



# SOUTH COAST LIFE CHURCH

## **Mission Partnership Policy**

Adopted by the elders on 25 February 2020

### **The Importance of Partnership**

We believe that the local Church is how God primarily brings about His kingdom on earth. However, we believe that His work is not limited to the work of the Church. He can and does use many other people and organisations that are not churches.

We also believe that the Church is bigger than South Coast Life Church. There are so many amazing expressions of church in our community and world that are all fulfilling different needs and carrying out different callings. The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:11-21 each church is made different people with different gifts, just like a body is made up of different body parts. We believe this to be true for the worldwide church also. The worldwide church is made up of all different kinds of churches. We all worship the same God and work in partnership with the same Spirit and carry out the same mission; to see His Kingdom come and His will be done.

*<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Ephesians 4:4-6

We want to take our place and play our part in the 'body' of the worldwide church. We believe that partnership is a great way to see this happen. So much more can be achieved when people and Christian organisations work together.

We also believe that it is a great witness to the love and grace of God when those who do not yet know Jesus can see churches and other Christian organisations working together and honouring each other.

## **Criteria for Partnership**

We expect that any organisation seeking to partner with South Coast Life Church will fulfil the criteria listed below.

1. Does the partner organisation align with the Vision, Culture and Priorities of South Coast Life Church?
2. Does the partner organisation openly communicate the good news of Jesus?
3. Does the partner organisation have and adhere to the same high standards of safety that South Coast Life Church upholds? This includes but is not limited to areas of work health safety, safety of vulnerable people and confidentiality.
4. Does the partner organisation have proper, effective and clear structures of accountability and oversight? Do they have a clear and workable process for dealing with complaints and conflict in a healthy way? Is there any conflict of interest between members of their authority structure and ours?
5. Does the partner organisation fulfil a need or carry out a service that South Coast Life Church would like to support or be part of? Does the partner organisation do a better job of providing this service than BCC could do by itself?
6. Do we sense God is drawing us together?

## **Process of Partnership**

We will follow the below process when seeking to partner with another organisation.

1. Contact will be made between South Coast Life Church and another organisation. Initial discussions will be had between at least one pastor or elder and suitable representatives from potential partner organisation.
2. Partner organisation will be asked to answer how they fulfil the partnership criteria.
3. A report will be drawn up by a pastor or elder to be given to the eldership of South Coast Life Church to discern whether it is something worth pursuing.
4. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be drawn up between the two organisations that will contain clear ways that the two organisations will relate to each other. The MOU will contain the following areas;
  - a. What each organisation will bring to the relationship. This will include finances, support, and other resources.
  - b. A regular means of communication. How often we expect communication and by what means?
  - c. A method of reporting issues, concerns or possible breaches in the relationship.
  - d. A time frame, after which the relationship will be assessed again. (suggested three years).
5. The MOU will be signed by a lead pastor (on behalf of the eldership) and a suitable representative from the partner organisation, dated and made available to the people of South Coast Life Church.