



## Generate Presbytery Report

### 1. Strategic Priorities

#### 1.1 2021

With so much of the setting up of the presbytery completed in 2019-2020 and 2020 dominated by the impact of COVID-19, 2021 brought the promise of a more settled year for us as a Presbytery.

This was our opportunity to press into our key focus areas of seeing people come to faith, growing as passionate disciples, raising courageous leaders and planting and renewing churches and to answer the question “How will we support each other as ministry agents, leaders and congregations across South Australia to live out this focus?”

The year was spent prioritising and establishing the Leadership Pipeline and Renewal Pathways to support leaders and churches across the Presbytery. Work was also done on reviewing some of our early established structures and systems to ensure they were meeting the required purposes and adjusting where necessary.

#### 1.2 2022

Toward the conclusion of 2021 the Generate Standing Committee had its annual retreat. Significant time was given to prayer and discussion about the Strategic Priorities for 2022. The following four Strategic Priorities were chosen as the focus for this year.

1. Championing Renewal and the Leadership Pipeline (especially amongst women and younger leaders)
2. Refreshing Ministers and Pastors
3. Resourcing the Presbytery
4. Revitalising Intercessory Prayer

As the middle of the year approaches progress continues to be made across these four areas.

### 2. Congregations

Since our last Synod meeting we have walked with Mount Pleasant Uniting Church, InVia Faith Community and Streaky Bay Faith Community as they have closed. The members of these congregations expressed a desire to belong to and build up other congregations so that they would be stronger through their participation.

We have also celebrated the planting of the Adelaide Zimbabwe Faith Community and are excited to hear the ways in which this community is not only connecting locally, but building up Zimbabwean churches across Australia.

After COVID delays we were pleased to celebrate as Waypoint Paralowie was launched. Connected to Waypoint Uniting Church Parafield Gardens (formally Parafield Gardens Uniting Church) we look forward to seeing how this new Faith Community will reach the thousands of people in its local area.

After numerous conversations with Golgotha Pentecostal Church which meets at the Playford Uniting Church, we were pleased to receive and affirm their request to join the UCA and Generate Presbytery in April 2022. Golgotha Uniting Church holds services in Swahili, gathering many first and second generation people.

### **3. Presbytery Meetings**

Each time we gather we desire that people will leave feeling refreshed, inspired and encouraged for the ministry that God has for them where God has them. Since the 2021 Synod Meeting Generate Presbytery has had three presbytery meetings and many hub and smaller gatherings.

#### **3.1 March 2021 Generate Conference: Because People Need Jesus**

In May we gathered for the Generate Conference. This was a meeting without the business meeting. We began with a pastors' lunch on Friday which was a fantastic time of connecting and relating. The conference started Friday night through to Saturday afternoon, looking at the theme "Because people need Jesus". We were blessed by the profound and relatable teaching of Melinda Dwight, the Director of Alpha Australia, wonderful worship and hospitality from Hope Valley Church and stories from across the presbytery. We celebrated as we welcomed our newest congregation, the Adelaide Zimbabwe Faith Community, and were resourced in our preaching, use of technology and generational ministries.

It was a rich time of relationship and gathering. We are so thankful for everyone who made arrangements, travelled and made the investment in their leadership and ministries.

#### **3.2 November 2021 Gathering: Growing Passionate Disciples**

In November we gathered at Seeds to explore Growing Passionate Disciples. We were blessed by the input on screen by Dale Stephenson and Tim Piesse from Crossway Baptist Church, leaders in Building Discipleship Cultures here in Australia. We worshiped and prayed together, encouraged one another and made important decisions as a presbytery. We were so thankful for the hospitality and support of the Seeds Uniting Church community.

#### **3.3 March/ April 2022 Gatherings in Hubs: HOPE**

With COVID numbers increasing and other central gatherings occurring in the early part of this year the decision was made to hold our first meeting of 2022 in Hubs. Input on the HOPE we have in Jesus was pre recorded from a variety of people and shared across all hubs with each local planning group able to curate a

day specifically for the needs of that hub. Our appreciation is extended to the Hub leaders and those who helped to plan each of these gatherings.

## 4. Team Changes

Generate is the whole presbytery; ministry agents, leaders and congregations serving and supporting each other. We have been blessed that in the last year well over 60 ministers, pastors, council members and leaders throughout the presbytery have generously given their time to serve on committees, task groups, JNC's, POD, Selection and Formation Panels, review committees and more. We know this engagement grows with those who have also intentionally related and encouraged each other. The strength of Generate is in the decision that we are in this together.

Some, within the life of the presbytery, have served in staff roles, seeking to resource and equip leaders and congregations in various ways. 2021 has seen a number of staffing changes as we have sought to grow our resourcing as a presbytery and also made some new appointments to existing roles.

### 4.1 Leadership Pipeline Director

The Leadership Pipeline Task Group explored the question of how are we developing our leaders in Generate. A pipeline was created which not only encouraged greater clarity and enthusiasm for new leaders considering a call to ministry but would also encourage the lifelong learning of our ministry agents. Grant funding was sourced, and Rev Andrew Hogarth was appointed as the Leadership Pipeline Director at 0.4 FTE for two years. It is early days but we are already seeing the impact of this role with gathering point for internships, mentoring, and support for those progressing through formation.

### 4.2 Renewal Director

The Renewal Task Group explored the question of renewal in the life of the church. This included defining renewal, consideration of the broad representation of congregations and appetite for engaging in a conversation about renewal. There is no one size fits all approach to church renewal, but rather relationally and strategically walking with congregations along the pathway of renewal. The Standing Committee then considered how we resource the pathway identified. It was too big for one person to do alone and yet required resourcing, training, and strategic leadership. Consequently the Presbytery has appointed Rev Barry Littleford as the Renewal Director (0.2 FTE). Barry is bringing together a team of people who will be available for renewal conversations.

### 4.3 PRC Chair

One of the most complex and challenging tasks in forming a new presbytery was the formation and leadership of our Pastoral Relations Committee. The PRC has oversight of the health of ministers and congregations, deals with matters of conflict, participates in placements, coordinates the running of JNC's and reviews and engages with the Synod around matters of discipline. Generate has been blessed by the willingness of Rev Barry Littleford to form and chair the PRC since we began. We deeply appreciate the wisdom, knowledge and experience that Barry has brought to this role and the generosity of Parafield Gardens UC for releasing him to do this important, and often difficult work. Barry concluded his time as the

Chair of PRC at the end of 2021. The Presbytery has appointed Rev Naomi Duke as the new Chair of PRC and we are grateful for her willingness to serve the Presbytery in this way.

#### 4.4 Adelaide and North Hub

In 2019 the presbytery decided to form 5 geographical hubs to allow for the resourcing and pastoral support of ministry agents, leaders and congregations. 5 Hub Leaders were appointed, and Katie Iles took on this role for the Adelaide and North Hub. This was a challenging task with many difficult reviews and issues to be addressed. Changes to this role were made as part of a review conducted in mid 2021. With increasing ministry responsibilities elsewhere, Katie decided not to continue in this role. We are deeply appreciative of the work that Katie has done as the Adelaide and North Hub Leader. Rev Peter Riggs has now taken on this role.

#### 4.5 Chairperson Appointment

As part of the Staffing Review conducted in 2021 Rev Dr Graham Humphris informed the Presbytery that he only wished to extend his placement as the Generate Chairperson for 1 more year, concluding as the Chairperson at the end of 2022. The process of finding a suitable appointment is well underway. The Presbytery, Standing Committee and Staff Team wish to thank Graham for his incredible leadership as Generate began and for his ongoing passion for seeing people come to faith, grow as disciples, leaders raised up, and churches planted and renewed.

#### 4.6 Treasurer

When Generate began as a Presbytery we were incredibly blessed by the financial and missional leadership offered by Rev David Hoffman as our Treasurer. David has diligently served the presbytery through the difficult times of establishing a Presbytery and through the COVID pandemic. His missional heart has ensured that our stewardship of the resources we have as a Presbytery has been focused on our key priorities and love for our congregations and leaders. As part of the Executive, David has brought more than we had asked of him and his contribution has been deeply appreciated. In May 2022 David concludes as the Treasurer of Generate and we are in the process of finalising the appointment of a new Treasurer to begin on 1 June 2022.

#### 4.7 Standing Committee and PRC Membership

In 2021 a number of Standing Committee and PRC concluded their time on these committees and new members were appointed. We would like to offer out thanks to those who have served and supported the presbytery in this important way. We welcomed new members to both committees and look forward to this next season of leadership.

##### **Rev Dr Graham Humphris**

*Generate Chairperson*

##### **Rev Stephanie Tai**

*Generate Executive Officer (Secretary)*