



14 October 2019

**Dear Members, Ministry Agents, office bearers of the Uniting Church in South Australia**

Thank you for your ongoing contribution to the life and witness of the Uniting Church, for your faithful response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and your openness to the movement of God's Spirit.

As you know the Synod of SA has been participating in some restructuring to help strengthen our pastoral and missional support and resourcing of congregations and other ministries. At the June 2019 meeting of the Synod, two presbyteries were formed - the non geographic Generate Presbytery and the temporary Transitional Presbytery. In the weeks that have followed, over 600 people have participated in a series of conversations around the future of the Transitional Presbytery in the Synod of SA. The conversations which included a number of people from the Generate Presbytery, sought to actively listen to the voices of the church, about how they imagined the new presbyteries might reflect God's hope and purpose for the church.

The Restructuring Task Group has worked hard to prepare the landscape for multiple presbyteries. An extensive review of by-laws and rules associated with the separation of the One Presbytery One Synod model and the establishment of multiple presbyteries within one Synod has been necessary. This work has been undertaken by the Process and Implementation working group. Rev Sue Page has headed up this group. You will find some of the updated Synod By-Laws on the Synod website, as well as a working document exploring how the Regulations that guide the life of the presbyteries might work in our new structure on the presbytery restructure webpage. Much work and many conversations will need to happen as the new presbyteries form to clarify how each Presbytery will operate, and manage its life. Presbytery Rules will then need to be written. It is anticipated that this will take some time in the new year. As presbyteries form and discern how they want to work, the Associate General Secretary, and other Synod staff will be available to support and guide these conversations.

At a meeting of the Transitional Presbytery (21st September 2019) the Restructuring Task Group presented a series of proposals for consideration and discussion. The presbytery had opportunity to ask questions, raise issues of concern and affirm various aspects of the proposals. During October there is an opportunity for others to participate in a second round of conversations.

**This letter is an invitation for you and your congregation or ministry context to give feedback. I appreciate the time is short and we are not asking for congregations to organise meetings or vote on the proposals. We are simply asking you to share the information with your congregation and encourage people to offer feedback and ask questions that might help you and the Restructuring Task Group to prepare for the meeting of the Synod in November. I have attached the draft proposals with some explanation and rationale for your consideration.**

This letter is intentionally being sent to the whole church and we look forward to your feedback, by email, text, letters or phone messages. **You can contact us: [secretariat@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:secretariat@sa.uca.org.au) or phone 08 8236 4200.** Following the integration of your feedback the Restructuring Task Group will prepare a final series of proposals for the November meeting of the Synod.

We would also encourage members of the Transitional Presbytery to begin to consider who might be suitably gifted people to take on the office bearer roles for the new presbyteries. Two special conversations are being planned by the Transitional Presbytery. While these are not decision making bodies they are opportunities for interested people to gather and share ideas. The gatherings will be held on Saturday 26th October at Two Wells Uniting Church and Saturday 2nd November at Murray Bridge Uniting Church. You are welcome to attend and we encourage you to check the Transitional Presbytery website for further details.

Following the decision of the November Synod we anticipate giving the new presbyteries an opportunity to meet and elect office bearers so that the work of being a new presbytery can begin. The Synod will continue to offer support to all presbyteries during this transition period and beyond.

Thank you for spending some time reflecting on the proposals and we look forward to meeting with your representatives at Synod in November.

Grace and peace

**Rev Felicity Amery**  
*General Secretary*