



General Proposal 7

Appointments to the Board for Christian Formation

That the Synod

approve an appointment model for the Board for Christian Formation whereby appointment of members is made 50:50 by Synod in Session and Synod Standing Committee where:

- (a) chairperson plus three members of the Board for Christian Formation are appointed by Synod in Session
- (b) remaining four members of the Board for Christian Formation are appointed by Synod Standing Committee
- (c) 3 year terms remain per the Board for Christian Formation charter (roughly two Synodial terms)
- (d) appointments to the Board for Christian Formation are staggered to minimise board turnover at any given point:
 - (i) every 2nd Synod in Session would have four Board for Christian Formation member appointments going to it
 - (ii) at the time of the alternate Synod in Session, the Synod Standing Committee would make their four appointments.

The Scope

It is proposed that a move be made to a 50:50 appointment model of members to the Board for Christian Formation (BCF) by Synod in Session and Synod Standing Committee (SSC).

The BCF charter currently stipulates that the BCF chairperson and the seven non ex-officio members be elected by Synod in Session. Except for the Finance, Investment and Property Board chairperson, all other Synod governing body appointments are made by the SSC (with the exception of the SSC itself which is appointed by Synod in Session).

The role and purpose of the BCF has grown more strategic and requires a set of skills that is firmly grounded in the training and development of all people within the church, both lay and ordained. The current practice of electing people every eighteen months does not provide the flexibility required to manage appropriate appointments.

This is further exacerbated by a lack of nominations that come to this meeting at this time. At the time of the writing of this report there are currently no nominations to the BCF. The effect of this will be direct appointments by the SSC to the BCF to fulfill its charter.

Rationale

The proposed appointment model for the BCF is:

1. Chairperson plus three members be appointed by Synod in Session, with the remaining four members appointed by SSC
2. 3 year terms remain per the charter (roughly two Synodial terms)
3. Stagger appointments to minimise board turnover at any given point
 - a. every 2nd Synod in Session would have four BCF appointments going to it
 - b. at the time of the alternate Synod in Session, the SSC would make their 4 appointments.

It is noted that vacancies arising between Synod meetings are filled by the SSC as per the Synod by-laws and current practice.

Advantages

The benefits of a hybrid appointment model such as this include:

- oversight and involvement in the appointment of members to the BCF is retained by Synod in Session
- honours the role of the Synod in Session in discerning important matters such as this for the Queensland
- any identified skills gaps on the BCF can be targeted as part of the SSC appointments
- more agile, with SSC able to focus on changing skills / capability needs of the BCF.

Disadvantages

One of the potential downsides of this suggested appointment model is that those members who get appointed initially by Synod in Session then remain in that cycle and would always be appointed by Synod in Session.

It is however worth noting that all nominees (whether being appointed by Synod in Session or SSC) would have to complete a nomination form based on the same template and the same recruitment and selection principles would be followed, tailored as required (e.g. nominees being appointed by Synod in Session may have an extra requirement such as the video which was recorded in 2020).

Endorsement

At their 4 November 2021 meeting, the SSC endorsed this proposal to be submitted to the 36th Synod.

Current BCF composition

The current elected BCF members and their end dates is:

BCF member	End date
Rev Peter Armstrong (chairperson)	16/05/2022
Mr Trent Wheeley	16/05/2022
Mr Peter James	16/05/2022
Rev Lynette Burden	16/05/2022
Rev James Neil Storey	16/05/2022
Mr Grant Erickson	20/10/2023
Rev Gwendolyn Fisher	20/10/2023

Rev Gwen Fisher will have reached her maximum continuous time as a member having served 9 years by October 2023. Whilst Gwen served for nearly 1 year as chairperson, the BCF charter requires a person to have served 1 or more terms (a term being 3 years) as chairperson to be able to serve for a maximum continuous time of 12 years.

Timetable and transition

Given five member terms end at the 36th Synod, a transition plan is required to transition one member appointment to be appointed by the SSC under the suggested appointment model. All five vacancies have come to this Synod in Session (including chairperson), but one member will be appointed for only 18 months (and that member then move into the SSC cycle of appointment)

On this basis, if this proposal is accepted the timetable is:

1. May 2022 – 36th Synod
 - a. This proposal put regarding 50:50 appointment model
 - b. Election of BCF chairperson plus four members, with one member being appointed for 18 months only. Recognising that in the event there are no or limited nominations to this committee, appointments will be made by the SSC.
2. October 2023 – Synod Standing Committee
 - a. Appoints four members
3. May 2025 – 38th Synod
 - a. Election of BCF chairperson plus three members.

Proposers

The proposer and seconder:

Name: Rev Heather den Houting
Email: heather.denhouting@ucaqld.com.au
Phone: 0437 728420

Signature:



Name: Rev Peter Armstrong
Email: Peter.Armstrong@ucareqld.com.au
Phone: 04184 33193

Signature:

