

# Synod '24



## Presbytery of Southern SA

This report contains an overview of the life and work of the Presbytery of Southern SA including the leadership group, gatherings, committees, administration and relationships with Synod, Congress UAICC and our congregations. Our Presbytery has continued to support the Fuzz and Carolyn Kitto's anti-slavery ministry by sponsoring speaking engagements, workshops and financially and note there is an opportunity for the Uniting Church Synod and congregations to offer support. New developments at Presbytery include a consolidation of the proposed pooled ministry model.

### 1. Gatherings

At the Presbytery of Southern SA we have created informal opportunities for our leaders to meet. We have continued to have a monthly Friday afternoon gathering at the Maid of Auckland in Edwardstown which is well attended. The Maid of Auckland provides a separate quieter space for us. We continue to have important retreats and workshops along with shared meals including an end of year gathering in November at Ascot Community Uniting Church hall. In each of these group environments we find leaders share about ministry and talk theology in a generous manner as well as providing an opportunity for one-on-one conversations.

Presbytery remains concerned about the impact of isolation on our leaders. We believe that offering a diversity of social gathering is our primary approach to building capacity, motivation and confidence across the breadth of leadership in the Presbytery. We are doing what we can to resist isolation and value the whole body of Christ and we are encouraged to see that the numbers of people participating in these events has grown across the year.

### 2. Presbytery Meetings

The Presbytery continues to receive excellent and positive feedback about the Presbytery workshop format. Most recently in July 2023 this included an interview with Carolyn and Fuzz Kitto on their *Be Slavery Free* campaign to abolish modern day slavery. Our Presbytery held workshops on practical ways our community can assist in this campaign. We also held a clothes swap to highlight the complex issue of fast fashion in cooperation with Carolyn Kitto.

The workshop format builds capacity, makes connections and gives our own leaders a chance to share a ministry topic about which they are passionate.

As well as doing the administrative work of the Presbytery the Standing Committee provides a sounding board for our key leaders. This has been invaluable for Lawrie Linggood, Peter McDonald and Jenny Esots. The Standing Committee has taken the opportunity to ask members of the

Presbytery to join us so we have been exposed to the life of chaplaincy as well as congregational ministry.

We thank Ian Dow for his positive contribution to our city and rural congregations. We welcome Anne Hewitt to an interim role of Presbytery minister, including specific ministry to Willunga Uniting Church and St Andrew's by the Sea UCA in Glenelg.

We thank Bronte Wilson for the implementation of the Presbytery Pool Model and liaison with congregations regarding mission and vitality.

We have welcomed John Hughes to the PRC and acknowledge those who generously provide their time on formation panels and retiring PoSSA panel members Cheryl Wilson and Diane Bury.

We wish to acknowledge the considerable work done by Diane Bury in her role as property officer, both pastorally and administratively. Presbytery Secretary Jenny Esots has now undertaken this role.

Current members of the Pastoral Relations Committee are Lawrie Linggood (Chair), Jenny Esots (Secretary), Peter McDonald (Corresponding member), Anne Hewitt (Presbytery Minister), Beth Hancock, Max Howland, Allan Barnes, Anne Butler, John Hughes and Dave Williamson.

Current members of the Standing Committee are Peter McDonald (Chair), Jenny Esots (Secretary), Tim Lee (Treasurer), Lawrie Linggood (PRC chair), Jeff Wright, Anna Wilson, Richard Telfer, Nola Gibbons and interim Presbytery Minister Anne Hewitt.

The Standing Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee are diligent in prayer for all our congregations and leaders. I ask that you join with us in prayer and action for a grace filled community and for spirit led congregations in mission.

### 3. Committees

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## 4. Relationships with Congregations

The Standing Committee's relationships with Congregations is managed primarily by Lawrie Linggood as chair of the PRC. He is ably assisted by Anne Hewitt in her interim role as Presbytery Minister, Bronte Wilson in his role in developing the Presbytery Pool, Peter McDonald and Jenny Esots as they both visit and preach in local congregations.

The Standing Committee members take seriously their role in fostering connections across the leaders of congregations and connecting with our leaders in their roles.

## 5. Relationships with Synod

We have worked hard to improve the relationship between the Synod and value the opportunity to meet jointly with Synod and other Presbytery leaders regularly throughout the year. Our Treasurer genuinely values the support Synod Treasurers' gathering has offered throughout the year.

## 6. Relationship with Congress UAICC

The Presbytery has kept in a regular conversation with the leadership of Congress across a challenging year where the Voice was not supported by the wider community. We appreciate being invited to Murray Bridge Uniting Church to co-lead the induction of Rev Hohia Matthews into a regional Congress role. The Presbytery remains open to new conversations and opportunities to deepen our relationship with Congress.

## 7. Worship

The significant worship events conducted by the Presbytery have been the ordination of Nola Gibbons at Pilgrim Uniting UCA, the retirement services for Gary Stuckey and Michael Dowling. The Induction of Beth Seaman to the Marion & Warradale UCA, Leanne Osborne to Glengowrie UCA and the induction and welcome to Richard Telfer to the Church of the Trinity UCA. We celebrate and have cooperated with Wimila Presbytery at the ordination of Robert Cartridge and his induction at Woodville Uniting Church and as chaplain at Flinders Medical Centre.

## 8. Administration

We have made a significant move by shifting all of our work into the Microsoft Office environment. This has been a significant amount of work for us. It means we can provide you with the latest version of an agenda or report through a live link. This makes the business of meetings easier to manage as members are much more likely to have the latest document in front of them as we meet.

Communications with Presbytery members occurs via a monthly newsletter and regular engagement via social media organised by the Secretary Jenny Esots. Sharing the good news stories of our faith communities is a valuable way to see the way the spirit works amongst us.

The Standing Committee has developed a Chair Elect position description, endorsed by the Presbytery, and formed a JNC for this role. We look forward to announcing the Chair Elect at our upcoming AGM in November.

The Standing Committee has developed a Pool Ministry Project Officer position description and formed a JNC for this role. The Standing Committee has reviewed the position description of the Presbytery Minister and formed a JNC for this important role within the life of our Presbytery.

## 9. Contributions

The Presbytery of Southern SA acknowledges Matthew Curnow for his continuing role in working with retired and retiring leaders. We also wish to acknowledge and thank retired minister Beth Hancock for her contribution hosting joint nominating committees for the Presbytery.

## 10. Closing Remarks

The Presbytery of Southern SA works because of the generous and passionate interest of our members and of our congregations who live out the love of Jesus into the world in which we live.

We commend to you the Presbytery report.

**Jenny Esots**

*Presbytery Secretary*

**Rev Peter R McDonald**

*Presbytery Chairperson*



The Uniting Church in Australia  
Synod of South Australia