



Pastoral Relations Committee Report

Prayer Points:

- Adam and his family as they grieve the death of Adam’s dad in the UK
- the family of Rev Lorna Skilton who passed away this week we thank God for her ministry and service.
- for key leaders in congregations who give generously in service to God and are feeling the pressure may they know your grace, peace and calm in the uncertainty of this time.
- For our ministry candidates as they do assignments, grow and continue to be formed for ministry.
- For those feeling a call on their lives to learn and grow in understanding of God.
- For our retired ministers, partners in ministry, and pastors - we give thanks to God for their service and wise counsel.
- For CNDUC and Cynthia as they transition into this new ministry relationship.
- For Nathan, Kate, William Barton and the Eastern Downs Parish as they minister together.
- For Scots PGC College students and staff for discernment for the way forward.

Membership

Members	May	June
Rev Ansie Liebenberg (Ministry Chair - Term concludes Feb 2024)	√	√
Rev Yvonne McRostie (Ministry – Secretary)	√	√
Kerrie Andrews (Lay – term concludes Feb 2024)	Apology	Apology
Warren Midgley (Lay – term concludes Feb 2025)	√	√
Jenny Noble (Lay – term concludes Feb 2024)	Apology	√
Rev Kate Fraser (Ministry – term concludes 2024)	√	√
David Prestridge (Lay co-opted concludes Feb 2024)	√	√
Cliff Forrester (Lay co-opted concludes Feb 2024)	√	√
Rev Willie Liebenberg (Ministry co-opted Feb 2024)	√	√
Rev Rob Callow (Associated 01.02.23 concluding 30.09.2023)	√	√

Kerrie Andrews has requested to stepped aside from her role on PRC for a time. We give thanks to God for her membership on this committee over the years and pray that she knows God’s presence with her.

Scheduled Meeting Dates:

12th July (in person); 9th August (via Zoom); 13th September (in person); 11th October (via Zoom); 8th November (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

- Crows Nest District Uniting Church has issued a call to Cynthia Taafe and she has accepted to begin on 1st September, 2023 at 0.7. This is exciting for the Presbytery and the district. Cynthia brings with her some amazing skills and gifts but most importantly a heart for growing disciples.
- Commissioning of Cynthia Taafe on **Sunday 17th September at Crows Nest Uniting Church.**
- Peter Cole began as the Chaplain at BlueCare on 1st June (he has moving leaving until 23rd June).
- Commissioning of Peter Cole will be on **Thursday 6th July at Middle Ridge Uniting Church.**
- Service of Mark the Closure of Ravensbourne Uniting Church will be held at 2pm on 13th August 2023.
- Marking of conclusion of Placement for Rev Nathan Barton as Chaplain, Scots PGC College.

Pastoral Matters

A reminder of the Zones – if you have good news stories or concerns, please make contact with others within your zone.

- 1) **Black Zone** (Ansie Liebenberg):
Stanthorpe, Servernlea, 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 and Willie Liebenburg)
Presbytery Office, Toowoomba Hospital, St Stephen's, Cambooya, Pittsworth, Millmerran, Goondiwindi, Yerlarbon (Ecumenical)
- 5) **Red Zone** (Kate Frazer and Kerry Andrews)
Middle Ridge, Blue Care, Cunnamulla Burke and Wills RAM, Maranoa Parish, Bottle Tree RAM, St George

Generally, reports from the zones are that people are very resilient and there are a lot of amazing ways that God is providing, growing and blessing communities around the Presbytery. One of the pinch points that we are recognising is the growing financial strains for congregations. Please be gentle with one another and give thanks to God for the work of your Church Councils and your treasurers.

Ministry Supply

- Crows Nest District Uniting Church – Rev John Case extended to 30.06.23
- Presbytery Resource Minister (0.5) – Rev Rob Callow from 01.03.2023 – 30.06.2023 extended to 30th September 2023.

Lay Presiding – a workshop to encourage and support the lay presiding ministry will be held at Middle Ridge Uniting Church on 1st July.

- Permission to preside at the sacrament of Eucharist has been given to Mrs Sharon Baker in her role as Spiritual and Pastoral Carer BlueCare
- Permission to preside at the sacrament of Eucharist has been given to Mr John Agnew, Mr Graham Hoey, Kath Warner, Julieanne Earl and Margaret Ferguson within Eastern Downs Parish (Allora, Pilton and Nobby UC).

Marriage Licensing

- PRC agreed to apply to the Qld Synod for Rev Dylan Miegel to receive a Marriage License.

Joint Nominating Committees (JNC)

- **Cunnamulla, Bourke and Wills RAM (FTE)** – The JNC members are Rev Yvonne McRostie (Chair); Rev Rob Floyd (Frontier services); Rev Adam Tipple and Mrs Jenny Noble. Rev Adam Tipple was unable to attend the conversations, so Rev Ansie Liebenberg was appointed in his place. A report has been given to the Standing Committee and a recommendation from the JNC will be given to the meeting.

Life and Witness Consultations

The Life and Witness Consultation for Middle Ridge Uniting Church is almost complete – the team of Rev Graham Huth, Rev Willie Liebenberg and Mr Warren Midgley have met with the congregation and continuing to gather information and will bring a report to PRC soon.

Upcoming Life and Witness Consultations:

- St Stephen's Toowoomba Uniting Church will be the second half of the year.
- 2024 Consultations - Lifeworks UC, Granite Belt and Eastern Downs Parish.

Ministry Formation

Annie Baker – Annie moves into the transition phase of Formation. We give thanks to God for Daphne Webster and the Oakey and District UC for their support of her in her field component and for her mentors Rev Willie Liebenberg and Rev Di Bos.

Naomi Bell – Naomi is doing well in her studies and continues in the Foundation Phase of Formation. We give thanks to God for her growth, commitment to her study, and for her willingness to share her gift of preaching and leading worship within this Presbytery.

Synod Selection for Candidates

The Presbytery has delegated to the PRC the responsibilities of Reg 2.3.2.1; 2.3.2.2 and 2.3.2.3(a). Considering that delegation the PRC received an application from Ps Alisi Manu to candidate as Minister of the Word.

Due to timing of this Presbytery meeting and the Selection Panel dates, Alisi's application is incomplete (reference checks; National Police Check; certified transcripts; and Church Council report are still required). As per 2.3.2.3(a)(iii) the PRC interviewed Alisi and have agreed, despite the incomplete application, has agreed by consensus to recommend her application to the Presbytery for consideration as per Reg 2.3.2.3(b).

A verbal report will be given during a Fixed order of the Day, and Alisi will share with you her journey to this point.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Presbytery endorse the application to Synod Selection Panel of Alisi Manu subject to the application being completed; (written ballot)
3. That the Presbytery delegates to the PRC the responsibility to ensure that the application is complete before submitting it to the SSP.
4. *See Lay Preachers Report*

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