

An Accord between ACBC and AMPJP

Introduction

This Accord specifies the relationship between the ACBC and AMPJP which has as its purpose to:

1. advance God's mission;
2. specify the commitment to the relationship; and
3. Identify areas for common purpose and action

AMPJP and ACBC are committed to advancing the God given mission for the Church in Australia and to strengthening the bonds of ecclesial communion. The ACBC and the AMPJP also assist their respective member Bishops and Ministerial PJP canonical stewards to engage in *communio* and *missio*.

The Accord is:

- enduring - those with responsibility for leadership in the Church are bound to Christ and to each other;
- an act of communion – this Accord is a loving expression of different identities living in unity; and
- for the purpose of mission – this Accord maintains the focus of the ACBC and AMPJP as servants of the Reign of God in the Church and in the world.

Therefore this Accord reflects:

- the importance of the relationship;
- the commitment of both parties to open, respectful and transparent dialogue;
- the commitment of both parties to fulfill their respective roles within the Church with due consideration of the other; and
- the commitment of both parties to work cooperatively on shared objectives and on action items that may emerge.

This means that both parties are willing to take seriously the Accord and its consequences.

ACBC contribution to the Accord

The ACBC has as its members all diocesan bishops and those equivalent to them in law, all coadjutor bishops, auxiliary bishops, and the eparchs of the Eastern Catholic Churches within Australia, who would contribute in the following areas:

1. The apostolic charisms of teaching, governing and sanctifying the Church;
2. The exercise of collegiality for the good of the Church's mission in Australia;
3. The promotion of a whole-of-Church approach to important matters;
4. The capacity of the ACBC to engage on a variety of issues and to collaborate with other ecclesial, religious and civil organisations in addressing these issues;
5. The leadership of the ACBC episcopal commissions in the areas of education, liturgy, evangelisation, laity, ministry, social justice, health care, aged care, social services, canon law, doctrine and morals, human life, family, public engagement, professional standards and

safeguarding, relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Christian unity, and inter-religious dialogue;

6. The service of the ACBC agencies in the areas of evangelisation, liturgy, Catholic schools, pastoral research, disability, migrants and refugees, international aid and development; and
7. The implementation of the decrees and decisions of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia and inculcation of the culture of discernment and synodality it presumes.

AMPJP contribution to the Accord

The AMPJP comprises MPJPs who as Church entities governed by Canonical Stewards, are a new expression of canonical leadership and who would contribute in the following areas:

1. Living their Baptism and their vocation to leadership in, and for, the Church;
2. Sponsorship of the majority of the Church ministries specifically health and aged care and a significant proportion of the Church education and community/social services;
3. Providing knowledge and experience of MPJP leadership and governance;
4. Facilitating the discernment and common action of MPJPs for their ministries and for the people who they serve;
5. Facilitating the common action of Religious Institute and MPJP Church Authorities who sponsor Catholic schools;
6. Facilitating the common action of MPJPs in formation programs for current and potential MPJP Canonical Stewards; and
7. Facilitating MPJP communication and cooperation with ACBC, CRA and the wider Church.

The ACBC-AMPJP Relationship

The following elements are central to this Accord:

1. Cooperation of ACBC, CRA and AMPJP as Members of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd;
2. Regular dialogue of AMPJP leadership with ACBC leadership, at least three times per year;
3. Mutual invitations to relevant Church leadership gatherings;
4. Mutual respect between Bishops and MPJP canonical stewards – each being recognised as ecclesial leaders with distinct and at times interrelating roles;
5. Collaboration of AMPJP and ACBC on matters of shared concern;
6. Mutual education regarding the nature of both bodies and issues of concern to both; and
7. Willingness to seek each other's advice on matters concerning their ecclesial leadership.

Review of the Accord

This Accord will be reviewed by both parties after eighteen months, and then at three-yearly intervals.

Signed:



on behalf of ACBC



on behalf of AMPJP