

Church Planting, Re-Planting & Revitalisation Strategy

2025 – 2035

renewal



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Queensland Synod Church Planting, Re-Planting and Revitalisation Strategy (2025 – 2035)

Vision

An eco-system that encourages discipleship-focussed church planting, re-planting and revitalisation across the Uniting Church in Queensland.

Purpose

In response to the call of the Spirit to our church, the Synod will accompany congregations and presbyteries in seeking and supporting a flourishing church planting, re-planting and revitalisation culture over a 10-year period from 2025 to 2035. Together we will nurture an eco-system in which the church collectively and locally responds to God's call for renewal by forming new and renewed congregations/faith communities.

Alongside Congregations and Presbyteries

The Synod's task is to join presbyteries, congregations and other entities *already at work* in embedding a discipleship-driven church planting, re-planting and revitalisation culture. The Synod, its boards, committees, commissions, task groups and office will work collaboratively to prioritise the tasks and goals of this strategy by identifying and offering their skills, resources and work in support of the strategy.

Definitions

- Church planting:** Establishing new congregations/faith communities, as a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. They will proclaim the good news, grow disciples, serve, and transform their wider communities in love, justice and hope, as an outflow of gathering and sending disciples.
- Re-planting:** Re-planting congregations/faith communities in place of existing communities, as a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.
- Revitalisation:** Renewing and refreshing existing congregations/faith communities, as a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.
- Discipleship:** Knowing and living Jesus' way, in community, for the restoration of all things.

Dependencies

There are four dependencies, required for implementation of the Strategy:

- **Grounded in Prayer** A growing prayer culture, focusing us as transformative agents of God's love and grace.
- **Localised Discipleship** A localised approach to discipleship in each presbytery, community of faith, and other context.
- **Contextualisation** Responds to geographic, cultural, generational, and contextual diversity of church and wider community.
- **Resourcing Support** Supported by commitments to stewarding resources (including the proposed Church Renewal Fund).

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Foundations and Priorities for Church Planting and Revitalisation

To facilitate church planting, replanting and revitalisation, the following strategic foundations and priorities will be pursued by the Synod office:

Strategic Foundations	Effective Collaboration	Passionate Commitment	Healthy teams & leaders	Encouraging Innovation
Strategic Priorities	<p>Collaborate with Presbyteries and congregations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Presbytery church planting & revitalisation plans and initiatives. • Identify congregations, faith communities or other contexts ready for planting, replanting or revitalisation. • Develop congregational capacity. • Identify and deliver coaching, training, and development pathways. • Identify and implement best-practice measures of congregational and discipleship health. • Streamline and implement approval and governance pathways. <p>Collaborate with and learn from UAICC Qld Regional Council (Muth arrak) and presbyteries to plant new churches among First Nations communities.</p>	<p>A communication plan that informs and inspires the church, sharing the broad vision, local stories, and progress of the strategy.</p> <p>Initiatives to invite, inspire and excite, generating a pipeline of leaders, supporters, team members, congregations, and faith communities.</p> <p>Identify and promote a range of suitable models for church planting, replanting and revitalisation, determined by local context.</p> <p>Encourage and support an active prayer culture.</p> <p>Encourage and support a growing discipleship culture, expressed contextually.</p>	<p>Facilitate training and formation for leading church planting and revitalisation, from Synod office, other UCA bodies, and external partners.</p> <p>Quality, effective coaching and support available to teams and leaders, including from Synod office teams, other UCA bodies, and external partners.</p> <p>Facilitate networks and communities of practice for peer support and peer learning for leaders and teams.</p> <p>Assessment and development of leaders for planting and revitalisation.</p>	<p>Identify or develop exemplar church plants or revitalisations, resourced to function as models and training hubs.</p> <p>Active learning from church planting and/or revitalisation projects.</p> <p>Promote and encourage appropriate risk taking and innovative leadership to reach groups in our community disconnected from the church.</p> <p>Expect, teach, prepare for, and embrace failure, providing support and future pathways to those who experience it.</p> <p>Prioritise resourcing and decision-making within Synod boards, committees and commissions to support innovation for church planting, re-planting and revitalisation.</p>

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Goals and Targets

By 2035, the Uniting Church in Queensland will see:

1. A 20% increase in the total number of congregations/faith communities across the state compared to a 2025 baseline, including new congregations/faith communities in a range of cultural, demographic and geographic contexts.
2. Every community of faith understands and is actively developing a contextual discipleship culture, engaging people in God's work of restoration.

Strategic Horizons

The strategy will be enacted over a ten-year period, with three strategic horizons. Synod Standing Committee will approve final elements of each horizon.

Horizon 1: Tilling the Soil: June 2027 (2 years)

- By 31 December 2025, establish measures and baseline data for discipleship and missional health, and numbers of congregations/faith communities.
- Coaching, development, peer learning communities established, with statewide access for leaders and teams.
- Each presbytery supported to develop and implement contextual church planting and revitalisation strategies.
- Church planting and revitalisation training and education approaches for Synod training/education providers implemented.
- Church planting and revitalisation training and support partnerships established with internal UC bodies (congregations, presbyteries) and external bodies (e.g. specialist church planting networks).

Horizon 2: Seedlings: June 2030 (5 years)

- 5% increase in the number of congregations/faith communities compared to 2025 baseline.
- 30% of congregations/faith communities have discerned and are achieving their own target measures for discipleship flowing into mission.

Horizon 3: Growing Strong: (Here comes the forest?) June 2035 (10 years)

- 20% increase in the number of congregations/faith communities compared to 2025, with increased presence in rural, regional & urban areas.
- 100% of congregations/faith communities have discerned and achieving their own target measures for discipleship flowing into mission.

Reporting and Operational Planning

Reporting against the strategy will be to Synod in session, Synod Standing Committee, MC3, and Presbytery/Synod Interface. Operational planning in support of the strategy will be undertaken by the Synod office on an annual basis.