

# Report for 31st Queensland Synod October 2014



## Report from Mission Engagement Project Officer



### Context:

The Mission Engagement Project Officer is two-year appointment for 2013 and 2014. The role is intended to research and report on mission engagement, growth and discipleship strategies, and to encourage discussion and action through such strategies across the life of the church in Queensland. The work is a key outcome of *Together on the way, enriching community*.

## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

### Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared Call and Vision

Facilitated an assessment of the utilisation and usefulness of *Together on the way, enriching community* in congregations and presbyteries to assist preparation for Synod 2014.

## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

Produce and distribute resources to help congregations use *Together on the way* as a practical planning and assessment tool in areas such as mission engagement, discipleship development and congregational vitality.

---

## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

Made a small contribution to the development of *A Big Year* discipleship resource.

## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

Develop/deliver resources to encourage focus on “missional discipleship” and Christian practices including the continued development of *A Big Year* and its use across the Synod.

---

## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

- South Moreton Presbytery strategic planning 2013/14
- North Qld Presbytery Cassowary Coast planning
- Project management and planning for Synod/Presbyteries joint project *Vital Christian Communities*
- Support for Ipswich ministers group
- Research and analysis tasks for General Secretary and Presbytery ministers on topics including congregational vitality, church growth, mission engagement, strategic directions, community development
- Support for ministers and leaders developing fresh expressions and/or new initiatives within congregations
- Prepared and presented *Legacy Churches* paper for Bremer Brisbane Presbytery.

## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

Undertake components of *Vital Christian Communities* project with Presbytery ministers, particularly including strategic development work to assist church planting into new growth areas.

## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

### Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church

- Planned pilots of *Mission Shaped Intro* and *Mission Shaped Ministry* training courses in partnership with Moreton Rivers Presbytery and Trinity College Queensland for 2014/15
- Planned for leadership and mission training in partnership with Trinity College Queensland
- Held initial meetings of networks for church planting and mission resourcing
- Facilitated workshop at *A Clear Call* mission and evangelism conference (Assembly)
- Visited and resourced Presbytery meetings as appropriate.

## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

- Further development of church planting and mission resourcing networks in partnership with Presbytery staff
- Conduct *Mission Shaped Intro* and *Mission Shaped Ministry* pilot courses in conjunction with presbyteries and Trinity College Queensland
- Support Presbytery staff and leadership groups as they consider how best to enable development of fresh expressions and planting new discipleship communities in growth areas
- Continue to visit and resource Presbytery meetings as appropriate.

---

## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

### Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships

- Supported preparation of *Stats have faces* neighbourhood mission resource (Synod Research Officers have the lead role)
- Encouraged community engagement through training and resourcing events with presbyteries and congregations.

## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

Encouraging the use of the *Stats have faces* neighbourhood mission resource and further refining it.

---

## Key achievements/initiatives

- Contributed to a reinvigoration of conversation and action around mission, community engagement and discipleship through resourcing, facilitation, participation
- In partnership with Trinity College Queensland and presbyteries, began the introduction of *Mission Shaped* training resources to encourage fresh expressions and innovation in mission engagement
- Facilitated Mission+Discipleship workshop for *A Clear Call* conference (Assembly) and participated in Assembly Mission and Evangelism working group.

## Challenges/risks as we progress:

Across Queensland the Uniting Church, in response to the challenging context in which it finds itself, could consider a renewed commitment to four specific objectives:

- fostering an increasingly active and vibrant discipleship among existing members and adherents
- cultivating our capacity to share faith for the purpose of inviting and growing new disciples
- nurturing vital Christian communities as places of vibrant, faithful discipleship; active in joining with God's mission in their local communities and beyond, with a particular emphasis on welcoming and encouraging children, young people and families
- establishing new and renewed faith communities to enable growing discipleship in new contexts within the changing Queensland demographic and cultural landscape.

## Recommendations/strategic decisions for Synod:

- Making specific commitments as outlined above
- Committing the necessary resources to support congregations and presbyteries in the pursuit of those objectives.

### Contact for Report questions:

Name: Scott Guyatt

email: [scott.guyatt@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:scott.guyatt@ucaqld.com.au)

phone: 0429 043 851