

We belong to something greater

The Church is not merely a gathering of individuals, but a living body of one people joined together in Christ. As Paul writes in Romans 12:4–5, just as the human body has many parts with different functions, so too the Church is made up of many members, each with a unique role. This means that none of us exists apart from the others; we belong to one another. Our gifts, experiences, and callings are designed to serve the whole body, reflecting God's beautiful design of unity in diversity.

In Ephesians 2:19–22, Paul expands this image by describing the Church as both a household and a holy temple. We are no longer strangers or outsiders but members of God's family, with Christ as the cornerstone who gives strength, purpose, and direction. Together, we are being built into a dwelling place for God's Spirit.

For us at St Columba, these scriptures remind us that we belong to something much greater than ourselves. Our place in God's plan is shown through serving Him within this Presbyterian parish. Yet St Columba does not exist in isolation. Behind the scenes is the wider regional and national structure of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, which makes our ministry possible.

These levels of church life: local, regional, and national - reflect Paul's vision in Ephesians 4:15–16 of the body "joined and held together by every supporting ligament."

Each court of the Church - Session, Presbytery, and General Assembly have a unique role but works together to build up the whole body in love. Local congregations nurture faith and mission; presbyteries provide oversight and encouragement; and the national Church offers unity and guidance. When all parts work together in mutual support, the whole Church grows stronger, as it participates in God's life and purpose through Jesus.