

Working Group



Leanne Davis

“ The Strategic Priorities give us a way - as the whole church, to get involved and join God where God is at work in our world. ”



Rev Sue Page

“ There is something in the strategic priorities for everyone. I really hope that all parts of the church can take hold of the parts that they connect with and run with it. ”



Rev Nick Patselis

“ The team modelled one of the strengths of a gospel community. That we can be one in Christ and have genuine conversations on matters that are vitally important. ”

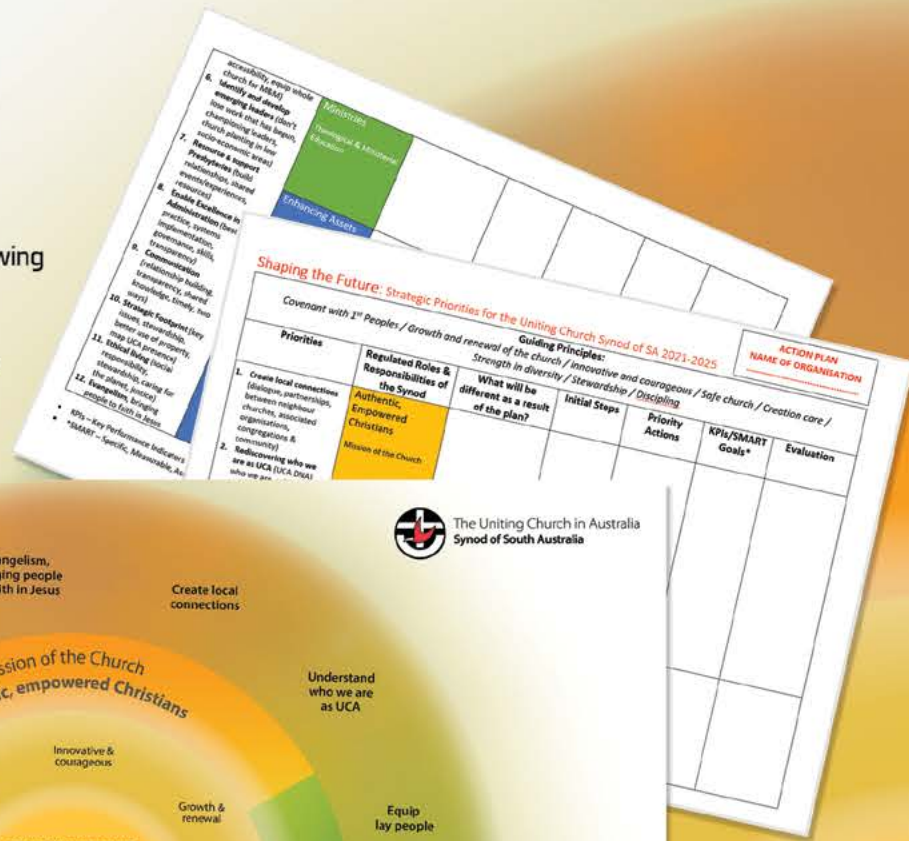


Ashlee Littleford

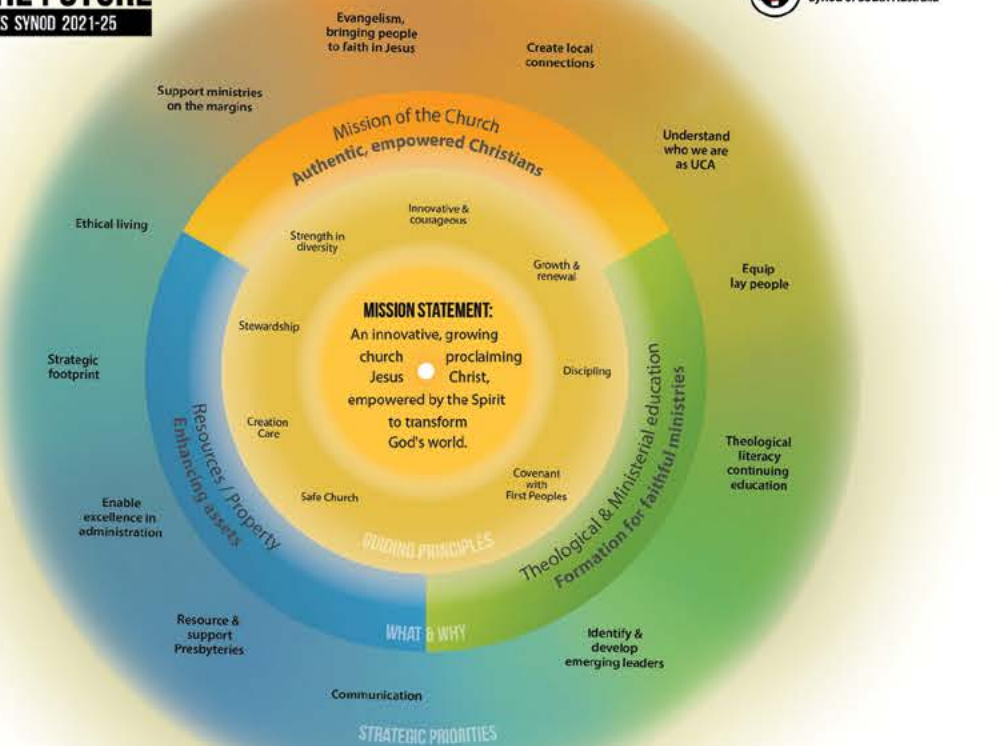
“ *Shaping the Future* provides an important opportunity for congregations and presbyteries to partner collaboratively, supporting ministries on the margins. ”

Download now

The Action Plan can be downloaded at the following link: sa.uca.org.au/shaping-the-future
To request copies of the wheel email engagement@sa.uca.org.au and include your postal address (there is a limit of 10 copies per congregation).



SHAPING THE FUTURE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES SYNOD 2021-25



Engage with us

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The United Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

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New Times



Working Group



Bronte Wilson

“ May we make the most of this opportunity to assess our own priorities and those of our ministry context. ”



Rev Andrew Robertson

“ I hope the strategic priorities give you an opportunity to share your ministry context and show how we are all aligned to the same goal, to extend the hope of Jesus. ”



Rev Dr Ian Price

“ This is a critical moment in our life together. Each part of the United Church in SA will have the opportunity to work together. This is a time to collaborate in service of Christ. ”



Bridget Ransome

“ I look forward to seeing how *Shaping the Future* will support and grow the United Church, both in community and in faith. ”

Shaping the Future

Priorities of the Synod of SA 2021-2025



Introduction

Rev Felicity Amery
General Secretary

In February 2021 the annual meeting of the South Australia Synod approved our *Shaping the Future – Strategic Priorities 2021-2025*. The Synod affirmed an understanding that 'The Synod' encompasses people gathering for ministry and mission throughout the state, a Council of the Church and staff who provide resources and support. The Synod embraced a process whereby the whole Church would speak into and find its place in identifying the church's priorities for this next season. You will hear and understand them as we form community, prayer and study scripture together, as we collaboratively discern and shape God's call on your ministry.

Using the colours of South Australia, our twelve (12) Strategic Priorities are offered to you as a wheel, designed to be in your hand, an invitation to play, and intentionally designed to encourage interaction – calling us to explore together what God might be up to in the world.

Central in the wheel and essential to the process is our mission statement – that we might become *an innovative growing church, proclaiming Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit to transform God's world.*

2021

Enable excellence in administration

Guiding Principles

Shaping our response to God's invitation and with the mission statement as our primary goal, the next part of the wheel sets out a series of guiding principles. You may see them as values and each one provides a lens through which all of our priorities pass:

-  Our Covenant with 1st Peoples
-  To be a Safe Church for all people
-  Growth and renewal of the church
-  To be innovative and courageous
-  Discipling
-  Caring for creation
-  Acknowledging there is strength in diversity
-  Stewardship.

Roles and Responsibilities

The third part of the wheel contains the three primary and regulated roles and responsibilities of the Synod. They are intentionally in a circle, not an ordered list and work interactively and together, and they move:

-  **Promote and encourage the Mission of the Church**
– assist congregations, presbyteries and other ministries to form authentic, empowered Christians to be the transforming presence of God in the world
-  **Oversight of the provision of Theological Education**
– helping in the formation of people who are faithfully responding to God's call in their lives
-  **Provide effective supervision of Property and Financial resources**
– enhancing our assets and stewardship of resources gifted to us for the mission of God in the world.

Next Steps

The twelve (12) priorities which form the outer circle of the wheel reflect our discernment. They echo the context in which the church is seeking to be present. They articulate points of energy, passion and call that the Synod has named through conversations with congregations, presbyteries, boards and committees, organisations, ministers, pastors and lay leaders.

The Strategic Priorities Working Group has developed an **Action Plan**. It is a template or a 'road-map' to help you document the priorities you and your ministry may be seeking to work and collaborate with the Synod on. The Action Plan can be downloaded at the following link: sa.uca.org.au/shaping-the-future.

Each congregation, committee or ministry team, in your capacity and role as the Synod, are encouraged to identify at least two priorities that fit and enhance your existing goals, and one new priority that would encourage you to be innovative and courageous. Members of the Working Group are available to help you. Please contact us through the contact information included in this publication.

When you have completed your Action Plan, please send it to engagement@sa.uca.org.au. We will place it on the Synod website and at future Synod meetings there will be the opportunity for people to share their action plans with the wider church.

2023

Theological literacy continuing education

Evangelism, bringing people to faith in Jesus

Strategic footprint

Equip lay people

Identify & develop emerging leaders

Communication

Ethical living

2022

2024

Resource & support Presbyteries

Create local connections

Support ministries on the margins

Understand who we are as UCA

2025



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

