

About the Apostolic Church

Building lives - transforming communities



Within the Pentecostal movement, there are several denominations or families of churches which have arisen. The Apostolic Church is one of these. It began in 1916 from ministry which had flowed on from the Welsh Revival in 1904-5 and now has churches in over 40 countries. The Apostolic Church in Australia began in 1930.

In some ways the Apostolic Church isn't different at all from other denominations. It holds to all the early creeds of historic Christianity and is in perfect harmony with orthodox Christian doctrine. It is also in agreement with most other Pentecostal Churches. Like them, it believes worship should be vibrant, and that God's supernatural power is available for all Christians for daily living.

The major area of difference is in organisation. The Apostolic Church has attempted to follow what they see as the Biblical pattern of church government as recorded in the book of Acts. Accordingly, the church is governed by a Council of senior ministers, who are responsible for the continued wellbeing and growth of the people and churches in the denomination. This has meant that the church has been able to do things as a united national body, such as sending out missionaries to such diverse places as Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia and China and at the same time encourage each local congregation to become fully involved in its own local community.

For more information, visit the Apostolic Worldwide website www.apostolicworld.com or in Australia at www.apostolic.org.au

Ascension Ministries

The Apostolic Church recognises the ministry gifts given by Christ to build up the church as listed in Ephesians 4:11-12. This understands that apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are to lead the church and train the members to do the work in the church. This way each member has a contribution and the church is led and grown effectively.

While much of the broader Christian church now recognises that apostles and prophets exist today, the Apostolic Church actively views that some are called to these roles and this is to be recognised and developed. The role of ministry is to be connected to recognition of this calling by Christ, and not to be based only on academic qualifications or even gender.

Pastors have their calling by Christ recognised by the National and State Leadership Teams. Pastoral tenure is by their appointment. It is conditional on appropriate training and recognition of the ability to manage the role effectively. Pastors can be transferred at the direction of the National/State Leadership teams, but the pastor is always involved in any decision making. Long term pastoral tenure is favoured.

Administration & Structure

The Apostolic Church is led by the National Leadership Team. A National Eldership of mature church leaders (apostles) appoints this team of 8, including the role of National Leader and National Secretary. These positions are re-appointed every two years. The current National Leader is Dale Hewitt of Perth.

The National Leadership Team provides the direction and vision of the denomination. It supervises the national administration under the guidance of the National Secretary. It is active in supporting local churches and their leaders to be effective in their communities. The National Administration Office is at 216 Beales Rd, Greensborough 3088 in Melbourne.

There is a strong training stimulus for young leaders for the church. This is through active mentoring and Apostolic ministry internships, which involves intensive college study for 1 year combined with consistent involvement in the local church's activities and vision.

The Apostolic Church in Australia has a strong commitment to developing church growth overseas, especially throughout the south Pacific and Asia. This missions work through Apostolic Global Operations (AGO) is actively expanding. Local assemblies are encouraged to have direct connections with indigenous churches overseas.

Local assemblies (churches)

Locally assemblies operate more or less autonomously as they see appropriate under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They have the oversight of a superintendent minister (usually recognised as an apostle). A superintendent has responsibility for a group of assemblies (including his own local church).

Pastors are responsible for leading their assemblies. They usually manage the assembly working with an oversight group. This group varies from place to place, but often comprises of the assembly's elders. It serves as the major decision making body for the local church, rather than through congregational business meetings.

Elders and deacons are appointed annually and may be reappointed.

Finances

Tithes and offerings are taken into the local church funds. The National Office administers payment for the pastor's salary and expense account, church insurances, support to National administration and ministry development. Each assembly sends the National Office an amount weekly to cover this. The local assembly pays all other ongoing costs and holds the remaining funds. Appropriate accounting and annual auditing is required on all finances.

Apostolic Church Trust

This is the national legal entity for the purpose of property ownership or leasing, employment and related matters and other aspects of legal and corporate life. It is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee. All church property is held by the Trust on behalf of the local Apostolic assembly.

What We Believe:

WE BELIEVE IN...

- ✚ The One and living God, eternally existent in three persons in unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- ✚ The divine inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture.
- ✚ The inherent corruptness of man through the Fall; the necessity of repentance and regeneration by grace and through faith alone, and the eternal separation from God of the finally impenitent.
- ✚ The virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, triumphant resurrection, ascension and abiding intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ, his second coming and millennial reign.
- ✚ Justification and sanctification of the believer through the finished work of Christ.
- ✚ The sacraments of baptism by immersion and of the Lord's Supper.
- ✚ The security of the believer as he abides in Christ.
- ✚ The baptism of the Holy Spirit for believers, with signs following.
- ✚ The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit for the building up, training and the benefit of the Church which is the Body of Christ.
- ✚ Church government, ministry and administration by apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders and deacons.
- ✚ The privilege and responsibility of bringing tithes and offerings to the Lord.

