



Report from

Synod Chaplaincy Commission

pastoral
living faith in every space
apostolic
guest
relational
incarnational
chaplaincy
community
transformative

Report

The Chaplaincy Commission is reimagining its future and how it might best serve the church through a strategy development process to produce a strategic plan that aligns with Project Plenty and gives direction and purpose as an integral ministry within the Queensland Synod.

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

- Engaged across the Synod promoting the positive and necessary role of chaplaincy in informing the ministry of the whole church, in particular within the Project Plenty conversation and Transforming Communities, the Strategic Presence conversation and Missional Presence: Health and Vitality, and the Business Development Unit and Trauma Informed Ministry.
- Built on the collaboration between the Chaplaincy Commission, UnitingCare and Wesley Mission Queensland and relationships with presbytery leadership strengthening our life together.
- Provided oversight and management of chaplaincy placements and processes.
- Explored new expressions of chaplaincy.
- Continued exploration around potential new income streams
- Reimagined the future of the Chaplaincy Commission through a strategy development process to produce a strategic plan that aligns with Project Plenty and gives direction and purpose as an integral ministry within the Queensland Synod.
- Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in supporting and reimagining new ways of providing chaplaincy, resourcing and professional development opportunities

Highlights

- In partnership with UnitingCare, initiated development of entry-level pastoral and spiritual care training opportunities to build volunteer base and capacity fostering a renewed discipleship culture (Volunteers C.A.R.E).

- Contributed to the revision of the Framework for Integration of Spiritual Care in Queensland Health Facilities
- Created resources for Chaplaincy Sunday.
- Organised online Chaplaincy Affirmation Forums.
- We have amazing chaplains who are continuing to respond to the changing expectations and responsibilities of their ministry contexts.
- The increasing complexity of different contexts of chaplaincy and rising community expectations and the impact on training, resourcing, and professional development needs.
- The importance of a One Church approach and the strength and wisdom of diverse voices contributing to the health and vitality of the whole church.

Project Plenty

Provided input into the Project Plenty consultation process and received feedback from consultations held.

Challenges/risks as we progress

Reimagining of the future of the Chaplaincy Commission intentionally to align with Project Plenty.

Proposals to the 35th Synod

It is proposed that the 35th Synod receive this report.

Contact for report questions

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