

AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES - ANZAMS

ANZAMS was founded in 2000 and has held four conferences during this period. We have published one series of papers and other conferences papers can be found on our webpage.

Statement of Aims:

The Aotearoa New Zealand Association for Mission Studies is concerned with the study of Christian mission within and beyond Aotearoa-New Zealand and its impact on the world.

- ❖ We wish to encourage fresh leadership and younger scholarship in Mission Studies, to support each other in the work we are called to do, and to facilitate fruitful dialogue with other theological disciplines.
- ❖ We desire to champion questions about Christian mission: theological, biblical, historical, practical and contextual.
- ❖ We wish to draw on the wisdom of recognised theological disciplines and intercultural experiences of the Christian Gospel and take seriously the changing historical, social and cultural contexts in which mission takes place.
- ❖ We have a concern for the stories and reflections of people in mission who have been neglected and support the development of archives documentation and oral history by churches and mission agencies.
- ❖ We seek to take seriously the mission experience of Aotearoa New Zealand in all its dimensions, achievements and failings.
- ❖ We wish to encourage informed discussion and decision making among stakeholders in theological education.
- ❖ We recognise the importance of media studies for cultural analysis, the theological importance of fresh study of ecclesiology and mission, and the need for a more informed theology of religions based on relationship with people of other faiths.

The **ANZAMS Conference** is held every one or two years, where possible alternating between the North and the South Island of New Zealand.

Membership of ANZAMS is currently by attendance at the Conference, which for reasons of security with regard to immigration, is restricted to those resident in New Zealand or those specially invited by the host committee.

We comprise teachers of missions studies, theology, history and Biblical studies, researchers, missions specialists, mission administrators, and missionaries and others who support our aims and values.

As an inter-confessional Christian group of "reflective practitioners" we share a critical concern for the mission of the Church with respect for the diversity of views among us. It is not our purpose to resolve theological and missiological differences, but it is our intention to facilitate understanding and provide a safe space where different perspectives may be discussed.

The financial activities of ANZAMS aim to be minimal and are funded largely through the annual conference.

ANZAMS is affiliated with the **International Association for Mission Studies (IAMS)**.

ANZAMS Core Group: Cathy Ross, David Tutty Hugh Morrison.