

Report for  
**31st Queensland Synod**  
October 2014



Report from  
**Mary Burnett Presbytery**



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## Context:

Who are we? The Presbytery is called to be salt, yeast and light to the congregations from the Glasshouse Mountains in the south to Bundaberg in the north, from Eidsvold in the west and south to Blackbutt.

Where are we going? As a prayerful listening church, we are being organised for mission.

## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

As a Presbytery we have chosen to focus on two visions: to be a prayerful listening church that is focused on being organised for mission.

Congregations have been encouraged to adopt being a prayerful listening church as well as one other vision. These are reviewed annually. Within these visions, congregations are encouraged to prayerfully discern God's call and to focus on one or two missional activities. Many congregations have taken this up.

## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

Within these visions, congregations are encouraged to continue prayerfully discerning God's call and to focus on one or two missional activities.

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## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

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## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

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## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

The Presbytery has commenced:

1. collaborative areas; gathering three to five ministry agents in close proximity to each other for prayer, to explore missional opportunities and to offer each other support and encouragement
2. a Crisis and Mission Assistance Fund for small amounts to support emerging mission or crisis support
3. the *Safe People, Safe Environment* project supporting congregations through compliance issues (WHS, Child Safe Church, government regulations and so on) enabling them to provide hospitable places as stepping stones to effective mission
4. annual conversations with church councils to augment five-year consultation on the life and witness of a congregation
5. a new faith community in the Caloundra South development, resourced with a pastor and support team to engage with this growing community
6. a professional supervision task group to improve the participation rate of ministers and to recognise suitable supervisors

7. Code of Ethics training for both ordained and lay people across the three zones within the Presbytery.

## Working towards our Priority Directions in the future

- to continue to promote and evaluate the existing programs noted above
  - to identify the skills existing within the Presbytery and to explore ways of offering these resources to congregations, locally and wider, as required.
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## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

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## Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod

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

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5. a new faith community in the Caloundra South development, resourced with a pastor and support team to engage with this growing community.

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## Key achievements/initiatives

See above.

## Challenges/risks as we progress:

- the risk of trying to do too much
- the risk of overloading people
- the challenge of reframing people's thinking about what it means to be church.

## Recommendations/strategic decisions for Synod:

To continue providing support to congregations and Presbyteries in the areas of insurance and risk, finance and property.

## Issues to be addressed:

- how we transition from the current church model (Christendom) to one that is more missionally focussed and less property bound
- the challenge of reframing people's thinking about what it means to be church.

## Contact for report questions:

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