

Executive summary

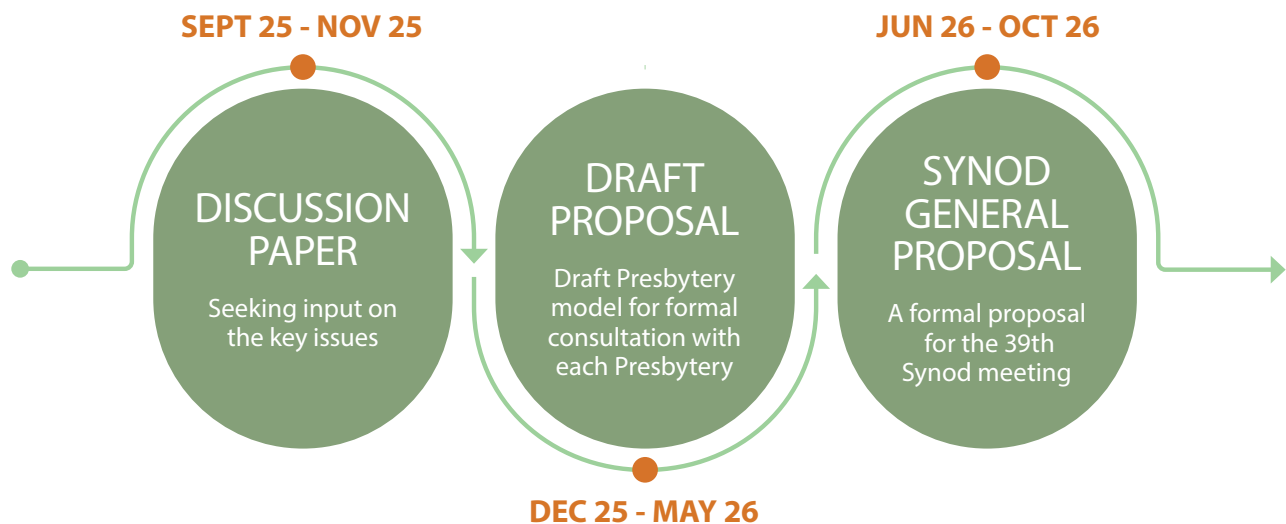
At the 38th Synod meeting, the Synod approved a 'Renewal and Growth' strategy, including a shared ambition and five strategic foundations as the focus of the Synod until 2028. One of those foundations is 'Flourishing Presbyteries'. The Presbytery Capacity project looks at how presbyteries in the Queensland Synod can more effectively support and encourage congregations and faith communities, with the goal of helping the church grow and renew. To achieve this, the project will gather feedback in different ways and work towards creating a proposal for the 39th Synod regarding the future composition and functioning of presbyteries within the Synod.

Understanding the background

Presbyteries in Queensland have faced a lot of challenges—financial, leadership, and cultural. As congregations and faith communities encounter their own challenges in a changing world, they often turn to the presbytery for extra support. There is a need for flourishing presbyteries as we respond to God's call to be a renewing and growing Church in Queensland. Presbytery Ministers from all seven presbyteries have considered different ideas and have now asked the General Secretary and Synod Standing Committee to lead a group effort to develop a formal proposal for the 39th Synod to consider in October 2026. This paper is the starting point for feedback from presbyteries, ministry agents, and lay leaders, after which a preferred model will be created for further discussion in early 2026. Together, we are seeking the best way to help Queensland's presbyteries thrive, innovate and most effectively to contribute to renewal and growth across the church.

How the project will work

There are three main stages, starting with the opportunity to reflect and provide feedback on this discussion paper. Based on that feedback, a draft proposal will be developed in early 2026, and then finalised for the 39th Synod in October 2026:

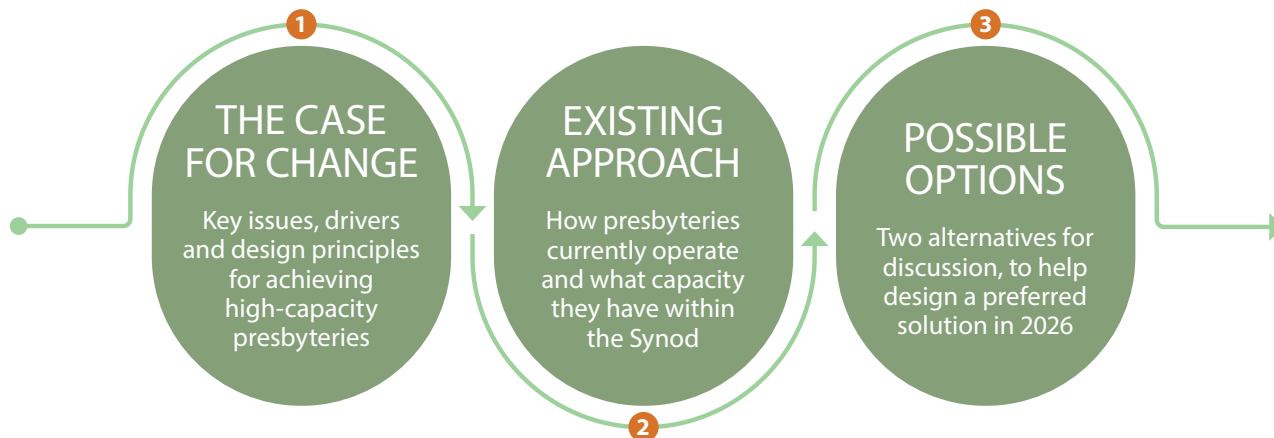


How to participate

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for our Church
- Attend presbytery meetings in October or November 2025
- Send your individual reflections by November 30, 2025
- Email your feedback via your Presbytery or to Cherry.Koshy@ucaqld.com.au

What this paper covers

- The project's outline, including the main ideas, principles, and risks involved in any new approach
- How presbyteries currently operate and what capacity they have within the Synod
- The main ways to improve presbytery capacity
- Two possible approaches for discernment and discussion, to help design a preferred solution in 2026.



Two alternative examples

To encourage creative thinking, two possible alternate examples of presbytery form are described within the paper. These models have in mind the needs for the Church as we continue of the path to renewal and growth.



Example one: three presbyteries

Create three new presbyteries across Queensland, with changes to staffing in ministry and administration roles so that congregations, faith communities, and leaders get better support.

One of the three new presbyteries would cover regional Queensland, and two the south-east.

This option could facilitate the provision of more specialist staff within each presbytery than current arrangements, using a long-term plan for resourcing.



Example two: four presbyteries

Create four new presbyteries across Queensland, also changing staffing in ministry and administration to better serve congregations, faith communities, and lay and ordained leaders.

Two of the four new presbyteries would cover regional Queensland, and two the south-east.

This option involves more presbyteries, again with provision of more specialist staff within each presbytery than current arrangements. It may therefore require a much larger financial investment to pay for more staff, again with a long-term plan for resources.

This paper invites everyone to share their thoughts on the topics raised. It encourages a shared commitment to helping grow presbytery capacity, for the sake of renewal across the whole church. By working together, the church can answer God's call for renewal and growth, especially through congregations and faith communities.