

Report for 31st Queensland Synod October 2014



Report from **Placements Committee**



Context:

The Placements Committee of the Synod is the body which, under regulations (3.7.4.2) which oversees the list of placements within the Synod, and works together with Presbyteries, and other bodies within the life of the Synod to ensure that ministry agents are deployed in placements which match their skills and gifts, and which meet particular needs of the ministry agent, where those apply. As such, the Placements Committee exercises an overview of placements with a commitment to the well-being of the whole church.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared Call and Vision

- The Placements Committee continues to do the work tasked through the church's regulations on behalf of the Qld Synod.
- The placements committee continues to exercise oversight over all placements of the church. The placements committee is guided by the call and vision through the work identified by the Priority Directions.

Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

The Placements Committee continues to be guided by the Synod in determining the strategic direction of the church.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

The Committee continues to meet faithfully in an attitude of Prayer. Each meeting is started with prayer, bible readings and reflection as we seek faithfully to follow God's call on our lives and the future direction of Christ's church.

Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

We will continue to meet in prayer.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

- Placements Committee constantly seeks to review its processes in order to ensure that they are meeting the current requirements of the church.
- The Committee has sought to be faithful to the mission engagement of wide variety of placements that exist across the life of the Synod. The Committee continues to look at each placement on a case by case basis and does its best to match ministry agents based on their missional strengths.
- The Committee is committed to interviewing candidates moving toward completion of their formation in order to assess their missional strengths and giving them the best possible match to a suitable ministry placement.
- The Committee interviews ministry agents from other denominations who are seeking to explore offering ministry within the Uniting Church.
- Agreements with the other Synods regarding processes of making profiles available, and having conversations with ministers from other Synods who wish to work in Qld and vice-versa.
- Established and monitored Joint Nominating Committee processes for Synod office based placements.

Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

The Committee is aware that congregations need to be proactive in exploring new missional contexts. The Committee will continue to resource these new contexts through matching ministry agents with appropriate gifts and skills to help them achieve these outcomes.

The strategic project “Vital Christian Communities” will help guide the Placements Committee with regard to strategic placement of ministry agents.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church

As the Committee engages in all placements across the life of the church it is very aware of the need for leadership in various forms across a multitude of missional contexts. The Committee regularly explores the needs of placements with the Presbyteries and Trinity College Queensland in identifying opportunities for leadership development and renewal.

Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

The Placements Committee will continue to be challenged by the changing leadership requirements in placements and the need to place people according to their leadership strengths.

The strategic project “Vital Christian Communities” will help guide the Placements Committee with regard to strategic placement of ministry agents.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships

The Placements Committee is aware of placements that are engaging the community and seeks out suitably qualified ministry agents to fill those missional contexts.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The strategic project “Vital Christian Communities” will be invaluable to the work of the Placements Committee as it seeks to resource strategic placements across the life of the Synod. This project will enable the Placements Committee to prioritise placements against a range of criteria to ensure that appropriate ministry agents are being placed strategically. Without this project it will be difficult for the Placements Committee to determine placement priorities and skill level requirements for the various ministry contexts into the future.

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