

Our ethos



The ethos team (2021-22), in consultation with the network, submits their completed work to Conference Executive, it includes an introduction, seven statements expanded with scriptures and three recommendations for the use and practical application of ethos within the network.

The ethos of churches of Christ in NSW & ACT

We are a network of churches who desire to partner with God and the wider body of Christ in the restoration of all things. Our churches are diverse in expression but value a shared commitment to the Lordship of Jesus and to the simplicity of New Testament Christianity. We desire and seek unity among Jesus' disciples in order that we might bear witness to His grace and glory.

Our ethos stands alongside our shared history and common practices. It exists to give us a common language to name our culture, who we are, what we are for and how we will be together, as a network of churches in this time and place. The seven statements, and the scriptures which expand them, help us to live out our shared values. Our ethos is a living document that will continue to be refreshed as frequently as the times and context necessitate.

The ethos statements

We are **SENT**
– with Kingdom Priorities



Matthew 28:18-20,
Matthew 4:17, Matthew 22:1-14,
Luke 19:10, Ephesians 2:8-10,
4:11-15, John 17, 2 Corinthians
5:14-15, Daniel 2:44

We proclaim and demonstrate with compassion the good news of Jesus. We are sent by Him into the world, with a personal and shared mission to make disciples. Within this mission, larger than ourselves, we work with others to see His Kingdom come.

We are **ADVENTUROUS**
– in Restoration



Isaiah 43:18-19,
Matthew 13:52, Acts 1:8,
Matthew 9:14-17, 1 Peter 3:15,
1 Chronicles 28:20, Isaiah 41:10.

We courageously bear witness to Jesus in our rapidly changing world with creativity and innovation, gentleness and respect. Holding methodology lightly, we actively restore New Testament patterns for the Christian life in fresh ways. With reflective experimentation, we persevere in our pioneering and we champion the 'have a go' mindset.

We are **EMPOWERED**
– By the Spirit



Galatians 5:16-26,
John 16:13-15, Ephesians
4:1-6, 6:12, 1 Corinthians
12:1-10, Romans 8:1-17, 12:3-8,
Ezekiel 36:26-27.

We rely on the indwelling power and counsel of the Holy Spirit, humbly offering our spiritual gifts in loving service to God and others. Conscious of the spiritual battle, we prayerfully walk in step with the Spirit bearing His fruit as He leads, guides and transforms us into the likeness of Jesus.

We are **ANCHORED**
- in the Scriptures



2 Timothy 3:16-17,
Luke 24:32, Hebrews 4:12,
John 1:1-5,14, Acts 17:11,
Joshua 1:8, Psalms 119:105,
Isaiah 40:8

We have the Scriptures as our anchor, tethering us to God and His redemptive story, preventing spiritual drift. In them, we find life-giving, soul-enriching and mission-equipping truth. They are complete within themselves, holding the place of God-given authority in the personal and shared Christian life. The Scriptures unify us in the essentials of faith, while also providing freedom for exploring the variety of application in love.

We are **ENGAGED**
- in Transformation



Romans 12:2,
John 10:10, Revelation 3:20,
Proverbs 27:17, Luke 22:19-20,
Romans 8:28-29, Psalms 51:10-12, Psalms 1:1-3.

We cultivate spiritual practises that awaken us to the presence of Jesus who transforms us by His Spirit into His likeness. We are invited into this formational process for the Glory of God, the blessing of others and the abundance of our own lives. We navigate life's experiences of suffering and joy together through the sharing of story, discernment, affirmation and communion.

We are **WELCOMED**
- into Family



Romans 12:9-16, Romans 6:3,
Galatians 3:28, 6:2, John 1:12-13, 1 John 3:16,
Philippians 2:5-11, Ephesians 1-32:11-22, Matthew 18

We are baptised into Christ, who makes us family with both God and each other. We acknowledge that our bonds of spiritual connection are life-giving, the breaking of which can result in hurt and loss. From a place of genuine connection and mutual accountability we sacrificially love, honour and support one another, from generation to generation.

We are **ALONGSIDE**
- in Service



Galatians 6:2,
Ephesians 4:10-13,
Philippians 2:5-11,
John 13:12-17, Mark 10:43-45,
1 Peter 2:9, Isaiah 58:6-12.

We embrace humble service that equips and empowers the body of Christ, releasing the priesthood of all believers. We express this by working together, bringing a mutual offering of love, gifts and resources for the extension of His Kingdom.