

the Cook Islands. The congregational meeting is the local, regional, and supreme church court.

### **The Methodist Church**

The term Methodist was first a term of ridicule used to John Wesley and his friends who sought to be methodical in their daily activities. John Wesley was ordained in 1725 by the Bishop of Oxford. In 1738 he attended a service in Aldersgate Street, London. In his journal he recorded that there he “felt my heart strangely warmed”. From that time his life was changed. He felt the need to preach to ordinary people out of doors. This resulted in a great revival. However, it also brought him into conflict with the Church of England who disapproved of his work. Wesley refused for many years to ordain ministers and urged people to take communion at their local Church. But a split was inevitable. The first Conference was held in 1744 with 6 clergy and 4 laymen present. The Church suffered many splits in the 19th century predominantly between the Wesleyan and Primitive Societies. The first missionary to arrive in New Zealand was Samuel Leigh in 1818. From that time until the early 1860’s the Methodist Church was a predominantly Maori Church. With the influx of settlers and the wars that followed, this influence diminished. The Methodist Church talks of itself as a Connexion and “the People called Methodist”. The governing body of the Church is the Conference which meets annually. Locally the churches meet as a Synod under the chair of a District Superintendent.

**Further information** about the Churches and Cooperative Ventures can be obtained from the Guide to Procedures. See particularly *Section 422 Understanding the Churches*.

Available from the Forum of Cooperative Ventures,  
P.O.Box 9049, Wellington.

A booklet "About Being Presbyterian". Is available from  
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand,  
Courses and Resources, P.O. Box 9049, Wellington.

# Being Part of the Story



Unit 5

## Our Church Family's Story

Supplement

Our Cooperating Partners  
A resource in preparation for  
confirmation

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### **The Presbyterian Church**

The Presbyterian Church can trace its family tree back to the time of the Reformation when John Calvin, based in Geneva, broke with Rome and the Catholic Church. A Scot, John Knox, was strongly influenced by Calvin. He led the attack on the established Church when he returned to Scotland. Presbyterians from England and Scotland were among the first settlers in New Zealand. Early Scottish settlers brought Presbyterianism with them to New Zealand. The first congregation was established in Wellington in 1840 under the leadership of a Church of Scotland Minister. Later the Free Church of Scotland was responsible for establishing churches, especially in Otago and Southland, which resulted in the formation of the Synod of Otago and Southland. The two differing traditions represented in these churches were united in 1901 as the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

The Presbyterian form of church government is based around the ordination of elders who have a pastoral role as well as that of leadership. A “teaching elder” or minister leads each congregation. The Parish commissions some of its elders to attend the local Presbytery who administer the life of the church in that region. Every two years the Presbyteries come together in a national Assembly to determine policy.

### **The Forum of Cooperating Ventures**

In the 1960’s and ‘70’s there was a great push for Union of the churches in New Zealand. While these plans did not come to fruition churches have continued to work together and many Union, Uniting and Cooperating Parishes have been formed. These come under the banner of the Forum of Cooperative Ventures but also relate to their own partner churches.

The five partner churches are:

Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia;  
Associated Churches of Christ; Congregational Union of New Zealand;  
Methodist Church of New Zealand – Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa;  
as well as the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

### **The Anglican Church**

The origins of the Anglican Communion date back to the split with Rome that occurred when in 1534 Henry VIII declared himself “Supreme Head of the English Church and Clergy”. The shape of the church in England developed over the next century to be consolidated after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660. The Church of England remains a State Church. Over the centuries the Anglican Church has spread throughout the world and is sometimes known as the Episcopal Church., from the Greek word for bishop. The Church Missionary Society was the first to come to New Zealand. On Christmas Day 1814 the first service was held by the Rev. Samuel Marsden. Now the Anglican Church is the largest denomination in New Zealand. The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia is made up of three Tikanga .or “strands”, Tikanga Pakeha, Tikanga Maori and Tikanga Pasifica. Each Tikanga is divided into regional dioceses which are presided over by a bishop.

### **The Associated Churches of Christ**

The beginnings of the Churches of Christ were in the early 19th century and came from a reform movement within a number of Protestant Churches including the Baptist. They break bread in a weekly communion service. They also practice believers’ baptism. With a system of congregational government the local congregational meeting is the local, regional, and supreme church court.

### **Congregational Church**

Congregationalism may be traced back to the reign of Elizabeth I of England. Elizabeth wanted a single united English Church. But others rejected this seeing the local congregation or the “gathered church” as the true base. It was from such a congregation that the Pilgrim Fathers set out on the Mayflower to settle in America. The London Missionary Society sent out such pioneers as David Livingstone to Africa and James Chalmers to