

General Proposal 2: Resourcing Flourishing Presbyteries

Recommendations

Noting that recommendations 1 and 2 are subject to each Presbytery approving the appointment of the Combined Presbytery Resourcing Committee as its Responsible Body pursuant to Regulation 4.1:

Recommendation 1: That the Synod establishes the Combined Presbytery Resource Committee pursuant to Regulations 3.7.4.6 (a) and 3.8.2 according to the terms outlined at Appendix A. These terms are to be finalised, implemented and updated by the Synod Standing Committee consistent with the decision of the Synod.

Recommendation 2: That the Synod establishes a capital endowment fund – the Combined Presbytery Resource Fund pursuant to Regulation 3.8.6 according to the terms listed at Appendix B. These terms are to be finalised, implemented and updated by the Synod Standing Committee consistent with the decision of the Synod.

Recommendation 3: That a resolution is referred to each Presbytery for consideration appointing the Combined Presbytery Resourcing Committee as its Responsible body, pursuant to Regulation 4.1, for all Presbytery property including Presbytery money and investments not required for operational funding. Further explanatory notes included at Appendix C.

Recommendation 4: That the General Secretary oversee the effective implementation of the model including transition arrangements, considering each Presbyteries mission and ministry commitments and the funding requirements for Presbyteries based on any outcome of General Proposal 1: Presbytery Capacity Building.

Recommendation 5: That the Synod Standing Committee ensure changes to Synod Policies, including the *Mission Development Fund*, to implement the approvals of the Synod.

The scope of a proposal

This proposal is limited to financial and property matters relating to Presbyteries. It does not apply to the financial or property matters of congregations or other Church bodies. If a property is used by a faith community, oversight of its management remains with the Presbytery.

Rationale

Presbyteries play a critical role in the life and mission of the Church. As the Church seeks to be a renewing and growing presence across Queensland, it is essential that Presbyteries have the capacity, capability, and resources necessary to fulfil these responsibilities effectively.

Over time, significant differences have emerged in the level of resourcing available to Presbyteries. These variations have created uneven capacity across regions, affecting the ability of Presbyteries to provide consistent support, leadership, and oversight. The current approach to resourcing Presbyteries is becoming increasingly unsustainable. Rising costs and growing capacity needs are placing pressure on Presbyteries, while financial resources vary significantly across them.

The Resourcing Flourishing Presbyteries proposal seeks to establish a sustainable, equitable, and accountable resourcing model for supporting Presbyteries across Queensland. This proposal seeks to respond to the call of God to be a growing and renewing Church in Queensland. It takes a long-term view of resourcing by boldly reimagining a shared wealth and common life model of resourcing of Presbyteries, of faithful stewardship of property resources and of investing in congregations and faith communities to be renewed in their worship, witness and service.

The proposal is for the establishment of the following:

- A Combined Presbytery Resourcing Committee (CPRC) to oversee Presbytery property and resources (note that this does not include congregation property). This committee will be designated as the responsible body for all Presbytery properties and financial assets, within the terms of reference for the Committee, subject to Presbytery approval.
- All existing Presbytery property and financial assets are held in common to support the operational funding needs and priorities of Presbyteries in Queensland.
- A Combined Presbytery Resource Fund (CPRF) is established as a capital endowment fund to support Presbytery funding needs into the future. Its purpose is to preserve and

grow capital, generate investment income, and provide equitable, sustainable funding for Presbytery ministry and mission into the future.

- Operational funding is established for Presbytery operational funding needs and for capital requirement of Presbytery property.

Together, the Resourcing model achieves the following benefits:

- Establishes a stable, enduring funding base through an endowment model, reducing reliance on declining income sources.
- Ensures fair distribution of resources across Presbyteries by recognising differing contexts, capacities, and needs. This means Presbyteries with different contexts, geography, capacity and mission opportunities can be supported more equitably.
- Builds and grows shared capital rather than drawing down reserves, creating an ongoing income stream for mission.
- Enables coordinated management of property and financial resources to maximise both missional and commercial outcomes.
- Provides capability and scale to develop assets more effectively, generating increased income for future ministry.
- Moves the Church toward a shared “common life” approach, strengthening collective capacity for renewal and growth.
- Strengthens investment governance and scale to maximise returns while maintaining an appropriate and transparent risk profile aligned with Church values.
- Establishes well-defined governance, roles, and decision-making frameworks to ensure transparency, accountability, and confidence across the Synod and Presbyteries.

Proposers

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Appendix A: Combined Presbytery Resourcing Committee

Purpose

To ensure long-term, equitable and sustainable funding to support Presbyteries in Queensland to flourish in their service of a growing and renewing Church.

Responsibilities

1. Responsible for Presbytery property, capital funding allocation and annual budget funding related decisions on behalf of all Presbyteries in Queensland.
2. To establish, administer and manage, pursuant to Regulation 3.8.61, an operational fund in its name to provide for the proper discharge of its object, purposes, and responsibilities.
3. With the administration and specialised support of the Synod Office, to implement a shared wealth and common life approach to all Presbytery properties stewarding resources to maximise missional and commercial outcomes.
4. To act as each Presbyteries' Responsible body (subject to the approval of the Presbytery) for all Presbytery property, apart from property specifically excluded from this by a resolution of the Presbytery, for missional usage purposes. This does not include property that is occupied by a Faith Community within the Presbytery. Presbytery will maintain oversight of its management in these cases.
5. To advise the Synod Finance, Investment and Property Board in relation to the funding requirements for the Combined Presbytery Resource Fund.
6. To prudentially manage the Combined Presbytery Operational Fund and to authorise distributions from such fund to Presbyteries having regard to each Presbytery's annual budget submission for operational, missional and strategic initiatives.
7. To oversee the CPMP funding allocation method and distribution of funds. Each Presbytery remains responsible for arranging and administering CPMP within its own region.
8. To work collaboratively with other funding bodies within the Synod including MC3 (Church Renewal Fund), Muth arrak (Covenant Ministry Fund) and the FIP Board (Mission Development Fund and other financial resources).
9. To exercise the following specified financial powers in relation to the Combined Presbytery Operational Fund (CPOF) as set out in regulation 3.7.4.6(a), namely, the power to:
 - I. Invest the funds, not immediately required for the purposes of the CPOF, in the Uniting Church Investment Service: Reg.3.7.4.6(a)(i).
 - II. Accept money on deposit: Reg. 3.7.4.6(a)(ii).
 - III. Enter into financial transactions with or without security, for the purposes of the CPRC, provided the monetary value is equal to or does

not exceed \$100,000, or such other limit as prescribed by Synod, per financial transaction: Reg. 3.7.4.6(a)(iv).

- IV. Issue, draw, accept, endorse or discount bills of exchange, promissory notes, payment orders or other negotiable instruments, for the purposes of the CPRC, provided the monetary value is equal to or does not exceed \$100,000, or such other limit as prescribed by Synod, per transaction: Reg.3.7.4.6(a)(v).
- V. Enter into any transaction for the purpose of reducing the risk of loss or increasing the prospect of gain arising from changes in interest, discount or currency exchange rates or other rates or factors affecting financial markets, provided the monetary value is equal to or does not exceed \$100,000, or such other limit as prescribed by Synod, per transaction: Reg.3.7.4.6(a)(vi).
- VI. Guarantee, indemnify or be surety for the payment of money or performance of contracts or obligations by any person with or without securing the liabilities so incurred for the purposes of the CPRC, provided the monetary value is equal to or does not exceed \$100,000, or such other limit as prescribed by Synod, per transaction: Reg. 3.7.4.6(a)(vii).

Reporting to presbyteries

The CPRC is required to report annually to each Presbytery:

1. Financial performance and distribution of resources.
 - How much money is available, how it is being used, and the funding amount each Presbytery received.
2. Endowment fund health
 - An update on the growth and financial performance of the Combined Presbytery Resource Fund.
 - An annual financial statement.
3. Property and assets
 - How Presbytery properties and assets are being managed and developed, and the current portfolio.
4. Governance and progress
 - How well the model is being implemented and governed and the membership of the CPRC.

Accountability

The Combined Presbytery Resourcing Committee (the Committee) operates under the authority of, and is accountable to, the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) for the proper discharge of its responsibilities.

Membership

Presbytery appointed members.

- That there is an equal balance between Regional and metropolitan Presbytery appointees (For instance, if there are two metropolitan Presbyteries and one regional

renewal

Presbytery, then the two metro Presbyteries may appoint 2 members each and the regional Presbytery 4 members)

- A nominee from Muth arrak.

Ex officio members:

- Chair of the FIP Board of the Synod or their delegate.
- General Secretary or their delegate.

Non-voting members:

- Executive Director of Finance, Property and Enterprises (Queensland Synod).

Chairperson

- To be elected by the Committee from within the membership of the Committee.

Appendix B: Combined Presbytery Resourcing Fund

Purpose

The Combined Presbytery Resource Fund is to be used for the following purposes:

1. Provide ongoing financial resources to fund Presbytery staff/ministry positions and administrative operations to enable the effective fulfillment of the responsibilities of a Presbytery.
2. Resource Presbytery initiatives and programs.
3. Resource new and ongoing initiatives, projects, and ministries that align with the priorities of a Presbytery.
4. Support training, leadership development and projects that strengthen the capacity of Presbyteries in serving congregations and faith communities in their worship, witness and service.

Management of the Fund

The FIP Board is responsible for the investment strategy for the endowment funds in accordance with approved Synod Policies. When making these decisions, the Board will consider several key issues such as, but not limited to:

- Purpose: An investment strategy developed according to the purposes of the Fund and the funding requirements of Presbyteries.
- Risk Tolerance: Assessing the level of risk the Synod is willing to accept in its investment portfolio to generate income and achieve capital growth.
- Diversification: Ensuring the investment portfolio is diversified across various asset classes to reduce risk and enhance financial returns.
- Ethical Considerations: Aligning investments with the values and mission of the Uniting Church, avoiding investments in industries that conflict with the Church's principles.
- Market Conditions: Evaluating current and projected market conditions to make informed investment decisions.
- Performance Monitoring: Regularly reviewing the performance of the investment portfolio to ensure it meets the set objectives, and making adjustments as necessary.

Appendix C: CPRC As Responsible Body

Explanatory Notes

Following the Synod meeting, all Presbyteries will consider a resolution to appoint the CPRC as the body to undertake all of their responsibilities for the management and administration of all of current Presbytery property, and to manage all other financial assets of the current Presbyteries that are not required for operational funding. For property that is occupied by a Faith Community within the Presbytery, the Presbytery will maintain oversight of its management. If the Synod approves General Proposal 1: Presbytery Capacity Building, then this resolution will form part of the establishment of each new Presbytery effective on the 1st of July 2027.

The model is intended to be fair because resources will be considered across the whole life of the Church in Queensland, rather than being limited to the historic resources of each Presbytery. Funding decisions will be based on need, agreed priorities, available resources and transparent governance. This means Presbyteries with different contexts, geography, capacity and mission opportunities can be supported more equitably.