



## Churches of Christ?!

Two months ago we looked at the Distinctives of Churches of Christ and I answered some questions that were circulating about *“who we are?”*, *“what we stand for?”* and *“why don’t Churches of Christ have faith statements?”*

Last month we looked at *“Where are your Creeds?”*, *“Why do we have Communion every week?”* and *“Why don’t we do Christenings?”*.

This month I want to continue with answering the questions I posed in last month’s Need2Know:

*“Who is the State Board and what do they do?”*

*“What is Churches of Christ saying about current societal issues?”*

*“Where is State Office’s leadership?”*

However, given the length of my explanations I will only tackle *“Who is the State Board and what do they do?”* this month and look to answer *“What is Churches of Christ saying about current societal issues?”* and *“Where is State Office’s leadership?”* over the following months. Again, I hope these answers provide you with some **“Aha”** moments - that allow you to invest in your church community with intent and participation in what is one of the most exciting, dynamic and fluid Christian Movements of the last two centuries. Churches of Christ!

*“Who is the State Board and what do they do?”*

### **“Who is the State Board”**

State Board are volunteer members of our churches, elected by our congregations, who have accepted the responsibility of Governing our Movement at a State level (all 3000+ members across 56 churches). All of them are long standing members of our movement and most are also in Leadership of their own congregations. In other words, *“they”* are you, *“they”* are us.

Our current Board has 12 people in total comprising of 8 Board members (3 females, 5 males):

Janet Mugford, Leanne Sanders, Ngairé Llewellyn, Graeme Murley, Cleve Brisbane, Barry Gear AO, Grant Spangenberg and Col Heslop.

3 Appointed Board Positions of President, Alan Young, Past President, Doug Walladge, and CEO, Scott Combridge.

1 Representative from the Ministry Work Group - Anthony Risson

### **“What does State Board Do?”**

The State Board is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring:

a) The legal requirements of the Constitution of Churches of Christ in SA and NT Inc. are adhered to.

b) Our local churches adhere to their responsibilities as stated in:

1. The State Conference Constitution
2. Each Member Church’s own Constitution
3. Any and all State and Federal Governments legal requirements for the conduct of business/ organisations/groups in Australia and South Australia.

c) Provision of guidance for Ministers and Congregations alike with regard to:

1. Ministry appointments
2. Remuneration of Ministers
3. Code of Conduct and Ethics
4. Marriage Licenses
5. Accreditation, Ordination and Renewable Accreditation
6. Misconduct proceedings

d) Supporting, guiding and discerning with Churches their endeavours of mission and ministry, governance, fiscal Management and legal adherence.

The State Board operates much like our Church Boards, Leaderships, Governing Councils or Elders do. Through the seeking of God in prayer and biblical council through communal discernment, our State Board are tasked with guiding our combined ministries to be more than any one of our churches could do, or be, on their own.

I ask you to be in prayer for this team of people who give of their time, energy and families to ensure Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory Inc. is a viable ministry and mission for Christ’s Kingdom. Without your participation, investment and support we are not united in Christ and are far from being the body and bride of Christ. A house divided cannot stand.

I hope these explanations have helped to further your journey with Churches of Christ. If you have more questions I look forward to hearing from you.

I pray that your celebrations over Pentecost have given blessing to invest with the Holy Spirit, the proclamation of the Good News of Salvation.

May you continue in the essentials of our faith, sharing the things of salvation in and through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. And remember that we gather each week to be reminded of the essential need to surrender ourselves to Christ Jesus and share the matters of salvation. Such is Christ’s Yoke.

Scott Combridge  
CEO

Churches of Christ in SA and NT



## Minister 2 Ministers Review

We have received some significant response and input regarding the review process for the Minister to Ministers. Thank you once again to the ministers and elders who offered their insight and experience.

The review team (Barry Grear, Trish Wardle, Anthony Risson, Mark Riessen) have spent time working through the collated responses. We believe we have discerned some key themes. Among them,

- The need for ministers to receive meaningful care is paramount.
- Ministers are concerned for the welfare of each other.
- There is an absence of awareness from elders regarding the direct impact of the minister to ministers with their own minister.
- Elders are seeking to know how to ensure their ministers receive good and healthy care.
- It is imperative the communication and understanding

between elders and ministers receives conversation and development.

- To forfeit the role of minister to ministers will have a particular impact on ministers and indirectly, churches.

Our next step is to report to the State Board with our findings, and suggested options for the future of the minister to ministers role. We will be looking to the State Board to direct any next steps.

Your continuing prayers for this review process will be well received. We also encourage you as ministers, elders and congregations to generate among yourselves the kind of conversations which will increase healthy transparency and a rigorous articulation of what it means to care for one another, asking, "How can we care for each other in meaningful and holy ways?"

*From the review team (Barry Grear, Trish Wardle, Anthony Risson, Mark Riessen)*

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## Review 18 – Report 12

### *Report to Members of Churches of Christ*

#### Guiding Coalition

In report 11 I reported that the "Collation for all the feedback from the Churches and individuals who contributed to the Guiding Coalition Review is now under way." However, we are looking for Volunteers to assist in the summary of the reports. Doug Walladge only received 3 offers to assist. The Review Committee is keen to invite participation from our members to help in the collation of data from the reports. This will speed up the work, lessen the load across our team and provide transparency for the process. If you believe you are able to assist in this area of review summarisation, and you have the time then please contact the State Office and leave your name for Doug Walladge.

#### Financial Review Committee

Thank you to the 70% of Churches who participated in the

FRC request to share your church data so that Malcolm May and his team can get a picture of our overall position. The team are about to meet with Paul Cameron (former CEO of CoCVic/Tas) to understand the journey our sister Conference has been on over the last 10 years of their review which is now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> stage.

The FRC will be reporting their findings to the Review Team in due course which will add to the picture of how we are traveling at the moment.

#### Prayer Group

Please continue to be in prayer for our Review team who will be collating the Guiding Coalition visits and the Financial Review Committee as they meet with Paul and form their picture of our health and position. Pray for our Churches as many of them prepare for the end of another financial year and all the work that that entails.

*Scott Combridge*



Sherpa is 12 month-long intentional discipleship formation program, created specifically for Churches of Christ in SA by Adrian Blenkinsop, Trav Johnson, and Nate Vawser. It involves four weekend retreats, with coaching/equipping that happens

alongside those retreats. The first of these retreats is happening **this weekend—May 25 - 27th**, at Middleton, with a group of 11 leaders from our churches.

The content of each retreat is based on exploring

discipleship and leadership through the life and teachings of Jesus and the broader narrative of Scripture. One of the hopes of Sherpa is that its not a prescriptive resource, rather it provides a strong framework for action and reflection in a leader's own unique ministry context (ie: its not based on a one-size-fits-all approach), and it involves journeying with other leaders for the 12 months.

Would you pray for this first retreat; that strong relationships would be established, that there would be great sharing and growing as a team, and that our churches would be strengthened through the input into these leaders through Sherpa?

If you have any questions, please contact Adrian Blenkinsop at [ablenkinsop@churchesofchrist-sa.org.au](mailto:ablenkinsop@churchesofchrist-sa.org.au)

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## President's Corner

I find myself dwelling on 1 Cor 12:  
v 12-27

"There is one body, but it has many parts" 27. "You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it."



Due to a debilitating mental health issue I find it necessary to step aside from this role and seek a pilgrimage of restoration. This has been a difficult decision as I am sensing His Holy Spirit moving among us doing wonderful things to continue to spread Jesus's message of reconciliation and God's love for each of us to be in relationship with Him and each other. It is essential that for the transformation of our Movement that this emerging dialogue of tolerance and forgiveness, rather than judgement and resentment, be continued as a priority. Please continue to pray for the distinctiveness of our Movement as our leaders acknowledge the need for change to be part of a world that has an increasing access to communication. May we "be still" to hear His Word in a dynamic relationship with each other seeking meaning and purpose wherever we are in His ministry.

At our last Convention, as a body, we focussed on faith, hope and love. I vividly recall Ian Schneider pulling a trowel out of his back pocket suggesting we should dig into our faith and together "sow" our faith in practical ways to grow His Kingdom. Not long after, I visited Ian at work and here was my experience.

### *Finding God behind Bars!*

*One afternoon in December, with Ian Schneider, prison chaplain, and his team in Yatala I was heartened to be reminded that God, through His faithful people, is ever present. I noted that both guards and prisoners sought Ian out for guidance, countenance and the Love of God. My "inside" experience:*

- \* Eight long-term inmates respectfully sharing their understanding of being passive, aggressive and assertive challenged me on my own behaviours living with family, church and the wider community.*
- \* A time of communion with three inmates within a noisy common room was one of the most 'special'*

*times of communing with God this year.*

- \* Two of these inmates left me wanting to learn more of the Scriptures! As students of a theology college they are seeking to serve their Master in all aspects of life even though it is limited by previous actions.*

*It reminded me of Paul in gaol and made me think how I often construct my own gaol to keep God's world out!!!! Christ came to set us all free and called us to be part of His Church in sharing our God given gifts.*

*If one of these men knock on our Church door in coming days, or years, how will we respond? How can we respond now if God is calling us to do so? Faith without action is like a bell without a clapper. I know Ian would be willing to share how you can be part of this ministry. (Contact the State Office for Ian's details.)*

In recent days I have found many in service for the Lord.

By chance, I met Ken from Victor Harbor on the kerb outside our Mile End office taking a silver can into GMP. I learnt later that for over thirty years he has raised money by collecting cans to support the Khayelihle Children's Village in Zimbabwe.

Over Easter I had the joy of meeting Denis, at Blair Athol, who at the age of 91, sees it as his calling to assist each service by preparing and producing the words on the screen so those in attendance can both "see and hear" songs and scripture as they worship.

I rejoiced at reading Esma's obituary in the Advertiser of her dedication to her Lord in so many ways across Adelaide, whilst a member at our Cowandilla church.

The excitement I hear among our young people preparing for our State Youth Games in June to be together and explore what it means to be in ministry for Him. *(Please pray and encourage their leaders and their participation in these games.)*

I know if we are still and seek His blessed assurance He will call us, individually and collectively, to be in ministry to use our given gifts, under whatever circumstance we find ourselves. "Each one of you is part of it". The body of Christ.

*Alan Young*

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**Call to Pray....**You are invited to join with people across our churches in praying for one another. This month we pray together for:

*Magill, Marion, Maylands, Milang, Modbury, Mt Barker.*

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**State Youth Games** is happening during the **June long weekend** at Unity College, Murray Bridge, and your support will be greatly appreciated if you would like to pray for the event and/or visit for a day to cheer the teams on.

**Cakes, biscuits and slices** will also be very much appreciated to assist with the catering and help fill hungry tummies. If you can help in this way, please deliver them to the **State Office by June 6th**.

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## CareWorks' Winter Appeal

"I just didn't know where to turn!" Sadly this is the cry of so many who find themselves navigating tough times and reaching out to the various caring Church programs like CareWorks.

Statistics are showing that more and more people are living without significant meaningful communities, and that this social isolation is linked to poor mental health, substance abuse, poverty and suicide.

Please help us make a connection with people who find themselves at the edges of society.

We reach out because we desire to be practical examples of God's love and we know that Jesus talked much about "the least of these."

Your prayers, support and generous contributions bring hope to the lives of many with whom we come in contact. So many are assisted by meeting their urgent needs of food, power, genuine love and relationship.

### *A gift of :*

\$20 helps CareWorks clothe a family at the Op Shop.

\$40 helps a person to stay one night at OASIS.

\$55 helps CareWorks to provide an emergency food hamper to an individual.

\$75 is equivalent to the average amount paid towards a struggling family's utility bill.

Your gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

This is not just a chance to be generous. It is a wonderful way for you to express the love, compassion and grace of a caring God as you help CareWorks bring a small measure of joy and peace into the lives of our friends in need. [www.cwsa.org.au](http://www.cwsa.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/GivingHelpOfferingHope](https://www.facebook.com/GivingHelpOfferingHope)

## Employment Opportunities with GMP



Are you looking for a challenge? Are you interested in being part of a team committed to supporting mission and development projects around the world? If so, one of the following positions may be right for you.

### Finance Manager

This diverse and interesting 6 month temporary contract (maternity leave) part-time position of 16 hours per week, is based in the Adelaide office of GMP. We are seeking a candidate who will provide leadership to the administrative team.

### Receipting and Administration Assistant

This permanent part-time position, initially of 16 hours per week, is part of the Administration team in supporting the work of Global Mission Partners.

Global Mission Partners is the national and international mission agency of Churches of Christ in Australia, involved in Indigenous projects, international church partnerships and ministry, and community development in Australia and overseas. (For more information please visit our website [www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au)).

The exact days for each of these positions will be negotiated with the successful applicant, but are flexible. For further details on these positions check out [www.christianjobs.com.au](http://www.christianjobs.com.au)

To apply please send an application letter and a brief resume including the names and contact details of at least two referees. Applications must be submitted by close of business on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June and may be sent to Lisa Szepessy, Finance and Administration Manager, PO Box 341, TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA 5031 or [lisas@gmp.org.au](mailto:lisas@gmp.org.au). Enquiries on 8352 3466 for a position description.

## Convention 2018



**November 14: CareWorks AGM**

**November 15: GR Stirling Lecture**

**November 16: Celebration Night**

**November 17: A day of reflection, prayer, discussion, connecting, reviewing and the AGM.**