

# SYDNEY PRESBYTERY – VALUES AND CULTURE



## Christ-Centredness

As a Presbytery our values are shaped by Jesus. We work together trusting that all people in the life of our Presbytery are responding to the love of God shown in Jesus in their own lives, by loving others and serving in the life of the church and our communities. We commit to worshipping together, praying for each other, and mutually discerning Christ's calling to us through the Spirit.

## Diversity

Our Presbytery has a breadth of theology, scriptural interpretation, cultures, language, traditions, gender and sexuality, age, wisdom, experience. We respect our differences and celebrate our diversity.

## Missional Leadership

We seek members, congregational leaders and Ministry Agents who understand the Australian multi/cross-cultural, pluralistic context. They can hear the Spirit, leading others to follow Jesus in these times. Missional leaders listen for what God is doing and join in. They are visionary, courageous and innovative. Risk-taking in this context is encouraged. Congregations, agencies and their members will be challenged, trained and equipped to lead the church to life.

## Collaboration

We work collaboratively in our life and work together. This is grounded in a shared sense of accountability and responsibility to each other. It requires teamwork, patience, empathy, love, and a willing participation in Presbytery life.

## Faithful Oversight

We nurture and encourage leaders who participate in the Presbytery's work of oversight. We recognise that often committees, agents, staff and appointees acting on behalf of, or as the Presbytery, will be engaged in robust or difficult decision-making. We all enter those conversations and processes with respect, seeking to discern the movement of the Spirit together. This requires trust and openness.

## Relationships

We look for and celebrate the best in each other. We view each other with generosity of spirit – seeing the good in each other and seeking to encourage one another, with honesty, openness and respect.

## Celebration

Drawn by the future not driven by the past, we celebrate the church coming to life in unity with Christ. We celebrate our diversity, through our missional leadership, in collaboration, under faithful oversight and in our relationships.

## The Purpose of this Document

The PRC believes that as a Presbytery we have much to celebrate, uphold and pass on in our life together. We think intentionally naming that which we value and hope to be, will assist us to work more effectively with each other regardless of similarities and our differences. In particular we hope naming these values will:

- Help all consultative committees be clearer about their ministry and work together with Congregations, agencies, Ministers, and other leaders.
- Help JNC's identify Ministers who are 'best fit'.
- Help Ministers identify if they sense the call of God to the life of our Presbytery.
- Help Congregations determine who they might elect as Presbytery reps.
- Foster honest conversations about our culture and values.

## The Place of this Document

Being able to name...

- Our **Values** (attitudinal guidelines for behaviour, interaction and decision-making)
- alongside our **Passion** (what we strive to achieve)  
*Thriving, well-resourced, missional churches.*
- alongside our **Mission** (the difference we are making in our sphere of influence)  
*Leading the Church to Life.*
- alongside our **Focus Areas** (where we focus our gifts, time, resources and energy)  
*Flourishing Leaders, Fruitful Congregations, Faithful Oversight and Future Growth.*

...will hopefully enable us as Sydney Presbytery to know what is mutually expected as we engage in our interactions and corporate church life together. It should guide our mission plans, our consultations, and our presbytery deliberations. It should also help us in calling ministers, to identify 'match', as well as help anybody entering presbytery life for the first time, complementing what we believe and what we hope to achieve: this is who we are.

## The Power of this Document

This document identifies glimpses of who we already are and are striving to be. It is 'now and not yet', aspirational and invitational. It is not regulatory, trying to embed who we have to be. The PRC sees it best as a tool for hope and encouragement, not as a weapon for admonishment.

