Onwards, upwards, and outwards

For Churches of Christ Vic/Tas (CCVT), 2019 is the year to “Accelerate”. This year our movement will explore, together, strategies and initiatives to build on what has occurred in previous years and add to the forward momentum and passion for God’s Kingdom mission that binds us together as interdependent communities.

“Accelerate” isn’t about starting mission from scratch. It isn’t about a gap that needs to be filled, or a lack that needs to be addressed. “Accelerate” is about taking what God is already up to in our leaders, communities, and neighbourhoods, and adding to it with training, support, encouragement, finance, prayer, and lifelong learning. It’s about improving what is already happening. It’s about doing better at Building Communities of Hope and Compassion and developing Leaders to lead them.

God is active and at work in and through our leaders and our movement. We have a purpose and a goal in following God into mission in the local, national, and global neighbourhood. In 2019, the year we “Accelerate”, we are maintaining our focus on God, and the goal of Christ filled and Christ oriented mission, and rising to greater heights, propelled and accelerated by the Spirit.

Our three angles of focus as we explore the “Accelerate” theme are:

**Onwards:** How do we continue the good works God has enabled in our communities, and continue to partner with God and with others in leadership, discipleship, and mission? What is the next step for our leaders and communities?

**Upwards:** How can we improve the ways we operate in leadership, discipleship, and mission? How can we raise the things we do to new heights, and continue to build on the work God is doing in us and our communities with prayer, support, and resourcing?

**Outwards:** How are our communities becoming more connected with the neighbourhood and sharing the Good News of Jesus, and demonstrating the love of God in the ways Jesus did? How is the Body of Christ continuing the healing, feeding, comforting, and restoring work that Jesus began during his Earthly ministry?

In Philippians 3:12, Paul writes, “I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize.” (NIV) Paul goes on speak about ‘pressing’ toward the goal. As we do this we will be increasing our dependence on God, as we accelerate towards growth and fruitfulness in mission, formed for the journey together.