

SYNOD MULTICULTURAL-CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Context:

The Synod Multi-cross cultural committee seeks to make its humble contributions to the historical vision that 'the Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church' . (1985 Assembly) Under this vision, the committee commits its workings to finding new and creative opportunities for CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities to participate in the missions of Christ within and beyond the Queensland Synod.

| Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod | Working towards our Priority Directions in the future |
|--|---|
| <i>Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to our shared Call and Vision to forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus. Part of the committee’s commitment has begun to give shape to the intent of the Uniting Church in Australia as declared in the recent Assembly that we are “One Body, many members - Living faith and life cross-culturally”. • Committed to education and formation for Discipleship: by preparing Christian multilingual education resources consistent with the Basis of Union that are relevant to the diversity of expressions of Christian life and faith, forming and equipping of disciples within the church and to 21st Century multicultural, multiracial and multi-faith Australia (in progress with a team addressing it). • Committed to providing resources and training programs in a wide variety of culturally sensitive and appropriate learning, teaching and assessment styles (done through Pilgrim Learning Community: CALD Lay Preachers Course: very successful). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the need to engage in evangelism, and new church development: by developing, supporting and implementing culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies for evangelism and the establishment, development and inclusion of new faith communities and congregations. (This has begun with Presbytery Ministers involved in our meetings but we recognise our need to work closely and in consultation with Presbyteries) |
| <i>Promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to promoting a discipline of prayer and spirituality in CALD communities giving shape to our intent to be a prayerful listening church. In response the committee has created a DVD resource on prayer to be made available for congregations .The resource is CALD perspectives on the prayer languages within the life of the Uniting Church and what prayer means from various cultures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological papers are currently being prepared from a CALD perspective on key themes of christian prayer and spirituality. It would offer biblical and theological insights from CALD leaders on 'Communal Prayer' ' |

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Great Sunday of Sharing (Rev Viliami Mila and team) promotion through Presbyteries. | |
| <p><i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation</i></p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to organizing for missions by : • Mapping existing / emerging CALD congregations, faith communities and highly mixed congregations within the QLD Synod (Rev David Won Kim). • Creation of the MC Website • Creation of an accurate database of CALD Ministry agents. • CALD input to <i>Together on the way, enriching community</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the process of creating a regular 2nd generation and 3rd generation 'Worship Rally' with guest speakers, electives and immersion experiences for participants. |
| <p><i>Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church</i></p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to 'Building Bridges and Activating Gifts' workshops (Ms Litiana Kuridrani and Deaconess Terani Lima) • Empowering women leaders -enabling and mentoring women in CALD communities for ministry leadership (Ms Litiana Kuridrani and Deaconess Terani Lima) • Providing MC cross-cultural education (intensive) for Trinity Theological College . (Rev. L. Senituli and team) • Evangelism workshops training events completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Emerging Leaders' Network-The 2nd, 3rd generation is a critical key focus. In the process of establishing an emerging CALD young leaders network under the leadership of 2nd gen ministry leaders. The leadership network engage in: mentoring, coaching, training and equipping of emerging CALD leaders. • Theological papers are currently being prepared from a CALD perspective on Biblical and Theological insights from CALD leaders on 'The process of Discernment', 'Leadership', 'Discipleship' and 'Evangelism' |
| <p><i>Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships</i></p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to working with the Minister of the Logan Multicultural congregation to build authentic community relationships in a culturally diverse context. The committee through its chairperson Deaconess Terani Lima and Rev L.Senituli met with the South Moreton Presbytery Minister and Logan leaders in light of recent difficulties reported through the media. • Family Enrichment Program facilitated at Synod centre • Save the Children - Sudanese Children Project: Pastor Moses Leth , Dr. Gewa Au, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is keen to deepen the relationships of CALD communities with the First Peoples of this land. • Exploring with Refugee centres: (The Romero Centre Assisting Asylum seekers and Refugees processes and settlement) • Planned programs relating to incarceration of migrant youth in the prisons • CALD members engaging in prison ministry |

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev David Won Kim) • Pasifika Women's Forum 2013 (Brisbane City Council, Pasifika Islands Reference Group Inc., Griffith University etc) • Committed to provide connections to life skills and community development type training that will promote good behaviour and improved quality of life (Ethnic Communities Council Queensland - Chronic Disease Program) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is keen to connect, deepen friendships and working relationships with women of all races in the wider community • The committee is keen to explore other areas of deep concern for CALD women in the area of health and endeavours to work closely with Ethnic Communities Council Queensland (ECCQ) and the Brisbane City Council Multicultural Team |
|---|--|

Key achievements/initiatives:

- The Training of 70 CALD Lay Preachers for the ministry of Lay Preaching
- The partnership with Dr Neil Thorpe and Pilgrim Learning community to utilize CALD ministry leaders as lecturers
- Web page and database for CALD congregations and leaders
- The opportunities of CALD leaders to provide theological input to ministry formation of ministry candidates
- The overwhelming support by our Moderator, General Secretary and synod staff for the work of the committee
- The training and empowerment of women leadership in both Church and wider community

Challenges/risks as we progress:

Some of the challenges the committee faces are:

1. In light of our governance imperatives, how to ensure that our church processes and frameworks reflect a multicultural understanding of who we have declared ourselves to be: 'The Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church'.
2. That our structural life as a church is one that reflects the extravagant hospitality of God so that the particular and unique contributions from our CALD communities to the life and ministry of the Uniting Church is welcomed and engaged with.
3. To establish deep connections between CALD communities and the First Peoples of this land
4. To reach out and be a voice in the wider community, especially in the area of CALD women ministry

Recommendations/issues to be addressed:

That the Synod Multi-cross Cultural Committee be resourced and supported in its two key focus for the future:

1. Enabling and empowering women in CALD communities for ministry leadership and service in the secular community
2. Establishing a leadership network for emerging leaders (2nd and 3rd generations) from CALD communities.

Contact for Report questions:

Name: Deaconess Terani Lima

Preferred contact method: (email tlima@hotmail.com) or mob 0414 454 683