

During the year 1857 the late James Gordon Sutherland located in the village of Napier, where he bought and erected new mills. At this time there was no church convenient, the Episcopalian church being situated some distance from the village. A union church was built, which served the purpose of a meeting place for some time. The Presbyterian families were few, but were possessed with a courageous and persevering spirit and soon began to plan for a church of their own, where they might worship in their own way. In the home of the late J. G. Sutherland services were held for some time, the church being in process of construction. The brick was made in the year 1860 by the late Thomas Machie. Mr. J. G. Sutherland donated the site. Among those who took part in the building were the late Mr. James Cameron, Mr. George Irving, Mr. Dougal Walker, Mr. John Walker, Mr. John Sutherland, Mr. Archibald Old and Mr. Angus McLean. The first Prescenter was Mr. Archibald Old.

The session record begins on the 5th day of May, 1863, with the following statement: "The committee appointed by the Presbytery of London to visit Napier and organize the congregation there, met in the Presbyterian Church, Napier." At this meeting of organization there were twenty-five admitted into membership.

The Rev. William Troup, who up to this time had been laboring as a missionary, was shortly afterward inducted. The election of elders soon followed—(February 24th, 1864). Messrs. Archibald Old, Dougal Walker, Elliot Grieve Elliot were the first choice.

Some of the early members were Mr. and Mrs. John Connor, Mr. and Mrs. James Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. John Bowie, Mr. and Mrs. James Emerick, Mr. and Mrs. Angus McLean, Mr. and Mrs. Dougal Walker, Mrs. McNally, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Short, Mr. J. Atkinson and Mrs. Troup, residing now in Hamilton.