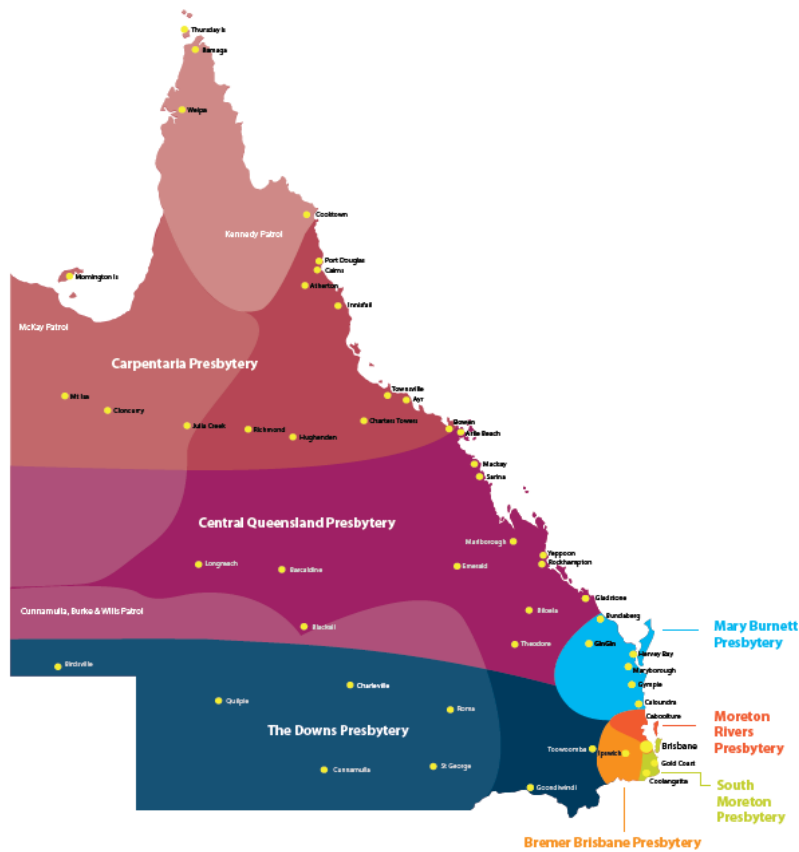


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HOPE
SYNOD 36



Report from

Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements



Report

The Placement Committee has sought to do the following since the 35th Synod:

- Support the “call” process within the life of the church;
- Streamline and make this process more transparent and efficient;
- Update our database and documentation supporting the placements process.

About our Committee

The Placements Committee (Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements) is responsible for the oversight of the processes that enable the placement of ministers, ministers from other denominations and laypeople in particular specified ministries.

Membership includes the Moderator (chairperson), a delegate of the General Secretary, each presbytery minister, a delegate of the CEO of UnitingCare Queensland, and the Director of Christian Formation or their delegate. This diverse membership brings together a collective story about what is happening across the life of the church and what resources are best able to meet the needs of particular ministry contexts.

Please see below the current statistics for Placements within the Qld Synod:

Statistics @ 01/03/2022 for the period 01/01/2021 - 01/03/2022

Total number of approved placements including vacancies	300
Bremer Brisbane	30
Carpentaria	26
Central Queensland	12
Mary Burnett	30
Moreton Rivers	60
Queensland Synod	35
South Moreton	38
The Downs	14
UnitingCare Queensland	55
Number of approved placements less than 1.0 FTE	144
Number of ministry agents in approved placements	300
Ordained	201
Lay	99
Male	190
Female	110

Shared Life, Flourishing Communities

Focus since the last Synod

The impact of COVID cannot be underestimated in the impact on placements across the Synod. We have seen a significant transition from face to face worship gatherings to multi-modal forms of worship delivery. In addition, in some spaces, there has been a reluctance to return to face to face gatherings by some people. This has meant that the way we gather together in Christian community has been significantly altered in both the way we gather and the financial support and sustainability of these ministries.

The face of ministry is changing, and the Placement's committee continues to grapple with the matching of people available for placements and the nature of the placements themselves. The number of lay people in placements reflects the growing trend, as does the high but steady state of part-time placements. While often this is a matter for Presbyteries to solve, the whole of church approach provided by Project Plenty and its focus on discipleship should allow for flexibility as we imagine a church for the future.

We have been delighted to interview exiting candidates for ministry and have welcomed several as they presented their vision for ministry to us. They are Delma Lovell, Jason Grimsey, Paula Hukehuke, Rebecca Bell, Malia Ma'u, Garry Jennings and Emma Nicholls.

The role of the placements committee is to be the Synod body that oversees the creation and filling of ministry placements across the life of the Synod, but also to ask the big questions about the role and sustainability of the placement's process and how this fits with the vision and mission of the church. We will do this more intentionally over the next period as the implications of Shared Life; Flourishing Communities impacts the way we organise ourselves as a church.

Challenges/risks as we progress

- The impact of Covid-19 on the gathered life of our congregations and what this continues to mean for the skillset required of people in these placements.
- The impact of Covid-19 on our chaplaincy placements, especially in settings requiring health and community services and the skill set required of people in these placements.
- Our ability to resource the church's witness in locations of missional importance geographically, organisationally, and demographically with suitably skilled ministry agents. This is particularly relevant in light of the strategic plans of the Presbyteries, the BCF and the Chaplaincy Commission.
- The high number of part-time placements demands the need to rethink the nature of ministry. When placements reduce from full time, history shows that without significant, purposeful intervention, the fraction of the placement continues to decrease. We believe that the work of the Presbyteries is essential in developing the robust thinking required about planning for the future needs of ministry across the state, and the Discipleship and Fit for Purpose focus of Plenty supports this approach.

Proposals to the 36th Synod

It is proposed that the 36th Synod receive this report.

Contact for report questions

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