



25.1 CHURCH PLANTING TASK GROUP

Please note that the Church Planting Task Group deals with matters that relate to both the Presbyteries and the Synod of South Australia. As such the details are codified as Bylaws.

25.1.1 COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE

The Synod shall establish a Church Planting Task Group to:

- a. In collaboration with the Presbyteries and appropriate Ministry Centres of the Synod of SA consider the development of Church Planting and other innovative ministries in the bounds of the Synod of SA.
- b. Consider recommendations from Pastoral Relations Committees regarding applications for funding for the Church Planting and Ministry Development Fund. And make recommendations to Resources Board (or their delegated body) regarding funding.
- c. Help promote a culture within the Synod of SA where innovative ministries, including Church Planting and Fresh Expressions, are part of a growing understanding of discipleship.
- d. Encourage and promote models of congregational renewal and evangelism.

25.1.2 DEFINITIONS

The Fresh Expressions Team in the UK developed a model that talked about Listening – Serving – Community – Discipleship – Worship. In a “pure” Fresh Expression a team would listen first and then move through the continuum, finding authentic and culturally appropriate ways to serve, build community, grow disciples and develop worship.

Church Plants normally involve a team of people, or a Planter who quickly recruits a team, to plant a church with the intention of forming a worshipping community who disciple others. In terms of continuum shared above they start towards the other end with discipleship or worship first. In contrast Fresh Expressions normally involve a team engaging in a neighbourhood to listen first and to seek ways of serving within that locale or demographic. The listening and service will normally lead to the formation of intentional community, and maybe disciple-making and worship in culturally appropriate ways. Both Church Planting and Fresh Expressions are seeking to build new communities of disciples, starting at a different point in the continuum discussed above. Across the continuum there may though be significant differences in style, models, theology and goals.

25.1.3 MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall consist of:

- a. Up to four members appointed by the Synod Standing Committee. Those members should have a commitment to Church Planting and some competence in the following:
 - i) UCA Placements Processes, including the Ministry of Pastor.
 - ii) Mission Resourcing
 - iii) Church Planting.
 - iv) Christian Education and formation.
- b. Up to two representatives from each of the presbyteries.

25.1.4 COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING

- a. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed by the Synod Standing Committee.
- b. The Committee will report to the Synod Standing Committee through the Chairperson.
- c. The Committee shall meet at least four times per year.
- d. A quorum shall consist of at least half the membership.
- e. Minutes of all proceedings of meetings of the Committee shall be entered into files kept for that purpose within one (1) month of the meeting taking place and shall be confirmed by members of the Committee present at a subsequent Committee meeting and signed by the Chairperson of the meeting at which the proceedings took place, or by the Chairperson of the meeting at which the minutes are confirmed.

25.1.5 REPORTING FRAMEWORK

A regular report will be presented at least annually to the Synod Standing Committee by the Chairperson (or delegate). The report will address issues, trends and statistical data. The Committee shall also report in the papers to the Synod of SA.

25.1.6 DISPUTE AND GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION

In the event of a dispute or grievance between members of the Committee that is unable to be resolved, the matter shall be referred to the Synod Standing Committee for resolution.

25.1.7 CONFIDENTIALITY

Members will be bound by the Synod's guidelines regarding confidentiality.

25.1.8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are times when a Member may have a conflict of interest. When a Member believes they may have a conflict of interest, they are to notify the Chairperson, and to detail the conflict. The Chairperson will then, depending on the conflict, either detail the conflict for the committee to decide what actions are required, or to excuse the Member from receiving further papers pertaining to the conflict, and excusing the Member from being present when the discussions are held.

25.1.9 REVIEW

- a. The Synod Standing Committee will be the approving authority for all By-law changes.
- b. This By-law will be reviewed at least every two (2) years.