



## Code of Conduct For Staff and Volunteers

Adopted by the Steering Committee on 14th February 2022.

### Purpose

The Church is committed to creating safe spaces where people can be confident that they will be cared for, nurtured and encouraged as they grow and at the same time, protected from spiritual, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

As part of this commitment, staff and volunteers are required to sign and abide by this Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct sets out the following:

- the ministry commitments of staff and volunteers
- minimum behavioural standards and appropriate boundaries required of staff and volunteers;
- the obligation of staff and volunteers to comply with Safe Church Policy and Procedures; and
- the steps to be taken in the event of a potential breach of this Code.

The Code of Conduct seeks to reflect the biblical call to godliness and faithfulness in ministry (eg. 1 Timothy 3) but it is not intended as a replacement for the Bible as a fundamental guide for faith and practice.

### Scope

The Code of Conduct applies to all staff and volunteers aged 16 and over.

### The Code of Conduct should be read in conjunction with the Safe Church Policy and:

- *Procedure for Staff and Volunteers*
- *Procedure for Responding to Child Protection Concerns*
- *Procedure for Handling Complaints against Staff and Volunteers*
- *Procedure for Conflict Resolution*

## 1. *Staff and Volunteers are encouraged to:*

### Nurture their own relationship with God

- join regularly in the life and ministry of the Church;
- study and reflect on the Scriptures in private and in groups;
- pray regularly in private and in fellowship with and for the people and ministry of the Church; and
- give of your time and finances to the work of the Church, as an expression of our gratitude to God.

### Nurture healthy relationships:

- treat others with respect;
- love and care for your family (including paying attention to the effect of ministry on them);
- be a team player;
- be accountable
- cooperate with other staff and volunteers
- treat every program participant fairly and equitably
- acknowledge when I am out of my depth, or do not possess the required skill set in difficult pastoral situations (such as helping a victim of abuse, or a person who needs professional counselling), and seek help from the Safe Church Team or a Pastor;

### Read and understand the vision of Harbourside Church:

- to see a multi-generational church passionately worshipping the true and living God
- to reach out in sacrificial love to serve the community
- to support broken people as they work out how to love others deeply
- to see kids growing up in inspiring men and women of God
- to be part of a community that fosters encouragement and words of affirmation
- See *'The Church We See'* vision on the following page

# THE CHURCH WE SEE



We see a multi generational church passionately worshipping the true and living God. We see a church reaching out in sacrificial love to serve its community. We see a church that is full of broken people working out how to love each other deeply. We see a wave of people baptized in the harbour into the family of God in Jesus name.

We see a church seeking unity in Christ amongst the churches for His glory. We see a kid's ministry bursting at the seams with young people, learning they are not an accident but the creation of a loving God. We see kids growing up into inspiring men and women of God.

We see tears of joy at the restoration of broken lives. We see tears of laughter as we enjoy each others company because we are a community that doesn't take itself too seriously but takes Jesus very seriously. We see a community where encouragement and words of love and affirmation are not rare but commonplace, building each other up in Christ. We see tables groaning with delicious food as we celebrate God's goodness together. We see acquaintances becoming friends, becoming family.

We see leaders being raised up and sent out, empowered for what God has for them. We see people wrestling with what it means to love God wholeheartedly - in our workplaces, in our families our friendships. We see new people being warmly welcomed into a community they have never experienced before. We see people opening their homes in warm hospitality.

We see and hear modern expressions of worship being sung at the top of our lungs. We see the kingdom breaking through people's apathy. We see cracks opening and God's Spirit seeping through to reach the lost and the spiritually hungry. We see a team on our knees together begging God to pour out his Spirit on us and the people of this area. We see a team of committed people taking a stand saying we are in this; we will give ourselves to this adventure for the glory of Jesus Christ. We see the body of Christ using our gifts to launch this church. We see generosity that raises eyebrows and inspires others. We see Jesus saying I will build my church and the gates of hell will not over come it.

We see God moving.

We see **Harbourside Church.**

## 2. Staff and Volunteers commit to:

### As a staff member/volunteer of the Church, I promise to:

- a) uphold, support and abide by the Safe Church Policy;
- b) respond to reasonable directions from the person with responsibility for the ministry I am involved in;
- c) communicate with integrity, including wise and accountable use of electronic communication, including in accordance with Guidelines for Activities with Children and Young People
- d) not knowingly make false, misleading, or deceptive statements;
- e) not engage in bullying, harassment, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, of any person including my own family;
- f) not act violently or intentionally provoke violence;
- g) upholding confidentiality; not disclosing any confidential information without the consent of the person providing the information (the exception being where there is a legal obligation);
- h) report concerns about misconduct and/or abuse according to the Church's Safe Church Policy and relevant procedures;
- i) disclose all relevant information as part of completing the Screening Check Questionnaire if I have not already done so;
- j) disclose to the Church Leadership if I am investigated for any criminal offences or have any knowledge of serious unlawful activity within the church context.
- k) act with sexual purity, meaning I will:
  - express my sexuality in healthy and God directed ways;
  - restrict sexual intimacy to the confines of the marriage relationship
    - where marriage has the same meaning as in the Marriage Rites of the Baptist Union of Australia ie/ 'the union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life';
    - if an individual is unwilling or unable to commit to this requirement, church leaders may choose to endorse them as a volunteer for non-leadership roles
  - recognize that it is inappropriate to access any type of pornographic material and, if I struggle with this addiction, I will seek professional help;
  - ensure that romantic interactions are meaningfully consensual
  - give consideration to any power imbalances in intimate relationships.
- l) act with financial integrity, including:
  - having accountable and transparent systems in place for financial matters.
  - not seeking personal advantage or financial gain from our position (other than in wages, recognised allowances and deductions).
- m) not take or use property belonging to others without express consent, including intellectual property (copyright);
- n) not use any prohibited substance and be responsible in my use of substances that may be addictive (eg. prescriptions, alcohol);

- o) avoid ongoing counselling of people with whom I have pastoral relationships; and
- p) make alternative arrangements for pastoral ministry for any person with whom I may develop a romantic or intimate relationship.

### **3. *I understand that if there is a complaint against me relating to a breach of this Code of Conduct:***

- a) and it is a plausible complaint relating to Child Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct involving a child, the Church may ask me to step aside from my duties while the complaint is being considered; and/or
- b) if the complaint relates to serious misconduct and/or abuse (including Child Sexual Abuse) it will be reported to relevant government authorities in accordance with relevant legal requirements; and/or
- c) I agree to participate in any process initiated under the Procedure for Resolving Conflict, Procedure for Handling Complaints against Staff and Volunteers and/or Procedure for Responding to Child Protection Concerns and agree to be bound by the outcomes of any such process, which may include termination of my employment/engagement as a staff member or volunteer with the Church.

### **4. *If I am a Pastoral staff member, I:***

- a) agree to uphold and be bound by the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT Code of Ethics and Conduct;
- b) understand that a breach of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT Code of Ethics and Conduct will be considered a breach of this Code of Conduct;
- c) (if I am an Accredited or Recognised Minister) agree to participate in, and be bound by the outcomes of, any process initiated under the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT Procedures for Handling Allegations.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read, and agree to be bound by and uphold, the Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers.

Signature

Date

**NOTE: the staff member or volunteer should receive a copy of this Code of Conduct and the Church should retain the signed and dated copy of the Code of Conduct for at least 45 years.**