



#realunitingchurch

Report from Moreton Rivers Presbytery

Context

Moreton Rivers Presbytery covers the geographic area from just south of the Brisbane River to just north of the Caboolture River, west to Kilcoy and east to Bribie Island.

This area includes 40 rural, semi-rural, urban and central business district congregations and faith communities.

There are approximately 70 placements within the Presbytery covering a range of ministries placed within congregations, Wesley Mission Queensland, UnitingCare Queensland, the Synod office, hospitals, schools, police, army and presbytery roles.

Priority Directions

The Moreton Rivers Presbytery 2021 mission priorities are in line with the Synod Priority Directions.

- To be Christ-centred, at prayer, and listening
- Discipleship
- Leadership
- Connecting with communities
- Youth, children and families.
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Since the last Synod in session we have used the Synod-identified priorities to help us shape our Moreton Rivers Presbytery 2021: 'Let it Flow' mission priorities. These mission priorities (listed below) have been adopted by the Presbytery and progress is being made on achieving these outcomes.

The 'Let it Flow' theme picks up on the image of the rivers in the Moreton Rivers Presbytery logo, also on the idea of wanting to join 'in the flow' of where the Spirit is already at work in bringing life-giving water to mission and ministry. It is about having a 'strengths-based approach' to setting the mission priorities of the Presbytery.

The mission statement, guiding values and mission priorities found within this document have come out of the work done in the Presbytery consultation report presented by Spirited Consulting (Carolyn Kitto) at the November 2016 meeting of Presbytery, conversations at the ministers' retreats in 2016 and 2017, work done by the Presbytery staff and also the Presbytery Standing Committee. In particular the three action items recommended in the Kitto report have helped shape this document.

The Presbytery Standing Committee held 'Mission priority' planning days in February and May 2017. The draft of the document was presented at the Presbytery meeting on 8 March 2017 by Rev John Ruhle as part of the Standing Committee report.

The plan was adopted at the Presbytery meeting on 29 July 2017. This is not a 'linear plan' but a framework that provides some sign posts that point us in the direction of where we are wanting to go.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery 2021: 'Let it Flow'

Mission statement

Encouraging and equipping God's people for God's mission.

Guiding values

We value being:

- Strengths-based. We tell the good news stories of what God is already doing amongst us.
- Permission-giving. We are permission-giving in encouraging Spirit-led innovation and risk-taking.
- Outward-focussed. We are outward-focussed in our decisions and priorities.
- Generously collaborative. We work in collaborations with generosity and grace.

Mission priorities

While continuing to work within the regulations and policies of the Uniting Church in Australia, as a Presbytery we are committed to the following mission priorities for the period 2017 to 2021.

By 2021 Moreton Rivers Presbytery:



will be a lighthouse for youth and children's ministry



congregations and ministry agents will be equipped and active in mission



congregations will be working collaboratively for mission and ministry with schools/communities/agencies and other congregations.

Action points

Moreton Rivers Presbytery will be a lighthouse for youth and children's ministry.



- a) Seek to employ a full-time youth and children's ministry coordinator.
- b) Seek to employ a faith formation coordinator in collaboration with a preaching place.
- c) Continue and expand the mentoring of existing youth, children and family workers.
- d) Continue to build on the current range of events and programs for youth and children.
- e) Grow youth and children's ministry through collaborative partnerships.
- f) Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia about our youth and children's ministry.
- g) Encourage and equip through the Educating and Equipping Committee.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery congregations and ministry agents will be equipped and active in mission.



- a) Continue to employ the mission education officer.
- b) Employ a mission development officer – inner ring, in partnership with a preaching place.
- c) Employ a mission development officer – north, in partnership with a preaching place.
- d) Implement inner city church plant collaboration with Newlife Uniting Church.
- e) Support effective mission initiatives in the Presbytery.
- f) Increase greater engagement of Mission Shaped Ministry education by ministry agents and congregations.
- g) Initiate Fresh Expressions ministries.
- h) Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia of congregations active in mission.
- i) Encourage and equip through the Education and Equipping Committee.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery congregations will be working collaboratively for mission and ministry with schools/communities/agencies and other congregations.



- a) Focus collaborations on growing existing and Fresh Expressions of church.
- b) Enable and encourage congregations to collaborate with the wider Uniting Church in Australia.
- c) Enable and encourage congregations to collaborate with the wider community.
- d) Pastoral Relations Committee to be intentional in filling 'placements' that meet the goals of the 'Let it Flow' mission priorities.
- e) Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia of collaborations.
- f) Encourage and equip through the Resource and Pastoral Relations Committees.

Challenges/risks as we progress

Risks and challenges for the Presbytery revolve around people and not property or finance. A number of congregations are struggling to have the people resources to provide sustainable ministry and mission in their context.

We are also finding a lack of suitably trained people to take on ordained ministry roles within the Presbytery.

The challenge of having suitably trained people for ordained ministry is being partly met through an additional focus on people entering into their Period of Discernment (we have a POD coordinator employed by the Presbytery part-time) and also by supporting the initiatives of Trinity College Queensland.

Coupled with this, the Learning for Living course and Mission Shaped Ministry training are helping congregations to be equipped for mission and ministry in their own context.

Proposal

It is proposed that the 33rd Synod receive this report.

Contact for report questions:

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'LET IT FLOW'

MORETON RIVERS PRESBYTERY 2021: MISSION PRIORITIES

Mission Statement:

Encouraging and Equipping God's People for God's Mission

Guiding Values:

We value being:

Strengths Based

We tell the good news stories of what God is already doing amongst us;

Permission Giving

We are permission giving in encouraging Spirit-led innovation, & risk taking;

Outward Focussed

We are outward focussed in our decisions and priorities; and

Generously Collaborative We work in collaborations with generosity and grace.

"Let it Flow" Mission Priorities:

While continuing to work within the regulations and policies of the UCA, as a Presbytery we are committed to the following Mission Priorities for the period 2017 to 2021.

By 2021 Moreton Rivers Presbytery:



...will be a lighthouse for **Youth and Children's Ministry**;



...congregations and ministry agents will be equipped and active in **mission**; and



...congregations will be working **collaboratively** for mission and ministry with schools/communities/agencies and other congregations.

'LET it FLOW' MISSION PRIORITY ACTION POINTS:

Moreton Rivers Presbytery

will be a Lighthouse for Youth and Children's Ministry



- Seek to employ a full-time Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator;
- Seek to employ a Faith Formation Coordinator in collaboration with a preaching place;
- Continue and expand the mentoring of existing youth, children and family workers;
- Continue to build on the current range of events and programs for youth and children;
- Grow Youth and Children's ministry through collaborative partnerships;
- Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia about our Youth and Children's ministry; and
- Encourage and equip through the Educating and Equipping Committee.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery

congregations and ministry agents will be equipped and active in mission



- Continue to employ the Mission Education Officer;
- Employ a Mission Development Officer – Inner Ring in partnership with a preaching place;
- Employ a Mission Development Officer – North in partnership with a preaching place;
- Implement Inner City Church Plant collaboration with NewLife Uniting Church;
- Support effective mission initiatives in the Presbytery;
- Increase greater engagement of Mission Shaped Ministry education by ministry agents and congregations;
- Initiate *Fresh Expression* ministries;
- Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia of congregations active in mission; and
- Encourage and equip through the Education and Equipping Committee.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery

congregations will be working collaboratively for mission and ministry with schools/communities/agencies and other congregations.



- Focus collaborations on growing existing and *Fresh Expressions* of church;
- Enable and encourage congregations to collaborate with the wider Uniting Church in Australia;
- Enable and encourage congregations to collaborate with the wider community;
- Pastoral Relations Committee be intentional in filling "placements" that meet the goals of the "Let it Flow" Mission Priorities;
- Share stories and resources with the wider Uniting Church in Australia of collaborations; and
- Encourage and equip through the Resource and Pastoral Relations Committees.

Notes:

1. The 'Let it Flow' theme picks up on the image of the rivers in the MRP logo, also on the idea of wanting to join 'in the flow' of where the Spirit is already at work in bringing *life giving water* to mission and ministry in the MRP. It is about having a 'strengths based approach' to setting the mission priorities of the Presbytery.
2. The Mission Statement, Guiding Values and Mission Priorities found within this document have come out of the work done in the Presbytery Consultation report presented by Spirited Consulting (Carolyn Kitto) at the November 2016 meeting of Presbytery, the ministers' conversations at the Ministers Retreats in 2016 and 2017, work done by the Presbytery Staff and also the Presbytery Standing Committee. In particular the three *action items* recommended in the Kitto Report have helped shape this document.
3. The Presbytery Standing Committee held 'Mission Priority' planning days in February and May 2017.
4. The draft of this document was presented at the Presbytery meeting on the 8th March 2017 by Rev John Ruhle as a part of the Standing Committee report.
5. The plan was adopted at the Presbytery meeting on the 29th July 2017.
6. This is not a 'linear plan' but a framework that provides some *sign posts* that point us in the direction of where we are wanting to go.

TOGETHER ON THE WAY – ENRICHING COMMUNITY

The Moreton Rivers Presbytery 2021: "Let it Flow" Mission Priorities are in line with the Synod Priority Directions.



That the Synod, as part of its journey of **Together on the way, enriching community:**

- To be Christ centred, at prayer, and listening
 - Discipleship
 - Leadership
 - Connecting with communities
 - Youth, children and families
- ...as the church grows, transitions and innovates.