



## Discipleship - Engaging Young People

### Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families (CYAF)

#### Vision (where we want to be)

The Uniting Church in Queensland has a vision to see...

**Young people actively engaged in mission and ministry in every Queensland community.**

To see this vision to reality...

**The Uniting Church in Queensland is committed to encouraging and equipping young people, from birth into adulthood, to grow in discipleship and authentic faith, and participate as valued and vital members of intergenerational churches and communities with Jesus at the centre.**

#### Principles (what we believe)

The Uniting Church Queensland believes that:

- **Young people are people of God.**
- **Young people are invited to be lifelong disciples, who know and follow Jesus, and help others do the same.**
- **Young people belong to the Body of Christ and are called to serve with their own gifts, both as participants and leaders now and in the future.**
- **Young people grow in Christian Faith as they experience and express their belonging, believing, growing, and sharing in family, church, and community.**
- **God's spirit gives various gifts to the church for ministry with Young People and the wider world, and we are called to use them.**
- **Intergenerational mission and ministry are the privilege and responsibility of every member of a Christian Faith community regardless of age, position, or status.**

#### Engaging Young People (what we mean)

When we talk about ministry with young people, we mean:

**Ministry by the whole of God's Community with young people from birth into adulthood - drawing them deeper into God's Kingdom, in family, intergenerational and community spaces, where a life-long growing faith is disciplined, in a whole-of-being way.**

#### Goal (what we want to achieve)

**Young people growing as Disciples in every Queensland community...**

#### Mission (how we go about it)

Through the Project Plenty Discipleship priority, we are committed to reawakening an understanding of, and passion for ministry with young people across the life of the church. We will do this by developing leaders, sharing resources, and developing partnerships, networks, and communities of practice across the Synod, to support those working and volunteering in ministry with young people in local communities.



# Discipleship

## What is Discipleship?

At its simplest a disciple is a person who seeks to **know** and **live** the way of Jesus and, in **community**, help others do the same for the **restoration** of all things to God.

Discipleship is the communal work of those who know and live the way of Jesus, supporting each other in this way of living as they grow and work together with God in the restoration of all things.

## Discipleship Framework (what supports discipleship in communities)

When we understand that God wants to be a part of every aspect of our life, and that we are designed to live and grow within community we understand that Discipleship is a life-long journey where our faith must constantly be formed and transformed. To provide a framework for life-long discipleship within a community of faith, we have adopted 10 Discipleship Elements that we believe are essential for supporting and nurturing formational experiences that produce lifelong faith, grounded in a communal response to living the way of Jesus and helping others do the same.

These Discipleship Elements, if integrated into an intentional long-term journey with Jesus, and an overall strategy for discipleship embedded in the local faith community, will support communities to create a deeply nurturing environment for life-long discipleship.

The 10 Discipleship Elements are:

- **God's Big Story (K)**
- **Encounters with Jesus (K)**
- **Peak experiences (L)**
- **Coaching and Mentoring (L)**
- **Rites of Passage (L)**
- **Family Household Nurture (C)**
- **Intergenerational Connections (C)**
- **Positive Peer Community (C)**
- **Serving in Mission (R)**
- **Respond with Compassion (R)**

These elements all form part of *Knowing Jesus' way*, *Living Jesus' way*, undertaking this as a *Community* of Jesus' way and seeking *Restoration Jesus' way*. Some of the elements might fit in one or all of these categories. To help us think about how these elements help us grow as disciples, we have included this key of Knowing (K), Living (L), Community (C) and Restoring (R) as a guide to consider both *how* these elements might help us grow as well as *what* kinds of resources might be useful.