



Presbytery of Southern SA Report

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which the churches and ministry of our Presbytery are located: the Kaurna, Ngarrindjeri, Perramangk, Bindjali, Buandig, Meru and Ngargad peoples.

Our previous report to the Synod spoke of the establishment of the Presbytery as we sought to understand and discharge our responsibilities. This last sixteen months has seen us move toward establishing patterns and priorities that enable us to fulfill those responsibilities especially “encouraging every congregation to fulfill their high calling in Christ” (Basis of Union, par 15)

- The Presbytery has met three times since our last report to Synod in February 2021. March 2021 at Newland UCA, Victor Harbor; and in September 2021 and March 2022 at The Corner UCA. (We are grateful to Sue Ellis in stepping in to chair the meeting at Newland when Diane was suddenly unavailable.) We have been encouraged by worshipping together, hearing stories of congregational mission and connecting with other leaders.
- Standing Committee, which conducts the business of the Presbytery between meetings, has met on fifteen occasions. We have a mixture of formal meetings which include policy review schedules and the like. And we have begun a schedule of informal conversations with key leaders across the year.
- Pastoral Relations Committee meets monthly to discharge its role of oversight across many aspects of church life.

1. Leadership

Current key positions in the Presbytery are held by:

- Chair Peter McDonald
- Secretary: Lorraine Schroder
- Treasurer: Di Russell
- Chair PRC: Lawrie Linggood
- Presbytery Minister: Ian Dow
- Convenor of Leadership Development Team: Leanne Jenki

We offer our thanks to With Max Howland who took on the -role as Secretary as a volunteer in the establishment phase of the Presbytery and have welcomed Lorraine Schroder to the role of Secretary.

While there were no nominations for the position of chair at the March 2021 meeting, Diane Bury committed to completing another year in the role. At the September meeting a nomination was received and the Presbytery elected Peter McDonald. He started the role of Chairperson on 1 January 2021 and was installed

at the March 2022 meeting. At that meeting we also offered our thanks to Diane Bury for the way she discharged the role as Chairperson as the Presbytery was established. Both the Presbytery and the incoming chair deeply appreciate Diane's contribution and ongoing commitment to people in ministry.

The Standing Committee received direct positive feedback regarding our Leadership Development Team who support candidates and Period of Discernment participant, as well as managing key processes for PoD, selection and Ministry of Pastor.

The timing of meetings, elections, budget and reporting remains under review, as in the last cycle our budget approvals and elections were late. We are moving toward a calendar year cycle where elections and budgets will be completed in Oct / Nov 22 which will put Standing Committee ready for a new year commencing in January.

2. Covenanting

We were pleased to have Ken Sumner address our September 2021 meeting and are currently in conversation with members of Rauken UC. As we sign the Memorandum of Understanding with UAICC SA, recognising changes in our regulated roles and responsibilities, we look forward to exploring more deeply what it means to live together both in covenant and as our nation appears to be grasping the Uluru Statement of the Heart.

We thank and recognise the contribution of Kaurua Elder Trevor O'Brien who offered us a significant Welcome to Country at the first meeting of the Presbytery this year.

3. Congregations, Placements and Candidates

At the time of writing, the Presbytery of Southern SA has 56 congregations - there are 49 ordained people in placement (36 in congregation, 11 in chaplaincy placements, 6 in Synod or Uniting College placements). There are also 7 lay people in placement (1 with congregations, 2 in Synod placements and 4 in chaplaincy).

Placement processes for seven congregations have kept us busy. They have been completed for Rosefield UC (Richard Telfer), Noarlunga UC (Ian Hunter), Willunga UC (Leanne Jenki).

Ongoing placement processes include Adare UC, Pilgrim UC, Noarlunga UC, Glengowrie UC.

Sadly we have seen the closure of Mannum UC, Hare St UC, Myponga UC and Littlehampton UC.

We remain richly blessed by a large number of ministers, pastors and lay people who are in in non-congregational placement and will seek to deepen our understanding and learning from them.

There are currently three candidates in the Presbytery.

- Nola Gibbons
- Alice Kroker
- Robert Cartridge
- Shelley Alexander

4. Celebrations

We have celebrated as we ordained Olly Ponsonby (Deacon) and Mandy Harvey (Deacon). These have been very joyful gatherings of the Presbytery. Both Olly and Mandy inspired the Presbytery as they expressed their sense of call and readiness for ordination at our meetings.

We have also led and participated in several inductions and commissionings:

Shelley Alexander (MoP, South West Fleurieu; shared with Generate Presbytery), Ian Hunter (Noarlunga UCA), Richard Telfer (Rosefield UCA), Leanne Jenski (Willunga UCA), Leanne Jenski (ACHA), Sarah Williamson and Rob Cartridge (MoP) (both at SAHLN), Mandy Harvey (MoP, CAHLN), Alyce Gardner (MoP) and Rod Ennis (MoP) (Malvern UCA), Craig Schultz (Adelaide West UCA).

While the ability of the members of Presbytery to participate in these have been affected by context and varying COVID restrictions they have all been very meaningful and joyful occasions.

We also recognised the conclusion of placement of Sandy Boyce at Pilgrim UCA and Douglas Monaghan at Noarlunga UCA, as we celebrated these times of ministry.

5. Other Highlights of the Year

- Negotiating with the Fijian congregation at Vermont to become members of the Uniting Church.
- Minister's retreat led by Ian Dow.
- Encouraging exploration of a Church Plant in Myponga.
- Establishment of a calendar of events, workshops, retreats and social events.
- Clear agenda of connecting with our leaders regardless of their title or role.
- Move away from email and toward the online cloud presence to deliver content (news sheets, meeting content). Shift into the cloud for both meetings material and distribution of information to members of the Synod. The Synod office has been very supportive of this move which is appreciated from our side.

6. Summary

The Presbytery provides opportunities for leaders in our congregations and other ministry settings to seek deeper reflection and discipleship as well as change and improvement.

That congregations and ministry might not just survive but thrive by the grace of Jesus who calls us all by name.

Peter McDonald

Chairperson POSSA

May 2022

