

CHARTER: Growth & Mission Committee

Mandate

The Growth and Mission Committee is a Committee of the Presbytery.

The Growth and Mission Committee acts on behalf of the Presbytery within Regulation 3.1.4 (Life and Witness Consultations)

Rationale

The Sydney Central Coast Presbytery seeks to create an environment where mission can flourish acknowledging that this happens primarily in the context of the congregations (and other communities of faith) within its boundaries.

A core responsibility of the Presbytery is to oversee and strengthen the life and witness of the congregations within its bounds. Exercise of these responsibilities is critical to the ongoing health and vitality of congregations. When the Presbytery undertakes its role diligently and faithfully it also builds a strong working relationship between the whole Presbytery and the congregations in its care.

Sydney Central Coast Presbytery leadership seek the on-going commitment of all members of the Presbytery to participate fully in their respective consultations, and, where appropriate to willingly assist with Growth & Mission (G&W) consultations that take place in neighbouring congregations. Participation enables the flow of communication across the Presbytery and facilitates a greater collective understanding of the life and witness of our congregations.

Every effort will be taken in Life and Witness consultations to ensure collaboration between congregations and Presbytery leading to enhancement of ongoing relationships.

Responsibilities of the Life and Witness Committee

Processes

- Ensuring that all congregations have high quality consultations as is timely, necessary and desirable to support the congregations' life and witness and considering the needs and mission of the wider church
- Maintaining a 'master list' of past, current and prospective consultations and ensuring an agreed schedule of consultations is adhered to
- Initiating consultations at the request of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC), the Presbytery Standing Committee (SC) and/or the Business Committee (BC), noting that each committee can initiate its own special purpose consultation if required.
- Maintaining relationships and communication with other Presbytery Committees to effectively collaborate on the initiation and conduct of consultations for various reasons, and the implementation of recommendations
- Reviewing the Consultation Guidelines, no less than biennially
- Regularly providing reporting to other Presbytery Committees on the planned scheduling and progress of consultations. This will occur bi-annually to the Presbytery Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee and Business Committee.

Additional reporting can occur at other times at the discretion of the G&M Committee.

- Prioritising consultations according to the resources of the committee and the needs of congregations

For each consultation

- Ensuring that membership of each Consultation team is tailored to the specific needs of the congregation and its context.
- Liaising with Zones, and Presbytery Committees to appoint teams to conduct Consultations
- If specific terms of reference within these types are required, the G&M Committee will liaise with other committees to establish the terms of reference.
- Appointing a team leader (responsibilities of the team leader are set out in the Guidelines) and team members to conduct the consultation
- Arranging a briefing/training of the team prior to the commencement of the consultation
- Reviewing draft consultation reports to ensure that any recommendations are consistent with Uniting Church Regulations and have been prepared according to the standards and expectations documented in the Guidelines. Other committees (PRC & BC) may be consulted prior to report and may seek revisions to any report recommendations before the report is finalised.
- Ensuring efficient and effective communication throughout the consultation process, including referring outcomes and action items to the relevant Presbytery Committees for action and/or follow up
- Ensuring that throughout the consultation communication with the church council is consistent and adequate, in accordance with the standards and expectations documented in the Guidelines
- Ensuring that the congregation receive the final consultation report and any applicable recommendations
- Ensure that SC, PRC & BC receive the final consultation report with any recommendations

Maintain regular contact with Congregations, collaboratively reviewing progress to plans and any recommendations from the report.

Delegations

- To Initiate Growth & Mission (Life and Witness) consultations according to the Regulations, Presbytery policy and as requested by Presbytery Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee and/or Business Committee
- To select a team leader and team members for each Consultation team
- To declare a Growth & Mission consultation is no longer a draft and that any report recommendations are consistent with Uniting Church Regulations and have been prepared according to the standards and expectations documented in the Guidelines
- In the event of the following, the G&M Committee will refer a consultation to the SC: (i) a significant time delay in conducting of the consultation, (ii) governance issue (iii) pastoral issue, (iv) the final report is not passed on to the congregation for action (iv) any other difficulty that may arise

Appointment

- Members are elected for a 2-year term
- Members are elected by the Presbytery Council.

- Presbytery Standing Committee has the right to remove a member of the Committee at any time
- Committee is to comprise no more than six elected members.
- In addition, Committee membership shall include:
 - Presbytery Minister: Growth & Mission
 - Life & Witness Consultant
- The Committee can co-opt members to balance skills and talents. Co-opted member numbers shall not exceed the number of elected members.
- The Committee will elect a Chairperson from its appointed members and report this to the Standing Committee.
- Membership of the Committee shall be drawn from congregation members within the Presbytery and Ministers of the Presbytery according to their gifts and skills

Meetings

- To be held no less than bi-monthly.
- Additional meetings may be convened by the Chairperson according to need or if requested by two Committee members or the Presbytery Chairperson
- Quorum shall be 50% of members plus one member
- Minutes and Action Log are to be prepared after every meeting
- A Report on the work of the Committee is to be circulated bi-annually to Presbytery Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee and Business Committee

Process for Review

- Committee Charter and Delegations are to be reviewed annually by the Committee and then submitted to Presbytery Standing Committee for ratification
- Presbytery Standing Committee has the right to amend the Charter and/or Delegations at any time
- Presbytery to be advised of any changes to the Charter and Delegations.

Related Documents

- The Sydney Central Coast Presbytery Growth and Mission Guidelines
- Uniting Church in Australia Regulations