

Project Plenty Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we doing this again? Haven't we already done this with Together on the Way, enriching community?

Together on the way, enriching community was the process by which we last undertook an intentional attempt at developing a shared strategic plan. It kicked off in 2010 and through various phases carried us through until now.

But over that period the world in which we live and work and participate in God's mission hasn't stopped changing and evolving – and nor has our church. The Synod Standing Committee have determined that the time is right for us to reset and renew this kind of strategic discernment process.

The Uniting Church in Queensland is an extraordinary and complex organisation – with congregations, agency and community service presence, schools and residential colleges and more – scattered all over the state. Project Plenty takes all of the richness of our presence in the life of Queensland into account.

What happened to the priority directions we discerned in 2016, and the Synod office's key change initiatives from 2017/18?

Both the five priority directions, and four key change initiatives that we've established and agreed under the over-arching Together on the way, enriching community framework have helped guide the work of the church over the past few years. That will continue to be the case in 2019 and 2020. And we're committed to bringing those priority directions and key change initiatives into the work of Project Plenty - we know that tasks and priorities such as discipleship, leadership development, engaging younger generations, responding to our multi-cultural society, and a committed covenant with first peoples are not going to become any less important. Project Plenty provides the opportunity to listen and discern together and, in a sense, to reset our work in these areas of our life as a church.

Why is it called Project Plenty?

The name Project Plenty is a temporary one only. Maybe you can help us find the right longer term name? The name Project Plenty comes from the recognition that God has richly blessed our church. For all that we face resourcing challenges, and wish we had more financial and people capacity, for all that we do exist in parts of Queensland where the notion of 'plenty' might seem a distant memory, we nonetheless are blessed as a church. We're a community that is rich with extraordinary people, rich with spiritual gifts, blessed with presence in nearly every corner of Queensland...just to name a few. Our future without question holds a range of challenges, but as a church, called and blessed by God, we can face these together. Above all, we're committed to the task of using our blessings to join in God's mission in Queensland and the world. We're here for the life of the world.

Who decided we should do this?

Project Plenty is an initiative of the Standing Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod.

Is Project Plenty going to tell my church or organisation what to do?

At its heart Project Plenty is about us collectively responding to the question "how can we as one church contribute most effectively to God's mission in Queensland and the world?". As we discern

answers to that question for the next phase of our life, it's quite likely that we'll re-orient ourselves around some of the outcomes of this process. What Project Plenty won't do is force or demand any part of the church take any specific or particular direction or action. We're attempting a process that is invitational, participatory and collaborative - inviting each part of the church to participate in the discernment and then respond in its own way to the conclusions we reach together.

Who is the Project Plenty team?

Project Plenty is being coordinated by the Synod Office through its Strategic Mission Team. That team is led by Associate General Secretary, Rev John Ruhle. Liz Henderson has been appointed to manage the Project, supported by a range of people.

When will I get to have my say?

Project Plenty is designed around an extensive listening and discerning period that covers the bulk of 2019. During that period there will be a range of face-to-face opportunities to meet with the Project Team in order to talk, listen and discern together. These gatherings will take place in a range of regional and south-east locations. The team will also meet specifically with Presbyteries, agency boards, and other committees, commissions and groups across the life of our church.

You'll also have opportunity to send individual and small group submissions to share your perspectives and priorities. All of these contributions will be valued as part of our listening and discerning period.

We'll be publishing announcements about Project Plenty discernment and listening events at the [Synod website](#), and in Uniting News – along with distributing that information through various Presbytery channels. You can also signup to receive all the latest news direct to you by emailing projectplenty@ucaqld.com.au

What is the difference between Project Plenty and Mission Possible?

Firstly, Mission Possible is a presbytery-initiated project that is focussed around the work of the Uniting Church, whereas Project Plenty is a Synod Standing Committee project that is for the whole-of-Synod. Secondly, Mission Possible is designed to tell the stories of the church and resource them for the years to come. Project Plenty will determine what the future stories will be.