



Report from **Mission Engagement Project Officer**

Context

The Synod Mission Engagement Project Officer facilitates research, development, training, reflection and innovation around mission, discipleship, leadership and strategic planning. The officer provides support to the Synod executive management team, to presbyteries and congregations and to Synod Standing Committee as negotiated.

Close working relationships with presbytery ministers, the moderator, general secretary, associate general secretary, Trinity College and a range of project officers are critical. Some ecumenical work is an additional feature of the role.

The day-to-day work of the project officer is closely connected with the eight identified priorities from 31st Synod, and with emerging priorities identified by Synod Standing Committee, moderator, general secretary and the Presbytery/Synod Interface group.

Our identified priorities

Project or initiative	Description	Worship	Faith sharing	Church planting	Pioneers/planters	Holy Spirit	Formation for ministry	Resource sharing rural & urban	Youth, children & families
Mission Shaped Ministry course	In partnership with Moreton Rivers, South Moreton, Bremer and The Downs presbyteries and Trinity College, introduced Mission Shaped Ministry training to Queensland in order to encourage fresh expressions and “mission-shaped” congregations. Mission Shaped intro and Mission Shaped Ministry courses conducted and/or planned for 2014, 2015, 2016. 2016 is planned to include trial of webinar-based course delivery to enable access in rural/regional areas.	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
Mobile device apps	Introduce trial of congregational mobile device apps to enhance communications, increase capacity to distribute discipleship and other resources via dedicated mobile apps. Ten congregations plus Synod currently working with the app. Others welcome to enter the program. An assessment of the trial is planned for 2016, to be followed by recommendations about its continued life.							Y	Y
Leadership development strategy	Working with moderator and Ken Hyndman (project officer) to develop and introduce early stages of leadership development framework and training system. The first cohort of congregational ministers have recently entered postgrad training, with capacity for a further two cohorts for 2017 and 2018 commencement. Current work is focussed on the recognition of a Synod leadership framework.				Y		Y		
Church planting support	Supporting church planting initiatives of Bremer Brisbane, South Moreton and Mary Burnett presbyteries through the establishment and ongoing work at Ripley, Yarrabilba and BELLS Caloundra.		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y

	Future work will explore appropriate coaching and support strategies for key leaders in church planting contexts, and supporting presbyteries in developing longer term plans.								
Church planting network	Supporting Adam Tipple in facilitating a series of conversations for those interested in church planting. The gatherings took place throughout 2014/15 following on from the 31 st Synod open space meeting, and included resource and ideas sharing, networking.		Y	Y	Y				
Strong small congregations	With support from The Downs Presbytery, a series of guest speakers visited during 2015, speaking at various events in south east and regional Queensland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Robinson – Makes You Wonder • Mark Berry – New Monasticism • Michael Moynagh – Fresh Expressions 		Y	Y			Y	Y	
Uniting Reform and Engage	Participate in Uniting Reform and Engage network established after 31 st Synod open space. Group convened by Mel Wheeley and Greg Rankin, and met several times during 2014 and 2015 to share stories and resources and explore issues around the future of the Uniting Church.	Y	Y			Y	Y		Y
Presbytery visits	The project officer visits each presbytery on a regular basis to listen carefully to local contexts, share information and resources and build relationships across the state. Includes regular presentations and workshops where requested.		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Congregational support	Working to provide low-level support to ministers and key leaders in a small number of strategic congregational contexts. 2015 and 2016 projects include supporting Ipswich congregations in ongoing strategic work.		Y	Y	Y				Y
Synod strategic planning	Resource Standing Committee, moderator and general secretary as required, to assist in ongoing development and execution of Synod strategic planning processes.								
National Church Life Survey	Provide coordinating and support role for the conduct of National Church Life Survey in 2016. Project office will also provide support to presbyteries and congregations utilising the NCLS survey data and resources once delivered in early 2017.								

Assembly Mission and Evangelism Network	Convene and participate in national network exploring and resourcing the church in mission and evangelism-related topics.		Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
Children, youth and families ministry strategy	Assisting in development of Synod children, youth and families ministry strategy.	Y	Y	Y					Y

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