



What does the Church look like in 2030?

What did the Church look like when you became a follower of Jesus?
Probably very different to what it is now.

Do you long for the past, or do you hope for the future?

Our Moderator has invited us to “Overflow with hope” so what is your hope for the Church in the next 10 years.

This session is intended for us to look forward to what the Church will look like in ten years time. Some key statistics in graph form have been provided. These reflect historical data and they don't necessarily need to predict a trend. We will have four speakers who have been given a brief opportunity to reflect on their view of what the Church will look like, and we will have opportunity to gather in small groups to determine our own hopeful future.

It has been said that you can either predict the future based on your past experience, OR you can define a future and build towards it. Your choice will determine your intermediate actions – and will thus influence the outcome. So how do you see the Church in 2030? I encourage you to prayerfully put your mind to the question and let's see where we go from here.

Our Speakers are:

1. Rev David Kriel, who is a system thinker and futurist. He has served congregations in South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. He has degrees in theology and an MBA. He served for some years as the Mission Planner for the Uniting Church in WA and during that time developed the Four Strategic Directions which are the core of our current Strategic Plan. David is currently the minister at Trinity North Uniting Church.
2. Steve Higgins is a farmer in the Eastern Wheatbelt and Chair of Council for the three congregations of Merredin, Mukinbudin and Southern Cross. He is a member of the Synod Standing Committee and has served on the two past Moderatorial Nominating Committees. He has shown himself to be a clear, considerate and deep thinker with a passion to see faithful people of God active in every country town. He will address his vision for the Church beyond the Metropolitan area.
3. Sione Lea'atoa hails from Tonga and has recently been accepted for ordination by the Presbytery of WA after completing his Masters degree. Sione and his wife have served for many years with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) in different parts of the world. He has a strong faith and a firm commitment to the Gospel. As the non-Anglo cultures grow in our country, he brings with him, not only his personal experience of faith in these cultures but also many observations in similar situations from around the world.
4. Cheryl Lawson, is the Resource Worker with the Regional Committee of Congress in WA. With the profound inheritance of Christian faith and First People's history and legacy in this land from her father and her people, she will share her view of the Church from the perspective of the First Nation.

In your discussion, please do not get bogged down on the historical graphs. At best they point the direction to where we will go if we do nothing. Instead, take the Moderator's theme and “overflow with hope” in your discussion of how you see the Church in 2030.

When you know where you are headed you can plan more easily on how you will get there. God be with you in your discussion groups.

Rev David de Kock – Secretary of Synod

