



CHURCH AFFILIATION

BECOMING A MEMBER OF
THE COCWA ASSOCIATION



COCWA CHURCH AFFILIATION

Churches of Christ in WA (COCWA) is an Association of Member Churches, all of whom desire to belong together for the purposes of supporting each other towards the extension of the Kingdom in their local communities. Together, we are On Mission!

Any church seeking to join this Association 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 congregation; and
- A desire to participate in a grassroots movement of people who want to see churches multiply and mobilised.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS OF AFFILIATING CHURCHES

The specific requirements of Member Churches are stated in the COCWA Rules section 4 (2018), which can be found on our website under Resources.

BENEFITS OF COCWA MEMBERSHIP

By harnessing the strength of the combined resources of the churches, COCWA seeks to facilitate multiplication growth in local churches in the following ways:

1. EDUCATION

COCWA provides and brokers a range of mentoring, training and coaching opportunities for ministers and church leadership teams. Each of these opportunities is specifically targeted for individual congregational needs.

2. EQUIPPING

COCWA provides services that make an appreciable difference in the ability of Member Churches to navigate the organisational requirements demanded of churches 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. REVITALISATION

COCWA looks for opportunities to assist church leadership teams who are committed to growth and development. We believe that the mission of Jesus to make disciples can only be accomplished by a grassroots movement of people who understand who Christ has made them and called them to be. Our revitalisation initiatives are directed primarily to church leaders so that they can inspire and lead their congregations to share the good news of Jesus.

4. MULTIPLICATION

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

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.

CHURCH AFFILIATION PATHWAY

1. A church seeking affiliation 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 from that Member Church. This support is a requirement of membership in accordance with the COCWA Rules (2018).
3. The church will receive and complete Affiliation Application documents.
4. The COCWA Team will:
 - a. Review all documentation
 - b. Continue to meet with the church leadership 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
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 will be provided with an opportunity to introduce themselves to the wider community of churches.
6. Upon acceptance of the Members, the church will be admitted to the Association.
7. A church seeking to become affiliated with COCWA understands that it is a progression that requires time and due process. Our Ministry team are happy to journey with you and assist you through the process. Please forward a copy of this application to:
PO Box 458, Dianella, WA 6059 or email to admin@cocwa.com.au
8. In addition to Affiliation, it is encouraged and preferred that the senior minister of the Church seek Ministry Accreditation with COCWA. Ministry Accreditation is an initiative to help create public confidence in the character, calling and competence of Churches of Christ ministers and chaplains. The accreditation application pack can be found on our website www.cocwa.com.au under Resources (please note there are 3 parts)

CHURCH AFFILIATION APPLICATION

Date of Application:	
Name of Church:	
Street Address:	
Postal Address:	
Location Address (where the congregation gathers):	
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: (Ideally, a church will have a minimum of 30 adults in regular attendance)	

DETAILS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

1

Please briefly outline the church’s desire to affiliate with COCWA.

2

How do you see being a member 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 history, including previous denominational involvements.

5

If there has been any critical division or problems within the church’s history, please briefly identify these and any current impacts and/or steps that your leadership has in place.

6

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

7

Please provide the following church growth information for the past five years:
a. Attendance b. Ministry activities and missional reach c. Facilities

8

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

9

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

10

Has the congregation's membership met to discuss this affiliation proposal? (Please attach copy of formal resolution)

SIGNATURES ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH (AT LEAST TWO AUTHORISED PERSONS TO SIGN)

Signature:
Name:
Role/position:
Signature:
Name:
Role/position:
Signature:
Name:
Role/position:

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH THIS APPLICATION

- ⑥ Constitution/Rules
- ⑥ Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, if relevant
- ⑥ Copy of minuted resolution of the Church to seek affiliation with COCWA
- ⑥ Up to date financial statements, budget and financial plan.
This will help COCWA gain an understanding of the church's financial situation
- ⑥ Description of property holdings and obligations of the church
- ⑥ Ministry Accreditation application for the Senior Minister
- ⑥ Completed statistical data information form
- ⑥ Letter of support from one or more COCWA affiliated churches
- ⑥ A covering letter from the church stating the desire to become a Member of COCWA.
This letter should include the following statement : " [Church name] agrees to be bound by the COCWA Rules (2018) and to accept the requirements of Clause 4.4 of these Rules."

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE APPLICANTS

- COCWA Rules (2018)
- 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 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 Church Safe Training
- Statistical data form