



COVENANT OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AUSTRALIA

14 OCTOBER 2019

A. Introduction

1. The Covenant of **The World Community for Christian Meditation Australia** (“**WCCM Australia**”) was last adopted on 4 September 1998.
2. Since that time **WCCM Australia** has experienced considerable growth.
3. The National Council recognises the need to update the Covenant.
4. The National Council meeting in Melbourne on 14 October 2019 has agreed to ratify this document as the Covenant of **WCCM Australia** at this time.

B. Purpose of the Covenant

To establish for **WCCM Australia** a broad operating framework and governance structure for communicating and nurturing the teaching of Christian Meditation as passed on by John Main OSB in the spirit of serving the unity of all.

WCCM Australia’s Operating Values

1. The spirit of the Rule of St Benedict is adopted as a guide for discernment by **WCCM Australia**.
2. Decisions will be arrived at as far as possible through consensus preceded by discussion and listening.
3. Funds will be managed with careful stewardship and accountability in a spirit of Christian common ownership so that resources are shared for the good of **WCCM Australia**.
4. We keep in our heart the **The World Community for Christian Meditation (The WCCM)** throughout the world especially those suffering hardship.

5. The following resolution adopted by the National Council on 14 September 1997 is affirmed:

“WCCM Australia was a non profit making entity and that its funds would be solely used for promoting the religious teachings of John Main OSB in the practice of meditation within the Christian tradition. It was further affirmed that in the event of winding up. Or of dissolution, *that any remaining funds will be distributed to a similar ecumenical prayer based organisation as determined by the Council, which is likewise a non profit organisation.*”

C. The Community

1. **WCCM Australia** is composed of:
 - (a) Christian Meditators
 - (b) Christian Meditation Groups
 - (c) State and Territory Committees
 - (d) The National Council
 - (e) The School of Meditation
 - (f) **WCCM Australia** Meditation with Children and Young People
 - (g) **WCCM Australia** Benedictine Oblates of The WCCM.

2. The National, State and Territory structures serve, support and inspire the local ones.

The meditators, groups, State and Territory committees, the School of Meditation, **WCCM Australia** Meditation with Children and Young People, **WCCM Australia** Benedictine Oblates of The WCCM and **WCCM Australia** National Council are in a relationship of mutual commitment, discernment and accountability.

3. The State and Territory Committees and the other leaders when asked by the National Council shall submit to the National Council annual financial statements of their stewardship of funds held.

D. The National Council

1. Purpose:

- (a) To maintain the focus of **WCCM Australia** of communicating and nurturing the teaching of Christian Meditation as passed on by John Main OSB in the spirit of serving the unity of all.
- (b) To encourage dialogue and cooperation with other faith groups and communities.
- (c) To ensure that **WCCM Australia** remains ecumenical and welcoming to any who seek to pray within the tradition of Christian Meditation.
- (d) To coordinate national activities including the National Conference, the National Retreat and the publication and distribution of the National newsletter.

2. Responsibilities

- (a) To serve in the spirit of the gospel the individual meditator in his/her personal spiritual journey, to support and encourage State and Territory Coordinators and Committees, group leaders and other leaders who share in the work of **WCCM Australia**.
- (b) To be in the conduct of its affairs inclusive, democratic, broadly consultative and transparently accountable in all aspects (in particular its finances) to **WCCM Australia** and to The WCCM and to provide reports to the Guiding Board of the WCCM and the State and Territory Committees on a regular basis.
- (c) To maintain close links with WCCM, its Guiding Board and its International Office.
- (d) To hold an annual General Meeting within the context of **WCCM Australia's** Annual National Conference.

3. Composition

- (a) The Council will comprise two members from each State or Territory and such other leaders of **WCCM Australia** as shall be agreed by the Council from time to time.

- (b) The National Council may from time to time approve the appointment of members of **WCCM Australia** who are not Council members to serve on projects or to carry out specific tasks.

4. National Executive

- (a) The Council appoints the National Coordinator who nominates the National Secretary and the National Treasurer and other office-bearers as he National Co-ordinator thinks appropriate. They shall be submitted for endorsement by the Council as the National Executive and members of the National Council. The National Coordinator, National Treasurer and National Secretary shall comprise the National Executive
- (b) The National Executive is appointed for a two year term unless otherwise agreed or extended by the National Council.

5. Term

The National Coordinator is appointed for a two year term unless otherwise agreed or extended by the National Council.

6. Meetings and Quorum

- (a) The National Council will meet in person at least once per year and may reach agreement by email between meetings. Continuity between meetings will be provided by the National Executive which shall meet from time to time and in such manner as determined by the National Coordinator.
- (b) Meetings will be chaired by the National Coordinator. If the National Coordinator is absent the members present will appoint an acting Chair for the meeting.
- (c) The Quorum for a meeting will be 50% plus one member.

F. The School of Meditation

- (a) The School of Meditation is a specific national structure within **WCCM Australia** that focuses on the Essential Teaching Weekend and follow up programs including the National School Retreat, Introductory Courses and seminars, retreats and workshops for deepening the practice of Christian Meditation.
- (b) The School of Meditation is composed of the National School Coordinator, a School Coordinator from each State and Territory committee, and members of School Teams appointed by State and Territory Coordinators.

G. WCCM Australia Meditation with Children and Young People

- (a) **WCCM Australia** Meditation with Children and Young People is a specific group within **WCCM Australia** that focuses on teaching Christian Meditation to primary and secondary school teachers, parents, grandparents and others who work with children and young people, to give them the opportunity of adopting Christian meditation in their own lives and sharing the gift of meditation with the children and young people in their care.
- (b) The group is comprised of the National Coordinator **WCCM Australia** Christian Meditation with Children and Young People and teaching teams nominated by a representative from each State and Territory Committee.

H. WCCM Australia Benedictine Oblates of The WCCM

- (a) WCCM Australia Benedictine Oblates of The WCCM are meditators who have made a commitment to a life of work and prayer in accordance with the Rule of St Benedict.
- (b) **WCCM Australia** Benedictine Oblates of The WCCM is coordinated by the National Oblate Coordinator.

I. Amending Formula for the Covenant

- (a) This Covenant may be reviewed from time to time by the National Council as may be required in light of experience gained throughout the life of **WCCM Australia**.
- (b) This Covenant may be amended by a majority vote of members signified either at a National Council meeting or in an exchange of emails.

“In the meantime, brothers and sisters, we wish you happiness: Try to grow perfect, keep one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace be with you.” 2 Cor 13:11