



11 September 2024

To: Presbytery Ministers, Chairs and Secretaries

From: The General Secretary

Date: 6th of September 2024

Process for Nomination and Election of Moderator-elect

Greetings in the name of Christ!

I am pleased to share with you the process for nominations for Moderator-elect at the 38th Synod. May 2025. The Synod Standing Committee has established a Moderatorial Candidature Task Group to facilitate the Moderator-elect process. This task group is chaired by Rev Andrew Gunton.

Incumbent Moderator Process

The Queensland Synod By-law 2.3.3 (1) provides for a Moderator to be nominated for a single contiguous term of three years to a maximum six years continuous total service. A documented process was needed to support the discernment of a second term for an incumbent Moderator. This was developed and then documented in the Synod By-laws which were approved by the Synod Standing Committee in August 2024. The following outlines the process from the By-laws for an incumbent Moderator nomination.

1. The incumbent Moderator advises the Synod Standing Committee of his/her discernment to nominate for a second term.
2. The Standing Committee establish a Second Term Discernment Group none of whom are members of the Moderatorial Candidature Task Group.
3. The Second Term Discernment Group shall assist the incumbent Moderator to discern their willingness to be nominated for a second term and report its deliberations to the Standing Committee.
4. The Standing Committee, having due regard to the Second Term Discernment Group's deliberations, shall determine whether to support the nomination of the incumbent Moderator for a second term.
5. In the event the Standing Committee supports the nomination, the General Secretary shall advise the Presbyteries and seek at least one Presbytery to endorse the incumbent Moderator for a second term.

The Standing Committee has undertaken the above process and has determined to seek the endorsement of at least one Presbytery for the nomination of Rev Bruce Moore for a second term as Moderator. Rev Bruce Moore has advised the SSC he has the life and vitality for a second term as Moderator and this letter serves as of notice of same to the Presbyteries under By-law 2.3.7(11).

It is important to note that the nomination for a second term of an incumbent Moderator does not preclude other nominations for Moderator-elect.



Process for the 38th Synod

I invite nominations for Moderator-elect from Congregations and Presbyteries in the Queensland Synod. This includes the option of endorsing the nomination of the Rev Bruce Moore for a second term. Nominations are to be received by the General Secretary by the **3rd of March close of business**¹. The following process is to be followed:

1. Congregations shall forward the names of nominees to their presbyteries.
2. Presbyteries may endorse, or propose a nominee. They shall obtain the approval of nominees of congregations or of presbytery, for their names to be included in the process.
3. Presbyteries are to forward the names, together with a personal, theological and leadership profile and photograph of each of their nominees, to the General Secretary of Synod by Friday **3rd of March close of business**.
4. The General Secretary shall forward all nominations to the Moderatorial Candidature Task Group.
5. Nominees will need to be available for meeting with the Task Group in **March 2025**.
6. The ballot for Moderator-elect will take place at the 38th Synod meeting.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Moderator

In the discernment of nominations, the Presbyteries shall give consideration to the duties and responsibilities of the Moderator set out in the Assembly Regulations. The Moderator shall:

- a. preside over meetings of other bodies as may be required from time to time by the Synod or the SSC;
- b. visit each Presbytery regularly and give such care and counsel as may be required to Ministers and other agents whose work has a substantial pastoral and/or educational and/or liturgical function;
- c. be the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placement and be the focal point of reference for the entities with a responsibility for the oversight of placements;
- d. in consultation with Presbytery Officers, encourage congregations in furthering their mission within their respective bounds and in such areas of geographic, sociological and ethnic grouping as may seem appropriate;
- e. in consultation with the General Secretary of Synod, encourage the provision of resources and material for the promotion of the mission of the Church;
- f. in consultation with Presbyteries and the General Secretary of Synod, and without limiting the responsibilities of the General Secretary, exercise general oversight of the life of the Church to ensure that in its congregations, presbyteries, Synod Office, units and agencies, expression is being given to the faith, policies, standards and procedures of the Church;
- g. subject to the provisions of Regulation 3.6.3.2(f) make such rulings as may be necessary to clarify and interpret decisions of the Synod;
- h. issue media releases in the name of the Synod on matters of public interest;
- i. liaise as appropriate with the General Secretary of the Assembly and the National Director for Social Responsibility and Justice;
- j. initiate research and investigate studies into social justice and other issues which impact upon the missional development of the Church;
- k. initiate both formal and informal forums which will reflect on the missional priorities of the Church and which may draft strategic missional directions;

¹ The Synod Standing Committee has agreed to suspend timelines in Bylaw 2.3.7 (6) requiring the nominations to be referred to the Moderatorial Candidature Task Group at least three (3) months prior to the Synod.



- l. except in those cases in which negotiations are necessary with Governments and Government Departments or officers in respect of the work of the Synod, act as the liaison person of the Church with Governments in respect of public issues;
- m. have the oversight of the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee and relationships with other branches of the Church catholic;
- n. in exercising the functions of counselling and discipline as provided in Regulation 3.6.3.2(i), ensure that, before becoming involved, all other Councils and officers have had the opportunity for exercising their prescribed functions;
- o. enquire into any grievance, complaint or other circumstance as provided in Regulation 3.6.3.2(j);
- p. subject to being elected or appointed as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Regulations, by-laws or procedures, represent the Synod at meetings of the Assembly and all other appropriate meetings conducted by the Assembly.

Key Selection Criteria

Some of the key characteristics of a person suitable for election as Moderator are as follows:

- a. The nominee shall be a member of the Uniting Church and will have an appreciation of the reformed and evangelical theological heritage of the Uniting Church and its ongoing significance to the faith of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. In addition, the nominee will be aware of the theological diversity within the Uniting Church and will have the capacity to reflect theologically upon current issues in church and society in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- b. The nominee will give evidence of a lifestyle commensurate with the responsibilities and demands of a key leadership role. Such evidence will include a nominee's awareness of his/her own gifts, abilities and limitations, his/her capacity to maintain healthy relationships, and an ongoing commitment to his/her own physical and spiritual wellbeing.
- c. The nominee will have a good understanding of the Uniting Church, including its community service institutions and the need for those community service agencies and the councils of the church to work together. The nominee will also have a good understanding of Australian society, including those emerging issues and trends that need to be addressed in the light of the gospel. Demonstrated team building and networking capabilities will have to be evidenced.
- d. The nominee will have demonstrated the capacity to exercise pastoral care and discipline, and the ability to moderate, and will be respected generally by the members of the church.
- e. The nominee will be a good communicator and, as the public "face" of the church, will need to be articulate and competent in working with the media.
- f. The nominee will show a commitment to ecumenical engagement and a capacity to work with ethnic groups in both church and community.

I pray God's blessing on your discernment and participation in the Moderator nomination process.

Yours sincerely

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh
General Secretary