

# REGIONAL CHARTER

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## **1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The Australian Christian Churches (Queensland) has resolved by its State Executive, that the State be divided into Regions for the purpose of Pastoral Care, Administration, Church Planting, Training, and carrying out of the Objects and Purposes of the Australian Christian Churches as set forth in its United Constitution, National By-Laws, and State By-Laws, and have further resolved that all such Regions be governed by the Articles of this Charter.

## **2. REGIONAL NAME**

The name of the Region shall be "Australian Christian Churches (Queensland)" with the name of its own location added thereto:-

## **3. REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 Membership of a Region shall be all Credential holders of the Australian Christian Churches ministering in that Region, and all churches, registered or unregistered, in association with the Australian Christian Churches in that Region. Whatever its corporate structure, a Church shall be represented by its Pastor and any additional representatives in accordance with the rules governing the Australian Christian Churches (Queensland).

3.2 A minimum of five (5) ordained Ministers shall be necessary to constitute a Region.

#### **4. REGIONAL TERRITORY**

4.1 Regions shall be defined by the State Executive.

4.2 Churches who, because of geographical or other reasons, feel that they could be better located in an adjoining Region, may make application to the State Executive for such re-allocation. The State Executive shall take into consideration the desires of the relevant local church and Regions concerned.

4.3 The State Executive shall be empowered to adjust the boundaries of a Region or to amalgamate Regions should there be insufficient ordained Ministers in a Region to constitute the Regional Committee, or to create new Regions or divide Regions for improved administration.

4.4 Funds held in Regional accounts that are closed or have its boundaries significantly adjusted to create a new Region will be dealt with by the State Executive at its discretion.

#### **5. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REGIONS AND STATE**

5.1 Regions are an integral part of Australian Christian Churches (Queensland) and they are governed by the Principles and Practices as set forth in the United Constitution of Australian Christian Churches, and the National and State By-Laws.

5.2 Regions shall work in harmony and cooperation with the decisions of the State Conference and State Executive.

5.3 In all matters, the Regions shall recognise that they are the creation of the State Conference and are subordinate thereto.

5.4 Authority:  
In all things it shall be recognised that the Regions are under the oversight and administration of the State Executive and exist to assist the State Executive in the administration of the State.

5.5 The State Executive shall function as the representative of the entire Fellowship and shall liaise with the Regions for the harmonious and proper administration of the whole State.

5.6 The State Executive shall be available to each Region and assist it wherever necessary.

5.7 The State Executive shall have the right to investigate any circumstance and take whatever action is deemed by it to be necessary and beneficial to further the aims of the Australian Christian Churches (State By-Laws Article 3:6).

5.8 The State Executive shall receive copies of Regional Committee Minutes and Financial Statements. These shall be forwarded by the Regional Secretary in accordance with State Executive requirements.

#### **6. REGIONAL COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS**

6.1 The functions of a Region shall be to assist the State Executive in the administration of the Fellowship and ensure the well being of its ministers and churches in its Region and shall include:

- a. To interview all applicants for ministry.

- b. To make recommendations to the State Executive concerning the issuance of Specialised Ministries, Probationary Ministers, Associate Ministers, and Ordained Ministerial Certificates, and other Ministry Certificates as may be applicable from time to time and the withdrawal of same.
- c. To make recommendations or otherwise to the State Executive concerning the registration of Churches, the endorsement of outreach churches, or the recognition of Associate Churches.
- d. To be responsible for the conduct of regular Regional gatherings as deemed appropriate.
- e. To be responsible to foster the health and growth of churches within the Region.

## 7. REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OFFICE BEARERS

7.1 The Regional Committee shall perform the functions of the Region (except where otherwise stated in this Charter) and shall consist of the Regional Director, Assistant Regional Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other members as required.

7.2 The Regional Committee shall consist of a maximum of seven (7) and a minimum of five (5), unless a lesser number is approved by the State Executive. A quorum shall be a majority of voting members.

7.3 The Regional Committee shall meet, at a minimum, once each six (6) months.

7.4 **Personnel:** The Officers of a Region shall be:-

- a. A Regional Director and an Assistant Regional Director who shall be Ordained Ministers.
- b. A Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer who if not credentialed, will have no voting rights.
- c. Other Officers as required.
- d. The Regional Director shall be nominated by the State Executive and endorsed by the Regional membership.
- e. All other Officers of the Region shall be nominated by the Regional Director in consultation with the State President and submitted for appointment by the State Executive.
- f. All Officers of the Region shall begin their tenure following the Biennial General Meeting which must be held not later than six months after the State Conference. Should a vacancy occur at any time, the State Executive in consultation with the Regional Committee will appoint a replacement.

7.5 **Duties: Regional Director shall;**

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Regional Membership.
- b. Safeguard and apply where necessary the principles of the Australian Christian Churches as outlined in the United Constitution.
- c. Carry out all those duties usual and customary for a presiding Officer and which might reasonably be embodied in the word "Director", i.e. to have charge, to give direction, and manage. However, he shall not be empowered to act unilaterally. All actions shall be subject to the ratification of the State Executive.
- d. Perform any other functions which may be required.

7.6 **Duties: Assistant Regional Director shall;**

- a. Preside at meetings in the absence of the Regional Director.
- b. Assist the Regional Director as required.
- c. Perform any other duties under the supervision of the Regional Director as may be assigned to him by the State Executive.

**7.7 Duties: Secretary shall;**

- a. Assist the Regional Committee and make and file true records of the proceedings of all meetings.
- b. Be custodian of all official records, minutes, inward correspondence, and copies of outward correspondence.
- c. Sign all official documents and carry out such duties as are necessary and customary as Secretary or as may be directed by the State Executive.

**7.8 Duties: Treasurer shall;**

- a. Receipt, bank, disburse as directed all funds.
- b. Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, conducting the work of their office according to accepted business methods.
- c. Present reports from time to time as may be requested by the Regional Committee.
- d. Carry out such other duties as are customary to their office or as may be directed by the Regional Committee.

## **8. REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

**8.1 Procedure**

All Regional Biennial General Meetings and any Special General Meetings shall operate in accordance with the principles and procedures as observed at the previous State Conference.

**8.2 Quorum**

All Regional membership registered and present in any properly called meeting of the Region shall constitute a quorum.

**8.3 Sub-Committees**

The quorum of sub-committees shall be not less than three-fifths of the total membership of the sub-committee except that where a sub-committee consists of three members, all must be present to transact business.

**8.4 Voting**

- a. Voting shall be by show of hands except where a ballot is called for by a 55% majority of those present and entitled to vote.
- b. All resolutions shall require a 55% majority of the voting strength to be carried.
- c. Where a ballot is called for, the procedure set out in Article 6(2) of the National By-Laws shall be adopted.

**8.5 Finance**

- a. General: The finances of the Region shall be administered by the Regional Committee in a General Fund and such other funds as the Regional Committee may from time to time decide.
- b. No Region, Regional department, section, committee, or person of the Region shall be empowered to financially obligate the Region in any amount

whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, except as specifically provided in this Charter.

- c. Income: Ministers and Assembly dues as set forth by the State Conference shall be paid to the State Treasurer who will remit the Region's portion to the Regional Treasurer.
- d. Free will offerings from Churches and individuals shall be transmitted to the Regional Treasurer.
- e. The Regional membership may effect a program for securing by approved methods within its own Region, funds for special purposes and Regional projects.

**8.6 Disbursements**

The Regional Committee shall have authority to draw upon the Regional funds, as may be necessary to maintain the Regional Administration including any wages to employees of the Region, travelling expenses, and such incidentals as may be necessary for the proper function of the Regional Office or the support or development of any Regional programs or ministries.

**8.7 Banking**

Regional funds shall be deposited in bank accounts as directed by the Regional Committee, and shall be withdrawn upon the signature of the Officer or Officers so authorised by the Regional Committee.

**8.8 Auditing**

- a. If requested by the State Executive, the financial records of the Region shall be audited bi-ennially by a person sufficiently qualified, appointed by the Committee. These reports are to be submitted for each State Conference.
- b. The Auditor shall give to the Treasurer a written statement attesting the correctness of the records. This statement shall be filed with the Regional records and copies thereof shall be supplied to all Ministers, Associate Ministers, Probationary Ministers, Specialised Ministries, and Churches together with a financial statement at the Biennial General Meeting.
- c. In the event of a change of Treasurer during the biennial period, the Regional financial records shall be audited as provided in clause 8.8a at the time of the transfer of books.

**8.9 Remits to State Conference**

Members of the Region may submit Remits for discussion at a Special General Meeting called by the Regional Committee to discuss business. The calling of such meeting are in accordance with the procedures used for a State Conference. A successful remit will be forwarded by the Regional Secretary to the State Executive for inclusion in the State Conference. Remits may not be submitted to the State Executive for inclusion in the State Conference business session unless it has first been carried successfully at a Regional Special General Meeting.

**9. REGIONAL DEPARTMENTS**

**9.1 Organisation and Function:**

The Regional Committee may establish Regional Departments for the purpose of inter-assembly cooperation as required.

**9.2** State Departments, shall appoint a suitable person to be leader of the Regional Department in consultation with the Regional Committee, who shall serve in cooperation with the Regional Committee in the administration of that Department.

**9.3** The Regional Committee shall give pastoral support to Departments.

- 9.4 As the State Department is a State Conference initiative the Regional Committee is required to assist the Department in any reasonable way in the promotion of the objectives of the State Department.
- 9.5 The Regional Committee may appoint a committee member to be a liaison person with a Regional Department leader.

## **10. REGIONAL CHURCH PLANTING**

- 10.1 The State Church Planting Department shall function in co-operation with each Region for the purpose of Church Planting.
- 10.2 Each Region is to appoint a Church Planting Coordinator who is responsible for promoting the church planting vision of the fellowship within the Region and the coordinating of the planning and strategising for church planting in the Region. The Church Planting Coordinator is to work in harmony with the State's Church Planting Director or appointee.

## **11. MULTIPLE CHURCH POLICY**

- 11.1 It is recognised that in cities and large towns it will be necessary to plant additional Assembly of God Fellowships within reasonable proximity to an existing Assembly of God church.
- 11.2 It is recognised that no assembly shall enjoy an exclusive franchise to its municipality.
- 11.3 It is recognised that an Australian Christian Churches minister may pioneer a new church in a municipality where an Assembly of God already exists on the following basis:
- a. The Regional Director is consulted prior to any initiation of church planting.
  - b. The Australian Christian Churches pastors closest to the planned new church are consulted regarding the relevant details.
  - c. That no persons involved in the existing assembly/s be in any way enticed or invited to attend or become part of the new assembly without the prior approval of their pastor.
  - d. From its inception, the minister of the new assembly shall relate regularly to the Regional Director or their appointee, and provide reports at the Regional Director's discretion until the assembly shall achieve registered status, or unless the new assembly is under the oversight of an existing registered church.

## **12. REGIONAL PROPERTY**

All property held for a Region shall be held in the corporate name of the State Fellowship in accordance with State Policy and Procedure or Schedule of Trusts as approved by the State Executive from time to time. Property may not be acquired or held on any other basis.

## **13. LEGAL ACTION**

No Regional Committee, Office holder, Credential Holder or Church may involve the Region or other Regions or the Australian Christian Churches (Queensland) in legal action whether initiated or defended without the consent of the State Executive in writing.

**14. INTERPRETATION**

Should any question or dispute arise about the meaning of any aspect of this Charter, the State Executive has the power to finally determine such meaning and its decision shall be final. If this Charter is silent on any matter, the State Executive may establish a provision to deal with such matter.

**15. INDEMNITY**

Every member of the Regional Committee or the State Executive or any person properly authorised to perform any function on behalf of the Region is hereby indemnified and saved harmless against any claim or other action against such person arising in any way out of the proper performance of their duties on behalf of the Region which claim or judgement in any action and the costs thereof shall be paid for and on behalf of such person out of the assets and funds of the Region or of the State Fellowship if the assets of the Region are insufficient.

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