

Statement of Faith

Maori Initiatives Trust Statement of Faith

1. The One True God

We believe in the one true God who has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent, self-revealed "I AM." He is the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22.

2. The Inspired Word of God

We affirm that the Bible is the living, breathing inspired Word of God, a divine revelation from God to man. It is infallible, authoritative, and the ultimate guide for faith and conduct.

John 1:1; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Peter 2:2.

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God but fell into sin and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Genesis 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21.

4. The Salvation of Man

Condition of Salvation: Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life

John 3:16; Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5.

Evidence of Salvation: The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. Romans 8:16

5. Baptism in Water

We believe in water baptism by immersion soon after accepting Christ as personal Savior, which is a testimony of death to sin and resurrection to a new life

Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47; Romans 6:4; Acts 20:21; Hebrews 10:22.

6. The Lord's Supper

We observe the Lord's Supper as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation. It is a proclamation of His death and an anticipation of His second coming

2 Peter 1:14; 1 Corinthians 11:26.

7. Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Evidence of Speaking in Tongues

We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, given at Pentecost, as the promise of the Father, available to all believers in Christ. The comforter Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus at His Ascension to empower the Church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole earth. Act 1:8; Matt 28:18-20

The initial physical evidence of this baptism is speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28.

8. His Kingdom Come... a Royal Priesthood. Matt. 6:9-13; 33; 1 Peter 2:9

We believe in the coming of God's Kingdom on Earth, as taught by our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 6:9-13. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This prayer reflects our desire for God's sovereign rule to be established in every nation, bringing His justice, peace, righteousness, and love to all people.

Having been redeemed from sin by the saviour Jesus Christ in faith to serve as Priests in the Kings of kings Royal Priesthood, as described in 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

9. The Nation State of Israel

We affirm that Israel is God's chosen national people, as declared in Genesis 28:13. In His sovereign will, God has designated Israel to be a conduit of His blessings to the entire world, as stated in Genesis 12:3. This is for His glory, as

noted in Isaiah 43:7, and to serve as His witness to the nations, as mentioned in Isaiah 43:10. God's election of Israel for this unique relationship is irrevocable, as affirmed in Romans 11:28-29.

We believe that Israel is distinct from the church and holds a central role in God's divine plan throughout history—past, present, and future. The unfulfilled prophecies given to Israel in the Old Testament will be literally fulfilled in Israel at a future time, as indicated in Psalm 105:6-10.