

Overview of the Wimala Presbytery Meeting

Saturday 12th October 2024, Athelstone Uniting Church
33 Fox Ave, Athelstone SA 5076

9.15 am	Welcome Desk and Registration opens Cuppa and a Chat. Take the time to check in and greet each other.
10.00 am	Housekeeping, Acknowledgement of Country Welcome. Celebrate Manual of Meetings.
10.05 am	Worship – Athelstone UC – Rev Do Young Kim
10.25 am	The Secret to Exponential Influence. Rev Tim Hein Acts 18:24-28
10.45 am	Morning Tea
11.10 am	Proposal 1 – Setting the scene (details below)
11. 15 am	Proposal 2 – Presentation of the Reports (details below) 2.1 Presbytery Chairperson Report 2.2 Presbytery Secretary Report 2.3 Mission and Property Project Officer Report 2.4 Pastoral Relations Committee Report 2.5 Regional Coordinator Reports
11.25 am	Presentation of Nominations for vacant positions (details below) Proposal 3 a) Treasurer b) Secretary c)– e) Standing Committee f) – h) Pastoral Relations Committee
11.30am	Property Services – Matt Wilson
12 pm	Lunch
1 pm	Proposal 4 – Financial Report (details below)
1.15 pm	Hearing from our Presbytery - Jaquie and Gwen from Village Church
1.35pm	Hearing from our Presbytery - Congregation Collaboration – Peter and Brett

1.40 pm	Mediacom Update – Rev Paul Turley
1.50 pm	Celebrating the conclusion of PoDs and Phase Three – Rev Ann Phillips and Rev Rebecca Purling
2 pm	Hearing from our Presbytery – the next generation - Dan Phan
2.15 pm	The Wonderful World Of Op-Shops – Rev Rebecca Purling
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea
2.50 pm	Chairperson address – Rev Dianne Holden
3.10 pm	Group Sessions (options will be provided on the day)
4pm	Closing remarks and benediction

This program timing may be subject to change.

Following:

Proposal 1 – Setting the scene

Proposal 2 – General Reports

Proposal 3 – Acceptance of Nominations

Proposal 4 – Financial Report

Proposal 5 –

Other Proposals (if any)

Any other business



Proposal 1 – Setting the Scene

That Wimala Presbytery resolve to:

1. a. ADOPT Standing Orders and Rules of Debate as set out in ‘A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church’, as recorded in the Constitution and Regulations, 2018 edition. (Reg. 3.8.4)
 - b. APPROVE that the style of voting shall be by the use of coloured cards, or if attending the meeting via Zoom, a clear indication of intent via on screen or visual aids, unless a secret ballot is called for by the Chairperson.
 - c. AGREE that in the event that a procedural motion for the council to move into “Private sitting” is carried by a simple majority then ALL those who are not members of the Presbytery must leave the meeting. The required Uniting Technology and Presbytery staff will be able to remain to execute their respective tasks.
 - d. DETERMINE that all discussions or decisions will be conducted in ways which comply with the Church’s safe church policies.
2. RECEIVE all reports as provided (electronic and hard copy) in the ‘Reports and Business Papers of Wimala Presbytery 12th October 2024 and Supplements thereto’. Noting that all reports and papers are taken as read.
3. NOTE that:
 - a. Questions relating to the proposals brought before the Presbytery by the Business Committee will be answered at the time when the proposals are being considered by a plenary session of the Presbytery.
 - b. Comments and/or questions from the floor and replies to questions **shall be limited to three (3) minutes** unless otherwise determined by the house.
 - c. Questions relating to the reports and proposals which are not considered by a plenary session of Presbytery because of time constraints, will be referred along with the particular proposals to the Presbytery Standing Committee.
 4. DEFINE the boundaries of the house to be the Athelstone Uniting Church chapel and Locations connected by an authorized Zoom connection. On the 12th October 2024, between the hours of 10am until 3pm.

Proposers: Leanne Davis and Amy Duke



Proposal 2 – To accept the reports below .

2.1 Presbytery Chairperson Report

I was inducted as Wimala Chairperson at our April meeting after being elected last October at our AGM. I was grateful for that period of handover as it meant I could hit the ground running from April.

My term commenced with a Retreat/Planning Day with the Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee and Property Committee gathering to fellowship, dream and plan together. It was an important and useful gathering as we listened and planned how to respond to the feedback from the Presbytery through the “Blue Sky” sessions of our April Presbytery meeting.

It became very clear there are some key themes that needed further addressing and developing within the life of the Presbytery and these were broadly communication, the telling of stories of what is occurring within the life of the Presbytery, resourcing in a variety of ways and certain education and training opportunities. As a Standing Committee and PRC we are attempting to strategically meet these needs over the next period of time and have already successfully begun to do so.

One of my key goals when commencing as Chairperson was to get out and about within the bounds of the Presbytery as much as I could, committing at least one Sunday a month to preaching. To date I have been involved in services and preaching at Two Wells, Port Adelaide, Owen and Adelaide Plains and Berri/Barmera, with the rest of the year “booked up” with visits. I was also able to worship with Jamestown while on holidays in the area, conduct a commissioning at Dernancourt and celebrate Moonta’s 150th Anniversary. All have been wonderful opportunities to worship, fellowship and delight in the congregations of the Presbytery.

Over the last couple of months we have been able to form our Property and Mission Task Group to support Trevor Phillips in his role of Property Project Officer to comply with the needs and direction of the Synod Strategy and Property Working Group. This group is valuable in supporting Trevor and also in collaborating on a broader understanding of the health and vitality of our congregations and how we can better support our congregations who are looking for assistance in renewal and growth. These conversations underpin our developing theme of FLOURISH. More about that further down.

I meet regularly with the Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee and Presbytery staff. I am constantly grateful for their wisdom, support and commitment to God, the church and the Presbytery congregations and ministry agents. We are blessed with some amazing people and I am very keen to recognise that.

The Presbytery leaders within the Synod also meet regularly and this is very important too. It is helpful to strengthen the relationships between Presbyteries and Synod staff as we work together for the what is best for the church as a whole so we can focus on the mission and ministry God sets before us as the Uniting Church in this time and place.

I have learnt more about property and insurance in the last several months than I thought humanly possible. In some instances we are needing to have difficult conversations with congregations, but please know we do it pastorally and with the intention of helping as much as we can.

Moving forward, a very clear direction has come to mind.

It is easy to concede that the congregations of the Presbytery face a myriad of changes and challenges as we consider the Synod Strategy and Property Working Group Project, escalating insurance premiums, a lack of ministry agents to fill positions or for congregations to have enough finances to pay for a ministry agent in the first place. The theme constantly emerges how do we survive this time and continue to worship and serve as God intends.

While the needs are immense and varied, we return to our initial mandate as a Presbytery – to care for the congregations and ministry agents within our bounds.

Considering this, what would it mean for our Presbytery to FLOURISH?

To FLOURISH as disciples; followers of Jesus in our own spiritual growth and development.

To FLOURISH as congregations, not only in our internal worship and machinations, but also as we look beyond our walls with a missional focus and share the good news of Jesus to our communities.

To FLOURISH as ministry agents; to be well in ourselves, to lead fruitfully and to engage in locating and mentoring emerging leaders in our midst.

To FLOURISH is to thrive, not just survive. It is to grow. It is to bear fruit. It also means some pruning might need to occur – we will need to have difficult conversations in some aspects of our Presbytery life to ascertain what might need letting go of.

This theme of FLOURISH will underpin our strategic planning into the new year; looking for signs of new growth and renewal and how to best support and educate each other in this to better go into the world as disciples of Jesus and share the good news.

Blessings,

Dianne Holden



2.2 Presbytery Secretary Report

This first six months of the year has been one of change as we are transitioning into a new chapter within the life of our Presbytery. This established a season of listening and developing a deeper understanding of the environment and needs within the Presbytery. With the focus across the Synod on property and mission, this chapter of renewal within Wimala has been met with encouragement from our congregations and a willingness to communicate congregational concerns, hopes and dreams to see the Glory of God shine in our communities.

We have dedicated much time of 2024 to “learning together”. We held a planning day for our Standing Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee, have held online meetings to hear from our congregations, conducted church council training, held a grant funding online information session and began developing partnerships in the effort to provide more learning, resources and strategic support to our Presbytery.

The planning day allowed us to reflect on the feedback received from our Presbytery Meeting, contribute ideas and considering future strategic goals. Some of the key ideas in our strategic planning and visioning discussions included:

- Share stories well.
- Work with other groups to deliver speciality services
- Walk in the journey together
- Improve communication
- Resourcing congregations
- Church council training
- Empowerment of lay preachers
- Hold rural meetings
- Midyear satellite gatherings- connecting across the Presbytery
- Communicate the direction of the Presbytery more

The Standing Committee meetings have continued to be held on the third Wednesday of the month, predominantly located at the Enfield Uniting Church with a mix of online and in person attendance.

The Presbytery employed Trevor Phillips in the role of the Project Officer of Mission and Property for six months to assist us with the work set from the 2023 Synod Meeting which was an outcome of the Synod Strategy and Planning Working Group. (report below). The Presbytery Standing Committee are awaiting the Synod Meeting which will determine how we need to move forward as a presbytery.

2.3 Mission and Property Project Officer Report

Since finishing my time as chairperson of Wimala Presbytery in April of 2024 I have taken on the role of Mission and Property Officer half time for a 6-month period. The work has involved meeting and talking with a number of congregations with the aim that over the next few years presbytery will meet with all of our congregations as we talk about how we are remaining relevant and missional in our communities and how our property aids, or detracts, from our mission.

The Uniting church in Australia (UCA) is in a time of reflective discernment about whether the governance structures that have served us for the last 47 year are still working well or should we make changes to help us into the future. Over that time society has changed, the Australian demographic has changed, the way people engage with church has changed and the people within UCA have changed. The average age of our congregations is getting older, the average giving in our offerings is getting smaller and, in many of our churches but not all, the number of people coming through our doors is getting fewer.

As a part of this time of reflective discernment, the UCA Synod of South Australia with its role of promoting and enabling good stewardship of our properties has been looking at the state of our buildings and asking a number of questions. Some of these questions are: Are our buildings meeting our needs? i.e. are they fit for purpose; Are our buildings well maintained and safe for public use? i.e. are people with a physical disability able to use our buildings easily and safely; Are we, as a church, positioned where we need to be? i.e. are we overrepresented in some areas and underrepresented in others.

At the UCA SA Synod meeting in 2023 the Presbyteries were asked to help answer these questions, and more, by engaging in discussion with our congregation as well as developing overall presbytery property strategies for a vibrant, viable and missional church into the future. As we have these conversations, we recognise that our relationships with our properties are complex. Some of our congregations see their property as a tool to be used to engage with surrounding communities, open to being changed or redeveloped. Some have buildings with heritage status, long histories of faithful service, not easily set aside or open to change. Most of our congregations are somewhere in between, each with its own special relationship with the property they have the use of, and as the UCA looks to the future each congregation must do the same. This has led to some interesting conversations as we have explored some of the following questions.

As a congregation.

- What do you feel your purpose in the community is?
- How do you think the community see you? Do they know who you are?
- Does your church have a role in the community beyond Sunday worship?
- Do people from the community come to you in times of need?
- How many people worship regularly? (monthly)
- Do you think your church has the capacity to grow?
- Is your building important to the way you worship?



- Is your building important to the way you serve the community?
- Are you having any issues with keeping up with the costs of the building? i.e. the cost of maintenance, insurance etc.

These questions help us as congregations to explore our role and purpose in our communities, how we serve Christ and each other in our locations. It also leads us to another equally important question; what legacy we are leaving for the next generation.

This again is a complex question about how we steward our assets and resources.

One of the UCA guiding principles that we work on as we explore property issues is that we do not wish to “devalue” the church. That is, we do not want to continuously convert what, at the time, we may consider to be excess property to cash simply to keep the doors open and the lights on. The issue with this model is that as we age, our congregation numbers on a Sunday decrease and the income drops we may end up with nothing to support the next generation... That’s not to say we should never sell properties that no long serve a missional purpose, but it does mean that when we do sell property, we have fully explored whether it will enhance and aid the mission and witness of the church. Many of the regulations, by laws and rules of the UCA are based around this idea of maintaining “value” within the whole life of the church.

As we discern as a presbytery what it means to be vibrant, viable and missional churches this may raise for some congregation’s questions about what it means to be viable. The Presbytery will be working on developing some metrics, in conjunction with the Synod, to help congregations make decisions about how they plan for the future.

These metrics may include:

- Approximately how many people does it take to maintain a healthy congregation?
- What numbers might be a catalyst for a conversation between the presbytery and the congregation?
- What issues around safe church matters or property safety might be a catalyst for a conversation with the Synod and/or a presbytery?
- Financial viability, including:
 - o Are you running continuous deficit budgets?
 - o Meeting Insurance affordability.
 - o Contributing to the Mission and Service Fund.
 - o Affordability of paid ministry
- Proximity to other UC buildings.
- When to amalgamate smaller congregations.

Each of these metrics will be contextual and designed to foster conversation rather than setting conditions. Increased reporting on property conditions and use may be introduced to help us understand the overall utilisation of our assets.

The focus of this review work may seem to be based primarily around property but there is a definite and purposeful missional aspect to it. While we may have mission and community



without property, we want the property we do have to fit with our missional aspirations rather than just being something we have or somewhere we meet.

As members of the Uniting Church in Australia, we seek to be a “pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal; here *(in this place)* the Church does not have a continuing city *(permanent location)* but seeks one to come.” *(extract from the Basis of Union section 3, words in italics added for clarity)* To this end we must always be looking to the future and that includes how and where we use our properties. It also encourages us to understand that some expressions of the church or some congregations may come to an end, and some new expressions and ways of being church may come into existence. Both the history of what has been and hope of what is to come are to be celebrated and embraced as part of the journey.

Trevor Phillips, Wimala Presbytery Mission and Property Officer

2.4 Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) Report

The Pastoral Relations Committee is tasked with caring for the congregations, faith communities, ministry agents and congregational leaders across the bounds of the Presbytery.

The PRC meets once a month, we discuss the life of our congregations, the placement of ministry agents, celebrations and challenges. The PRC are tasked with reviewing congregational profiles and the profiles of ministry agents.

Since the last AGM there has been much activity:

- With great joy we ordained Rev Leanne Davis into the Ministry of the Word.
- Two people have completed a Period of Discernment – Emelia Haskey and Daniel Phan
- We welcomed a new candidate for training and formation as a Minister of the Word – Emelia Haskey
- Ps Brenton Smith joined the Yorke Peninsula Regional Ministry Team
- Rev Do Young Kim has been inducted into the Athelstone congregation
- Rev Montaz Ali has been inducted into the Dernancourt congregation
- Ps Gary Ferguson has been commissioned into the Kimba congregation
- Rev Amel Manyon has been inducted into the Barossa congregations
- Rev Chris Harkness has been inducted into the Prospect Road congregation
- Rev Rob Cartridge (Deacon) has been inducted into the Woodville congregation
- Rev Geoff Tiller has begun at Payneham Road and will be inducted on 16 October
- Kingson Selvaraj has begun working as a Pastor focussing on family ministry in the Payneham Road congregation
- Four ministry agents in our Presbytery have retired in the last 12 months – Rev Cliff Birch, Rev Owen Roberts and Rev Wendy Prior and Ps Rob Morgan
- We are supporting two long term supply arrangements, in both cases (Rev Mike Wardrop at Enfield UC and Rev Cate Baker at Para Hills) helping the congregations discern their futures.

The PRC seek to support lay ministry teams serving in many of our congregations. Our two regional coordinators keep in touch with leasers and offer support as they are able.

Other activities of the PRC include:

- Approving and training lay people for presiding at the sacraments
- Hosting events for retired ministers in the Presbytery
- Supporting active ministry agents and ensuring they have a supervisor
- Joining with congregations for special events and celebrations
- Chairing Joint Nominating Committees as congregations seek a new ministry agent

Thank you to all those who serve on the PRC, and those who respond to our requests to assist with JNC's reviews, and leading services.

Rev Rebecca Purling, Chair of PRC

2.5 Regional Coordinator Reports

[Metro and Outer West – Rev Paul Turley](#)

During the last twelve months, Paul has chaired seven Joint Nominating Committees and preached at or visited 25 of our congregations. He has participated in the gathering of Western Regions Ministry Agents and met regularly with the ministry agents in the northeastern suburbs, seeking ways for congregations to be more engaged with and support each other.

Paul chaired and now serves as deputy chair of the Yorke Peninsula Regional Mission Council, which has begun implementing its Mission Minister model. Because of illness, it has been a slow beginning for the YPRMC's plans and hopes for the new model. However, the YPRMC has been pleased to welcome Pastor Brenton Smith to the role of Mission Minister, joining with Pastor Andrew Chambers and Rev. Sandy Webb.

Paul has also participated in the Community Connections Network. This slowly evolving network of ministry agents and others seeks to support individuals and congregations in implementing community-centred approaches to congregational life. The Network is discovering more and more congregations that are beginning to think about themselves not as organisations whose purpose is to attract members but as communities that seek to be of service in and connected to their local neighbourhoods and communities.

Paul has worked with congregations to explore partnerships with others to offer parts of their property for the development of social housing.

Paul has also been a member of the MediaCom Education Inc. Board of Management. During this year, as MediaCom winds up as a separate entity, the Board has been engaged in securing the future of two significant congregational, lectionary-based worship and learning resources written by Australians, *Liturgy*, *Learning and (purposeful) Life* and *Words for Worship*.

Outer East - Rev Leanne Davis

Since my last report to the Presbytery earlier this year, I have continued to visit with congregations, and it has been my delight to share in Sunday services, as well as the conversations over cups of tea (and sometimes lunch) after the services. This helps me get to know people, congregations and communities, and getting to know you, we can work together to discern how the Presbytery (and the wider church) can best help.

As you know, many of our congregations in the Presbytery are being led by Lay Ministry Teams, and one of my priorities continues to be to understand how we (as Presbytery) can best support these teams. Each congregation is different and requires different support in different areas of ministry. One area is ensuring that each congregation has suitably trained lay people who are authorised to preside over Holy Communion for their local communities. As part of the Pastoral Relations Committee, we are continuing to develop our training and processes around this. We have also been developing some other training opportunities for congregational leaders. Paul Schmelzkopf and I have prepared some introductory training for church council members and have delivered one session of this. There are more sessions being planned. The contents continue to be refined and developed as feedback is received from participants.

Across the Presbytery, conversations relating to the Synod Strategic Property project have begun. Congregations are being invited to have conversations about their church community, particularly in relation to their properties. Continuing to care for these faithful people is a high priority as potential hard questions are asked, and difficult decisions might need to be made. Our priority in these conversations is to find hope, and to help all our congregations flourish.

2.6 Property Report

The Property Team is comprised of Malcolm Wilson,(Convenor), John Arthur and Trevor Correll. As a team they have assisted congregations with property matters ranging from helping congregations work through building compliance issues and organising repairs to site development proposals and the leasing and sale of properties and utilisation of sale proceeds. Congregations with properties listed on the Synod Property Risk Management register continue to receive support from the Wimala Presbytery Property Team and Synod to address these matters.

The cost of insurance is a major draw on the available funds of many congregations, particularly those with historic, aging and heritage listed buildings and this diminishes the finances and energies available for missional activities. Several congregations are reviewing their mission foci and how existing buildings and property can, rather than erode capacity for effective mission, enhance mission. This, in some circumstances, may require disposal of property and/or significant upgrading of remaining facilities utilising both congregation funds and external grant opportunities.

Many congregations are reviewing their missional viability and determine what property / facilities are required to effectively deliver mission to their communities, A few examples of this activity include;

- Woodville UC exploring missional possibilities for a church located in a “medical precinct” through better utilisation of vacant land.
- Port Adelaide UC is actively exploring ways in which their mission can be enhanced and the financial costs of maintaining an aging building reduced. Unfortunately, in both of these situations, local government requirements for off street car parking are a major obstacle to creative utilisation of property.
- Brougham Place UC continues to work through significant building structural integrity issues.
- Berri and Barmera congregations are reviewing their mission and assessing property needs. The possibility of a “regional” ministry model is being explored.

There have been conversations with Synod Property representatives in all of these situations. A number of congregations have undertaken property maintenance, compliance and improvement projects.

Conversations have continued with Clayton Wesley UC about options for developing the Clayton Wesley Church site at Beulah Park in order to provide funds for the restoration of the historic buildings, to promote financial self-sufficiency for the congregation and to enable the Spire Community to provide greater support to the community..

The Synod Strategy and Planning (Mission and Property) Working Group report was presented at the June 2023 Synod meeting. An outcome of this presentation was that Presbyteries were requested to work with their Congregations to further this work and complete and/or update the Missional Viability Questionnaire. The report indicates that a significant percentage of congregations are struggling to have effective and viable mission. Wimala Presbytery has appointed a Trevor Phillips as the Property Officer and established a Property and Mission Action Committee to assist with the task of assisting congregations to identify missional opportunities. Strategic locations and future viability of congregations also needs to be addressed.

Malcolm Wilson
Property Team Convenor.

Proposal 3 - Acceptance of Nominations

We propose the acceptance of the following nominations by voting cards.

The number of nominations below are less than the number of vacant positions.

- a) That the Wimala Presbytery appoint Peter Lane as Presbytery Treasurer for the next 2 years
- b) That the Wimala Presbytery appoint Amy Duke as the Presbytery Secretary for the next 2 years
- c) That the Wimala Presbytery appoint Bruce Ind to the Presbytery Standing Committee for the next 2 years
- d) That the Wimala Presbytery appoint Rev Peter Trudinger to the Presbytery Standing Committee for the next 2 years
- e) That the Wimala Presbytery appoint Pastor Sonia Armani to the Presbytery Standing Committee for the next 2 years
- f) That the Wimala Presbytery appoint Rev Gary Ferguson to the Pastoral Relations Committee for the next 2 years
- g) The the Wimala Presbytery appoint Rev Geoff Tiller to the Pastoral Relations Committee for the next 2 years
- h) The the Wimala Presbytery appoint Rev Wendy Prior to the Pastoral Relations Committee for the next 2 years

Proposal 4: To accept the financial report.

Wimala Presbytery AGM Finance Report: October 2024 and 2025 Budget

1. Executive Summary

Wimala Presbytery commenced 2024 with equity to the value of \$588,198.61, with a Standing Committee approved 2025 budget returning an operating deficit of \$8,555. This has mostly been achieved by prudent spending and many of the budget lines not being used to their fullest: especially travel as many do not claim for the distances they travel to come to meetings within the Presbytery.

New programmes, projects and salaries in 2024 were able to be taken onboard which did not adversely impact on the budget as we did not use all of the budget item budgets through the year either, especially travel.

Overall, Wimala Presbytery is in a very good financial position!

2. Context

Wimala Presbytery's 2023 finances were independently audited by Nexia Edwards Marshall in February/March and were accepted in July 2024.

Some meetings in 2024 were held via video conferencing (Zoom, which we now have paid for an annual subscription), whilst some minimal approved travel by representatives of the Wimala Presbytery as required was undertaken.

2023, April Presbytery meeting, saw us approve the appointment of a Digital Media Consultant (DMC) for up to twelve months, salaried and equipment. Rev Geoff Hurst was appointed in the role and has been diligent in his role. We have expended \$17,588.18 (salary \$10,470: equipment \$7,118.18) to the end of March 2024. Geoff Hurst has now finished in the role.

Standing Committee continued to endorse the investment of the \$294,605.35 into a UC Invest fixed term account; this has generated \$6,646.78 by the end of August 2024.

Wimala Presbytery has a Grant Funding Application process for member congregations and faith communities to request limited funding support for mission-based projects that will benefit their

community, the Presbytery, and the wider Church. During 2024, I have received several applications and Standing Committee have agreed to approve these applications. Please read the guidelines and look at the application as the grants may assist your Congregation with its great mission-based work in the community.

3. 2025 Budget

Actual expenditure during 2024, to date, has been below budget again this year: from the beginning of the year and the funding for a Presbytery Treasurer.

Wimala Presbytery Chairperson and Treasurer (with Standing Committee) are determined to continue to commit to delivering a balanced operating budget again for 2025, with an expectation of income through the Mission and Service Fund being paid by all Congregations in Wimala, in 2025. Thus, ensuring that the Presbytery meets the operational expenses of the Presbytery, whilst still providing funds towards future mission & resourcing growth, will be a continuing focus.

There will most likely be a need, in the future, to draw down on the Presbytery UC investments as new projects and programmes come forward for the that are set for the Presbytery to undertake. The 2025 budget is set for a small \$8,555 deficit.

3.1. Income

The 2025 budget shows a conservative \$221,000 total income, this is an estimated slight increase on 2024.

Based on August 2024 census Wimala's portion of the Presbytery 3-way split of M&SF will remain at approximately 29%, budgeted to be (hopefully) \$160,000. Expected Direct 2% congregation 2025 contribution is budgeted as \$48,000. Both amounts similar to 2024.

Important note: The 2025 resourcing model will be based again on the previous year (2024) congregational income figures, which requires all Wimala congregations to process and forward a Mission and Service proforma, so that the finances can be direct debited from their account. If a congregation feels that their finances are not in a good position, then they should complete a 'variation' to M&S and submit it as early as possible in the year too.

Standing Committee continued to endorse the investment of the \$294,605.35 into a UC Invest fixed term account; this has generated \$6,646.78 by the end of August 2024.

No new income streams have been considered for 2025.

Encouraging all member congregations to continue to, or in some cases to commence, contributions towards the **M&SF is a vitally important missional activity** – tithing to the wider church, and equally important to the stability of income for Wimala Presbytery. An ongoing priority for the Treasurer, Regional Coordinators and the Standing Committee is to further build and maintain relationships and understanding with each member congregation which will help to address any issues relating to this important missional activity.

3.2. Expenditure

Our 2025 budgeted expenditure for most non-wage expenses is budgeted to be about the same as for 2024 to ensure that with the anticipated similar income with an expectation that more face to face meetings and travel will occur, that we plan to operate within our means.

The 2025 budget assumes the following:



- a) Chair continues at 0.5 FTE
- b) Secretary position based on a Level 5 Private Sector Clerical Award rate working at 0.4FTE (15/hrs week): the role has expanded greatly and needs the time to keep on top of the needs of Wimala Presbytery.
- c) The 1 x 0.2and 1x0.4 FTE Regional Coordinator placements will continue as they have for 2024.
- d) New in 2024: Treasurer position based on a Level 4 Private Sector Clerical Award rate as a 0.05FTE (8hours per month)
- e) New in 2024: Chair of PRC at 0.2 FTE has been instigated as the role needs to be recognised for what it is and a real necessity.

The 2025 budgeted total expenditure is \$229,555: an increase on 2024.

Summary

The 2025 budget has been set, with in mind, identified and maintained achievable expenditure costs, against realistic income expectations resulting in an estimated operating deficit of \$8,555 in 2025. The Wimala Presbytery will commence 202 with a provisional Total Equity as at 31/8/2024; of **\$608,937**. The extent of our Total Equity will not be known until 31/12/2023. It will be declared at the April 2024 Presbytery meeting and any amendments to the budget will be set out then.

Standing Committee continued to endorse the investment of the \$294,605.35 into a UC Invest fixed term account; this has generated \$6,646.78 by the end of August 2024.

Peter Lane, Wimala Presbytery Treasurer
October 2024

2025 Budget

INCOME	BUDGET
M&SF Portion	160,000
Additional Presbytery 2%	48,000
Interest	5,000
Sundry Income	8,000
Flourishing	10,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 221,000
EXPENSES	
Presbytery - General Operations (MC:001)	(103,341)
Presbytery Exec Costs	(6,000)
Standing Committee / Exec Costs	(9,000)
Presbytery Meeting Costs	(8,000)
Communication / Administration Costs	(5,800)
Presbytery: Pastoral Relations Committee (MC:002)	(28,805)
Presbytery: Hub Regional Meetings (MC:003)	(4,400)
Presbytery: Missional Resourcing Costs (MC:065)	(64,209)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(229,555)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(\$8,555)



Appendix One

SUMMARY OF STANDING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

17th April – 1st October 2024

*This table excludes resolutions that pertain to the standard committee meeting internal process e.g. tabling, acceptance and/or approval of agendas, accompanying documents and minutes etc.

Decision No. (and Date)	Proposal	Outcome by Consensus
15052024a (15 th May 2024)	Rev Dianne Holden to sign off on the Yorke Peninsula Regional Mission Council MOU on behalf of the Presbytery.	Approved
17072024a (17 th July 2024)	Wimala Presbytery to donate \$500 per person to attend the Korena Trip.	Approved
17072024b (17 th July 2024)	Wimala Presbytery to contribute \$200 per person for those who would like to attend the leadership formation retreat.	Approved
Proposal 23082024b (21 st August 2024)	That the travel Malcolm Wilson conducts in his work with the Property team be reimbursed.	Approved
Proposal 21082024c (21 st August 2024)	In support of Dianne in her new role, the Presbytery will pay for a partners in ministry coach for five sessions.	Approved

Notes:

PSC, refers to the Wimala Presbytery Standing Committee.

PRC, refers to the Wimala Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

The in proposal number, refers to a decision adopted formally (via email) in between PSC meetings.

Appendix Two

Minutes of the Previous Wimala Presbytery Meeting

Saturday 13th April 2024 at Woodville Uniting Church (44 Woodville Rd, Woodville South SA 5011)

Meeting Attendance

A total of 67 people participated in the Presbytery meeting either in person with no attendees online. Of those who attended in person, 66 were presbytery members, co-opted or associate members and 3 were visiting guests. Apologies were received from 9 presbytery members.

We welcomed guests who join us for the Induction of Rev Dianne Holden as the Presbytery Chairperson (approximately 12 visitors).

Meeting Summary

The first session of our day began with the Induction of Rev Dianne Holden into the role of Presbytery Chairperson. We enjoyed lifting our voices and worshipping our maker as we centred our minds and hearts on the Lord. After the formal proceedings, we heard from Dianne share about her calling to the Chairperson role and her hopes as we discover opportunities and new ideas together.

After morning tea we received an update from the Moderator, Rev Peter Morel. He shared his reflections on the Moderator role thus far, detailing some of his functions such as preaching, leading a number of commissioning and also the opportunity to share Christ's love in his Christmas and Easter online videos with the wider community. Peter shared his particular highlight of participating in the wider church community, visiting at numerous aged care facilities and speaking at schools events. Peter concluded his message, reminding us of the 15th anniversary of the preamble of the constitution and the 30th anniversary of the covenant with the UAICC. He encouraged us to consider the past, where we are now and where we are going into the future.

Please note that the minutes are written as the day unfolded with the business proposals throughout the minutes, as it was spread throughout the program of the day.

Proposal 1 – Setting the scene.

Consensus by voting cards was achieved.

Wimala Youth Update: We received a rather jubilant update from Rev Rebecca Purling and Rev Ruthmary Bond of their Summer Youth Day and Easter Youth Day. They informed us of plans to review and consider a "rhythm of life" which would determine regular youth events going forward. We were encouraged by their attitude towards action and their call for additional volunteers in the future.

Uniting College Opportunities: Dr Rosemary Dewerse shared a gamut of learning possibilities available to those interested in starting off their learning journey at the college, or update their knowledge in particular areas. Dr Dewerse noted courses such as the Community Ministry



Pathways, Arrow Leadership and Supervisor training. A particular interesting note was that when a student of the College, participants have access to over 400,000 books and ebooks. But community members can also sign up to the library and access over 67,000 books, journals and ebooks. See appendix one.

After lunch Rev Paul Turley thanked Trevor Phillips for his dedication to the Presbytery in the formation of the Wimala Presbytery on our behalf. And Rev Leanne Davis prayed for Trevor.

We then heard from Paul and Leanne about their regional work and received the encouragement to “keep at it” while also listening to our inner voice and the whisper of the holy spirit in knowing when it is time to stop, which may bring about new opportunities.

Proposal 2 – To accept the financial report as presented.

Consensus by voting cards was achieved.

Proposal 3 – To accept the Synod Nominations. Full proposal A and B.

Consensus by voting cards achieved.

Proposal 4 – To accept the nomination of Peter Lane as the Presbytery Treasurer.

Consensus by voting cards achieved.

The formal business aspects of the day concluded at 2pm.

We received an apology from Dr Craig Mitchell who had intended to provide a CMLA update. Due to this absence, Rev Geoff Tiller took the opportunity to update the Presbytery on the work of the Ecumenical Relations Committee. Geoff invited the Presbytery to share their ecumenical work across denominations, encouraging us to consider the “uniting” of people in our regions.

The Chairperson of the Uniting Foundation Grants Committee, Leesa Story, showed us a clip about the Foundation and grant opportunities. There were three areas that Leesa wanted us to take back to our congregations:

1. From all of the applications for grants, only one congregation from Wimala applied last year. Please apply!
2. Criteria has changed. The requirement for leadership to be 50% of the grant has been removed. Please check the criteria and apply!
3. If your congregation isn't at a stage where they are planning new opportunities or initiative, remember that Uniting Foundation can receive donations and bequests. The information is all on the website.

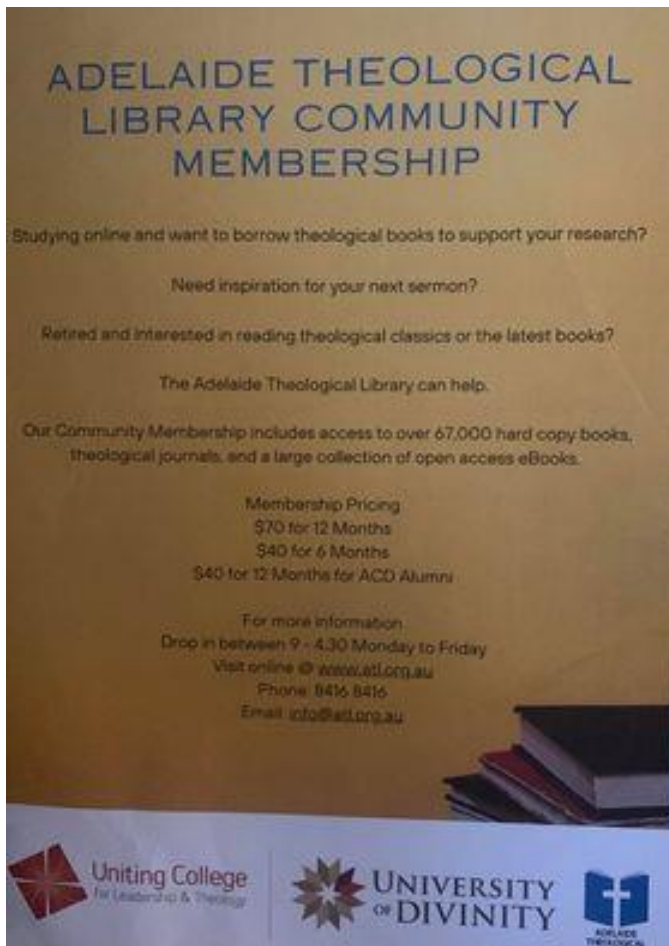
The final session of the day opened up great discussion and opportunity to feed back into the Presbytery. We asked a series of questions of our members on the topics:

- Communication
- Presbytery Meetings
- Digital and Media
- Renewal

To read these in detail see Appendix Two.

Rev Dianne Holden led us in prayer as we concluded our day together with a few early minutes at approximately 3.40pm.

Appendix One



Appendix Two

Please feel free to share this with your congregations and continue to ponder these questions within the life of our Presbytery. If you have any feedback please get in touch with us.

Introduction

As chairperson, and as the Presbytery Standing Committee we take our roles of oversight and caring for the life and mission of the congregations and agencies within our bounds very seriously.

As we enter a new phase of our Presbytery life and build on the firm foundation of the year's past, looking to what "new thing" God might be calling us all into, we are going to take some time to consider 4 key things within our life together.

Digital and media
Communication

Presbytery Gatherings Renewal

Presbytery Gatherings

As a Presbytery we are mandated through the Regulations to meet at least twice per year. Part of our Wimala founding document too places an emphasis on GATHER.

As a Presbytery we are to GATHER:

- *As the community of Christ for meaningful worship and prayer*
- *To undertake the business of the Presbytery connected with the life and mission of the Church and the Congregations within our bounds*
- *For resourcing*
 - o *the sharing of stories, dreams and ideas*
 - o *training and education in areas as needed or requested*
- *Understanding all are welcome under the inclusive gospel of grace regardless of social, cultural, economic, racial, gender, sexuality, age or theological boundaries – no-one is left out.*
- *As a safe place to belong, recognising in our diversity there may be disagreement, but acting in love and grace regardless.*
- *Encouraging the recognition, development and practice of the diverse gifts of every member in response to God's call on each and every one of us as we enter more fully into mission.*
- *As a fellowship of reconciliation and renewal.*

Drawing on these 2 keys factors and thinking beyond our current experiences, consider and document your responses to any of these following questions (your responses can remain anonymous unless you would like to be followed up – in which case leave a name and a way to contact you):

1. How often should we gather?
2. Where would you like to gather?
3. What would you like to see included in our Presbytery gatherings/meetings?
4. If we included training as part of our gatherings, what would you like to see included?
5. Do you have any gifts you would be willing to use as part of the Presbytery gatherings?
6. How can we best share good news stories as well as share the difficulties many congregations are facing in order to support each other more effectively?
7. Anything else you think Standing Committee should know.

Communication



Standing Committee often receives feedback that the broader Presbytery feels as if communication between the various bodies and committees of the Presbytery is not often clear or even really happening.

Connecting through effective communication is one of our key tenants as a Presbytery.

We have our monthly newsletter and Facebook page as general communication tools.

Standing committee also has access to Zoom technology to help connect our rural members with meetings or committees as best we can.

We are very keen to improve communication as we believe it vital to the life of the Presbytery.

This is so we can live into our mandate to CONNECT:

As a Presbytery we are to CONNECT:

- *With each other*
 - *Through effective communication*
 - *Through gathering together in a variety of ways*
 - *To support and encourage one another in faith, discipleship and mission*
 - *For the purposes of Christian accountability and discipline*
 - *Within Congregations, localities, across the Presbytery, with the other Councils of the Church and with ecumenical partners*

Drawing on these factors and thinking beyond our current experiences, consider and document your responses to any of these following questions (your responses can remain anonymous unless you would like to be followed up – in which case leave a name and a way to contact you):

1. What forms of communication would you like to see within the life of the Presbytery?
2. What things/topics/information would be helpful to include in the newsletter or on the Facebook page?
3. How can we better connect across the breadth and diversity of our Presbytery?
4. How can we make connecting with meetings or committees easier for our rural members?
5. Anything else you think Standing Committee should know.

Digital and Media

As we have been made aware this meeting, the initial consulting part of the Digital and Media role has come to a conclusion.

As the report states, it is believed this is not the end of the story.

Standing Committee are very keen to hear how the Presbytery feels the role should progress as best to meet the needs of our congregations.

Drawing on these factors and thinking beyond our current experiences, consider and document your responses to any of these following questions (your responses can remain anonymous unless you would like to be followed up – in which case leave a name and a way to contact you):

1. Describe to us some of your digital and media needs.
2. In what ways do you think needs could be met?
3. What practical assistance do you need from such a role?



4. What content would be helpful for your congregation e.g. worship resources, sermons, Bible studies, training information, discipleship resources, etc.?
5. Do you have gifts or experience in this area you could offer to the Presbytery?
6. One of the recommendations was forming a working group. Would this be helpful? Would you like to be involved?
7. Anything else you think Standing Committee should know.

Renewal

We know the church as a whole and many of our congregations are facing significant challenges and changes.

As we have been encouraged today, we need to consider the “new thing” God might be wanting/needing to do in our midst.

Renewal is a term that somewhat encompasses this – discerning, expressing and practicing hope and revitalisation within the mission and ministry of the church in our unique contexts.

Yes, it requires change and possibly different ways of being church in our areas.

The Standing Committee are keen to have conversations with congregations about this and to support congregations as they consider what renewal might need to look like for them.

This is so we can live more fully into our mandate to GO:

As a Presbytery we are invited through God’s mission to GO:

- *As witnesses to God’s love through Jesus, enabled by the Holy Spirit*
- *Fostering discipleship*
- *In acts of outreach*

Practicing social justice – working for justice, peace, reconciliation and the renewal of creation.

Drawing on these factors and thinking beyond our current experiences, consider and document your responses to any of these following questions (your responses can remain anonymous unless you would like to be followed up – in which case leave a name and a way to contact you):

1. What does renewal mean for you and your congregation/context?
2. What support/training might you need for renewal to occur?
3. In what creative ways can we encourage renewal within the Presbytery?
4. Anything else you think Standing Committee should know.