

Farewell Joel Plotnek – Celebrating 27 years of service



In the world of business and leadership, it's not often that we come across individuals who embody dedication, passion, and a profound commitment to both their professional lives and church mission. These people leave an indelible mark on the organisations they serve and the lives they touch.

Today, we take a moment to reflect on the career and calling of Joel Plotnek a remarkable leader, a visionary in both business and church mission, whose departure marks the end of an era filled with innovation, inspiration, and impact.

During his 27 years with Churches of Christ, initially with The Properties Corporation and more recently with joint roles of CCVT Operations Team Leader and CCFS Managing Director, Joel has underpinned the areas of property, insurance, accounting and finance. His time at Churches of Christ was accompanied with a strong entrepreneurial spirit that lead him to initiate or reinvent a number of church mission motivated start-ups including:

- **CCI – Churches of Christ Insurance**
Commenced 2010
- **CCFS – Churches of Christ Financial Services**
Commenced 2016
- **ChurchWorx – accounting & payroll services for churches**
Commenced 2017
- **Faith Insurance – insurance for faith organisations**
commenced 2018
- **C4M – Churches of Christ Community Childcare for Mission**
Commenced in 2019 with the first early learning centre at Rosebud opened in 2021 and a second opened at South Launceston in 2022.

Joel's journey began with studies in accounting and economics at Swinburne University which led to a position in a public accounting firm where he gained invaluable experience in financial management and strategic planning.

Joel then transitioned into tertiary teaching in the areas of accounting and business studies at RMIT, LaTrobe University and TAFE. This phase of his career showcased his skill as an educator and highlighted his deep-rooted commitment to people and an interest in nurturing the next generation of business leaders.

Further studies ensued, this time in theology at the Anglican Ridley College and Whitley Baptist College. During this time Joel delved into areas such as church history and post-structural hermeneutics. This unique blend of academic rigor and spiritual exploration laid the foundation for his holistic approach to leadership—one that seamlessly integrated faith, ethics, and enterprise and made him effective in his role with Churches of Christ.

As we bid farewell to Joel, we honour his legacy of leadership, innovation and service. His departure leaves a gap that will be felt across CCVT & CCFS.

Joel stated *"he has felt that God has been calling him in a new direction for some time and after much prayer and consideration he believes that the time is now right to answer that calling."*

Joel concludes his role on 3 May 2024. Almost twenty-seven years of dedicated service is a significant contribution and represents a remarkable commitment to the mission of Churches of Christ and to His saviour, Jesus Christ.

CCFS want to sincerely thank Joel for his longstanding contribution to CCVT, CCFS, CME, C4M and The Properties Corporation. We pray that Joel's next chapter be filled with new adventures, continued success and God's blessing.



CCFS and BFS join together to better serve Australian churches and ministries

We are delighted to announce that CCFS (Churches of Christ Financial Services) and BFS (Baptist Financial Services) have agreed in principle to join forces to serve the needs of the broader Christian community.

The final decision to merge remains subject to completion of ongoing due diligence and working through the various practical details involved, but is expected to occur before the end of 2024.

For some time, both organisations have been working closely together, sharing knowledge, best practices and the joint funding of church projects. This proposed merger is a genuine expression of Kingdom goodwill that transcends 'denominational' boundaries.

Both CCFS and BFS have a common purpose of supporting local churches and ministries in each state through relevant products and services, funding and friendly personalised service. The aim remains unchanged, to serve clients to the best of our abilities and ensure resources are stewarded as effectively as they can be.

CCFS (and its predecessor The Properties Corporation) has been operating for more than 73 years and BFS for 40 years. Together, they will have combined assets of approximately \$580m with capital in excess of \$50m. Our increased capital and

asset base provides further comfort and assurance to those who invest with us.

Key stakeholder, Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania Inc, is confident that the merger will provide increased funding for church projects and resourcing for their churches and ministry partners, Churches of Christ SA & NT and Churches of Christ in WA.

What this means for CCFS and BFS customers

Our aim is to ensure all clients continue to enjoy their current arrangements and services. We will work gradually and carefully to integrate operational elements to ensure no client is disadvantaged. As we progress, we will communicate and provide information regarding additional benefits and opportunities for clients. CCFS and BFS clients will each receive specific communications as the practical arrangements of the merger are progressed and finalised.

Technology continues to play an increasingly important role in the provision of financial services. Partnering together will enable increased investment in technology to ensure we are able to provide contemporary, convenient and relevant products and services.

We are of course always happy to respond to questions and these may be sent to Stuart Campbell, CCFS National Relationship Manager at the following email address cxo@ccfsaustralia.org.au.

We look forward to your ongoing partnering with this exciting initiative.

On behalf of the CCFS Team and Board



BFS 40th anniversary dinner in Sydney (Left-Right) Ross Langford – Chair BFS, David Warren – Chair CCFS, David Slinn – CEO BFS, Stuart Campbell – NRM CCFS.



For your reference:

www.ccfsaustralia.org.au | bfs.org.au

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