



ST STEPHENS UNITING CHURCH
51 Neil Street, Toowoomba

3rd – 5th November 2023

PRESBYTERY MINISTER

Please pray for...

- Those effected by fires and drought that we might respond as best we can.
- Prayer for rain.
- Prayer of thanks for the generosity of people.
- The new Bishop of Toowoomba for the Catholic church The Most Reverend Ken Howell, and for Bishop Robert as he moves into retirement.
- For those congregations not able to join us at Presbytery.
- For the leadership of the Presbyteries and of the Synod.
- For the National Assembly as it listens to the voice of the church through Act 2.
- For the wellbeing of our Lay Led Teams and Ministry Agents.

Report

Opening Comments – As I write this report our Presbytery, the Queensland Disaster Recovery Chaplains Network has been deployed to respond to the ongoing fire emergencies in Tara, Chinchilla, and Dalby. Today we also have seen several communities devastated by fast moving fires and many communities on watch and wait alert. Join with me in praying for safety and a calm measured response as we face this fire season.

At the end of this month, I would have been in this role for 4 years, I had committed for a 5-year term and have discerned, with the moderator, the chair of both the Presbytery and PRC, that there is more that I think I could offer this Presbytery as Presbytery Minister. I am optimistic about the future, even still with a sense of uncertainty around, but truly believe God is with us and is faithful even when we waver. It has been a life transforming experience to be your presbytery minister and I continue to be blessed by the people in the communities that make up this Presbytery.

I am also blessed to be a part of the team of Presbytery Ministers who work well together to equip and support the mission of God across Queensland. It has been a great privilege, as both complete their terms, to have worked with the General Secretary Rev Heather den Houting and Moderator Rev Andrew Gunton and I pray for them as they venture into new ministry opportunities. The Presbytery Ministers are looking forward to sharing ministry with Rev Bruce Moore (Moderator) and Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (General Secretary) for this next season.

Office Administration – the Presbytery and I has been blessed to have Rev Rob Callow in supply as Resource Minister. Rob has agreed to be in this role until the end of December. We are also blessed to have this new office space here at St Stephen – the Presbytery, in lieu of rent for 3 years invested in the redevelopment of this space to make it more accessible and useable. Administrative support into the future is still up in the air – we are engaging in the Synod Resourcing Review which is looking across Presbyteries at how we can share more effectively some resources such as administration. I am working with Kellie Broderick (Ministry Matters Unit) to see what is required to support the

administrative work of our Presbytery. We hope in the by the next Presbytery we will have some options.

Saltbush – the team at Saltbush continue to offer their gifts and skills and I would encourage people to take advantage of the Online Café sessions and the weekly Around the Bush – sharing life together.

Presbytery Synod Interface (PSI) – there has been a few changes in the team of PSI, David Busch (SMP) and Mark Cornford (MRP) has left their roles and we pray for those Presbyteries as they consider those roles. The main area of focus for PSI is resourcing the mission of the church effectively and well;

Pastoral Care Oversight Committee – there is much to celebrate as we to support the CPE training of Hospital Volunteers. The recent decision of the Standing Committee of Qld Synod to cease funding Hospital Chaplaincy from June 2024 has but a spanner in the works and is on the agenda for our next meeting. It is an incredible ecumenical team who provide pastoral care to people in vulnerable spaces.

Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group – it was a blessing to join with other faiths to prayer for the people of Israel and the Middle East, it was a space with many tears and prayer together. We also celebrated together as we walked the Carnival of Flowers parade as a common goal for harmony.

Things I have not completed and will be working (I haven't forgotten):

- Frontier Services funding acquittal for Bottle Tree RAM
- Remote Area Council – working to gather a group of people to support the two bush chaplains in prayer, some practical support, and as a sounding board – this group would have oversight of the funding options and take some report to both Frontier Services and the Presbytery Standing Committee
- Presbytery Governance Document

Here's what I've been since the last meeting:

18th – 21st June - UnitingCare Connect100 trip to Roma and Charleville including inspecting potential properties for purchase as a manse.

22nd June - Placements Committee

24th – 25th June - Warwick Uniting Church Celebration of Volunteers

28th June - St Stephen's Winter Homeless Shelter

1st July - Sacraments Workshop

2nd July - Preaching at Lifeworks UC

3rd July - Pastor competency training

4th July - Reception of Ministers meeting

5th July - Heads of Churches Breakfast

6th July - Commissioning Service for Peter Cole

6th July - General Secretary Recruitment Committee meeting

11 July - Installation of Bishop Ken Howell as the new Bishop for Toowoomba

12 July - Pastoral Relations Committee meeting/SSUC Winter Shelter
15th July - Birdsville Working Bee – Lifeworks UC
16th July - Chinchilla UC Commissioning of Elders and Church Council members
18th July - Presbytery Resourcing Meeting
19th July - Presbytery Synod Interface
20th July - Placements Committee
23rd July - Warwick UC
25th July - Pastoral Care Oversight Committee
25th July - Presbytery Standing Committee
26th July - Learning and Development Reference Group
30th July - Preaching Warwick UC
31st July - Opening of Protea Place Warwick
2nd August - Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group
2nd August - Abrahamic Faith Conversation on Sacred Places
3rd August - Placement Review meeting
4th August - First Aid Course
8th August - VAD Workshop
9th August - Pastoral Relations Committee
13th August - Nobby UC Mark of closure of Ministry/Ravensbourne UC Closure Service
14th August - Act 2 Conversation
17th August - Placements meeting
24th August - BlueCare 70th Anniversary Celebrations
27th August – 5th September – Outback Links Birdsville Races
31st August – Scots Chaplaincy meeting
6th September – Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group
8th September – Reception of Ministers
9th September – Carnival of Flowers Working Bee
12th – 15th September – Ministry Agents Retreat
16th September – Carnival of Flowers Parade TIWG
17th September – CNDUC Commissioning Service – Cynthia Taafe
19th September - Placements review

20th September – Presbytery Synod Interface
21st September – Placement Committee
22nd September – 8th October ANNUL LEAVE
10th October – Heads of Church Breakfast/Hospital Chaplain’s Inservice
11th October – Pastoral Relations Committee
12th October – Placements Committee
14th October – Middle Ridge Church Council
15th October – Preached at Cambooya and chaired the Congregational Meeting
16th October – Chapel Service Scot PGC College
19th October – Scots PGC Chaplains meeting/Interfaith Peace Prayer Gathering
20th – 24th October – 37th Synod
29th October – Middle Ridge UC Congregational Meeting
30th October – Chapel Service Scots PGC College

Here’s what I am looking forward to in the near future:

9th November - Global Leadership Summit
18th November – National Peace Conference
24th November – UnitingCare Reconciliation Award Night
25th November – Synod Selection Panel

Self Care – I continue my hydro-therapy sessions three times a week and still weekly attend Handbell rehearsal and am looking forward to our Christmas concert; An almost daily chat with my granddaughter which is life-giving; volunteering at Orange Sky Laundry as much as I can; silent prayer and am enjoying walking with no pain.

Supervision – two sessions with my supervisor looking at what this role will look like for the next couple of years.

Continuing Education – First Aid Course.

Recommendations

1. That this report be received.

Report Submitted by:

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If you have questions, please email before the meeting.