



Greetings

The 1969 General Assembly welcomed Congregational Union ministers and members into fellowship in the Presbyterian Church. It is the 50th anniversary of this decision next month, which causes us to reflect deeply on this milestone in our Church's history.

The move of so many people - 28 ministers, 26 churches, representing about 6,900 folks - from the Congregational Church to the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand was a phenomenal occasion.

On **Sunday, 3 November 2019**, we will remember this special moment with a commemoration service at 4pm, Newton Pacific Island Presbyterian Church, Edinburgh St, Auckland. All are welcome.

I warmly encourage all in the Presbyterian family to remember this event in their own services on Sunday, 3 November. I have prepared a narrative sharing some of the background of the move that you may wish to share or use. [Read or download the narrative](#)

The Presbyterian Church was, in many ways, unprepared for a massive move of people into its denomination. There were differences in church polity, theology, governance, cultures, ethnicities, church life, languages, values, perspectives and so much more. Nonetheless, with foresight, prayerfulness, trust and confidence, the journey took place at GA 1969, Dunedin.

Changes in life are not always easy and not a smooth experience. Most people do not like change. Change requires confidence, courage and determination. Sometimes there is parting with loved ones; families going separate ways. Sadly, sometimes change causes division and apathy. Change can be hurtful. Change can also be a liberating experience.

This message is to plead and call on God's people in these two denominations and others beyond - please be gracious, caring, and loving to each other. Be Christ-like to all people. Remember, you are the body of Christ; Jesus is the head of this body. Be forgiving of one another. Our hope is reconciliation, unity, oneness in Christ. Our Lord Jesus prayed "that they be one, just as you and I are one".

I ask you to keep both the Congregational Union and Presbyterian Church in your prayers as we commemorate this milestone in our history.

Blessings

Fakaofa

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand