

# **PRESBYTERY OF WA**

## **THRIVE MISSION COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT TO PRESBYTERY MEETING – 3 AUGUST 2019**



#### **MEMBERSHIP**

- Rev Greg Ross (Chair)
- Rev Dr Anne Wright
- Rev Stephen van Schalkwyk
- Rev Narelle Collas
- Ps Pamela Crass
- Bashar Mageed
- Yvonne Robinson
- Yuko Tonai-Moore
- Rev Alison Gilchrist

Thrive Mission Committee was formed at the Annual Meeting of Presbytery held on 18 May, 2019 and has the following responsibilities, as per Rule P 4.6.11

Thrive Committee is to act for the Presbytery to:

- Encourage, support, resource and assist congregations, faith communities and other church bodies to discern and actively participate in the Mission of God in their community
- Encourage, support, resource and assist congregations, faith communities and other church bodies to give prayerful consideration and action to the Presbytery's current strategic directions and the current Presbytery Mission Focussed Goals
- To carry out the responsibilities of Presbytery Property Committee Regulation as detailed in the Regulations 4.3 (2018 Edition)

The Presbytery unanimously adopted these Mission Focussed Strategic Goals in February 2018:

The Presbytery of Western Australia requests each Community of Faith / Congregation, Church Council, and all Agencies and Committees meeting within the Presbytery to give the first portion of their agenda at every meeting to consideration of the ways in which their participation in the Mission of God is growing the church by:

- (1) developing Fresh Expressions of Church,
- (2) deliberate, wise and prayerful mission planning and community outreach
- (3) working to be part of and create Collaborative Networks of Faith Communities.

The Presbytery of Western Australia noted that SMPC in collaboration with CEDAL will do all it can between now and 2020 to encourage and support Communities of Faith, Congregations, Church Councils and all Agencies and Committees within the Presbytery to

- (a) invite all Ministry Agents, Church Councillors and interested members to complete the Mission Shaped Ministry Course
- (b) aim to have 80% of our Communities of Faith / Congregations, Church Councils, and all Agencies and Committees in the Presbytery to have developed one or more Fresh Expressions of Church
- (c) support all Communities of Faith / Congregations, Church Councils, and all Agencies and Committees within the Presbytery to have completed and implemented Mission Plans including the ways that they are reaching out into the community.
- (d) work with the Council for Mission in establishing at least 4 creative collaborative networks of communities of faith.

You will all remember the progress that the former Strategy and Mission Planning Committee and Congregational Community Services Committee reported to last months AGM.

To build on those steps in the coming 3 years Thrive Mission Committee is committed to continuing to work collaboratively with CEDAL and across all our councils and has:

- (a) established a Congregational Community Services Network co-ordinated by Yvonne Robinson
- (b) established a Property Advisory Group [which is detailed below]
- (c) produced a new Mission Planning Resource for use by all Congregations/ Communities of Faith, Committees and Agencies in developing their Mission Plans
- (d) provided access to small grants to establish or step up a Fresh Expression of Church or Mission Activity
- (e) appointed and trained a team of people to deliver the Mission Shaped Ministry Course in various ways across the Presbytery in the coming years
- (f) trained a team of 6 Mission Coach Trainers to train more Mission Coaches to assist ministry agents, congregants and groups to encourage and sharpen focus on their Mission and Mission Planning and will continue to enhance and further develop this skill base in 2020
- (g) started developing a series of video resources for sharing Australian stories of Fresh Expressions of Church and Re-generation of Churches and to train more Mission Coaches and Resource people to undertake Mission Shaped Ministry
- (h) hosted the National Pioneer Ministry Gathering in Perth in March this year and agreed to the National Pioneer Gatherings request to do the same in 2020

As noted above Thrive Mission Committee holds carriage for the Responsibilities of the Presbytery in terms of Presbytery Property and to assist Thrive in this work we have formed a Property Advisory Group [PAG] initially comprising the following members:

Rhod Wright, Helena Raper, Bashar Mageed, Rev Greg Ross and be resourced by appropriate Presbytery and Synod Staff.

PAG has been tasked by Thrive to develop a long term [2020 – 2045] Strategy for Property and Resources with church office advice to be provided by Mr Richard Patterson and Uniting Church Centre staff to enable the Presbytery to support Congregations and Faith Communities, Committees and Agencies in achieving our Mission Focussed Strategic Goals.

The Strategy will take into account information within our Presbytery boundaries such as:

- present Uniting Church Property – including schools and agencies
- other mainline denominational properties;
- statistics from the ABS on where people who identify as UCA members live;
- proposed future growth areas

The PAG will also use and further develop swim lane chart/s for ease in following processes for Property Approvals and for Accessing Embargoed Funds, which all require a Mission Plan approved by Thrive Mission Committee. PAG will work with the Property Services Committee and Resources Board to develop and publish a time line for meeting significant dates for submission of applications for approval/s for new work and in addressing structural and maintenance issues. A

Thrive Mission Committee is deeply appreciative to the Synod Resources Commission and Synod Standing Committee for appointing the Property Review Project Team to address some ceiling collapses and for the subsequent reports by Houspect which provides a baseline for all congregations, communities of faith and agencies to plan for their mission and ministry future. The Property Advisory Group will work with Synod Property Staff and use the reports as part of the work in forming the 25 year Strategy for Property and Resources.

The Houspect reports reveal that a small number of properties will need to be demolished and or sold and the trauma for these communities is very real. Thrive Mission Committee will be one part of the church that will offer support in the transitions and future decision making. Some small communities and congregations will have to make hard choices about the wisest way to use their building resources for playing their part in the Mission of God into the future. Several properties are now excess to requirements and these could be realised to enable new and fresh mission opportunities.

A small number of parishes or congregations have large property holdings, several of these have very serious issues and these unduly sway the total figure of repairs and maintenance needed across the Presbytery. All congregations, communities of faith, agencies and committees who are responsible for the maintenance of Uniting Church properties will be asked to respond to Thrive Mission Committee outlining their plans for addressing defects and maintenance identified in the Property reports including provision for future maintenance.

Thrive Mission Committee hopes that these reports will provide a God given catalyst for planning and action to make our property resources mission ready and that developing a current Mission Plan will be part of that discernment.

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