

NETWORK GOVERNANCE THROUGH A JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL

Revised Proposal after 29 May Workshop

The Network Coordinating Committee Governance Working Group has reviewed the comments received from the 29 May workshop. The comments suggest that the proposal presented has broad support in principle but some people would like further clarification about some aspects. Further clarification of details will follow soon.

The establishment of a Joint Church Council (JCC) will be based on, and work from, the following fundamental principles: -

1. The congregations are the fundamental expression of the life and mission of the Church.
2. The existence of the Network Covenant agreement is the basis for the congregations' decision no longer to act alone but together.
3. The purpose of the JCC is to coordinate the resources of the church in the service of the life and mission of the congregations.
4. The local Leaders Meeting, on behalf of the congregations, will retain the responsibility for the life of the congregation but always be mindful in their decision-making of the covenanted relationship they have with other congregations.
5. Local initiatives will be encouraged and all congregations invited to share in one another's projects which will be supported by the available finances and other resources of the Network.
6. The JCC will have the responsibility to coordinate the mission planning, ministry placements and management of financial and property resources of the congregations, recognising that 'beneficial use' of property will remain with congregations.
7. At all times the JCC will maintain close consultation with the congregations, usually through their Leaders Meetings, about any matter that affects the life of the congregation.
8. Leaders Meetings, as part of their pastoral responsibility, will inform members of their congregation about JCC business and decisions and engage them in processes designed to provide the JCC with congregational input on Network issues.
9. The JCC will establish a system for the coordination of the management of finances and property. Congregations will set their own budget for the year, including local mission initiatives.
10. The future ministry model and placements will be decided in consultation with the Yarra Yarra Presbytery who will receive recommendations from the JCC and the congregations.

11. The JCC will be established by a decision of the Presbytery at the request of Network congregations through their Church Councils.
12. Membership of the JCC will be comprised of Ministers in placement and two representatives from each of the congregations. (The JCC may also co-opt up to two members with particular gifts important to the work of the Council).
13. The JCC members will be elected by the congregation for a two year term with half the Council being elected each two years. Every effort will be made to ensure a gender balance in the JCC.
14. The Treasurer will be appointed at the first meeting of the JCC, following an election, and will become a member of the JCC.
15. The Council will choose its own Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary.

Endorsed by the Network Coordinating Committee
29 June 2010