

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
INCORPORATED**

**ABN 44 902 486 497**

**CONSTITUTION**

# **CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED CONSTITUTION**

<b>PREAMBLE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. VISION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. STRATEGY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3. CORE VALUES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4. OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5. ARTICLES OF FAITH</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>6. AFFILIATION</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>7. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>8. MEMBERSHIP</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>9. POWERS/ORGANISATION/GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>11. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>12. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>13. AFFILIATED LOCAL CHURCHES</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>14. CREDENTIALING</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>15. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>16. PUBLIC OFFICER</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>17. COMMON SEAL</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>18. AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>19. NOT FOR PROFIT AND DISSOLUTION</b> .....	<b>15</b>

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## CONSTITUTION

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## Preamble

Christian Church in Australia Incorporated is a Pentecostal denomination, which provides covering for a growing number of churches with a strong commitment to mission and evangelism, and to reaching out to people from different cultural backgrounds. These churches encourage and support one another to fulfil a common vision and mission, and they hold to common core values, articles of faith and common objectives.

In this Constitution, “The Association” means Christian Church in Australia Incorporated. Similarly, “CCA” means Christian Church in Australia Incorporated.

## 1. Vision

To be a fellowship of biblically based Pentecostal churches that impact our nation and world for Jesus Christ.

## 2. Strategy

To support leaders, CCA aims to:

- provide opportunities for fellowship with other leaders; and
- provide assistance with fulfilling compliance regulations.

To build churches, CCA aims to:

- provide training opportunities for leaders;
- organise an annual conference; and
- help pastors to develop strategic plans for their churches.

To reach out to others, CCA aims to:

- encourage personal evangelism; and
- support both national and international missions projects.

## 3. Core values

The Association holds to the following core values:

- **Doctrine:** We value sound doctrine that is based on the Word of God.
- **Leadership:** We value effective leadership as a key God-honouring means of transformation in churches.
- **Excellence:** We value excellence as it honours God and inspires His people.
- **Teamwork:** We value strategic collaboration with and between churches to accelerate the accomplishment of our God-given mission and to maximise the use of resources for the work of God’s Kingdom.

- **People:** We value people and Christian churches, irrespective of size, cultural distinctiveness or location.
- **Accountability:** We value authority and accountability in our members and member churches, holding to the biblical principle of submitting to one another and to those in authority.

## 4. Objectives

The Association has the following objectives:

- 4.1 to practise and encourage wholehearted love for God (Mt 22:37-38; Mk 12:30), which is outworked through knowledge of and obedience to His Word in all areas of life and ministry;
- 4.2 to encourage and assist affiliated churches to be fully committed to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:18-20) through mission, evangelism, teaching, training and church planting, in the power of the Holy Spirit, both in Australia and beyond;
- 4.3 to proclaim and defend, and expect of members high standards of holiness and Christian commitment, and adherence to certain doctrines, practices and forms of conduct in keeping with the teachings of Scripture and as stated in this Constitution;
- 4.4 to grant ministry credentials to qualified persons for the fruitful preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the ordinances of the Church, including Christian marriage and burial;
- 4.5 to understand the uniqueness and diversity of different cultural groups and to offer support and assistance to churches with various cultural backgrounds, while promoting unity within the body of Christ;
- 4.6 to promote, support, and offer programs and materials for training and equipping individuals for pastoral, mission, leadership, counselling and other roles;
- 4.7 to recognise and foster the development of spiritual and natural gifts and abilities to glorify Jesus Christ, to edify the church and to spread the gospel;
- 4.8 to demonstrate the love of Christ to people of any race, culture, religion or status (Mt 22:39; Mk 12:33), and to provide relief from natural disasters and social oppression in a manner consistent with biblical principles, while recognising that human needs are not only spiritual, but also psychological, physical and social;
- 4.9 to encourage contributions from affiliated churches, members and friends for the work of the Association; and
- 4.10 to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any property, real or chattel, as may be deemed necessary for the furtherance of the work of CCA, in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.

## 5. Articles of Faith

CCA believes in

- the holy love of God the Father;

- salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a free gift from God; and
- the power of the Holy Spirit to transform human lives, empower believers as Jesus' witnesses, and give spiritual gifts, which glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Articles of Faith of the Association are based on the Bible and are stated below, with reference to a few of the many relevant biblical passages related to each:

### **5.1 One true eternal God - Trinity in unity**

There is one true God, who has always existed and will always exist. He exists as three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These three Persons in one God are referred to as the Trinity. God created and sustains all things. There are no limits to God's awesome love, power, wisdom and goodness. God is totally holy and separated from sin.

God is present everywhere (omnipresent), has all power (omnipotent), and knows all things (omniscient). He is sovereign. He is unchanging. God is love. He is good, merciful, just and faithful.

[Gen 1:1; Deut 6:4; Deut 33:27; 1 Chron 16:34; Ps 66:7; 90:2; 104:24; Prov 2:6; 3:19; Jer 10:12; Mt 19:17; 28:19; Jn 14:15-23; Rom 1:20; 1 Cor 12:4-6; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 1:3-14; 2:18,22; 3:9,14-17; 4:4-6; Col 1:15-17; Jas 3:17; 1 Jn 4:8,16; Rev 1:4-8; 4:8-11]

### **5.2 The human condition**

Human beings were created by God in His image and were intended to enjoy fellowship with Him. However, human nature became corrupted by sin when human beings turned away from God and went their own way. Every human being is a sinner, separated from God by sin. Every sinner deserves God's wrath and damnation and is powerless to save himself/herself from the penalty of sin, which is death. No human being can be justified before God by works. There is only one means of salvation and that is through Jesus Christ, by grace through faith. By this means only can human fellowship with God be restored.

[Gen 1:26-27; Gen 3:1-9; Isa 53:6; 59:2; Jn 3:16; 17:3; Acts 4:12; Rom 1:16-17; 3:23; 5:6-8; 6:23; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Jn 1:3]

### **5.3 God the Father**

The First Person of the Godhead is God the Father. He is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and of all those who through believing in Jesus Christ are born again by the Spirit and become members of His family. He is the true Father from whom all fatherhood derives its name.

He is Spirit, and He is to be worshipped in Spirit and in truth. He is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. He is sovereign. He is unchanging. He is love. He is good, merciful, just and faithful.

His love is shown supremely in that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, for the redemption of humankind.

[Gen 18:14; Ps 139:1-12; Lam 3:22-23; Mt 6:9; 11:27; 24:36; 26:53; Lk 1:37; 10:21-22; 11:2,12; Jn 3:16; 4:8-10,23; 5:16-27; 8:12-59; 10:29-30; 13:1; 14:6,10-11; 17:6; 20:17,21; Acts 1:7; 1 Cor 8:6; 2 Cor 1:3; Eph 1:1-8; 3:14-15; Gal 4:6; Jude 1]

### **5.4 Jesus Christ the Son**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He existed before all things. For the salvation of human beings, He became man, the living Word made flesh, the image of the invisible God, a unique person, fully God and fully man.

He lived a sinless life, revealing God and His kingdom to humankind, and was crucified and died, giving His life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. This offering provides full, perfect and sufficient redemption, propitiation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual. No other sacrifice for sin is necessary or effectual.

Jesus Christ rose again from the dead, and was thus declared with power to be the Son of God. He ascended into heaven to be exalted to the highest place. He is Lord of all, and His name is above all names. He is supreme over all. One day, He will return visibly in power and great glory to gather His elect for eternal life and to bring judgment on all those who do not obey the gospel.

By His triumphant victory over death, Jesus Christ has destroyed the devil, who has power of death, and Jesus is able to free all those who are held in bondage through fear of death. Jesus Christ is victorious over and provides deliverance from all the powers of darkness.

[Mt 3:17; 17:5; Jn 1:1-2; 5:19-30; 8:54; 10:25-30; 14:5-12; Acts 1:11; Rom 1:1-4; 5:6-11; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Phil 2:6-11; Col 2:13-15; 1 Thess 4:16; 2 Thess 1:6-10; Heb 1:1-3; 2:14-17; 9:12,14-15,28; 10:10; 1 Pet 2:22-25; 1 Jn 2:1-2; Rev 19:11-21; 22:20]

## **5.5 The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. He is the Spirit of truth, sent by the Father and the Son to be with believers forever. He reveals the truth about Jesus, convicts of sin and righteousness and judgment, and gives new birth to those who repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit produces ongoing spiritual changes in human lives, developing spiritual fruit in those who obey Him, and giving spiritual gifts for effective life and ministry. He is the Spirit of mission who leads and empowers believers to witness to Jesus Christ among people of all nations. His supreme task is to bring glory to Jesus.

[Gen 1:2; Job 33:4; Isa 11:2; 61:1; Mt 28:19; Jn 1:12-13; 3:5-8; 14:15-26; 16:5-16; Acts 1:8; 13:1-4; 10:38; 15:28; 16:6; Rom 8:1-17,26-27; 1 Cor 2:10-16; 12:1-11; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 3:19-21; Rev 1:4; 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22; 4:5; 5:6; 22:17]

## **5.6 The Holy Scriptures**

The Canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, as originally written are the infallible, inerrant and inspired word of God. They explain all that is necessary to salvation and are solely and absolutely authoritative in all matters of Christian faith and praxis. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted by faith. They are complete and must not be added to, subtracted from, or changed because of tradition or supposed new revelation. Anything that is not in Scripture must not be declared as an article of faith or be considered necessary for salvation.

The Holy Scriptures are to be interpreted with due regard to their content and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Holy Spirit as He reveals their true meaning.

[Ps 19:7-11; 119:1-152; Isa 55:11; 66:2; Jer 23:29; Mt 22:29; Jn 5:39; 10:35; Lk 11:28; 24:17; Acts 6:2; 10:39-43; 17:11; Rom 10:17; 15:4; 1 Cor 15:3-4; 2 Cor 4:2; Eph 1:13; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12; 5:9; 1 Pet 1:1-12; Rev 1:1-3; 3:8; 22:18-19]

## **5.7 Salvation**

Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. Salvation is by grace through faith. It is a totally unmerited gift of God. No one can earn it. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God for the salvation of those who believe. This salvation is received by genuine repentance of sin and by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It sets a person free from the power, penalty and, ultimately, the presence of sin. It involves being born again by the Holy Spirit, being adopted into the family of God, becoming a new creation, being counted righteous before God by faith, being rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the Kingdom

of the Son, being redeemed, regenerated and sanctified, and being blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. It sets a person free to obey God and to live a holy and upright life for His purposes.

[Gen 3:15; Isa 52:13-53:12; Mk 10:45; Lk 2:10-11; 19:10; Jn 3:3-21; Acts 2:38-39; 4:12; 16:31-34; Rom 1:16-17; 5:1-11; 6:1-14; 6:23; Gal 1:4; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Cor 1:18; 15:2; 2 Cor 2:15; Col 1:13; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Tim 1:10; Tit 1:4; 2:11-14; 3:4-7; 2 Pet 1:11; 1 Jn 3:9; Rev 7:9-17; 22:17]

## **5.8 The devil**

The devil is a real and powerful created spiritual being who sought to destroy Jesus and who seeks to destroy all Christians. He is the god of this world. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ have stripped the devil of his power, but he continues his evil works, and tempts, accuses and hinders the people of God. At the final judgment, the devil and all evil spirits will be consigned to eternal torment.

Christians are entitled to exercise the authority of Jesus Christ over the power of the devil.

[Gen 3:15; 1 Chron 21:1; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Mt 4:1-11; 6:13; Lk 11:14-22; 13:15-16; 22:31; Jn 8:44; 13:2,27; 17:15; Acts 10:38; 13:10; 26:17-18; 2 Cor 2:10-11; 11:14; 12:7; Col 3:13-15; 1 Thess 2:18; 2 Thess 2:9; 1 Tim 5:15; Heb 2:14-15; Jas 3:15; 1 Pet 5:8-9; 1 Jn 3:7-10; Rev 2:9,13; 12:7-17; 20:1-10]

## **5.9 The Church**

The Church is made up of all true Christians throughout the world. It is the Body of which Christ is the Head. The Church exists to worship and serve God. The chief task of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in every nation by the proclamation of the gospel by word and deed. The Church functions through local congregations of believers who gather for worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship, celebrating the Lord's Supper and mutual ministry.

The members of the Church are to relate to one another in the love of the Lord, counting others before themselves. The Lord has given ministry gifts to His Church to prepare its members to serve Him and to build them up in unity to maturity.

[Mt 16:18; Acts 2:41-47; 11:26; 13:1; 14:23; 20:17,28-31; 1 Cor 1:2; 12:27-28; 14:26; Eph 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:10-11,21; 4:11-13; 5:22-33; Phil 2:1-5; Col 1:18; 3:12-17; 4:15; 1 Thess 1:1; 1 Tim 3:15; 5:17; Jas 5:14; Rev 1:20; 21:9; 22:16]

## **5.10 The ordinances**

Jesus Christ prescribed two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion).

### **5.10.1 Baptism**

Baptism symbolises the identification of the believer with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It represents burial of the old nature and the old way of life, and rising to new life in Christ. It indicates separation from the old life and entry into the new life. It symbolises the washing away of sins.

While baptism is an integral part of Christian initiation, it is not essential to salvation.

[Mt 3:13-17; Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:31-33; 19:4-5; Rom 6:3-7; Eph 4:5; Col 2:12; 1 Pet 3:21]

### **5.10.2 The Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion)**

The Lord's Supper is a sharing by believers of elements representing bread and wine which the Lord Jesus distributed at His Last Supper with His disciples,

shortly before His arrest and crucifixion. It is a remembrance of His death, His presence, His victory and His promised return in power.

The Lord's Supper bears witness to the new covenant between God and humankind, established by the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ, which brings forgiveness of sins and restores people to a right relationship with God.

[Mt 26:17-21,26-30; Mk 14:12-16,22-26; Lk 22:7-22; Acts 2:42; 20:11; 1 Cor 10:16-17; 11:17-32]

### **5.11 Christian unity**

Unity amongst believers is the will of God. Such unity is to be a testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and is evidence of the love of God. Where believers dwell together in unity, God's blessing is promised. Christian unity transcends differences of culture, background, experience, denomination, gender and social standing.

All believers are to have a Kingdom orientation and to work together to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to build one another up in love.

[Psa 133:1-3; Jn 10:16; 17:11,20-21; 1 Cor 1:10-13; 12:12-31; 2 Cor 13:11; Gal 3:28; Eph 2:13-22; 4:3-5,15-16; Phil 2:1-2; 3 Jn 5-8; Rev 7:9-10]

### **5.12 Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The term "baptism in the Holy Spirit" may be used to describe the experience of being "overwhelmed by", "immersed in" or "flooded by" the Holy Spirit, which first became reality for believers on the Day of Pentecost, when the ascended Lord Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on His disciples. As then, so today, Jesus is the one who baptises in the Holy Spirit.

Baptism in the Spirit is received by faith and empowers the believer for witness to Jesus Christ. It is a free gift of God available to every believer. It does not depend on spiritual maturity.

The book of Acts suggests that the normal initial evidence of baptism in the Spirit is speaking in tongues. This is closely linked to prophecy, which throughout the Bible is a mark of the Spirit's presence and which characterised the first speaking in tongues at Pentecost in Acts chapter 2.

[Joel 2:28-29; Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:16; Jn 1:32-34; 7:37-39; Lk 24:49; Acts 1:5,8; 2:1-4; 8:14-19; 10:44-47; 11:15-18; 19:5-6]

### **5.13 The fruit of the Spirit**

The Holy Spirit changes human lives producing the fruit listed in Galatians chapter 5: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These qualities develop increasingly as the believer obeys the Lord, cooperates with the working of the indwelling Holy Spirit and progresses towards Christian maturity.

[Mt 12:33-35; Jn 15:1-17; Rom 7:4-6; 8:5-17; 1 Cor 13:1-3; Gal 5:16-25]

### **5.14 The gifts of the Spirit**

The gifts of the Spirit are not earned or deserved but are given out of God's grace. They include, but are not restricted to, the supernatural gifts listed in 1 Corinthians chapter 12: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

These gifts are given and distributed by the Spirit as He wills. They are to be exercised in the church today in the context of Christian love for mutual edification and for the common good.

[Mk 16:17-18; Lk 1:67; Acts 3:1-9; 5:15-16; 8:6-7; 19:6; 21:9; 28:8-9; Rom 1:11; 12:6-8; 1 Cor 1:7; 12:1-11,27-31; 13:1-3; 14:1-40; 2 Tim 1:6; 1 Pet 4:10-11]

## **6. Affiliation**

### **6.1 International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies**

CCA is affiliated with the General Council, International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies (IFCA), which has headquarters in Transfer, Pennsylvania, USA and was formerly known as Christian Church of North America (CCNA).

### **6.2 Affiliated churches**

6.2.1 CCA provides denominational covering for an increasing number of Pentecostal churches which share the vision, mission, core values, objectives and articles of faith of the Association. These churches look to one another for mutual support and encouragement as they serve the Lord. CCA churches are located in various parts of Australia and include people from an increasingly diverse range of cultural backgrounds. They are referred to as “affiliated” churches.

6.2.2 Churches become affiliated through making application to or as a result of an invitation from the Association.

6.2.3 Affiliated churches are provided with an official Certificate of Affiliation.

6.2.4 Affiliated churches are autonomous and self-governing.

6.2.5 Affiliated churches contribute financially to CCA in a manner determined by the Executive Board and at least annually.

6.2.6 Only members of affiliated churches may apply for or be granted CCA ministerial credentials (see article 14 below).

## **7. Background and history**

In its formative years, the main thrust of CCA was to evangelise Italian immigrants to Australia. More recently, the vision was broadened to include people from many cultures and backgrounds. Because of its own unique cultural heritage, CCA has committed to reaching out to, understanding, appreciating and assisting people in need and people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Christian Church of North America (CCNA) was responsible for initiating the work of CCA in Australia in 1951. The history of CCNA dates back to 1906 when the Holy Spirit was poured out on a group of Christians in Los Angeles under the leadership of William Seymour. Their numbers quickly multiplied and they moved to ramshackle accommodation in Azusa Street, and the movement became a growing Christian revival (“the Azusa Street Revival”). This revival overcame differences in race, class and gender, as people came together to praise and worship God in the power of the Holy Spirit. William Durham received the baptism in the Spirit at Azusa Street in 1907 and carried the Pentecostal message to Chicago. Luigi Francescone and Pietro Ottolini heard Durham preach, and they also received the baptism in the Spirit. Soon after, the power of God was manifested in Ottolini’s Italian Evangelical group, and many began to receive the baptism in the Spirit. This was the beginning of the Pentecostal movement among the Italian Americans.

The first general convention of the Italian Pentecostal movement was held in New York in 1927. This was the beginning of CCNA, which became incorporated in 1963. The convention saw the

adoption of 12 articles of faith and general agreement that the church exists for mission. From that time, mission was always a primary emphasis of CCNA. CCNA has now become the International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies (IFCA) and has affiliated churches and missions in many different countries.

The CCNA mission to Australia began in Adelaide, South Australia in 1951, with gatherings in the homes of Italian believers. As migration to Australia increased in the 1960s, so also did the number of Italian believers. Until 1965, various believers from within the group had taken care of the congregation, but as numbers increased, CCA asked CCNA for pastoral help, and recognising the need for evangelism and pastoral work among Italians in Australia, CCNA sent a pastor to Adelaide.

As the congregation continued to grow, its vision for evangelism among Italo-Australians expanded. As a result of the active evangelism of the Adelaide-based church, groups of believers were established in Perth and Brisbane.

To facilitate the implementation of an expanding vision for evangelism among Italo-Australians, CCA was incorporated in 1979. Since then, the fellowship has experienced growth, both in terms of the number of churches established in Australia and the number of people being reached with the gospel.

Over the years, the vision of CCA has extended beyond reaching only Italo-Australians. CCA has become a multicultural fellowship of churches, incorporating people from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and reaching out in mission and evangelism to a diverse range of people with many needs. CCA has strong links with churches in other parts of the world, which have come into being as a result of its mission activities or which have sought an association with CCA because of its multicultural, Pentecostal and mission ethos.

## **8. Membership**

- 8.1 The voting membership of the Association shall be known as the Executive Board of Christian Church in Australia.
- 8.2 All local churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation shall be affiliated members of the Association.
- 8.3 All ordained ministers of churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation shall be entitled to participate in and represent their local churches at an annual CCA Pastors' Conference.

## **9. Powers/Organisation/Government**

- 9.1 The Association shall have all the powers conferred by section 25 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.
- 9.2 An Executive Board shall oversee and manage the activities of CCA and shall be entitled to exercise the full powers of the Association, and without limiting those powers shall have the management and control of the funds and any other property of the Association.
- 9.3 The headquarters of the Association shall be in Adelaide, South Australia.
- 9.4 The members of the Executive Board shall appoint the General Overseer/President of the Association, who shall be responsible for chairing meetings of the Executive Board and the annual Pastors' Conference.
- 9.5 The Executive Board may appoint other officers and committees, as required.

- 9.6 The Executive Board shall meet at least annually and shall be responsible for official business and formal activities carried out under the banner of CCA.
- 9.7 The Executive Board may appoint Directors for any specific departments, as appropriate, for instance: Missions and Evangelism; Publications and Promotions; Radio and Television Ministry; Youth; Children's Ministry; Education and Training; and other areas, as deemed necessary.
- 9.8 The Executive Board shall organise an annual Pastors' Conference for ordained ministers of affiliated churches and other invited pastors/leaders, which will provide an opportunity for fellowship and mutual support and encouragement through teaching, prayer, sharing ideas, sharing resources, and the like.

## **10. Annual General Meeting**

- 10.1 The Executive Board is to meet at least annually for the Annual General Meeting of the Association. Normally, this meeting will take place during the annual Pastors' Conference.
- 10.2 In any meeting of the Executive Board, including the Annual General Meeting, all Executive Board members in attendance in person, by proxy or by audio-visual link or teleconference shall constitute a quorum.

## **11. Appointment of Executive Officers and Executive Board**

### **11.1 Executive Board membership**

- The Executive Board shall include the following: General Overseer/President, Secretary, Treasurer and a number of other Executive Officers. One person may fulfil more than one of these roles.
- Appointments to the Executive Board shall be made by the Executive Board and shall be ongoing/permanent provided that they are ratified annually by the Executive Board.
- Executive Officers are to be ratified annually by the Executive Board.
- If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board through death, resignation or disqualification (see article 15 below), the remaining Executive Board members shall make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

### **11.2 All Executive Officers shall:**

- be ordained ministers in affiliated CCA churches and have been ordained for a period of at least three (3) years;
- demonstrate commitment to CCA and hold to its vision, strategy, core values, objectives and articles of faith;
- be mature, spiritually empowered Christians with skills and abilities suited to the office of an Executive Officer of the Association; and
- demonstrate Christian conduct at all times.

## **12. Responsibilities of Officers**

### **12.1 The General Overseer shall:**

- head the General Office (National Headquarters of CCA) and supervise all the work thereof;
- prepare an agenda for and preside at all regular and special meetings of the Executive Board and the Pastors' Conference and be apprised of all communications directed to those bodies;
- devise and execute a program for the development and progress of the Association, including its fiscal concerns, and annually present this program to the Executive Board for ratification;
- in conjunction with the Executive Board, ordain persons to ministry within CCA;
- assist CCA affiliated churches that seek counsel and ministry, and investigate churches where there are problems relating to CCA;
- in conjunction with an Executive Officer and on behalf of the Executive Board, determine the need for and administer discipline, as necessary;
- sign/countersign all official CCA documents;
- submit a progress report annually to the Pastors' Conference and at all regularly convened meetings of the Executive Board;
- be an ex-officio member of all CCA departments and all committees, and provide guidance for each; and
- perform any other recognised function of a presiding officer and any function that the Executive Board may direct.

12.2 The **Executive Officers** shall:

- assist the General Overseer;
- serve as members of the Executive Board;
- provide spiritual direction to, and diligently promote the welfare of, the pastors of churches affiliated with CCA;
- together with the General Overseer, ordain individuals to ministry in the CCA;
- assist CCA churches with personal counsel and minister to their welfare, as necessary;
- assist the General Overseer in administering discipline; and if and when necessary,
- perform any other function consistent with their office, under the supervision of the General Overseer, and as the Executive Board may direct.

One Executive Officer will be elected to serve as Vice-President of the Association and, in the absence of or at the request of the President of the Association, shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and/or the annual Pastors' Conference.

12.3 The **Secretary** shall:

- keep the official minutes of the Executive Board;
- be custodian of all official files;
- maintain accurate records and communicate important information to the pastors of affiliated churches;
- be the custodian of the Common Seal of the Association and affix this to all official documents, as directed by the Executive Board, in the presence of the General Overseer, who with the Secretary shall sign any document to which the Seal is affixed;
- be authorised to sign all legal documents;

- be authorised to issue credentials, as directed by the General Overseer or the Executive Board; and
- compile statistics and other relevant data, and procure and communicate the fiscal reports of the Association to the Executive Board.

12.4 The **Treasurer** shall:

- be the custodian of such funds as may be committed to his/her care; disburse the same, as directed by the Executive Board; keep an itemised account of all receipts and disbursements according to accepted and standardised accounting procedures; furnish an annual audit thereof; and submit a summarised report to the Executive Board and the pastors of affiliated churches;
- manage finances in accord with a financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July and ending 30<sup>th</sup> June each year; and
- investigate means and methods of obtaining funds needed for the implementation of the projects and programs of the Association, as directed by the Executive Board.

### 13. Affiliated Local Churches

- 13.1 Affiliated local churches enjoy fellowship within the CCA and share the privileges and responsibilities of affiliation (see article 6.2).
- 13.2 Although each affiliated local church shall be free to exercise autonomous determination, a church's violation of this Constitution may call for the re-evaluation of its relationship to CCA and its right to have a representative at the annual Pastors' Conference.
- 13.3 Whenever an affiliated local church is unable to cope with a pressing problem, it shall appeal to the Executive Board. In the event that the situation is reported to be of such proportion that the unity of the local church is threatened, the General Overseer shall discreetly confer with the local administration, providing whatever assistance is considered advisable for resolving the issue.

### 14. Credentialing

- 14.1 The credentials of Christian Church in Australia shall be classified as follows: Ordained Minister, Christian Minister and Special Ministry.
- 14.2 A period of at least two (2) years as a CCA Christian Minister is normally required for a person to be eligible to apply for an Ordained Minister's qualification.
- 14.3 The duties/responsibilities of credential holders are as follows:
- Persons holding an Ordained Minister's credential shall, in an exemplary way, undertake all the responsibilities of ministry (including but not limited to administering communion, conducting baptisms and burials, and if appropriately registered, conducting marriages).
  - Persons holding a Christian Minister's credential shall exercise ministry but shall not administer communion and baptisms or conduct burials without counsel, consent and preferably the collaboration of an Ordained Minister, and they shall not conduct marriages without the counsel, consent and in the presence of a registered Ordained Minister, who will be responsible for completing the necessary paperwork.
  - Persons holding a Special Ministry credential are endorsed in recognition of their Christian service based on the call of God and serve under the leadership and direction of an Ordained Minister and/or General Overseer.

- 14.4 Applicants for ordination will not be accepted without being interviewed by a member of the Executive Board.
- 14.5 CCA ministerial credentials shall be issued by the Executive Board.
- 14.6 All aspirants to the ministry are encouraged to undertake recognised and approved ministry/theological training/education.
- 14.7 All applicants for credentials are expected to cooperate fully with any study plan, course or ministry development program that may be designed or designated for the enhancement of their ministry abilities.

## **15. Disciplinary measures**

- 15.1 Any minister of an affiliated church who speaks or behaves in a manner that brings disrepute to the cause of Christ shall have his/her CCA credentials revoked.
- 15.2 CCA credentials may be recalled for such reasons as the following: inefficiency in the work of the ministry; failure or inability to correctly represent CCA or International Fellowship of Christian Assemblies; a contentious, uncooperative spirit; the assumption of a dictatorial authority over the Executive Board or Pastors' Conference; failure to seek a peaceable settlement of difficulties in order to avoid schism in a local church; arbitrary rejection of counsel proffered by the Executive Board; a critical change in doctrinal views; habitually incurring debts; and any conduct that is contrary to the principles of God's word.
- 15.3 If, after repeated counsel and warnings by the General Overseer and the Executive Board, there is no appreciable change of character or attitude on the part of an offending minister, his/her name may be removed from the ministerial directory of CCA.
- 15.4 An affiliated local church that does not continue to hold to the stance and requirements of this Constitution, or that acts in a way that is contrary to the cause of Christ, may have its Certificate of Affiliation revoked, following an investigation of the situation and a decision by the Executive Board.
- 15.5 Any minister whose credentials have been revoked or any affiliated local church whose Certificate of Affiliation has been revoked may appeal to the Executive Board for reconsideration of the decision.
- 15.6 Only those ministers who are subsequently endorsed by the Executive Board may be reinstated, and similarly, only those affiliated local churches that are subsequently endorsed by the Executive Board may be restored to membership of the Association.

## **16. Public Officer**

There shall be a Public Officer of the Association who shall be appointed by the Executive Board to perform such duties as required of him/her by the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

## **17. Common Seal**

All documents requiring execution or authentication by the Association shall be sealed with the Common Seal of the Association and shall be signed, accepted and endorsed or otherwise executed by such persons and in such manner as the Executive Board shall determine from time to time.

## **18. Amendments to this Constitution**

Amendments to this Constitution may only be made by a seventy-five percent majority vote of all Executive Board members in attendance in person, by proxy or by audio-visual link or teleconference at any regular meeting of the Executive Board, provided that due notice of the intention to propose the resolution for the amendment(s) as a special resolution has been served at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## **19. Not for Profit and Dissolution**

19.1 The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association as set forth in this Constitution. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise to the Members of the Association.

19.2 Nothing in clause 19.1 prevents the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper:

- Remuneration to any Member of the Association in return for any services actually rendered by them to the Association;
- Compensation to any Member of the Association for expenses properly incurred by them on behalf of the Association;
- Payment for goods supplied to the Association by any Member in the ordinary and usual way of business;
- Interest on money borrowed from any Member for any purpose of the Association at a rate not exceeding the rate for the time being charged by the Association's Bank for overdrafts under \$100,000; or
- Reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any Member to the Association.

19.3 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever (surplus), the surplus shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the Members of the Association, unless the said Member(s) is also an institution approved by the Commissioner of Taxation as a Tax Concession Charity and with similar charitable objects.

19.4 Subject to clause 19.3 the surplus shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions approved by the Commissioner of Taxation as a Tax Concession Charity, such institution:

- having objects similar to the objects of the Association; and
- whose Rules or Constitution shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income or property amongst its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Association under this Constitution; and
- such institution or institutions are to be determined by the Members of the Association at or before the time of dissolution and in default thereof by a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia.