

Recent Methodist Conference Decisions on Treaty Issues

- 1989 Conference expresses its full and unqualified support for 'te tino rangatiratanga o o ratou kainga me o ratou taonga katoa' o nga iwi Maori as expressed in article 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Maori version).
Conference notes with concern the continued erosion of te tino rangatiratanga guaranteed Maori in Te Tiriti o Waitangi, as expressed in legislation, decisions of the courts, and the Crown Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 1990 Noting that Conference 1989 expressed full and unqualified support for te tino Rangatiratanga, this Conference:
(a) commends Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga I Nga Hahi for its creative initiative in relation to the 1990 general election: 'don't vote - register te tino rangatiratanga.'
(b) commends the proposal of Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga I Nga Hahi for a constitutional conference between the Crown and the Iwi to resolve Treaty of Waitangi issues and establish the rights of each party to the Treaty.
Conference also asked government to rectify the injustice of the Maori reserved land perpetual lease situation; urged government to face up to its responsibility to implement recommendation of the Waitangi Tribunal, esp Manukau and Orakei; urged government to desist from selling off Crown land and other state assets the subject of Maori claims or which could be used to settle claims.
- 1991 While acknowledging the call for proportional representation as an alternative means of electing members of parliament, Conference affirms its call made in 1990 for a national constitutional conference to consider a Treaty based system of political representation.
Conference also sought increased funding for the Waitangi Tribunal and urged the passing of the Bill to settle the Orakei claim.
- 1992 Believing the September referendum on proportional representation was premature, Conference supports all efforts to hold a constitutional review hui early in 1993.
- 1993 Conference supports the stand of the Conference of Churches and others calling for constitutional reform, and supports all efforts to hold a constitutional hui.
- 1994 Conference calls:
(a) on all parishes and circuits to give priority in 1995 to a study of the need for constitutional reform using the Public Questions paper 'Te Wero! foundation documents challenge government policies.'
(b) on the Methodist Church to seek to forge alliances with other groups who have a similar vision and goal for constitutional reform in Aotearoa that stems from a firm acceptance of the Declaration of Independence 1835 and Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840, as the basis of our nationhood.
(c) on government to make the matter of constitutional review on the basis of the Declaration of Independence 1835 and Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840 a priority, by entering into a process of widespread discussion through hui with te iwi Maori, beginning in 1995.

THE METHODIST CHURCH AND THE TREATY JOURNEY TIME LINE

- updated by Brian Turner
April 1996

"In response to what the Gospel says about sharing power, Conference declares its intention to work towards the formation of a bicultural Church in Aotearoa as the essential first step on the journey towards multiculturalism."
-1983 Methodist Conference, Takapuna

