

Synod of Otago and Southland Our Convictions/Guiding Principles

We believe in God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father so loved the world that he sent his Son to redeem it and has called the Church to participate in the flow of his love to the world. In the grace of his sovereign will the Father has entrusted the Otago Foundation Trust Board and the Synod of Otago and Southland with resources to advance this mission in these “favoured” provinces.

As a partner in this mission we are called to proclaim the gospel of God regarding the life, death, resurrection and ascension of his Son our Lord Jesus Christ. We do this by calling people to the obedience that comes from faith; discipling believers, meeting human need in loving service, transforming society so that justice and equity prevail, and caring for creation. In this we will pray for the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to enable us to administer these resources in the spirit of generosity, embracing the values of humility, honesty and hospitality.

In administering these material resources we are aware of possible temptations and we pray for God’s protection as we develop trustful, open relationships and adopt a simple lifestyle.

We give thanks to God for the vision of our Scottish founders. We will aim to enhance it by providing leadership in the mission of God, developing strategies relevant for the church, contemporary society, at all times keeping alert to the movement of God and doing all things to the glory of God.

Mission Goals of the Synod of Otago & Southland

(adopted 2006)

1. To make Jesus Christ known through the five faces of mission. *
2. To be a leader in mission, through developing strategies and offering resources relevant for contemporary society, both regionally and nationally.
3. To enhance the vision of our Scottish founders, to the benefit of the community as well as the Christian faith. **
4. To hold to our values dearly and to our structures lightly, thus to focus on Christ's life and teaching rather than evolved Church structures and practices.

In pursuit of these goals, the key values of humility, honesty, hospitality and gracious personal relationships are encouraged, as is a simple lifestyle and keeping alert to the movement of God.

* Five faces of mission:

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand believes it is called by God to work with others to make Jesus Christ known -

- *through the nurture and teaching of people in the Christian faith*

- *through response to human need in loving service*
- *through proclamation of the gospel*
- *through seeking to transform society*
- *through care for the creation*

** As written in 1844 by Rev Thomas Burns to Captain William Cargill, concerning proposals for a Scots Church settlement in Otago:

" If it shall be God's will that we shall succeed in establishing this colony, I persuade myself that with His blessing attending us, we may be instrumental in planting down in these favoured islands a well ordered God fearing community that may stand in these remote regions a sample of the Kingdom of Christ which, like a light burning in a dark place, shall bear no indistinct testimony to the Truth."

(This vision led to the arrival of the first Otago settlers in 1848, with Cargill on the "John Wickliffe" and Burns on the "Phillip Lang". They founded the City of Dunedin, the Province of Otago, and the Presbyterian Church of Otago.)