



# Constitution and Rules

29 November 2018

CITYREACH FAMILY OF CHURCHES

# CONSTITUTION & RULES

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”  
Matthew 28:18-20

## **I. NAME:**

The name of the Association shall be “CityReach Family of Churches” Incorporated

## **II. OBJECTS:**

1. CityReach Family of Churches exists to support local, interstate and international CityReach churches in the accomplishment of their vision to:
  - i.To meet together for Christ centred worship in which our triune God is passionately exalted and His Word powerfully preached
  - ii.To grow as disciples into Christ likeness through deep spiritual friendships and the study of God’s Word
  - iii.To serve Jesus through the exercise of our spiritual gifts and the growth of a committed membership.
  - iv.To share Jesus both individually and corporately with our community and support the advancement of the Gospel in the World.
2. To raise up effective disciple making leaders who can plant new churches of CityReach in Adelaide and throughout the world!
3. To impact the world through supporting and also

partnering in:

- i. Bible translation
- ii. Leadership development
- iii. Helping the under privileged

### **III. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

1. CityReach Family of Churches exists to bring glory to God and joy to the World by planting churches, supporting bible translating, leadership development and helping the underprivileged in order to make disciples who live out their new identity through community on mission.  
1 Corinthians 10:31-33

### **IV. THE STATEMENT OF FAITH:**

CityReach Family of Churches and the churches planted by the association hold to the following core beliefs

#### **A CORE BELIEFS**

1. **The Scriptures:** We believe that the Scriptures are inspired by God, true, without error, authoritative and sufficient (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21).
2. **God:** We believe there is only one true God (Deut. 6:4), Creator of heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1), who eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22).
3. **Humanity:** We believe all human beings are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), but due to the fall of humanity, are sinful in nature and action (Rom. 5:12), marring but not destroying the original image (Gen. 9:6; Jam. 3:9).
4. **Sin:** We believe that sin is rebellion against God and

disobedience to Him (Rom. 5:19; 1 John 3:4), and falling short of His glory (Rom. 3:23) The deserved penalty for sin is physical and spiritual death (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23) and final eternal separation from God in hell (Rev. 20:11- 15).

5. **Jesus Christ:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God (Rom. 1:3-4; Heb. 1:8), was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38) and is both fully God (John 1:1, 14) and fully human (1 Tim. 2:5).
6. **The Gospel:** We believe that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life (2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 1:19), died as the sacrificial substitute to pay the penalty for sin (1 Pet. 3:18), was buried and that He physically rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-8), defeating sin, death and the devil (1 Cor. 15:56-57; Heb. 2:14-15).
7. **Saving Faith:** We believe that only through repentance from sin (2 Cor. 7:10) and faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9) can one be reconciled to God (Rom. 5:6-11; 2 Cor. 5:18-20), receive forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:7) and experience all the blessings of salvation, both now and in the age to come (Mark 10:29-30; Eph. 1:3).
8. **Christian Growth:** We believe that Christians still struggle with sin, being part of this fallen world, but are declared at salvation to be new creations, righteous before God (2 Cor 5:17, 21). They then become more and more like Jesus - in thought, action, and relationships (Rom. 6:1-14; 1 Pet. 1:15-16) as they respond in obedience to God's Word (Acts 20:32; Col. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:22), walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-25), and participate in their local church (Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:24-25). Although never achieving perfection in this life, Christians are to pursue spiritual growth, realising in practice what God has provided in position (Rom. 6:1-14; 1 Thess. 4:1-8)
9. **The Church:** We believe that the Church is composed of all those who are joined to Jesus Christ through saving faith and are his body (1 Cor. 12:12-13). We believe that the local church is a gathering of professing Christians who

commit themselves to one another to fulfill God's purposes under God ordained and biblically qualified leadership (1 Tim. 3:1-7; 8-13; Tit. 1:5-9), who practice the ordinances of believer's baptism (Matt. 28:19-20) and the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

10. **Marriage:** We believe that marriage as ordained by God and commanded in the Scriptures, is a life-long covenant between one man and one woman at the exclusion of all others and thus do not recognize any other union as marriage (Gen 2:23-25; Heb. 13:4).
11. **Angels, Satan and Demons:** We believe God created personal, angelic beings, some of whom rebelled against God under the leadership of Satan and wage war against God on the earth (Eph. 6:11-12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5, 13-15; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:7-9), while the remaining loyal angels continue to obey God in ministering to believers (Heb 1:7, 14).
12. **The Return of Christ:** We believe that Jesus Christ ascended into heaven (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9) and will one day return physically to the earth to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-21, 20:4-6).

## **B Core Church Practices**

CityReach Family of Churches and the churches planted by the association hold to the following core practices.

1. **Complementary Relationships:** We believe that both men and women are together created in the divine image and are therefore equal before God as persons, possessing the same moral dignity and value, and have equal access to God through faith in Christ (Gen 1:26-27; Gal 3:28; Col 3:11). Men and women are together the recipients of spiritual gifts designed to empower them for ministry in the local church and beyond (1 Cor 12:4-6). Therefore, women are to be encouraged, equipped, and

empowered to utilize their gifting in ministry, in service to the body of Christ, and through teaching in ways that are consistent with the Word of God. Both husbands and wives are responsible to God for the spiritual nurture and vitality in the home, but God has given to the man primary responsibility to lead his wife and family in accordance with the servant-leadership and sacrificial love characterised by Jesus Christ (Eph 5:25; Col 3:19). This principle of male headship should not be confused with, nor give any hint of, domineering control. Rather, it is to be the loving, tender and nurturing care of a godly man who is himself under the kind and gentle authority of Jesus Christ. The Elders/Pastors of each local church have been granted authority under the headship of Jesus Christ to provide oversight and to teach/preach the Word of God in corporate assembly for the building up of the body (1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Tim 3:1-7). We believe therefore that the office of Elder/Pastor is to be fulfilled by men (1 Tim 2:12-15).

- 2. Regenerate Church membership:** We believe that the Church is made up of all those who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus and have therefore been joined to him and indwelt by his Spirit (Rom 10:9; Rom 8:9). A Church we will therefore, strive to maintain a visible membership of people who have a testimony in keeping with their profession of faith and have demonstrated their faith publicly through the waters of baptism. (Matt 28:19-20; Matt 16:18-20)
- 3. Plurality of Elders and Pastoral leadership:** We believe that the Church is to be lead and shepherded by a plurality of Elders who are appointed by the other Elders and ratified by the congregation (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2). We believe that part of this Eldership group will be

made up members of the congregation and their responsibility is to protect the doctrinal orthodoxy of the church, make governance decisions (vision and policy) and look after major pastoral care issues in the church. However, we also believe that God will call Pastors teachers whose role it will be, working under the authority of the Eldership to equip, inspire and lead the church in effective ministry (Eph 4:11; 1Tim 5:17).

**4. Spiritual renewal and Spirit Filled Lives:** We believe that the Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit for his mission (John 7:37-39; 14:25-26). The Spirit's empowering presence is the unique mark of the New Covenant and his power is displayed both in transforming our characters and effective power for ministry (1 Cor 12:4-11). We do not believe that the Spirit's empowering work is a result of a second blessing experience (1 Cor 12:13), but should be a daily reality for believers as they confess their sins and surrender control to Christ (Eph 5:18). Further, we believe that the Apostles had a special anointing as part of their foundational ministry (Heb 2:3-4; Eph 2:20). God may choose to do miracles today; he is the one in control we are not. However, we believe that churches and individuals should seek the filling of the Holy Spirit and trust him for the sufficiency needed for ministry. We believe that we should desire spiritual gifts but be eager to do so in love (1 Cor 14:1).

**5. Believers Baptism and the Lord's Supper:** We believe that Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, and our union with him, namely that we are now dead sin and alive to God

and am now a member of his body, the Church (Matt 28:19-20; Rom 6:1-3; 1 Cor 12:13). We believe that the Lord's supper is the celebration of the love of Christ expressed in his work on the cross by the members of the church through the use of the symbols of bread and wine (Matt 26:26-29). The Lord's Supper helps believers remember their new covenant relationship with God, proclaims the Lord's death until he comes and is often preceded by solemn self-examination (1 Cor 11:17-33).

## **V. MEMBERSHIP:**

1. On formal incorporation of CityReach Family of Churches, the membership will comprise the board of the association as nominated and recognised by the elders of the group of CityReach Churches.
2. To be considered for membership the members of CityReach Family of Churches must be members of a local CityReach Church.
3. It is the responsibility of the board to see that prospective members comply with (V.1) above and are familiar with the distinctive beliefs, philosophy statements, and practices of CityReach Family of Churches.
4. All who become members of CityReach Family of Churches are understood to be in wholehearted agreement with the core beliefs of the church as set out in section IV.A. Members may, in some instances, hold differing views to the core church practices as set out in Section IV.B but must agree not to teach or promote those alternative views. Should members beliefs change such that they no longer hold to the core beliefs then they must resign their membership and any ministry leadership roles that they hold. All members are expected to support and be loyal to both CityReach



Family of Churches and their local CityReach church.

## **VI. GOVERNANCE:**

1. The governance of CityReach Family of Churches shall be vested in the self appointed board. This shall comprise duly appointed leaders, who collectively govern and provide leadership to the association through the Director of the CityReach Family of Churches. The Director will be accountable for the day to day running of the association as set out in their Position Description. The board members must be biblically qualified as a leader however they may not serve as an elder in their local church. [See 'Elders Perspective on Church Leadership' paper].
2. CityReach Family of Churches is a single association.
3. Association is for the purpose of achieving the vision of making an impact for the gospel locally, on a national and international level through planting churches, Bible translating, leadership development and helping the under privileged. Churches planted and partnership initiatives undertaken will hold to a ministry philosophy and biblical theology in line with CITYREACH FAMILY OF CHURCHES. CityReach family of churches will contribute time, financial and other resources to the vision as required. [See 'CityReach Family of Churches agreement' paper].
4. Board members are appointed for a period of up to 4 years with at least one third of the board members remaining in office to ensure continuity; at no time shall all board members stand for re-election simultaneously. As required, the board members shall review the terms of those board members currently in office and determine which, if any, need to retire based on their current term and the need to maintain continuity. This may require some to retire prior to expiration of their terms. The retiring board members shall be those who are closest to the expiration of their term and in the case of equal service, then retirement shall be determined by agreement or by lot.

5. Retiring board members wishing to continue and with the support of the other board members, shall be eligible for re-election by a vote in accordance with section XII, Meetings and Quorum.
6. A board member may be dismissed by unanimous agreement of the remaining board members if:
  - i. they no longer hold to the CityReach Family of Churches objects or core beliefs and refuses to resign in accordance with V.4 or;
  - ii. they are found guilty of serious ethical or moral failure as confirmed by the testimony of at least two witnesses.
7. Those recommended by the board members to join the board shall be accepted upon a vote in accordance with section XII, Meetings and Quorum.
8. The Director also serves as a board member however, he is not subject to retirement by rotation or to be taken into account in determining the rotation of retirement of board members. He has equal authority with the other board members, and is to submit to the decisions of the board.
9. Other staff and the CityReach Family of Churches Working Group shall responsible to implement initiatives. They must be members of a Local CityReach church and must be biblically qualified [See 'Elders Perspective on Church Leadership' paper].
10. All ministry team leaders shall be responsible to and be under the authority of the CityReach Family of Churches board, though general reporting may be through the Director or another member of the Working Group.

## **VII. WORKING GROUP:**

1. The Director will have responsibility to lead the Working Group and will delegate the various ministry responsibilities and lines of accountability to the other members of the group.
2. Members of the Working Group will consist of representatives from the Lead Pastors of CityReach Churches and others with specialist skills based on the needs of the association. They will be held accountable by the Director to fulfil their terms of service as set out in their Position Description and the Director will be held accountable by the board for the overall accomplishment of the vision of CityReach Family of Churches.

## **VIII. WORKING GROUP APPOINTMENTS:**

1. On incorporation of CityReach Family of Churches the Director will be the man previously approved by the broader CityReach elders and members.
2. Future appointments of the director and all other working group members will be by a recommendation given by the board. The recommendation of the Board will be after consultation with the local CityReach church they attend giving consideration to their call, doctrinal position. All such appointments must be ratified in accordance with section XII, Meetings and Quorum.
3. Any working group member may be terminated as a working group member by the board for failure to fulfil terms of service or breaches of their Position Description.

## **IX. OTHER STAFF:**

1. All other staff employed (if any) report to the director or

his delegate to fulfil their terms of service as set out in their Memorandum of Agreement of Employment. The board may appoint a new staff member to a position previously ratified in accordance with section XII, Meetings and Quorum or provided for in the ratified budget.

2. Dismissal of staff for failure to fulfil terms of service or breaches of their Position Description/Memorandum of Agreement of Employment may be made by the director in consultation with the board.

## **X      FINANCE & RISK:**

1. CityReach Family of Churches board/members meetings shall be convened as often as considered by the board to be necessary to fulfil the objects of the association. The financial year of the church shall end 31 December of each year. An annual CityReach Family of Churches members meeting shall be held by May of each year.
2. A statement of finance shall be considered by the board each quarter and this information shall be available to all members upon request. A duly audited statement of finances for the year shall be available to the members prior to the annual board/members meeting.

## **XI      POWERS:**

1. For the purpose of carrying out its objects, CityReach Family of Churches shall have all the powers conferred by section 25 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

## **XII      MEETINGS AND QUORUM:**

1. Any duly convened CityReach Family of Churches Board/members meeting may only be called by the Board and

is required to have a quorum of fifty per cent of the current membership.

2. A duly convened CityReach Family of Churches board/members meeting is required to confirm:
  - the appointment of board members and working group members of CityReach Family of Churches,
  - major discretionary financial expenditure greater than ten percent of annual budget,
  - significant new or altered policies and
  - legal matters requiring the use of the common seal of CityReach Family of Churches.
3. Members unable to attend a meeting may vote by proxy. Proxy votes may be made by completing a voting slip to the secretary or by submitting the vote with the name of the member electronically or in writing to the office. All proxy votes must be received by 4pm on the last business day prior to the vote.
4. Ratification shall be by three quarters of votes cast (including proxy votes) at a duly convened CityReach Family of Churches members meeting.
5. Notice of a CityReach Family of Churches members meeting must be given at least two weeks prior to the meeting. In calling meetings, the board shall take account of events that may significantly impact on awareness or attendance.

### **XIII**      **SEAL-HOLDERS:**

1. Should CityReach Family of Churches decide to have a common seal then CityReach Family of Churches shall, from time to time, appoint not less than three (3) seal-holders, one of whom shall be the public officer.

2. The common seal of CityReach Family of Churches shall be affixed to any legal document on the authority of members in accordance with section XII, Meetings and Quorum.
3. Every deed, instrument, or document to which the seal is affixed shall be attested by the signatures of at least two (2) seal-holders.

#### **XIV**      **WINDING UP:**

1. The association may be wound up by a special resolution of the membership in accordance with Part 5, Division 1 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.
2. In the event of the organisation being dissolved, the amount which remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a likeminded evangelical group and disposed of as shall be resolved at a meeting called for the purpose before the winding up of the organisation.

#### **XV**      **ALTERATION OF RULES:**

1. The board shall formally review the constitution at least once every five years to ensure that it is still appropriate to achieve the aims and objectives of CityReach Family of Churches.
2. The Constitution and Rules of CityReach Family of Churches may be amended or altered at the recommendation of the board and ratified in accordance with section XII, Meetings and Quorum.