

MODERATOR

Context:

Giving general and pastoral leadership to the ministry agents and people within the bounds of the Queensland Synod and assisting and encouraging the expression and fulfilment of the mission and witness of the Church and such other duties and initiatives that arise from the Regulations 3.6.3.1 – 3.6.3.2.

Speaking publicly on behalf of the Synod and representing the Uniting Church at events and celebrations within the Uniting Church and in the wider community. Gathering stories, making links and promoting the Call and Vision of *Together on the way, enriching community* towards 2020 across the Uniting Church in Queensland.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journey articles seek to keep the <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> Call and Values before the membership. Stories from congregations, schools and community services used to illustrate the elements of the Call in preaching opportunities and public appearances. • Regularly affirm congregations and Presbyteries who have taken aspects of the <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> process to focus their energy or grow their capacity. • Visits to events such as school and community services celebrations remind the gathering of their place in the whole church, belonging to a wider story of Christian service and living and celebrating the long historical connections between God's story and our story. • Along with the General Secretary the Moderator participates in Induction Programs of senior staff of Uniting Care Queensland and Synod Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to gather stories as examples of engagement with <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> Call and Values. • Responding to invitations to represent the Uniting Church in Queensland and seek and facilitate fresh opportunities as appropriate. • Foster confidence in the Uniting Church in Australia as a place to meet Jesus, grow in faith and as a context for belonging and serving, at any stage of life.
<i>Promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the many expressions of a "Prayerful Listening Church" • Encourage people to tell the story of their prayer groups and make links with other groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to gather resources and to explore ways of linking congregation's prayer groups. • Fostering short courses in developing Spiritual Disciplines such as that provided at The Downs Presbytery in February 2013.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All official meetings of the synod are book-ended by prayer. • Monday Midday Prayer which was launched at the last synod has been taken up with enthusiasm. Prayers for the Church and the world are routinely offered in congregations and are often led by lay people. Encouraging individuals to practice a wide range of Spiritual Disciplines and private prayer and Bible Study. • Community Prayer at Synod Office was an initiative of the General Secretary which provides opportunity for staff to worship together and to observe the seasons of the Christian year and special days of observance and focus in the wider community. eg Holy Week and World Environment Day • Identifying the opportunities for members of the Uniting Church to access Spiritual Direction and Prayer Workshops and Retreats run by groups such as "Still Point" at Toowong in Brisbane. Foster sharing of that information across Presbyteries. • Moderator has appreciated opportunities to attend and lead Presbytery's Retreats and Partners-in-ministry Retreat. • Sponsoring "Stretching Faith" - Young Adults wanting to go deeper in the faith. This continues to be an annual event for young adults wrestling with theology. • Supporting congregations and presbyteries who take initiatives and develop opportunities to experience prayer and spiritual disciplines eg Living Faith Congregation has developed an Experience of Prayer Weekend and The Downs Presbytery - Spiritual Disciplines practices and styles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging those congregations who have a special prayer ministry to offer hospitality to members of other congregations who would like to learn and grow in their prayer life. eg Living Faith Congregation. • Enable prayer resources to be evaluated and shared • Promote the work of the Assembly Worship Group in developing prayers and liturgies for use in corporate worship across the church. • Encourage participation in the Assembly initiative of one week of prayer and fasting prior to the gathering in Canberra in 2014 • Encourage young ministry agents to lead and nurture young adults who are engaged with Stretching Faith initiatives and foster connections through Presbytery Stretching Faith events.
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Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering the renewed life of Synod Standing Committee • Participating in the establishment phase of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee (GNRC) • Supporting the General Secretary and Synod Office staff in efforts to introduce new systems for Synod Office to improve services to the rest of the Church. • Advocating for and supporting Presbyteries to be adequately resourced for the task of delivering regulated responsibilities and leading healthy Christian communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the new rhythms of meetings and impact on participants and the life of the Uniting Church in Queensland. • Participating in GNRC processes as they mature and monitor and evaluate to ascertain effectiveness of these changes and new directions.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate as required in Project Group conversations exploring relationships, delegations and funding matters within the Synod across congregations, missions and community services. 	
<p><i>Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating Milestones in Ministry and with long term staff of Community Services • Fostering relationships with youth and young adults. Stretching Faith – Young adults going deeper in faith, National Young Adult Leaders Conference, Summer Madness youth camp, National Christian Youth Convention • Working with leaders of Congress and Calvary Presbytery to understand the particular challenges of renewing leadership in that context. • Considering how to support ministry agents across a lifetime of service – development, challenge, adaptation, refreshment for new seasons of service, retirement • Exploring ways for preparing and developing leaders and ministry agents for particular leadership roles across the church in Queensland • Working with Board for Christian Formation for re-invigorating the Network for Christian Formation. • Enhance the work of Synod Selection Panel by strengthening the pool of panel members and clarifying criteria for interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending celebratory events and send greetings to ministry agents reaching significant milestones in ministry • Support Presbytery ministers as they seek to maintain healthy placement context and agile, responsive, spiritually mature and prayerful teams for ministry across the church. • Chairing Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements with the needs of the whole church in view. • Identify means for increasing the capacity of the Synod and Presbytery to promote Continuing Education for Ministry and monitor the participation and choices of ministry agents. • Work with Network for Christian Formation to identify opportunities for Continuing Education for Ministry. • Sponsor the project designed to explore ministry in Queensland Synod focussed on Deployment and Development of Vital Christian Communities in the State of Queensland particularly around strategies for deployment and development of Ministry Agents as leaders in Qld Synod. • Monitoring the results of decisions of 2012 Assembly to transform the Ministerial Education Commission into a Working Group.
<p><i>Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in conversations with Heads of Churches group bi-monthly • Attending Queensland Churches Together and fostering local, regional and statewide conversations, ecumenical covenants and initiatives. The Moderator joined in celebrating the signing of the ecumenical covenant at Mt Mee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing attention to building relationships across the Christian Churches • Responding to opportunities to speak into the public space regarding social issues as they arise

- The Moderator has sought to attend to the covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress by engaging in conversations with leaders of Calvary Presbytery and Congress. There are three aspects to that engagement. Firstly, through mapping the range of activities that involve aboriginal people in Qld UCA. Secondly, looking for ways to educate the wider church regarding aboriginal issues. Thirdly, through responding to particular situations as they arise in congregations, community services, educational institutions and presbyteries.
- Across the State the church has responded to Disaster situations in a variety of ways. In many cases the local church are working with other community groups such as Red Cross, State Emergency Services, Police Chaplains, service clubs and Regional Councils. Life Line Community Recovery Teams respond as required by the government in response to the declared disasters. Local congregations and the leaders and ministry agents are often involved in multiple ways to provide relief and ongoing long term support for their communities. The Moderator will continue to respond to invitations to visit and gather stories and affirm the enormous effort across the state.
- The appointment of two part-time research officers working with Uniting Communications have been able to research and prepare material for conversations in the wider community and with the media about social justice issues.
- Together with Uniting Care Australia the Moderator sought to raise awareness of the opportunity to promote Gambling Reform through proposed changes to legislation. While the legislative changes were significantly modified, informative material regarding the issues of problem gambling were distributed through our networks.
- Collaborating with Uniting Care and other parties to apply for an ARC linkage grant for research into the impact of the mining resources boom on the most vulnerable people in our society and on service providers.
- Corresponding with government regarding matters of social justice such as TB Clinics in Torres Strait and Uranium Mining in this state.
- Partnering with UnitingCare Queensland to make submissions to government on issues eg. Discussion Paper on Red Tape reduction and other reform proposals for regulation of liquor and gaming, Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse.

- Continuing to work towards re-invigorating the Covenant with Congress as it is expressed through the Regional Council in Queensland, Calvary Presbytery. Foster opportunities for fresh expressions of that covenant and build healthy relationships with existing and emerging indigenous leaders in this state. Promote opportunities for the second peoples to grow in understanding of the history and the current situation faced by the indigenous people of this land.
- Stream-lining the capacity of congregations and presbyteries to respond to natural disasters and in particular increase the number of presbyteries who have been able to provide peer support training for ministry agents and key lay leaders.

- Aged Care Funding issues brought to the attention of the wider church through promotion of the Age Well Campaign developed by the National Aged Care Alliance including 28 member of NACA
- Representing Uniting Church at the launch of the policy to address appropriate labelling and tracking of the source of timber sold in Australia.
- Refugees and Asylum Seeker solidarity expressed through Uniting Church representation on Brisbane Refugee and Asylum Seeker (BRASS)

Key achievements/initiatives:

Keep the possibilities of the Together on the Way journey before the church in Queensland and to keep the church in her daily prayers.

Maintain passion for enabling Presbyteries to be healthy and effective as they discharge their regulated responsibilities and to look for ways to increase that capacity.

Focus attention on an intentional conversation with Congress and Calvary Presbytery leaders in order to re-invigorate the Covenant and to work together to identify indigenous leaders who can build on the best of the past and to develop ways to provide support and resources for the future ministry.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The Challenge for the church to recruit, retain and refresh ministry agents who can grow, adapt and develop the attitudes, skills and spiritual maturity to lead the church in discerning and performing God’s mission in each community. Dealing with the trend towards part-time and fractional ministry placements and balancing new models for mission engagement with the expectations for congregations to have a ministry agent and for ministry agents to be placed.

To continue to strengthen relationships across the various arms of the church recognising the different constraints experienced in each context. Acknowledging the need to keep telling the story of the many expressions of the Uniting Church in Queensland and how each person and part can be Uniting in Christ, Acting with Love, Living with Hope, Witnessing in faith and Working for Justice.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

1. Re-introduce a series of Ministry Development opportunities across a lifetime of ministry.
2. In collaboration with National Disaster Coordinator and other churches and faith groups in Queensland, develop a strategy to establish ecumenical chaplaincy to disaster situations with appropriate training, accreditation, peer support and self-care.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Kaye Ronalds

Preferred contact method: moderator@ucaqld.com.au

PILGRIM LEARNING COMMUNITY

Context:

Pilgrim Learning Community, as part of the Network for Christian Formation, seeks to inform and deepen the faith of lay members of this Synod. Pilgrim has focused upon biblical and theological education in the period since last Synod and has also supported and networked with a number of other initiatives. Pilgrim staff have advocated for the *Together on the way, enriching community* process as well as participating in Synod projects such as the Review of the ministry of Pastor and Assembly projects relating to its membership of the Ministerial Education Commission (MEC).

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrim staff have participated in the development and editing of a series of bible studies for the observance of the 35th anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia • Working 'on the ground', as staff have been, our view is that the uptake of the <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> process is 'patchy' across congregations, presbyteries and even within congregations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrim will seek to incorporate more elements of the <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> process into its educational programs to assist participants to further understand and commit to discipleship and mission.
<i>Promoting a discipline prayer and spirituality</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrim has addressed corporate prayer in the context of its educational programs particularly focused upon public worship. • Pilgrim has undertaken initial research around the development of a Prayer Resource as indicated in the <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> recommendations • A Presbytery Prayer Retreat has been conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrim is exploring the relevance of offering Prayer Retreat Leader training for interested persons within the Synod.
<i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisations</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrim has been involved in a range of meetings and workshops in relation to the development of the Synod Support Services concept • Pilgrim has actively participated in the Board of Christian Formation strategic review and planning process and is looking to the outcomes of this process as Trinity Theological College and Pilgrim are amalgamated to form a new entity focusing on education for all in the Synod. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In these change processes, Pilgrim will advocate for whole of Synod mechanisms to foster a more critically informed laity who have a deepened understanding of and a deepened faithful response to the gospel.

Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church

- This is the major area of impact for Pilgrim in terms of its philosophy and its programs:
- As part of the Network for Christian Formation, Pilgrim owes a debt to Presbytery personnel, Trinity and Synod staff for their willingness to partner with us in the education programs developed and implemented in the period 2008 to the current day.
- It is clear that the initial, widespread need for Lay Preacher education programs has been met and this level of need is now reduced to maintenance levels.
- It is also clear that, within our congregations, there are members seeking further education in biblical and theological (particularly UCA perspectives) topics who do not wish to study towards Lay Preacher accreditation. The profile of our membership, and our experience suggests, that we have many who are capable of further study and challenge to deepen their faithful response to God's mission in the world.
- Previously, the size and remoteness of this Synod; conflicting time demands; and many other reasons have prevented members from accessing quality face to face programs that foster understanding and a deepened faith. Now, through internet learning, a very large number of programs are available on home computers.

- Whilst Pilgrim will continue to offer the courses currently available there will be a broadening of the base of educational programs offered:
- Pilgrim will expand its course offerings to reflect that *Together on the way, enriching community* vision with a focus upon:- biblical and theological studies for lay people, training for prayer retreat leadership, relational leadership programs for UCA leaders, and worship preparation and leadership in a UCA context.
- Pilgrim will address remoteness and isolation issues by gradually providing online learning for people who cannot attend face to face programs. These programs will not seek to compete with the range of programs available through the internet. Their focus will be upon providing resources and courses that are aligned with the UCA perspective and ethos

Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnership

- Pilgrim advocates engagement in community and ecumenical partnerships as part of its learning programs.

Key achievements/initiatives:

- Despite a complete turnover in staffing during 2012, Pilgrim continues to maintain high quality programs with intention to expand these offerings progressively during 2013 and 2014.
- Pilgrim staff are currently engaged in developing online courses and resources for use by the church.

- Pilgrim is networking nationally amongst the other Synods and is jointly working towards a national approach to Lay Preacher education.
- Pilgrim has been actively involved in conversations with Synod in relation to a range of ministry initiatives (Pastor, Period of Discernment, CALD communities) and how these may be best supported.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

Pilgrim staffing (full time Director, 0.6 part time Christian Education Lecturer, and Pilgrim Administrator 0.6) is minimal and the expansion of course offerings is not without its stress upon staff time and resourcing.

The amalgamation of Trinity and Pilgrim into a new educational entity is an exciting prospect. However a repeat of this Synod's history, in which lay education has been denuded, must be avoided.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

There are many talented and gifted educational leaders in the church in various roles at Synod, Presbytery and Congregational contexts. For many their focus is 'maintenance' - keeping the church going. How do we liberate them to authentically inhabit the teaching/learning role and lead us all to be a learning church focused on mission?

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Neil Thorpe

Preferred contact method: pilgrim@ucaqld.com.au

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Context:

The College has continued through various processes of transition since the last Synod. The development of the Affiliation with ACU continues; the Affiliation was formally renewed at the beginning of 2012 for a further three years. Fine-tuning of the block of TTC-sponsored units in the ACU BTh continues, and will be further developed as part of a review of the BTh which will be conducted in the second half of 2013 (TTC is represented on the Review Committee). The process for having TTC-sponsored units in the ACU Masters programme has proved slower than hoped, but TTC faculty are now involved in teaching fully on-line units in the that programme.

In the middle of 2012 Rev Dr Neil Sims retired from full-time ministry and therefore concluded his placement at TTC after 16 years on the TTC Faculty. In anticipation of Neil's retirement a newly-named position, Director of Studies in Ministry, Mission and Leadership was developed by the BCF and advertised. Dr Aaron Ghiloni was appointed to the position, commencing in July 2013. This new position includes a specific mandate to develop teaching and research in Leadership. It also entails an expanded brief for developing the College's Field Education programme.

Malcolm Coombes, Jason LeCureux and Geoff Thompson have continued in their roles as Directors of Studies in, respectively, New Testament, Old Testament, and Systematic Theology. During the reporting period the College has been well served by sessional and occasional lecturers: Peter Lockhart; Wendi Sargeant, Lyn Burden, Di Bos, David MacGregor; Paul Walton, Don Whebell. Additionally, many ministers and members of the Uniting Church have contributed to the College programme as leaders/facilitators of Short Courses, Field Education Supervisors and members of Lay Consultation Teams. Rev Gerda Olafsen has continued to serve as the College Chaplain. The Librarian, Mrs Alethea Hubley, continues her oversight and development of the library with the aid of the Assistant Librarian, Vanessa Edwards. Alice Foo continues to provide outstanding administrative support to the Principal and Faculty.

During the reporting period 10 candidates (8 MOW; 2 Deacons) have received Certificates of Completion of Studies; one candidate (Deacon) resigned and one (MOW) transferred to another synod; the candidature of another (MOW) was terminated by the Presbytery. One Deacon Candidate transferred from Deacon to MOW. During that same period 8 candidates (7 MOW; 1 Deacon) have entered the College. At the time of writing there are 11 candidates engaged in formation (10 MOW and 1 Deacon), 1 (MOW) is on Leave of Absence. Two ministers have been referred to the College for academic studies by the Reception of Ministers Committee. Many other members of the Uniting Church, including those engaged in the POD, access the College programme either through formal academic study or the various Short Courses and Intensives open to the wider church.

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<i>Theologically informed, creative and visionary in its leadership.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development of the integrated formation programme with clarification of formation goals and evaluation of their attainment • Incorporation of 'Leadership' into PD of new Director of Ministry, Mission and Leadership • Development of new academic unit in Leadership • Systematic programme of college conversations learning from and reflecting theologically with the leaders of the various parts of the UCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing development and evaluation of current responses
<i>Working for Christian Unity</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of Affiliation with ACU and continued development of relationship with ACU Faculty. • TTC Faculty teaching in ACU Masters (fully on-line) units • Faculty involved in organisation and presentation at ANZATS (Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools) national conference • Faculty involved in leadership of Brisbane Chapter of ANZATS fostering links between six theological colleges in Brisbane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring closer relationship with ACU Faculty and through possible combined Staff Retreat Days • Continued exploration of possible co-teaching of BTh units between TTC and ACU Faculty.
<i>Organised for mission</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Field Education programme intentionally seeking opportunities in pioneering ministries. • Creation of Faculty position in Apologetics and Evangelism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative integration of Apologetics and Evangelism resources into the Formation programme and the development of this Faculty position as a resource for the whole church.

Key achievements/initiatives:

In response to a number of the current candidates already being in placement as Pastors and having already completed significant amounts of their academic formation by the time they have been accepted as candidates, the college has developed ways of appropriately adjusting formation requirements. Indications are that this scenario will become more rather than less likely and will be monitored carefully.

As a trial, and in full consultation with the relevant Presbytery, the College admitted two people to one semester of the Formation programme whilst they were still engaged in the POD and prior to their acceptance as candidates. This was undertaken at the students' own risk and implied nothing about their likely acceptance or otherwise as candidates. Upon their acceptance as candidates, this period of formation was credited to their required period of candidature.

In response to Priority Group D's report to the previous meeting of Synod, the College introduced a new academic unit on Preaching as a compulsory component of the Formation programme. Regular preaching by candidates at College chapel has also been introduced.

The library is expanding its uptake of e-books and e-journals thus making the library more accessible to the whole Queensland synod (Membership of the library is open to all members of the UCA).

Challenges/risks as we progress:

Presenting less as challenges, and more as opportunities, the College faces continuing transition with the departure of the current Principal and his replacement in that role by Malcolm Coombes. Further transition will include the appointment of new Faculty in the second half of 2013 to the vacant position in Systematic Theology and the new appointment in Apologetics and Evangelism. With these appointments there will have been an almost complete change in Faculty personnel in a period of three years. This is an exciting opportunity for the College and the Synod as new people and new ideas build on the College's existing foundations.

Through the Board TTC has engaged in conversations concerning the re-structuring of TTC and PLC. The opportunities presented through this for a more integrated approach to theological education in the Synod will see the present work of the College become even more accessible to the whole of the Queensland Synod.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

In due course the new Assembly Working Group on Education for Ministry will begin its work, replacing the present MEC and its national oversight of theological education. The exact implications of this development for theological education in the Synod are not yet known, but when they are they will need to be engaged by the College.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Geoff Thompson

Preferred contact method: ttc@ucaqld.com.au

FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES

Context:

The FAPS Department is responsible for facilitating the effective stewardship of the Synod's resources. The focus for the last 18 months has been on gaining productivity and better reporting through process and system enhancements.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web migration - All websites hosted through the Synod have been standardised, hosted on one server, and contracted out. • Stabilised/standardised hardware and operating systems. • Selected web database and electronic content management systems for Synod, SugarCRM and Alfresco, respectively. • Conducted process reviews for Property Services and Finance Services • Developed Property Trust By-laws. • Developed first cut FIP Board By-laws. • Reviewed Uniting Church Foundation structure and refocused purpose to fundraising. • Developed financial reporting to Synod Standing Committee and the Finance Investment and Property Board. • Consolidated special purpose funds to enable better monitoring, distribution and reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select and implement a new treasury system. • Decommission the old banking platform - Ultracs. • Implement SugarCRM and Alfresco. • Decommission property database - Proclaim. • Resolve new funding model for Synod. • Establish standard practice for governance and financial reporting to Australian Not-for-profit and Charities Commission (ACNC). • Provide ready access to Synod property and finance policies. • Finalise FIP Board By-laws. • Finalise property delegations and authorisations. • Establish process for FIP Board recruitment and succession planning. • Revise reporting for specific purpose funds.

Key achievements/initiatives:

Web migration - 223 domains were hosted by Information Technology Services on three different servers and multiple web software platforms. Domains hosted were for congregations, presbyteries, synods and related entities. All domains are now hosted on remote servers, have been standardised to using wordpress, or have been cancelled. Information Services still supports these sites, and workload has been reduced by an average of 8 hours per week and cost savings of over \$20,000 per annum (including infrastructure) are expected.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

As we strive to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our systems there are a number risks that need to be addressed: Compliance and reporting risks associated with Increasing national legislation (e.g. ACNC); operational risks because data is input manually into a number of different (non-integrated) systems and is generally incomplete and/or inaccurate; and resourcing risks because multiple system revisions/upgrades/installations will put a heavy burden on existing staff resources.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

Even though the church is made up of a number of different bodies, there is an overlap in information requirements, and hence a scoping study is required to establish the necessary data to be maintained in web-based systems that permit sharing across relevant church bodies.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Robert Packer

Preferred contact method: robert.packer@ucaqld.com.au

PASTOR APPLICATION COMMITTEE

Context:

The Pastor Application Committee (previously the Pastor Candidature Committee) is the group of the Synod tasked with fulfilling Regulation 2.3.3 (c): "A Synod body designated by the Synod shall have responsibility for considering and determining applications made under Regulation 2.3.3 (a)(ii) (ie. Ministry of Pastor who wish to serve in approved placements of the Church" As such, the Pastor Application Committee (PAC) seeks to resource the church by providing a further opportunity for discernment of a persons call and appropriateness for this ministry, alongside the person, and the Presbytery. After an initial take up period immediately following the advent of the ministry of Pastor as a specified ministry of the church (2008), with a large number of applications to serve in this way being processed, the period between the last Synod and this has seen only three applications. The committee believes that this represents both a settling after the initial take up, together with a greater clarity over the particular place of this stream of the ministry of Pastor in the life of the Church.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the PAC process, applicants are not required to explore the <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> process or reflect against the priority directions, however the Priority directions of the church are integral to the way the mission of the Church in Queensland is understood and expressed and therefore is engaged as such in questions regarding the applicants understanding of mission and ministry within the life of the Uniting Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the committee's discernment processes to ensure that we are adequately and accurately exploring and discerning the issues as appropriate to the brief of the Regulations and expectations of the Synod.
<i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the request for clarification over process issues from a presbytery, the Standing Committee asked the Synod Ministries Coordinator to convene a review into the then Pastor Candidature Committee process. The outcome of this review was a change in name, more accurately representing the function of the committee; some enhanced processes of discernment; and suggestions for further review of the ministry of Pastor within the Synod. • The above further exploration has been put on hold until the Assembly review of the Ministry of Pastor is completed and recommendations are taken on board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of the review of the Ministry of Pastor by the Assembly will be engaged and changes required will be adopted. • Following above process, a review of the previously identified further exploration will be done, and work initiated. • The outcomes of this work will be reported to the Synod Standing Committee, and changes adopted based on their recommendation

Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In seeking to apply the work of this committee to the life of the Church, the committee exercises one element of a wider process of exploration of call, gift and skill discovery and affirmation, and ministry engagement.• Whilst not the work of the committee, there is engagement by the committee through the person of the chair with Synod training bodies to explore and enhance ongoing training and development opportunities for Pastors in the life of the church.• The Committee also seeks to engage a feedback loop with Presbyteries regarding candidates for the Ministry of Pastor that come to the PAC, and with the Placements Committee in terms of productive ministry engagement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Committee will continue to engage in its work as a function of the larger work of discernment and active ministry engagement by people within the ministry of Pastor.• The Committee will pay attention to and promote any development opportunities that present themselves, either as an outcome of the review processes, or as a result of the engagement with training bodies. |
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Key achievements/initiatives:

The review of the Pastor Candidature Committee and the outcomes of that review process enabling more effective engagement in the discernment processes of the church.

The engagement of two members of the Synod review team with the Assembly review team.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The processes become unwieldy, such that people shy away from engagement in the ministry, and the ministry therefore ceases to offer the flexibility, and appropriate oversight of ministry for which it was designed.

That the Ministry of Pastor becomes a short circuit for ordained ministry in the life of the Uniting Church.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: John Cox

Preferred contact method: john.cox@ucaqld.com.au

PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE

Context:

The Placements Committee of the Synod is the body which, under regulations (3.7.4.2) oversees the list of placements within the Synod, and works together with Presbyteries, and other bodies within the life of the Synod to ensure that ministry agents are deployed in placements which match their skills and gifts, and which meet particular needs of the ministry agent, where those apply. As such, the Placements Committee exercises an overview of placements with a commitment to the well-being of the whole church.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercising an overview of placements with a commitment to the wellbeing of the whole church entails that the Placements Committee also have a view to the call and vision of the Synod. • The call and vision remain before us (physically) as we meet. • We have exercised oversight of Placements, and of changes in placements that are directly a response to our call and vision through the work identified by the Priority Directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work we are currently doing will remain a priority for the placements committee.
<i>Promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee engages actively in scripture, reflection and prayer at each meeting, also seeking to regularly commit particular situations to prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, this is a high priority for the committee as it gathers and will remain so.
<i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements Committee constantly seeks to review its processes in order to ensure streamlined and effective processes that are transparent. • We have sought to bring clarity to issues associated with Placements within the church such as: extensions beyond the tenth year for non-congregational placements; definition of Placement against active service; the significant re-structure of placements within BlueCare Chaplaincy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Placements Committee has recognised that further work needs to be done in understanding and planning for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the changing face of ministry across the church; • the increase in the number of fractional placements across the Synod; • the resultant changes in the gift and skill mix required from ministry agents;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the role of the Secretary of Placements to again ensure clarity and transparency. • Interviews with candidates moving toward completion of their formation who will be available for Placement (subject to completion and approval for ordination). • Interviews with ministry agents from other denominations who are seeking to explore offering ministry within the Uniting Church. • Agreements with the other Synods regarding processes of making profiles available, and having conversations with ministers from other Synods who wish to work in Qld and vice-versa. • Established and monitored JNC processes for Synod office based placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need to intentionalise development plans for ministry agents to ensure ongoing skill development into the life of the church. • The above will likely require policy revision as it unfolds
<p><i>Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Placements committee regularly seeks to identify, as it understands the nature of placement needs across the Synod, what particular skill sets are necessary for any given placement. These core exploration resources the Presbyteries and other bodies represented on Placements Committee as they seek to encourage CEM across ministry agents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the pieces of work identified above with regard to an ongoing development plan will utilise the work of the Mission engagement and Discipleship Project Officers in understanding leadership priorities and needs within the church. • A research project envisaged by the collective of Presbytery Ministers will also engage this area of work. • These two pieces of work will engage with the placements process, and may indeed be cause for review of aspects of our processes to ensure good process for encouraging and discerning God's call to ministry and to ongoing development for ministry as people serve the church in an ever changing world.
<p><i>Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Key Partnerships the Placements Committee has are internal to the church, however, there are some placements that operate within Government and in other organisations, for which the Placements Committee bears responsibility and seeks to support placement processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee will continue to see this as a priority piece of work as the need arises.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

Priority placements - The placements committee recognises the difficulty in identifying suitably gifted and skilled ministry agents who are available to explore the call.

The changing face of ministry in the Uniting Church requires ministry agents who engage intentional development programs

The recognition and interaction of differing views of the way in which call to ministry operates across the Synod, within congregations, and with ministers.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: John Cox

Preferred contact method: john.cox@ucaqld.com.au

PROJECT OFFICER - CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Context:

This role started in December 2012 and was initially focused on running Summer Madness 2013 which was a great success in terms of encouraging and inspiring young people in their discipleship - of particular mention was the TAG afternoon where young people enthusiastically set out to do Timely Acts of Generosity for people in the Alexandra Headlands area.

Since then the focus has been particularly on two projects - revamping the Period of Discernment (POD) and developing the Grow Faith digital discipleship strategy. Both these projects are about developing our discipleship/leadership pathways for the Uniting Church in Queensland, an area that came out of Priority Direction D of *Together on the way, enriching community*. Both these projects open up exciting ways to encourage intentional discipleship and leadership formation in our congregations, and especially with young people. The revamped POD will be an accessible and useful tool for congregations to identify and encourage leadership and faith development of people within their congregations - not just those seeking to candidate for ordained ministry. The revamped POD will be available from January 2014. The Grow Faith digital discipleship strategy is very much in its planning stages, but it is hoped it too will be available from January 2014. Grow Faith will be a quality discipleship resource and process that congregations can use with their young people whether they have 50 young people or 1, and whether they live in Brisbane or Barcardine. Grow Faith will use web based material, deliverable at a PC, tablet or phone to engage and connect young people into an exciting discipleship journey.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1(a) By 2013, in the councils of the Qld UCA, there will be a clear, widely-owned intention to ground the development of Christian leadership in the practices of discipleship formation, and to explore an understanding of what God seeks to bring to the church through the gift of leadership. • This ethos is underpinning the work done in all projects. Central to this is the idea of a discipleship/leadership pathway. That is, that the church provides resources which create a 'path' from exploring discipleship into leadership. • 2(a) By 2013 people of every generation in congregations, councils and community services will be participating in discipleship formation through relevant and focused training programs in leadership for the mission of the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Faith and the POD are resources that lie on the discipleship/leadership pathway but there needs to be other resources more focused on leadership development and taking discipleship more deeply. Also there needs to be training for congregations on what a 'pathway' is and how that might be developed in their congregation. • The Grow Faith platform has the capacity to be used to deliver existing discipleship resources and processes that local congregations have developed (for adults) and make them accessible across the state. • Resources for leadership and discipleship development beyond the POD need to be considered.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Faith is a discipleship resource and process for young people that will be available and accessible to every congregation, school and faith community across the state (and beyond!). • 2(b) By 2013 every congregation would be offering resources for members to be engaged in a Period of Discernment (POD) as a way of fostering active discipleship. • The renewed POD will be a resource for all members of congregations wishing to develop their faith, direction and leadership. 	
<p>Key achievements/initiatives:</p> <p>Summer Madness 2013 (see above)</p> <p>POD (see above)</p> <p>Grow Faith (see above)</p>	
<p>Challenges/risks as we progress:</p> <p>One potential risk is that the initiatives described above will be seen as ad hoc initiatives and used as such without a clear intention/strategy behind them. This will limit the usefulness of the initiatives.</p>	
<p>Recommendations/issues to be addressed:</p> <p>The need for training in discipleship/leadership strategies and pathways to help congregations be intentional about what they do</p>	

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Mark Cornford

Preferred contact method: Email - mark.cornford@ucaqld.com.au

PROJECT OFFICER - MISSION ENGAGEMENT

Context:

The Mission Engagement Project Officer was appointed commencing January 2013 for two years. The role of the Mission Engagement Project officer is focussed in Together on the Way Enriching Community Priority Direction C: Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the church in Queensland.

In particular it is oriented toward encouraging mission engagement across the church through recognising and describing a mission engagement framework, as outlined in the fourth objective:

Objective 4: By 2013 we will have an articulated and evidence mission engagement framework for congregations and presbyteries which emphasises growth and development through discipleship and disciple making (demonstrable, includes benchmarking, shared, integrates with other parts of the church).

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 (a) Develop a mission engagement framework • A mission engagement framework will outline underlying theology of mission, range of approaches to mission, priorities for local and regional action, resourcing needs and capabilities including coaching, learning and partnerships • The development of this framework will enable congregations, faith communities and presbyteries to share common language and approaches to mission, to access appropriate support and training and to maximise capacity for mission engagement in their own context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and identify key components of a mission engagement framework, and its impact on the church in areas such as training and learning, leadership development, theology of & approaches to mission, and models for review and action learning • Facilitate review of church planting & fresh expressions experiences of the church in Queensland over the last 10 years to ensure lessons learned from those experiences can be captured and passed on into new contexts • Identify and review (for learning) other approaches to mission engagement • Explore strategic mission partnerships such as those between congregations, agencies and/or schools • Explore approaches to training and leadership development for lay and ordained missional leaders including the potential for a pilot missional leadership training project • Share learning & planning conversations with ecumenical partners and other UCA Synods

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 (b) Explore ways of being Christian community that are responsive to their particular context • The project will identify a range of contexts in which particular approaches to Christian community may be helpful based both on our own experiences and those explored in other Synods and by ecumenical partners. We will identify core skills, approaches and philosophies underpinning this range of context-drive christian faith community types • This will enable local action groups, planning and leadership teams to access a range of context-sensitive resources to support emerging ways of being Christian community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and/or encourage networks of congregations & faith communities operating in similar contexts to provide encouragement, idea and resource sharing, creativity and innovation. Examples of context-based networks include city/inner-urban churches, rural/remote mission engagement, urban growth corridors, church planting/fresh expressions. There are already a number of networks operating for which encouragement and support will be important - including the LCD network, and Lay Forum for example. • Regularly meet with presbytery and congregational leaders to identify issues of regional and local interest, and cooperatively develop approaches to resource and support mission engagement • Participate in a range of learning opportunities to bring the benefit of other's experiences into the UCA Qld context
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Key achievements/initiatives:

In January 2013, Scott Guyatt began work as Mission Engagement Project Officer. The initial phase of this work has concentrated on listening intentionally to congregations, presbyteries, synod bodies and agencies in order to understand clearly both the priorities and possibilities for mission engagement that lie before us. Careful listening to identify resourcing requirements is a key component of this initial research phase. A close and cooperative partnership with Presbyteries is emerging.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

Identifying shared theology of mission, and underlying approaches to mission in a culturally and theologically diverse church.
 Identifying emerging missional leaders, and making available resources for appropriate and timely leadership development.
 Developing agreed priorities for allocation of limited resources in support of mission engagement

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

Future actions outlined above
 Reactivate the www.seedsofhope.unitingchurch.org.au website/blog as a collecting point of stories, lessons and observations

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Scott Guyatt

Preferred contact method: Email: scott.guyatt@ucaqld.com.au

UNITING COMMUNICATIONS

Context:

Since the 29th Synod we have experienced the formation of Uniting Communications (the joining and strengthening of Synod office marketing, fundraising and communications teams). This formation was a direct result of Synod office activities working to be better organised to support the mission of the Church (Priority Direction C). Uniting Communications' focus has been on optimising staffing and revising/consolidating key Synod communications tools and how we use them. Mardi Lumsden was appointed Director, Uniting Communications, in March 2012. The staff is now made up of: Marketing and Fundraising Manager Marion Ganga (started March 2013), Web Manager Osker Lau, Graphic Designer / Project Manager Holly Jewell (part-time), Cross-platform editor/producer Rohan Salmond (started April/May 2013), Communications Officer / Advertising Manager Tara Burton, Research Officer (job share) Katie Lewis and Sue Hutchinson (started September 2012), and Writer (and acting editor for four edition of Journey) Dianne Jensen (part-time) (started May 2012). Many of our new staff replace staff who have left. In some cases positions have been vacant for a number of months with staff picking up a large amount of extra work and responsibility in the meantime. The team is now tasked with all the communications, marketing, and fundraising activities of Synod Support Services (including Alexandra Park and Raymont Lodge Residential College) as well as providing support for strategic projects (e.g. Grow Faith).

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new-look Journey magazine was launched in February 2013 as a response to a readership survey in 2012 and cutting edge print media trends. Journey is meant as a tool for Uniting Church members to not only read, enjoy and discuss, but also as an evangelism tool for people to give to friends. The aim is that Journey is a magazine of influence and addresses topics in different ways to the mainstream media. It is also a key place to explore the diversity of the Uniting Church in Queensland. The focus was moved to fewer overall stories, allowing stories to have more depth. Regular columns including a congregational profile and theological reflection on discipleship during this, the Year of Discipleship, continues to remind readers of our shared Call and Vision. • A key avenue for young people to engage in the shared Call and Vision is the Synod calendar and calendar art competition. Entries doubled in the competition's second year with young people from all over the state exploring what discipleship means to them to celebrate 2013 being the Year of Discipleship. Judges - Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, artist, Rev Geraldine Wheeler, and Wesley Mission Brisbane's Art From the Margins coordinator, Tony Anderton - were very impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness of the works. 2013 Calendar Art winners were: Joshua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be continued review and reflection of Journey as the key printed communications tool that speaks to who the Uniting Church is and what it believes. The revision of the role of editor to cross-platform editor / producer gives greater scope for Journey to move into an ever increasingly multimedia news world. Rohan Salmond began in this role on 29 April 2013. Future focus will be on repurposing Journey content in different ways (e.g. video and via social media). The electronic version of Journey will be a key focus for this change. • A continued commitment to run the Synod calendar art competition with the focus of engaging young people in the Uniting Church with the Call and Vision. The calendar will continue to have key Uniting Church dates (e.g. presbytery meetings known at time of print) and, where possible, Lectionary readings as a reminder of the scope and purpose of The Uniting Church in Australia. • Future needs for Christmas and Easter postcards will be assessed to determine if this is still the best way to assist local congregations in their work to raise

Bornman, Cloe Yu Garmin, Shae Godfrey, Alister Gomersall, Hamish Gomersall, Emma Hill, Jacob Hill, Finn Jewell, Ho-Se Kim, Adrian Leonard, Brielle Powell, Alexander Simpson, and Julia von Berky.

- Easter and Christmas postcard campaigns have continued to be popular. Since the 29th Synod there has been a focus on collaborating with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania's communications team. The messages on the cards link back to the Synod's Call and Vision. The addition of video resources focussed on providing a Call to Worship for congregations to use during services has been well received.
- The creation of the Side by Side study resources to celebrate the 35th anniversary of The Uniting Church in Australia was a great experience in collaboration. Coordinated by Lyndelle Gunton, Neil Thorpe and Mardi Lumsden, the resource included a series of four short videos exploring how different parts of the Uniting Church work side by side. The filming of these was in collaboration with Assembly communications. Many thanks to all who were involved.
- Uniting Communications, in collaboration with Synod Support (administration) run "congregation visits". Essentially this is a tour of the Synod facilities at 60 Bayliss St, Auchenflower, where members of a congregation can worship with staff or Trinity students (depending on the day of the tour), chat with the Moderator and/or General Secretary (depending on availability), hear from and chat with Synod Support Service staff. In April 2013 a special version of this tour was developed for visiting Blue Care staff and internal staff induction.
- The Uniting Communications team, with direction from the research officers, have identified a small number of key events (e.g. Fair Trade fortnight and NAIDOC week) where small events have been held for staff and visitors of the Synod office. These events remind people of the Church's Vision 2020 and the core values of the Uniting Church. Synod staff also ran a linen drive during Lent to provide linen packs to UnitingCare Community to give to refugee families settling in the community.
- Regular worship services with Synod staff have proven popular. Uniting Communications developed a template for staff to use when organising a services as well as running a service of their own.
- Uniting Communications has been working with the Grow Faith, digital discipleship project, on a number of levels.

their own profile in their local community in key religious seasons.

- There is potential for a communications road show to engage with people in congregations and assist them explore the communications tools on offer and how to use communications to their advantage. There is also potential for this road show to include other aspects of Synod Support Services depending on people's needs.
- In the coming year there will be a particular focus on multi-media resources with a particular focus on exploring what the Uniting Church believes. There is potential here to link in with the Grow Faith digital discipleship project. The planning and building phases of Grow Faith are major works for Uniting Communications, Synod IT, and Project Officer for Christian Formation.
- Within the Synod office, Uniting Communications is working with Synod Support Services to provide opportunities for staff to engage with the Vision 2020 and the Gospel Values and Call of the Uniting Church. We will be doing this through supporting staff induction processes, regular all staff meetings and the redevelopment of the Synod office intranet.
- Moving forward with the Grow Faith digital discipleship project, Uniting Communications will have input from a digital and graphic design perspective, to assist in sourcing and delivery of content, as well as marketing and any possible fundraising opportunities that may arise from the project.

Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland

- After months of work, in April 2013 a new-look Queensland Synod website was launched. Part of the Web Migration Project, the new ucaqld.com.au brings together multiple Synod Services websites under one banner. While the Synod website is the external face of the Uniting Church in Queensland, it also needs to be a place for Uniting Church members to easily find all the information they need. The "Administration" section will be particularly used by those who previously accessed forms and information from the FAPS or UC Insurance websites.
- The creation of Uniting News is another example of our team working to limit duplication of information. Uniting News is the combination of UC Information (the General Secretary's weekly enews) and AdMinistry (the enewsletter from Finance and Property Services targeted at ministerial agents and church council treasurers). The hope is that by having one source of this information that it will be presented in a clear and concise manner and be accessible to as many people as needed.
- In collaboration with Synod IT, Uniting News and the revised Find a Church section of ucaqld.com.au now pull content from the Synod's main database, Proclaim, to eliminate duplication of contact databases and multiple places for people to update their information. The accuracy of this database will improve over time and with clear communication to users about how to update details and the importance of Synod Support Services having accurate data.
- The Synod's Facebook page has been an ever increasing place to connect with Uniting Church members from across Queensland and Australia. Until this year it was set up as a "profile". As this was breaking Facebook 's rules about organisations 'posing' as individuals, we turned it the into an organisation page. This limits the interaction we can have with people through our Facebook page (Facebook was a great source of photo searching for Journey during the floods) but has other benefits. I urge congregations to ensure their Facebook presence is a page, not a profile. This upgrade has also led to refining our social media policy for staff using the Uniting Church Facebook page.
- Uniting Communications assists many parts of Synod Support Services in researching information and getting information to the right people in the best, most professional way. To date we have assisted in the production of a number of surveys for parts of Synod Support to address the needs of people using their services.
- We will continue to work on limiting duplication of information, particularly online. Work will continue on making ucaqld.com.au as functional and easy to use as possible.
- We are working on an online submission form for both Uniting News and Journey story submissions. Required form fields mean there will be less chasing people to confirm information.
- Work will continue, in consultation with IT, to eliminate separate databases of information. Looking forward, the Journey subscribers database needs to be refreshed.
- All social media platforms used by Uniting Communications will be rebranded as Queensland Synod, rather than Journey (YouTube and Twitter) to consolidate the Uniting Church in Queensland's social media presence.
- We will continue to provide communications support and advice for all parts of Synod Support Services. This will include targeted information sharing. Uniting News now takes the place of AdMinistry so we will be monitoring if that remains the best way to distribute important information that people need to run their congregation/faith community / service.
- Staff will be assessing the sponsorship opportunities for future Synod meetings and other Synod-wide events as well as strategic projects and looking at how the UC Foundation moves in the ever-changing world of fundraising.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship and support for the 30th Synod meeting was developed through Uniting Communications' marketing and fundraising manager, Marion Ganga. This enabled the creation of key 30th Synod material including USBs, lanyards, and other products. 	
<p><i>Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the 29th Synod requested the General Secretary and the Synod Standing Committee, in implementing the <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> priorities, to consider the role of one Synod office staff person being directed towards resourcing and supporting the Moderator, General Secretary, and the wider church, in fulfilling the commitment to the pursuit of justice, peace and a sustainable environment. To this end a Research Officer position was created within Uniting Communications. Sue Hutchinson and Katie Lewis were appointed to the position in a job-share situation and began in September 2012. It is important to note that this is not an advocacy role. Katie now also assists Uniting Green one-day-per-week. The research officers are involved in many aspects of the Synod's work including assisting the chaplaincy department by researching the effects of the resources boom on communities and identifying collaboration points with larger research projects; support for asylum seekers and refugees; and child safety – mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect. They have also set up the social justice section of the new Synod website and are paying particular attention to finding resources for congregations to engage in specific social justice issues. • Our active involvement in the national Uniting Church communicators group was demonstrated once again when two Uniting Communications staff members attended the 12th Assembly meeting in Adelaide in July 2012 as part of the reporting team. Key communications staff from across the country meet at least once per year to enable shared knowledge, support, and opportunities for collaboration. We now have a regular collaboration with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania in relation to the Christmas and Easter postcard campaigns. Research and social justice staff from around The Uniting Church in Australia also met for the first time in 2012 to identify points of collaboration and key areas of work. • Uniting Communications Director, Mardi Lumsden, remains the Queensland Chapter coordinator for the Australasian Religious Press Association. This group is made up of communications professionals from Christian churches across Queensland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national Uniting Church communicators meeting will be held in Melbourne in September, prior to the Australasian Religious Press Association annual conference. With three new editors of synod publications nationally and significant changes in the NSW/ACT Synod communications, this meeting will be essential to identify collaboration opportunities, provide support, and plan a course of action for the difficult communications times that lie ahead in the next 18 months. • The Australasian Religious Press Association, Queensland Chapter, have agreed to organise a series of networking events for Christian communications people in Brisbane. • Members of Uniting Communications regularly meet with counterparts from Uniting Church agencies and community services. This is an important relational network that will continue to strengthen. We have seen the importance of having good working relationships with these people on a number of occasions, as well as to provide support for each other.

Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church

- Uniting Communications has been involved in the planning of Stretching Faith young adult theology camps and events from the beginning. Our staff also assist in various ways in Summer Madness including graphic design and planning. The research officers also presented a workshop on unleashing myths around asylum seekers at the January camp.

- Uniting Communications will be exploring its involvement and support of the initiative, Uniting Arts. The purpose of Uniting Arts is to form a collective of creative artists within and on the fringes of the Uniting Church in Queensland that helps grow and inspire the use and quality of art in worship as well as support Uniting Church artists working in the mainstream world. “Art” may include: visual art, music, drama, dance, textile, film, puppetry, creative story-telling, creative writing, etc. This project connects with Priority Direction D and in particular helps form theologically informed, creative and visionary leaders within the Uniting Church in Queensland. We are working with Dona Spencer to develop a Uniting Arts Festival in conjunction with her event Flourish, on the Gold Coast in October 2013.

Promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality

- Continual promotion of the Monday Midday Prayer initiative through Journey, social media channels, and internal staff emails.
- Since the last Synod there have been intentional Journey stories on different aspects of prayer and spirituality.

- We will continue to develop of the Monday Midday Prayer initiative through Journey, as a key part of the new Synod website, and via other online outlets.

Key achievements/initiatives:

Our key achievements since the last Synod in Session have been consolidating our team, the redesign of Journey, the consolidation and redesign of the Synod website and creation of Uniting News. In doing these things we believe we are living up to our mission statement: In serving God, Uniting Communications will inspire, resource and engage in conversations across all parts of the Uniting Church in Queensland, making mission and belonging possible. In 2012 the team won two awards at the Australasian Religious Press Association conference in Wellington. The 2011 'What Are You Hungry For?' Easter video took out the creativity award from a field of professional communications teams from across Australia and New Zealand. Judges praised the high quality and thoughtfulness of the video, which linked with the 2011 Easter postcard campaign. Many thanks to film-maker Phillip Johnson and those who took part. Journey was also awarded a bronze award for its website, particularly for its integration with multimedia resources and social media. These awards were among 14 won by Uniting Church publications nationally.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

Key challenges and risks moving forward will be staffing changes and vacant positions as there has been a lot of work on developing our team and all staff continue to be very busy. Larger scope of work provides more opportunities for Uniting Communications to be involved in the mission of the Church but means staff are spread quite thinly just on core business which does not leave a lot of room for strategic initiatives. With the employment of a marketing and fundraising manager a particular challenge will be reimagining how the Synod can best support the UC Foundation and how fundraising could optimise particular aspects of the Church's mission.

A particular communications challenge in the coming 18 months will be around the Royal Commission. Communications around allegations, if they arise, will be difficult. It will also be challenging to obtain media coverage of the good work of churches while an issue so heartbreaking is driving news headlines. This will not only be a challenge for Synod communications but for congregations also.

Other challenges include knowing who is the best point of contact regarding communications in congregations.

Team members having time to get out and about and meet people and listen to their communications needs and challenges.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

Correctness of contact databases is a massive issue in Synod Support Services. There are many staff involved in working to create the best option of a single database but keeping that information up-to-date will continue to be a challenge. It will be imperative for people to know how and why updating their information is so important. Potentially congregations having and using generic email addresses (e.g. minister@AnywhereUnitingChurch.org.au) may be helpful moving forward.

With the importance of an online presence, There is potential for a person to be identified in each congregation to manage websites/social media. This person should not necessarily be the minister, releasing the minister to do other work.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Mardi Lumsden

Preferred contact method: email: mardi.lumsden@ucaqld.com.au

UNTINGWORLD

Context:

UnitingWorld is an Agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia with a charter to stand in solidarity with Church Partners in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific and to facilitate purposeful, effective partnerships between churches and communities worldwide. UnitingWorld has a specific written partnership agreement with the Queensland Synod to support, build and nourish international relationships for schools, agencies, congregations, presbyteries, and other Uniting Church bodies in Queensland.

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<i>Engaged in authentic community relationship.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Queensland congregations and two agencies connect with church communities and people worldwide to partner in God’s mission through UnitingWorld's Australian Church Partner program with overseas congregations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support current relationships and fostering new and genuine, deep relationships expressed through long-term engagement.
<i>Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace for all creation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82 congregations are involved through Lent Event in action and reflection around the issues of extreme poverty leading to connection with overseas partner communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of congregations committed to seeing justice for our partners and their communities to improve their well being; enabling people who are poor to have their voice heard, giving them honour and respect
<p>Key achievements/initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A new Pacific initiative supporting women and men in continuing to seek life-giving ways of being and relating – addressing issues like gender-based violence, resourcing Christian education and practical programs relating to gender, climate change, human rights and sustainable livelihoods, enabling reconsideration of traditional roles and encouraging newer generations of leadership, including through using the networks of Pacific Women's Fellowships. Actions fulfilling UnitingWorld's commitment to connect church communities and people worldwide to partner in God’s mission and empowering Australian communities to form effective partnerships with the UCA's Partner Churches. Enabling the UCA more effectively to participate in the mission of God in a context of dramatic global change in Christianity with the centre shifting away from the West with its Enlightenment heritage e.g. in China where our new partner the China Christian Council has approximately 23 million members. UCA granted membership of the Pacific Conference of Churches in March 2013 strengthening connections between the First Peoples and Pacific peoples in the UCA and the Pacific. 	

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The challenge is to enable UCA people and faith communities to see global engagement as an intrinsic part of participating in the mission of God rather than an optional extra, and enabling them to experience the preciousness of the UCA's particular set of 35 partnerships, in turn shaping who UCA is. The correlating risk is that UCA congregations will become inwardly focussed on survival, cease to participate in the mission of God and consequently unfaithful and ineffective.

As the centre of Christianity moves from the North Atlantic to Asia-Pacific-Africa, the second challenge is to engage with Partners from these regions so that the UCA participates in the mission of God, especially recognising the opportunities offered through partnerships in Asia. The risk is that the UCA will lose connection with the life of the Spirit and be trapped within Western frameworks, not helping people know the abundant life offered in Jesus Christ.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

Issues to be addressed are helping congregations see global engagement as integral in being faithful to God, accepting the precious gift of the UCA's 35 partnerships as part of and in turn shaping their being (not an optional item), and then following through on being faithful with practical, life-changing action such as with advocacy on Australian Government policies that affect Partners, offering support for people living on Pacific atolls affected by climate change, facilitating wider community engagement with Partners as part of participating in the mission of God and sharing in particular initiatives such as supporting Pacific women's empowerment.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Bruce Mullan, Associate Director Church Solidarity (Pacific), UnitingWorld

Preferred contact method: Email: brucem@unitingworld.org.au 02 8267 4489

UNITING GREEN

Context:

Green Church was renamed Uniting Green at the last Synod, marked by environmentally friendly coffee mugs. Rev Dr Clive Ayre and Rev Judith Dalton have continued to work in a voluntary capacity under the oversight of the General Secretary.

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<i>Theologically informed, creative and visionary in its leadership</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Dr Clive Ayre has been developing theology beyond a human focus to include the whole creation. • He has presented eco-mission papers at the Australian Association for Mission Studies and the International Conference on "Christian Faith and the Earth". • He has published journal articles and books and has contact with overseas scholars. • He has developed links with Trinity College and given guest lectures. • Links have developed with Pilgrim Learning Community, and both Clive and Judith have given lectures in PLC and Presbytery Lay Preachers Courses.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line courses are being prepared with PLC • Seminars and lectures by invitation.
<i>Working for Christian unity</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Dr Clive Ayre contributed to the Queensland Churches Together (QCT) Christians in Dialogue studies on "The Relation between Faith and Caring for the Environment". • He has set up the Queensland Churches Environmental Network (QCEN) including Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches and Salvation Army. This has now been acknowledged as a Commission of QCT. • Eco-mission is an easy and natural way to work together with other Christians. • Clive and Judith participated in the QCEN ecumenical forum in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings of QCEN to be continued. and issues explored.

<p>Toowoomba on "The Impacts of Coal Seam Gas". This included presentations from people affected by coal seam gas development, and on theology of the role of the church. The development of UCA Mining Chaplaincy in The Downs Presbytery, and the Research Proposal from Uniting Care (Qld) with the University of Queensland on "The Social Impact of Mining" were featured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from this, the Toowoomba Churches Environmental Network was formed. • Clive was involved in the formation of the NCCA Eco-Mission Project and is working with ecumenical colleagues on several projects including a National Churches Environmental Network with ecumenical environmental networks in each State. QCEN has become a model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outworking of issues will continue • Encourage other regional networks • Work with ecumenical partners on a range of issues
<p><i>Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace for all creation</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further connections have been made between UCA Synods, and other State and National organisations to be more aware of what others are doing in environmental care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations are continuing
<p><i>Engaged in authentic community relationships</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental care is an easy and natural way to build bridges, and encouraging people to link with activities in their local and wider community helps to build authentic community relationships. • In particular, as we share our concerns with people of different faiths we can become allies rather than strangers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of links with community groups • Exploration of pilot projects
<p><i>God-centred and life-related in worship</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for World Environment Day (5 June) have been prepared with Uniting Justice and other States. • Season of Creation (September) has been promoted. • Links to these and other worship resources are on the Uniting Green website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the resource

<i>Organised for mission</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judith has produced Uniting Green News quarterly. Sharing stories, and new resources it encourages and enables people to care for creation. It is distributed through a mailing list and also on the website. The website (www.greenchurch.ucaqld.com.au) has many resources for worship, study or action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniting Green News to be continued Handbook on "greening" the church to be developed. Website needs updating, and other means of communication developed.
Key achievements/initiatives: Theological leadership in Eco-mission, Ecumenical activity, Uniting Green News	
Challenges/risks as we progress: To establish eco-mission as a core part of church business: for individuals, congregations, presbyteries, and agencies To increase the level of theological awareness of creation care.	
Recommendations/issues to be addressed: To identify and support someone in the Synod office to be a central "Uniting Green" contact, ensuring creation care issues are an integral part of discipleship and mission, property management and pastoral care, worship and leadership training	

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Rev Dr Clive Ayre and Rev Judith Dalton

Preferred contact method: Email: c.ayre@bigpond.com
or judithfdalton@gmail.com

PRESBYTERY OF CALVARY

Context:

Ministry/Congregational Life				Finances			
Area covered (Sq/kms):	Qld	No. of Pastors (Stream A)	8	Mission & Service Fund Contribution:	\$10,000	Income from other Sources (non MSF):	\$10,000
Population:	?	No. of Pastors (Stream B)	0	Presbytery Operational Funding:	\$162,709	Funds held in reserve (all investments):	\$0
No. of Congregations recognised as such by Presbytery:	8	No. of Lay Ministry Teams:	4	Strategic Project Funding Allocated:	\$127,405	Strategic Project Funding Accessed as at 04/04/13:	\$0
Faith communities:	0	Placements No. of congregational placements FTE:	F/T: 1 P/T:2	% of congregations in the Presbytery that have at least 80% income from offerings			0%
Ecumenical Communities:	0	No. of non-congregational placements FTE:	F/T: 3 P/T:	% of congregations in the Presbytery with Sunday children's and youth ministry with over 15 average attendance			63%
No. of 'cluster' arrangements	0	No. of joint placements FTE: (i.e.: ministry agents, support staff, total number of people)	F/T: P/T:	Other statistical information relevant to this Presbytery:			
Total weekly worship attendance across Presbytery:	400	Presbytery staffing FTE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry agents • Support staff • Total no. of people 	1 1 3				

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<i>A prayerful listening church</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all Indigenous communities in which Calvary Presbytery has a presence, the Church places an emphasis on being prayerful and listening through reflecting the Aboriginal quality of ‘Dadirri – an inner deep listening and quiet still awareness that reflects Psalms 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God”. The Aboriginal way has taught the virtues of being still and waiting. Aboriginal people do not try to hurry things up or change the course of nature. We let things follow their natural course - like the seasons. The same context applies to Calvary Presbytery which is active in forming and sustaining meaningful life-enriching pathways for Aboriginal and Islander people through firstly listening to the needs of its members and then responding prayerfully with spiritually based measures. The links between the spirituality of the Biblical/Church tradition and our culture are explored and integrated in ways that have meaning for modern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Christians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvary Presbytery currently has active congregations and faith groups in the following communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapoon - Aurukun - Napranum - Mornington Island - Gordonvale - Babinda - Townsville - Zillmere As a prayerful and listening Church, part of Calvary’s vision is to respond to the calling of Indigenous people for an expansion of further ministry centres in other regions in need of spiritually based responses to community needs. Babinda is one such example in the last 2 years.
<i>God centred and life related in worship</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central to worship in community is praise for the saving power of Christ from those who have turned their lives around and the hope for salvation for others from the issues that commonly attack the spiritual wellbeing of Indigenous communities including alcohol, substance abuse and unemployment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of our congregations participate in regular worship on Sundays and often during the week. In addition there are regular prayer and Bible study activities, youth groups, and in Aurukun/ Mapoon/Napranum, exchange visits to congregations in Brisbane and interstate.
<i>Forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus</i>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids clubs, Sunday Schools and youth groups are active in most of our congregations. • Adult fellowships and Bible Study groups occur in all of our congregational settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to encourage youth and children's ministry in the one or two congregations where this is not occurring regularly. • Presbytery - wide youth gatherings to be organised • Continue participation in the NCYC events and National UAICC youth gatherings
<p><i>Confident in sharing faith</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvary Presbytery encourages others to share their faith and their personal journey of transformation through testimonies which are reproduced with blessing for other Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to witness and to explore their own faith journey. One example has been the development of faith sharing through Bible study in the Mapoon community, led by Michelle Cook and James Hughes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities could be developed through evangelical rallies and combined fellowships throughout the Presbytery
<p><i>Theologically informed, creative and visionary in its leadership</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Congress's Yalga-binbi Institute for Community Development is based in Townsville and is active in Christian Ministry training and education. The many students who hail from various Indigenous communities gain a strong theological formation that is relevant and contextualized to the needs and culture of their local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further recruitment and encouragement of students for Certificate III, Certificate IV and Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology needs to be undertaken by the Presbytery and its ministry agents.
<p><i>Working for Christian Unity</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvary Presbytery views unity among Indigenous Christians as central to achieving spiritual fullness in communities. For example, in the last year at Aurukun there was a community-wide peace and reconciliation event organised by the local church aimed at bringing people together in the name of Christ and finding ways to put a stop to family conflict and build unity across religious and social/cultural divisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be greater encouragement by the Presbytery for members to stay true to their church fellowship and not to move across to fragmented smaller groups. • Interchurch gatherings such as the combined services held by the Babinda fellowship and the local Presbyterian church need to be encouraged in other communities in order to build wider Christian unity.

<i>Engaged in authentic community relationships</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forming, maintaining and nurturing community relationships across Queensland undergird the mission of Calvary Presbytery. These relationships are based upon mutual understandings and a common shared sense of vision for Indigenous unity, prosperity and community but in a manner specific to the cultural heritage of Indigenous people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These relationships are maintained with strong interactions and regular contact between the Calvary Outreach Officer and other support staff with, and between, local Indigenous church leaders and other community members. Local congregations and their leaders also develop and maintain strong relationships with other Indigenous groups within their towns and cities.
<i>Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace for all creation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvary Presbytery is committed to holistic ministry which is about linking faith with action as Christians reach out to the community at its point of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Presbytery will seek to find ways of responding at local, regional and national levels in its advocacy for Indigenous people and in pursuing justice and rights. Yalga-binbi Institute for Community development should be encouraged to take a greater role in these areas.
<i>Organised for mission</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvary Presbytery is mission oriented with a regional outlook and strong local focus. Local groups organise for a range of mission activities that often involve inter-regional interactions. An example is the youth mission work in Napranum and Aurukun which takes young Indigenous students on school exchanges with the likes of Scotch Oakburn College in Tasmania while hosting Tasmanian students in Indigenous Gulf communities. The mission exchanges result in a heightened sense of spirituality and understanding for many, which in turn positively influences their peers toward increased reconciliation and advocacy for Indigenous rights and responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Presbytery will continue to seek ways of engaging in holistic mission and ministry, where spiritual and social responses to people's needs and injustices are always sought.

Key achievements/initiatives:

Have graduated many adult students in both Christian Ministry and Community Development with an 85% completion rate through the Yalga-binbi Institute for Community Development.

The lives of numerous Indigenous people have been transformed with their testimonies published to help inspire and guide other Indigenous people

The holistic nature of ministry cares for the whole person and their interaction with the rest of the world. Spiritually based holistic ministry has produced positive results that have transformed individuals where mainstream programs have failed.

Local faith groups and congregations are firmly anchored in communities as the 'light' of the community when people seek spiritual revival.

As a holistic ministry, community members are offered practical outcomes through the help of the local church e.g. transportation to medical appointments, help with Government Departments, assistance in seeking employment etc.

The ordination in the near future of Roberta Stanley as a Minister of the Word, with a settlement based on a cluster of Babinda, Gordonvale and Cairns communities. This is a great personal milestone for Roberta and a most significant milestone for the Presbytery as it looks forward to one of its members responding to the call of God to ministry and becoming ordained.

Continuing to provide cultural awareness training to Trinity College students

Challenges/risks as we progress:

Finding a secure financial base for ongoing ministry in communities

Developing a better strategy and financial resources for maintenance of buildings and property

Sourcing funds for the building of a new church at Mapoon and a manse at Aurukun

The wider church increasing its commitment to covenanting and finding new ways for ongoing mutual sharing and support.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

Support for future Indigenous Christian Leaders through training and mentoring

As part of the covenanting commitment, members of the wider church developing a deeper understanding of the spiritual context in which Calvary operates in Indigenous communities and the unique issues facing Indigenous ministry in community

Financial support to implement community based and community driven measures to address the spiritual and social needs of members to directly overcome the diverse array of negative socio-economic issues confronting Indigenous communities.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Dennis Corowa

Preferred contact method: 0408 871 354

SYNOD BIOETHICS COMMITTEE

Context:

The Bioethics Committee was established to advise the Church and its agencies on matters of medical ethics and related issues. It has been involved in a particular research project for a number of years, and its membership has diminished in this time. People have come and gone, but all have made a contribution to our work. The task is now complete, and thanks go to all those who have been a part of this journey.

Responses to our Call since last Synod	Working towards our Call in the future
<i>Living with hope</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project to which we have been committed is to conduct a qualitative study to develop a Uniting Church resource for patients and families to assist them to cope with emotional, spiritual and ethical end of life issues. At the time of writing this report, the resource is at the printing stage, and should be available for distribution at the Synod meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the distribution of the resource, the Committee sees its role in this project as complete, except for finalising some requirements that were set out in the original application regarding contacting families of those who were interviewed. • The committee recognises that even though this project began after consultation with a previous Moderator and the Director of UnitingCare, it is not really the reason the committee was established. • Given the difficulties in responding quickly to requests for advice on medical ethics issues, the committee will recommend the disbanding of the committee.
<p>Key achievements/initiatives:</p> <p>As above, the resource for patients and families has been finalised. This has been a long process, and some may be critical of the fact that there was not a high number of people interviewed. The issues that did arise were so common, though, that the need for further work was not identified. The committee does hope that what is produced will be helpful for people and families who are going through one of the most difficult of life's experiences. It is hoped that ministers and pastoral carers will find this useful also, and even if there is only one idea or suggestion that each person finds helpful, then the work has been worthwhile.</p>	

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The work of care for people at the end of their lives can never be fully regulated. It will always be a matter for discussion, assessment, review and seeking change that will improve the care for others. The resource that has been prepared is but one step along the way.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

That the Synod receives the report.

That the Synod receives the booklet "Emotional, spiritual and ethical end of life issues", and encourages its distribution.

That the Synod thanks and disbands the Synod Bioethics Committee.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Rev Brian Gilbert

Preferred contact method: minister@ucapresbofcq.org.au

SYNOD ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

<p>Context:</p> <p>The Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee has been tasked with encouraging throughout the Synod a culture of ecumenism and recommend to the Synod appropriate ecumenical action through Biblical, theological and practical consideration. The Committee meets six times per year. Current membership of the Committee: Rev Kaye Ronalds (chairperson), Rev Jock Dunbar (secretary), Mr John Agnew, Rev Dr Clive Ayre, Mr Neil Ballment, Revs Anne Hulbert, Craig Batty, Ray Richmond, Don Whebell, David Won Kim and Bruce Johnson. In addition to our connection with the Assembly Christian Unity Working Group, we have within the membership of the Committee, people involved in a variety of ecumenical activities. The Committee acts to raise awareness of and to respond to issues of an ecumenical nature, as well as growing our own and the wider Queensland church's understanding of and interaction with people of other faiths.</p>	
<p>Responses to our Vision since last Synod</p>	<p>Working towards our Vision in the future</p>
<p><i>Forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus</i> <i>Confident in sharing faith</i></p>	
<p><i>Interacting with other areas of the Synod</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presbytery Minister's Meeting: Information is exchanged and awareness raised at annual meetings with presbytery ministers. Receptive Ecumenism and the paper by Gerard Kelly, as well as the work of Paul Murray were recommended. • The Basis of Union short course offered by Don Whebell and sessional speakers through Trinity Theological College builds awareness not only of the Basis of Union but of ecumenism as a core value of the Uniting Church in Australia. The ecumenical relationship between Trinity and Australian Catholic University frames the training of ministry candidates, agents and lay people within an ecumenical context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a resource bank of models, stories and other resources to assist Presbyteries and Congregations in their ecumenical ministry.
<p><i>SERC Website</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our website (www.ecumenical.ucaqld.com.au/) was part of the website migration process. It contains many useful resources and links for ministry agents and people passionate about ecumenism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop the website

<p><i>Assembly Christian Unity Working Group (CUWG)</i> (Synod representative Rev Jock Dunbar)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee had conversation around a discussion paper on lay presidency and offered some comment and feedback to CUWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to report on the work of the CUWG including dialogue progress and joint-statements
<p><i>Engaged in Authentic community relationships</i> <i>Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Moderator (our chairperson) attends Heads of Churches meetings bi-monthly to build relationships and talk about issues in common or difference and at time to make public statements and representations to government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to participate in head of churches meetings as they occur...
<p><i>Queensland Churches Together</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of UCA attend the Executive and this year Rev Bruce Johnson has been appointed as President of QCT. Queensland Churches Environmental Network. Committee member Rev Dr Clive Ayre has been instrumental in the formation of this group which occurs as a network between member and non-member churches of QCT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for opportunities and projects to build ecumenical relationship and understanding
<p><i>Other Ecumenical Initiatives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenical Tertiary Chaplaincy Committee supports the ministry of Chaplains in Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology and the Qld Synod contributes financially. Ecumenical Covenants exist in a number of locations including Injune, Wandoan, Jericho, Winton and Roma. A new covenant was signed in Mt Mee in May 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support localities through the process of establishing ecumenical covenants where that will further the mission of the church in that place.

Key achievements/initiatives:

The work of SERC since last Synod has been reviewing and remembering the reason for the committee, primarily in understanding our role based on the by-laws of the committee. This has helped in the committee gaining clarity and direction. We are looking forward to setting some goals for the upcoming 18 months which have arisen out of an internal review process emphasising priorities for the Synod (Synod leadership, presbyteries, agencies and congregations).

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The committee feels that working for christian unity has lost energy across the church, particularly in congregations and their ministers in placement. Our future goals will take this into account, and we are hopeful that we can remind the church of the passion and gift that God has given us in this area of ecumenism.

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

In order for christian unity to regain a priority in our church, particularly as we welcome a new generation of leaders who have only known a post-union church, then I would suggest we look very seriously at allocating funding for a part-time position to give to this defining characteristic and value of our church.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Jock Dunbar

Preferred contact method: email: jock.dunbar@gmail.com

SYNOD INTER-FAITH RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

Context:

The Synod Interfaith Relationships Committee has been tasked with encouraging throughout the Synod an understanding of other religious faiths and promoting relationships with members of other religious faiths. The Committee meets six times per year. Current membership of the Committee: Rev Kaye Ronalds (chairperson), Rev Heather Griffin (secretary), Mr John Agnew, Rev Dr Clive Ayre, Mr Neil Ballment, Revs Mark Cornford, Ann Hewson, Garth Read, Ray Richmond, Don Whebell, David Won Kim. In addition to our connection with the Assembly Relations with other Faiths Working Group, we have within the membership of the Committee, people involved in a variety of interfaith areas and local initiatives. The Committee acts to raise awareness, and to respond to issues of an interfaith nature, as well as growing our own and the wider Queensland church’s understanding of and interaction with people of other faiths.

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<p><i>Forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus</i></p> <p><i>Confident in sharing faith</i></p>	
<p><i>Interacting with other areas of the Synod</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presbytery Minister’s Meeting: Information is exchanged and awareness raised at annual meetings with presbytery ministers. The WCC, Vatican and WEA paper “Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct” was highly recommended for study. • There is awareness building and interaction with the work being done by Dr Aaron Gilhoni of Trinity Theological College. The College offers courses on religious pluralism which provide opportunity for visiting worship sites and meeting members of other faiths. • There has been some work (more needs to occur) in interacting with Uniting Church chaplains working in a variety of interfaith and multicultural contexts. Committee member Rev Mark Cornford works as a chaplain at the University of Queensland and Rev David Won Kim advises on multicultural aspects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the information exchange currently happening so that members of the Uniting Church may be further equipped to share the principles of our own faith and to understand the faith of others • Develop relationships with, and promote the stories of Uniting Church chaplains working in multifaith settings

<p><i>SIRC Website</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our website (www.interfaith.ucaweb.com.au/) has had a major overhaul. Through it we provide a variety of useful links regarding upcoming events, recommended resources, recent happenings, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop the website
<p><i>Assembly Relations with Other Faiths Working Group</i> (Synod representative Rev Heather Griffin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee discussed with interest the Paper Friendship in the Presence of Difference which was presented at the 2012 Assembly, and looks forward to the release of study guides for this paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Uniting Church members to engage in study around the issues of friendship and difference
<p><i>Engaged in Authentic community relationships</i> <i>Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Moderator (our chairperson) attends a number of community events which have a multi-faith dimension e.g. Refugee and Migrant Week Multi Faith Prayer Service, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Discussion, Australia Day Celebration of Faiths, Royal Commonwealth Day Observance • The Moderator wrote to members of the Muslim community in Queensland after the riots in Sydney. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to participate in community events which provide opportunity for meeting and developing friendships with leaders of other faith traditions
<p><i>Assembly Relations with Other Faiths Working Group</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at the invitation of the President, several members of the Committee attended a gathering of Uniting Church Ministers and Imams at the Auburn Mosque, Sydney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the work of the Assembly in the interfaith area

<p><i>Queensland Churches Together</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Churches Environmental Network. Committee: member Rev Dr Clive Ayre has been instrumental in the formation of this group which includes within its mandate an interfaith approach to environmental issues • Forum for Christians, Jews and Muslims Rev Heather Griffin is a member of this group which meets monthly at the Multifaith Centre at Griffith University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities and projects in which people of different faiths can work side by side to address significant community issues
<p><i>Other Interfaith Initiatives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee member Rev Garth Reed has devoted a great deal of time and energy to furthering the interfaith movement in Queensland and beyond. He is a member of the Aspley Uniting Church and Coordinator of The North Brisbane Interfaith Group which has recently launched an excellent interfaith website (www.interfaithinaction.org.au) • Several members have, through the gracious initiatives of the Multifaith Multicultural Centre, Toowoomba (Pureland Buddhist), attended multifaith conferences in Bangkok and in Toowoomba which have had a strong focus on peace and harmony. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote local interfaith initiatives • Seek to develop an ongoing relationship with the interfaith scene in Toowoomba and elsewhere in the State
<p>Key achievements/initiatives: The work of SIRC since last Synod has principally been to listen to stories, to disseminate information, promote the interfaith work of the Uniting Church and QCT and to support initiatives, gatherings and groups of other organisations in which various of our members are involved.</p>	
<p>Challenges/risks as we progress: The scope is broad and the time available for the Committee to pursue options for developing relations with Queensland people of other faiths is limited. We don't want to duplicate what others are currently doing. We need to continue to discern what we can realistically do well, to be of most benefit to ordinary members of the Uniting Church in Queensland.</p>	

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Heather Griffin

Preferred contact method: email: hgriffin@internode.on.net

SYNOD MULTICULTURAL-CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Context:

The Synod Multi-cross cultural committee seeks to make its humble contributions to the historical vision that 'the Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church' . (1985 Assembly) Under this vision, the committee commits its workings to finding new and creative opportunities for CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities to participate in the missions of Christ within and beyond the Queensland Synod.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to our shared Call and Vision to forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus. Part of the committee’s commitment has begun to give shape to the intent of the Uniting Church in Australia as declared in the recent Assembly that we are “One Body, many members - Living faith and life cross-culturally”. • Committed to education and formation for Discipleship: by preparing Christian multilingual education resources consistent with the Basis of Union that are relevant to the diversity of expressions of Christian life and faith, forming and equipping of disciples within the church and to 21st Century multicultural, multiracial and multi-faith Australia (in progress with a team addressing it). • Committed to providing resources and training programs in a wide variety of culturally sensitive and appropriate learning, teaching and assessment styles (done through Pilgrim Learning Community: CALD Lay Preachers Course: very successful). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the need to engage in evangelism, and new church development: by developing, supporting and implementing culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies for evangelism and the establishment, development and inclusion of new faith communities and congregations. (This has begun with Presbytery Ministers involved in our meetings but we recognise our need to work closely and in consultation with Presbyteries)
<i>Promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality in CALD communities giving shape to our intent to be a prayerful listening church. In response the committee has created a DVD resource on prayer to be made available for congregations .The resource is CALD perspectives on the prayer languages within the life of the Uniting Church and what prayer means from various cultures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological papers are currently being prepared from a CALD perspective on key themes of christian prayer and spirituality. It would offer biblical and theological insights from CALD leaders on 'Communal Prayer' '

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Great Sunday of Sharing (Rev Viliami Mila and team) promotion through Presbyteries. 	
<p><i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to organizing for missions by : • Mapping existing / emerging CALD congregations, faith communities and highly mixed congregations within the QLD Synod (Rev David Won Kim). • Creation of the MC Website • Creation of an accurate database of CALD Ministry agents. • CALD input to <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the process of creating a regular 2nd generation and 3rd generation 'Worship Rally' with guest speakers, electives and immersion experiences for participants.
<p><i>Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to 'Building Bridges and Activating Gifts' workshops (Ms Litiana Kuridrani and Deaconess Terani Lima) • Empowering women leaders -enabling and mentoring women in CALD communities for ministry leadership (Ms Litiana Kuridrani and Deaconess Terani Lima) • Providing MC cross-cultural education (intensive) for Trinity Theological College . (Rev. L. Senituli and team) • Evangelism workshops training events completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Emerging Leaders' Network-The 2nd, 3rd generation is a critical key focus. In the process of establishing an emerging CALD young leaders network under the leadership of 2nd gen ministry leaders. The leadership network engage in: mentoring, coaching, training and equipping of emerging CALD leaders. • Theological papers are currently being prepared from a CALD perspective on Biblical and Theological insights from CALD leaders on 'The process of Discernment', 'Leadership', 'Discipleship' and 'Evangelism'
<p><i>Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to working with the Minister of the Logan Multicultural congregation to build authentic community relationships in a culturally diverse context. The committee through its chairperson Deaconess Terani Lima and Rev L.Senituli met with the South Moreton Presbytery Minister and Logan leaders in light of recent difficulties reported through the media. • Family Enrichment Program facilitated at Synod centre • Save the Children - Sudanese Children Project: Pastor Moses Leth , Dr. Gewa Au, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is keen to deepen the relationships of CALD communities with the First Peoples of this land. • Exploring with Refugee centres: (The Romero Centre Assisting Asylum seekers and Refugees processes and settlement) • Planned programs relating to incarceration of migrant youth in the prisons • CALD members engaging in prison ministry

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev David Won Kim) • Pasifika Women's Forum 2013 (Brisbane City Council, Pasifika Islands Reference Group Inc., Griffith University etc) • Committed to provide connections to life skills and community development type training that will promote good behaviour and improved quality of life (Ethnic Communities Council Queensland - Chronic Disease Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is keen to connect, deepen friendships and working relationships with women of all races in the wider community • The committee is keen to explore other areas of deep concern for CALD women in the area of health and endeavours to work closely with Ethnic Communities Council Queensland (ECCQ) and the Brisbane City Council Multicultural Team
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<p>Key achievements/initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Training of 70 CALD Lay Preachers for the ministry of Lay Preaching • The partnership with Dr Neil Thorpe and Pilgrim Learning community to utilize CALD ministry leaders as lecturers • Web page and database for CALD congregations and leaders • The opportunities of CALD leaders to provide theological input to ministry formation of ministry candidates • The overwhelming support by our Moderator, General Secretary and synod staff for the work of the committee • The training and empowerment of women leadership in both Church and wider community

<p>Challenges/risks as we progress:</p> <p>Some of the challenges the committee faces are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In light of our governance imperatives, how to ensure that our church processes and frameworks reflect a multicultural understanding of who we have declared ourselves to be: 'The Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church'. 2. That our structural life as a church is one that reflects the extravagant hospitality of God so that the particular and unique contributions from our CALD communities to the life and ministry of the Uniting Church is welcomed and engaged with. 3. To establish deep connections between CALD communities and the First Peoples of this land 4. To reach out and be a voice in the wider community, especially in the area of CALD women ministry
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Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

That the Synod Multi-cross Cultural Committee be resourced and supported in its two key focus for the future:

1. Enabling and empowering women in CALD communities for ministry leadership and service in the secular community
2. Establishing a leadership network for emerging leaders (2nd and 3rd generations) from CALD communities.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Deaconess Terani Lima

Preferred contact method: (email tlima@hotmail.com) or mob 0414 454 683

SYNOD SCHOOLS COMMISSION

Context:

The Schools Commission acts as the Synod body with respect to schools and residential colleges. Currently, there are 12 schools and 5 residential colleges with which the Commission interacts. For the schools alone, this includes contact with the families of some 20,000 students.

The schools fall into five categories:

1. Calvary Christian College, The Lakes College, The SCOTS PGC College (all with the Property Trust as the legal entity)
2. Moreton Bay College and Moreton Bay Boys College (separately incorporated under Letters Patent and Company Limited by Guarantee respectively)
3. Shalom Christian College (previously owned and operated by Congress Community and Development Education Unit) and now in the process of having the Trust as the Legal Entity.
4. Brisbane Boys College, Somerville House, Clayfield College, Sunshine Coast Grammar School (operated by the separately incorporated under Letters Patent PMSA)
5. Unity College, Jubilee Primary School and Emmaus College (owned and administered by Catholic Education Office but run in partnership with the UCA and in some cases other churches.

The Residential Colleges include

- Grace College (UQ, women, partnership with Presbyterian Church)
- Kings College (UQ, men, UCA)
- Emmanuel College (UQ, co-ed, partnership with Presbyterian Church)
- Cromwell College (UQ, co-ed, UCA)
- John Flynn College (JCU, co-ed, UCA /Lutheran)

Additional residential College, Rayment Lodge is operated under the Synod but does not have its own board.

Since the 29th Synod, the Schools Commission has endeavoured to work within the framework of *Together on the way, enriching community* while carrying out its routine tasks.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained the co-operation of all schools except PMSA to contribute annually to the costs of the Schools Commission • Continued to refine the processes for appointment and re-appointment of board members • Extended the appointment and evaluation process to residential colleges • Distributed governance booklet and other UCA documents to new board members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a process for the allocation and accountability of grant monies • Work with GNRC re Schools Commission and board succession. • Evaluate the roles of the Commission and Executive Officer for succession planning. • Continue to work with schools in responding to Royal Commission requests • Work with schools to develop reporting template.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained co-operation of schools for Commission involvement with school accreditation and a risk mitigation strategy • Within the Synod, liaised intentionally with other Synod sections such as finance, insurance, communication, property, governance for internal effectiveness and so that schools experience a consistency in approach. • Has worked towards increased networking of our schools • Has been integral in working with Shalom Christian College to maintain services • Worked closely with The Lakes College Board to develop long term strategic and financial goals • Put processes in place to respond to calls from the Royal Commission into sexual abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with new Board and leadership team at Shalom to ensure sustainability and compliance.
<p><i>Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Geoff Thomson to explore courses that could be available for School leaders • Engaged with School leadership to enhance links with UCA • Gained support of The Scots College board to allow leadership expertise from SCOTS to be shared with Shalom Christian College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work with Trinity and Pilgrim to identify study options for school leaders • Complete suite of documents for school leaders to use with staff and families • Develop further collaboration between school leaders
<p><i>Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Schools Commission has continued to be represented in educational bodies with Mike Millard on the BGA and Elaine Rae on the ISQ Educational Advisory Committee • Several schools are working with UnitingWorld and linking with partner churches in India and the Pacific • The Commission is developing links with Congress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a strong relationship with Congress

Key achievements/initiatives:

The following would be regarded as significant achievements:

Developing a full and highly effective board of The Lakes College and supporting the College in its transition to a new Principal and leadership team. While the College is still in its development stage, enrolment and financial indicators are trending in the right direction.

Encouraging and enabling collaboration by the leaders of the our Colleges.

The most significant work has been working with the other synod departments, the administrators of CCDEU and government agencies to ensure the continuance of Shalom Christian College in Townsville.

Gained a \$15000 grant over three years to assist with enhancing the governance capacity of board members.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The biggest challenge is to continue to maintain the routine processes for effective boards given natural turnover while often dealing with unforeseen issues. This same challenge applies to succession planning for the Commission and staff.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Elaine Rae

Preferred contact method: email: elaine.rae@ucaqld.com.au

UNITINGCARE QUEENSLAND

Context:

UnitingCare Queensland is committed to Uniting in Christ, acting with love, living with hope, witnessing in faith and working for justice. As part of the Uniting Church in the Queensland Synod, the mission of UnitingCare Queensland is to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities as we reach out to people in need; speak out for fairness and justice; care with compassion, innovation and wisdom. Blue Care, UnitingCare Community, and UnitingCare Health are vital expressions of this mission

Blue Care provides services for older Queenslanders that support wellbeing, connection, restoration, care and dying with dignity in people's own homes, in other community settings, in retirement living and residential aged care facilities. UnitingCare Community provides a wide range of services to families, young people and children in their own homes, in community settings, in foster and kinship care and in out-of-home care; they support people with disabilities to live in their own homes and participate in the community; its crisis support services include Lifeline counselling services, suicide intervention and post-intervention services, domestic and family violence services and community recovery services. UnitingCare Health provides services through The Wesley Hospital, St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, The Sunshine Coast Private Hospital and St Stephen's hospitals in Maryborough and Hervey Bay. UnitingCare Queensland is committed to integrating spiritual and pastoral care into all that we do and through Prison Ministry.

Services are provided from more than 400 locations across Queensland and Northern New South Wales. More than 15 000 staff and 8 500 volunteers are engaged in delivering these services. Turnover in 2012/2013 is expected to be \$1.3bn.

UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Brisbane are active members of UnitingCare Australia. We participate effectively in the National Committee and in all national networks and working groups that are focussed on developing and advocating for social policy reform to deliver better outcomes for vulnerable Australians and better health and community service systems. We are also involved in significant engagement with the Queensland Government across a range of important issues and have taken a lead role in working collaboratively with other Church providers and non-government organisations on issues of shared concern.

We continue to develop our research capacity and contribution through work in each of the service groups, through the UQ/Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre, Wesley Research Institute, St Andrew's Medical Institute and the UnitingCare Chair of Social Policy and Research.

UnitingCare Queensland operates in an ever changing environment at a political, economic, social and community level. Key areas of policy change are occurring in aged care, in disability (National Disability Insurance Scheme), in health and in the regulation of charities. An inquiry into Child Protection in Queensland will also bring changes in government policy and practice. This dynamic presents both challenges and opportunities. It also reinforces the need to be agile and responsive to the needs of individuals, families and communities and be creative and lateral in our problem solving. We are also experiencing policy and funding changes with the new state government interested in an increased role for the not-for-profit sector in the provision of government services. The Queensland Government's fiscal austerity has had an impact, particularly in UnitingCare Community. Similarly Blue Care has had to cut expenditure to accommodate its reduced funding as a result of changes to the Federal Government's aged care funding model. Further funding cuts by both the Queensland and Commonwealth governments are expected.

This changing environment, together with increased consumer need, consumer and funder expectations will mean a greater focus on performance, transparency, accountability, delivering tangible outcomes and value for money.

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<i>Organised for mission</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalised the UnitingCare Queensland Board with the appointment of four new members - two replacing retiring members, Graham Schlecht and Greg Herring and two to replace Board members who will retire in 2014. The new Board members are Professor Myles McGregor Lowndes OAM, Andrew McBryde, Maree Blake and Chris Townend • Further developed the strategic objective of being a leading organisation in person centred care with the establishment of a Quality Committee under the auspice of the Board and tasked with supporting UnitingCare Queensland to identify its performance in this area • Blue Care launched its new service model, “Blue Care Tailor Made” following input from staff, community partners, clients, residents and families, representatives from presbyteries and congregations • UnitingCare Health continued implementation of its ‘Living Values’ integrated performance management system that focuses on patient care and experience • Over 800 disability staff, clients, families and carers were interviewed as part of UnitingCare Community’s NDIS Readiness Project. This aims to build capability and confidence within the organisation to transform disability service provision and inform and navigate the changes effectively • UnitingCare Community consolidated its name change with an intensive consultation process to help define “what it means to be UnitingCare Community.” • Environmental sustainability principles, focus areas and actions across UnitingCare Queensland have been agreed • In December 2012 the first Energy Efficiency Opportunities Report as part of the Commonwealth Government’s legislative requirements for the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue focus on Board renewal and development, noting in particular that the current Chair, Ms Heather Watson will complete her maximum term in March 2014 • Through the Quality Committee, developing a shared understanding of the impact of our services on the people who receive them and the longer term outcomes of those services; a shared understanding of the type of experience that people have when receiving our services; and an improved ability to measure and report on the impacts, outcomes and experience • Further implementation of Blue Care ‘Tailor Made’ across its 260 locations • Consolidation of Living Values across all of UnitingCare Health’s hospitals • Implementation of UnitingCare Community’s plan for the transformation of service and systems transformations in response to the needs and desires of people with disabilities and their families • Continue work with the Queensland Government to define and pilot an integrated family support and intervention service model • Respond to the outcomes of the Child Protection Inquiry • Assess carefully and respond selectively to the State Government’s plan to ‘outsource’ government health, home and community care and disability services to the non-government sector • Successfully finish and commission Australia’s first digital hospital in Hervey Bay • Successfully complete and commission Carina Azure Blue and all other capital initiatives that are in train

<p>Queensland Synod was completed. UnitingCare Queensland is supporting the Church's responsibilities in this area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of shared group service arrangements for some corporate functions, in order to leverage combined resources and expertise across the service groups. The first shared corporate services are procurement, ICT, fleet and property • A 10 year strategic property plan has been developed for Blue Care and UnitingCare Community • The third annual UnitingCare Queensland Research Conference was held at The Wesley Hospital and was attended by more than 120 participants from across the organisation and Wesley Mission Brisbane • Blue Care responded to the government's withdrawal of support for Congress Community Development and Education Unit and successfully transitioned five Indigenous services in Townsville, Cairns, Cape York and Thursday Island providing residential aged care and alcohol and drug services employing approximately 120 Indigenous staff into Blue Care • Blue Care's Azure Blue, the first of a number of integrated retirement communities opened on Brisbane's Redcliffe Peninsula and building of the second retirement community commenced at Carina with 80 per cent of the apartments sold ahead of construction • Additionally, Blue Care's residential aged care facility at Gracemere Gardens, west of Rockhampton and the revitalisation at Mareeba Garden Settlement in the Atherton Tablelands were completed • After nine years of operating in the Uniting Church hall, a new purpose-built Blue Care Community and Respite Care building opened in Murgon with 29 nursing, personal care and support staff to assist 220 clients from Murgon and surrounding areas • The building of new Blue Care Community Centres has commenced at Goondiwindi, Toowoomba, Gatton and Coomera. Extensions have been completed at Redlands and at UnitingCare Community's centres in Hervey Bay and Maryborough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to grapple with financial sustainability challenges and the difficult balancing act of mission and viability • Increasing commitment and outcomes around sustainability and energy efficiency • Consolidation of shared group service initiatives • Continue implementation of UnitingCare Queensland's strategic property plan • Clearly define research agenda focussed on outcomes for the people we serve • Continue awareness of, and engagement with, social policy issues with funder bodies and potential new funding partnerships • Continue to work in partnership with UnitingCare Australia to advocate for social policy issues and the role of UnitingCare Queensland in the lead up to the Federal election. • Develop UnitingCare Queensland's next strategic plan • Development of Year Two goals in our Reconciliation Action Plan
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UnitingCare Community and Blue Care have co-located into a newly purchased building in Rockhampton • UnitingCare Community is supporting the establishment of a network of Uniting Church child care services across UnitingCare Community, Wesley Mission Brisbane and relevant congregations, with the second face to face gathering held in May in Brisbane 	
<p><i>Confident in sharing faith</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three new Directors of Mission appointed, Colleen Geyer as the Director of Mission for UnitingCare Queensland; Rev Helen Dick, Director of Mission for UnitingCare Health and Rev Heather den Houting as the Director of Mission at Blue Care. These appointments continue UnitingCare Queensland’s commitment to mission and spiritual leadership and growth • Continued commitment to spiritual and pastoral care in our services through Chaplaincy and pastoral carers • Blue Care Director of Mission conducted a spiritual and pastoral care review to ensure state wide equity of chaplain services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to maintaining the active presence of Chaplains and Directors of Mission to support UnitingCare Queensland as a faith based community service provider • Implement spiritual and pastoral care model in Blue Care • Continue providing opportunities for worship and reflection for UnitingCare Queensland staff
<p><i>Theologically informed, creative and visionary in its leadership</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a shared values-based leadership development framework • Further development of an induction program for senior staff with a clear understanding of who UnitingCare Queensland is as part of the mission of the Uniting Church • Inaugural UnitingCare Queensland’s Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management with 22 participants from UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Brisbane. The Graduate Certificate Program is tailor made, developed specifically for UnitingCare Queensland in partnership with Griffith University. It integrates a values based and spiritual leadership framework with a traditional management curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased shared understanding of what it means to be a leader in UnitingCare Queensland and a greater shared understanding of UnitingCare Queensland’s identity • Increased development of UnitingCare Queensland staff in line with mission and values of the organisation • Development of a framework of professional development opportunities for leaders in UnitingCare Queensland

<i>Working for Christian Unity</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally, UnitingCare Australia works collaboratively with major Churches to influence government policy and priorities In Queensland the CEO actively maintains relationship with the community service providers of other denominations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of these important partnerships and alliances
<i>Engaged in authentic community relationships</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every year, on behalf of the Uniting Church, UnitingCare Queensland provides services to thousands of individuals, families and to communities who need support on a one-off occasion or on ongoing basis. We work in partnership with our clients to deliver community support, accommodation and care in residential aged care facilities. We aim to improve health and wellbeing in our hospitals and community and residential care settings. We support people with disabilities in their homes, children and women escaping domestic and family violence, children who need out-of-home care and those who can return to their families, people who are socially isolated for a multitude of reasons, and we support many thousands through our Lifeline telephone counselling. We are also on-the-ground during times of community disasters and when people are imprisoned UnitingCare Queensland has promoted the benefits of collaborating with like-minded organisations (Church community service providers and other non government organisations) and convened a CEO Conversation Group. We have worked together to foster collaboration between our organisations on important issues such as the establishment of a new Community Services Industry Body, engagement with the new Queensland Government and advocacy in relation to vulnerable children and families St Stephen's hospital in Hervey Bay has worked in partnership with the local community including local Indigenous groups, local congregation and other community organisations to build a community to support the hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide care across a multitude of groups and services in ways that recognises the uniqueness of individuals and their families. These are significant challenges in times of fiscal constraint Increase levels of partnerships and alliances to better respond to the needs of the community as our understanding of our core business continues to evolve Continue collaboration with other organisations and networks in the health and community services sector Develop partnerships between the public and private health sector to offer a greater range of health care services for local communities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UnitingCare Health has continued its partnership with the Helena Goldie Hospital in The Solomon Islands through training and a nurse training scholarship which has been funded by direct pay deductions from UnitingCare Health staff. UnitingCare Health Director of Mission, Rev Helen Dick and Rev Murray Fysh, Manager of the Pastoral Care Department of the Wesley Hospital, have recently visited the hospital and local Church as part of the team participating in the graduation of the first cohort of locally trained nurses • An internal partnership is achieving great results with the establishment of UnitingCare Community’s financial counselling service in both The Wesley and St Andrew’s War Memorial Hospitals • Another internal partnership was formed to improve the care provided to patients transitioning from our hospitals to home or a residential aged care facility. Experienced and specialised Blue Care nurses now work alongside hospital staff to support the patient transition • Pastoral Care Team at The Wesley developed and ran a School Intern program where students in years 10 and 11 at local schools were invited to apply for a one week intern program where they could spend time in a number of medical specialist areas • UnitingCare Community continue its outreach to asylum seekers and refugees through Scattered People’s ‘music making’ in the Brisbane Detention Centre and through our hosting and management of the Asylum Seeker’s Centre in North Brisbane 	
<p><i>Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace for all creation</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan was launched in February 2012 focussing on developing relationships, respect and opportunities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and all our staff, including identifying employment opportunities and leadership development. An advisory group drives the various commitments in the plan and includes a Calvary Presbytery nominee and a representative from the Queensland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch our one year report during Reconciliation Week in May/June and start plans for our second Reconciliation Action Plan, due to commence in 2014 • Ongoing advocacy on the needs of Queensland’s most marginalised and vulnerable people, particularly in relation to children and families, those children and young people in out-of-home care, and people with a disability

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Human Services Coalition. The one year Reconciliation Action Plan Annual Report will be presented during Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June with some very positive engagement and outcomes

- UnitingCare Queensland is working with the Assembly and the Synod Task Group to respond to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in order to support the best possible outcomes for the victims
- Flagship research was completed to understand the impact of expanding mining and gas extraction in Queensland. The research focussed on the social impact of the mining resources boom on our workforce and the communities we serve – specifically in Gladstone, Emerald, Moranbah, Clermont and Blackwater
- A joint submission between the Queensland Synod and UnitingCare Queensland, responding to the Queensland Government’s discussion paper on red tape reduction and other reform proposals for regulation of liquor and gaming was recently completed
- Advocacy with the new State Government on social policy priorities including vulnerable children and families and the needs of children in out-of-home care
- Blue Care celebrates 60 years of delivering quality residential aged care services and is celebrating by hosting 60 events across Queensland and northern New South Wales

Key achievements/initiatives:

- UnitingCare Queensland’s continued presence, outreach and support to many thousands of people in so many places continues to be our key achievement.
- Continued to progress our agenda to be a leader in person centred care notably through the launch of Blue Care’s new service model ‘Tailor Made’, the implementation of UnitingCare Health’s Living Values Program, and the launch of our community services as UnitingCare Community and further developing its identity

- Delivered year one of our Reconciliation Action Plan
- Received federal government funds to build Australia's first fully integrated digital hospital at Hervey Bay
- Recognised as an international leader in deep brain stimulation through establishing the Asia Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation
- UnitingCare Community's Lifeline services responded to significant flood and natural disasters with the deployment of 40 community recovery workers to administer psychological first aid to people affected by floods. Blue Care staff worked around the clock to support vulnerable people affected by the floods
- Blue Care ensured the continuation of five Indigenous aged care and drug and alcohol services previously run by Congress Community Development and Education Unit
- Blue Care Pine Wood Aged Care Centre in Lawnton won five national Better Practice Awards which recognise innovation and better practice in aged care from the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency
- UnitingCare Community organised and hosted Australia's first elder abuse conference in Australia
- Made significant progress on implementing shared group services, co-locating teams and progressing integration of key functions
- Blue Care and The University of Queensland teamed up to launch the first aged care management course in the state
- The UnitingCare Community "Helping Out Families" pilot program is a success – in eight months it gives more than 400 Logan families a helping hand to manage their issues and stay safe together

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Anne Cross

Preferred contact method: email: anne.cross@ucareqld.com.au

Wesley Mission Brisbane

Context:

Wesley Mission Brisbane (WMB) as an expression of the Albert St Uniting Church strives to be an organisation of compassion, inclusion and transformation in the South East Queensland community. Over the past 18 months WMB has continued to grow and respond to community needs by providing care and support for approximately 80 000 Queenslanders. There have been prime opportunities for services to be delivered, new buildings opened, relationships created with partner organisations and innovative technologies being trialled. WMB operates a large and complex array of systems, services and support structures. Although a relatively large organisation with approximately 2 300 staff and more than 1000 volunteers, WMB remains fluid in its ability to respond quickly and effectively to needs within the community. It will be this flexibility and responsiveness that will see WMB best placed to meet the upcoming challenges of the sector over the next two years.

Government policy, funding and service priorities are changing at a rapid rate with two major policy initiatives in 2013 affecting the sector. The Living Longer Living Better package dramatically affects service delivery in aged care, while the National Disability Insurance Scheme provides a positive framework for future reform of the disability sector, but with much of the policy detail unknown and adequate funding options still uncertain. There is a well founded push to improve client choice, control and access for government funded services and WMB will need to be agile and empowered with strong and flexible information systems to meet these upcoming challenges and stakeholder accountabilities.

The policy interactions associated with: Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission; additional Not-for Profit Reform (definition of charity, Unrelated Business Income tax etc) – present both opportunities and challenges for the sector in the future.

The Queensland State Government has ceased funding or reduced funding for many vital community services for disadvantaged people. These cuts have greatly affected WMB's frontline services. The highly successful Futures in Focus program and the Get Set for Work program have been forced to close due to these cuts.

Despite these challenges to the sector, WMB will continue in its capacity to respond to human need through innovative approaches and in partnership with government, community groups and local churches. Over the next five years, there are significant redevelopment plans underway for John Wesley Gardens, Geebung and Sinnamon Village aged care communities in Sinnamon Park and the expansion of community services for people living with mental illness and through the NDIS reforms.

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<i>Organised for Mission</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvigorated the five-year strategic plan • Established Wesley Care Tewantin, supported accommodation for young adults living with high care needs in partnership with Noosa Coastal Uniting Church (UC) • Established Youngcare apartments for young adults living with high care needs in partnership with the Uniting Church at Coomera • In partnership with OzHarvest, rescued food has been delivered to a number of UC congregations providing emergency relief to people in need in their local community • Provided targeted support to Logan UC to enable their low cost counselling service to continue reaching people in need in their local community • Supported young people from Mappoon UC to attend Summer Madness • Provided financial assistance to Bundaberg UC to respond to families in crisis as a result of the floods • WMB is the auspicing body for UC congregations delivering Emergency Relief in south east Queensland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant shift in focus toward consumer directed care in preparation for change in government legislation • The food relief support provided by OzHarvest will be expanded across south east Queensland • Continued emphasis on building mission partnerships with congregations in the areas in which WMB services are delivered
<i>God-centred and life-related in worship</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four chaplains work across five sites delivering pastoral care and worship services to 1 000 residents • Active lay led worship at Wheller on the Park retirement community • Albert St Congregation offers four services a week, including a lunch time service for city workers and visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue delivering pastoral care and worship services across our residential aged care communities • Worship services will continue to grow in our retirement communities

<i>Confident in sharing faith</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert St UC and WMB share the same Vision and Mission and Values • Successfully tendered to be a provider of chaplaincy services in schools across south east Queensland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the congregation there are many people from a number of ethnic and church backgrounds. • WMB will progressively provide chaplaincy services in schools as the opportunities develop
<i>Engaged in authentic community relationships</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the heart of WMB's approach to mission is authentic relationships and we strive to live this out in all that we do • WMB is deeply embedded in local communities across south east Queensland delivering much needed support services that strengthen and uphold those people who are most at risk in our community • WMB Residential Aged Care services have embraced the Eden Alternative approach to providing care. The Eden Alternative is recognised for its impact on building positive authentic relationships • WMB established Campaign for Change, an initiative that encouraged individuals or groups to bring to life a community initiative that will make a positive difference in their local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMB strives for all its residential care services to be fully registered in the Eden Alternative • WMB continues to look for, and respond to, opportunities to deliver new and innovative services to those in need • Through Campaign for Change WMB is supporting five initiatives to become a reality in local communities across Queensland. (www.wmb.org.au/campaignforchange) • As an outreach of Albert St UC, the Servant Network & Volunteers from the community runs the Wesley Mission Community Meal each Wednesday night for those who are living with disadvantage and isolation. Emphasis is put on serving the people who attend and creating a sense of community that these people simply don't have • Art from the Margins, a program designed to bridge the gap between artists living with disadvantage and the community has recently held its Heiser Emerging Artists Exhibition. This is the third year the program has partnered with leading Brisbane art identity Bruce Heiser to provide a mentoring program for their artists. Art from the Margins is looking forward to its involvement in the annual Brisbane Festival later in the year

Working for Christian unity

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established OzHarvest in Brisbane in October 2011 to rescue and deliver food to 70 charities providing food relief to people in need. Many of these charities are run by other denominations and rely on the support of OzHarvest. Almost 500 000 meals have been delivered since the service began | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WMB in partnership with OzHarvest will expand the reach and capacity of the service to support more charities across South East Queensland• Art from the Margins, an activity of the Albert St Church, facilitates art workshops for people on the fringes of society such as people who are without a home, disabled, refugees and people with mental health issues to re-engage with the community through development of their expression and art, to the point where many exhibit and receive wider recognition and possibly commence a career in the art community |
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Key achievements/initiatives:

- Partnership with the national food rescue service OzHarvest at the end of 2011 that saw the creation of OzHarvest Brisbane. Since then, the service has delivered almost 500,000 meals to people in need through more than 70 charities. Each week the WMB OzHarvest Brisbane team pick up 3 500 kilos of food from 20 food donors, including Merlo and Qantas Catering that would otherwise have been wasted. We expect this partnership to continue to grow as we see OzHarvest Brisbane expand to the Gold Coast later this year
- Achievements in aged care continue to be recognised with the Anam Cara community at Bray Park achieving full accreditation for Eden in Oz& NZ™ at the end of 2011. This resident-focussed model of care promotes a holistic approach to maintaining the physical and mental health of not only residents but their families and staff. It's proving very beneficial and all WMB's 13 aged care communities are on the journey to become Eden registered.
- The Parkview Aged Care Community in Chermside was awarded the Aged Care Queensland Environmental Sustainability Award: Built Design (2012) and ACAA National Building Awards: New Extra Services Facility (2011)
- WMB is committed to working with the government and other community organisations to create accommodation choice for young adults living with complex disabilities. April 2012 saw the opening of Queensland's second Youngcare Apartments at Coomera on the Gold Coast. WMB is proud to run both the Coomera and Sinnamon Village apartments and provide the day-to-day care and support for the residents who live there. In January WMB opened Wesley Care Tewantin, a home for six young adults living with disabilities. Both of these services provide much-needed choice in accommodation and lifestyle choices for young adults living with high care needs.

- In mid-2012 WMB expanded its geographical reach by agreeing to develop and manage Headspace on the Fraser Coast, a national youth mental health service supporting young people at risk, aged 12-25 years
- WMB's newly renovated retirement village, Aldersgate, at Red Hill is complete. With retirees enjoying this new inner-city village. Wheller on the Park, in Chermside, was recognised as one of the top three retirement living villages in Queensland, while stage five of the precinct is set for completion in September this year
- In early 2012, Beenleigh Family Centre Child Care Service opened, bringing the number of centres across Brisbane to five
- 2012 saw the creation of a Quality and Research Department, with the team working across all areas of WMB to achieve quality assurance, education opportunities for staff and conducting research to ensure ongoing improvement across all areas
- WMB's day respite centre in Sinnamon Village, Hadden Place was awarded the Aged Care Queensland Excellence in Care Media Award in 2012. The centre is leading the way in dementia care with their Humour Intervention Project nominated for an International Dementia Excellence Award
- In a first for WMB in 2012, a 12 month sponsorship from Yellow Cab Co. saw WMB with its own branded taxi. With a dedicated Corporate Relationships role in our Marketing team WMB looks forward to building our corporate relationships in the future
- The inaugural Campaign for Change initiative launched in September 2012 saw WMB demonstrate its ability to create innovative and responsive programs. A WMB first, the community initiative called on ordinary Queenslanders to submit their social change ideas to support a need they could see in their local community. WMB is now working with the winner of this initiative to set up Bestlife- Project Sleepover- a weekend respite centre at the MacKenzie Special School for children living with a disability
- WMB's Emergency Relief service has moved to new premises in Fortitude Valley and has already seen a large increase in clientele in the first quarter of the year. The service hopes to establish a community space at the new location with weekly barbecues and a community garden

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Geoff Batkin

Preferred contact method: Email: g.batkin@wmb.org.au