



13 February 2019

## Progress Report: Non-Geographic Presbytery (NGP)

The NGP Task Group are off to a great start...

At the November 2018 Presbytery & Synod Annual Meeting, the Synod of South Australia agreed to form a Non-Geographic Presbytery prior to July 1, 2019.

[Download the full Proposal 28 from the website>](#)

[Download the Presbytery Circular>](#)

At that time a task group was appointed to work on the details listed in the proposal. The task group members are:

- Malcolm Wilson, General Secretary delegate
- Leanne Davis, appointed by Standing Committee
- Peter Battersby, appointed by the Resources Board
- Rev Barry Littleford, Convenor
- Rev Di Holden
- Rev Steph Tai
- Rev Dianna Muir

The task group began meeting regularly in mid-January and has met three times as a group and once with members of the Synod Office and Restructuring Task Group. The focus of both task groups' work so far has been reviewing the Constitution and Regulations responsibilities of a Presbytery. As you can imagine there have been numerous changes since these were first established in the 1970's and some elements which are listed as Presbytery responsibilities require high levels of privacy, legal or reporting requirements today. Their general view when reviewing these responsibilities has been that where this is the case then it is best held centrally with the Synod. If the responsibility is about ministry, mission or pastoral oversight then it will remain the responsibility of the relevant Presbytery. There are still a couple of items under review but the bulk of the items to be delegated to Synod will be presented to the Standing Committee for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

The NGP Task Group have also spent some time on membership of the Presbytery. The proposal going to the June Synod meeting states that membership will be made up of those *congregations/faith communities who decide to join the NGP by a decision of the congregation*. The process to indicate this will be made available to church councils soon.

The NGP Task Group has also reviewed the outcomes of the survey undertaken where congregations could indicate their informal preference for a particular Presbytery. The numbers collated in this survey are informing them as they do this work. Recognising the scope of the task groups brief they understand that

some Mission Networks will be holding information evenings about the Presbytery restructuring process which you can attend online or in person. We commend these to any congregation interested in finding out more.

Some areas which are still being worked through include:

- the name of the Presbytery
- financial arrangements
- and the process for implementing the recommendations of the NGP Task Group

As you can imagine these are difficult tasks. Please continue to pray for the NGP Task Group as they do this work on behalf of the wider church.

Blessings,

NGP Task Group