



## INFORMATION REGARDING A CHOICE FOR NEW PRESBYTERIES

*From the Acting General Secretary*

As a result of the process initiated at the November 2018 Synod meeting to structurally separate the Synod and Presbytery, and to form a Missional Non-Geographic Presbytery (MNGP), it is now time for your congregation to choose which Presbytery your church will join.

In order to be clear about what is happening, by the 1 July 2019, the Synod of South Australia will continue and two Presbyteries will be formed:

1. A non-geographic Presbytery. This Presbytery will be called Generate Presbytery.
2. An interim Presbytery that will operate from July to November 2019. This Presbytery will be called the Transitional Presbytery of South Australia.

Our June 2019 Synod meeting will determine the initial congregations and faith communities to form Generate Presbytery and the Transitional Presbytery of South Australia. This will be based on the decision made at a meeting of each congregation or faith community.

**Please note: a meeting of the congregation will be held at 10.45 am on 2 June 2019**

*The following is provided as background regarding the choice to be made*

### 1. THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF GENERATE THE PROPOSED NON-GEOGRAPHIC PREBYTERY

The leaders of the proposed NG/Generate Presbytery list features claiming to distinguish it from other likely geographically based Presbyteries. This following identifies their aims and objectives

#### Why does the Generate Presbytery exist?

1. To vigorously pursue the Great Commission
2. To encourage mission and discipleship that: \* leads to conversion growth, disciples being made  
\* leaders being empowered \* churches being planted and churches being renewed and growing.
3. To passionately stimulate Gospel renewal in the Uniting Church, starting with congregations
4. To hold --- that marriage is the covenantal relationship of one man and one woman while (also) recognising the integrity of each minister and/or church council to decide on this matter.

*The 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly decision prompted this move, (but) the Generate Presbytery is not primarily a reaction to this decision but is a proactive move towards exponentially ramping up our commitment to the above aims ... (we see) two very different understandings of marriage and with those understandings, [at least] two very different theological, missional and ecclesiological frameworks in the Uniting Church. These were named as "mutually exclusive".... those within the evangelical framework agreed to do three things:*

1. Stand firm in the worship, witness and service of the broad evangelical faith we have received.
2. Stand aside from other theological, missional, ethical and ecclesiological frameworks that are beyond the broad evangelical faith in the basis of union.
3. Move forward in obedience to Jesus Christ's great commission central to the evangelical faith in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The GENERATE PREBYTERY is a *collection of congregations [who] express their witness, worship and service in an uninterrupted and broad evangelical expression.*

**PLEASE TURN OVER**

## **2. AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND VISION FOR REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PRESBYTERIES**

*A presentation delivered at a meeting arranged by the LOOKING AHEAD TEAM  
at the Corner Uniting Church on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019*

The following affirmations are an unapologetic inclusive vision for new Presbyteries of the Uniting Church in South Australia - characteristics which may help shape the identity of new regional Presbyteries within the Synod of South Australia.

### **GEO-SOCIAL REALITY**

WE AFFIRM THE MISSIONAL VISION OF SERVING THE WORLD (BoU #s 1&3)

- Structurally this means we witness and serve where people live and work: mission is understood as a response to the human, social and spiritual needs within the regional bounds of Presbyteries and their various sub-regions.
- At the core we are motivated by compassion for all peoples in their communities recalling that *God so loved the world*. We are called to be the church "for others".

### **INCLUSIVE GRACE**

WE CELEBRATE THE RADICAL INCLUSIVENESS OF THE GOSPEL OF GRACE (BoU #2)

- Inclusiveness is one thing that the Uniting Church is noted for thus a firm commitment to inclusivity in all its forms: social, cultural, ethnic, gender, age, disablement and theology.
- A consequence is to accept the Assembly decision concerning marriage and affirm all who struggle with this decision.

### **WHOLISTIC EVANGELISM**

WE RESPOND TO THE WHOLISTIC GOSPEL IMPERATIVE (BoU#3)

- Heed the evangelical imperative for both personal conversion **and** social transformation as integral to the witness of the "kingdom (new order) come among us". We also say yes to "the great commission" but in the broader context of witnessing to the kingdom of justice and peace.
- Respond to the challenge to "confess the Lord in fresh words and deeds." (BoU#11)

### **JUSTICING LOVE**

WE COMMIT TO A JUST, PEACEFUL AND RECONCILED SOCIETY (BoU#3)

- Courageously witness truth to power, combat social exclusion and all forms of dehumanisation
- Respond boldly to the social and existential threats facing all life on the planet

### **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**

WE EXPECT EMPOWERING SERVANT MINISTRIES (BoU#13)

- Reclaim and affirm the rich diversity of gifts for service of all members of the church
- Recognise the basic distinction between the LIFE and the MISSION of the church also expressed in the complementary ministries of Minister of the Word and Deacon

### **REVITALISED PRESENCE**

WE ESPOUSE A UNITING PRESENCE FOR ALL TOWNS AND SUBURBS

- Recognise the unique identity of the Uniting Church as a potential gift to all communities
- Regenerate local congregations and the formation of new inclusive faith communities.

### **DIVERSE NARRATIVES**

WE REJOICE IN DIVERSE NARRATIVES WHICH EXPRESS THE REALITY OF THE CHRIST EVENT (BoU#11)

- Seek meaningful and diverse ways to tell the liberating truth of the Christian story.
- Encourage an openminded readiness to explore the faith and reinterpret the scriptures (BoU#5)

### **INTERIOR DEPTH**

WE DISCERN THE CONTINUING CALL OF GOD TO EMBARK ON A LIFE-LONG SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

- Sustain compassionate lives in times of challenge, darkness and peril – for all ministries
- Make spaces for retreats, pilgrimage and the practices of meditation, contemplation and prayer.