

NGPC MEMBERSHIP INTRODUCTION

WHAT DOES THE PCA BELIEVE?

We are Reformed:

Our theology (what we believe) is evidenced in the Westminster Confession of Faith but might be summarised by a commitment to the following distinctives:

- Salvation by grace Salvation by Grace through faith - Eph. 2:8-9.
- Covenant theology Abrahamic Covenant (fulfilled in Jesus' birth/seed) Gal.3:7-9, 16-19.
 New Covenant (fulfilled in Jesus' death) 1Cor. 11:23-25.
 David Covenant (fulfilled in Jesus' ascension) Acts 2:29ff.
- Sovereignty of God Election, chosen predestination - Eph:1-11; Rom. 8:28ff; 2Peter 1:3-4.
- Centrality of the gospel Rom. 1:16; 2Cor 4:4-6.
- Covenant baptism: All covenants have signs (tree, rainbow, circumcision and baptism).
 All covenants include believers and their children (Gen. 12Acts 2:39).
 Baptism is not a sign of faith but the righteousness that is had by faith
 (Rom. 4:11) and a sign and seal of what God has promised to do when the
 conditions of the covenant are met (repentance and faith).
 Baptism symbolises the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and signifies and seals
 our union with Christ – a sign of the righteousness that may be had by faith.

While elders are required to believe and uphold the above as leaders in the PCA, members are only required to believe the gospel and have a credible profession of faith. In other words, the entry into God's Church (family) is the gospel alone.

We are Evangelical:

We are focussed on the gospel, proclaiming the truth about Jesus the Christ, his life, death, resurrection, ascension and his glorious return. As evangelicals, we believe the good news (gospel) is centred around the promises of salvation that are all fulfilled in Jesus (Luke 24:27) and so we confidently offer salvation to all who turn to Jesus in repentance and faith (Rom. 10:9).

We are Missional:

We intentionally adopt a missional culture (posture, thinking, behaviours, and practices of a missionary) in order to make disciples who make disciples in every sphere of life.

Questions:

- Have you been baptised as a child or an adult?
- Do you have any questions about the gospel?
- Can you confidently respond to the good news in repentance and faith?
- Are there areas of being Reformed, evangelical or missional that raise questions for you?

HOW IS THE PCA GOVERNED?

Presbyterian (refers to rule by eldership)

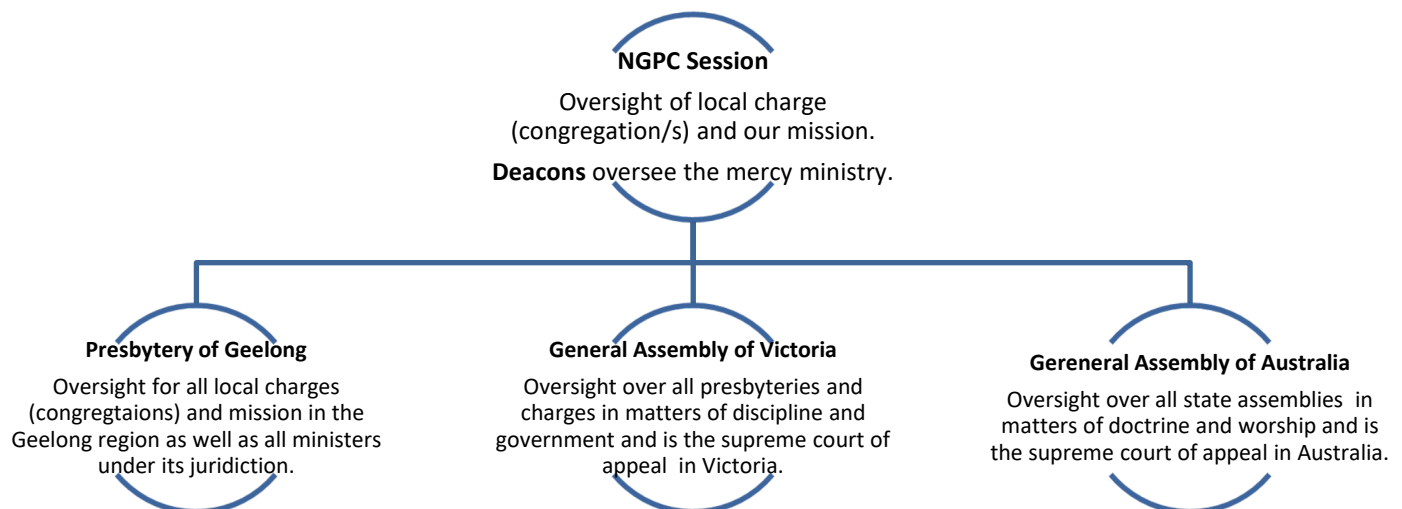
- Session
(All the NGPC elders meeting together monthly).
- Presbytery
(A minister and elder from every congregation in the Presbytery meeting bi-monthly).
- General Assembly of Victoria
(A minister and elder from every congregation in Victoria meeting annually).
- General Assembly of Australia
(Representative ministers and elders from every Presbytery in Australia meeting every four years).

Elders in the PCV are biblically qualified males only - 1Tim. 3:17; Titus 1:5-9.

Members willingly submit to their elders - Hebrews 13:17.

Each member will be allocated under the care of an elder who will visit and encourage you in your faith. If you have any questions or needs, speak to your elder, and he will be glad to help you. Of course, you can talk to any of the leaders at NGPC, and they are all accessible, including Darren.

NGPC also is served by deacons (3), who are concerned with the mercy ministry of the church, whereas the elders are concerned with the gospel ministry of the church. The deacon's focus is the physical, the elder's focus is the spiritual. Of course, at times, these things overlap, and the elders and the deacons work together as required.



Questions:

Do you have any questions about how Presbyterians order their churches?

Do you have any concerns about submission to the leadership?

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES OR RIGHTS COME WITH MEMBERSHIP?

- A commitment to make every effort to grow in grace and fulfil your call to the work of ministry - Eph. 4:12.
- A commitment to serve Christ with time, finance and gifts and live and witness to Him - Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 12:1-8; 2Cor 9:7.
- A commitment to submit to your local elders as they serve you, the congregation and mission - Heb. 13:17.
- A responsibility to vote for and call a pastor.
- A responsibility to vote in elections.

Public Profession of Faith Questions

- Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- Do you repent of your sin, and with a humble and grateful heart put your trust in the mercy and grace of God and in Jesus Christ whose sacrifice on the cross takes away your sin?
- Do you promise to share regularly with your fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's Day?
- Do you promise to be faithful in reading the Bible and in prayer?
- Do you promise to love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength and to give a God-honouring proportion of your time, talents and money for the Church's work in the world?
- Do you promise to confess Christ before others, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?
- Do you acknowledge your dependence upon the Holy Spirit to equip you and to enable you to be faithful to this your confession?
- Do you promise to submit to the authority of the Session as they exercise pastoral oversight of the congregation?

NGPC MISSION MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY.

We believe we are called to live out the **Great Commandments** as we go about the **Great Commission - disciples making disciples.**

Since Jesus gave his church a mission ***"...to make disciples of all nations..."*** (Matt. 28:18-20), he also gave his church the gift of elders whose task it is ***"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry..."*** and mission (Eph. 4:10-12). The church cannot fulfil her calling if the elders do not fulfil theirs.

Therefore, the leadership at NGPC are concerned to equip all God's people for ministry and mission and encourages and expects that everyone will seek to grow in grace as they follow and serve Jesus the Christ. Since the mission is one that we do together, our week mid-week meetings are a vital aspect of not only teaching but also encouraging, serving, and loving one another. The Apostle Paul said to the church in Thessalonica that they were pleased ***"...to share not only the gospel of God, but also our very own selves."*** (1Thess 2:8).

NGPC will work hard to create a congregation that has a rich and thick gospel community. We hope each of our members will share that commitment, along with their very own selves. Our elders are also there to serve you, so if you have any concerns, questions, suggestions or needs please see any of our elders, and they will be glad to help you.

Questions:

Do you have any questions about the culture and mission of NGPC?

Do you have any questions about the responsibilities or rights as members you would like to discuss?