



## **Statement of Faith, the Koroutahi Covenant and Membership**



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### 1. Our Statement of Faith

Missions Interlink identifies strongly with the beliefs of Evangelicals around the world, which further defines our theological *whakapapa* (heritage). In this regard, we uphold the truths of the historic Christian faith, including the following *whakapono* (beliefs)...

#### 1.1 About God

We believe:

- There is one true God, infinite and all powerful, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is loving and merciful, holy and just and is the Creator and Sustainer of all things.
- God is revealed in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

#### 1.2 About Scripture

We believe:

- All Scripture is uniquely inspired by God and is therefore wholly trustworthy and of supreme and final authority in faith and life.

#### 1.3 About Jesus

We believe:

- Jesus Christ is God's only Son and God incarnate. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and lived a perfect and sinless human life. He was sent to reveal God, to proclaim the reign of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to accomplish God's saving purposes.
- Christ died on the cross for our sins as our representative and substitute. God raised him from the dead through the power of the Spirit and he is exalted at the right hand of the Father, having received all authority in heaven and on earth.

#### 1.4 About People

We believe:

- Human beings are made in the image of God. They are created to love, worship and enjoy fellowship with God and have been entrusted with the stewardship of God's creation.
- Through human disobedience to God, sin and death entered the world. All have sinned and are therefore guilty before God and under God's judgement. Sin separates people from God; it also brings brokenness to human relationships, disrupts the created order and distorts humanity's relationship with creation.

#### 1.5 About The Holy Spirit

We believe:

- Salvation is the gift of God's grace through the death of Jesus Christ and is available to all who repent of their sins and by faith receive him as Saviour and Lord. They are born again by the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God.
- Through the Spirit's indwelling, God's people are enabled to live holy lives and are equipped, in the fellowship of the Church, to witness and work for Christ and to glorify God in the world.

## 1.6 About The Church

We believe:

- The Church is the community of all Christian believers, who have been formed by the Holy Spirit into one body of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head.
- The Church is commissioned by Christ to bear witness to the gospel to all peoples through word, deed and sign.

## 1.7 About The End

We believe:

- Christ will return in power and glory to consummate God's kingdom. He will gather his people, judge the world in righteousness, and renew creation. Those outside of Christ will be raised to eternal judgment; those who belong to Christ will be raised to enjoy eternal life in God's presence.

## 2. The Koroutahi Manifesto

*This "One/Unified Purpose" Manifesto articulates our understanding of, and commitment to, the Missio Dei.*

### 2.1 Missiology

We worship God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Creator of all, the One who is Love, who is the Judge of the earth. In Him, we live, move, and have our being amid a broken and hurting world. Our mandate is to invite people everywhere to 'know' God, allowing His love to transform them and, through them, to transform the world. This is 'Missio Dei,' the mission of God.

To 'know' God is to seek an intimate relationship with Him as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It means loving God above all else, serving Him before all else, trusting Him uniquely, and being influenced by no other god-like entity.

God's desire is for Him to be known through the Son, to be worshipped, and to be obeyed by people enlivened by the Spirit from every ethnic group on earth. Yet, many still lack access to the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the mission of God is the overriding priority for God's people—those who follow, worship, and obey Him through faith in the resurrected Son, Jesus Christ.

The mission of God encompasses every aspect of life. It seeks to positively transform all relationships: our relationship with God, with each other, and with creation and creative activities. It advocates for freedom and life without prejudice, upholds justice, resists oppression, provides for the needy, and humbles the proud. It bears witness to the God revealed in the Old and New Testament Scriptures, in the Son whom God sent, and by the Spirit at work within believers and throughout the world.

The mission of God is unfolding everywhere since God is omnipresent; however, it is often limited where few or no Christ followers are present to help others come to know our loving God.

### 2.2 Commitment

**Our vision** is to see Christ followers from Aotearoa New Zealand engaging locally and globally in the mission of God, especially amongst those with least access to the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ and those with few resources via which they may increase their knowledge of God (e.g. mature believers to reach out to, care for, and disciple them; Biblical literature, sound teaching, etc).

**Our mission** is to nurture a dynamic MI community by creating an empowering platform that emphasizes three essential functions: connecting members and enhancing relationships through interactive forums and events, collaborating on mission-driven initiatives and skill-building workshops, and catalysing action by empowering the body of Christ through raising awareness of mission opportunities, providing training and coaching, and mobilizing efforts to serve both locally and globally, with particular attention to the least reached populations around the world.

**Our Commitment** encompasses the following key areas:

- **Consenting to Core Beliefs:** By affirming MI's Statement of Faith, Vision, Mission, and Priorities, we create a unified foundation for our collective efforts and values.
- **Connecting within the MI Community:** We commit to fostering a supportive environment where we mutually encourage one another, cultivate healthy relationships, pray regularly for one another and for mission work both locally and globally, and ensure that all members can participate in discussions freely and without fear of judgment.
- **Collaborating with Others:** We engage with the MI Community, the NZ Christian Network, and the wider body of Christ to effectively mobilize resources for prayer, training, coaching, and consultation. By collaborating, we can develop innovative strategies and initiatives that enhance mission work in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.
- **Catalysing Mission Awareness and Empowerment:** We aim to stimulate awareness of 'Missio Dei' among God's people in Aotearoa New Zealand, empowering individuals to recognize their unique contributions to God's mission. We encourage active participation locally and globally, with a focus on reaching the least reached populations. Additionally, we will educate and mentor followers of Christ as they begin their journey into active mission involvement. For those pursuing long-term mission service, we will support individuals, couples, or families alongside their sending congregations, helping them identify a specific mission pathway and blessing their chosen direction as they embark on this journey.
- **Committing to Accountability and Resource Sharing:** We dedicate ourselves to providing resources and engaging in mutual accountability. We will offer prayerful support, welcome constructive feedback, and evaluate our activities regularly to promote continuous improvement.

### 3. Membership

Missions Interlink New Zealand is committed to fostering collaboration that enhances participation in intercultural mission from and within New Zealand. By joining MI, you become part of a vibrant network of mission agencies, organizations, churches, and individuals united in their commitment to advancing the Gospel and supporting mission activities.

Membership in MI encompasses both benefits and responsibilities.

**Benefits** include:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals and organizations for collaboration and growth.
- **Resources and Training:** Access to valuable materials and training programs to strengthen mission efforts.
- **Increased Visibility:** Enhance your organization's profile within the MI community and beyond.

- ***Shared Best Practices:*** Benefit from collective knowledge and experiences to improve effectiveness.
- ***Advocacy and Joint Representation:*** Enjoy a unified voice in advocating for mission-related causes and initiatives.
- ***Pastoral and Member Care Support:*** Receive emotional and spiritual support tailored to member needs.

***Responsibilities*** include:

- ***Active Participation:*** Engage consistently in MI activities, gatherings, and initiatives.
- ***Commitment to Mission:*** Dedicate efforts to fulfilling the Great Commission and advancing mission work.
- ***Adherence to MI Standards:*** Uphold MI's theological, ethical, and operational standards to ensure alignment in values and practices.
- ***Sharing of Resources:*** Contribute knowledge and resources for the benefit of the community.
- ***Communication and Collaboration:*** Maintain open lines of communication and work cooperatively with other members.
- ***Prayerful Support:*** Foster a culture of prayer and spiritual encouragement within the MI community.

To qualify for membership, applicants must meet the following ***criteria***:

- ***Alignment with MI:*** Members must agree with our Statement of Intent, Vision, Mission, Statement of Beliefs, and the Koroutahi Manifesto.
- ***Mission Focus:*** A strong commitment to the Great Commission and mission work—both local and global—is essential. This includes active participation in evangelism, community service, or humanitarian initiatives with the aim of seeing the Great Commission fulfilled.
- ***Operational Standards:*** Organizations are expected to demonstrate sound governance practices, ethical conduct, and accountability in their operations.
- ***Endorsements:*** Letters of endorsement may be required from existing members or partner organizations to validate the applicant's mission orientation and practices.
- ***Compatibility and Unity:*** Members must actively engage in the MI community, collaborate with fellow members, and fulfil the responsibilities of membership, including the timely payment of annual subscription fees.

Membership in MI requires applicants to complete a membership application which will be presented at the next Council meeting. The decision regarding membership is at the discretion of the MI Council.