

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING
PRESBYTERY OF THE DOWNS
16th – 18th June 2023
MIDDLE RIDGE UNITING CHURCH**

ATTENDANCE

Rev Yvonne McRostie	Presbytery Minister	Allison Kahler	Presbytery Secretary
		Jenny Noble	Presbytery Treasurer
Rev Willie Liebenberg	Central Downs	Cliff Forrester	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
Rev Rob Callow	Presbytery	Daphne Webster OAM	Oakey
Iven Hewitt	Highfields	Rev Nathan Barton	ScotsPGC
Annie Baker	Middle Ridge	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
Jan Waller	Goondiwindi		

APOLOGIES

Rev Adam Tipple	Presbytery Chair	Beryl York	Maranoa
Sandy Adams	St Stephens	Rev Marius Kruger	Highfields
Les Adams	St Stephens	Sharon Baker	Middle Ridge
Karen Dunmill	Goondwindi		

CONGREGATIONS WITH NO ATTENDEES TO THE PRESBERTY MEETING

Lifeworks	Wilsonton	Chinchilla	Cambooya
St George			

FRIDAY 16th June 2023

Singing the Lord's song in a strange land - Worship

SATURDAY 17th June 2023

Welcome

Quorum as per regulations was reached

In the absence of Presbytery Chair Rev Adam Tipple meeting was chaired by Rev Kaye Ronalds

2023.06.01 Resolved that Rev Kay Ronalds be approved to chair the Presbytery meeting **consensus**

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Welcome to Visitors – Stuart Dempster (Synod), Grant Weaver (Synod), Rev Bruce Moore (Moderator Elect), Sam McDonnell (Uniting Care), Rev Wendy McHugh (UC Prison Ministry), Jessie Saunders (UC Prison Ministry), Linda Hansen (Uniting Care), Cynthia Taafe (Crows Nest District new ministry agent)

2023.06.02 Resolved to associate Stuart Dempster, Grant Weaver, Rev Bruce Moore, Sam McDonnell, Rev Wendy McHugh, Jessie Saunders, Linda Hansen, Cynthia Taafe with Presbytery **Consensus**

2023.06.03 resolved to adopt the agenda **Consensus**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2023.06.04 Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Presbytery Meeting held at Highfields dated February 2023 **Consensus**

2023.06.05 Resolved to receive the Correspondence Register with the added inclusion of the Synod Governance briefing document **Consensus**

2023.06.06 Resolved to receive the distributed reports. **Consensus**

Singing the Lord's song in a Strange Land

Bible Study

Webinar by Susan Beaumont 'Leading in a Liminal Season' and small group discussion.

Sarah Hamlyn-Harris arrived 9:06 am

Doug Foster arrived 9:12 am

Jenny Noble arrived 9:48am

2023.06.07 Resolved to associate Doug Foster, Synod Chaplaincy Coordinator with Presbytery **consensus**

Uniting Care - Prison Ministry

Rev Wendy McHugh, Jessie Saunders, Linda Hansen

- 40-50 volunteers cover 15 prisons.
- Provide Sunday services, art therapy, parcels of necessities post release
- High levels of homelessness after prison release, often leads to reoffending and incarceration to have roof over their head
- High ATSI incarceration rate
- There is a genuine openness to the word of God
- Needs more chaplains, working towards 1 chaplain for every 300 inmates
- New 1500 bed prison being built in the Lockyer Valley
- prayer from congregations welcome and congregations can provide places of inclusion for released prisoners

JNC Cunnamulla Burke and Wills Remote area Ministry

The Joint Nominating Committee presented the report for the JNC

Resolved that the Presbytery of the Downs extend a call to Jennifer Feldmeier for the position of Bush Chaplain, Cunnamulla Burke & Wills Remote Area Ministry, to commence 1st September 2023

Written ballot held

2023.06.08 Resolved to appoint Kath Warner and Sarah Hamlyn-Harris scrutineers **Consensus**

2023.06.09 Resolved to approve Andrew Reinke, Joanne Evans, Jan Denyer, Peter Campbell with Presbytery for the discussion on CPMP **Consensus**

Combined Presbytery Mission Pool (CPMP)

Attendance via Zoom – Karen Dunmill (Goondiwindi)

Small group discussion was held regarding the distributed discussion paper regarding the CPMP contributions for the 2024/2025 financial year and beyond

Wilma Proudlock and Yvonne Cornford departed the meeting

Results of Ballot – JNC Cunnamulla Burke & Wills Remote area Ministry

Result of the resolution was found in the affirmative

Application for Synod Selection Panel

The Pastoral Relations Committee received an application for consideration for candidature to the ministry of Minister of the Word from Alisi Manu. Alisi made a presentation regarding her application

Alisi Manu and Rev Willie Liebenberg vacated the room during the discussion

Recommendations for PRC Report

That the Presbytery endorse the application to Synod Selection Panel of Alisi Manu subject to the application being completed; (written ballot)

That the Presbytery delegates to the PRC the responsibility to ensure that the application is complete before submitting it to the SSP.

Written Ballot held

Combined Presbytery Mission Pool (CPMP) – Continued Discussion

Further discussion was held with two options being discussed.

2023.06.10 Resolved that for the 24/25 year budget CPMP for congregations will be calculated based on 10 % of general offerings, tithes, donations, rental income (excluding rent offset for ministry residences)

Those who are contributing at higher level should be encouraged to continue contributing at a higher level.

Consensus

Rev Kate Fraser arrived at 1:31 pm

SCOTS PGC Report

Closing liturgy for Nathan Barton as Chaplain at SCOTSPGC was conducted by Doug Foster

Results of Ballot – Application for Synod Selection Panel

Result of the resolution was found in the affirmative

Synod Report

Grant Weaver, Rev Bruce Moore

- Moderators induction will be held at Albert Street Uniting Church
- Synod Meeting will commence with small groups yarning circles. Intentional space for prayer and worship as per the manual for meeting. There will be a smaller number of attendees so setup of the conference rooms will be different than usual meetings

Connect 100 report

Sam McConnell

- Attempting to make 100 connections by 2024
- Core goals Shared ministry and mission, Pastoral care expansion's for UC Staff, Missional innovation for collaboration
- Bottle Tree connect 100 is live
- Toowoomba – developing a potential link

Nominations 17th Assembly

Nominations received

Lay – Sharon Baker

Ordained - Rev Adam Tipple

2023.06.11 Resolved to delegate Sharon Baker and Rev Adam Tipple as delegates to the Assembly

Consensus

Synod in Session Roll

2023.06.12 Resolved to add Jennifer Feldmeier and Les Johnson as additions for Lay names to Synod roll

Consensus

Recommendations from Reports

Standing Committee

Trinity Grove (Moreton Rivers) MDF of \$100,000 is being transferred to Highfields to paydown the current loan

MC3 Report

Verbal report given decision making matrix is being developed

Presbytery Minister Report

Carnival of Flowers Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group will be walking in the parade please see Yvonne if interested, Birdsville Races – plans in place for group attending to support Frontier Services

Bottle Tree RAM

Power point presentation of the first few months of the RAM

Pastoral Relations Cpmmittee

Safe Ministry

2023.06.13 Resolved That all presbytery delegates communicate the following message to their home churches:

- a. Safe Church practices are necessary and important.
- b. Across our district, we are doing well; our efforts are recognised and appreciated.
- c. We all need to keep progressing towards 100% compliance.
- d. The Synod offices know about the difficulties of the system and they are working to improve all of it.

Consensus

Lay Preachers

2023.06.14 Resolved that

1. recognised Lay Preachers may apply to the Presbytery for a 50% subsidy for continuing theological education (ie. National Lay Preachers Conference or study at Trinity College Queensland).
2. That Church Councils may apply to the Presbytery for a 50% subsidy for theological education (ie. National Lay Preachers Conference or study at Trinity College Queensland) for those they identify as having the gift of preaching and teaching.
3. That the Presbytery agrees to the Guidelines for subsidy

Consensus

General Business – MDF Accounts

2023.06.15 Resolved that Presbytery request the Synod Standing Committee extend the deadline for approved missional plans to spend old* MDF accounts from October to June 2024. **Consensus**

2023.06.16 Requests the Presbytery Property committee devise a “method of support” to assist congregations in discerning how best to utilise their MDF funds. **Consensus**

Daphne Webster departed 5:12pm

General Business – Presbytery Fundraising

The original Proposal was amended following discussion resolution one was not progressed, resolutions two proceeded

2023.06.17 Resolved that Presbytery Standing committee appoint a committee with appropriate knowledge and experience to develop a detailed proposal for employing a Presbytery Fundraiser covering employment models, management, financial accountability, legals and liability, relational dynamics, etc. This proposal would be presented at the November meeting of the Presbytery. **Consensus**

Mission moments Middle Ridge

Middle Ridge shared the story with a PowerPoint presentation

Jan Waller departed 5:42pm

2023.06.18 Resolved to destroy the ballot papers **Consensus**

Appreciations

Thank you to the members of Middle Ridge Uniting Church for their hospitality over the weekend.

Next Meeting Date

St Stephens Uniting Church November 3rd – 5th

Meeting finished with Singing the Lord’s song in a Strange Land

SUNDAY 18th June 2023

Worship with the Middle Ridge Congregation