

## The Seven Churches of the HCUC

### **Petone Multicultural Petone**

Petone is made up of 3 congregations, European (Palagi); Samoan and Tongan. On any one Sunday there are at least 3 church services ranging from the morning to the afternoon. Petone has a number of choirs.

### **St Marks Woburn Rd. Lower Hutt Central**

St Marks is largely European with a small group of Sri Lankan Tamil peoples. St Marks is configured as an inner city church functioning as one of the major gathering places for parish wide services and engaging in the community through foodbank and other educational initiatives.

### **St Aidans Normandale-Maungaraki**

St Aidans is mostly European with a wider age range from toddlers to older adults. They are engaging their community through Mainly Music and Open Door which is a regular lunch meal gathering for older citizens.

### **St Johns Avalon**

St Johns Avalon is a mix of older European people and Tongan families. They reach out to the community through their choir, the youth and children's activities and Golden Oldies outreach for older people. .

### **Waiwhetu**

Waiwhetu is mostly European folks who reach out to their community with their major initiative being the Waiwhetu Community Friendship Centre; the Trafalgar Club and Peace Group.

### **St Stephens Wainuiomata**

St Stephens is a mix of European and Tongan families. One of their outreaches to impact the community is their Opportunity Shop.

### **Stokes Valley**

Stokes Valley is a mix of Samoan and European families. Mainly Music is planned for this church along with other community shaping initiatives as their buildings are established.

*For a quick reference to meeting times and geographical locations of our seven preaching locations log on to [www.hcuc.co.nz](http://www.hcuc.co.nz)*

## **FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES**

These foundation principles were fundamental to the shaping of the HCUC at its inception.

### **Flexibility**

Ability to change with the times, needs and the Spirit.

### **Forward Looking**

Moving away from old models and freedom to look for new ways.

### **Federal**

An umbrella for congregations' members and a balanced division between local and joint independence and maintaining interdependence with wider church bodies.

### **Mutuality**

A place of safety and care for both weak and strong expressed in an equality of representation on Council where each part has its place within the concept of the whole.

### **Mission Based**

Ongoing questions of how the structure helps the mission expressed in mission statements and bi-cultural statements in relationship to the communities each congregation lives in.

### **New Vision for Ministry**

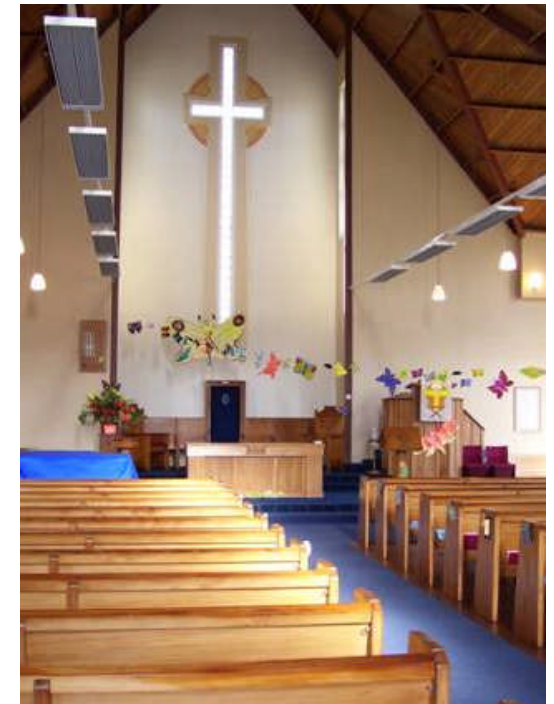
Recognition of both lay and ordained ministry within a team which is adaptable according to the needs presented for ministry, and taking accountability for such.

### **Freeing up Resources**

Amalgamation of resources such as property and people setting a context where people have enlarged choices for ministry, training and education to meet the identified needs. Equipment to be shared and a centralization of secretarial services.



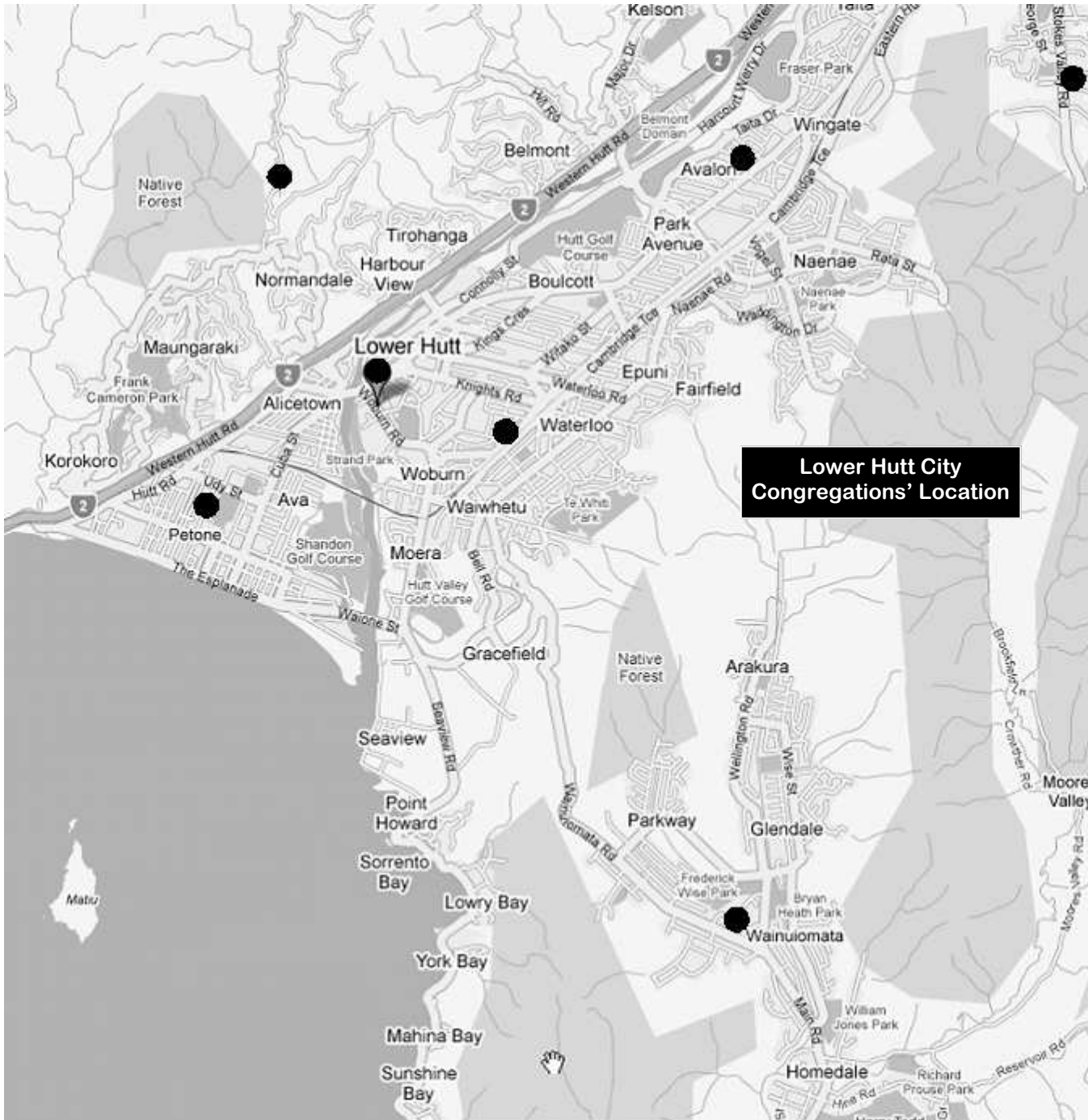
“We, the members of the Hutt City Uniting Congregations parish, covenant to nurture the spiritual in ourselves and other people and explore new ways of experiencing and sharing God's love in Christ.”



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## History

HCUC was formed in December 1995 from the Methodist Parish and three Presbyterian Parishes in the Lower Hutt Valley, and one year later the Wainuiomata Union Parish also joined. A number of the congregations were neighbours, and had developed relationships with each other over many years.

## Diversity within HCUC

Diversity in the HCUC begins with the traditions of the denominations that we integrate into our identity as a parish. There are three main ethnic groups that come together in the parish being European, Samoan and Tongan. The theology of any one church group in the HCUC ranges from reasonably conservative to contemporary liberal views enabling a broad and informed grasp of contemporary issues.

## Combined Resources

Through careful stewardship and a process of combining congregations and selling plant such as churches surplus to requirement, the HCUC have brought together a centralized management of resources so that all seven churches are served by an ordained ministry team, an effective group of lay worship leaders and pastoral carers, and some parish-wide programmes and events.

## Administration

Governance of the HCUC begins in the Parish Council where representatives of each church location and Presbyters gather to make decisions that affect policy and functioning of the parish. Specialist sub-groups stem from Parish Council to handle matters like ministry, visioning, personnel matters, finance, and property. Major external influences on the life of the HCUC stem from the denominational and cultural church courts to whom we subscribe.