General Proposal 1: Presbytery Capacity

That the Synod

That the Synod:

1. Pursuant to Constitution clause 25, Regulations 3.1.5(b), 3.4.6 and 3.4.7, dissolves each of the seven existing Presbyteries (**The Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane, Carpentaria Presbytery, The Presbytery of Central Queensland, The Presbytery of Mary Burnett, The Presbytery of Moreton Rivers Presbytery, The Presbytery of South Moreton, The Presbytery of The Downs)** within the Synod of Queensland effective 30th June 2027, thanking members and staff of presbyteries for their work in encouraging the mission and ministry of the Church within their bounds.
2. Pursuant to Regulations 3.1.5(b) and 3.4.6(a), forms three new Presbyteries and fixes the bounds of each new Presbytery as outlined in Appendix A, effective 1st July 2027, including:
    a. Adopts the names for each newly established Presbytery as outlined in Appendix A on an interim basis, directing the Synod Standing Committee to work with each newly established Presbytery to finalise permanent names.
    b. Delegates to the Synod Standing Committee the authority, pursuant to Regulations 3.1.5(b) and 3.4.6(a) and (b), to make any final changes to Presbytery arrangements, consistent with the decisions of the Synod.
3. Delegates to the General Secretary the power under Regulation 3.4.6(d) to determine the time, place and agenda for the first meeting of each new Presbytery, including the power to appoint a member of the Church to convene, constitute and preside over the meeting till such time as each new Presbytery elects a chairperson.
4. Pursuant to Regulation 3.4.6(b), authorises and directs the General Secretary to undertake all other tasks necessary to ensure the basic requirements of the Presbyteries can be met from 1 July 2027, until such time as each Presbytery meets for the first time, including determining and appointing the basic ministry and personnel requirements for the establishment of each new Presbytery on an interim basis.
5. Directs the Synod Standing Committee to consider selection and appointment processes to ensure any Synod bodies with Presbytery-appointed membership have equitable representation from regional and south-east Queensland.
6. Directs the Synod Standing Committee to review the Terms of Reference for Muth arrak, as the Regional Committee of the UAICC in Queensland, in relation to the powers, duties and responsibilities of a Presbytery in light of the newly established Presbyteries in Queensland (Constitution 49).
7. Commends the *New Presbyteries Information Paper* for consideration by each new Presbytery that is formed as a result of this proposal.

The scope of a proposal

To assist in more effective support of congregations and faith communities for growth and renewal, the proposal seeks to enhance presbytery capacity through reshaping the nature, number, staffing and operating models of presbyteries within the Synod of Queensland.

Structurally, the proposal replaces seven existing Presbyteries with three new Presbyteries within the Synod of Queensland from 1 July 2027.

The proposal empowers the General Secretary to ensure each new Presbytery has its basic requirements met, until such time as each new Presbytery meets to establish its own leadership, life and priorities.

A parallel proposal explores a new model for the financial resourcing of presbyteries. The two proposals are inter-related, but not interdependent.

Rationale

The primary purpose for redesigning presbyteries within Queensland is to address limitations in presbytery capacity under the current model for the effective support of congregations and faith communities, and their lay and ordained leaders for a renewing and growing Church. The proposal addresses structural changes that will enable revised and more equitable staffing, shared and consistent operating models, more effective use of zones and groups, and changes to delegated and shared tasks, all of which are outlined in detail in the full proposal document. Such changes are possible as a result of this proposal and are oriented to building enhanced capacity within each of three new Presbyteries to: more effectively support the development of healthy, sustainable ministry; and provide effective leadership to healthy, vibrant, growing congregations. The intent of this proposal is to more effectively support a church that responds to God's call to grow and be renewed, growing disciples in the whole range of cultural, generational and geographic communities across the State.

The origins of this proposal are in the ongoing, collaborative, and unique relationships between Presbyteries in Queensland. The collective of Presbytery Ministers explored the limitations of the current Presbytery model, and potential approaches to increasing Presbytery capacity during 2024 and 2025 (including a focussed conversation at the 38th Synod). After this extended discussion, the Presbytery Ministers collectively asked the General Secretary to lead the development of this proposal on their behalf, in order to boost the capacity of Presbyteries to support congregations and faith communities.

A discussion paper was first released to presbyteries in August 2025, before a draft proposal for formal feedback (consistent with the requirements of Regulations 3.4.6 and 3.4.7) was shared with Presbyteries in February 2026. In both cases, extensive consultation was undertaken with presbyteries, presbytery leadership teams and presbytery members. Feedback from that process has been used to develop this proposal

Proposers

A proposer and the seconder must be attending the Synod in Session as members. If the proposal is from one of Synod's reporting bodies (committee, board, presbytery, task group), it should be submitted and signed by an authorised officer of that body.

Proposer

Name: Rev Scott Ballment
Email: Scott.Ballment@ucaqld.com.au
Phone: 0402 465 070

Signature: _____

Seconder

Name: Rev Catherine Solomon
Email: PresMin@southmoreton.org.au
Phone: 0438 557 677

Signature: _____

Appendix A: Three New Presbyteries

Interim Presbytery Name	Greater Regional Queensland	Wide Bay Brisbane	Southern Queensland
Description	This presbytery covers the bulk of regional Queensland. It includes coastal areas from Cape York south to Bundaberg, together with adjacent hinterland areas. It includes all central and western Qld communities south to the NSW border, including Dalby, Roma, Goondiwindi and all areas west to NT/SA borders. It includes the existing areas covered by Carpentaria and Central Queensland presbyteries, and parts of Mary Burnett and The Downs presbyteries.	This presbytery covers parts of south-east Queensland including the Brisbane CBD (and adjacent areas), and north to Maryborough and Hervey Bay, together with adjacent hinterland areas. It includes the existing areas covered by Moreton Rivers and parts of Mary Burnett presbyteries.	This presbytery covers parts of south-east Queensland that are south of the Brisbane CBD to the NSW border, and west up to and including the Darling Downs communities of greater Toowoomba, Crows Nest, Warwick/Killarney, Central Downs and south to Stanthorpe. It includes the existing areas covered by South Moreton and Bremer Brisbane, and parts of The Downs presbyteries.
Congregations and Faith Communities	Aitkenvale Armitage Atherton Banana Baralaba Blackwater Bottle Tree Remote Bush Chaplaincy Bundaberg Burdekin Burnett Network (Childers, Biggenden, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Eidsvold, Murgon,	Albany Creek Albert St Arana Hills Ashgrove West Aspley Bald Hills BELLS Caloundra Blackall Ranges (Montville, Maleny, Palmwoods) Bli Bi Bracken Ridge Bribie Island Buderim	Acacia Ridge Ashmore Banora Point Bayside Beenleigh Region Brisbane Fijian Brisbane Korean Brisbane Taiwanese Brisbane Valley Brisbane West Brookfield Burleigh Village Centenary

	Wondai, Kingaroy, Nanango, Yarraman, Blackbutt) Callide Valley Capricorn Coast (Yeppoon, Emu Park) Carpentaria/McKay Remote Bush Chaplaincy Cassowary Coast (Innisfail, Mission Beach, Tully) Central West (Longreach, Blackall, Barcaldine, Alpha, Jericho) Charters Towers Chinchilla Clermont/Capella Collinsville Cook Islander Faith Community Edmonton Cook Islander Faith Community Emmanuel Coral Coast (Bargara) Cunnamulla and Burke & Wills Remote Bush Chaplaincy Dalby Jandowae Edmonton Emerald Fernlees Emmanuel Cairns Eternal Life Gordonvale Fitzroy (Rockhampton North & The Caves) Gladstone & Tannum Sands Goondiwindi Ingham/Halifax Iona West (Mackay) Jensen	Bulimba Caboolture (incl Beachmere, Upper Caboolture) Caloundra Chermside Kedron Clay Church Coolum Beach Cooroy Pomona Dayboro Deception Bay Elimbah Emmanuel Enoggera Faith Works Geebung/Wavell Heights Glasshouse Country Gympie (incl Imbil) Hervey Bay (Torquay, Burrum Heads, Howard) Indooroopilly Kangaroo Point Kawana Waters Kenani Maryborough Merthyr Rd Morayfield Morningside Nambour Newlife Brisbane Newlife Moreton Noosa Coastal (Tewantin, Sunrise Beach) North Lakes Park Road Tongan Pine Rivers Redcliffe Samford Valley	Central Downs (Millmerran, Pittsworth) Chapel Hill Community Life (Forest Lake) Crows Nest Eastern Downs (Allora, Nobby, Pilton) Elanora/Currumbin Valley Fassifern (Boonah, Flinders) Fernvale-Lowood Gatton Goodna Samoan Goodna Granite Belt (Stanthorpe, Severnlea, Summit) Harrisville Hatton Vale Highfields Inala Ipswich Kenmore Laidley Lifeworks Little Brown Church (Jimboomba) Living Water Logan Central Multicultural Middle Ridge Mudgeeraba Nerang Newlife Coolangatta Newlife Coomera Newlife Robina Oakey

	Kennedy Remote Bush Chaplaincy Kirwan Korean Cairns Korean Townsville Magnetic Island Maranoa (Roma, Injune) Mareeba Mornington Island Mossman/Mt Molloy, Port Douglas Mount Louisa Moura Napranum North Church Cairns Northside Mackay Rockhampton South & Mt Morgan Sarina & Carmilla St Andrew's Mt Isa St George (incl Dirranbandi) St Luke's Weipa St Pauls Mackay (incl Calen) Torres St/Thursday Island Townsville Central West End Townsville Wulguru *(58 total)*	Sandgate Simply Church Faith Community Maroochydore St Andrews Brisbane St Lucia St Luke's Hamilton St Paul's Stafford Sunshine Coast Korean Faith Community The Gap Toowong West End Windsor Uniting Life Mooloolaba Zillmere UAICC *(58 total)*	Oxley Paradise Point Pimpama Real Life (Logan) Redland City Rosewood Scenic Rim Sherwood South Sudanese Nuer Southport Southside St David's Coopers Plains St Stephens Toowoomba Sunnybank Hills Tallebudgera Tingalpa Tongan Logan City Vietnamese Hope Warwick-Killarney (incl Freestone) Wilsonton Uniting Flagstone Uniting Ripley *(65 total)*
Staffing	Up to eight FTE staff in total Permanent roles to be agreed by Presbytery Interim roles to be appointed from commencement date of new Presbytery	Up to seven FTE staff in total Permanent roles to be agreed by Presbytery Interim roles to be appointed from commencement date of new Presbytery	Up to seven FTE staff in total Permanent roles to be agreed by Presbytery Interim roles to be appointed from commencement date of new Presbytery

Appendix B: Transfer of "Responsible Body" Status for Existing Property and Financial Resources

1. If the Presbytery Resourcing Proposal is adopted by 39th Synod:
    a. Subject to approval of the Resourcing proposal, the "Responsible body" status for all financial and property resources for each dissolved presbytery will be transferred to the newly formed Combined Presbyteries Resourcing Committee (to be the new "Responsible body"). This will be undertaken through a resolution being referred to each Presbytery pursuant to Regulation 4.1, for all Presbytery property including Presbytery money and investments not required for operational funding.
    b. Transfer of the "Responsible body" status of any operational or other funds not specified in the Presbytery Resourcing Proposal, to newly formed Presbyteries will take place on the following basis:

Existing Presbytery	**Transferred to New Presbytery**
Bremer Brisbane	Southern Queensland Presbytery
Carpentaria	Greater Regional Queensland
Central Queensland	Greater Regional Queensland
Mary Burnett[1]	80% to Greater Regional Queensland 20% to Wide Bay Brisbane
Moreton Rivers	Wide Bay Brisbane
South Moreton	Southern Queensland
The Downs[1]	80% to Greater Regional Queensland 20% to Southern Queensland

2. If the 39th Synod does not adopt any changes to Presbytery resourcing under the relevant General Proposal, transfer of the "Responsible body" status for financial and property resources for which each dissolved presbytery is the responsible body to the newly formed presbyteries will be on the following basis:
    a. Any properties for which a dissolved presbytery is the Responsible body are transferred to the new presbytery in which the property is physically located (consistent with presbytery boundaries outlined in Appendix A or as altered in the final decision of the Synod)
    b. In order to ensure financial sustainability of each new presbytery, with focus on ensuring the Greater Regional Queensland Presbytery is best supported, financial resources for which a dissolved Presbytery is the Responsible body are transferred as follows:

[1] Proposal prioritises remaining financial resources from existing Mary Burnett and The Downs Presbyteries (not allocated within the Presbytery Resourcing Proposal) to fund operations of the Greater Regional Queensland Presbytery, assisting to address historic inequity, along with higher operating costs

Existing Presbytery	Transferred to New Presbytery
Bremer Brisbane	Southern Queensland Presbytery
Carpentaria	Greater Regional Queensland
Central Queensland	Greater Regional Queensland
Mary Burnett[2]	80% to Greater Regional Queensland 20% to Wide Bay Brisbane
Moreton Rivers	Wide Bay Brisbane
South Moreton	Southern Queensland
The Downs[2]	80% to Greater Regional Queensland 20% to Southern Queensland

3. Each Presbytery and the Combined Presbyteries Resourcing Committee (if established) are to ensure they:
    a. are familiar with the terms of the charitable trust upon which any property was acquired and is held and that such property is only used for those charitable purposes; and
    b. comply with their obligations as the "Responsible body" under Church laws, policies and procedures.

[2] Proposal prioritises resources from existing Mary Burnett and The Downs Presbyteries to fund operations of the Greater Regional Queensland Presbytery, assisting to address historic inequity, along with higher operating costs

Appendix C: Legal Names of Existing Presbyteries

Each existing Presbytery referred to under this proposal has the following legal name under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and the following Australian Business Number (ABN).

Name	Legal Name under ACNC	ABN
Carpentaria Presbytery	UCA – Carpentaria Presbytery	88394250165
Presbytery of Central Queensland	The Uniting Church in Australia Presbytery Of Central Queensland	95306112389
Presbytery of Mary Burnett	Uca – Presbytery Of Mary Burnett	19372605618
Presbytery of Moreton Rivers	Uca- Presbytery Of Moreton Rivers	50610591161
Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane	Uca Presbytery Of Bremer Brisbane	77468399805
Presbytery of South Moreton	Uca – South Moreton Presbytery	44008611921
Presbytery Of The Downs	Uca – Presbytery Of The Downs	96338263681