



Allora Uniting Church  
44 Warwick St, Allora

23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) Report

**Members:** Rev Adam Tipple (Chairperson); Allison Kahler (Secretary); Ps Jenny Noble (Treasurer); Rev Yvonne McRostie (Presbytery Minister); Rev Marius Kruger; Kath Warner; Sharon Baker; Rev Rob Callow (Resource Minister/Property Committee)

**Meetings:** 28<sup>th</sup> November, 24<sup>th</sup> January

**Scheduled Meetings:** 12<sup>th</sup> March

### Please pray for:

- Give thanks for everyone who is stepping down from Presbytery roles this meeting.
- All those who have nominated for Presbytery roles at the coming meeting.
- Anni Cramb as she starts work with the Presbytery as Administration Officer.
- Give thanks for Rev Rob Callow who finished his role with the Presbytery as Resource Minister and who will conclude serving on the property committee at the February meeting.
- Give thanks and pray for Rev Tanya Richards who commenced in the Connect 100 Community Chaplain role with UCQ and Lifeworks Uniting Church.
- Ask for guidance as we plan for the next few years and work out the best structure for our Presbytery.
- Give thanks for Rev Jenny Potter who concludes as Hospital Chaplain on 19<sup>th</sup> March, and pray for God's provision for our hospital pastoral care.

The Standing Committee continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis to deal with the ongoing running of the Presbytery between meetings.

As we look forward, we recognise that it is becoming more difficult to find nominees who are interested in serving in Presbytery roles. This reflects the reality that the administrative, pastoral, and legal space that the Presbytery works in is, at times, complex - we largely have an aging demographic, and there is declining denominational loyalty and interest in the other Councils of the church from congregation members. As part of our February meeting, we may have to look at restructuring the way that we 'do business' as a Presbytery. A possible solution is to have one committee combining the functions of the PSC and the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC).

Following the guidance of the last Presbytery meeting in November 2023, the PSC has been working with churches across the Presbytery to implement the new Combined Presbytery Mission Pool (CPMP) contributions. We recognise the special financial considerations and difficult circumstances that some congregations find themselves in, so have been negotiating reductions with some of the churches, as per our agreed policy from the last meeting. We are blessed that some churches have decided to give

more than they have been asked, for the coming year. The PSC also agreed a donations policy which has been sent to congregations.

As you may be aware the Presbytery Office has been without administrative support for close to 18 months. This has led to the Presbytery Minister having to complete additional administrative tasks. Recruiting to the position has been difficult, however we are pleased to share that after a successful trial, Ms Anni Cramb has been engaged on a casual basis to fill the position of Administration Officer. Anni is a member of the Lifeworks congregation.

As this is my last meeting at Presbytery Chairperson, having completed my three-year term, I would like to take this opportunity to offer thanks. Firstly, thanks to God for everything that is happening through our Presbytery, for the many blessings we have seen over three years (such as the creation of the Bottle Tree RAM, and the new ministries many of our congregations have begun), and for sustaining grace as I have juggled this role with my role at Lifeworks. While there have been challenges, there have also been many joys, and it has been a privilege to serve in this role. Thanks also to our amazing team; our Presbytery Minister Rev Yvonne McRostie; our PRC Chairperson Rev Anise Liebenberg; our Secretary Allison Kahler; our Treasurer Jenny Noble; our PSC, PRC and Property Committee members; and our members of Presbytery. We have been richly blessed by the energy, love and gifts that have been shared in this space over the last three years.

Other significant matters that the PSC have attended to since the last meeting are covered below in the dot points, with supporting documents available with the reports for the February meeting. If you would like more information about any of these matters or other PSC work, questions on notice for our February meeting will be helpful.

Please note that financial matters will be covered in detail as part of our Treasurer's Report, and property matters as part of our Property Report.

## Significant Matters

- Endorsed the Warwick Killarney Uniting Church Housing Opportunity Project submitted to the Finance and Property Board on 8th September and endorsed the decision of the Warwick Killarney Parish Church Council to the registration of a bond (mortgage) for 20 years over the total Warwick and Killarney church properties to meet the requirements set out by the State Government Department of Housing Grant HIF. Further the Presbytery Standing Committee commends this decision to the Queensland Synod FIP Board for approval. Rev Ansie Liebenberg (Warwick-Killarney) will give an update of this project to the February Presbytery Meeting, and a formal resolution may need to be tabled at this meeting of the Presbytery.
- Presbytery Executive met with the Moderator (Rev Bruce Moore) and the General Secretary (Rev Dr Adam McIntosh) on 11<sup>th</sup> December to discuss issues pertinent to the Presbytery. A good time of sharing and prayer to help establish relationships with the new Synod team.
- Considered the development of a Presbytery Remote Travel Policy (thanks to the Property Committee for this).
- The existing Presbytery Property Committee was appointed by the PSC and endorsed by the full Presbytery in July 2022. There was no timeline as to how long the members of this committee

should serve. Considering this the recommendation is that the new PSC shall 'check-in' with existing Property Committee members, to see if they are willing to continue in these roles. Based on these conversations the PSC to bring a recommendation to the June 2024 meeting about the appointment and terms of this committee.

- Agreed to the recommendation of the Life and Witness Consultation of St Stephen's Uniting Church to enter a process of listening and reconciliation to help build relationships and trust between the church and the Presbytery.

### Recommendations

1. That this report be received.
2. That the existing Presbytery Property Committee (Jenny Noble, Gordon Gillmore and Ian Darnell), be approved to continue in these roles until the June 2024 Presbytery Meeting, at which time the PSC will bring a recommendation about the composition of this committee.

Report Submitted by:

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*If you have questions, please email before the meeting.*