

VISION STATEMENT OF THE PARRAMATTA-NEPEAN PRESBYTERY

As a Whole Presbytery, to generously share ourselves and mobilise God's resources to support God's Mission so that, in 2055 and beyond the Uniting Church has a strategic, vibrant Christ Centred presence in Western Sydney in all its diversity.

To achieve this, and to fulfil our obligations and responsibilities as set down in the UCA Constitution and Regulations, the Presbytery commits itself to the following:

5 Big Moves

1) We will continue to become missionally oriented.

Just as God is oriented towards the world in love, so we will seek to shape our life towards the world around us in love. We affirm that the whole Creation belongs to God. We believe that God is already at work in amongst the people, communities and systems of Western Sydney. Our purpose will be neither to maintain what currently exists nor conserve what once was for its own sake; but to allow God to constantly reorient us for the sake of the mission of God.

2) We will foster the growth of healthy, vibrant Christian communities.

Our reason for being as a Council of the church is to give oversight to the life and mission of the church in Western Sydney; to resource and be in accountable relationships with Congregations and Faith Communities. We will therefore stimulate and encourage, as well as ask and be asked hard questions, to keep Congregations and Faith Communities focussed on their calling as the embodiment of the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

3) We will promote collaboration for mission.

We believe that our best efforts with a mission field as large and as diverse as Western Sydney will require partnerships of all kinds. We will value generous, innovative and flexible approaches to collaboration. We will advocate for pioneering models of missional cooperation between Congregations, Faith Communities, wider Church Agencies and community groups.

4) We will communicate effectively.

We recognize that we need to hear as well as proclaim and so we commit ourselves to speak clearly and listen well to all our partners. We will develop relationships that value open and honest dialogue. We will prioritise creative, multi-cultural and intergenerational approaches to communication with respect to languages and technologies.

5) We will embody inclusiveness.

In response to the rich diversity of our region we will value the inclusion of all people and seek to model this ethos throughout the Presbytery, its committees and initiatives, all its people and amongst those whom we serve.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE PARRAMATTA-NEPEAN PRESBYTERY

1) We will continue to become missionally oriented.

- Strategy 1 Develop a brief paper to enable a shared theology of Mission for the Presbytery
- Strategy 2 Reorientate congregations for mission using an Incarnational model of church *(that is attractive, authentic and engaging in worship, witness and service)*
- Strategy 3 Develop intentional congregations/communities of faith such as new ministries, new initiatives, 'church plant' home groups and integration of multi-ethnic congregations *(with a focus on second and later generations)*
- Strategy 4 Equip leaders to have a missional focus - including mission planning within the congregation and connecting with other congregations within their zone.
- Strategy 5 Grow and nurture new leaders with entrepreneurial gifts and capacities.

2) We will foster the growth of healthy, vibrant Christian communities.

- Strategy 1 Develop the leadership of congregations using the Sydney Alliance model of relationship building *(for within congregations as well as in zones)*
- Strategy 2 Identify and work with priority congregations that have the potential for growth *(including large/regional congregations)* to become servant-leader communities.
- Strategy 3 Work with Synod resources to enable 'deepening' of people within the congregations- especially in areas understanding faith, sharing faith, and development of gifts and skills for ministry
- Strategy 4 Assist leaders within congregations to equip others in understanding faith as the motivator for them to engage in service and mission
- Strategy 5 Develop a dedicated network to 'undergird' the mission within the Presbytery and congregations with prayer.

3) We will promote collaboration for mission.

- Strategy 1 Develop core zone teams using Sydney Alliance principles
- Strategy 2 Education of agencies and councils in the wider church to offer opportunities to collaborate in mission
- Strategy 3 Provide some forums for exploring new opportunities for sharing ideas, hopes and rationale for mission within zones
- Strategy 4 Prioritise three zones to begin the implementation of missional partnerships within zones- including educational, missional and service bodies within the Synod,
- Strategy 5 Recognise the opportunities for other groups beyond and within the culturally and linguistically diverse church (such as Tongan National Conference, UAICC etc) to engage within mission conversations within each zone

4) We will communicate effectively.

- Strategy 1 Develop regular targeted communication with congregations and leaders within zones
- Strategy 2 Develop a better induction process for new ministers and lay leaders within the Presbytery which includes the missional focus and 'Five Big Moves'

- Strategy 3 Overcome 'communication blocks' within Presbytery committees as well as between congregations and Presbytery - such as those experienced in delivering the Presbytery Mission and Property Review.
- Strategy 4 Promote stories of events and activities within the Presbytery that encourage, inspire or activate others for mission and ministry
- Strategy 5 Engage with regular communication using different modes-recognising the diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds of people as well as varied availability of technology.

5) We will embody inclusiveness.

- Strategy 1 Develop and promote a theology of missional inclusiveness for congregations
- Strategy 2 Enable opportunities to share 'our stories' and build respect for our unique experiences within meetings, zones and councils of the Presbytery
- Strategy 3 Ensure the diversity within the Presbytery is well reflected in the leadership and councils of the Presbytery
- Strategy 4 Engage in relational activities, such as Sydney Alliance, within the Presbytery which enable us to share our common human experiences and promote our Unity in faith and mission
- Strategy 5 Encourage involvement of leaders and members of congregations, within the Presbytery, in community groups as an expression of our theology of reconciliation