



PR&PC Report to Synod 2019

'For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect.' (Paul the Apostle, 2 Corinthians 13:9)

The Pastoral Relations and Placements Committee is an awkward beast – not a mighty one!

'PR' – 'Pastoral Relations' – is a Presbytery Committee, responsible for the Pastoral Care of the Ministers and Ministry Agents within the PPNA. For a long list of these responsibilities, see Attachment 1.

'PC' – 'Placements Committee' – is a Synod Committee, responsible for ministry placements across the synod. For a full list of responsibilities, see Attachment 2.

However, NRCC placements are not handled by PR&PC, and there are no NRCC members on the Committee. Trying to keep all these tasks straight can be tricky, especially since our numbers are small and most of us are busy.

Since our last Synod Meeting in October 2019:

- the PR&PC have been in conversation with all the ministry agents in the Pilgrim Presbytery; and we have held in prayer many of the NRCC ministry agents as well
- we welcomed Rev Haloti Kailahi as the Northern Synod General Secretary
- we provided members for a *Joint Nominating Committee* (JNC) with Darwin Memorial UC, calling Rev Dr Andrew Williams to ministry placement; and with Nightcliff UC, calling Rev Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams to ministry placement part-time; and arranging their respective Induction Services
- we rejoiced in appointing Rev Dr Katalina to a part-time role as Social Justice Officer.

The PR&PC also presides over formation of Candidates for Ordination in the PPNA:

- We continued to travel with Richard Telfer and Emily Hayes through their Formation as Candidates – both are travelling well, and we continue to encourage them and the Formation Panel on this journey
- We interviewed Rosalie Clarke and Dr Steve Bevis at the conclusion of their PoDs (Periods of Discernment, a mentored examination of God's call on ministry gifts), and presented them to the Presbytery Meeting in March 2019 for acceptance as Candidates for Minister of the Word. Presbytery discerned that both should proceed to Formation.

Congregational Consultations were held with Alice Springs UC and Living Water UC, as part of our regular schedule of consultations to see how congregations are travelling, how they connect to the wider community, how they are growing, and areas where they may need support. This process may lead on to preparing a Congregational Profile in order to proceed to a placement.



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We also regularly assess ministry agents' 'Vitality of Call', helping them discern where God is seeking to grow their ministry and support their people.

Dr Steve Bevis, Pastor in placement at Alice Springs UC, participated in a Vitality of Call process and was encouraged to continue in placement. The process highlighted his passion for social justice, worship for the whole community, and keenness to continue the work of the Meeting Place and other areas of outreach in Alice Springs.

PR&PC also:

- looks after Pastors, Chaplains, Patrol ministries, and Lay Preachers;
- advises PPNA about lay presiders at Holy Communion;
- supervises Presbytery training in Safe Church and the Code of Ethics; and
- cares for ministry agents in times of special circumstances and need.

So it's no surprise that 2 ½ hours of meeting time each month never seems to be enough; and the Convener and Presbytery officers are kept busy between meetings as well.

We are few, and not remotely 'mighty'; but as we do our best, God's grace takes our meagre gifts and pours them out richly in blessings across the uniquely wonderful congregations and leaders of our PPNA.

At this meeting we are sad to say good bye to Joyce Hudson and Rev Matthew Stuart.

Joyce has brought a voice from the Kimberly, been an exceptional secretary and a long time member of the PR&PC.

Matthew has brought great insights and different perspectives to our meetings.

To both Joyce and Matthew we say a heart felt THANKS

*'Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.'*

(Paul the Apostle, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

Prayers and Blessings for the journey

Rev Helen Paine

Convenor PR&PC