

Report for
31st Queensland Synod
October 2014



Report from
Moreton Rivers Presbytery

Context:

Moreton Rivers Presbytery takes in the Brisbane Central Business District and some of the southern river suburbs and northern suburbs of Brisbane up to and including Caboolture, Kilcoy and Bribie Island. With a prominence of suburban churches and a hint of rural lifestyle the Presbytery encompasses 40 congregations, three faith communities and a number of non-congregational placements.

Responses to Priority Direction A since last Synod

Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared Call and Vision

The Presbytery developed a five-pillar strategy relating to the Priority Directions and has continued to workshop one of these pillars at meetings of Presbytery.

Congregations are encouraged to participate in developing their own strategic plan based on the Presbytery model.

Presbytery Education and Equipping Committee frames the work of the committee around these five pillars to ensure adequate and appropriate resourcing across the life of the Presbytery.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

Continue to workshop the Presbytery's strategic direction and encourage congregations to utilise this information in their own strategic planning.

Responses to Priority Direction B since last Synod

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

- Presbytery retreat to focus on spirituality
- prayer and spirituality is inherent to the preparation and operation of Presbytery children's and youth camps and young adults' retreats
- encouraging congregations to engage in intentional, focused times of prayer, reflection and retreat.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

Present and promote training and opportunities for engagement with prayer and spirituality.

Responses to Priority Direction C since last Synod

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

- workshopping in Presbytery meetings about being a missional church
- specialist training in Life and Witness consultations for congregations
- strategic Life and Witness consultations with mission focus
- Mission Education Officer working on mission education in congregations.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

- Mission Shaped Ministry introduction and course piloted within the Presbytery
- continue training of Life and Witness consultation teams
- continue Life and Witness consultations with mission focus

- Mission Education Officer to continue and grow mission education opportunities within congregations
 - resource congregations in mission education and engagement with children, youth and their families.
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Responses to Priority Direction D since last Synod

Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church

- strong focus on revitalised leadership through courses such as Learning for Living
- opportunities for revitalised leadership through engagement with Mission Shaped Ministry training and professional supervision training
- Presbytery focus on encouraging new people to take on leadership positions in the life of the Presbytery
- providing opportunities for pathway to leadership growth from early high school through to adulthood.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

- development of Presbytery Youth Leaders Training Course in conjunction with other Presbyteries
 - Children, Youth and Families Coordinator and Mission Education Officer working towards opportunities for all age training, growth and engagement in leadership for mission.
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Responses to Priority Direction E since last Synod

Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships

- relationships with Indigenous leaders continue to be fostered
- support for Indigenous ministries
- engagement with Qld Community Alliance
- support of other community connections through organisations such as the Men's Shed movement and community groups.

Working towards this Priority Direction in the future

- continued support for Indigenous ministries
 - continued engagement and training with Qld Community Alliance.
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Key achievements/initiatives

Planned engagement with Mission Shaped Ministries.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

- engaging a new Presbytery Mission Education Officer to further develop the education and missional initiatives that the Presbytery has developed
- reimagining and repurposing the roles and responsibilities of the Presbytery Children, Youth and Families Coordinator and the Mission Education Officer to intentionally develop both whole of Presbytery and congregational intergenerational education and mission opportunities and initiatives
- the secondment of Rev Andrew Gunton to the Synod has caused an inevitable impact on the Presbytery. This, together with the subsequent secondment to fill the role of Presbytery minister has produced an element of uncertainty for the Presbytery until decisions are made at the 31st Synod.

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