

a daring
HOPE
SYNOD 36



Key Selection Criteria

MODERATOR-ELECT

Candidate 3: Rev Bruce Moore



Sense of call

I am humbled to be nominated for this leadership role within the life of our church and to be considered for the opportunity to serve God and the church community in this way. On other occasions when people have sought to nominate me I have not had a sense of peace to accept the nomination... but this time is different.

My sense of call began through a number of people independently approaching me from across the diverse life of our church. After prayerfully seeking counsel from others, followed by the endorsement from my Church Council, my nomination was affirmed by both the Carpentaria and South Moreton Presbyteries.

Responding in obedience to the call of God on my life is critical for me. God has challenged me at different times to make difficult choices that I would not normally have made. This has always resulted in me stepping well out of my comfort zone where I am totally reliant on God's leading, strength and gifting. The role of Moderator is not something I set out to pursue. I do however, bring a strong and convicted heart to serve in the life and mission of our Church in whatever way God would choose to use me and therefore offer myself for your discernment as the Spirit of God would lead in your consideration around the next Moderator.

Key Selection Criteria

(a) The nominee shall be a member of the Uniting Church and will have an appreciation of the reformed and evangelical theological heritage of the Uniting Church and its ongoing significance to the faith of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. In addition, the nominee will be aware of the theological diversity within the Uniting Church and will have the capacity to reflect theologically upon current issues in church and society in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I have an unrelenting passion to see lives & communities transformed and disciplined in the ways of Jesus... to "go make disciples" [Matt 28:19] – the great commission of Christ for us as His church. I am fascinated by the theological challenges I face in reaching out to all those who hunger for the word of God, where they come from different cultures, backgrounds and traditions. As a child my faith was shaped in the Methodist tradition at Ipswich Central Methodist Mission where both my Dad & Grandfather were former Superintendent Ministers. The impact of their lives as visible expressions of living out the Gospel in worship, witness and service was fundamental to my own faith development and call to ministry. I remember clearly the excitement and anticipation our congregation when the decision was made for the bringing together of three faith traditions and the vision that was shared towards our new identity together as the Uniting Church in Australia came into being.

I have been a member of the UCA since its inauguration in June 1977. I am the 3rd generation of ordained ministers in my family in what represents collectively over 130 years of ministry in the reformed evangelical tradition. I was accepted as a candidate for ministry by the North Qld Presbytery and was ordained as a Minister of the Word by the West Moreton Presbytery (now Bremer Brisbane) in 1992 having served for several years before that in the specified ministry of youth worker. This year I celebrate and reflect on 30 years of ordained ministry.

In my current ministry role as Director of Mission with UnitingCare I have exercised my pastoral and spiritual leadership through providing theological reflection, guidance around ethical decision making and giving spiritual insight into often complex and challenging social circumstances. The words of Jesus are the foundation of the mission that has guided my direction and leadership at UnitingCare ... “that they may have life in all its fullness” [John 10:10].

(b) The nominee will give evidence of a lifestyle commensurate with the responsibilities and demands of a key leadership role. Such evidence will include a nominee’s awareness of his/her own gifts, abilities and limitations, his/her capacity to maintain healthy relationships, and an ongoing commitment to his/her own physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Who I am in Christ as a child of God, is fundamental in shaping the person that I am and the gifts and skills I bring in leadership and ministry. I rest in the assurance that God has not finished with me yet and it is in Christ that I find my real purpose, hope, identity and meaning. I bring a strong testimony in my story that no matter what life has thrown my way, God’s promises remain faithful and His grace is sufficient for me.

The gift of relationship is central to my life and I am privileged to have a supportive family. I have been married to Cathy for over 36 years and we have navigated significant life challenges together. I am a very proud dad to four adult sons – Joshua, Nathaniel, Aaron and Jacob.

Relationships are not something that I take for granted. I have learnt that I need to be intentional and continually challenging myself with a lifelong commitment and openness to learn. What has sustained me so far has been developing spiritual practices through prayer, Bible study and taking time out to retreat, reflect, refresh and recreate.

My gifts and strengths are in building strong relational leadership, encouragement, creative and strategic thinking and nurturing the best in others. I have professional skills and gifts in the facilitation of groups and love working with teams to realise their full potential.

I recognise that one of my greatest weaknesses is being caught in the trap of being “forever busy”. There are times when I have not balanced my life well, and I have paid the price for that. I am learning more about better self-care, boundaries and the value that holistic wellbeing contributes to a healthy and sustainable life. I am an extrovert and draw energy from being connected with people. In recognising this, I have also learnt that I need to hold a balance around physical, social and spiritual engagement within my wider community of relationships. I value the gift of professional supervision, mentoring and have a personal support group that holds me accountable with permission to speak into my life and ask those really tough questions. I have a life-long commitment to continuing to develop myself and increase my self-awareness of personal strengths and weaknesses.

(c) The nominee will have a good understanding of the Uniting Church, including its community service institutions and the need for those community service agencies and the councils of the church to work together. The nominee will also have a good understanding of Australian society, including those emerging issues and trends that need to be addressed in the light of the gospel. Demonstrated team building and networking capabilities will have to be evidenced.

Since the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia I have been an active member and participant in the life and witness of the Uniting Church amongst its various expressions and councils in congregations, presbyteries, synods, Assembly and agencies. I bring a diverse ministry and life experience that has seen me work across two Synods, nine presbyteries, six congregations and two agencies of the church (seven if you count the various service streams of UnitingCare, Blue Care, Hospitals etc separately!). I grew up in a home where my father was the Superintendent Minister of a Parish Mission for 25 years and this has been instrumental in forming and shaping my passionate heart for mission.

I have a deep commitment to being culturally relevant within the unique context of Australian society and our current place in history. I have travelled widely across this state and country and continue to be impacted by the stories and communities that have touched and shaped my life. A large percentage of my ministry has been focussed around working with some of the most vulnerable people in Australian society, particularly amongst young people and families at-risk who often have suffered extreme trauma and abuse. I have pioneered new expressions of mission through the establishment of two Not-For-Profit community-based organisations and also planted fresh expressions of church through the establishment of new Faith Communities. My ministry experience has seen me work nationally with Assembly agencies and other peak organisations and networks. I worked for three years as the Director of Regional Development in Scripture Union Qld during the roll-out of federally funded School Chaplaincy across the State.

I currently serve as a member of the Synod Standing Committee, Synod Remuneration and Nomination Committee, UnitingCare Board, and also chair and serve as a member of different governance & advisory groups as part of UnitingCare Qld. I have served as a congregational elder and I am currently a member of the Newlife Church Council. I am a Director & Chairperson of the Global Leadership Network Australia & New Zealand Board.

For nearly six years I have been in a ministry placement as the Director of Mission with UnitingCare Queensland. In this role I provide mission oversight, pastoral, spiritual, and inspirational leadership to people and communities across 460 locations in Qld & NT in often very complex and isolated environments. The Mission Group that I lead has resourced the church in collaborative conversations and responses including VAD (Voluntary Assisted Dying), reconciliation and our covenanting relationship with our First Peoples and our commitment to being environmentally responsible. This has always been prayerfully considered and in the spirit of community and respect.

I thrive most when working as part of a team. I believe that effective teams provide the opportunity for recognising people's gifts and strengths in a caring environment where everyone matters, and the sum is greater than its parts. In my role as Director of Mission I have built a strong, healthy and effective Mission Team that is making a significant contribution in connecting and integrating the work and staff of the Agency together with local congregations as partners in the Christ's mission.

My broader networking and leadership experience is demonstrated through having established a successful management consultancy business that specialised in executive coaching, team performance and organisational development with senior leaders and teams in Government, private enterprise, Not-For-Profit and multi-national Companies.

(d) The nominee will have demonstrated the capacity to exercise pastoral care and discipline, and the ability to moderate, and will be respected generally by the members of the church.

In exercising pastoral care I am guided first by the wise counsel of the Prophet Micah to “act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly (with your God)” [Micah 6:8]. My capacity comes from the rich experience of more than 35 years in ministry. This has been shaped by the people that have influenced my life and is informed by formal training and professional development in Pastoral Theology, Pastoral Care, LAB 1 & 2 -Caring & Calling Ministry Skills Course, Certifications in Coaching, Positive Psychology, Psychometric Assessment tools, Mediation & Conflict Resolution, Lifeline Telephone Counselling, Psychological First Aid and Trauma Informed Care.

The deep trust and respect that has been placed in me in many of my leadership, ministry and professional roles has enabled me to practice mediating and moderating very complex environments, working with people, families and communities to navigate extremely difficult conflicts, and reach outcomes that are respectful and honouring of all the participants impacted and involved.

I have also been privileged to share in community and invited into the lives and stories of some of Australia’s First Peoples in both remote locations and urban environments. I am held as a long and trusted friend and continue to demonstrate my strong advocacy for justice and reconciliation.

(e) The nominee will be a good communicator and, as the public “face” of the church, will need to be articulate and competent in working with the media.

I believe that most people would tell you that I am a good communicator, and both a dynamic and inspirational speaker. I love using the gift of storytelling to effectively communicate a message. In my role as Director of Mission I provide regular reflections across our vast and diverse organisation through written messages, face-to-face mediums, social media platforms and video messages. I am often invited to speak and preach at conferences, leadership forums, and churches and have been privileged to speak in a variety of places across Australia and overseas in the United States, United Kingdom, China, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

I have been formally trained in working with media as part of the professional development I have received in senior leadership and executive roles. I believe that I would bring a strong, humble and articulate voice as the public “face” of the church and would also know when it is appropriate for me not to speak...and take the time to listen and to seek to understand.

(f) The nominee will show a commitment to ecumenical engagement and a capacity to work with ethnic groups in both church and community.

In my leadership and ministry experience I have worked in a range of ecumenical settings. My leadership style is inclusive and celebrates the strength our church and communities have in their diversity. I believe that ecumenism bears testimony to the unity that we have in Christ and under the leading of the Spirit invites us to be part of the wider mission of God to the world. It is my prayer, as wonderfully captured in the Basis of Union (Par 18) that we will be open to the work of the Spirit of God – correcting “that which is erroneous in its life” and therefore bring us into “deeper unity with other Churches” using our “worship, witness and service to God’s eternal glory through Jesus Christ

the Lord". As the Psalmist reminds us: "how good it is when God's people live in unity together" [Psalm 133:1].

As Director of Mission I work in an environment where we foster a strong inclusive culture that welcomes all people - people of different races, cultural backgrounds, family structure, gender, age, language, and abilities. Our staff, volunteers, clients, customers, residents and patients are culturally diverse and we work hard to foster an environment where everyone matters and is given the uttermost dignity worth and respect. I am proud that the United Church rejoices in diversity of races, cultures and languages as God's gracious gift to the human family. I am deeply committed to fostering models of cross-cultural ministry and mission, outreach and evangelism that reflect the hospitality of God, are shaped by culture and are cognisant of past wrongs.

Personal Statement

Self-Understanding

I am an extrovert that draws energy from being connected with people. I love seeing results achieved and my greatest joy is in seeing others empowered to utilise their gifts, realise their full potential and live out their created purpose. These are the building blocks of my engaging, people-centred, leadership style, but also the ingredients for over-commitment. I have learnt that I need to find a balance around my own physical, social and spiritual engagement within the wider community of relationships that I hold. I draw energy from being active but have learnt also that boundaries are important for sustainability and personal wellbeing. Activities that energise me include: gardening, working with tools (renovating my house), hiking, boating and fishing, the beach and the bush, off-roading, reading and music. Family and relationships are central and life-giving to me and are a critical part of my support network and integral to my wellbeing.

Theologically

Central to my faith is the triune understanding of God, God who makes himself known in community and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and invites us to participate in God's mission in the world as "the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth the One who gave His life for others" [UCA Inaugural Statement to the Nation].

I am committed to the regular discipline of studying Scripture and being guided by the voice of the Holy Spirit through prayer, which I believe brings revelation, wisdom and insight in seeking to understand the issues of today's world and what it means to be a community of reconciliation, hope and peace.

In my ministry I have been able to effectively minister with integrity and respect across the theological diversity and tensions held within the UCA.

In accordance with my Ordination Vows:

- I accept the Apostles' & Nicene Creeds as safeguarding and witnessing to the faith of the

holy catholic Church.

- I adhere to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia and the confessional documents as represented in the Basis of Union.
- Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, I am committed to being diligent in the study of the Scriptures and faithful in my prayer life.

I am constantly seeking to being shaped in the ways of Jesus... to bear witness, serve and be a strong prophetic voice in a broken world, that “people would have life in all its fullness” [John 10:10]. My ongoing formation continues to be shaped by the discipline of Biblical and theological studies, engagement in life with people and communities from across Australia – in the bush, remote areas, the coast and in the very heart of the city, alongside of rich and diverse cultural experiences and in particular in the spirit of reconciliation with the First Peoples of this nation. I share in the prayer that “God will constantly correct that which is erroneous” in us as a church and “bring us into deeper unity”. {Basis of Union Par 18}

Leadership

I have demonstrated a strong leadership commitment towards the current & future shape of the Uniting Church here in Queensland. At the heart of this is a deep love for Christ and the church and I feel both called and humbled by this nomination as Moderator Elect. I believe that I am well equipped as a leader for the role of Moderator in my understanding of the Uniting Church in Australia together with my diverse ecumenical, and community sector experience.

My current leadership contribution as Director of Mission has been recognised as an important part in helping UnitingCare navigate through times of significant uncertainty and disruption including the COVID-19 pandemic, a major cyber incident (which involved an outage of our entire digital network) and several natural disasters (that have impacted and devastated local communities throughout the state). My approach to leadership is strongly influenced by my pastoral heart, my ethical true north as based in Scripture, and the apostolic voice I bring as I seek to shine God’s light with the message of good news & hope that only Jesus can bring to the world.

Education

- GAICD – Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors (2017)
- Bachelor of Theology - BCT (1993)
- Associate Diploma in Rural Techniques with Distinction (Wilderness Reserves & Wildlife Strand) – Qld Agricultural College, Lawes (1980)
- Graduate Diploma of Management (2013)
- Graduate Certificate in Coaching - Warner LA (2013)
- Executive Certificate in Positive Psychology Coaching – UTS Graduate Business School (2011)
- Executive Certificate in Lean Six Sigma - UTS Graduate Business School (2011)
- Certification in Mediation Skills (2011)
- Cert IV in Business Governance (2007)

- Certificate IV in Workplace Training & Assessment (2004)

Vocational Experience

- Director of Mission, UnitingCare (2016-Present)
- Senior Manager, Mercy Community Services (2012-2016)
- Lead Pastor/Church Planter, Hope Community - planting new Faith & Missional Communities (2004-2010)
- Director of Regional Development – Scripture Union Qld (2004-2007)
- Managing Director & Lead Consultant, Step 1 Management Group – Consultancy Business in Executive Coaching, Leadership Development and Organisational Change (2004-2016)
- Director of YACMU - Youth & Children’s Ministry Unit, UCA Qld Synod (2001-2003)
- National Co-ordinator - National Christian Youth Convention, UCA Assembly (1999-2001)
- Young Adult Ministry Consultant, YACMU Qld Synod (1996-1998)
- Senior Youth Worker, Trinity Youth Options, UCA WA Synod (1994-1996)
- Youth & Families Minister, Caloundra Uniting Church (1992-1994)
- Youth & Family Pastor, Hervey Bay Uniting Church (1988-1990)
- Student & University Counsellor, Hervey Bay Senior College (1988-1990)
- Regional Wildlife Ranger, Qld National Parks & Wildlife Service (1980-1985)

Hope for the Synod

We are uniquely placed and blessed as a Church in Queensland with our far-reaching relationships into communities across the vast landscape of this state. We are custodians of the great trust and respect that has been built through the spiritual heart and legacy story of living out God’s mission in congregations and faith communities and serving the most vulnerable of society through our health and community services for over a hundred years.

My hope is that as a church we will not be complacent and comfortable in what we have done, inherited or become. In the first paragraph of the Basis of Union is a commitment to “look for continuing renewal” and to “remain open to constant reform”. We must continue to join with Christ in the renewal of this world and the reconciliation of all things through living out the commission of Christ in making disciples. What has been familiar to us in the past does not always translate to meet the challenges of today and in the many situations we find ourselves in.

What if the very challenges that we now find ourselves navigating in these uncharted times, are the very platform for a spiritual awakening across Australia and the very gateway for renewal for us as a Church? To go back to what was “familiar” or “normal” may put at risk the very opportunity God is opening up before us. The commitments that we made as a Church through Project Plenty sets out a clear ambition “to a flourishing future for church and community”.

It is my hope as a Synod that we fully embrace the invitation from God for us to participate in His mission for renewal. This must be our primary focus as we fix our gaze on Jesus.

We are called to be the bearers of “good news”. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” [Luke 4:18]
Let us fix our gaze on Jesus!

Family

Married to Cathy with 4 adult sons – Joshua, Nathaniel, Aaron and Jacob