



Report from **Synod Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements**



Context

The Placements Committee is the body which, under regulation (3.7.4.2), oversees the list of placements within the Synod and works together with presbyteries and other bodies within the life of the Synod to ensure that ministry agents are deployed in placements which match their skills and gifts and which meet the particular needs of the ministry agent. The Placements Committee seeks to do this in a way which is respectful and prayerful.

In addition, the Placements Committee has an oversight function of all ministry positions in the Synod, whether they are approved placements, ministry locations or other forms of ministry. The membership brings together a collective story about what is happening across the life of the church and what resources are best able to meet the needs of particular ministry locations.

Report

The unique capacity of the Placements Committee to have an overview of the ministry placements in the life of the church and the ministry resources available to match them is the function and purpose of this group. On a monthly basis, it grapples with the story of the church in Queensland in its many and varied forms, advises on whether a position is an approved placement or ministry location, gives approval to advertise, provide names to Joint Nominating Committees and signs off on letters of call.

We interview students exiting from theological college and have regular issues arise for discussion and discernment, including the process of the Pastor A and Pastor B categories, the capacity and training for ministry, the proper resourcing of regional and remote ministry agents etc.

As a regulated support function of the Synod, the Placements Committee seeks to work with the wider church to assist it to fulfil its missional priorities.

Key achievements/initiatives

Placements review: A discussion paper exploring the nature and method of establishing and filling ministry positions within the Uniting Church in Queensland was distributed broadly across the Synod in early March 2016 and the responses received in early April.

A timeline of the work to come is available from the acting associate general secretary, with the training around a new process likely to commence in the second half of the year.

Housing policy: A draft housing policy was approved by the committee and has been submitted to the GNRC for review.

Exit student interviews: The Placements Committee interviews all theological students who are in their final semester of college. We believe this is not only a significant opportunity to get to know all trained candidates, but also gives the candidate an opportunity to participate in the broader working of the Synod.

Challenges/risks as we progress

- The question asked at placements meetings is whether we have the right people in the church available for the types of ministry positions available to them.
- We are moving more regularly to an advertising process in order to fill particular roles which require unique gifts and skills.
- More work and discussion is currently being held around how we maintain the integrity of the church's oversight of people in ministry positions, but allow for flexibility in the approaches taken to fill those positions.

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