

PRIORITY DIRECTION A:

Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared call and vision

Executive Summary

Framework

People across the Uniting Church in Queensland will share the language of our Call, Vision and Gospel Values.

By 2013, leaders across the life of the whole of the Uniting Church in Queensland will have participated in specified opportunities to learn to better articulate their faith in Christ in the context of The Uniting Church in Australia.

By the 2013 Synod, there will opportunities to share stories that illustrate how our Call, Vision and Gospel Values are being lived in congregations, community services and schools.

Challenges

There is a deep-seated suspicion and cynicism among clergy and many lay leaders in our church.

There is a general lack of willingness to engage beyond the immediate.

There is a widespread lack of confidence in our “home grown” models of mission and church life.

There is an individualism that permeates all parts of our church so that there is little willingness to look at ways in which various parts of the church can partner with one another.

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Overall Direction of Proposals

1. **Reframing:** to develop a common language of mission that helps shape the different parts of the church to see that we are working towards a common purpose.
2. **Resourcing:** to provide material and processes that will help leaders educate and equip those within the Uniting Church to participate in the shared Call and Vision.
3. **Rejoicing:** to encourage people across the various aspects of the UCA in Qld to tell their stories and hopes that can inspire us all towards a more faithful participation in the worship, witness and service of our church.

Specific Objectives

1. Reframing

- 1(a) Create a reporting template to be used for reports for the Synod in 2011. (This template will then be reviewed for use for the 2013 Synod)
- 1(b) Marketing tools will be developed for use by all parts of the Church in Queensland. (website, stationary, logo will all reflect the Call, Vision & Values)
- 1(c) Synod will support new initiatives that can be shown to live out the Call, Vision & Values.
- 1(d) All boards, commissions and Synod Committee encouraged to allow the Call, Vision and Values to shape their meeting agendas.

2. Resourcing

- 2(a) Promote the use of existing resources on the *Together on the Way, Enriching Community* website.
- 2(b) Develop a 6-week study resource based upon the Body of Christ passage in Corinthians and the Call, Vision and Values. This will be designed to be used leading up to the anniversary of the UCA in 2012.
- 2(c) Distribute resources that facilitate congregations and other groups within the UCA in Queensland engaging with the 2020 Vision.
- 2(d) Develop an induction course for congregational members and staff.

3. Rejoicing

- 3(a) People can locate and celebrate the Call, Vision and Values within their community.
- 3(b) People will be enthusiastic about attending Synod because they can see it is relevant to their life and mission
- 3(c) People can recognise how the Call, Vision and Values are being lived out through our Hospitals and Community Services, Schools and Colleges.
- 3(d) By 2013 we can feel confident that we are part of the Mission and Ministry of the Whole People of God.

Rationales and Recommended Next Steps for Each of the Specific Objectives

Reframing

<p>OBJECTIVE 1(a) Create a reporting template to be used for reports for the Synod in 2011. (This template will then be reviewed for use for the 2013 Synod)</p>
<p>RATIONALE</p> <p>If we are to create a culture of unity in mission across the Uniting Church in Queensland, we need to develop a common language with an agreed direction for mission. In an attempt to help the Synod in Session focus on those things that will move the church towards its 2020 Vision, a common reporting template shaped by that Vision will help us move from activity reports towards reports that show how we are contributing to the Vision being achieved. We have provided a template for this Synod. This will be reviewed after Synod following the receipt of feedback. This will help shape the reporting template for Synod 2013.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting template has been prepared and is being used for 2011 Synod reports. • Review reporting template after the 2011 Synod • Re-shape template and use for the Standing Committee Reports.
<p>OBJECTIVE 1(b) Marketing tools will be developed for use by all parts of the Church in Qld (website, stationary, logo will all reflect the Call, Vision & Values).</p>
<p>RATIONALE</p> <p>If we can develop a range of marketing tools that can be used by each part of the Church, we might be able to keep the Call, Vision & Values before our people.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS</p> <p>Prepare a range of resources to be made available at Synod 2011. While there might be some negativity about spending money on such tools, we expect that they will help get the message past the usual information gatekeepers.</p>

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Reframing (cont.)

OBJECTIVE 1(c) Synod will support new initiatives which can be shown to live out the Call, Vision & Values
RATIONALE
If we can encourage people of the Church to develop new and different ways of participating in the journey and interacting with the Call, Vision and Values, we can share these stories and resources and inspire others to consider the meaning of the Call, Vision & Values for themselves and their Church communities
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Make available those resources created by people of the Church, eg. the Vision 2020 Wheel game. Promote new initiatives through print and online publications. Provide opportunity for all parts of the Church to offer feedback on the way they are using resources and living out the Call, Vision and Values.
OBJECTIVE 1(d) All boards, commissions and Synod Committee encouraged to allow the Call, Vision and Values to shape their meeting agendas.
RATIONALE
It is important that we help all those who have oversight of various aspects of the Synod's work to re-focus their direction. Too often we fall into the habit of "doing what we have always done" so meeting agendas do not move us to the future. We become bogged down in machinery rather than developing a useful strategy for change.
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Use language common to the Call, Vision and Values in all documentation and resources to raise awareness and use.



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Resourcing

OBJECTIVE 2(a) Promote the use of existing resources on the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> website.
RATIONALE
There are already many useful resources posted on the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> website. These can be easily taken and used in worship, small group study, congregational planning.
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Evaluate usability of website and redesign where necessary Update resources and provide content from focus groups that demonstrate progress towards priority directions Add personal reflections in the form of regular blog posts Promote website as source of information and resources for planning activities and learning <i>about Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> .

OBJECTIVE 2(b) Develop a 6-week study resource based upon the Body of Christ passage in Corinthians and the Call, Vision and Values
RATIONALE
This resource is intended to empower and teach people about the Body of Christ and the relationship with the Call & Vision. This will be designed to be used leading up to the anniversary of the UCA in 2012.
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Develop study resource and link with sermon notes. Publicise and make resource available through online and print channels. Encourage a stronger culture of visiting “experts” to present a study or course.

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Resourcing (cont.)

OBJECTIVE 2(c) Distribute resources that facilitate congregations and other groups within the UCA in Qld engaging with the 2020 Vision
RATIONALE
The thoughtful creation and distribution of quality branded resources will provide timely and appropriate information to enable all parts of the UCA in Qld to understand the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> journey and engage with the 2020 Vision.
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Use <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> logo and associated branding instruments to raise awareness and encourage links between the journey and associated resources. Focus groups to plan and prepare resources that facilitate engagement with specific priority directions Identify existing resources, publicise, and distribute through <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> website. Launch and distribute resources at 29 th Synod. Make resources available for download through <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> website.
OBJECTIVE 2(d) Develop an induction course for congregational members and staff.
RATIONALE
The development and adoption of an induction course will support staff across the UCA in Qld to develop understanding about the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> journey and encourage them to consider their participation and that of their wider Church community/agency.
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Review existing staff induction materials Develop program with content for 2-4 hours. Train Church/Community Services leaders to deliver induction course Promote and run induction courses throughout all parts of the UCA in Qld.

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Rejoicing

OBJECTIVE 3(a) People can locate and celebrate the Call, Vision and Values within their community
RATIONALE
Identifying and celebrating the Call, Vision and Values within local communities will build a sense of belonging and connection with the wider Church in Queensland. The sharing of these stories will serve to inspire others in the Church to engage with the Call, Vision and Values in new and different ways
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
<p>Highlight 2 Visions in every Journey issue focusing on what demonstrated vision means to different UC people.</p> <p>Distribute resources to help people identify their existing connections with the Call, Vision and Values.</p> <p>Publish stories on <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> website.</p> <p>Ask different people to contribute to the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> blog about their personal experiences in the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> journey.</p> <p>Provide 2-minute spots at the 2013 Synod during which all parts of the Church can take the opportunity to share how the Call, Vision and Values are being lived and modelled.</p>

Rejoicing (cont.)

OBJECTIVE 3(b) People will be enthusiastic about attending Synod because they can see it is relevant to their life and mission
RATIONALE
Developing understanding about the integral connection between attending Synod and being part of the UCA in Qld will encourage new and diverse members of the Church to participate in the celebrations and decision making processes of the Church beyond their local Church communities
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
<p>Create enthusiasm for participating in Synod thereby creating a culture whereby participants want to be active and involved because it is relevant to where they are and where they are going.</p> <p>Develop youth programs at Synod to raise awareness about the purpose and value of Synod eg. Fun Synod</p> <p>Promote programs and encourage young people to attend.</p> <p>Share stories of Synod events and activities through online and print publications.</p> <p>Ask younger and diverse participants to contribute to the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> journey about their Synod experiences.</p>
OBJECTIVE 3(c) People can recognise how the Call, Vision and Values are being lived out through our Hospitals and Community Services, Schools and Colleges.
RATIONALE
An understanding of the ways in which the Call, Vision and Values are being lived out through our Hospitals, Community Services, and Schools and Colleges will create and build upon relationships between these agencies and other parts of the UCA in Queensland. Opportunities to work together will be acknowledged and existing relationships will be celebrated and strengthened.
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Examples of this will be shared through Journey and the <i>Together on the Way, Enriching Community</i> website.

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Rejoicing (cont.)

OBJECTIVE 3(d) By 2013 we can feel confident that we are part of the Mission and Ministry of the Whole People of God
RATIONALE
Using an integrated education plan aligned with carefully developed and easily accessible resources, all parts of the UCA in Queensland will be able to identify with the Call, Vision and Values and build upon that sense of belonging through ongoing participation in Church Mission and Ministry.
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
Develop educational tools – induction course, 6-week study. Identify and share stories from the perspective of all parts of the UCA in Queensland. Encourage communication through print and online Church publications