

Living Waters Christian Community, - Loxton Church of Christ

Pastoral Position – August 2019

Covering Statement

Applications are invited for the role of **Pastor**

The desire of the Elders, Deacons and Church body is to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person to the role of Pastor at Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ. This appointment would ideally take place from February 2020 or in the first quarter of 2020. Sonny Pillay is retiring as of 31 January 2020, after serving as Pastor for the past 27 years.

A role description for this Pastor position appointment accompanies this covering statement. The applicant should address all of the role and personal specifications in their application letter.

Please also supply a brief history of your Pastoral activities, including a brief testimony of your journey to faith in Christ including the circumstances of ...

- how you first knew the forgiveness in Christ,
- how you knew God's call to become a Pastor, and
- why you are still a Pastor.

Please supply the names and contact details for three referees who would be prepared and able to honestly and fearlessly vouch for your character and pastoral abilities.

Applications for the role, in accordance with the following role descriptions should be made to either:

Postal

The Elders
Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ
PO Box 785, LOXTON South Australia 5333

Or Email

admin@livingwatersloxton.com.au

Email to include the following in the subject description...

Attn: Elders re: appointment of new Pastor.

Closing date for applications is cob **Friday 30th September 2019**

Pastor Role Description – Living Waters Christian Community

Church Context

Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ commenced in 1950 as a Churches of Christ. Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ continues as an autonomous church within the SA Conference of the Church of Christ.

Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ is located in Loxton, South Australia. and is situated on the Murray River in the Riverland region. The congregation has about 92 members with a diverse range of ages. The demographic of the church is largely middle aged with many teenagers leaving the district after secondary school for tertiary studies. We have active ministries to children, youth, the elderly, as well as to the broader church community.

Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ is a rural community church, welcoming all who seek to learn about God and live in obedience to God's desire for his people, as revealed in the Bible. We welcome all who have answered the call and committed to Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Our desire is to see people transformed by the grace of God through a life commitment of faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord and to grow in their understanding and expression of this faith, to become committed disciples of Jesus and active members of His church.

Our beliefs come from the conviction that the Bible is God's revelation of Himself to His creation and as such is absolute, authoritative and able to guide those who seek to be obedient to God. We understand His word is revealed through the inspiration of his Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit we discover that we are reconciled to God from our sin and disobedience.

It is the desire of Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ is...

- To love and worship Jesus and be one in Christ with each other.
- Full evangelisation in obedience to the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20.
- To send out missionaries in obedience to the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20.
- To encourage members and others to gather together in worship.
- To plant churches and foster their development under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- To set apart ministers and sponsor their ordination.
- To follow the vision Jesus Christ has directed according to New Testament pattern as confirmed through the Church Eldership.

- To uphold the Churches of Christ plea calling Christians to restoration and unity on the basis of the Bible.
- To provide Christian education and equipping for all age groups and encourage training for active ministry service in Australia and abroad.
- To encourage and support faithful and dedicated Christian action in every strata of Australian life, particularly in inspired leadership in the cultural, social, media, economic, and political affairs of our nation.
- To do all in the power of the Holy Spirit to uphold the family, as defined in scripture, as the basic unit of society.
- To uphold marriage as meaning the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Church Values. We value...

- Prayer and Bible teaching as essential for the spiritual growth of individuals and of the church.
- Excellence and integrity in all things.
- Spiritual gifts and their use for the building up of the body of Christ.
- Spiritual leadership for maintaining a healthy church. This involves Elders in governance and Deacons in areas of practical ministries.
- Relationships characterised by love, grace, unity and flexibility, in the life of the church.
- Small group participation as the best means for growth and care of believers.
- Christian witness that is culturally relevant and is in harmony with doctrinal purity.
- Serving people with the love of Jesus, both within and outside of the church.
- Love for God and one's neighbours as a normal pattern for every Christian. (**Matt 22:36-40**)
- Conduct and behaviour that promotes mercy and justice at all times.

The Statement of Faith

The fundamental teachings of this Congregation are reflected in the following statements of faith, which do not constitute a creed (where the Bible speaks we speak and where the Bible is silent we are silent).

- A. We believe that the Holy Scriptures (Bible) as originally given is the absolute inspired Word of God. We believe that the Scriptures are infallible, inerrant, and the sole and final authority for all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- B. We believe in the eternal God Head who has revealed Himself as one God existing in three Persons. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 2:9; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 5:5-8)

- C. We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to Divine righteousness. (Romans 5:12-19)
- D. We believe that God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27) When God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, He called them “man”. (Genesis 5:1-2)
- E. We believe in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Saviour of the world conceived of the Holy Spirit, born to the Virgin Mary. Very God and very Man. (Isaiah 7:14. 9:6; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-8). We believe in His sinless life, miraculous ministry, substitutionary atoning sacrificial death and abiding intercession. (Luke 24:39; Acts 2:22-36, 10:38; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:8-10; 1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 7:25-27, 9:11-12)
- F. We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and was bodily resurrected from the dead on the third day and personally appeared to His disciples. (Romans 4:23-25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- G. We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to Heaven, His exaltation to the right hand of God the Father and personal literal and bodily coming again the second time for His Church. (John 14:2-3; Acts 1:9. 2:33; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- H. We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Calvary by which we obtain remission of sins and liberty from bondage originating in Satan. (Romans 5:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-10; Hebrews 9:12; 1 John 5:10-13)
- I. We believe in the necessity of water baptism, by immersion, in the Name of the Eternal God-Head to fulfil the command of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 8:34-39, 10:47-48, 16:14-15, 16:30-34, 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-6, Colossians 2:11-12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)
- J. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a real experience at/or subsequent to salvation, with scriptural evidence. (Mark 16:17-18; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5. 2:1-4,2:38-39, 4:29-33, 8:14-17, 10:44-46, 19:1-6)
- K. We believe in the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 12:31-14:40 as manifested in the early Church. (Romans 1:11. 11:29, 1 Timothy 4 :14)
- L. We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life that places us in to world

physically but not of it in the spiritual sense and perfecting holiness in the fear of God as expressing the true Christian Faith. (2 Corinthians 6:14, 7:1; Ephesians 5:18, 1 Peter 1:15-17, 2:9, 3:15)

- M. We believe in the healing of the body and whole person by Divine power, or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practised in the Early Church. (Matthew 8:14-17; Acts 3:6-16,4:30, 19:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 12:28; James 5:14-16, 1Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-6)
- N. We believe in the table of the Lord, commonly called the Communion or the Lord's Supper, for believers. (Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:15-20; John 6:47-58; 1Corinthians 10:14-17. 11:23-32)
- O. We believe in the HOLY SPIRIT, the Third Person of the Godhead, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting and regenerating the sinner, and sanctifying and guiding the believer into truth. (John 14:26, 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Romans 8:14-17, 8:26-27; Titus 3:4-7; 1Peter 1:2.
- P. We believe the devil is both real and personal and appointed to eternal judgement in the Lake of Fire along with his fallen angels. (Matthew 25:41; Revelations 20:14-15)
- Q. We believe in the eternal life for believers (John 3:16-18, 5:24, 12:24-25, 17:3; 1 John 5:11-13) and eternal punishment for unbelievers. (Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:43-48; Revelations 20:10-15)
- R. We believe that there is one true universal Church made up of born-again Christians, but this one universal church is composed of many local Churches in given localities. These Churches are under the sovereign Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ exercising autonomous government under Him, administering all its local affairs and ministry as well as the propagation of the gospel. (Matthew 16:18.18: 15-20; Acts 15:22, Ephesians 1:22-23; Hebrews 12:22-23)
- S. We believe in parents consecrating themselves and their children to the Lord, for the purpose of God's blessing, protection and anointing. (Genesis 48:9, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:6,15, Isaiah 51: 13; Matthew 18:10; Mark 10:13-:6, Luke 2:22, 18:15-17)
- T. We believe that Government is ordained by God, and as such are ordained as ministers of God to us for good. To resist the powers and ordinances is to resist the ordinance of God. We are subject not only for wrath sake but for conscience sake, rendering to all their dues, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour. We declare our loyalty to our Government and its leaders and will assist in every way possible consistent with our faith in the Scriptures as Christian citizens. (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

Position Overview

The Pastor position is a pastoral/leadership role as part of an Eldership team that is responsible for the oversight of the church. As an active participant within the Church Eldership, the Pastor would assist the Church to implement, communicate and promote the Church's vision...

- To help people become active, committed followers of Jesus Christ, also
- Motivation of the congregation to greater involvement in their faith,
- Monitor Church health, and
- Identify areas of need and involvement.

The position of Pastor is firstly a relational position – dealing with people in all their strengths and weaknesses. The position would be best suited to an applicant 'Full of the Holy Spirit'. The person would be someone who is also appropriately qualified, a married person with an established family, who has demonstrated Christian spiritual maturity, relational skills and experience in a pastoral role as a pastor or as an assistant pastor.

The initial pastoral tenure is five years. The Pastor must be approved by a majority vote of the church members. Any extension of tenure must be recommended by the Board, with the acceptance of the Pastor, and ratified by the church members. At the conclusion of any extension of tenure, a further extension of tenure may be entered into under the same provisions.

The successful candidate appointed Pastor will be provided with a Contract of Tenure and Ministry Employment Agreement which will include a requirement for ongoing self-review, together with an annual review by the Elders.

The Pastor is...

1. An Elder among Elders.
2. A member of the Church Board
3. Accountable to the Elders and the Board.

Ideally the applicant will ...

- Possess the skills and experience to be an over-shepherd of Christians,
- An effective communicator, teacher, motivator and encourager, and
- Possess skills to equip believers to be active and effective participants in the church and wider community.

The Pastor, supported by the Eldership, will have an active role in the Bible teaching in the church, to...

- Communicate the essentials of the Gospel to challenge and call people to personal faith in Jesus Christ,
- Provide sound evangelical Bible teaching that is consistent with the Living Waters Statement of Faith and focussed toward practical Christian living and life-related applications,

- Equip future leaders with ministry training and sound Bible knowledge to enable them to effectively lead others toward active ministry involvement and personal Christian maturity,
- Involve church members in appropriate discipling and mentoring strategies, to develop members in their gifts and ministry interests.

The Pastor will work with the Administrator and Deacons in the organisational practices of the church as well as policy and procedures development and compliance with external regulatory requirements.

Remuneration

Remuneration and related support arrangements would be in accordance with the Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory Inc. 'Recommended Pastoral Stipends Policy', effective from June 2019, as agreed by the Elders and Board and commensurate with the applicants training and experience.

Role Description Specifications

Please address the following characteristics and skills and how you have fulfilled these in past ministries or how you will complete them in this position.

Elders and Church Board. The Pastor...

1. Will participate in the Eldership and leadership of the Church - working cooperatively, harmoniously with the Elders and the Board.
2. The Elders will support the Pastor and work in Christian unity, harmony and respect with the Pastor.
3. The Pastor will work enthusiastically, prayerfully with the Eldership towards the goals of the Vision of the Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ.
4. Will participate with the Elders in the annual review of the Pastor's role and the effective discharge of the role.
5. Will provide the Eldership, in a timely manner, with all requests for information related to ministry updates, strategic reports, monthly reports, personal welfare needs and concerns, general pastoral activity and Church staff activities.

The Church Community. The Pastor will...

1. Develop and implement an effective church-wide pastoral care program in consultation with and involving the participation of the Pastoral Care Team.
2. Implement appropriate strategies for shepherding and mentoring individuals in the Church, with particular emphasis on those in significant leadership positions and those who need the additional support of such functions.
3. Participate in the Bible teaching program of the Church.
4. Foster a culture of positive church growth, both individually and organisationally.
5. Foster an effective ethos towards evangelism in the Church and equip the believers with the tools, confidence and strategies for participation in personal and Church evangelism opportunities.
6. Develop and maintain effective communication opportunities and procedures that will encourage respectful fellowship and effective conflict resolution within the church community.
7. Oversee the Church office and the organisational/administrative functions of the church in liaison with the church administrator and the Deacons. This includes supervision of paid and voluntary staff within the Church administration, pastoral and ministry structure, to ensure their personal welfare, appropriate deployment, necessary training, periodic job appraisal and spiritual nurture.

8. Represent the Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ as the spokesman for the Church in matters of public consultation, media communication, police liaison, inter church dialogue and with the Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory Inc.
9. Effectively implement existing Church policies and participate in the development of future policies or policy reviews, to ensure that Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ is compliant with community and statutory requirements and the highest expectation of Christian conduct that brings honour to the Lord.

Ministry Leaders and ministry function. The Pastor is expected to...

1. Act as a mentor to key ministry or administrative personnel and assist them with personal and spiritual growth, career planning and ministry development.
2. Act as a spiritual guide and mentor for emerging leadership candidates from within the Church fellowship, as identified in consultation with the Eldership.
3. Assist ministry leaders in setting ministry directions in keeping with the overall vision of the Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ
4. Equip, manage and oversee ministries in consultation with the Elders and in cooperation with the existing Church ministry and service structure (e.g. Deacons, Church Pastoral Care team etc.)

Personal Characteristics

The Pastor will...

1. Be full of the Holy Spirit.
2. Have a proven track record of a Christian that fits with a role of a leader and example in the Church.
3. Possess the spiritual experience, maturity and aptitude sufficient to satisfy the Biblical qualifications for an Elder as one of the Eldership team.
4. Possess self-motivation and the ability to inspire and motivate others.
5. Have well developed interpersonal skills and a teachable spirit.
6. Have the ability to teach the Bible and encourage others toward a mature Christian faith.
7. Be able to exercise wisdom, initiative and creativity in approaching goals, problem solving, staff management and planning.
8. Have well developed time management and organisational skills.
9. Have the ability to delegate responsibilities appropriately to develop skills and gifts in others.
10. Be in agreement with the fundamental statement of beliefs of the Living Waters Christian Community - Loxton Church of Christ.

11. Enter into a mentoring relationship and/or arrangement with the Elders and/or external person, in consultation with the Elders, to promote the Pastor's personal spiritual health and growth.