



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Shared life.
Flourishing
communities.

Project Plenty

Have your say on our draft mission
priorities and direction 2021-2025

Consultation pack

Introduction

Project Plenty is the name given to a whole-of-church discernment process being conducted by the Uniting Church in Queensland. The process runs from May 2019 to October 2020 and result in the agreement of a shared set of mission priorities and directions for the whole Synod that will be presented at the 35th Synod in Session.

The process calls all of us to think carefully about how we deploy all that we are for the life of our community, and for bearing witness to the love of God in Christ for all through our worship, witness and service.

In June 2020, a draft report entitled *Shared life. Flourishing communities.* was released. This report reflects all of the work to date and offers a draft set of mission priorities and directions.

This pack is designed to assist a group (such as a church council, staff team, home group) to facilitate a self-guided discussion reflecting on *Shared life. Flourishing communities.*, together with the opportunity to offer your feedback on it, and to begin considering your own commitment to the ambition statement and priorities it contains.

The pack includes four components:

1. Facilitator's guide (this document).
2. [Shared life. Flourishing communities. document](#)
3. Feedback form ([digital feedback preferred](#))
4. [Video](#) "Introducing *Shared life. Flourishing communities.*"

This is one of two self-guided packs to enable contributions to the listening phase of the project. The complete set of packs includes:

1. Church council/governance/leadership group consultation (this document)
2. Individual consultation

Input received through these consultation packs will be contributed to the Project Plenty co-creation process in order to finalise the document to be considered at the 35th Synod in Session, which will be held in October 2020. Those submitting input have the option of providing contact details to allow the project team to (a) contact the submitter for any required clarification, and, (b) receive updates throughout the life of the project.

For further information about the use of this form, or regarding Project Plenty in general, contact the Project team via projectplenty@ucaqld.com.au or visit ucaqld.com.au/projectplenty

Facilitator's guide

This self-guided discussion is designed to take approximately 70 minutes. Timings are included below for each section. The discussion is intentionally designed to be fast-paced.

The process is designed for a group of up to 10–12 people in mind. If you have a larger group, you may wish to split into smaller discussion groups for each question. In this case, you should identify conversation facilitators for each small group and go through this guide with them prior to the session.

Included in this guide is a suggested script which is symbolised using a microphone.

Data and ideas gathered at each point in the discussion can be submitted to the Project Plenty team via the [feedback form](#) or by email to projectplenty@ucaqld.com.au.

Preparation:

1. Read the pack in its entirety, including the *Shared life. Flourishing communities.* document. In particular, familiarise yourself with this facilitator's guide to ensure you are comfortable with the process as outlined. While you are welcome to alter the process to fit the context of your group, we encourage you to pay close attention to the suggested questions.
2. Schedule the discussion, allowing approximately 60 minutes. This timing can be reduced or lengthened as required to fit within an existing meeting.
3. Let participants know about the discussion, including providing copies of the *Shared life. Flourishing communities.* document. Encourage participants to read the report in full in order to prepare for the discussion that lies ahead.

What you'll need:

- Butcher's paper (six sheets)
- Pens
- [Feedback form](#) (on a computer)
- Copies of *Shared life. Flourishing communities.* (digital or paper depending on your group)
- This facilitator's guide
- Data projector/screen/laptop if you wish to use the video introduction

Process:

1. *Introduction and welcome (eight minutes):*

Welcome people to the discussion. Outline the purpose of the discussion and the objectives of Project Plenty as follows:

 *As we gather, we acknowledge and honour the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, paying our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We join the Uniting Church in longing and working for reconciliation.*

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The process calls all of us to think carefully about how we deploy all that we are for the life of our community, and for bearing witness to the love of God in Christ for all through our worship, witness and service.

In June 2020, after an extensive consultation and research phase, a draft report entitled Shared life. Flourishing communities. was released. This report reflects all of the work to date, and offers a draft set of mission priorities and directions.

This discussion is designed to allow us as a council/group/board to receive an introduction to the report, and to contribute our views and perspectives to this part of the project.

Over the next hour we'll explore a series of questions and capture our responses for submitting to the project. You can also make individual contributions or attend [digital forums](#) that the Project team will host in various parts of the state.

I'd like to open in prayer:

God of mercy and wonder,

We give thanks for the Uniting Church. We give thanks that you called us together, that you continue to call us together. That you invite us into your mission through our worship, witness and service. We give thanks for all that you have blessed us with. For the resources we have inherited through the stewardship of men and women before us. For the relationships both within and beyond our church. For the presence in our communities that reaches so widely across this state. For the dreams and visions of many among us. We pray for wisdom as we listen together, talk together, discern together about the directions in which you continue to call us. We pray for the capacity to hear your voice continuing to call us into mission. And we pray for those in our communities near and far, and for the privilege of loving our neighbour as we serve you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

 *To help ground this discussion, let's read two passages of scripture together.*

Read two Project Plenty identified scripture passages (choose from 2 Corinthians 9:6–15, Genesis 12:2 and Matthew 25: 31–46) and ask:

What do you notice in this reading? What does it suggest to us about what our attitude towards the world should be?

Discuss together for a few minutes.

2. Introducing the report: (15 minutes)

Play the video *Introducing Shared life. Flourishing communities.*

 *What are your initial responses to the report?*

3. How does it resonate? (seven minutes)

Ask the following question:

 *What in the report resonates with us in our local context? What rings true?*

Capture responses in dot-point form on butcher's paper or directly into the feedback form.

4. *The priorities (eight minutes)*

Using butcher's paper, or the feedback form, record responses to the following question.

 *Think about the four priorities named in the report. How important will pursuing these priorities within our own context be? Rate each from 1 (Not important) to 5 (Vital). Are there other priority areas we need to name for ourselves?*

Talk together for a few minutes about any opportunities the priorities present for you in your setting.

What other priority areas would you suggest adding to these four?

5. *The commitments (12 minutes)*

Using butcher's paper, or the feedback form, record responses to the following questions. If your group is larger, you might consider splitting into two or three smaller groups for this discussion:

 *Let's talk about the set of 11 proposed commitments for our whole church. Rate the importance of each of them (scale 1-5). Are there any changes that spring immediately to mind? Are there changes, additions or deletions to the list of commitments you believe we should consider?*

Transcribe rankings and notes into the feedback form.

6. *Our response (ten minutes)*

This discussion enables the group to consider briefly you/your congregation/organisation's willingness to commit to sharing in the implementation of the report.

 *Having read the draft report, consider these questions:*

1. *Do we support its implementation in the life of the Uniting Church in Queensland? (rate 1-5)*
2. *Are we prepared to commit ourselves to collaborating with others to implement it?*
3. *If not, what could be different about the report to enable us to do so?*
4. *How will we know if we've been successful?*

Record notes from the discussion on a separate sheet of butcher's paper or directly into the feedback form linked above.

7. *Other comments (five minutes)*

 *What else do we want the Project Plenty team to know about our context that would help ensure the final report to the 35th Synod in October reflects our experience?*

Transcribe any comments into the feedback form.

8. *Close in prayer (five minutes)*

Thank everybody for participating, including on behalf of the Project Plenty team. Assure participants that their contributions are highly valued and then close in prayer:

 *Let's close in prayer.*

God of grace,

We give thanks for these conversations and reflections today. For the opportunity to listen, and to speak. For the chance to be still to listen for your call to us to love our neighbours as we serve you. We commit these conversations into your hands, and into the care of the Project Plenty team,

knowing they will join the conversations and reflections of others from right across our church. We pray for wisdom, discernment, clarity and courage for those who will gather in October at the Synod meeting to reflect deeply on these thoughts, listening for your voice as they do so. And we pray for one another, giving thanks for each one in this discussion. Giving thanks for the one with whom we have much in common, and for the one who sees things differently from us. We pray you continue to unite us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

9. After the session

Transcribe notes from each session into the feedback form and upload as soon as possible. In case of any difficulty contact the project team via email at projectplenty@ucaqld.com.au.

Feedback Form: Survey monkey form as outlined separately