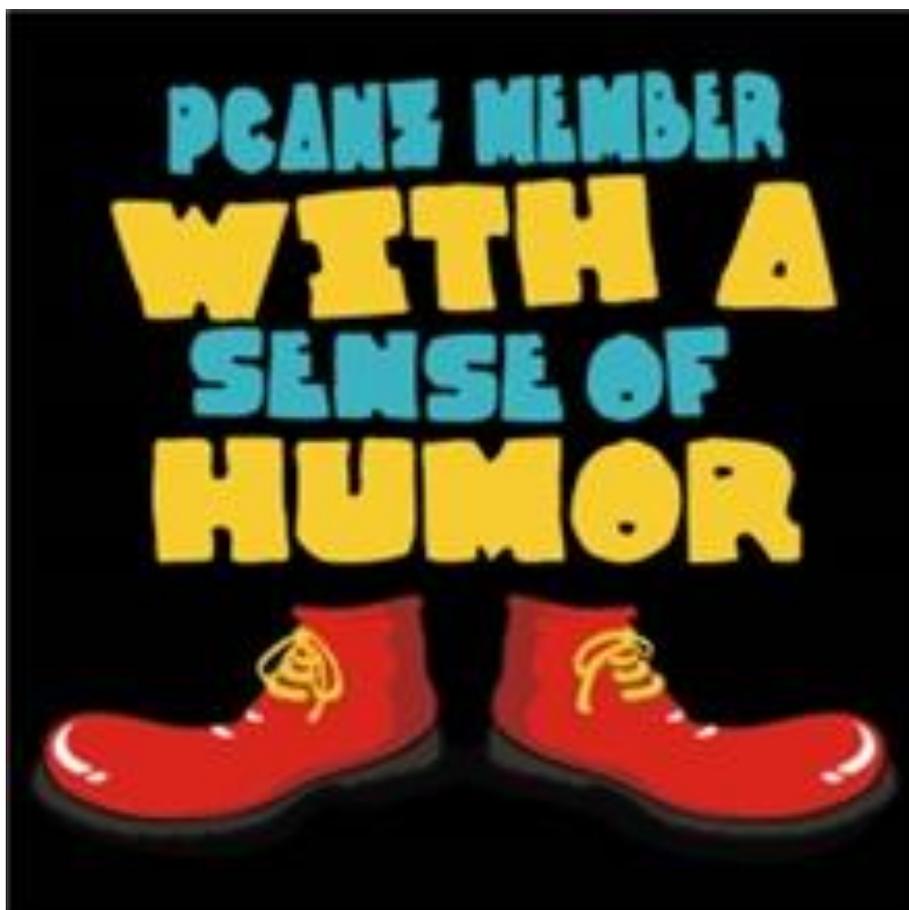


BELONGING AT ST ANDREW'S

PART II: PRESBYTERIANISM



One of the statements St Andrew's makes which is greatly prized by the community is the following:

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

*Wherever you are on your faith journey,
wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to,
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe,
you are welcome here.*

You can decide how you will connect!
This set of booklets aims to help with that decision

PRESBYTERIANISM How did it begin and how did it get to NZ?

What kind of church is St Andrew's?

How did St Andrew's come into being?

What is Presbyterianism?



St Andrew's is a Presbyterian church.



First there was the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand (PCNZ), then we renamed ourselves the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) from 1990.

'Presbyterian' means 'relating to or denoting a Christian Church or denomination governed by elders according to the principles of Presbyterianism. At different levels of the Presbyterian church, there are assemblies and presbyteries and councils which are mixtures of clergy and lay people.



All Presbyterian churches in New Zealand spring from the 'mother' church in Scotland

The burning bush has been used as a symbol of the church since an enterprising printer added it to the front cover of Assembly papers years ago.

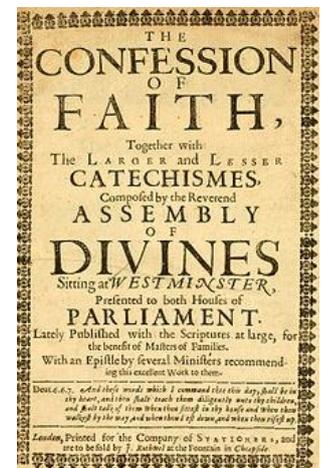
This pulpit fall at St Andrew's has the burning bush as its motif



SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY FROM ITS BEGINNINGS IN SCOTLAND IN 1560.

1560 Scots Confession accepted by Scottish Parliament during Protestant Reformation.

1647 Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) replaces Scots Confession. (First ministers, then elders, were required to subscribe – sign up - to this)



1840 Rev John Mcfarlane arrives on the Bengal Merchant on Petone foreshore. St Andrew's parish begins with his first service. The first church was established in Thorndon and called Scots Church. The second church was built on Lambton Quay and called St Andrew's.

1843 In Scotland, the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) splits into the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland.

1848 Free Church minister and other members arrive in Dunedin, Otago.

1861 Presbyterian Church of New Zealand (PCNZ) forms *without* churches below Waitaki River. St Andrew's remains with the Church of Scotland.

1866 Synod of Otago and Southland forms south of the Waitaki River.

1874 St Andrew's on The Terrace joins the PCNZ

Late 1870s The third church was built on the present Terrace site

1892 Declaratory Act passed in Scotland and adopted in New Zealand (modifies the effect of the WCF whose theology was becoming outdated)

1901 Synod of Otago and Southland joins PCNZ to form nationwide PCNZ and in Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland and Church of Scotland reunite

1920 St Andrew's wooden church burns down

22 February 1923 St Andrew's present ferro-concrete building opened

1955 First women elders ordained in PCNZ

1965 First woman minister ordained in PCNZ (before Church of Scotland) at St Andrew's on The Terrace

1990 PCNZ becomes Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

1993 PCANZ Affirmation of Faith written for use in worship

2010 *Kupu Whakapono* accepted as subordinate standard alongside Westminster Confession

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE
WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR FAITH'S JOURNEY,
WHEREVER YOU HAVE COME FROM AND WHEREVER YOU ARE GOING TO,
WHATEVER YOU BELIEVE, WHATEVER YOU DO NOT BELIEVE, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

WHY THE NAME PRESBYTERIAN?

Wikipedia describes Presbyterianism(!)
(what would we do without Wikipedia!):

“Presbyterianism is a part of the Reformed tradition within Protestantism which traces its origins to the British Isles. Presbyterian churches derive their name from the presbyterian form of church government, which is government by representative assemblies of elders. Many Reformed churches are organized this way, but the word "Presbyterian," when capitalized, is often applied uniquely to the churches that trace their roots to the Scottish and English churches that bore that name and English political groups that formed during the English Civil War. Presbyterian theology typically emphasizes the sovereignty of God, the authority of the Scriptures, and the necessity of grace through faith in Christ.... most Presbyterians found in England can trace a Scottish connection, and the Presbyterian denomination was also taken to North America [and New Zealand] mostly by Scots and Scots-Irish (Scotch-Irish American) immigrants. The Presbyterian denominations in Scotland hold to the theology of John Calvin and his immediate successors, although there is a range of theological views within contemporary Presbyterianism.

Local congregations of churches which use presbyterian polity are governed by sessions made up of representatives of the congregation (elders); a conciliar approach which is found at other levels of decision-making (presbytery, synod and general assembly).”

Elders are lay members elected by the congregation. St Andrews on The Terrace's Parish Council is mostly elders. These councils/courts which are mixture of clergy and lay distinguish Presbyterians from other churches. Elders are ordained for life but membership on the Council has a revolving term. Since 2016 some councillors who are associate members might not be elders. This mix of lay and clergy leadership provides checks on how ministry is carried out. Sole leadership by a charismatic leader is usually not possible. At local level a church council will naturally have more lay people than ministers but at regional and national level, Presbyteries and the biennial General Assemblies are equally made up of elders and ministers.

MEMBERSHIP What are the official rules?

St Andrew's welcomes **everyone** as part of its community **whether or not** they become members or associates, or choose to be part of St Andrew's whanau.

Further details about membership are in the Belonging and Connecting Welcome booklet. The fine (and sometimes exhaustive!) detail can be found in the Book of Order which can be accessed on the PCANZ website www.presbyterian.org.nz

Becoming a member or associate so you can join in voting for/deciding on changes in the community is your free choice.

You don't have to become either. We maintain another list of contacts whom we call 'whanau'. This would keep you in touch with what is going on without having to join the Presbyterian denomination. You wouldn't be able to vote in formal church meetings, but there are many other things you will be able to do as a member of our wider community.

The social justice group and the monthly study group would welcome your joining them if you wished. You can receive our email newsletter, join in rosters, take part in services and join in fully in the monthly congregational conversations after church on the second Sunday of the month.



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As St Andrew's practises an open communion table, anyone in the church at the time is welcome to receive communion in this community – 'whatever they believe and whatever they do not believe'



If you have any questions relating to membership or St Andrew's feel free to ask the minister or a Parish Councillor or your pastoral partner (if you have one – see booklet VII) for more information.

If you have specific questions about other aspects of community life, you might find the right person by looking on the back page of the Order of Service where the team of people who minister at St Andrew's is listed.

If you want to change your membership status, contact the minister who will help you with the next step.

If you are happy with the status you have chosen for now, we are glad you are part of our community just as you are.

The church needs a foundation
Though not of brick or stone
For buildings are but shelter
From rain or hailstorm.
They symbolise commitment
They resonate with praise
But humans form the true church
In these postmodern days.

Through Christendom's great worship
The rafters have been wrung,
We've gazed at stained glass windows,
Made sure the brass has shone.
We've consecrated, maintained,
We've renovated but
Religion's modern rituals
Are those postmoderns cut.

God's commonwealth of spirit
Is not built out of wood
But by our follow'ng Jesus
With praxis that is good.
Postmodern 'church' emerges
In fresh expressions, new,
With talk and acts of justice,
Compassion which is true.

In our time we now follow
Jesus upon the Way,
On terms for us authentic,
And honest for this day.
We see our 'church' re-forming,
The Spirit helps it grow;
We see again a future
Where faith will always flow.

Susan Jones 2015. Can be sung to the tune Aurelia

BOOKLET PREPARED BY REV DR SUSAN JONES AUGUST 2016

Updated June 2017

www.standrews.org.nz