



Williamstown Church of Christ Community Covenant

Our Church Vision (the 'why')

We believe Jesus is the hope of the world. We believe Jesus brings transformation, forgiveness, renewal, healing and hope and we want to be a church where people from all walks of life can come and encounter Jesus.

Our Church Mission (what we're called to do)

We are a spiritual community of apprentices to Jesus seeking to join with God in all He is doing to bring His blessing in our neighbourhood of Williamstown and Hobsons Bay.

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Community Covenant

We, Williamstown Church of Christ, commit ourselves to a standard of responsible and ethical behaviour which is expected in our church and will bring honour and glory to God. Our covenant is underpinned by trust and a belief that everyone is made in the image of God, and thus should be treated with respect and dignity.

This Community Covenant gives guidance about what actions are supported and what practices are not acceptable. The Community Covenant is not exhaustive and does not foresee every set of circumstances that may arise across the variety of Church events and activities. This Community Covenant values the social, relational and interpersonal safety and wellbeing of people of all ages.

We, Williamstown Church of Christ, value:

Respect, Trust, Integrity, Honesty, Humility, Support, Compassion, Community, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Generosity and Thankfulness, Inclusiveness, Justice, Service and Stewardship, Peace and Confidentiality.

We commit ourselves to living out these values in all areas of our lives.

We commit ourselves to:

1. Conduct ourselves at all times in a manner that honours God and His Church.
2. Endeavour to conduct all personal relations in a Godly manner, acting with respect, love, integrity and truthfulness toward all those with whom we interact, irrespective of their race, gender, position or religious outlook.

3. Be diligent in providing each other with information and resources to fulfil our roles and be mindful of the expectations others have of us.
4. Be loyal in our support of each other and other church members. We may express our opinions robustly but understand that once collective decisions have been reached we support the outcomes.
5. Be truthful and honest in our communication with each other.
6. In situations where conflict occurs, pursue reconciliation with a willingness to forgive and repent. In the matter of conflict resolution, we will seek to follow the principles outlined by Jesus in Matthew 18, submitting ourselves to such accountability and holding others accountable.
7. Where grievances occur, and a resolution is not forthcoming, that we will seek additional assistance (for example, assistance from Churches of Christ in Vic-Tas). Issues pertaining to criminal actions, bullying or sexual misconduct will be handled in accordance with Churches of Christ in Vic-Tas policies and we will report to the Police as required by law.
8. In all financial matters act with scrupulous honesty and publically account for all monies handled by us on behalf of others.
9. Actively promote a safe environment where abuse and bullying of any nature is neither tolerated nor able to take place. Bullying can include:
 - a) Exclusion from a group or activity
 - b) Intimidation
 - c) Extortion
10. Actively promote a safe environment where harassment is neither tolerated nor allowed to take place. Harassment is unwelcome conduct whether intended or not which makes another person feel offended, belittled and/or threatened which may occur through a single incident or a series of incidents over a period of time. Harassment can include:
 - a) Unwelcome physical contact
 - b) Gestures or language that could give offence
 - c) Unjustified or unnecessary comments about a person's attributes or abilities.

This Community Covenant will be reviewed annually at the first Church Executive meeting following the Church's Annual General Meeting.

Signed:

(Name)

(Signature)

Leadership/Volunteer Position:

Date: