

# FACILITATING AN ETHOS CONVERSATION

## WITH ELDERS AND MINISTRY TEAM

Churches of Christ is a network of churches and communities that are locally governed, diverse in expression, affiliated for purpose, and united through our ethos, in and under the authority of Jesus the Logos.

Our Ethos is currently being articulated afresh, through the work of the Ethos team, in consultation with the Network. We sense the time has come for this generation to ask what we can say together and how we will move in step together?

The goal of this conversation is for your leadership team to consider two things. Firstly, whether this new articulation of our ethos reflects the DNA of your local community – is there resonance and alignment?

And secondly, how churches across our network can join with each other in affirming our ethos and identity, so it is not lost for future generations.

To help guide this conversation we have provided a framework below.

The ethos team would appreciate your feedback from this conversation – a simple feedback form is included that can be completed and returned via email.

We suggest supplying your leaders with the Ethos and supporting links ahead of the conversation to allow time for those who process more slowly to familiarise themselves with the ethos.



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# CONVERSATION FRAMEWORK

## PART 1 – ETHOS ALIGNMENT

### Priming Questions

1. If you were to describe the DNA (the feel and taste of your church) to a friend who had never visited before, using only seven words, what would you say? What words would you use?

*Have participants write them on post it notes – display and group.*

2. What sense do you have of the spirit or charisma (gift) of the Churches of Christ?  
*Option: show the History Conversation with Catherine Kleeman, Nathan Marshall and network legends Beth Robinson and Jean Flint to give a glimpse of this spirit. (20 mins watch)*

### Gather around the ethos

The following links/ resources can assist you:

*Written ethos document – V2*

*Ethos Team Interview. (16 min watch)*

*Collective ethos video presented with ethos V1 - by Mark Curtis. (6 min watch)*

### Reflect on the resonance between the network ethos and the DNA of your local church.

On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being loosely aligned, 5 being somewhat aligned, 10 being strongly aligned rate how closely aligned you feel your church is with the network ethos.

#### The ethos statements as a combine whole

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**Sent** – with Kingdom Priorities

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**Anchored** – in the scriptures

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**Empowered** – by the spirit

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**Welcomed** – into family

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**Engaged** – in transformation

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**Adventurous** - in restoration

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**Alongside** – in service

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

Mark the individual responses on the church feedback tool provided.

What does your combined responses say about your church's alignment with ethos?

What do you notice?

What questions arise?

## PART 2 – NETWORK EXPERIENCE

Reflect together on your churches experience being part of the network

What have you appreciated in being a part of the network? How has the ethos been demonstrated and felt?

Has your experience of being part of the network been different to this expressed ethos?

How has this been demonstrated or felt?

Is there anything from the past that needs to be shared or released as you move forward as part of the network?

*Complete part 2 on the church feedback tool*

## PART 3 – ETHOS AFFIRMATION

How would you like to affirm Ethos?

Once the final version of ethos has been completed, we will be ready for the network to affirm the ethos. Some suggestions we have had include:

A celebration at Collective 2022

A covenanting ceremony at Collective 2022

Ethos statements forming part of the affiliation agreement with churches

Other: