

SIX KEY PRINCIPLES FOR A THRIVING AUSTRALIAN CHURCH IN 2035

1 Transformational & Accountable Leadership

Future church leaders will be visionary, transparent, collaborative, service-oriented and accountable.

Intergenerational leadership will be fostered, empowering Gen Z and beyond, while role modelling adaptability, resilience and innovation in a rapidly changing world calling out injustice and guiding with courage and compassion.

2 Radical Inclusion & Belonging

A future thriving church welcomes and includes *all* people.

It will provide safe, accessible, trauma-informed spaces where every person is valued, belongs, has a voice and can contribute their gifts.

3 Christ-Centred & Spiritually Authentic

A future thriving church will be grounded in Jesus' life and teaching, demonstrating the *'fruits of the spirit'*.

It will exhibit the Gospel with credibility and relevance helping shape the faith community, offering hope, healing and guidance for life's challenging questions and circumstances.

4 Community-Embedded & Justice-Oriented

A future thriving church will be present, engaged and active in their neighbourhoods, walking alongside, listening and responding appropriately to local needs and serving as a community hub.

It will champion the marginalised and advocate for equality in tangible ways.

5 Unified & Collaborative Across Divides

A future thriving church will work ecumenically and in interfaith partnerships, seeking common good, sharing concerns and collective action over competition.

It will be a peacemaker and bridge-builder, modelling respectful dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation for the flourishing of all.

6 Innovative & Future-Facing

A future thriving church will embrace creativity, technology, and new cultural realities without losing the Gospel's message.

It will respond to challenges of digital isolation, AI, mobility and generational change by reimagining worship, community and mission.

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The principles outlined above do not reflect the position of every contributor. Those involved in this project represent a range of theological perspectives, and while there were some differences in views, each contributor shared a commitment to see a thriving Australian church in 2035.

