

## **Rural and Remote Committee (RRC) Proposal**

Under Regulation 3.7.2 (a) (iv) it is proposed that the Presbytery establish a Rural and Remote Committee (RRC).

### **Rationale**

Around two-thirds of the area of The Downs Presbytery is covered by 2 designated Remote Area Ministries (RAM) - Cunnamulla Burke and Wills (CBW) (approx. 350000km<sup>2</sup>) and Bottle Tree (BT) (approx. 100000km<sup>2</sup>). We are blessed to have two Bush Chaplain in placements to provide ministry in those areas. The funding for both of these ministries is provided by Frontier Services (FS), UnitingCare Connect100 (UCQ) and the Presbytery (including some generous regular fundraisers and donations from congregations). The Presbytery has no formal structures in place to provide oversight and support for these placements.

### **Purpose of Rural and Remote Committee**

1. To prayer with and support Bush Chaplains;
2. To be strategic and advocate for rural and remote ministry within the Presbytery;
3. To liaise with funding bodies and the Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) for ongoing resources and support.

### **Membership of Rural and Remote Committee**

In line with Reg 3.7.2(e) the majority of this committee will be members of Presbytery and include:

- Bush Chaplains, Ministry Agents serving in the RAMs;
- Members of Presbytery passionate about Rural and Remote Ministry, preference given to members within the existing RAMs;
- At least one member of Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC);
- Co-opted members of communities - ie. ecumenical partners and community leaders.

### **Appointment of Members**

- Presbytery will appoint members to this committee for a negotiated term;
- PSC may co-opt members on requested;
- Members will adhere to the Safe Church Policy of the UCA and undergo any training required.

### **Responsibilities of The Rural and Remote Committee**

- (a) To give priority to supporting Bush Chaplains in their endeavours to build up their communities, and congregations within their areas in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading all to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.
- (b) Share with the Bush Chaplains in their mission and pastoral care for those within their areas;
- (c) Encourage and support the engagement of the Bush Chaplains to fulfil the PBI requirements of the funding bodies;
- (d) Make decisions in accordance with the Regulations concerning baptism, confirmations and membership, and the keeping of registers and records;
- (e) Determine, in consultation with Ecumenical partners, the time and place of public worship;
- (f) Manage the financial affairs and the general administration of the RAMs including the reception, preparation and presentation of all necessary budgets, funding submissions, financial records;

- (g) Review and update Memorandums of Understand and Ecumenical Covenants within the RAMs;
- (h) Prepare reports to the PSC including recommendations, proposals and documentation for activities of the UCA;
- (i) Prepare and reporting to each Presbytery meeting concerning the life and work of the RAMs, making recommendations with regard to the strategic vision and future direction for the regions.

**First meeting of the Rural and Remote Committee will**

- (a) Gather in prayer;
- (b) Appoint a Chair;
- (c) Appoint a member of the committee to keep records of meetings; prepare agenda and reports;
- (d) Establish regular online meeting times; and
- (e) Develop and expectations framework/charter;

**Prepared and Proposed by**

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on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Committee