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August 2021

# Purpose:

Our common calling in Christ for the sake of the world:

‘The purpose of the VCC is to be:

a living expression of Christian unity held in diversity,

a meeting place for Christian churches,

a distinctly Christian voice,

a vehicle of engagement with both the community and government in Victoria.’

Three Priorities:

1. *Communication:*
   1. a focused resource and reference point that holds together our different views
   2. connection point for member churches
   3. gather up and share what is happening in the ecumenical space in Victoria,
2. *Engagement* with
   1. the diversity of churches in Victoria
   2. other faiths
   3. government
   4. wider community and society at large
3. *Expression of the Christian faith in common cause*

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| SMART GOALS | 1. **Communication** | 1. **Engagement** | 1. **Common Cause/Witness** |
| Specific | 1. **Internal Communication**    1. Maintaining an internal database of resources and contacts.    2. Sharing resources between the churches through the VCC    3. regular reporting of governance matters 2. **External Communication**    1. Social media – management of facebook page    2. Monthly newsletter    3. Website    4. Share and report and hear from the different denominations and VCC. 3. **Church Leaders**    1. Communication with church leaders    2. Holding of regular meetings of church leaders and information sharing    3. reporting to the church leaders from the VCC    4. reports of outcomes from the church leaders’ meetings outcomes. 4. *Communication with* ***Member Churches*** ‘*Using* ***VCC commissions*** *in gathering together churches in dialogue’* | 1. VCC facilitates **representation** of diverse views of churches to the State Government 2. **communicating decisions** from the State Government to the churches 3. **working with other faiths** in terms of dialogue in practical action. 4. active **sharing of experience and resources** between member churches 5. VCC as a **catalyst** to help churches engage Share and report and hear from the different denominations and VCC with each other | 1. **coordinate** views from the various churches to articulate a **united** **statement** on behalf of the churches which has integrity for every member. 2. **Representation** of **diversity** of views to the wider community 3. churches work together in engaging with local community in **practical actions** to demonstrate common cause (eg Palm Sunday march, collective action for refugees) |
| Measurable | 1. **Internal Communication**   1.a  up to date internal database of contacts and resources before the next AGM (names, formal titles, church phone numbers, address, email, role, websites)  1.b  response to a request for a resource within a week  1.c   1. Risk register dealt with at each meeting 2. Finance committee reports to each meeting 3. President and CEO provide report to each meeting 4. Commissions report regularly (every 6 months) 5. Special projects are reported on regularly 6. **External Communication**   2.a  social media platforms and website are regularly updated  2.b & c  Facilitate member churches to provide items for facebook or website  2.d  Reports of number of visitors to website and facebook   1. **Church Leaders**   3.a & b  Quarterly meetings of church leaders  3.c & d  Reporting of attendance at church leaders and any outcomes   1. commissions regularly report to VCC Standing committee (every 6 months) written reports and invited to the meetings. 2. Reporting to AGM 3. Visit member churches once a year | 1. *VCC facilitates* ***representation*** *of diverse views of churches to the State Government*  1.a. Harnessing different views of the church leaders and sharing those views  1.b Regular communication meetings with state bodies through the leaders of churches or through the staff  *2.* ***communicating decisions*** *from the State Government to the churches*  a. Communicating opportunities for consultation to church leaders  b. facilitate dialogue on those issues with churches   1. Communicating specific decisions and from State Government to church leaders   **3. *working with other faiths*** *in terms of dialogue in practical action.*   * 1. Communicating opportunities for consultation to church leaders   2. facilitate dialogue on those issues with churches   3. Communicating common issues and from multi faith communities to church leaders   4. *active* ***sharing of experience and resources*** *between member churches*   * 1. be the clearing house to facilitate sharing of information and resources– eg larger congregations sharing resources that they’ve developed with smaller churches – eg OH&S safe churches, risk management.   *VCC as a* ***catalyst*** *to help churches engage with each other*   * 1. Facilitate church engagement with each other through the various commissions eg faith and order &   VCCEM | 1. ***coordinate*** *views from the various churches to articulate a* ***united******statement*** *on behalf of the churches which has integrity for every member.*    1. Monitor issues as they arise and have a process for consultation in terms of local and national & international events    2. Issuing statements on which we agree regarding these events in consultation with church members and NCCA. 2. ***Representation*** *of* ***diversity*** *of views to the wider community*    1. Communicating opportunities for consultation with church leaders about issues in community    2. facilitate dialogue on those issues between churches and the wider community    3. Communicating common issues and from wider communities with church leaders. Eg seminars on issues of concern 3. *churches work together in engaging with local community in* ***practical actions*** *to demonstrate common cause (eg Palm Sunday march, collective action for refugees)*   working with member churches to represent distinctive Christian voice on a variety of issues such as climate change, refugees, poverty, family violence, and other issues that impact on dignity of the human being (United Nations Sustainable Goals) |
| SMART GOALS | **Communication** | **Engagement** | **Common Cause/Witness** |
| Relevant | 1.a  enables members of churches to easily communicate with each other  1.b  ease of sharing common resources between members   1. builds and strengthens connections between member churches 2. sharing of information between churches | Issues of focus related to engagement will be relevant to churches and the wider community | Issues of focus related to common cause will be relevant to churches and the wider community |
| Timely | 1.a  list of contacts from Ian before the AGM in July  1.b   1. logging requests 2. any request for sharing of resources be done in a timely manner (eg a week)   1.c each agenda contains these items  2. weekly update of website and facebook and monthly publication of newsletter  3. Annual Reports and Audited Accounts circulated and presented to AGM | a. at least 3x a year communication with church leaders   * 1. At least 2x a year for church leaders to meet with government   2. weekly update of website and facebook and monthly publication of newsletter | * 1. have a standing item on the agenda of standing committee on pressing issues   2. weekly update of website and facebook and monthly publication of newsletter |