

thrive

CORE
COMMUNITY

2018

ABOUT THRIVE

MISSION

To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

VISION

To achieve our Mission through the “3 C’s” of **Connect, Contribute** and **Celebrate**.

To create relevant environments for people to **CONNECT** to Jesus and others; **CONTRIBUTE** to God’s Mission and purpose for Thrive and **CELEBRATE** transforming faith in Christ.

GOVERNANCE

Thrive Community Church Inc (“Thrive”) is an Incorporated Association and is an affiliated church with Fresh Hope (Churches of Christ in NSW and the ACT) – www.freshhope.org.au

Thrive is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

CORE COMMUNITY

Thrive is a community of followers of Christ, inviting others to journey with us in striving to live lives that are fully devoted to Christ. We seek to do this by creating relevant and engaging environments that facilitate people connecting with God and one another.

The Core Community are those individuals within our community that have committed to contribute to the life of Thrive and the furtherance of Thrive's vision and mission.

WHO ARE THE 'CORE COMMUNITY' OF THRIVE?

In a more traditional church, these would be the "members of the Church". Thrive does not have a "roll of members" and refers to those individuals who have stated their commitment to Thrive (and its Christian values, vision and mission) as the Thrive Core Community.

The Thrive Core Community is the "heart and soul" of Thrive. Thrive is led by a Board with both ministry and secular experience of between 5 to 9 Board Members. The most senior ministry role (which can be referred to as Executive Pastor, Lead Pastor or Senior Pastor) is a Member of this Board.

Anyone can be nominated as a Thrive Board Member by an existing Member of the Thrive Board (recommendations may come from the Core via an existing Member of the Thrive Board). By convention, anyone nominated to the Thrive Board is required to be a Thrive Core Community participant and subscriber.

Being a member of the Thrive Core Community means taking responsibility and ownership of the vision, values and mission of Thrive and sharing the responsibility of being in an intentional faith community of followers of Christ.

WHY WE CALL PEOPLE TO BE PART OF THE CORE COMMUNITY?

- To provide an opportunity for people to commit to the ownership and furtherance of the vision and mission of Thrive.
- To provide a forum where opportunities for leadership and service can be discussed in a safe and open manner.

The Core Community is one of trust and safety, that allows those currently in Thrive leadership positions to provide updates on different areas and ministries within the Church, and where the Core Community participants can ask questions of leadership in an open and frank manner.

- So that people can express their thoughts, feedback, ideas and input into Thrive Community Church in light of the vision and mission.

UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES AM I REQUIRED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CORE COMMUNITY?

If you are a leader or serve in certain ministry teams Thrive requires a commitment to the statement of beliefs and to the vision and mission of Thrive.

Examples of voluntary service include: service leading; worship leading; children's ministry; youth ministry; connect group leading; and the Thrive Board.

CORE COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

A commitment to Faith:

- Confession of faith in Jesus Christ. One expression of this is to be baptised in water, however baptism is not a requirement to be part of the Core Community at Thrive.
- Acknowledgement of our statements of faith and beliefs (see attached).

A commitment to our vision and mission, to uphold our values of connection, contribution and celebration:

- **Connect** by
 - Connecting "UP" with regular prayer, worship and practices that deepen your relationship with God.
 - Connecting "IN" with other participants of the Thrive Community eg. attending a connect group; men's/women's dinners and events; pot-luck lunches; and connecting with members of a ministry team you're a part of.
 - Connecting "OUT" with people beyond our church with grace, hope and love. Supporting our mission in both the local and global communities.
- **Contribute** through
 - Serving: on one or more of the different Ministry teams within the Thrive community.
 - Testimony: sharing your story with others within Thrive, encouraging them to share their story.
 - Financial Support: contributing to the Thrive general budget and other programs being stewarded by Thrive such as Local and Global Impact projects.
- **Celebrate** with the church by
 - Attending regular weekend celebration gatherings.
 - Celebrating Jesus as resurrected King.
 - Celebrating the work of God in changed lives and changed communities (testimonies and stories of breakthrough).
 - Celebrating stories and answered prayer in a connect group or ministry team you're a part of.
 - Striving to attend Core Community gatherings.

ATTACHMENT 1: STATEMENT OF FAITH & BELIEFS

We believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus came to earth as God in human flesh to establish His Kingdom on earth and show us the way to know God and make us right with God.

We believe that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after he was crucified on Good Friday. His resurrection means that forgiveness for all sin is possible and eternal life is available for everyone who receives Christ as Lord. His resurrection is also the beginning of new creation and the first act of our future hope as a resurrection people.

We believe the Scriptures are the authoritative and inspired Word of God written by numerous authors; prophets and leaders throughout history. These people inspired by God wrote and recorded the great unfolding story of creation and redemption and the essential truths we need to understand who God is and what He desires us to do as His people.

We believe that Jesus will return again one day to judge the living and the dead and restore all things to right.

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts people of their need of Christ; renews and empowers believers to live a life fully devoted to Christ. The Spirit gives gifts to the church and individuals to strengthen and encourage the church community to be healthy and effective in proclaiming Jesus as LORD and living the life of faith.

We believe that spiritual gifts are used today and if used appropriately and in love will bring blessing and encouragement.

We believe that God loves every person and desires that everyone come to know him as Saviour and Lord.

We believe that church is a community of followers of Christ that join together despite differences to encourage; learn; pray; worship and work together to fulfill the mission of God on earth. We join with followers of Jesus all around the world in proclaiming the good news that Jesus Christ is LORD and KING.

ATTACHMENT 2: THE NICENE CREED

Developed in the fourth century, the Nicene Creed is the most widely accepted statement of the Christian faith. It captures the core of historic Christianity as professed by Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant churches across the world.

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us humans and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit.

He was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son). With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.