

November 2006  
Issue 21

# The Next Step



**Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)**

Australian Capital Territory Government  
**Registrar-General's Office**

(postal reference only)  
**THE PUBLIC OFFICER  
CANBERRA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
INCORPORATED  
118 VASEY CRESCENT  
CAMPBELL ACT 2612**

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

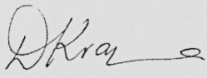
Association Number: A04504


**Certificate of Incorporation**  
*Associations Incorporation Act 1991*

This is to certify that pursuant to section 19 of the Act

**CANBERRA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
INCORPORATED**

is on and from the fifteenth day of November, 2006 incorporated  
as an association under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*.

  
Danielle Krajina  
REGISTRAR-GENERAL  
15 November 2006



Certificate

## The Sort Of Meeting You Like To Go To

A few things we needed to discuss had accumulated so a date was set (Sat. 11 November) for one of those dreaded affairs known as meetings. To make the



prospect of a night away from home a little more appealing, a meal / time of fellowship was scheduled to precede the meeting.

Nineteen people turned up with others kept from coming by chicken pox and other reasons. Somehow we all managed to find a seat at a table having loaded our plates from a generous selection of culinary delights. The main course dishes set a particularly high standard of

quality and taste, however the dessert course was equally attractive to the taste buds. No one had any excuse to go away hungry.

Dinner over, it was time to move into the adjoining room. There the meeting commenced and roughly half an hour later concluded, all the business having been dealt with.

If only more meetings could be as brief.

The Bradburys deserve our thanks for hosting our evening and for all their hard work in preparation for the meal and the meeting itself.



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A young boy came to Sunday School late. His teacher knew that he was usually very punctual and asked him if anything was wrong. The boy replied no, that he was going fishing but his dad told him that he needed to go to church.

The teacher was very impressed and asked the boy if his dad had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing.

To which the boy replied, yes he did, dad said he didn't have enough bait for both of us.

From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books, p 38.

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## Fellowship Meeting 11 November 2006

The meeting opened at approximately 8-30pm.

### **Incorporation**

Ted Dennis reported on progress toward incorporating our Fellowship

He explained incorporation was desirable for strictly pragmatic and legal reasons.

The most direct and uncomplicated process is to accept the Model Rules of the Associations Incorporation Regulations 1991.

Ted suggested the following committee (7 people are required, the terms in italics are those used in the model rules)

Leader / <i>President</i>	Howard Bradbury
Deputy Leader / <i>Vice-president</i>	Ian Denton
Treasurer	to be determined
Secretary	Dominica Lorimer
	Joyce Hall
	Wendy Bassett
	Ted Dennis

(Vince Lorimer later volunteered to be Treasurer and also our *Public Officer*.)

Ted made clear that his suggestions were to set in progress the mechanics of the incorporation process and he invited ANY suggestions, criticisms, changes, etc..

The meeting agreed we should proceed with incorporation and with the make up of the committee. The committee was given the authority to deal with any practical details associated with incorporation that required attention.

### **Insurance**

Howard Bradbury reported that an insurance policy had been taken out to cover our fellowship.

### **Christian Music Licence**

Howard also reported that the Fellowship now has a Christian Music Licence which allows us to use a range of Christian music that is not in our hymn books.

### **Finances**

Ken McPhan gave a brief financial report.

We are in a sound financial position, although a number of substantial expenses or donations to worthy causes would quickly deplete our funds.

Collections per service since we changed to weekly services have remained at the same level as before when we met twice monthly.

Ken was thanked for the work he has done as our treasurer. He is not continuing in that position.

### **Multicultural Carol Service**

Our carols will be held in the Campbell Primary School hall from 5pm on Sunday 10 December 2006.

We have met with the school Principal several times and she is supportive and enthusiastic.

We have booked the hall from 4pm to 8pm which allows time for setup and cleaning up afterwards.

#### **Advertising**

Some information concerning our carols will be distributed through the school.

We will distribute a flyer around Campbell prior to the Carols. Joyce Hall will design the flyer.

We agreed we should investigate press and television advertising and the free community information services they provide.

#### **Order of Service**

We agreed it was preferable to produce printed orders of service rather than use an overhead projector.

We have 5 or 6 choirs joining us – Koreans, Chinese Methodists, Papua New Guinea group, Fijian Methodists / AOGs, Tongans and possibly Indonesians.

June will be playing the piano and we have a violinist, clarinetist, flautist and the possibility of 1 or 2 other musicians.

Rev. Abraham Tang is our preacher and we have suggested his sermon be no more than 10 minutes due to time constraints.

#### **Food.**

Marie (who was unable to attend) sent a message that she thought we should prepare sandwiches for refreshments which was agreed.

We decided that for practical reasons we should keep things simple and not become too ambitious in providing food. Christmas cake and shortbreads were suggested as well as icecreams and drinks similar to what we did last year.

The meeting closed at 9-00 pm.

## Exciting Times

Life these days seems to be complicated – too much having to watch what you do for fear of repercussions.

### **Can you cook a cake for a fete?**

Well, yes and no. You can cook it easily enough but it can't just then be sold. It has to have a list of ingredients attached first.



### **Can a group of like minded people meet together?**

Well, yes BUT ...



Any group these days has the threat of being sued hanging over either it or individuals that are part of the group, in the event of an accident. Many people imagine it wouldn't happen within a group that they are part of, but with the potential loss of other rights unless all legal means are followed to compensate for a loss or injury, even reluctant claimants may be 'forced' to sue under certain circumstances.

### **What can we do about that?**

Well the obvious answer is insurance. As much as it might pain us to wave goodbye to funds that could be usefully used elsewhere, in today's society insurance is virtually a must.

### **What about the publicity?**

If I got sued because I happened to be a leader of a group where there was an incident, I might end up in all the papers and on TV. Not my idea of fun, plus if they won, I could lose everything I have if there wasn't insurance to cover it.



### **What can be done about that?**

Fortunately there is a solution – Incorporation. Incorporation gives a group a legal status so that if someone sues for whatever reason, they would sue the incorporated group rather than people that are a part of the group. Of course the incorporated group could still end up with unwanted publicity, but not individuals.

### **So why tell us all this?**

The Canberra Christian Fellowship is a group and to operate responsibly in today's society we need to take account of these factors. The good news is that we have now done just that.

- A number of weeks ago we took out an insurance policy (which some organisations require before we can use their facilities – e.g. Campbell Primary School where we will hold our Carols service) and
- on 15 November we became the "Canberra Christian Fellowship Incorporated".
- Another thing we have done is to take out a licence for the use of Christian music other than what is contained in our hymn books.



## Is there a downside?

I guess that depends on how you look at things.

- Insurance isn't cheap and even though we got a good deal, it does substantially bite into our funds.
- Incorporation doesn't involve significant financial costs, but as we have become a legal entity we are compelled to conform with a set of rules which are effectively our constitution. We must have some members (although people can be part of the fellowship without becoming members). New people need to follow certain procedures to become members (so get in quick and become an inaugural member and we'll minimise the paperwork) and we need to have a minimum number of meetings per year. I won't go into all the 27+ pages of rules (there are lots of words that end up saying relatively little of substance) but for those who are interested you can look at the "Model Rules" we have adopted on the internet at

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/sl/1991-31/20020528-1889/pdf/1991-31.pdf> .

We also need a committee (we have an agreed committee of 7).

- The Christian music licence allows us to use a range of music but we must periodically report on which of the licenced material we have used. Not a big job, but still necessary. A VOLUNTEER PLEASE.

## What now?

Let's concentrate on the reason we exist – to love and serve God and make Him known.

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To incorporate our fellowship, we had to state our objects and purposes. We also decided that membership is available to all who love the Lord, affirm our Statement of Faith and Practice and meet the requirements set out in the association incorporation rules.

### Objects and Purposes (Aims and Objectives) of Association

To foster unity in faith, practice and mission in love and worship of, and obedience to, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and to love and support one another.

Encourage adoption of our Statement of Faith and Practice, which is:

***“Trusting in the grace of God and accepting the gifts of faith and reconciliation through the completed work of Jesus and with the continuing fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we commit to obey the commandments of Jesus to love God and one's neighbour and accept the authority of Scripture and the traditions of the Faith as epitomised in the creeds.”***

- a. Conduct services of Christian worship
- b. Encourage growth in Christian knowledge and maturity through participation in worship services, Bible studies, prayer and fellowship
- c. Obey the biblical instruction to spread the Gospel
- d. Encourage service to the wider community using our skills and the proceeds of collections and donations.
- e. Undertake other activities that are consistent with the ethos of the Fellowship.

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## Coming Up

### Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 2-30 pm** at the chapel, 17 Chauvel St., Campbell

Studying Joshua

All welcome - contact Joyce Hall (6241 2085) for more information

### Discussion Group

**Fridays at 2-15 pm** at the chapel, 17 Chauvel St., Campbell

Discussing Galations

All welcome - contact Ted Dennis (62593487) for more information

### Services

**Sunday 26 November 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Matthew Bolte**

(from Hope Community Church, Townsville, Queensland)

**Sunday 3 December 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Ron Peters**

**Sunday 10 December 2006 at 5 pm – Multicultural Carol Service,  
Campbell Primary School hall  
Rev. Abraham Tang**

**Saturday 16 December 2006 at 7 pm– Carols at Campbell  
Campbell Gospel Chapel**

**Sunday 17 December 2006 at 5 pm – Dr. E. Dennis**

**Sunday 17 December 2006 – Crossroads Family Carol Service  
Stage 88, Commonwealth Park,  
Rev. Paul Dudley**

**6-30 pm – 7-30 pm Picnic Tea**

**7-30 pm – 9-00 pm Christmas Cracker**

**Sunday 24 December 2006 at 5 pm – Mrs. Joyce Hall**

**Sunday 31 December 2006 at 5 pm – Dr. E. Dennis**

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## Contacts

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Need help with transport? If so, ask. Someone may be able to help.

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