

# Crossroads Church

## Partnership

### Introduction

Local church 'partnership' is an example of the 'partnership' the New Testament speaks about (eg Philippians 1:5). There is one Universal Church, made up of all those who belong to Christ. But God gathers his people together into local congregations, and so can speak of 'the church of God in' Corinth, Thessalonica, or Hobart.

Partnership with a local church is a formal statement of belonging. It is committing to serve a particular, local expression of the Universal Church: to serve and to be served. On a simple, organisational level, it is informing the leaders and partners of the church that they are your 'home church'.

We do not believe you need to be a church partner of a local church to be a church partner of the Universal Church. Nor do you need to be a church partner of Crossroads in order to attend our meetings or play a part in the life of our community. Partnership is not a lifelong commitment and does not prevent you from attending other churches and serving in other ministries, within reasonable limits.

### Benefits of church partnership

- Oversight and accountability by the church leadership, including yearly appointments with one of the church elders;
- Access to church partnership roll information;
- Subscription to church mailing lists. We have two main mailing lists:  
[announce@crossroadshobart.org](mailto:announce@crossroadshobart.org) is for formal church announcements and  
[members@crossroadshobart.org](mailto:members@crossroadshobart.org) is a community mailing list that any church partners are free to use, provided it is not for circular emails, disclosing private information or soliciting money;
- Ability to serve in formal ministry roles in the life of the church;
- The power and privilege of voting in church congregational meetings.

### Requirements of partnership

#### Partnership in the faith

church partnership as Christians means a shared relationship with the same God through a shared understanding of what he has done for us.

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As a Presbyterian Church, Crossroads holds to the [Westminster Confession of Faith](http://www.reformed.org/documents/westminster_conf_of_faith.html). (see [www.reformed.org/documents/westminster\\_conf\\_of\\_faith.html](http://www.reformed.org/documents/westminster_conf_of_faith.html)).

The Presbyterian Church of Australia further qualifies and explains the Westminster Confession with another document, [the Declaratory Statement](http://www.presbyterian.org.au/belief.htm) (see <http://www.presbyterian.org.au/belief.htm>).

However, all that is needed to become a partner of a Presbyterian Church is a credible profession of faith. In other words, you don't need to believe everything in the Westminster Confession.

Here is a statement of faith, adapted from the IFES Doctrinal Statement which Crossroads holds to accurately represent the fundamental gospel that Christians believe in. It is absolutely necessary that all partners hold this gospel in common:

- The absolute control of God over all of creation, revelation, redemption and judgment.
- The divine authorship, infallibility and supreme authority of Holy Scripture, as originally given, and its sufficiency for instructing every Christian in all normal Christian belief and conduct.
- The unity of nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead, a unity which does not deny their separate personhoods.
- The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, making them subject to God's anger and condemnation.
- Redemption from the guilt of sin, the penalty of sin and the power of sin is only gained through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ as our representative and substitute.
- The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, showing his sacrifice to be satisfactory and declaring him lord of salvation and judgment.
- The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in sinners to make the death of Christ effective to them, granting them repentance towards God, faith in Jesus and leading them in a godly life.
- The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ to give physical resurrection and eternal life to all who hope in him and condemn forever those who have not believed the gospel.

## Partnership in ministry

Partnership in the church is further expressed in various concrete ways. We consider the following things to be basic and necessary elements of our church life and our church partners are expected to express their partnership with us through godly commitment to them:

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- Ownership of the church's mission and values and willingness to use your time and abilities to serve the church;
- Regular attendance and involvement in the meetings of the church, especially the public meeting;
- Submission to the authority of the church leadership in the limited areas of their authority. This is done on the understanding that this authority will be exercised in love and with a servant heart;
- But for exceptional circumstances, serving on the basic rosters of the church, even if you don't ordinarily attend that service;
- But for exceptional circumstances, not holding church partnership with and/or significant involvement in another church at the same time;
- Generous and self-sacrificial financial support of Crossroads church. If you would like to organise for Direct Debiting, our Account name is "Crossroads Presbyterian Church" and our Account number is 700010289415 of the Commonwealth Bank, Hobart.

## Coming into partnership

- It is appropriate to have a public announcement of your joining the church. We recommend inviting you before the church for a brief introduction, interview and welcome. However a simple announcement is also an option.
- We would also like to publish your contact details in our public church roll which is made available to the church. Please inform us if you do not want your contact details made public.

## Communication at Crossroads

- There are three main ways that the leaders of Crossroads communicate with our church partners: through the announce@ emails, through the church website and through the 'community life' slot during our public meetings.
- There are three main ways that church partners can communicate with leaders of the church: through filling out response forms, through personal contact, through the [info@crossroadshobart.org](mailto:info@crossroadshobart.org) email list.