



ALLORA UNITING CHURCH  
44 Warwick St, ALLORA

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

## Pastoral Relations Committee Report

### Prayer Points

- Praise and thank God for the minister and leadership of Rev Rob Callow and Rev Jenny Potter as they begin in new roles.
- Thank God for the safe arrive of Rev Tanya Richards into the role of Community Chaplain
- Thanks for the concluding members of PRC Rev Ansie, Rev Willie, Cliff Forester, Jenny Noble and David Prestridge for their wisdom and sharing their skills in this area.
- For those who will join the team of PRC for guidance as we begin this new season.
- For SCOTS PGC College Chaplaincy position
- For the members of the Cambooya congregation as we remember the ministry of 117 years in that community.
- For Granite Belt Parish, Middle Ridge UC and St Stephen’s Toowoomba as we work together on the recommendations of the Life and Witness Consultations.
- For the Bush Chaplains and the Remote and Rural Areas of this Presbytery. We give thanks for Frontier Services and UnitingCare Qld for their financial support.

### Membership

Members	December	February
Rev Ansie Liebenberg (Ministry Chair - term concludes Feb 2024)	√	√
Rev Yvonne McRostie (Ministry – Secretary)	√	√
Warren Midgley (Lay – term concludes Feb 2025)	√	√
Jenny Noble (Lay – term concludes Feb 2024)	√	Apology
David Prestridge (Lay co-opted concludes Feb 2024)	√	√
Cliff Forrester (Lay co-opted concludes Feb 2024)	√	Resigned as at 31.12.23
Rev Rob Callow (Associated 01.02.23 concluding 31.12.2023)	Apology	Concluded 31.12.23
Rev Willie Liebenberg (Ordained c0-opted concluding Feb 24)	√	√

### Upcoming Proposed Meeting Dates for PRC

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March; 9<sup>th</sup> April; 7<sup>th</sup> May; 4<sup>th</sup> June; 9<sup>th</sup> July; 6<sup>th</sup> August; 3<sup>rd</sup> September; 1<sup>st</sup> October;

If you have any business for PRC please send it to [pm@downspresbytery.org.au](mailto:pm@downspresbytery.org.au) one week before the meeting date.

The regulations require that this committee provide a report ‘with due regard to the confidentiality of the information given to the Committee’ (Reg 3.7.3(b)(iv)).

This committee continues to work within this agreed behavioral framework:

1. That we make decisions justly, with kindness and humility.
2. Remember that we are making decisions about people, and we need to care for their humanity.
3. We talk about people as if they are in the room.
4. Be courageous enough to have difficult conversations.
5. Honest

## A Note from outgoing Chairperson

Serving as the chairperson of the PRC has been a privilege, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I would like to express my gratitude towards the Warwick Killarney Parish for their generosity and support whilst I was undertaking this task. The geographical distance added a layer of difficulty for me, but the encouragement and the new insights learnt, made up for it.

I want to thank those who have offered time and energy whilst serving on the PRC. We have endeavoured during this time to establish zones with members of PRC checking in pastorally on congregations and although it has been a mix bag of results, it is my prayer that all congregations received at least one or two phone calls or visits. A further initiative that we have embarked on was the reintroducing of Life and Witness consultations. The hope was to use a standardise software program that would collate data and give comparisons across the Presbytery. This is an ongoing journey, and I am sure will be fine-tuned in the future to give a great overview and insight into the life and work of all our congregations.

I was blessed by some of the stories we heard and some of the many varied activities across the presbytery. I will continue to pray for you as we continue to love God and love each other.

## Report

### Congregation/Ministry Updates

1. **Rural and Remote Committee (See separate Proposal 3.1)** – PRC has seen the need for a committee to focus on the mission and vision of rural and remote ministries and has been working on this project since before the CBW placement was filled. This committee will support, pray and strategically plan with our Bush Chaplains so as to assist the whole Presbytery in its overall vision.
2. **Extension of Congregation Placement Beyond the Tenth Year (Reg 2.6.8)** – PRC receive a request from both Rev Ansie Liebenberg and Warwick Killarney to explore the extension of Rev Ansie's placement beyond ten years. Rev Ansie and Rev Willie removed themselves from the deliberation on this matter and a full report will be tabled during the meeting by the Secretary of PRC.

3. **Ordination of Annie Baker as Deacon** – was held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at Middle Ridge Uniting Church. Annie received a call to be the Minister at St Paul’s Stafford Uniting Church to commence on 01.02.24. Her induction into this placement was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February.
4. **Induction of a Deacon Service** for Rev Tanya Richards as she commences her role as UCQ Connect 100 Community Chaplain with Lifeworks Uniting Church. The placement commenced on 01.01.2024 and the service of induction was held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2024.
5. **Service to Mark of Conclusion of a Placement** for Rev Jenny Potter (led by the Synod) will be held on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 5pm at Lifeworks Uniting Church**. Jenny has received a call to commence a new placement 1<sup>st</sup> May in Congregations of Central Western Qld UCA (COCWQUCA).
6. **Service to Dissolve the Cambooya Congregation** – to be held on Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm. We invite members of Presbytery to attend and share in the celebration of ministry in Cambooya for 117 years of ministry and pray for the Cambooya community as we seek a way forward to share the good news into the future.
7. **Rev Rob Callow** has requested a transfer of membership to Bremer Brisbane Presbytery for the time that he will be in supply at Ipswich.
8. **Rev Dylan Miegel** has submitted his application to the Reception of Ministers Committee on the completion of a year at St Stephen’s Uniting Church.

## Pastoral Matters

The aim of connecting in the zone groups is for people to share pastoral concerns and celebrations with each other and for us all to pray for one another. One member of PRC is appointed to each zone and tries hard to make contact, however it would be great if people would contact their PRC member if there are pastoral concerns or celebration that you would like to share. As you can see with the reduction of members within the team this will stretch us so please remember to reach out to the PRC if you are needing support.

- 1) **Black Zone**  
Stanthorpe, Servernlea, Warwick, Killarney, Freestone, Nobby, Pilton, Allora, and Scots PGC
- 2) **Orange Zone** (Jenny Noble)  
Highfields Community Church, Crows Nest District Uniting Church (Crow’s Nest, Thornville, Ravensbourne) and Wilsonton
- 3) **Green Zone** (David Prestridge)  
Lifeworks, Oakey, Jondaryan, Dalby, Jandowae and Chinchilla
- 4) **Purple Zone** (Warren Midgley)  
Presbytery Office, Toowoomba Hospital, St Stephen’s, Cambooya, Pittsworth, Millmerran, Goondiwindi.

## 5) **Maroon Zone**

Middle Ridge, Blue Care, Cunnamulla Burke and Wills RAM, Bottle Tree RAM, St George

We celebrated some of the joys in these zones, in particular the ordination of Rev Annie Baker at Middle Ridge UC and induction service held in Lifeworks UC to welcome Rev Tanya Richards to her new role; the AGM reports received sharing the life of mission within congregations. We continue to pray for the hospital as it manages the reduction in paid chaplains with the conclusion of Rev Jenny Potter and rejoice in the CPE introducing new people to the pastoral care team; for Scot PCG College as it considers chaplaincy for 2024; for some health matters and the overall wellbeing of leaders.

## **Ministry Supply**

- Rev Rob Callow concluded his supply role of Resource Minister on 31.12.2023.

**Joint Nominating Committees (JNC)** – there are no vacancies within the Presbytery, the Chaplain vacancy at SCOT PGC College is a Synod placement in consultation with the Presbytery.

## **Life and Witness Consultations**

**Highfields Community Church** – still to happen

**Middle Ridge Uniting Church** (complete)– it was recommended that the Presbytery offer a Leaders Retreat and training for Leaders. The PRC has arranged for Rev Karen Ross, Chapel Hill Uniting Church to come on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April and lead a retreat for all leaders within congregations. More details to come soon. Training opportunities will be provided through the Centre for Ministry lead by Moreton River Presbytery details of upcoming events will be on the website and set out to leaders. Review with the congregation in June 2024.

**St Stephen's Uniting Church Toowoomba** (complete) – it was recommended that the PSC and PRC enter into a process of listening and reconciliation with the Elders Council of St Stephens congregation to build a more healthy relationship. This is being arranged through the PSC. A review of recommendations in July 2024.

**Granite Belt Uniting Church** – consultation will be held 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March led by Rev Yvonne McRostie, Mr Warren Midgley and Rev Tanya Richards.

## **Ministry Formation**

**Naomi Bell** – Naomi has successfully completed a year of formation and continues to be formed for ministry at TTQ. Naomi has also been regularly preaching across the Presbytery.

## **Synod Selection Panel**

At the June Presbytery 2023 it was resolved that subject to receiving a complete application that we would support the application to Synod Selection Panel for Ps Alisi Manu. All documentation has been received and will be forwarded to the Secretariat for the next round in May.

## Visiting Preachers Guidelines

Rev Rob Callow has been working with the Eastern Downs Parish to look at the guidelines for visiting Preacher with the aim to share their work across the Presbytery. Rob has kindly committed to completing this process while no longer in the role.

## Lay Presiding

Rev Dona Spencer led a Sacraments Refresher Workshop in the Maranoa Parish on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It was resolved to extend Lyn Kajewski; Beverley York; Beryl York and Lyn Bates for two years.

## Safe Church

Overall this Presbytery is doing well with keeping up to date with Safe Church. Thank you so much for your persistence and patience. The Synod Audit report for the year 2022 is attached to this report (with names of congregations excluded). Please contact the Presbytery Minister if your congregation needs support in accessing Educate or the correct training for your leaders. At the training held at this Presbytery we welcome Struan Robertson, Peter Rose (Risk and Assurance) and Angela Wooten (Learning) to observe and get feedback about the training.

Kath Warner and Yvonne McRostie led a Safe Church Introduction and Foundation Workshop at Crows Nest District UC on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and will do another one on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in Allora.

## Centre for Ministry and Leadership

Moreton Rivers Presbytery has generously offered other Presbyteries the opportunity to join into their opportunities for training and equipping lay people for different ministries. See the schedule below and if you have any questions contact the Presbytery Minister.

## Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. Extension Beyond the Tenth Year (to be tabled at the meeting)
3. Rural and Remote Committee Proposal (separate proposal 3.1)

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