



**34 SYNOD 2019**

**Report from  
Synod Chaplaincy  
Commission**



Chaplaincy remains a significant expression of the mission and ministry of the whole church as it engages with people and communities across Queensland. The community-centric nature of the ministry of chaplaincy continues to have much to offer to the church's exploration of future directions and expressions of Christian community.

The Chaplaincy Commission seeks to fulfil its mandate and responsibility for the oversight and development of chaplaincy within the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church.

### **Focus since the last Synod**

The focus of the Chaplaincy Commission in the last 18 months has been to further explore opportunities for collaboration with Wesley Mission Queensland, UnitingCare Queensland, Trinity College Queensland and the Schools and Residential Colleges Commission around the areas of training, education, support and development of chaplaincy. This focus aligns with one of the Queensland Synod's Key Change Initiatives: One church.

### **Highlights:**

Consolidation of the restructure of the Commission including the creation and implementation of the Chaplains Oversight Committee. This committee continues to ensure high standards of management and oversight of the chaplain placement processes while releasing the Commission to focus on its important strategic focus.

Collaborative work between the Commission, UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Queensland for the professional development of health and aged-care chaplains across various contexts.

Development of a guiding coalition initially involving the Queensland Synod and UnitingCare Mission teams in support of a whole-of-church approach to strategic mission and ministry practice. Within this framework the ministry of chaplaincy has a significant contribution to the Synod's understanding of and planning for strategic mission.

Chaplaincy Affirmation Days for 2018 were incorporated into the week-long Inspired Disciples event, a new initiative of the Synod Strategic Mission group. This created an opportunity for all ministry agents from the various ministry expressions of the church to focus on a One-church approach to the common theme of discipleship and what it means for themselves and for their particular ministry context.

The creation and launch of a Diploma in Ministry Chaplaincy Pathway in Semester 1 2019. The Chaplaincy Commission Scholarship Program Project Initiative.

The funding and appointment of a new full-time chaplain with the Sunshine Coast University Hospital which opened in April 2017. This major new hospital provides health services across the breadth of the Sunshine Coast and Gympie region.

## **Challenges/risks as we progress**

Development of resources to support different entry levels for chaplaincy education. Identification and provision of appropriate training to build volunteer capacity. Resourcing chaplaincy within new ministry contexts.

How does the voice of chaplaincy permeate the life, witness and service of the whole church?

## Proposal

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

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## Contact for report questions

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