



General Proposal 2

Mission Collaboration and Coordination Committee (MC3)

That the Synod

Approves the formation of a missional sub-committee of the Synod Standing Committee to have the powers and responsibilities as articulated in the attached Charter.

The Scope

The Mission Collaboration and Coordination Committee's (MC3) purpose is to fund, resource and enable the missional presence of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod by facilitating the cross entity and collaborative mission of the church. It will:

- Provide a voice for Congregations and Presbyteries missionally at a whole of Synod level;
- Support Presbyteries to empower local ministries and stream-line mission-related processes where applicable;
- Facilitate and enable missional initiatives which have multiple entities involved or can be networked together for mutual support;
- Provide Synod Standing Committee (SSC) visibility of significant missional activities across the life of the church with particular focus on those developing or requiring connections across Congregations, Presbyteries and/or agencies; and
- Support SSC's decision-making with up-to-date information on ministry and missional contexts.

The MC3 does not oversee, manage, fund or participate in local or Congregational ministry. It exists to support initiatives that involve multiple entities or require collaboration outside presbytery boundaries, and/or are able to be scaled across the Synod.

Rationale

There are two reasons for this proposal.

1. The “Shared Life. Flourishing Communities.” consultation process uncovered some frustration amongst Congregations and Presbytery bodies when they tried to implement missional activities involving multiple entities or attempted to access Synod funding.

2. The Presbytery Synod Interface (PSI) group, by virtue of its composition of Presbytery Ministers, Moderator, General Secretary, Trinity Principal, Executive Officer Corporate and Director of Mission UCQ, was viewed as the vehicle for promoting, funding and supporting these broader missional activities. However, this group has no mandate to do so. The purpose of the PSI is to facilitate operational matters between the Synod office and Presbyteries. As such, the PSI has not been formally accountable to any governing council of the church and has no mandate to oversee cross-entity mission governance.

How might this committee support mission? Here are some examples:

Example 1: A Congregation seeks to undertake church planting across Presbyteries. This could come to the MC3 to facilitate cross-presbytery support, and for consideration of seed funding.

Example 2: A Congregation wants to implement Congregation B’s successful migrant ESOL program, but Congregation A doesn’t have the capacity to train and assist. This might come to the MC3 for funding and support as MC3 recognises that this is a scalable mission opportunity that other Congregations might like to adopt.

Example 3. MC3 identifies that there are several Congregation amalgamations underway in various stages of development across the Synod. It recognizes the benefit of building a network of mutual learning and support among these projects, including missional teaching. It sponsors a training workshop, mentor arrangements, or other avenues for learning and support across this network to maximise support and outcomes in governance, ministry and mission.

Proposers

The proposer and seconder:

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CHARTER

1.1 Purpose

The Mission Collaboration and Coordination Committee's (MC3) purpose is to fund, resource and enable the missional presence of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod by facilitating the cross entity and collaborative mission of the church. It will:

- Provide Synod Standing Committee (SSC) with a line of sight of significant missional activities within Congregations and Presbyteries (including non-Congregation ministry within their bounds), with particular focus on those developing or requiring connections across Congregations, Presbyteries and/or agencies;
- Support SSC's decision-making with up-to-date information on ministry and missional contexts;
- Provide a voice for Congregations and Presbyteries missionally at a whole of Synod level;
- Support Presbyteries to empower local ministries and stream-line mission-related processes where applicable; and
- Facilitate and enable missional initiatives which are cross-entity or can be networked together for mutual support.

1.2 Responsibilities

The MC3 is responsible for prayerfully:

- Framing Synod-wide missional context and providing a space for missional thought leadership to occur
- Determining how to resource collaborative, cross-entity mission initiatives and providing recommendations to the SSC
- Assessing how Synod wide mission-focused policies might affect Congregations
- Acting as a sounding board for presbytery collaboration
- Developing mission initiative assessment criteria
- Reviewing and evaluating relevant proposals
- Identifying missional priorities in line with Plenty (or any subsequent whole of Synod plan)
- Allocating Synod mission funding on behalf of SSC up to an identified delegation level
- Providing creative space for mission innovation discussions.

1.3 Delegations

The MC3 does not oversee, manage, fund or participate in local or Congregational ministry. It exists to support initiatives that involve multiple entities or require collaboration outside presbytery boundaries, and/or are able to be scaled across the Synod.

Example 1: A Congregation seeks to undertake church planting across Presbyteries. This could come to the MC3 to facilitate cross-presbytery support, and for consideration of seed funding.

Example 2: A Congregation wants to implement Congregation B's successful migrant ESOL program, but



Mission Collaboration and Coordination Committee

Congregation A doesn't have the capacity to train and assist. This might come to the MC3 for funding and support as MC3 recognize that this is a scalable mission opportunity that other Congregations might like to adopt.

Example 3. MC3 identifies that there are several Congregation amalgamations underway in various stages of development across the Synod. It recognizes the benefit of building a network of mutual learning and support among these projects, including missional teaching. It sponsors a training workshop, mentor arrangements, or other avenues for learning and support across this network to maximise support and outcomes in governance, ministry and mission.

Financial Delegation: The MC3 has the authority to direct the Synod Office on behalf of the SSC where a missional outcome and business case has been identified and agreed for the initiative. The financial delegation provided to MC3 will be determined by SSC.

Initiatives requiring Synod policy changes may be reviewed by the MC3 but will be deferred to SSC for final decision.

TABLE OF MC3 INVOLVEMENT IN MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Mission Level	Wider church connection (inherent or potential)	Amount	Funding source	Decision-making Authority	MC3 Involvement
Single Presbytery or Congregation initiatives but working across entities or Presbyteries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies Other Synod entities Congregations in other Presbyteries Other Presbyteries 	As per agreed by parties involved	Agencies or other Synod entities, including other Presbyteries. Or could be Synod funding through MC3 budget.	MC3	MC3 facilitates discussions, and makes funding decision
Synod wide	Whole-of-state mission or mandate. Could be multiple agencies or entities or across multiple Presbytery boundaries	Up to amount specified by SSC	Synod funding	MC3	MC3 makes funding decision
Synod wide	As above, except those initiatives that require either changes to existing Synod policy, or finance beyond MC3 delegation.	Above agreed SSC amount	Synod funding	SSC	SSC makes the decision based on MC3 recommendation

1.4 Composition

The MC3 includes the following members to be appointed by the SSC:

- A representative from each Presbytery, as determined by the Presbytery
- The Moderator(ex-officio)
- The General Secretary (ex-officio)
- Board of Christian Formation representative
- Director of Mission UnitingCare Queensland

The chair is the Moderator.

The MC3 will be supported by an Executive Officer who will be an ex officio member.



The MC3 may co-opt others onto the committee when specialist knowledge is required.

It is expected that all members will provide contextual knowledge, theological perspectives and/or specialist missional skills and experience.

1.5 Funding

The MC3 oversees and allocates an annual mission budget, the amount to be determined by the SSC.

1.6 Assessment Process

1. MC3 develops mission assessment criteria
2. Proposals brought to MC3 must meet the assessment criteria
3. Prayer and discernment
4. The proposal is either
 - (a) Accepted and funding approved
 - (b) Given qualified approval- needs more information before acceptance
 - (c) Rejected
5. Funding for the proposal will be released upon approval
6. Funded activities will provide regular updates as per mission assessment criteria to MC3.

1.7 Meetings

Bi-monthly, or as required.

The notice and agenda of meetings includes supporting papers. The agenda for meetings is determined by the MC3 chairperson in consultation with the MC3 executive officer and others directed by the MC3 chairperson.

General governance protocols, including those relating to quorums and electronic decision making, as outlined within the Synod by-laws apply to this committee

In the absence of the MC3 chairperson or appointed delegate, the members will elect one of their number as chairperson of that meeting.

The MC3 may invite other people including any employee of Synod to attend all or part of its meeting.

Any person with a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a meeting must not be present for consideration of that matter.

Decisions of the MC3 may be made at a duly constituted meeting or otherwise agreed by all MC3 members. Where approvals are granted outside a meeting of the MC3, a report is to be provided to the next meeting of the MC3.

1.8 Minutes

The MC3 executive officer prepares minutes for each MC3 meeting.

The draft minutes of each meeting are reviewed by the chairperson and circulated to all MC3 members by the MC3 executive officer as soon as practicable after each meeting.



A copy of the MC3 minutes, once they have been approved by the MC3, are signed by the MC3 chairperson.

1.9 Access to information

The MC3 has the authority to seek any information it lawfully requires from any employee of the Synod and all employees must comply with such requests.

Professional advisers may be appointed at Synod's expense to assist the MC3 in evaluating specific issues or risks and mitigating strategies to meet the MC3's purpose and discharge its responsibilities. In engaging such advisors, the MC3 must consider the reasonableness of the expense and budget availability.

1.10 Reporting to the Synod Standing Committee

The MC3 will report quarterly to the SSC on the missional activity across the church.

1.11 Review of MC3

The MC3 reviews their mandate annually to provide assurance it remains consistent with the SSC's objectives and responsibilities.

The SSC approves or further reviews the MC3.