



# The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

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## Treaty Principles Bill Public Issues Statement

The Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa affirms its unwavering commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which is embedded in our mission statement and regarded as a sacred covenant. As a bicultural church rooted in the principles of Te Tiriti, we are profoundly concerned about the implications of the Treaty Principles Bill currently before Parliament.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is more than a historical document; it is the foundation of our shared life in Aotearoa and a living commitment to partnership, protection, and participation. Decades of jurisprudence have clarified and affirmed these principles, providing guidance for how we, as a nation, can honour Te Tiriti in ways that promote justice, reconciliation, and equity.

The Methodist Church opposes any legislative attempt to dilute or diminish the status of Te Tiriti o Waitangi or to undermine the principles that have been established through hard-won progress. Such actions threaten to destabilise the partnership envisioned in 1840 and bring into question our collective moral and legal obligations to uphold the promises of Te Tiriti.

We recognise Te Tiriti as a covenant between tangata whenua and tauwiwi, grounded in a theological understanding of covenantal partnership. For Te Hāhi Weteriana, this sacred covenant calls us to be a prophetic voice for justice and truth. Our bicultural journey is a spiritual commitment to power-sharing and mutual respect, one that reflects our belief in the transforming love of God for all people.

As a church, we urge the Government to listen deeply to the voices of tangata whenua and honour the commitments made in Te Tiriti. We stand in solidarity with those who oppose the Treaty Principles Bill and call upon Parliament to protect the integrity of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a cornerstone of our national identity.

Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa will continue to advocate for a future where the principles of Te Tiriti are upheld and lived out in all spheres of society, affirming our faith in the transformative power of justice and covenantal partnership.