

Report for
31st Queensland Synod
October 2014



Report from
South Moreton Presbytery



Digital print of 'One Race' by Jandamarra Cadd

Context:

Our Vision Statement: Cultivating an inclusive, growing and energised church

Responses to Priority Direction A since last Synod

Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared Call and Vision

There are a number of ways in which the Presbytery has addressed this Priority Direction since the last meeting of Synod.

During 2013 Presbytery discussed and then adopted a new Mission Plan (2014-2018), the priority areas for which are:

- encouraging the renewal and energising of local congregations and faith communities
- exploring and supporting missional opportunities in population growth areas
- growing healthy relationships within the Presbytery.

In addition Presbytery identified two primary operational areas for the period 2014-2018:

- developing a more effective Presbytery organisation
- participating with the wider Uniting Church in Australia.

In March 2014 the Presbytery called Pastor David Busch into a 0.5 placement as Project Officer: Multicultural to assist in its work with multicultural congregations and communities.

The Presbytery has continued and enhanced its work assisting congregations in the development of mission plans, principally through its Project Officer: Mission, Rev Beth Nicholls.

It has begun to develop a children's ministry network within the Presbytery and is undertaking training for children's ministry leaders, teachers and helpers.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

The Presbytery plans to continue to develop the areas identified above, particularly as it works through initiatives arising from its mission plan. In particular it has identified the areas of church planting, congregational renewal and leadership development. With respect to the first, it is in the process of establishing a Church Plant Working Group to explore church plant possibilities within the bounds of the Presbytery, in part through reflection on the Pacific Pines experience. It also has been exploring the future possibilities for funding the new position of Project Officer: Church Plant to further this work.

Responses to Priority Direction B since last Synod

Promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality (individual and corporate)

There are at least two ways in which the Presbytery has addressed this Priority Direction since the last Synod. The first is the annual retreat for ministerial agents—working with a directed spiritual reflection model—and the other is its provision for worship at all meetings within the Presbytery.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

Continuing to develop the work above.

Responses to Priority Direction C since last Synod

Developing sustainable mission orientated organisation (way of being) for the Church in Queensland

There are a number of ways in which the Presbytery has worked intentionally in this area:

- the work of the Project Officer: Mission
- partnered appraisals conducted under the oversight of the Pastoral Relations Committee
- area gatherings (Northern and Southern)
- the focus within the mission resource committee on intentional and focussed resourcing for mission.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

Continuing the work above.

Responses to Priority Direction D since last Synod

Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church

There are at least two ways in which the Presbytery has addressed this Priority Direction since the last Synod. The first has been the promotion among ministerial agents of leadership courses held within the Synod. The second has been the intentional choice of speakers at area gatherings.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

As part of the implementation of its Mission Plan (2014-2018) the Presbytery has identified the identification and recruitment of leaders, particularly in the areas of church planting and congregational renewal, as a key priority.

Through the Project Officer: Mission, Presbytery has established the Shaping for Mission group whose goal is to explore and develop new opportunities for mission within existing congregations. The group is developing a YouTube resource to enable congregations to upload, view, and share YouTube videos about being church differently.

Responses to Priority Direction E since last Synod

Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships

Presbytery has sought to address this Priority Direction by:

- continued development of multicultural ministry
- engagement with the Community Alliance project
- meetings between the Presbytery minister and his/her counterparts in the Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

Continuing the work above.

Key achievements/initiatives

The appointment of David Busch as Project Officer: Multicultural.
The adoption of the Mission Plan (2014-2018)

Issues to be addressed:

How the whole Presbytery fully owns the various projects undertaken in its name is an issue and a challenge for the whole church. The Presbytery leadership seek to lead the way in supporting congregational and presbytery-wide initiatives that are expressions of the mission plan. The Presbytery aims to build a collegiate approach to ministry through the Presbytery newsletter and area gatherings and by encouraging support for congregational events.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The challenge and risk, as for the whole church, is that the Presbytery may not fully own the projects undertaken in its name. The challenge is to help existing churches to embrace change and to give support to alternate expressions of missional church.

Another challenge is to encourage ministers and pastors to be willing to risk the relatively safe environment of their existing churches and to reach out and seek to welcome non-church people into the life of the church with relevant ways of growing disciples.

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