



RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

RECOGNISED NEW WORKS



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Churches of Christ in WA (COCWA) is an Association of Member Churches and Partner Organisations. Together we desire to belong for the purposes of supporting each other towards the extension of the Kingdom in local communities. We are On Mission!

Any new works seeking to join this Association as a church, will demonstrate:

- An affinity with the core values and the living legacy of the Restoration Movement to which COCWA belongs;
- A commitment to being a healthy and vibrant organisation; and
- A desire to participate in a grassroots movement of people who want to see the Christian community multiply and mobilised.

COCWA defines a new work as a group of people who gather or mobilise for the express intention of being a positive influence in the local community.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS OF NEW WORKS

The specific requirements of Member Churches & Partner Organisations are stated in the COCWA Rules (2016). Churches are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the Association guided by these commitments.

BENEFITS FOR NEW WORKS

By harnessing the strength of the combined resources, COCWA seeks to facilitate multiplication growth in churches and partner organisations.

1. EDUCATION

COCWA provides and brokers a range of equipping opportunities for leadership teams.

2. EQUIPPING

COCWA provides services that help new works navigate the organisational requirements demanded today. Services include:

- Compliance
- Duty of Care
- Insurance
- Finance
- Fostering of strategic partnerships
- Communications
- Grants
- Youth & children's ministry
- Mission opportunities through partnerships of the wider family of Churches of Christ in Australia (Global Mission Partners) and strategic partnerships with missional organisations that have an affinity with COCWA.

3. MULTIPLICATION

COCWA seeks to proactively identify and facilitate the growth of new works. We recognise that new works will emerge through a diversity of approaches from within existing churches and networks. Our aim is not to provide a single strategy for growth, but to provide services and support that will nurture and foster any new works initiative.

4. KICK-STARTER PACKAGE

COCWA is pleased to be able to provide a kick-starter package to new works who successfully apply to be recognised by COCWA. Because every new work is different, the COCWA Team will shape a package to suit.

The kick-starter package MAY include:

- Organisational compliance support
- A capital grant
- Affiliation fees waived for an initial period
- Insurance cover
- Free attendance at the COCWA On Mission Connect retreat and On Mission Together annual retreat for ministers and chaplains
- Safe training
- Bookkeeping services
- Funding for branding or a website

For more information click [here](#) to visit the New Works resource page on the COCWA website.

NEXT STEPS

Joining COCWA is all about being in a family who are committed to relating together through mutual contribution and participation. Belonging to this family means being part of a living movement committed to growth.

If this is the desire of your church, then we welcome your application.

NEW WORKS AFFILIATION PATHWAY

FOR COCWA MEMBER CHURCH PLANTS:

1. A church plant that has been established by a COCWA Member Church will normally approach the Association through a sponsor church. A COCWA team member will be appointed to guide the process.
2. The sponsor church will receive and complete application documents.
3. The COCWA Team will:
 - a. Review all documentation.
 - b. Continue to meet with both church leadership teams through the process and answer any questions.
 - c. Interact with the church congregation, as the church leadership provides opportunities, in order to be a living representative of the Association and to communicate the mission and aspirations of the Association.
 - d. Make a recommendation to the COCWA Board.
4. The COCWA Board will consider the recommendation and representatives of the churches will be invited to meet with the Board. The Board will make a recommendation to the next meeting of the Association Members and the church will be provided with an opportunity to introduce themselves to the wider COCWA community.

FOR INDEPENDENT CHURCHES:

1. An independent church seeking affiliation with COCWA will normally approach the Association through a COCWA Church and Ministry Support Team member. The COCWA team member will guide the initial conversations and, based on these conversations, will recommend to the church that they make an application to the COCWA Board.
2. A church seeking affiliation will normally have a connection with one or more COCWA affiliated churches. The church will be encouraged to seek support of two COCWA Member Churches. This support is a requirement of membership in accordance with the COCWA Rules (2016). Where there are no established relationships, churches will be encouraged to link with COCWA churches as a part of their pathway towards Membership of the Association.
3. The church will receive and complete application documents.
4. The COCWA Team will:
 - a. Review all documentation.
 - b. Continue to meet with the leadership group through the process and answer any questions.
 - c. Interact with the church, as the leadership provides opportunities, in order to be a living representative of the Association and to communicate the mission and aspirations of the Association.
 - d. Make a recommendation to the COCWA Board.
5. The COCWA Board will consider the recommendation and representatives of the church will be invited to meet with the Board prior to the Board making its decision. If successful, the Board will make a recommendation to the next meeting of the Association Members and the church or organisation will be provided with an opportunity to introduce themselves to the wider COCWA community.

NEW WORKS APPLICATION

Date of Application:	
Name of Church:	
Street Address:	
Postal Address:	
Address of Premises:	
Email Address:	
Phone:	
Web Address:	

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Is your church/organisation incorporated or non-incorporated?	
Date of incorporation:	
ABN:	
Are you registered with the ACNC?	
Who are you currently insured with?	
What type of insurance do you currently have?	
Number of active attenders/Members:	

DETAILS OF LEADERSHIP

Lead Minister:	
Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Chairman of Church Elders/Board:	
Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	

1

Please briefly outline the church's desire to be affiliated with COCWA.

2

How do you see being a part of COCWA being of benefit to your church?

3

Please share the strategic plan and vision of your church.

4

Please provide an outline of the church's plan towards attaining full Membership of COCWA.

5

Please provide an outline of the structure of the church and the make-up of the leadership teams and lines of accountability.

6

Please provide the following church information:

a. Attendance **b.** Ministry activities and missional reach **c.** Facilities

7

Please identify how the leadership of your church will seek to make their members, supporters and attendees aware of the history, values, responsibilities and aspirations of COCWA.

8

How will your church implement COCWA Safe policies/protocols over the next 12 months?

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH THIS APPLICATION

- Constitution and/or By-laws, if relevant.
- Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, if relevant.
- Financial statements, budget & financial plan where the church presently has debt or is seeking to acquire property.
- Description of property holdings and obligations of the church.
- Application for the Lead Minister/Chaplain to be accredited with COCWA.
- Letter of support from two (2) COCWA Affiliated Churches (if possible).
- A covering letter from your church stating your desire to become a recognised new work within COCWA

This letter should include the following statement: "[New Work name] agrees to observe the requirements of Clause 4.4 of the COCWA Rules (2016)." (if applicable)

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE APPLICANTS

- COCWA Rules (2016).
- Church Statistical Data Information Form.
- Churches of Christ Insurance information.
- A briefing regarding the responsibilities of COCWA Members and an overview of the churches and partner organisations within the COCWA family.
- Invitation for the Lead Minister and Chairman to attend the On Mission Connect retreat.
- Invitation to meet with key COCWA & Churches of Christ Financial Services (CCFS) staff.
- Invitation for COCWA to deliver Safe Training Module.