

Port Phillip East Presbytery

Annual Report

March 19 2022



The Presbytery in Council meeting in March 2021 was held at the Korean Church of Melbourne. The first part of the meeting was a service to admit Sam Joo as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church and to commission Kaylea Fearn, Bradon French and Hannah Dungan into the Ministry of Pastor. I was delighted that in October I inducted Sam Joo as the Minister in Uniting by the Bay and that at our August meeting Jay Robinson led a discussion on the role of Ministry of Pastor in the Uniting Church.

At that meeting we did work on a shared vision, shared mission principles and shared mission values, and approved strategic and operation plans for 2021. We committed to report on the outcomes of our work in 2021 and our proposed operational plan for 2022 and we are doing that today.

We note that the outcomes achieved in 2021 depend on the work of our committees and teams and crucially on the leadership, resourcing, education, training and care provided by our Presbytery Ministry team.

Our committees and teams have work that can be described with three horizons in mind:

1. Continue, fine-tune, improve, prioritise current core projects and processes
2. Implement newly developed projects (prioritise where needed)
3. Design for future innovation

The Presbytery farewelled Helen Beeby in 2021. Helen had been the editor of Newsbeat since its inception in 2014 and, in this role, made a great contribution to the Presbytery. Please welcome our new Communications Officer, Sarah Manase who commenced in January.

In March 2021 we noted that the Presbytery Standing Committee was considering strategies for advancing the Presbytery's capacity in relation to:

- Connection with Uniting Church schools
- Connection with Uniting & Uniting Agewell
- Covenanting – First and Second Peoples

We have made some progress in each of these areas in 2021.

The Standing Committee has visited Beaconhills School and this month I'm involved in the commissioning of their new executive principal Stephen McGinley.

At our Standing Committee's July meeting we talked with Clare Brockett, Mission Director, Uniting AgeWell who gave us an overview of Uniting AgeWell's activities within the Presbytery (Brighton, Noble Park & Mornington and other sites) and discussed the opportunity for partnership in chaplaincy placements in Uniting AgeWell.

We are in regular contact with Gavin Blakemore and other senior leaders from Uniting, exploring ways to partner together across the Presbytery.

We hope that in 2022 our Presbytery will have a Journey of Listening and Discovery with the Wurungeri and Boonarong peoples. I hope that you have read the contributions in the first two issues of Newsbeat in 2022. I encourage all congregations to tell us all of their own journeys of discovery.

Tom Spurling, Presbytery Chair



Vision, mission principles values, & priorities



At the Presbytery in Council meeting in March 2021 we tested our thoughts on a shared vision, shared mission principles and shared mission values, and approved strategic and operation plans for 2021. We'll be reviewing the work of 2021 and considering mission priorities for 2022 at our Presbytery meeting on Saturday March 19.

We'll be looking at some mission priorities that will shape the work of our committees and ministry team.

Vision

Our vision as a movement of the Uniting Church in this region picks up the three elements of the vision outlined by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, with the addition of a focus on building up healthy communities of faith.

As the Uniting Church in Port Phillip East

- Following Christ
- Walking together as first and second peoples
- Seeking community, compassion, and justice for all creation
- Building up healthy communities of faith

Mission Principles

We have adopted the seven mission principles developed across the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, as a way of honouring the many ways we share together in God's mission in the world.

God in Christ is at mission in the world and sends the Church in the Spirit to:

1. Share the Good News of Jesus Christ
2. Nurture followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation
3. Respond in compassion to human need
4. Live justly and seek justice for all
5. Care for creation
6. Listen to each generation and culture so as to live out the Gospel in fresh ways.
7. Pursue God's mission in partnership

Shared Values

We reflected on the flavour of church we believe God is calling us to express at this time.

Growing a culture of local mission and ministry marked by

- Healthy relationships
- Lifelong disciples
- Collaborative leaders
- Active engagement with agencies, schools and each other.

Synod's Strategic Priorities

We also note that the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has adopted the following three strategic priorities over the period 2016-2022.

1. Ministries which foster diverse gathered communities of renewal, Christian practice and mission
2. Culturally diverse mission and ministry
3. Mission and ministry with children, youth, their families and young people.

Our Emerging Priorities 2021

In March 2021 we also noted that the Presbytery Standing Committee was considering strategies for advancing the Presbytery's capacity in relation to:

- Connection with Uniting Church schools
- Connection with Uniting & Uniting Agewell
- Covenanting – First and Second Peoples

Standing Committee 2021

Members

Tom Spurling (Chair), Anne Kim (Secretary), James Douglas (PRC), Gavin Faichney (Property), Kelly Skilton (MLDC), Cameron McAdam (Deputy Chair until July), Fiona Winn (Acting Deputy Chair from August), Jeff Gardner (Treasurer), Duncan Macleod (PM-Team Leader), Ira Budiono (co-opted in March), Greg Fry and Chris Begg (coopted for August to December 2021). Presbytery ministers Anneke Oppewal and Craig Mitchell attended when available.

Standing Committee Meetings in 2021

February 9, all-day strategy meeting working on shared vision, mission principles, values.

March 9, reflecting on Synod meeting, looking at plans for MLDC, clarifying vision & strategy

April 13, reflecting on Presbytery meeting, updates on Here For Good, Mission Pilot, NCLS strategy

May 11, PRC-led reflections on realities faced by congregations under stress, lay ministry appointments, regional teams, faith communities.

June 8, considering shared mission strategy and final report on Mission Pilot to go to Presbytery meeting.

July 14, approving ongoing strategy for mission experiments, meeting with Clare Brockett from Uniting Agewell, setting up property oversight for Chadstone, Keysborough, Noble Park,

August 10, proposal for regional placement strategy for Casey Cardinia, recommendation for closing St Mark's Chadstone congregation to go to Presbytery meeting.

September 14, communication strategy, including future of Newsbeat, tidying up Presbytery Responsibilities and Delegations document for 2022.

October 12, meeting with Elena Graham and Tamika McLaren from Synod to look at Congregation Insights report from Community Life Survey

November 9, establishing Presbytery Communications Officer role, approving Mission Catalyst project, approving 2022 budget, talking about Synod Confidential Matters Register

December 12, reviewing work of 2021.

Special Events

Inductions

John Tansey at South Port Uniting Church, August 1

Sam Joo at Uniting By The Bay, October 17

Alex Sangster, South Port, February 4, 2022

Release of Pastoral Ties

Joanne Austin, Hampton Park, July 11

Belinda Clear, South Port, July 11

David Pargeter, St Kilda Parish Mission, August 1

Chris Page, Toorak Uniting Church, August 29

Hannah Dungan, High St Frankston, August 1

Sam Joo, Korean Church of Melbourne, September 19

Ray McCluskey, Cranbourne, October 24

Mat Pendle, Berwick, January 30, 2022

Wendy Snook, Berwick, February 27 2022

Robin Yang, eLM, February 7, 2022

Sue Withers, eLM, February 7, 2022

Commissioning - Ministry of Pastor

Hannah Dungan, High St Frankston, March 20

Kaylea Fearn, Wesley College Chaplain, March 20

Bradon French, Wesley College Chaplain, March 20

Alanee Hearnshaw, Glen Waverley, August 21

Di Paterson, Glen Waverley, August 21

Tracie Mulia, St Andrew's Gardiner, November 17

Jo Crisp, Pakenham, December 12

Riak Kirr, Pakenham, December 12

Presbytery Communications Officer

Helen Beeby concluded her role as Newsbeat Editor and Communications officer with the Presbytery in August 2021.

The Standing Committee considered feedback on the value of Newsbeat and decided to develop a position description for a part-time (0.3) role of Presbytery Communications Officer.

Sarah Manase applied for the job and was appointed in December 2021, beginning on January 4, 2022.

Mission & Leadership Committee 2021–2022

The Mission & Leadership Development Committee (MLDC) was established in 2021 with a range of responsibilities:

In summary, these include

- Supporting priority mission development for the presbytery
- Resourcing and learning for congregations' mission development
- Developing and promoting the equipping of lay leaders
- Oversight of Pastor and Lay Preacher formation, training and assessment (in collaboration with PRC's Pastor Committee)
- Equipping leaders to develop congregations as lifelong communities of Christian discipleship

In addition, the following was added:

- Liaise with the Presbytery Consultation Team regarding consultation processes with congregations

The Committee includes two sub-groups.

Chair: Kelly Skilton (chair), Members: Hans Tilstra, Heeyoung Lim, Berlin Guerrero, Alanee Hearnshaw, David Higham, Mat Pendle, Samantha Menzies, Belinda Clear, Presbytery Minister: Craig Mitchell

Mission and Leadership Team: Paul Dau, Semisi Tauali'i, Berlin Guerrero, Hans Tilstra, David Higham, Mat Pendle, Samantha Menzies.

Discipleship and Leadership Team: Sam Joo, Ennis Macleod, Peter Wiltshire, Ngari Ongoua, Graham Bartley, Joy Blamires, Tracie Mulia, Di Paterson, Alanee Hearnshaw, Heeyoung Lim.

Samm Menzies, Mat Pendle and Belinda Clear have concluded their membership of MLDC.

New members for the Committee are currently being sought.

2021 Outcomes

- Recruit an expanded team of gifted people reflecting some of the rich diversity of the presbytery
- Convene the committee and associated teams and establish core priorities for the year and beyond.
- Develop a new way of working as a presbytery committee based on networking, discovering people's gifts and passions, and inviting leaders across the presbytery to join in - to be introduced in 2022
- Begin to identify and map needs and opportunities in relation to mission development, leadership development and lifelong faith formation in the presbytery
- Support existing education programs in the presbytery and through eLM
- Liaise with the PRC Pastor committee regarding formation, training and assessment for Pastors
- Learn about existing projects within the presbytery and their ongoing needs or requirements. eg. Mission Pilot/Experiment, Regional Ministry, Network of Multicultural churches, Mission Catalysts Project
- Commence planning for new projects, starting with the Connecting Leaders project

The MLDC's work culminated in a Mission Priorities planning workshop in November 2021 with MLDC members and the Standing Committee. Five areas have emerged from that evening and been endorsed by the Standing Committee.

1. Intercultural Ministry & Mission

2. Listening to First Peoples

3. Forming Lifelong Disciples

4. New Ways of Being Faith Communities

5. Expressing Faith in Everyday Life

These areas will guide the work of the MLDC from 2022 in addition to its mandated responsibilities.

2022 Plan

The MLDC is working to implement these broad areas for the work of the Presbytery in 2022. The strategies listed are in consideration as we prioritise our workload.

Intercultural Ministry & Mission

- Establishing an Intercultural Ministry team connected to MLDC
- Establishing a presbytery Intercultural Ministry Network
- Workshops on intercultural church for congregational leaders
- Continuing to network leaders of multicultural congregations
- Developing immersion experiences for cross-cultural learning

Listening to First Peoples

- Establishing a Listening to First Peoples project team
- Researching existing points of contact for connecting with and learning about First Peoples
- Providing starting points and resources for congregations to begin or continue their listening journey
- Offering opportunities for people to take part in Walking on Country through contacts with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.
- Sponsoring some events to hear from First Nations people
- Encouraging congregations to explore and share their stories with the wider Presbytery

Forming Lifelong Discipleship

- Establishing a project team
- Developing ways to foster a vision for lifelong discipleship among congregations
- Identify, develop and promote resources for lifelong faith formation
- Promote existing learning opportunities across the presbytery, including eLM
- Develop and promote a small group spiritual formation series for adults

New Ways of Being Faith Communities

- Learn from other places about what is involved in starting new faith communities
- Recruiting, training and resourcing Mission Catalysts to start new faith communities - in partnership with Yarra Yarra Presbytery and eLM
- Identify places and groups in which new faith communities might be encouraged - new housing estates, existing cultural groups
- Invite congregations to explore what it would look like to sponsor a new faith community
- Invite smaller congregations to consider different ways of 'being church'

Regional Ministry and Mission

- Work with the Presbytery Ministers in identifying opportunities for regional collaboration
- Learn from regional collaboration approaches across Australia

Other areas that the MLDC will continue working on:

- Mission Experiments
- Follow up to the National Church Life Survey with seminars, coaching and training.
- Connecting Leaders Project



*Kelly Skilton
Chair of Mission Leadership Development Committee*

Pastoral Relations Committee 2021–2022

The Pastoral Relations Committee's core work is around the placement and employment of ministry agents, ordained and lay, in congregations and other settings. Working with Presbytery Minister: Pastoral Care Anneke Oppewal, the PRC carries responsibility for the wellbeing and discipline of ministry agents.

The Pastoral Relations Committee relates to two teams: Ministry of Pastor Team and Ministry Formation Team.

Chair: James Douglas, Members: Ian Firth, Ian Menzies, Ineke Gyles, Semisi Tauali'i, Alanee Hearnshaw, Jay Robinson, Belinda Clear. Presbytery Ministers: Anneke Oppewal and Duncan Macleod. Ian Firth and Jay Robinson have concluded their membership of PRC.

2021 Plan

- Exploration of Presbytery placement models. The Presbytery placement concept involves the Presbytery as the employing body or coordinating body for ministry agents working across congregations. It was hoped to have a model in place in the second half of 2021.
- Formation and encouragement of regional ministry teams and networks. Work with the PM team to encourage connectivity between ministry agents. This includes geographical cluster meetings, meetings of culturally & linguistically diverse ministers, women in ministry, and retired ministers.
- Develop a framework for long term supply ministry
- Develop strategy and fine-tune processes around the Presbytery's connection with chaplains, pastors, in Uniting schools, Uniting, Uniting Agewell, Congress, and other settings.

Outcomes in 2021

- Continued to support placements with ministry challenges.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee recruited Presbytery Liaison Persons to partner with congregations and schools to consider mission priorities and fill ministry vacancies.
- Working alongside the PM Pastoral, the Pastoral Relations Committee assisted in arranging supply ministry, planning for changes to ministry time fractions or congregational structure,

and responding to conflict between ministry agents and their placements. This work is time-consuming, complex and often involves confidential issues.

- Worked with Craig Mitchell to develop a regional ministry team and network model, designed with the six Casey Cardinia congregations in mind. This included the recommendation and subsequent approval of Presbytery funding to support a team leader position for the regional ministry team.
- Focused on better planning for and recognising long-term supply ministry, particularly lay-ministry, which is becoming increasingly important.
- Continued to support the PM Pastoral in arranging events to connect ministry agents.
- Experimented with different ways of connecting with and supporting ministry agents in non-congregational settings.

2022 Plan

- Finalise and implement the Presbytery Placement model through the Casey-Cardinia team ministry.
- Ongoing focus on enhancing opportunities for lay ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Pastor team and the Mission and Leadership Development Committee.
- Complete and publish a process for planning and implementing Long-Term Supply, with consideration of lay ministry agents.
- Work with the Finance Committee to identify and pastorally support financially at-risk congregations and their ministry agents.

James Douglas, Chair



Ministry of Pastor Team 2021–2022

The Ministry of Pastor team carries responsibility for employment arrangements for lay ministry agents across the Presbytery, and reports to the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Chair: Jay Robinson, members Hannah Dungan, Di Paterson, Alison Clarkson, Belinda Clear.

2021 Plan

- Clarify and communicate UCA policy regarding Ministry of Pastor roles and positions as implemented in Port Phillip East Presbytery.
- Work with the Mission & Leadership Development Committee to grow capacity for people serving in lay specified ministries and other local staff arrangements.

Outcomes in 2021

- Successful session within a Presbytery meeting, assisting congregations to understand processes and obligations in employing lay people in Ministry of Pastor and other roles.
- Improved communication with congregations seeking to employ a lay person.

2022 Plan

The Ministry of Pastor team in 2022 will work with MLDC to provide opportunities for training and education for people in the Ministry of Pastor, including three one-day retreats.

Jay Robinson, Chair

Ministry Formation Team 2021–2022

The Ministry Formation team carries responsibility for the Period of Discernment, applications for candidature in Minister of Word and Deacon ministries, and core phase of ministry formation for ordained ministers.

Chair: Neil Peters, members Lesley Armstrong (Secretary), Julie Hall, Fiona Winn, *Mat Pendle, Brace Bateman*, Presbytery Minister Duncan Macleod.

In 2021 the Ministry Formation team met with three people who were completing their Period of Discernment.

The Team met with representatives of the Pastoral Relations Committee to explore ways of supporting people in the Third Phase of Ministry Formation (First three years in ordained ministry).

Neil Peters, Chair

Property Committee 2021–2022

Property Committee activity includes the documentation and processing of property work in congregations, advising congregations regarding property maintenance and evaluating applications that may be proposed for, sale and purchase, development, leasing, major renovation, manse standards, essential safety measures and environmental impact of all the property from all PPEP congregations.

Chair: Gavin Faichney, Members: Ian Cayzer (Secretary), Elizabeth Adam, Greig Watts, Erica Fox, Tony Lawman, Malcolm Kreltshheim. Presbytery Minister: Duncan Macleod

2021 plan

- Implement the Money for Mission program in the Presbytery
- Establish a network of leaders who carry responsibility for property in their congregations.
- Improve resourcing of congregations with relation to property, with training and encouragement for local leadership.
- Lead a conversation about the future property needs of the Uniting Church in this region, paying attention to missional priorities.
- Assess efforts to reduce climate change across the Presbytery.

Outcomes in 2021

- Oversight of **ongoing property projects** across the Presbytery – including Cheltenham Mentone, Ormond, St Leonard's Brighton, St Mark's Chadstone, St John's Elsternwick, Keysborough Samoan, Uniting By The Bay, Korean Church of Melbourne. Each of these projects has a property consultation group or asset strategy group with membership from the congregation, the PPEP Property Committee and Synod Property Services to ensure that the impetus of the project is maintained.
- Initiation of the **Money for Mission** program throughout the Presbytery. The Committee is working with the Presbytery, congregations and Synod Property Services to assess and complete property sales that will support the resourcing of mission in congregations, the Presbytery and the wider church. To date investment from PPEP in the Money for Mission Fund (MFMF) is coming from the sale of the Sandringham property,

manses at Balkara, St Kilda, and Murrumbeena, the Elsternwick tennis courts and hall. The Dandenong North site has been sold to Dawat-e-Islami, a Sunni Muslim organisation. Plans are in place for the sale of the Gardiner Pre-School.

- Establishment of a **database of leaders** who carry responsibility for property in their congregations.
- Production of a draft **property manual** designed to assist congregations in managing property maintenance, and proposing local property projects, with support from Secretary Anne Kim.
- Presentation of Five Leaf Eco Award certificates to congregations affirming their response to climate change.

2022 Plan

- Initiate and lead a conversation about the future property needs of the Uniting Church in this region, paying attention to missional priorities.
- Publish and distribute the property manual developed in 2021.
- Issue a discussion paper focussing on property stewardship.
- Continue to encourage congregations to assess their environmental footprint and energy usage. Continue the Five Leaf Eco Awards.
- Develop an online archive of decisions and planning documentation relating to congregational and Presbytery property planning,
- Develop and implement strategy for Presbytery manses.

Gavin Faichney



Finance & Risk Committee 2021–2022

The Finance & Risk Committee is responsible for overseeing the Presbytery's budget, gathering of information on mission and service giving and assessment of financial health of congregations and risk assessment and mitigation for the Presbytery.

Chair: Chris Begg, Members: Sue Lyons, Jenny Strahan, Pam Campbell, Tom Spurling. Treasurer: Jeff Gardner, Presbytery Minister: Duncan Macleod.

2021 Plan

- Work with Synod to build a stronger understanding of the mission and service program in congregations, as well as a clarification of how mission and service giving is allocated
- Develop a risk profile for the Presbytery.
- Work on training needs analysis for local congregations around finance and risk management.

Outcomes in 2021

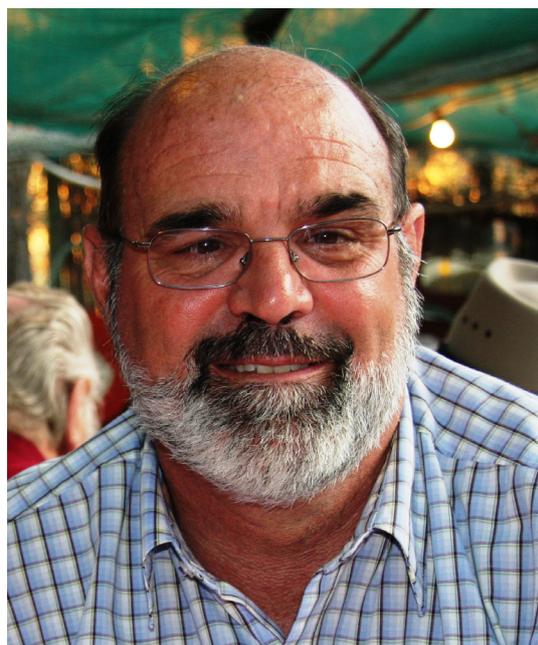
- Regularly reported the Presbytery financial position of actual receipts and expenditure compared to budget
- Created a five-year budget estimate for the Presbytery
- Created a chart showing the receipt and expenditure for each congregation for the past three years. This will be added to for each successive year.
- Worked with other committees to create a risk management report identifying possible risks, their potential severity and the responsible committee for developing actions to mitigate the risk.
- Created a 'watch list' for congregations identified as having significant financial problems in order to work with them to find possible solutions
- In partnership with the Property Committee managed properties made surplus through the closure of congregations.
- Established the level and followed actual payments for Synod Mission and Service contributions for each congregation. PPE is the presbytery with the highest level of meeting commitments in the Synod.

2022 Plan

- Continue work with Synod to build a stronger understanding of the mission and service program in congregations, as well as a clarification of how mission and service giving is allocated
- Update the Presbytery's risk profile and resource congregations in risk management.
- Undertake training needs analysis for treasurers.

Chris Begg, Chair

Jeff Gardner, Treasurer



Communication Team 2021–2022

The Communication Team carries responsibility for the Presbytery's communication strategy, overseeing development and resourcing of the Presbytery's publications, website and digital media.

Members: Helen Beeby (Communication Officer until August 2021) Sarah Manase (Communications Officer from January 2021), Jeff Gardner, Jay Robinson, Anne Kim, Presbytery Ministers Duncan Macleod, Anneke Oppewal, Craig Mitchell.

Outcomes for 2021

In 2021 the Communication Team

- Monitored and contributed to shaping of
 - monthly digital Newsbeat magazine
 - regular email communication with office bearers and ministry agents
 - social media assets of the Presbytery.
- Implemented design work for the Presbytery's web site, establishing a framework for helpful ongoing content and recruiting contributors, relaunching the site in June.

- Assessed the effectiveness and future development of Newsbeat in 2021, including a survey of readers.
- Surveyed congregations in relation to congregational communication strategy.
- Contributed to position description of the new Presbytery Communications Officer

2022 Plan

- Continue to resource the Presbytery through the Presbytery website.
- Relaunch Newsbeat with the new editor, Sarah Manase, ensuring that every congregation's story is covered through the year.
- Learn from survey of congregation communication strategy
- Resource congregations in the development and running of their websites, with the support of Synod's Communication team.

Consultation Team 2021–2022

The Consultation Strategy Team was established in 2020 to work on the Presbytery's strategy in relation to consultations with congregations.

Chair: Cameron McAdam Members: Fiona Winn.
Presbytery Ministers: Craig Mitchell, Duncan Macleod, Anneke Oppewal.

2021 Plan

- Design consultations focused on vitality and mission, in line with the mission priorities of the Presbytery. It was expected that this design would be trialled in consultations with two congregations in 2021.
- Learn from the Synod's Community Life Survey for congregations, and the National Church Life Survey being held between October and November.

Outcomes in 2021 and 2022 Plan

In 2021 we considered a template for life and witness consultations, but due to a range of circumstances, including COVID restrictions, further work on this has been paused.

The Standing Committee was able to reflect on the Synod's Community Life Survey. The National Church Life Survey results will be available later in 2022.

The Standing Committee will revisit the brief for the Consultation Strategy Team in 2022.

Presbytery Projects 2021–2022

Ministry Wellbeing & Networking

During the Presbytery's Cultivating a New Future consultation, one of the emerging priorities was the wellbeing of people serving in ministry roles.

Anneke Oppewal as Presbytery Minister: Pastoral Care has provided careful support for our ministry agents in 2021.

One strategy in this area is supporting existing networks between people in ministry, and encouraging new networks. Some networks grow out of shared interests in ministry and mission, while others are based on geography and demographics. Here's a few examples of networks developed in 2021 or planned for 2022.

- Women in Ministry
- CALD Ministers
- Children & Youth Ministry
- Retired Ministers
- Contemplative Ministry (new in 2021)
- UCA Aged Care chaplains (new in 2022)
- UCA Supervisors (new in 2022)
- Pastors (renewed in 2022)

Weekly email and Zoom Café

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in March 2020, Presbytery Minister Duncan Macleod sent out a weekly email and hosted an online forum for people across the Presbytery. The email is sent out using the Mailchimp email platform, making it possible to address ministry agents, office bearers, Presbytery members and others who have signed up for updates.

The Zoom Cafe began in 2020 as a bi-weekly meeting for leaders, on Tuesdays and Fridays. In 2021 this was reduced to one day a week, initially on Thursdays, and then back to Fridays. Feedback from participants indicates that people have found the meetings helpful, particularly during times of rapid change and transition relating to COVID.

In 2021 the Zoom Café was used to host pastoral care and worship workshops and question-and-answer sessions relating to other matters such as essential safety measures.

In 2022 the Zoom Café is being held on an occasional basis, with guest presenters and special topics.

Education and Training

The Presbytery in 2021 encouraged enrolments in the Synod-wide courses on leading worship (May-June) and preaching (September-October) run by eLM lay ministry coordinator Mel Perkins with Presbytery eLM ministers. Craig Mitchell led the first session on five theological emphases in worship.

Duncan and Anneke ran an 8-week online course on the sacraments in July and August, with participants from PPE and Yarra Yarra Presbytery.

The Presbytery Ministry team hosted a 3-evening online Introduction to the Uniting Church workshop, in October designed for people new to the Uniting Church as well as people undertaking a period of discernment.

The Presbytery hosted Songwrite, an Australia-wide online gathering of people with interests in writing music for use in worship. The event was held on November 6-7 and featured input from songwriter Malcolm Gordon. Ongoing gatherings will continue in 2022. Craig Mitchell worked with a team from the Presbytery to facilitate online collaboration.

In 2021 the Presbytery Ministry team hosted workshops on burnout and self care, grief, mourning and transition in congregations, digital tools for faith formation. Videos from the workshops are on the Presbytery website and YouTube channel.

All people in ministry roles attended ethical ministry workshops in 2021 focused on relating to councils of the church, and confidentiality.

eLM

Craig Mitchell's role as Presbytery Minister: Church Development includes work as Presbytery eLM Minister. This includes two days each month networking with others in a similar role across Victoria and Tasmania, as well as equipping Leaders for Mission staff based in the Centre for Theology and Ministry.

Through 2021 the Presbytery eLM Ministers helped to lead the Leading Worship and Preaching workshops, and developed resources to support congregations in promoting a healthy leadership culture and addressing difficult behaviour.

Resourcing Mission/Money for Mission

During the Presbytery's Cultivating a New Future consultation, one of the emerging priorities was the development of strategies for growing the financial resource base for the Presbytery, to enable staff continuity and grow mission capacity in key areas. The Presbytery has sold the Dandenong North property for just under \$4 million and invested funds in the Money for Mission program. The sale of the Gardiner pre-school should be completed by the end of 2022.

Duncan Macleod and David Higham represent the Presbytery on the Vic/Tas Money for Mission Steering Group.

Digitising Presbytery Records

Anne Kim, in her role as Presbytery Secretary, is working through the Presbytery's paper records from 2012 to 2020, scanning documents that need to be archived.

Casey - Cardinia Regional Collaboration

The Casey-Cardinia project is a significant initiative encompassing one of the fastest growing population regions in our state. The region is about one-third of the geographic area of our presbytery with a population the size of Tasmania. It is increasingly multicultural and economically diverse.

The Presbytery Ministers, working with PRC and the MLDC, have been working to strengthen collaboration across the six congregations in the outer south east of the presbytery. The aim is to resource both local and regional mission.

For many years there has been good co-operation among the minister and churches at Berwick, Narre Warren North, Pakenham, Cranbourne, Hampton Park and Endeavour Hills. However as some congregations become smaller and financial situations change, a different approach to ministry and mission is needed.

The Presbytery is in conversation with the church councils and the ministers about the possibility of forming a regional ministry team in 2022. Alongside this, the Presbytery will work with the congregations to increase informal co-operation across their activities.

A third step is to explore the development of new faith communities in growing suburbs.

Connecting with the wider church

Tom Spurling and Duncan Macleod represent the Presbytery on the bi-monthly Synod Presbytery Forum. Cameron McAdam completed his term in July 2021.

Anneke Oppewal and Duncan Macleod represent the Presbytery on the monthly Synod Placements Committee.

Duncan Macleod and Harmen Oppewal are members of the Theological and Ministry Education Committee.

Duncan Macleod represents the Presbytery on the Here For Good Committee, and Jeff Gardner represents the Presbytery on the Here For Good Presbytery Reference Group, taking up the role from Cameron McAdam in July.

Duncan is a member of the Assembly Church in the Digital Age task group.

Tom Spurling is a member of the Synod Walking Together in Covenant committee.

Di Paterson is completing her time representing the Presbytery on the Victoria Lay Preachers Association.

Presbytery Prayer Calendar

The Presbytery website hosts a prayer calendar designed to help congregations pray for the wider Uniting Church through the year. In 2022 the calendar has been adjusted to begin the year with ministry related to agencies, schools, university, emergency chaplaincy.

Presbytery Risk Register

The Standing Committee's governance responsibilities include assessment of risk and proactive mitigation of risk significant aspect of governance. In 2021 the Port Phillip East Presbytery Standing Committee added risk management to the brief for the Presbytery Finance Committee.

Presbytery Chair Tom Spurling and Presbytery Minister Duncan Macleod developed a framework that could be used by the Finance and Risk Committee. Each of the Presbytery's committees were invited to contribute to the resulting risk register.