

Regional Partnership: Riverina Presbytery Newsletter

May 2024



*The Regional Partnership is the Committee charged with oversight and responsibilities of the Riverina. We meet monthly and this Newsletter is a summary of the meeting held on **8 May 2024**.*

At each Regional Partnership meeting we begin our conversation with discussion around theology, the Church and then in prayer together. The Regional Partnership, as part of the practice of Saltbush, grounds our work and conversation within our faith rather than our faith within our work.

Regional Partnership Chairperson's Report

As May sounds the fading notes of autumn, the cold begins to creep in. I hope that where ever you are, you are able to stay warm as the days and nights cool.

The Regional Partnership is undergoing a review, requested by the General Secretary on behalf of the Synod Standing Committee. We are interested to learn what has served the Riverina well and what still needs sorting out. We will report back as soon as we have a clear picture.

We joyfully welcome Lara Carson as the Riverina Administration Officer. Lara will become a familiar name and contact for you once she settles in. Lara can be contacted via email: LaraC@nswact.uca.org.au

Saltbush Regional Minister Report: Key comments

- The Property review continues, with issues being managed. Please remember that no congregation across the synod can sign a lease to rent out a property. Only the Property Trust can sign the lease as they hold ownership on behalf of the whole church.
- Rev Kyle Provan has agreed to do supply ministry with Wagga Pilgrim for three months.
- Conversation with Uniting Mission and Education is exploring the need for cultural ministry in the Riverina. We look forward to the coming Synod PALM (Pacific Australia Labour Mobility) scheme Minister who will help develop possibilities.

Decision making in the Regional Partnership for different geographical areas

Mark Faulkner led a good discussion about making decisions as a whole church rather than geographic silo's. We noted the importance of local context informing the wider church as we discern and decide together.

As part of this, I commend to you the paper 'Origins, Foundations and Structure' which is attached to this email and explains the goals and processes guiding the Regional Partnership.

I highlight this sentence from the paper **"as the Episkopé (oversight) is shared in different ways, so must the building up in faith and love, the nurturing of hope, and the opportunities broaden to discern and participate in the Way of Christ in the world"**. Within our own Church, the worst decisions we make are often made in isolation. We recognise the uniqueness of each context, and the distance between the regions, but we rely on each other for the wisdom, insights, comments and support as we make decisions together.

Budget Review

It is budget time in the Synod, and next month will see us discussing the Riverina budget. It will be shared with you as soon as it is ready.

Casual Preaching Matrix Update

This has proven far harder to collate than anticipated. We are still waiting for taxations specialists to give us advice. We are also trying to simplify the matrix for clearer understanding.

The document will have a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. This will have input from a number of Synod departments including Payroll and Finance.

Stewardship Contributions and Seeds of Growth Levy 2024-2025

Is still awaiting recommendations. Finance will look at the last years AFR's in recommending contributions.

All Seeds of Growth contributions go straight into the Growth Fund to support new initiatives for congregations. None of it goes supports Synod Mission Services upkeep.

Regional Partnership Skills Matrix

We have created a skills matrix to assess what skills the committee has in existing members, and what might be needed as new voting members are sought.

John Mueller

We share the sad news that John Mueller has passed away. John was a dedicated lay preacher and church council member. He and Jane were members of Wesley. We give thanks for his faith and service.

Upcoming Training Opportunities for Congregations

We have a few available spots remaining in a couple of fantastic training courses and workshops coming up in May that we'd love for you to consider. We ask that you also please share this email with those in your Congregations who would be suitable to attend.



Synod Mentor Training

- Thursday 16 May, Thursday 23 May and Thursday 30 May
- 9:30 am to 11:30 am (each session)
- Online via Zoom

Synod Mentor Training, hosted by Rev. Dr Niall McKay and Rev Patty Lawrence, will provide the opportunity to strengthen and deepen skills as a mentor. It will explore mentoring for people at different stages of faith and ministry – including all phases of ministry development and discipleship. Along with teaching content, and skills development, there will be the opportunity to both reflect on your own practice and to engage with other mentors in a collaborative, supportive community.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Who should attend this course?

Anyone mentoring or interested in mentoring:

- Pastors
- People in Phase 2 and 3 of ministerial education
- People in a Period of Discernment
- Anyone who may be considering becoming a mentor.

Please share this course with those in your Congregation or Presbytery who falls into any of these groups.



[Conflict Intervention Training](#)

- Wednesday 22 May to Friday 24 May
- From 9am each day
- Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta

This course, hosted by Rev. Terence Corkin and Julia Kuhn Sharp is designed to develop people in Presbyteries who can provide life giving and effective intervention strategies in a timely and cost-effective way. The skills and knowledge that are provided in the course will be useful to any person who is involved in congregational life as a leader.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Who should attend this course?

- People who are recognised by their Presbytery as suitably skilled to be involved in responding to interpersonal and / or group conflict in teams or congregations.
- Chairs of Presbytery PRC's and other key leaders in Presbyteries to be aware of the options that are available for interventions so that they can encourage their use.

If you have any questions about the courses above, please reach out to umeinfo@nswact.uca.org.au

Good News Stories

Jenny Rose - NSW Woman of the Year

At the May meeting, the Regional Partnership acknowledged Jenny Rose presentation of "Woman of the Year" by local member, Helen Dalton MP recognizing her service to the community and achievements.

A copy of Jenny's work and achievements that was included in April Insights is attached.

June is Beanie month in Henty

Henty Culcairn UCA have been supporting the Seafarers mission for some time now however this year things have been stepped up! The whole town is getting on board, UCA working with other community organisations.

June is beanie month in Henty. There are 4 categories: 1. Just a beanie - 2. Colorful - 3. Novelty - 4. Down by the sea (in keeping with the Seafarers' theme).

All beanies will be donated to the Sydney Seafarers Mission. Over 1,000,000 seafarers (men and women) are on the seas at any one time. CEO Clayton Strong will speak at Henty Probus in August and take the beanies back to Sydney. The Seafarers Mission provides friendship, comfort, meals, snacks, rest rooms, a shop for small purchases and counselling by the Chaplains.

Many of the men and women do not see their families for months on end. Their sole purpose for being on a freighter, container or cruise ship is to help their families overcome poverty. Knitting or crocheting beanies is very worthwhile, despite the cost of posting the parcels to Sydney.

Our community is very good at providing yarn. The total number of beanies stands at 310 with 6 weeks to go. Beanies have been promised from all States and Territories. So far they have come from WA, SA, Vic, Qld, ACT and of course NSW.

*Jen Whitlock
Henty Culcairn Elders Secretary*

Please let me know if you have particular needs or if you have any good news stories to share. I would love to hear from you, please send to: regionalpartnership@nswact.uca.org.au

Blessings to you all.

Bron

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary for the Synod of NSW and ACT

On behalf of Regional Partnerships Committee

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP: ORIGINS, FOUNDATIONS, AND STRUCTURE

PART 1: ORIGINS OF REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

As the earth turns and society changes, so does the Church. However, as the Church, we must choose what kind of change we want. One kind comes from resisting or avoiding change; the other comes from actively participating in the ever-evolving mission of God. The first leads to decline, while the second is part of our discipleship and embodies our understanding of what it is to be the Christian community of Christ - the Church.

As part of this, presbyteries are struggling to live as they once did as they realise that their work is becoming more about survival as an entity than supporting or enlivening the faith and mission of the congregations within their bounds, let alone meeting the ongoing demand of requirements as found in Regulations 3.1.3.

Regional Partnership was born from this dilemma. Responding to the exhaustion of local leaders and office bearers, increasingly fewer in number and older in age, the Regional Partnership sought new ways for individuals, congregations, Saltbush, regions and presbyteries, and Synod to work together.

The Synod Standing Committee thus approved a REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP as more than a structure: as part of building relationships, gathering and dwelling as community in new ways. It is, as yet a holding pattern while the Year of Discernment shapes the outcomes of the Presbytery Project.

This theological reflection for Regional Partnership helps us, as a broad Church, develop our understanding of who we are along the Way.

PARTNERSHIP PARAMETERS

Regional Partnership is an intentional partnership between the people of participating presbyteries and Synod. This partnership enables the presbytery to focus on local mission and ministry while the Synod carries responsibility for supporting matters such as governance, compliance, property, and finance.

Participating presbyteries remain a presbytery under the regulations. They retain their unique identity, decision-making ability, and stewardship of real property and financial assets. As each presbytery refers its regulatory powers to the Synod, it operates with far less committee- and office-bearing responsibilities and more significant support in finance, property, governance, risk, and compliance.

Such partnership enables the regions/presbyteries and Synod to support and encourage the congregations in their mission and service. The focus is on what congregations of the presbytery need to flourish as they serve the mission of God.

The Regional Partnership is a body of people from the regions (presbyteries), Saltbush, Synod leadership, and property and finance working together as a broad church. Regional Partnership is a way to work and live as Church in places where past structures no longer offer life.

Regional Partnership seeks to be both a body for oversight within the life of our Church and a humble movement of change that builds reflection, decision-making and action on life-giving theological foundations.

PART 2: THEOLOGICAL AND ECCLESIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

MISSIONAL FOCUS

In the book of Acts 2: 42.2 - 46, the life of the newly formed Christian community is one where followers of “the Way” *“devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”* and *“day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”*

In this same way, followers of Jesus still gather to devote themselves to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. We continue to break bread and share the cup as we care for the wellbeing of others.

The Basis of Union (BoU)¹ of the Uniting Church in Australia reminds the Church of the strange way in which Christ reaches out to command people’s attention.

‘Through human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command people’s attention and awaken faith; he calls people into the fellowship of his sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified Lord; in his own strange way Christ constitutes, rules, and renews them as his Church.’

The Christian Church finds itself in diverse and changing times. Our belief in God’s creating, renewing and continual presence challenges us to consider what is this *“strange way Christ... renews...”*

The Regional Partnership finds itself in a strange place seeking renewal and re-formation within this time and circumstance. The Regional Partnership prays that this renewing is a reaching out of Christ through the Holy Spirit's command to refocus our attention on the mission of God rather than institutional preference and survival.

RELATIONAL OVERSIGHT (EPISKOPE)

The Basis of Union describes the work of the Regional Council of the Church (Presbytery) as one where *“its function is to perform all the acts of oversight necessary to the life and mission of the Church”* and where *“it will in particular exercise oversight over the congregations within its bounds, encouraging them to strengthen one another’s faith, to bear one another’s burdens, and urging them to fulfil their high calling in Christ Jesus.”*²

Accordingly, “exercising oversight” is the primary role of the Regional Partnership so that the Christian community might be the Church as active disciples of Jesus. Historically, the Church has spoken of this “relational oversight” as episkopé.³

The Regional Partnership’s exercising of relational oversight (episkopé) is to inform and shape the Church's life so that good ordering, unity, and entering into the mission of God are the focus of our common life. The Uniting Church understands this ministry of relational oversight (episkopé) exercised together to safeguard the unity and story of the Church of God so that it might be a sign and witness of God's coming kingdom.

¹ Basis of Union Para 4.

² Basis of Union Para 15 (c).

³ Episkopé is the Greek word used within the Church's life for the leadership of oversight by persons set aside for the role and by bodies of people. Episkopé is not simply a role but is seen as a leadership that is insightful, appointed, discerned and chosen, a God-presence with diverse expressions and distinctions.

In these times of change, a second essential role is encouraging our Christian communities with fewer Ministers and smaller gatherings to build up congregations and communities within their lives and faith. Saltbush refers to this as “exploring life and faith together.”

The Basis of Union says, “[The Elders/Leaders are] *responsible for building up the congregation in faith and love, sustaining its members in hope, and leading them into a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.*”⁴

As the episkopé is shared in different ways, so must the building up in faith and love, the nurturing of hope, and the opportunities broaden to discern and participate in the Way of Christ (which we call mission) in the world.

THE CHURCH'S CALL

The Basis of Union describes how the Uniting Church in Australia understands the mission of God:

*“The Church, as the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, confesses Jesus as Lord over its own life; it also confesses that Jesus is Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation, of a new humanity. God in Christ has given all people in the Church the Holy Spirit as a pledge and foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal, which is the end for the whole creation. **The Church's call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which members use their diverse gifts to build the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself.** The Church lives between the time of Christ's death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things that Christ will bring; the Church is a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal; here, the Church does not have a continuing city but seeks one to come. On the way, Christ feeds the Church with Word and Sacraments, and it has the gift of the Spirit in order that it may not lose the way.”*⁵

God in Christ is at mission in the world; the Holy Spirit guides and inspires the Church to:

- Share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and action,
- Inspire and nurture new followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation,
- Respond in compassion to human need,
- Live justly and seek justice for all,
- Care for the whole creation,
- Listen to each generation and culture to live out the Gospel in fresh ways,
- Understand that serving God's mission is a partnership, but always, it is God's mission.

Mission, then, is the work of God and the reason the Church was formed. It is God who reconciles, renews and invites the Church to participate. Therefore, the Regional Partnership oversees such congregations as they thoughtfully plan how to fulfil their calling to join God in seeking reconciliation and renewal for the whole creation, shaping the purpose and directing the witness of each.

MISSIONAL PEOPLE

The Basis of Union discusses who is responsible for this relational oversight (episkopé): government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks God has laid upon them. Christ alone is supreme in the Church, which is “*governed by a series of inter-related councils, each of which has its tasks and responsibilities in relation both to the Church and the world.*”⁶

⁴ Basis of Union Par 15 (b).

⁵ Basis of Union Par 3.

⁶ Basis of Union Par 15.

Regional Partnership practices inter-related episkopé by the local region retaining its identity as a regional council-Presbytery but being in partnership with Synod Mission. The Regional Partnership is responsible for exercising theologically informed governance, management, and leadership.

Membership of Regional Partnership comes through each region discerning people with the gifts and graces for the role of relational oversight (episkopé). Regional Partnership is the framework that enables Presbytery and Synod to partner in serving and supporting the congregations as, together, we explore faith and life in a grounded 21st-century context.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

The Basis of Union reminds us that all its members are engaged in the ministry of Christ. All are called to serve as active disciples of Jesus Christ. *“It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ’s Church with a diversity of gifts and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ.”*⁷

The Uniting Church in Australia expresses this call to serve Christ through the Christian community – the congregation. Congregations are the embodiment in one place of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping, witnessing and serving as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ. Its members meet regularly to hear God’s Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share in the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world.⁸

Regional Partnership acts to give relational oversight (episkopé) to encourage and support the Christian community in its worship, witness, and service.

Regional Partnership will encourage Christian communities within its oversight to both gather and live out our faith and mission within the context in which we find ourselves and within the understanding of the polity and ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Regional Partnership will encourage Christian communities to use the property and financial resources they steward wisely to enable discipleship and mission. Regional Partnership will also redirect resources to areas it believes will enhance the ministry and mission of God in conversation with the NSW/ACT Synod.

The Uniting Church in Australia also recognises the role of the ministry of the Word and Deacon, Elders and Leaders, Ministry of Pastor, Lay Preachers and Lay Presiders as those with particular gifts to serve and build up the Christian community within an informed faith” as described in paragraph 11 of the Basis of Union:

*“The Uniting Church, from inception, will seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to recognise among its members women and men called of God to preach the Gospel, to lead the people in worship, to care for the flock, to share in government and to serve those in need in the world.”*⁹

The Regional Partnership will provide relational oversight (episkopé) for lay and ordained ministry within its regions. Regional Partnership recognises and encourages all forms of ministry that build up the faith and join in God’s reconciling mission for the whole creation.

⁷ Basis of Union Par 13.

⁸ Basis of Union Par 15 (a).

⁹ Basis of Union Par 14

INFORMED FOUNDATIONS

The Regional Partnership is informed by Scripture, the Basis of Union, and Church practice in Australia and across the globe with partner churches. Its life is firmly rooted in the Uniting Church of Australia, and it expresses its work of relational oversight (episkopé) through the Basis of Union.

This foundation provides the Regional Partnership with a vision and direction that upholds a broad Church for the present future. The Regional Partnership recognises that within that broad Church, diverse ways of Christian community will be expressed and encourages an open and inclusive exploration of faith and life.

Christian communities across the regions are the primary focus of the Regional Partnership; the Regional Partnership will listen and respond to them, encouraging and supporting them as they seek to express themselves as followers of Jesus in their local contexts. The Regional Partnership will work with them to question established ways of being that no longer resonate within our 21st-century context and encourage existing and new forms of Christian communities regardless of size or location.

PART 3 : STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

THE SALTBUSH TEAM AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

The Regional Partnership acts as the Pastoral Relations and Standing Committees of the regions.

The Saltbush Team are relationally entwined with the Regional Partnership and participating presbyteries, helping to shape the Regional Partnership to encourage and support the Christian community. It is an extension of their ministry.

Saltbush works across a broad spectrum of our Church: individuals, groups, congregations, councils, committees, presbyteries, the Regional Partnership, and Synod. The challenge of the ministry of Saltbush is not simply to sustain, structure or save the Church, but to ferment the *“strange way Christ [that] reconciles and renews...”*¹⁰

Saltbush holds the Regional Partnership accountable for living out an informed faith grounded in exploring the Way of Christ, enabling its work to be more than a crisis response. With Saltbush, Regional Partnership has enabled our participating presbyteries to gather for community and discipleship formation rather than business meetings. Saltbush as a team, ethos, and ministry informs and helps shape and flavour all these layers and ways of gathering in places where there are, and will be, fewer single placement of Ministry agents.

Saltbush leads two gatherings in each participating region each year, with the business component constituting less than thirty minutes of discussion. The rest of the day focuses on formation as disciples of Christ.

CHAIR

While the Associate Secretary has guided and supported the creation of the Regional Partnership, a designated Regional Partnership Chair should be appointed. The Chair will, consistent with the regulations (3.6.2 (c)), constitute, preside over, and generally direct the business of the meetings of the Regional Partnership and offer general pastoral oversight and support to the Saltbush Regional Ministers as they carry out their ministry in the Region. The Regional Chair continues to be responsible for matters of discipline as described in the regulations (5.4) at the direction of the Regional Partnership acting as the Presbytery Standing and Pastoral Relations Committees.

¹⁰ *Basis of Union Par 4.*

SALTBUSH REGIONAL MINISTERS

Saltbush Regional Ministers will be part of the Saltbush Team but work in their own regions. Their gifts and graces will reflect both the role of the Regional Partnership and the ethos, missiology, and grounded theological practice of Saltbush.

The Regional Partnership in each region will appoint Saltbush Regional Ministers in response to a recommendation by a Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) to call someone they believe has the gifts, graces, and call that match the ministry profile and Placement Description in the usual placement process of the NSW/ACT Synod.

The significance of the title “Saltbush Regional Minister” is that it anchors ministers in a functional and effective team and provides a mutually supportive base while enabling each Saltbush Regional Minister to have their own focus. It also alerts people in each region that the work is different from the traditional work of a Presbytery Minister.

The placement of Saltbush Regional Minister will be consistent with the regulations (2.7.3 and 2.9.1). It shall be accountable in two ways: firstly, to the Regional Partnership for matters of faith, discipline, and reporting (5.1.3 (d) and 5.4.3) while, secondly, under the oversight of the Director of Rural and Remote Ministry Initiatives for the day-to-day expression of ministry. Such accountability gives each role a greater sense of ministry than their local patch. It also provides consistency for relationships, gatherings and matters of oversight.

This model is consistent with the usual practice of ministers in placement being accountable to their church council or Presbytery while a separate person role oversees the day-to-day practice of ministry. While adding to the lines of accountability, it provides separation of responsibilities and manages conflicts of interest/competing interests or views.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

Three to five regional members will be appointed to the Regional Partnership to bring diverse gifts and service to the Regional Partnership. Being a leader in Regional Partnership is thus about exercising gifts of leadership and vision as part of a broad Church in changing times.

The Regional Partnership meets once a month. The task of the Regional Partnership is to prioritise building up congregations in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading congregations (both existing and new forms or gatherings) to a fuller participation in Christ’s mission in the world.

Nominations for leaders on the Regional Partnership must be for people with gifts for this role and who have been a part of the Uniting Church in Australia for a reasonable time. The Regional Partnership should reflect the diversity of our Church in age, sex, and culture.

Each region will elect regional members through a discernment model.

An outline of the Regional Partnership member role will be distributed to the regions, and nominations separate from the nominees will be called for.

Discerning the gifts and graces possessed by individuals nominated for these roles is essential.

Where three or more expressions of interest for a person are received, this shall equal a nomination. The person nominated shall be contacted to test the nomination. With their permission, the names will be put forward for election by members of each region, including voting members of the Regional Partnership Committee.

Duly elected Regional Partnership members will serve for two years. They may be re-nominated to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

SALTBUSH MINISTRY TEAM LEADER OR THEIR DELEGATE

The Saltbush Ministry Team Leader brings a broad view of the wellbeing and good ordering of the wider rural Church and the ethos and direction of Saltbush - Uniting the Scattered Community. Their placement profile and role description set out the ministry to which the Church calls them.

DIRECTOR OF MISSION - UME

The Director of Mission - UME brings a broad view of the wellbeing and good ordering of the whole Church within the NSW/ACT Synod. The Director of Mission - UME has elected not to attend formal meetings but be available as invited or required. No delegate is necessary as the Chair of Regional Partnership and Director of Mission meet regularly to discuss relevant information.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - SYNOD MISSION SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) brings a broad view of the NSW/ACT Synod towards the operational, financial, risk, compliance, property, and other components necessary for the good ordering of the Church.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Other non-voting members of the Regional Partnership Members will attend and support the work of the Regional Partnership as required because of their roles within the life and ministry of the NSW/ACT Synod. These include:

- Associate Secretary,
- Saltbush Scattered Community Ministers,
- Presbytery Service Manager,
- Presbytery Relations Minister,
- Director of Vital Leadership,
- Direction of Education,
- Mission, Growth and Innovation Team,
- Synod Finance,
- Synod Property,
- Synod Safe Church,
- Synod Risk and Compliance,
- Synod Governance
- and others, as required.

The Regional Partnership acts under the Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia as the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) (3.7.3) and the Standing Committee (SC) (3.7.2 (a) (i)) of each Region. It remains responsible for matters of ministry, pastoral care, and mission in relationship to governance in partnership with Synod Mission Services.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

The Regional Partnership will meet monthly with various online conferencing and face-to-face meetings each year.

Regional Partnership will shape its meetings to:

- Meet yearly face-to-face in extended meetings and gatherings of Christian communities across the region,
- Reflect on its Christological foundations and its work of episkopé,
- Hear from Christian communities within its bounds to establish relationships, encourage and support them,
- Attend to Synod business and governance matters,
- Give each Region the opportunity to discuss matters relevant to it as a region and the whole Regional Partnership.

PART 4: FINAL REMARKS

Regional Partnership is an opportunity to bring a fresh attitude and focus to identifying new ways of being church. As congregations can develop new ways of being missionally active in their local communities, Regional Partnership can strongly support them by taking responsibility for matters of property, governance and compliance.

The Church can only be the Church as each congregation actively witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed. This can never be out-sourced to any committee regardless of how dire the circumstances might be. The goal of Regional Partnership is to release energy and focus for local congregations to be missionally active in their local communities.

Title:	Regional Partnership: Origins, Foundation & Structure
Creation Date:	March 2023
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Approval date:	29 March 2024

Jennifer Rose honoured for decades of community service

11 April 2024 by Adrian Drayton

Jennifer Rose has been the heart and soul of Hillston Uniting Church for decades. She was recently recognised for her exceptional dedication and service to the community.



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On March 20, Jennifer was recognised for her service to the community in a ceremony and presented “Woman of the Year” by local member Helen Dalton MP.

Jenny is a Lay Preacher/Presider, leader of the Church, and dedicated community leader. Jenny has been conducting funerals both in the Uniting Church as well as in the community.

From her role as a trusted Community Health Sister to her tireless efforts in supporting families through Can-Assist and providing pastoral care to those in need, Jennifer’s contributions have left an indelible mark on the lives of many. Her compassion and commitment to community health have earned her the admiration and gratitude of countless families throughout the region.

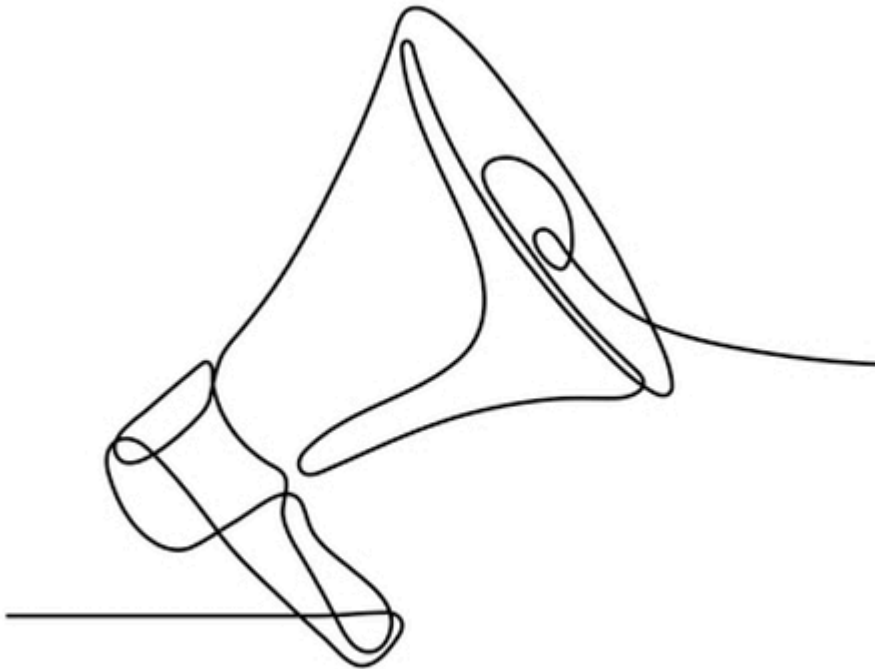
In the last couple of years, Jennifer has started to collaborate ecumenically with other denominations in Hillston and led a Worship in the Park service. This event is attended by up to 80 people once a month, which includes lots of families, many who are not part of any church community.



“Jennifer is an amazing community contributor and the Murray is lucky to have her,” said Helen Dalton in her presentation. “Beyond her professional roles, Jennifer has been a beacon of hope and support for the wider community when the local Uniting Church faced challenges securing a minister, Jennifer took it upon herself to bring the church to the people, fostering a sense of unity and community spirit.

“Jennifer’s dedication extends to providing end-of-life support and compassionate care to families during difficult times. She has personally overseen hundreds of funerals, ensuring that each service is conducted with the utmost dignity and respect, while also raising funds for those in need.”

Pictured above: Helen Dalton MP presenting Woman of the Year award to Jennifer Rose



We'd love to tell your story
