



The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met on Friday 6 April 2018.

The following information has been prepared under the supervision of the General Secretary, for the use of members and for distribution to Presbyteries, Synod Boards and Committees, School Councils and other relevant bodies.

### Synod Priorities

The General Secretary identified emerging priorities for the Synod as including;

- Budget repair leading to budget sustainability (NB. this is not 'emerging' – it's been evident for a very long time)
- Healthy, growing congregations connected in community
- Vital ministers and leaders

The Synod Leadership team, working in conjunction with Pathways, Stepping Stones, Mission and Property Review teams and the Synod Communications Team is developing a clear plan to effectively communicate progress across the Synod. More information to follow.

### Announcements

The SSC welcomed Mr Matthew Tyler as the Interim Chief Operating Officer. Matthew brings a wealth of church and operational experience to the Synod. Matthew's previous experience includes the role of General Manager at the Exodus Foundation where he drove significant transformational change and introduced robust compliance systems and processes.

### Safe Church

Nicole Rose, Head of Risk and Compliance, Uniting Resources presented on Safe Church. Nicole and her team are keen to work collaboratively with Presbyteries and Congregations to ensure that child and vulnerable persons related risks are being identified, persons of concern are being managed and monitored in accordance with our policy, conduct is being appropriately reported under the Reportable Conduct Scheme

and complaints and claims are being properly dealt with.

### Synod 2019

The Synod meeting will be held Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Knox Grammar School.

### Mapoon Appeal

The SSC approved the payment of \$200,000 to the Mapoon Appeal. Further information about this important project can be found at <https://uaicc.org.au/mapoon/>

### Synod Committees

The Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee (GNRC) have been reviewing "Synod Committees" for some time. SSC approved the categorisation of Committees into six categories. Further information will be forthcoming.

### Progress Reports were received from

- Social Justice Forum February meeting;
- Uniting Mission and Education including an update on the Internal Governance Review;
- Assembly Standing Committee; November meeting;
- Synod Risk and Oversight Committee (SROC);
- Pathways;
- Uniting including Board and Governance reports and the development of affordable housing initiatives.