



Northwest Christian Fellowship Karratha

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Place of Worship: SDA Community Hall, Galbraith Road.

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH AUSTRALIA

Within the Pentecostal movement, there are several denominations or families of churches which have arisen and 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.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

1. The One and living God eternally existent in three persons in unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. The divine inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture.
3. 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.
4. The virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, triumphant resurrection, ascension and abiding intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ, his second coming and millennial reign.
5. Justification and sanctification of the believer through the finished work of Christ.
6. The sacraments of baptism by immersion and of the Lord's Supper.

7. The security of the believer as he abides in Christ.
8. The baptism of the Holy Spirit for believers, with signs following.
9. The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the Church which is the Body of Christ.
10. Church government, ministry and administration by apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders and deacons.
11. The privilege and responsibility of bringing tithes and offerings to the Lord.

ASCENSION MINISTRIES

The distinctive of the Apostolic Church is the open recognition of the ministry gifts given by our Lord Jesus Christ to the church, and listed in Ephesians 4:11.

While much of the body of Christ now recognises that Apostles and Prophets exist today, the Apostolic Church recognizes the specific thrust of the office and calling which it believes is upon the person. This is not based on any academic qualification, but is simply recognising those whom Christ has called.

The National Leadership Team operates as a collegiate ministry for the governing of the church and sets policies and guidelines. Prophets work in conjunction with National Leadership Team to bring revelation and confirmation.

Pastoral tenure is by appointment. Pastors are subject to transfer at the direction of the church council, but the pastor is consulted about such moves.

The present attitude favours long term pastoral tenure in most situations.

A conference of ascension ministries is held annually where matters of importance are discussed and teaching is given.

GOVERNMENT

NATIONAL

Policies and denominational direction are determined by the National Leadership Team. The National Leadership Team meets twice a year to watch the progress of the church and consider matters before it.

All properties are held in a Not-for-profit Company, the directors of which are advised by the Finance Management Board.

A National Leader and National Secretary are appointed by the Apostleship.

STATE

The National Leadership Team delegates much of the responsibility for day-to-day operations to Leadership teams in each state who are also responsible for vision and direction within the overall vision of the National Leadership Team.

LOCAL

Assemblies operate more or less autonomously under the oversight of a superintendent minister who is normally an Apostle with responsibility for an area (a group of assemblies).

Pastors are responsible for their assemblies and normally govern with an oversight group or presbytery. The composition of this local oversight group may vary from place to place, but includes Elders and Deacons where these are appointed.

Elders and Deacons are appointed for a term of two years. They may be re-appointed.

Congregational or annual meetings are not held.

FINANCE

Tithes and offerings are taken into the local church funds. Each assembly is responsible to send an amount to National Office every week. This is known as the "Assembly Commitment Figure" to cover costs paid on their behalf by the National Administration. All remaining funds are held by the local assembly for local needs. Expenditure is normally oversighted by the Presbytery.

The commitment figure includes reimbursement of Pastor's salary and overhead (where applicable), property repayment (where applicable), insurance etc, a levy on the tithes and a small weekly contribution for the purpose of ministry development which covers expenses related to bringing all ministries to the Annual Conference. Other staff salaries would normally be included.

Local churches are required to have an adequate accounting system to provide reports to National Administration.

All property insurance and other insurances are arranged nationally.

Local assemblies are responsible for the maintenance of all properties.

DISPUTES

Members may take any disputed matter to the Superintendent Minister, but must advise the local Pastor or Elders regarding their action.

LIFESTYLE

The Apostolic Church believes that the present day church should closely resemble the New Testament Church as found in Acts with Acts 2:42 being a concise statement of that lifestyle.

The giftings of members are to be recognised, developed and released for ministry wherever possible in accordance with Ephesians 4:12-13.

