



PITTSWORTH UNITING CHURCH  
15 Briggs St, Pittsworth, Queensland

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Presbytery Standing Committee Report, 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

**Members:** Rev Adam Tipple (Chairperson); Allison Kahler (Secretary); Ps Jenny Noble (Treasurer); Rev Yvonne McRostie (Presbytery Minister); Rev Marius Kruger; Kath Warner; Sharon Baker.

**Meetings:** 13<sup>th</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Scheduled Meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November

At our most recent presbytery meeting in Wilsonton we recognized some of the exciting new developments that are taking shape in our presbytery. These developments include deeper connections between some of the churches in our presbytery who are helping one another, the beginnings of adapting the 'Saltbush' model for rural and remote ministry to our presbytery, and the creation of the Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry, to be based in Roma.

As we look forward, it is going to be important for us to pray for these new developments and to ensure that we resource these life-giving projects, so that they may bloom. It is critical that we sustain ministry in the Downs, and it seems that the broader picture of how we do that is starting to take shape. Key elements of this will be:

- Exploring and resourcing a 'Saltbush' model for the scattered community.
- Ensuring that the 4 'pillar' congregations of Highfields Community Church, Lifeworks UC, Middle Ridge UC and St. Stephen's UC are able to thrive and grow, to the point where they can resource and support other congregations/faith communities in the presbytery.
- Supporting two Remote Area Ministry Bush Chaplains, and ensuring they can connect their ministry and communities in with the presbytery.
- Supporting and resourcing digital connections and ministry across the presbytery.

Alongside this we'll need to look at how we do business together, and how to ensure the presbytery administration runs more efficiently into the future. We have significant funds sitting in bank accounts, and it will be critical for our presbytery to examine ways in which we may use these funds to support our mission in the Downs. Our Treasurer Ps Jenny Noble will be leading a session on the presbytery's budget and CPMP allocations at our November meeting, and I commend that session to you all.

I again thank Annie Baker and Rev Yvonne McRostie for their work on the Presbytery Review which has been so valuable in shaping our vision and direction, and I also thank all the members of the presbytery team, for their input into the life of our presbytery.

I'd like to make special mention of Susan Popple our Presbytery Administrator. Susan has tendered her resignation, with her end date with the presbytery being Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

We thank God for Susan, and we thank Susan for her work over the 18 months she has been with us, and wish her all the best, as she seeks a new direction.

Other significant matters that the Standing Committee have attended to since the last meeting are covered below in the dot points, with supporting documents available with the reports for the November meeting. If you would like more information about any of these matters or other Standing Committee work, questions on notice for our November meeting will be helpful.

Please note that financial matters will be covered in detail as part of our Treasurer's Report, and property matters as part of our Property Report.

## Significant Matters

- A presbytery trailer with a cage has been purchased and is being stored in the shed at Lifeworks Uniting Church. This was used for Rev Yvonne McRostie's Birdsville trip.
- Marius Kruger has begun as the presbytery's representative on the Mission Collaboration and Coordination Committee (MC3).
- The work of building the new presbytery offices at St. Stephen's is well underway, and we're hopeful that this will be completed in November.
- Further to our July 2022 presbytery meeting (minutes ref 22.07.06, 07, 08 & 09) the Presbytery Standing Committee forwarded a letter of concern to the Synod Standing Committee regarding Blue Care. Rev Dr Adam McIntosh, Associate Director of Mission: Pastoral Care (Uniting Care) and a representative from Blue Care will attend our November meeting and speak to these concerns.
- Rev Yvonne McRostie and Rev Adam Tipple met with Luke Tanks (General Manager – Blue Care Regional and Remote South). Luke has been very open to working with our presbytery to ensure we have better connections with Blue Care in this region. We are intending to meet 2-3 times per year.
- Rev Yvonne McRostie has injured her knee on the long drive to Birdsville. This is impacting Yvonne considerably at times, and will likely require surgery. Susan Popple injured her shoulder and had to take 2 weeks sick leave. Both incidents have been reported through WorkCover and Chris Ikin from the Synod Office has been supporting Yvonne and Susan and ensuring that we are doing all the right things to manage this situation for them.
- Annie Baker's contract as Project Officer has been extended until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- We have agreed to lease a Toyota Fortuna for the Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry.
- Ps Jenny Noble will be concluding her ministry to the Maranoa congregations at the end of November.
- The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) for the Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry, Bush Chaplain, was formed after our July meeting and consisted of Rev Yvonne McRostie (Chair); Allison Kahler; Rev Rob Floyd (Acting National Director, Frontier Service); Scott Guyatt (UnitingCare, Connect 100); Lyn Kawjeski (Maranoa UC) and Ian Peters (Maranoa UC). The JNC is ready to present to this meeting a name for our prayerful consideration.
- A JNC has been formed for the Cunnamulla Burke & Wills Remote Area Ministry, consisting of Rev Yvonne McRostie (Chair); Rev Adam Tipple; Rev Rob Floyd (Acting National Director Frontier Services) and Jenny Noble (Presbytery). We are seeking 1 further nominations from the presbytery for this JNC – if you would like to nominate for this role, please speak with Rev Yvonne McRostie.

## Prayer Points

- Pray for Rev Yvonne McRostie as she deals with knee pain.
- Give thanks for Suan Popple, and pray for her new direction.
- Pray for Rev Dylan Miegel who will commence as the minister in placements at St. Stephen's UC in the New Year.
- Continue to uphold the Chinchilla congregation, and pray for good relations and good outcomes from their meetings.
- Pray for the new Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry, and the communities that this will influence.
- Pray for the presbytery's version of the Saltbush model to take further shape.
- Give thanks for Ps Jenny Noble's ministry in Maranoa, and pray for her and David as she retires from that role.
- Pray for the process of finding a new Presbytery Administrator, and that we find the right person.
- Pray for the JNC process for the Cunnamulla Burke & Wills Remote Area Ministry.

## Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the JNC for the Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry propose 'That the Presbytery extend a call to XXXX (name to be shared at presbytery meeting) for the position of Bush Chaplain, Bottle Tree Remote Area Minister to commence on 1st February, 2023'

Grace and Peace,

Rev Adam Tipple  
Presbytery Chairperson