

Partnership

AT ONE HOPE
COMMUNITY CHURCH





We've loved getting to know you while you've been at One Hope and we believe that the next step of partnership is an exciting one.

This booklet outlines what it means to be a partner here, as well as more detail around what we believe.

As part of the wider family of Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, there are other documents, such as 'The Church Order of the CRCA,' which can give more detail around governance and ministry practice.





Our Vision

MOVING

PEOPLE

IN FOLLOWING

CHRIST

Our Strategy

DEVELOPING AND SENDING
PEOPLE TO;

GROW DISCIPLES

CARE FOR
PEOPLE

REACH THE
WORLD

Our Values

WE HAVE TWO PRIME VALUES;

DEPENDENDING ON GOD

Relying on God's grace, His Word and the Holy Spirit, we seek to worship Him as we live out His mission. The Bible is our authority and foundation and prayer is necessary.

and

DISCIPLING PEOPLE

Living out God's grace, we seek to intentionally disciple people by pointing them to Jesus. We want to be a people who love and serve each other and the world around us, as we follow Jesus together.

Our Beliefs

As a Christian Reformed Church, what we believe can be summarised in the following statements. These are key areas of doctrine, some of which are shared by all Christian churches and based upon the Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian creeds. Other aspects are more distinct to Reformed theology, which is based upon documents such as the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort.

THE WORD

Our beliefs are based on the Bible, the Word of God, contained in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, different humans were led to write, and over time collate, these books. We believe the Bible is infallible, in that it is completely reliable and trustworthy, it is inerrant and without fault, and that it is sufficient in containing the will of God and reveals all we need to know to be saved and follow Christ. The Bible is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

Bible Passages: Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5; Isa. 55:10-11; John 5:39; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21

THE TRINITY

There is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, and exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each is fully God, equal with the other and not to be blended or divided. The Creator of the universe, God is eternal and all-knowing, sustaining and ruling over all things, providentially bringing about His eternal good purposes for the sake of His glory and His people.

Bible Passages: Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 8:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2

THE FALL

When God created our universe it was “very good”. Humanity, created in the image of God, rebelled against Him, bringing sin, failing, frustration, pain and despair to every aspect of this world. Whether we realise it or not, we all live in rebellion against God, by nature and also by choice. The theological term, ‘total depravity’ sums up our fallen nature, teaching that without God’s intervention, humanity have neither desire nor ability to worship or honour Him, and are headed for eternal separation from him.

Bible Passages: Gen. 3; 1 Kings 8:46; Rom. 2:9-18; Rom. 3:1-12; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1-4

COVENANT/ELECTION

The Bible tells us that God has always planned the rescue of human beings and the redemption of creation. While human sin grieves God greatly, he is not prepared to leave people in their rebellion. Instead, by pure grace, God elects and calls those whom He would save. God initiates a covenant with His people, promising to be their God and to save, rather than destroy.

Bible Passages: Gen. 8:8-17; Mark 13:20; John 15:16; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-14; 2 Tim. 1:9-10

JESUS CHRIST

The Bible points people to Jesus Christ. He is the second person of the Trinity, without beginning or end. Jesus took on the human nature, born of the virgin Mary, meaning Jesus is fully God and fully man. He has died for our sins and been exalted to reign over the universe. We proclaim Him to be the Lord and Saviour, believing that no one can come to God except through Jesus Christ.

Bible Passages: Isa. 7:14; John 1:1-14; John 8:58; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-13

THE HOLY SPIRIT

People can only come to faith in Jesus Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit. By inspiring and illuminating the Word of God, the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, leads us to the truth and reveals Jesus to us. The Holy Spirit indwells all who believe in Jesus, a sign of our future resurrection and union with God. The Spirit begins a work of renewal and sanctification, by producing fruit in our lives and gifts us to serve each other, overall seeking to enable us to glorify the Father and make us more Christ-like.

Bible Passages: John 14, Gal. 5:22-26, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4

THE CHURCH

God's people are not confined to one denomination, one nation or one time. Rather, every person who follows Jesus is part of the family of God, the body of Christ, the Church. God's people are called to serve Him alone, and demonstrate faith by loving each other and sharing the Gospel. The Church is the corporate dwelling place of God's Spirit and His continuing witness in the world.

Bible Passages: Matt. 5:13-16; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 12:12-28; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 2:9-10



THE FUTURE

We wait in expectant hope for Jesus to return, judge the living and the dead, and consummate the Kingdom of God. At that time, the whole universe will be purged of all sin and death. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, with those who believe in Jesus receiving eternal life in heaven, and those who continued their rejection of Him receiving eternal punishment in hell.

The universe will be restored to perfection, and our Father will abolish mourning, crying and pain, ensuring that all wrong will be made right. This wonderfully recreated universe, and every creature in it, will only honour God and this is the life of peace and joy we all deeply long for. It is already guaranteed because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and the Holy Spirit dwells within the Church. Those who follow Jesus today are assured that His grace will carry them home to heaven.

Bible Passages: Matt. 24 & 25; John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; Phil. 1:6; Titus 2:11-14; Rev. 21 & 22

The Sacraments

We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordained by Jesus himself. Baptism is connected with entrance into the new covenant community, the Church, while the Lord's Supper is connected with ongoing covenant renewal. Together, they are simultaneously God's pledge to us, a means of grace, our public vow of submission and surrender to Jesus, and an anticipation of His return and the restoration of all things.



BAPTISM

The Bible teaches that children are part of God's covenant community, therefore we practice infant baptism. A child's baptism does not imply a child has faith, or that their parent's faith is somehow passed to them, nor does it guarantee they will have faith at some later date. Baptism is a sign of the promises of God to be their God. When adults are baptised, the message is the same. There's hardly a better reason for celebration in the church than to see these promises so clearly displayed, and better still, accepted. Our typical method of baptism is sprinkling and pouring, but the mode is not important. What is important is what baptism signifies: the certainty of God's promise of forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus Christ.

Bible Passages: Acts 2:37-41, Acts 16:13-15; 33-34; 1 Cor. 1:16

LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a unifying meal of reflection, remembrance and celebration. The Supper is only open to those who have a living relationship with Jesus Christ and who place their total confidence in him. Jesus always welcomes all those who are sincerely sorry for their sins and who renew their promise to live a godly life to partake in the Supper and follow Him.

Bible Passages: Luke 22:7-30; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 10:15-17; 1 Cor. 11:23-26, 1 Cor. 11:27-29

Partnership

We believe the church is to be a vibrant body of believers who follow Jesus, partnering together to fulfil His call and mission. Throughout the New Testament, the church is described as a body, with each part integral to the whole (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:12-16).

We desire to see the body working well together, and believe this happens best when all members work, serve and witness with each other as partners.

Becoming a partner is a statement of commitment. It says that you are here for the long haul, supporting the ministry and direction of One Hope Community Church. Having committed partners working together is part of having a strong and healthy church.



Our church has various categories of partnership which develop over time as people grow in their faith to increasing levels of commitment to God and their church. This journey begins as people become connected to our community and continues as they begin to know Jesus and grow into mature Christians.

At One Hope, partners are considered members of the Incorporated Body. This allows us to fulfill our legal obligations. Therefore, partners take responsibility for the important issues in the church such as electing new leaders, voting on important questions that affect the long term development of the church, matters of stewardship and finance, expansion of facilities, etc.



Categories of Partnership

Partnership categories are ways to reflect a person's relationship to Christ and His church at One Hope. They show how the nature of an individual's relationship also corresponds to certain roles and privileges within the church. Their aim is to provide a guide for people who may wish to become part of One Hope and to clarify our structure of partnership and leadership.

The general principle behind categories is the Biblical principle of 'proven-ness' in which the church observes a person's confession, character, commitment and skills. For example, baptism and confessing Christ are powerful indicators of faith. In Acts 6:3 the church was instructed to "choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom." Also in 1 Tim. 3:6, Paul makes it clear that leaders were not to be in the category of recent converts. The following partnership categories act as a pathway to help people become fully integrated into the life of Christ and His church.

ASSOCIATE
PARTNER

CONFESSING
PARTNER

MINISTRY
PARTNER



ASSOCIATE PARTNER

Someone who is connected to One Hope as a regular visitor or a baptised person, but who has not yet done a public profession of faith. Such a person will be encouraged to full faith and profession of Christ. In the meantime, while they may be invited to help in ministry in One Hope, they will not be invited to take significant leadership, nor will they be able to vote on church matters or attend Lord's Supper until they publicly do a profession of faith.

CONFESSING PARTNER

Someone who has made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ either at One Hope or in another Christian church. Such a person will be invited to attend Lord's Supper and may serve in ministries in more significant ways. Yet they may not lead a ministry nor be invited to vote in matters pertaining to the running of One Hope until they agree to One Hope's Partnership Covenant and become a ministry partner.



MINISTRY PARTNER

Someone who wants to be fully committed to One Hope as their local church. They show this by agreeing (as a rule by signing) to One Hope's Partnership Covenant (see page 25). A ministry partner will be invited to vote on church matters, but will not yet be invited to take key leadership roles until they are confirmed by the Leadership Team.

Our hope is that every person at One Hope will become a Ministry Partner.

Leadership

There are a few different categories of Leadership at One Hope Community Church:

The **Leadership Team** is made up of Elders and Ministry Partners who demonstrate a consistent Spirit-filled life, leadership heart, gifts and abilities. The Leadership Team is responsible for forming and guarding the vision and direction of One Hope, along with spiritual oversight of the activities of the church. Membership on the Leadership Team is affirmed by the congregation.

Deacons are nominated by the Leadership Team, and affirmed by the church. They have a heart for people and gifts in serving. Working with the Leadership Team, deacons are responsible for the physical and pastoral care of our congregation and community. They help lead and move different groups, such as the Care Team, to ensure this happens.

Ministry Leaders are people who have a proven spiritual life and leadership heart, gifts and abilities. They are responsible for the outworking of the vision and direction of the church in their specific ministry or area. Working closely with the Leadership Team, these leaders will be responsible for structuring and implementing One Hope's objectives and goals.

Partnership Life

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our Sunday services are a huge part of our church life. We believe that not just regular attendance, but active engagement, is key to growing through the teaching, prayer, worship and relationships. It can take time to feel at home within a community, but your regular presence at Sunday services helps to build not only your sense of fellowship, but that of others too – whereby our connecting with Jesus provides an anchor for us to connect with each other.



LIFE GROUPS

A Life Group is a group of 6-16 people who gather regularly to grow disciples, care for people and reach the world. This takes place as we share our lives with one another, worship and pray, engage with the Bible and pursue God's mission together.

Groups meet at least once a fortnight and are vital in seeing the vision and goals of One Hope lived out. As part of the body, we desire all partners to be active participants in a Life Group and as they do so, they would grow in following Christ and help others do the same.

GROW GROUPS

The purpose of a Grow Group is to see people grow in following Christ. Grow Groups are usually a group of 3-4 people of the same gender, creating a context for more in-depth conversation and honesty. Meeting regularly, these groups are focused on Scripture, accountability and prayer.



GIVING



We would like to encourage you to think and earnestly pray about your giving to the work of the church. Giving is not just about handing over money, it reflects a life dedicated to God. Giving financially flows from a deep understanding of the generosity & provision of God (2 Cor. 9:8- 11; Matt. 6:19-34), God's mission for the church (Matt. 28:19-20) and the principle of good stewardship of all of God's resources, including time, abilities and material possessions (Matt. 25:14-30), whereby we believe that it is more blessed to give rather than receive (Acts 20:35).

Tithing is a helpful guideline for portioning money specifically to the church, providing we do not see it as a legalistic requirement nor pride ourselves when we give 10% but have the capacity to give more. At One Hope we have a pledging system that helps with ministry planning and holds us accountable for supporting God's calling on our church.

In all of this, we recognise everyone's situation is different, but also recognise God's call to each of us to be positive and generous in supporting kingdom ministry and mission, in and through the church.

SERVING

The Bible teaches that within the body, we have different gifts and roles to serve within the church and also as part of God's mission in this world (Rom. 12:4-8; Eph. 4:12-16). We desire to see all partners using their gifts as part of the ministry and mission of One Hope.

Practically speaking, all partners are part of the 'hospitality roster', which involves set-up and pack-up on a Sunday morning, as well as serving and providing morning tea. Partners are rostered on together and it is a great way to get to know people more, as well as being a simple step in getting more involved.

CHURCH DIRECTION

Our desire is that all partners are actively involved in the life of the church, including helping shape and participate in the future direction of One Hope. Our Leadership Team is responsible for the vision and direction of the church, but recognise that is accomplished by leading and listening. We encourage all partners to bring ideas and feedback, and be active in communication with Leadership. This includes, but isn't limited to, being part of our regular Prayer and Share meetings, as well as voting on important matters.

PRAYER

Absolute, consistent dependency on God is what enables the Church to bear fruit that lasts. We hope that all partners would be engaged in regular prayer for One Hope, as well as the Church, as God's word urges us to prayer for 'all the Lord's people' (Eph. 6:18).

Whether this is in your private prayer life, at a specific prayer event, during a Sunday service or within a ministry or group, may we all pray without ceasing for God's glory, His Kingdom and all our needs.

ACTION

If going through the areas above has sparked something in you to get involved or act, please let us know and we would love to help facilitate that. Whether that is details around giving, joining a Life Group or getting plugged into a ministry, we are excited for your partnership at One Hope and for what they will do in your life and the life of our church and the Kingdom of God.

Contacting the church office is the best place to start, and they can point you in the right direction. Email admin@ohcc.com.au or phone (03) 9759 9155.

Partnership Covenant

I, _____, being a
Confessing Partner as outlined in the One Hope
Community Church Partnership Pathway, do hereby wish
to further my commitment and become a Ministry Partner.

I want to follow a life journey which continually brings
me closer to Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. I am in
agreement with the vision and structure of this church
and I now pledge my support as an active Ministry
Partner of One Hope Community Church. With the help
of the Holy Spirit and the support of the church
community I commit myself to God and to the other
partners to do the following:



I will protect the unity of One Hope
by acting in love toward others.
by refusing to gossip.
by supporting and encouraging.

I will share the vision of One Hope
by praying for its growth.
by submitting to the leadership.
by supporting its goals.

I will serve the ministry and mission of One Hope
by discovering and using my gifts.
by being equipped to serve.
by developing a servant's heart.

I will support the testimony of One Hope
by participating faithfully.
by living a godly life.
by giving regularly.
by witnessing to the community.



ONE HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

10am Sunday Mornings;
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