



34 SYNOD 2019

Report from
Moreton Rivers Presbytery



**MORETON
RIVERS
PRESBYTERY**

Let it flow

Moreton Rivers Presbytery covers the geographic area from just south of the Brisbane River to just north of the Caboolture River, west to Kilcoy and east to Bribie Island. This area includes 40 rural, semi-rural, urban and CBD congregations and faith communities. There are approximately 70 placements within the Presbytery covering a range of ministries placed within congregations, Wesley Mission Queensland, UnitingCare Queensland, the Synod office, hospitals, schools, police, army and presbytery roles.

Our mission statement says that we are called to be a presbytery made up of congregations, agencies, mission and schools who are: Encouraging and equipping God's people for God's mission.

Since the 33rd Synod the Presbytery's focus has centred around living out the 2021 Let it Flow missional priorities:

While continuing to work within the regulations and policies of the Uniting Church in Australia, as a Presbytery we are committed to the following mission priorities for the period 2017 to 2021.

By 2021 Moreton Rivers Presbytery:



...will be a lighthouse for **Youth and Children's Ministry**.



...congregations and ministry agents will be equipped and active in **mission**.



...congregations will be working **collaboratively** for mission and ministry with schools/communities/agencies and other congregations.

Highlights:

- The beginning of the Mission Development Officer (Inner Ring) role in partnership with Ashgrove West Uniting Church.
- The opening of the new building and the strengthening of the church plant at North Lakes Uniting Church.
- A partnership between Saint Andrew's Uniting Church and Albany Creek Uniting Church to work together for the development of the Hold Fast Saint Andrew's faith community.
- A partnership with Wesley Mission Queensland Albert St congregation, Newlife Robina, South Moreton Presbytery and our Presbytery to launch the Newlife Brisbane church plant.
- Newlife Brisbane was officially launched on Sunday 3 March 2019. Visit here for more info: church.nu/brisbane/
- A commitment to work with Queensland Community Alliance listening and working together for the common good. The Stafford Assembly has empowered local community members from churches, community groups and unions to lead a successful campaign to reduce the cost of long-term hospital parking at Prince Charles Hospital to patients and visitors. We continue to work together for road safety around the hospital engaging metro-north state government stakeholders.
- Ongoing Mission Shaped Ministry training.
- Growing our POD involvement (currently 21 people) and number of candidates (currently six) at Trinity College Queensland.
- 15 people enrolled in the Learning for Living course in the last two years.
- 20 people involved in the Growing Youth Ministry training events.
- 30 young adults involved the Renovators mentoring program.

- Trinity Grove Wilston Uniting Church partnering with Highfields congregation in their church plant property purchase.
- Faith Works Community Uniting Church congregation assisting in the completion of the building refurbishment with Calvary Presbytery at Mornington Island Uniting Church.
- Growing our day camp ministry to a second campus at Pine Rivers.
- Helping bring to life the inaugural Unite Young Adults Retreat.
- The beginning of the night church worshipping community at The Gap Uniting Church.
- Significant property development plans are in different planning stages at Redcliffe Uniting Church, Merthyr Rd Uniting Church, Bulimba Uniting Church and the Presbytery office site in Ashgrove.

Priority Directions

The Synod priority directions of being Christ-centred, at prayer, and listening; discipleship; leadership; connecting with communities; and youth, children and families have shaped the Presbytery's mission statement and guiding principles.

Mission Statement:

Encouraging and equipping God's people for God's mission.

Guiding Values:

We value being:

Strengths-based	We tell the good news stories of what God is already doing amongst us.
Permission-giving	We are permission-giving in encouraging Spirit-led innovation and risk-taking.
Outward-focused	We are outward-focused in our decisions and priorities.
Generously collaborative	We work in collaborations with generosity and grace.

It also impacts on our Let it Flow mission priority action points:

Moreton Rivers Presbytery **will be a lighthouse for youth and children's ministry**



- a) Seek to employ a full-time Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator.
- b) Seek to employ a Faith Formation Coordinator in collaboration with a preaching place.
- c) Continue and expand the mentoring of existing youth, children and family workers.
- d) Continue to build on the current range of events and programs for youth and children.
- e) Grow youth and children's ministry through collaborative partnerships.
- f) Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia about our youth and children's ministry.
- g) Encourage and equip through the Educating and Equipping Committee.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery **congregations and ministry agents will be equipped and active in mission**



- a) Continue to employ the Mission Education Officer.
- b) Employ a Mission Development Officer – Inner Ring in partnership with a preaching place.
- c) Employ a Mission Development Officer – North in partnership with a preaching place.
- d) Implement inner city church plant collaboration with Newlife Uniting Church.
- e) Support effective mission initiatives in the Presbytery.

- f) Increase greater engagement of Mission Shaped Ministry education by ministry agents and congregations.
- g) Initiate *Fresh Expressions* ministries.
- h) Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia of congregations active in mission.
- i) Encourage and equip through the Education and Equipping Committee.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery

congregations will be working collaboratively for mission and ministry with schools/communities/agencies and other congregations.



- a) Focus collaborations on growing existing and *Fresh Expressions* of church.
- b) Enable and encourage congregations to collaborate with the wider Uniting Church in Australia.
- c) Enable and encourage congregations to collaborate with the wider community.
- d) Pastoral Relations Committee be intentional in filling “placements” that meet the goals of the Let it Flow mission priorities.
- e) Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia of collaborations.
- f) Encourage and equip through the Resource and Pastoral Relations Committees.

Challenges/risks as we progress

A range of challenges and risks will continue to be faced by the Presbytery as they seek to live out the mission and ministry within its bounds. These include:

Resourcing – Significant funds are received through the Combined Presbyteries Mission Pool to help fund the Presbytery Ministry team and there are ongoing pressures on this pool.

The Presbytery is looking at a potential redevelopment of the 22 Ashgrove Ave site to help provide an income base to support the Presbytery ministry.

Leadership – Ongoing leadership development for both lay and ordained members is required especially given the increasing governance issues facing congregations.

The Learning for Living Course is helping with some of the lay development and also the ongoing commitment to Code of Ethics and Child Safe Ministry training is essential across all aspects of the Presbytery.

Mission Planning – There are a number of growth areas within the Presbytery and opportunities to plant ministry in those areas will be happening in the next few years. The risk is that we will miss the window to be involved in these opportunities.

The Mission Development Officer (Inner Ring) is one way to address this and the goal of having a Mission Development Officer for the north of the Presbytery is an ongoing hope. The funding for this role is yet to be sourced.

Proposal

It is proposed that the 34th Synod receive this report.

Contact for report questions

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