



Our drivers for change

God, in Christ has given to all people in the Church the Holy Spirit as a pledge and foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end view for the whole creation. The Church's call is to serve that end so that by the Spirit people may trust God as their Father, and acknowledge Jesus as Lord. (Basis of Union, Para 3)

The world however is changing. For many within Western culture, religion has no place, and few are seeking to live faith-based lives. Church is seen as outmoded and out of date, and for some, a source of pain. Although the Church has been responsible for many of our values and a significant part of our caring systems today, we are no longer seen as relevant.

Christ's call to partnership in mission has however not faltered. The Church is still called to share faith, build lives and to care for each other, for others and for creation. We can only do this when our worship of God, our witness to God's grace and our service to others is at the forefront of our lives.

With this in mind, we will seek to enter a different future, focussing on four strategic directions.

Our principles

Our work is guided by the following principles:

- The God of our Lord Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
- All should have the opportunity to respond to God's offer of grace.
- We are invited to love God with all our heart, soul and purpose.
- We are commanded to love one another as God loves us.
- We are called to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.
- We seek to work with God in the mission to the world.
- We desire to grow communities of Christ-Followers who do not discriminate on matters of race, gender, sexuality, religion, culture or political persuasion.
- We will seek to be present in worship, witness and service in every place and opportunity, not only in our own communities of faith.
- We will be a Christian community for everyone.

Strategic Plan 2018-2021

Our Vision

A Christian Community for Everyone

Our Purpose

- Uniting in God's Mission to the World
- Growing Communities of Christ-Followers
- Grounded in Worship, Witness and Service

Our Values

- To preach Christ the risen crucified one and confess him as Lord;
- To bear witness to the unity of faith and life in Christ, rising above cultural, economic, national and racial boundaries;
- To engage in fearless prophetic ministry in relation to matters which deny God's active will for justice and peace;
- To act with God alongside the oppressed, the hurt and the poor;
- To accept responsibility for the wise use and conservation of the finite resources of this earth for the benefit of all;
- To recognise, treasure and use the gifts of the Spirit given to all God's people for ministering; and
- To live a creative, adventurous life of faith, characterised by openness, flexibility, hope and joy

The Inaugural Statement to the Nation – June 22, 1977



Our four Strategic Directions



A CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY
FOR EVERYONE

Open Communication

- Develop a network of regions to stimulate healthy and life-giving congregations, agencies and schools.
- Introduce Presbytery Ministers to ensure care and communication at all levels of the Church.
- Develop reporting processes for all Synod/Presbytery groups and bodies to stimulate the flow of information and create openness and transparency. Best knowledge management practices
 - a. Reports
 - b. Minutes
 - c. Internal correspondence
 - d. Projects and events
- Enhancing the Uniting Church Australia (UCA) brand through the effective use of a variety of media vehicles.
- Be a prophetic voice in the community – using a variety of platforms.

Faith Formation & Faith Sharing

- The resourcing and strengthening of our congregational footprint:
 - a. Identify geographic areas of growth
 - b. Develop a Property Policy geared for the development of missional communities
 - c. Establish networks of collaborating communities'
- Establish missional driven Synod budget and use of resources.
- Work with agencies and schools to identify faith sharing opportunities.
- Develop a mission planning training resource.
- Communities of faith to practice invitational and relational hospitality and fresh expressions of church
- Identify, develop and implement a ministry culture attractive to a younger generation.
- Focus on ethnic groups and create multicultural congregations.

Community Engagement

- Develop a 'Discover your Community' toolkit for congregations – emphasise Asset Mapping approach and use of NCLS data.
- Develop a register of cultural/country/migrant associations.
- Promote multicultural/cross-cultural/intercultural ministry.
- Develop a 'second generation' program in collaboration with ethnic congregations.
- Improve engagement with chaplains at schools, prisons and hospitals (Safe Church, shared learning, relationship building).
- Establish missional focussed congregation budgets and use of resources.
- Promote 'fresh expressions of church' and Mission Shaped Ministry.
- Develop a network of Remote Area Ministry placements.

Training for Ministry Leadership

- Develop and implement a continuous life and witness consultation process for congregations, commissions, committees and other church bodies and give feedback.
- Develop position descriptions and best practice performance reviews for all ministry agents and give feedback.
- Review current training and education programs.
- Survey options and possibilities for training and formation (ministry, lay).
- Introduce appropriate training and leadership development strategies.
- The Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL) to facilitate all education and training.
- Develop a program for the recruitment of all ministry agents with a focus on younger candidates.
- Incorporate the work of the National Church Life Survey (NCLS), Christian Research Association and other relevant research organisations.