

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
PRESBYTERY OF THE DOWNS  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
ALLORA UNITING CHURCH (Eastern Downs Parish)**

**ATTENDANCE**

Rev Yvonne McRostie	Presbytery Minister	Allison Kahler	Presbytery Secretary
Cyril Lietch	Wilsonton	Jenny Noble	Presbytery Treasurer
Rev Willie Liebenberg	Central Downs	Rita Wyse	Highfields
Kath Warner	Eastern Downs	Ps Alisi Manu	Dalby/Jandowae
Wilma Proudlock	Central Downs	Diane Cahill	Warwick/Killarney
Lyn Kajewski	Maranoa	David Cahill	Warwick/Killarney
Ps Peter Cole	Blue Care	Daphne Webster OAM	Oakey
Beryl York	Maranoa	Ps Cynthia Taafe	Crows Nest
Iven Hewitt	Highfields	Ian Williams	Dalby/Jandowae
Rev Jenny Potter	Hospital Chaplain	Rev Kaye Ronalds	Granite Belt
Rev Kate Fraser	Middle Ridge	Ian Darnell	Property Committee
Sarah Hamlyn Harris	Granite Belt	Sue Case	Crows Nest
Rev Dylan Miegel	St Stephens	Naomi Bell	Highfields
Yvonne Cornford	Central Downs	Rev Ansie Liebenberg	Warwick/Killarney
Warren Midgley	PRC	Rev Tanya Richards	Connect 100
Kerrie Andrews	Lifeworks	Rev Marius Kruger	Highfields
Sandy Adams	St Stephens	Rev Dona Spencer	Bottle Tree RAM
Les Adams	St Stephens	Ps Jenni Feldmeier	CBW RAM

**APOLOGIES**

Rev Adam Tipple	Presbytery Chair	Bobbie Perkins	Goondiwindi
Karen Dunmill	Goondiwindi	Rev Marius Kruger	Highfields Saturday
Naomi Bell	Highfields Saturday		

**CONGREGATIONS WITH NO ATTENDEES TO THE PRESBERTY MEETING**

Goondiwindi	St George	Chinchilla	
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**Movement of Members During Meeting**

Rev Dylan Miegel arrived 9:15 am Saturday

**FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

In the absence of the Presbytery Chair the Meeting was chaired by Rev Kaye Ronalds

**2024.02.01** Resolved to appoint Rev Kaye Ronalds to chair the meeting **Consensus**

Quorum as per regulations was reached

### **NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS**

Welcome to new Members - Rev Tanya Richards (Lifeworks Connect 100)

Visitors – Rev Bruce Moore (Moderator), Sam McDonell (Uniting Care), Jess Pinkerton (Synod), Rev Dr Peter Armstrong (Uniting Care), Geoff Howard (Uniting Care)

**2024.02.02** Resolved to associate Bruce Moore, Sam McDonell, Jess Pinkerton, Peter Armstrong, Geoff Howard with Presbytery **Consensus**

**2024.02.03** resolved to adopt the agenda **Consensus**

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**2024.02.04** Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Presbytery Meeting held at St Stephens (Toowoomba) dated 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with amendments to spelling errors **Consensus**

**2024.02.05** Resolved to receive the Correspondence Register **Consensus**

**2024.02.06** Resolved to receive the distributed reports. **Consensus**

**2024.02.07** Resolved to the approve the child and you risk management strategy **Consensus**

**2024.02.08** Resolved to adopt the Presbytery delegation policy **Consensus**

### **SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Catch up in Zones

**2024.02.09** Resolved to associate John Case with Presbytery **Consensus**

## **Bible Study**

From Synod in Session – Paul Jones

## **Election of Office Bearers**

Nominations Received:

Presbytery Chair – Rev John Case - 1 year

Presbytery Secretary – Allison Kahler – 2 years

Standing committee: Lay – Kath Warner – 3 years

Standing Committee: Ordained – Rev Dylan Meigel – 4 years

Pastoral Relations Committee: Lay- David Prestridge – 1 year

: Lay – Jenny Noble – 2 years

Pastoral Relations Committee: Ordained -Rev Dona Spencer – 2 years

**2024.02.11** Resolved to appoint Sarah Hamlyn-Harris and Sue Case scrutineers  
**Consensus**

Ballots were distributed with closing time for voting end of Lunch break

**2024.02.12** Resolved to associate Dr Stephen Hughes with Presbytery **Consensus**

## **Pastoral Care in Hospitals**

Rev Jenny Potter and Dr Stephen Hughes gave a presentation on the current situation of the Pastoral Care Service Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. With the decision from the Synod to no longer fund chaplains in Qld Health facilities discussion was held as to how to continue to provide a Uniting Church presence in health care settings. Resolutions presented as a part of the Hospital Chaplains report were presented

**2024.02.13** Resolved that the Presbytery develop a Position Description and Selection Criteria for a UCA Faith Co-ordinator to the Pastoral Care Team. This work is delegated to the PRC in consultation with the Co-ordinator of the Pastoral Care Service. This person would be a member of the Leadership Team and report to the Presbytery and the Ecumenical Hospital Pastoral Care Oversight Committee. They would provide support and encouragement to the UCA volunteers and be available for the peer mentoring program, speaking to churches, and recruiting new UCA volunteers. **Consensus**

**2024.02.14** Resolved that the Presbytery approve additional funds up to \$7000 per annum for 3 years to be paid into Pastoral Care Oversight Committee funds managed by the Catholic Diocese for the purpose of paying Pastoral Care volunteers to cover 4 nights/month on the after hours phone. **Consensus**

**2024.02.15** Resolved that the Presbytery approve the amended CPE subsidy policy as per Attachment 3. **Consensus**

**2024.02.16** Resolved that the Presbytery have an annual appeal to raise funds to support the work of Hospital Pastoral Care within Darling Downs Health Services. **Consensus**

### **Minute of Appreciation**

Minute of Appreciation for Jenny Potter was presented by Sandy Adams on conclusion of her placement as Hospital Chaplain

**Received with Acclamation**

### **Closure of Ballots Declared**

**2024.02.17** Resolved to associate Barbara Betts with Presbytery **Consensus**

### **Uniting Care Update**

Mission pastoral care – Blue Care in Facilities and opportunities for Blue Care Community

Grief and loss program – training the facilitators has been ongoing.

Data for 2020-2022 - 20 groups were held with 100 participants, 5 group were dementia grief and loss and 18 new facilitators were trained

Review of the program being currently being undertaken

Connect100 Chaplain, Rev Tanya Richards, is now in Toowoomba, opportunities to make more connections in the community.

Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy is being led by Rev Dr Linda Hamill for UCQ.

### **Declaration of Ballots**

Presbytery Chair – John Case

Presbytery Secretary – Allison Kahler

Standing Committee: Lay – Kath Warner

Standing Committee: Ordained – Rev Dylan Meigel

Pastoral Relation Committee: Lay - David Prestridge, Jenny Noble

Pastoral Relations Committee: Ordained - Rev Dona Spencer

**2024.02.18** Resolved that the ballot paper papers be destroyed **Consensus**

### **Recommendations from Reports**

#### **Standing Committee**

**2024.02.19** Resolved 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. **Consensus**

## **Warwick Killarney Affordable Housing Project**

An update on the project was presented by Rev Ansie Liebenberg. The congregation have been successful on obtaining the grant for the housing project and are currently in the process of negotiating the contracts.

### **2024.02.20 Resolved**

- 1) The housing investment fund (HIF) grant approval for the Warwick/Killarney Parish Affordable Housing Project be administered by the Synod Finance and Investment Property Board (FIPB) **Consensus**
- 2) To contribute \$50,000 from Presbytery Mission Development Fund (MDF) towards this project. **Consensus**

## **Pastoral Relations Committee Report**

Closure service for the Cambooya Congregation will be held Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm, members of the Presbytery are invited to attend.

## **Regulation 2.6.8 Extension past the 10<sup>th</sup> year Request**

Rev Ansie Liebenberg and Rev Willie Liebenberg vacated the room during the Item of business

A request was received by the PRC from the Warwick/Killarney Church Council to extend the placement of Rev Ansie Liebenberg past the 10<sup>th</sup> year.

Voting of the congregations have been held meeting the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> requirement as per the regulations.

Due to the housing project and the consistency of leadership the request has been made to extend the placement by 5 years to 2026.

Secret ballot was held to the resolution Reg 2.6.8(a)(ii) requiring 2/3 majority to be carried.

**2024.02.21** Presbytery agreed to extend the congregation placement of Rev Ansie Liebenberg by 5 years at the end of her 10<sup>th</sup> year.

## **Remote Area Council**

**2024.02.22** Under Regulation 3.7.2 (a)(iv) it is proposed that the Presbytery establish a Rural and Remote Committee (RRC) **Consensus**

## **Result of ballot – extension past the 10<sup>th</sup> year**

Having obtained the required majority as per the regulations the resolution to extend the placement was found in the affirmative

**2024.02.23** Resolved that the ballot paper papers be destroyed **Consensus**

## **Synod Report**

Rev Bruce Moore, Jess Pinkerton

- Synod resourcing review ongoing planning for a sustainable future
- Renewing realignment of resources, there will be some changes in the operations of the Synod, commencing in March.
- Resourcing – Lent and advent resources are available from the Synod
- Discipleship framework being trialed with congregations
- Networking – book club and prayer meeting.
- Intergeneration space
- Easter Madness - Thank you to the Downs Presbytery for their donation
- Training – Amplify by being held in Toowoomba

## **Eastern Downs Parish Story**

It is encouraging to see how the parish is going.

## **Property Report**

**2024.02.24** That the Presbytery notes the need for annual property checks as determined by the Queensland Synod. **Consensus**

**2024.02.25** That the Presbytery Standing Committee appoint a new chair for the PPC. **Consensus**

Until a new property chair is appoint, all members of the Property committee will have access to the Presbytery property email.

## **Presbytery Minister's Report**

The Complaints and Compliance process options are being explored by the PSI (Presbytery Synod Interface)

## **Blue care**

Thank you Sharon Baker for the work she has done at Blue Care, she will be missed by the residents and staff.

## **Toowoomba Churches Together/Interfaith Working Group**

Abrahamic faith gathering all welcome to attend,  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is being organised

16 faiths in Toowoomba currently in the working group 2 more faiths are interested in joining –

Radio slot, voices of faith is available for those interested

### **POD**

Thank you to Jenny Potter for her work in this space. Rev Willie Liebenberg has agreed to take on this responsibility.

### **Mission Moments**

#### **Oakey**

Community BBQ in the park has been supported by the Oakey Christian leaders network, and has received a council funded grant, and a New Hope Coal grant, from a small gathering this has grown to a large outreach

#### **CBW RAM**

New relationships are developing and re-engagement with community are showing green sprouts.

#### **Stanthorpe Retreat Walk**

Will be held on the May long weekend and advertised on the Presbytery Website

**Communications to Congregations** - Presbytery Reps are asked to report back to the congregations summary as below

- Support for Pastoral care
- Service of Closure of Cambooya Congregation
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 5pm concluding service for Jenny Potter
- Remote and regional council
- News at Warwick
- Walk at Stanthorpe
- Oakey story
- Visit from Moderator to present Moderator's Medal
- Easter Madness

#### **Thank you**

Rev Ansie Liebenberg – PRC Chair

Rev Adam Tipple – Presbytery Chair

Mrs Sharon Baker, Rev Marius Kruger, Mr Cliff Forrester, Rev Rob Callow

All members have faithfully served their terms of office and we thank them for the oversight they have given.

#### **Next Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Lifeworks

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Worship with the Allora Uniting Church Congregation, including the Presentation of the Moderator's Community Service Medal to Mrs Kath Warner by Moderator, Rev Bruce Moore.

Signed Presbytery Chair	Rev Kaye Ronalds
Signed Presbytery Secretary	Ms Allison Kahler