

**St Sample's Uniting Church
Worship Committee
Report to Church Council
November 6, 2020**



Strategic Issues

That St Sample's Church Council resolves to

- i. Continue live streaming of services on Sunday mornings through the months of December 2020, January and February 2021, with up to 20 people present in the church building.
- ii. Encourage a range of outdoor gatherings of the congregation through the summer months, for relationship building, shared learning and prayer.

With the easing of restrictions on gathering for worship beginning in November, we have a responsibility for providing a safe and spiritually enriching environment for our members and others who look to us for support. We have hopes for something special for Christmas.

Live Streaming

We have received a lot of positive feedback about the live broadcast of services we have been running on Sunday morning, using Facebook Live and Church Online platforms. Feedback from our members indicates that for the next few months many of our members are keen to keep their connection with public worship through live streaming, due to their concern about the potential of public worship being a 'super spreader' event. We do have some people who are prepared to join a core worshipping group supporting the live stream in our church building. There is some expectation that we'll have a special event linked with Christmas celebration.

We are aware that our minister needs a break over January. We have organised a roster of worship leaders and preachers to cover this.

Smaller Gatherings

Over the summer months we will have opportunities to arrange small gatherings of our members in various outdoor settings. These include picnics in

public parks, meeting for coffee at a café, informal prayer gatherings outside the church, walking groups connecting prayer and photography, and the development of a prayer garden on the church grounds. We could find ways to link these experiences with the stimulus we provide in the live streamed worship services, including use of photography, encouragement for shared Bible reading and reflection, points for prayer focus.

We are aware that the weather may not always be conducive to meeting outside, with the likelihood of a wet summer on its way. We will need to develop suitable communication channels to help coordinate these smaller gatherings, ensuring that our members and people on the fringes of the church can stay connected. Our weekly emails, the web site and the Facebook page will include the coming week's options.

Delegated Responsibilities

The worship committee has continued to coordinate staff and volunteers around the broadcast on the weekly service on Facebook and Church Online. Up to this point we have had five people each week looking after worship leading, prayers and Bible readings, music, sound and vision. We generally have between 50 and 60 people watching the service live each week, with a further 30 to 40 people accessing the service later. We have been distributing weekly worship resources each week by email and post.

We continue to subscribe to Spill the Beans worship resource, as well music and live streaming licences for CCLI and One License.

Kerry is meeting with the committee and a worship design team, including our two associate ministers, on November 12 to finalise plans for Advent/Christmas and to put in place ideas for January through to February.

Trudy Sharif
Convenor Worship Committee