



St Stephen's Uniting Church
51 Neil Street, Toowoomba

3rd – 5th November, 2023

Pastoral Relations Committee Report

Prayer Points:

- The members of Cambooya Congregation as they make the difficult decision to cease to be recognised as a congregation.
- For Nathan, Kate and William as they settle into Caboolture and consider the next stages of life together.
- For people to be called to share their gifts in the ministry exercised by Pastoral Relations Committee in 2024.
- Scots PGC College JNC as they discern the right person to be the chaplain in this space.
- Hospital Chaplains and the Presbytery as we discern how we can support this vital ministry into the future.
- The candidates for Ministry – Naomi and Annie and their families.
- The Lay Led Teams and those who share the ministry of Preaching that they know your presence as they prepare to minister in your name.
- Those communities effected by bushfires and the disaster and recovery chaplains as they support those communities.

Membership

Members	July	August	October
Rev Ansie Liebenberg (Ministry Chair - Term concludes Feb 2024)	√	√	√
Rev Yvonne McRostie (Ministry – Secretary)	√	√	√
Warren Midgley (Lay – term concludes Feb 2025)	√	√	Apology
Jenny Noble (Lay – term concludes Feb 2024)	Apology	√	√
David Prestridge (Lay co-opted concludes Feb 2024)	Apology	Apology	Apology
Cliff Forrester (Lay co-opted concludes Feb 2024)	√	√	Apology
Rev Willie Liebenberg (Ministry co-opted Feb 2024)	√	√	√
Rev Rob Callow (Associated 01.02.23 concluding 31.12.2023)	√	√	√

It was with regret that we received the resignation of Rev Kate Fraser as a member of PRC. The PRC has been blessed to have Kate as part of the team. Kate has offered to continue to offer support the PRC with training and equipping opportunities into the future and for that we are grateful.

Five of the seven members will be completing their term on the PRC at the February meeting. The roles and responsibilities of the PRC are an essential part of the Presbytery (see Appendix 1) – we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in exploring being a part of the PRC team.

Scheduled Meeting Dates:

8th November (online); 5th December (in person).

If you have any business for PRC please send it to 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

Report

Congregation/Ministry Updates

- **Commissioning of Ps Peter Cole** as BlueCare Chaplain 6th July at Middle Ridge UC. UnitingCare and the PRC agreed that Peter had completed the competencies required for Pastors. Rev Adam Tipple has agreed to be his mentor.
- **Commissioning of Ps Cynthia Taafe** CNDUC 17th September. The PRC agreed that Cynthia had completed the competencies required for Pastors. Cynthia has completed the Marriage Course with TCQ and will attend the next Sacrament Course at TCQ and Rev John Case has agreed to mentor Cynthia.
- **Commissioning of Ms Jennifer Feldmeier** 3rd November. The PRC agreed that Jennie had completed the competencies required for Pastors. Jennie will attend the next Sacraments Course and Marriage Course at TCQ. Rev Dona Spencer has agreed to mentor Jennie.
- **Service to Mark of conclusion of a Placement of Rev Nathan Barton** 13th August at Nobby Uniting Church. PRC received the resignation from Nathan from the .025 placement at Eastern Downs Parish effective 16th August.
- **Cambooya Uniting Church** – 15th October the Cambooya congregation meet and decided unanimously to cease to be recognized as a congregation as per Reg 3.4.3. The Presbytery Minister and Jenny Noble were in attendance and are pastorally supporting the remaining members to transfer their membership to other congregations. Laurice Martin has been invited to share at the Presbytery the journey they have been on that resulted in them making this decision. Please see the recommendation below.

- **Resignation from the UCA** – the PRC received a gracious letter of resignation from David Graham under Reg 2.10.3(a)(i). We responded to David thanking him for his faith service and extending a blessing to him and his family for the next season of his ministry. PRC advised the Synod Standing Committee to withdraw David’s recognition as a MOW in the UCA.
- **Follow up from Code of Ethics Refresher in June** – the PRC arranged for Rev Dr Adam McIntosh to lead a Zoom workshop on 8th August to do some more work on record keeping and for if people still had questions regarding their responsibilities regarding the VAD laws.
- **Scots PGC College Chapel Services** – thank you to the ministry agents who offered to lead the chapel services at the college during Term 4.
- **Retired Ministers** – thank you to Jenny Noble who has taken on the support of retired ministers and their partners.

Pastoral Matters

A reminder of the Zones – at our meeting there will be opportunity to gather in your Zone to share conversation and prayer, green shoots and challenges.

- 1) **Black Zone** (Ansie Liebenberg)
Stanthorpe, Severnlea, Warwick, Killarney, Freestone, Nobby, Pilton, Allora, and Scots PGC
- 2) **Orange Zone** (Cliff Forrester)
Highfields Community Church, Crows Nest District Uniting Church (Crow’s Nest, Thornville, Ravensbourne) and Wilsonton
- 3) **Green Zone** (David Prestridge and Jenny Noble)
Lifeworks, Oakey, Jondaryan, Dalby, Jandowae and Chinchilla
- 4) **Purple Zone** (Warren Midgley)
Presbytery Office, Toowoomba Hospital, St Stephen’s, Cambooya, Pittsworth, Millmerran, Goondiwindi, Yerlarbon (Ecumenical)
- 5) **Red Zone** (Willie Liebenberg)
Middle Ridge, Blue Care, Cunnamulla Burke and Wills RAM, Maranoa Parish, Bottle Tree RAM, St George

Ministry Supply

- Presbytery Resource Minister (0.5) – Rev Rob Callow from 01.03.2023 – 30.06.2023 extended to 30th September 2023; further extension to 31.12.2023.

Lay Presiding – thank you to Rev Kate Fraser who led two workshops to encourage and support the valuable lay presiding ministry one at Middle Ridge Uniting Church on 1st July and 14th October at Pittsworth Uniting Church. Rev Dona Spencer will conduct similar training in the Maranoa region in the near future.

Since the last meeting PRC has authorized the following people to preside at the sacrament of Holy Communion:

- Joanne Evans – Oakey and District Uniting Church
- Graham O’Sullivan, Wilma Proudlock and Pat Forest - Central Downs Parish
- Daryal Simpson, David Cahill and Jean Reid - Warwick Killarney Uniting Church
- Edmund Pickering and Robyn Sloss – CNDUC subject to completing the Sacraments Course.

Joint Nominating Committees (JNC). There are two JNC currently discerning:

- UnitingCare Connect 100 Toowoomba Community Chaplain
- Scots PGC College Chaplain

Life and Witness Consultations

- **Middle Ridge Life and Witness Consultation** report was presented to the congregational meeting on 29th October. The Congregation are considering the recommendations of this report and the Presbytery has offered provide support in training and equipping leaders and to check in with the Leadership Team again in June 2024.
- St Stephen’s Consultation is in progress.
- 2024 Consultations - Lifeworks UC, Granite Belt Parish and Eastern Downs Parish.

Ministry Formation

Annie Baker – Annie is in the transition stage of Formation and has been interviewed by the Advisory Committee for Ministerial Placements. In preparation for her receiving a letter of call and an exit certificate from the Board of Christian Formation the PRC has interviewed Annie and prepared a report and recommendation to the present to the Presbytery in Session as a Fixed Order of the Day.

Naomi Bell – the next Formation Panel for Naomi is 9th November.

Rev Dylan Miegel – Dylan, as a minister transferring from another denomination, is currently in the Reception of Ministers process. Rev Rob Callow has been appointed his mentor for this process.

Synod Selection for Candidates

At the last Presbytery meeting the Presbytery agreed to put forward the name of Alisi Manu to the Synod Selection Panel (SSP) subject to the PRC receiving all the documentation needed to complete the application before the due date. Unfortunately, the documentation was not completed in time, therefore, in consultation with Alisi, it was decided that her application be postponed until the next round in March 2024.

Training and Equipping

- PRC is working on a remote area training package to include Safe Church, Lay Presiding, VAD, Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Presbytery support the decision of the Cambooya Uniting Church to cease to be recognized as a congregation as per Reg 3.4.3.
3. That the Presbytery to join with the community of Cambooya to celebrate the 117 years of continuous worship, witness and service.
4. That the Presbytery approve the ordination of Mrs Annie Baker as per Reg 2.4.5(b) subject to her receiving a letter of call to a placement and an Exit Certificate from the Board of Christian Formation.

Name: Rev Ansie Liebenberg
Role: Chair PRC
Email: minister@wkuc.org.au
Mobile Number: 0481 713 761

Name: Rev Yvonne McRostie
Role: Secretary PRC
Email: pm@downspresbytery.org.au
Mobile Number: 0427 962 781

APPENDIX 1

Roles and Responsibilities of the Pastoral Relations Committee

1. The Pastoral Relations Committee shall consist of the Presbytery's representatives on the Advisory Committee for Ministerial Placements together with at least three other persons appointed by the Presbytery, provided the membership includes at least two ministers and two lay persons: Reg. 3.7.3 (a).
2. The Pastoral Relations Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Presbytery, so appointed by the Presbytery: Reg. 3.7.3 (c).
3. The Pastoral Relations Committee's responsibilities, in accordance with Regulation 3.7.3 (b), include:
 - a) Overseeing relations between ministry agents and congregations;
 - b) Counselling on ministry responsibilities and relationships (see Reg. 5.4.3);
 - c) Counselling on ministry enrichment, encouragement and ethics;
 - d) Appropriate reporting to Presbytery (see Reg. 5.4.3. (b) and (d));
 - e) Conferring with ministry agents on change of placement and advising Presbytery;
 - f) Dealing with ministerial placement matters delegated to it;
 - g) Dealing with complaints regarding Church Discipline and Minister's conduct, excluding complaints of sexual misconduct (see Regs. 5.4.3 and 5.6);
 - h) Supporting and assisting ministerial agents not in placement and those awaiting placement;
 - i) Determining the manner of appointment of persons to preside at worship and preach in a congregation when there is no Minister in placement.
4. The Pastoral Relations committee may be delegated authority by the Presbytery to terminate a placement of a Minister, Youth Worker or Lay Pastor in a Congregation or other than in a Congregation and if so, it must act in accordance with Reg. 2.10.1.
5. The Pastoral Relations Committee may be delegated authority under Reg. 3.7.3(b) in relation to the placement's process for Issuing a Call as per Reg. 2.6.6(m).
6. Assist the Presbytery to fulfil its responsibilities and exercise any delegated authority from the Presbytery, for the following responsibilities (See Reg. 2):
 - Selection of Candidates for Minister: Reg. 2.3.2.3
 - Change of ordained Ministry: Reg. 2.3.2.6
 - Pastoral care of Candidates and Certificated Candidates: Reg. 2.4.2
 - Competency development for Pastors: Reg. 2.4.3
 - Recognition and ordination of Ministers: Reg. 2.4.5
 - Recognition of Ministry of Pastor: Reg. 2.4.6
 - Admission of former Ministers: Reg 2.5.3.2
 - Certain participation in designation, eligibility, call and placement, absence and retirement of Ministers and other ministry agents: Regs. 2.6.1-2.6.9 and Regs. 3.1.3 (k)-(n) and (q)-(r);
 - Certain participation in determination of stipends and conditions for Ministers and ministry agents: 2.7.1- 2.7.6
 - Inducting Ministers into placement and conducting the service of Induction: Reg. 2.8.1

- Conducting commissioning services for Pastors: Reg. 2.8.2
- Conduct commencement services for Lay Pastors and Youth Workers: Reg. 2.8.3
- Pastoral care and oversight of Lay Pastors: 2.9.6
- Termination of placement of a Lay Pastor: Reg. 2.10.1
- Pastoral care and oversight of Youth Workers and Community Ministers: Reg 2.9.6
- Termination of placement of a Minister or Youth Worker: Reg. 2.10.1
- Termination of recognition of a Pastor: Reg. 2.10.2
- Acceptance of a Minister's resignation from the Ministry: Reg. 2.10.3
- Conducting a service of conclusion at the end of a Ministerial Agent's placement;
- Approval and oversight of Ministers-in-Association: Reg. 2.11.1
- Counselling and discipline of Ministers in accordance with Reg 5.4.2, excluding complaints of sexual misconduct (See Reg 5.6).
- Exercise its responsibility under Reg. 5.4.3, at intervals determined by Presbytery, for the counselling of Ministers;
- Exercise any delegated authority to inspect and report on congregational membership rolls: Reg.1.6.3;
- Assist the Presbytery to conduct a consultation on the life and witness of its congregations: (See Reg. 3.1.4);
- Fulfil all responsibilities for Lay Preachers
 - Candidature and selection of Lay Preachers: Reg. 2.3.4
 - Recognition of Lay Preachers: Reg. 2.4.7
 - Oversight of Lay Preachers: Reg. 3.1.3 (j)
 - Withdrawal of Recognition of a Lay Preacher: Reg. 2.10.4

Report on fulfilment of its responsibilities to each meeting of the Standing Committee and to the Presbytery, consistently with any obligation to respect personal privacy;