



Overview of the Wimala Presbytery Meeting

Saturday 17th October 2026, Broadview Uniting Church
 Corner Galway Ave & Collingrove Ave, Broadview

9.15 am	Welcome Desk and Registration Open. Time for cuppa and a chat.
10 am	Welcome and Prayer – Dianne Holden
	Worship time, led by Broadview Uniting Church and Ruthmary Bond
	Morning Bible Study/Reflection with Rev Prof Bart Bruehler
11 am	Proposal 1 – Setting the scene
	Introduction to Proposal 3 Presbytery Staffing Changes Introduction to Proposal 4 – voting opens
11.15am	Morning Tea
11.30am	UnitingCare - Mark Waters Director UnitingCare SA
12pm	Presbytery Updates
	Proposal 2 – Updates and Reports 2.1 Presbytery Chairperson, Rev Dianne Holden 2.2 Presbytery Secretary, Amy Duke 2.3 Pastoral Relations Chairperson, Rev Rebecca Purling 2.4 Treasurer Report and Budget, Carolyn Hall 2.5 Regional Coordinators, Rev Paul Turley and Rev Leanne Davis 2.6 Property, Malcolm Wilson 2.7 MAPS, Malcolm Wilson
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.15 pm	Gambling Reform - Scott Litchfield Mission Resourcing
1.45pm	Voting **Consensus decision making on Proposal 3



2pm	Proposal 4 - Committee and Assembly Nominations 4.1 Presbytery Standing Committee Nominations 4.2 Pastoral Relations Committee Nominations 4.3 Presbytery Secretary Nominations 4.4 Assembly Rep Nominations
	Proposal 5 – Membership Rule and Census Date
	Proposal 6 - Presbytery Meeting dates for 2027
3.15pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30pm	Hearing from around the Presbytery: - Broadview Uniting Church - Social Work Students: Cate Baker - Burra Uniting Church Santa Trail (Renew Grant): Meredith Mead
4pm	Worship and a final word from Dianne. Closing remarks and benediction

This program timing may be subject to change.

Following:

Proposal 1 – Setting the scene
Proposal 2 – Presbytery Reports
Proposal 3 – Presbytery Staffing Changes
Proposal 4 – Committee and Assembly Nominations
Proposal 5 – Membership and Census Date
Proposal 6 – Presbytery Meeting dates 2027

Appendix One – Proposal 3 Budget and Supporting Document
Appendix Two – Presbytery Membership Rule
Appendix Three – Wimala Decisions
Appendix Four – Minutes from previous Presbytery Meeting



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 14th March 2026 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 Broadview Uniting Church chapel and Locations connected by an authorized Zoom connection. On the 17th October 2026, between the hours of 10am until 4pm.

Proposers: Richard Idzikowski and Amy Duke

Proposal 2 – Reports

2.1 Chairperson's Report 2026, Rev Dianne Holden

As we come to our AGM for 2026, it is again helpful to pause and reflect on the year that has been within the life of Wimala Presbytery. As I look back, I am conscious that this has been a year of significant discernment and change. It has also been a year in which we have continued to gather, connect and go – seeking together to faithfully respond to where God might be leading us as a Presbytery.

Gather - One of the great strengths of Wimala continues to be the opportunities we have to gather together.

In March, our Presbytery leaders and committees gathered for our annual retreat and planning day. These gatherings have become an important part of our life together, giving us space beyond the business of meetings to worship, reflect, talk honestly and consider the priorities before us. They remind us that our committees and leadership groups are not simply administrative structures but communities of people seeking to serve Christ and the church faithfully.

We also gathered at Nuriootpa for our March Presbytery meeting, continuing our commitment to gather in different parts of our geographically diverse Presbytery. There is something important about being physically present in different communities and being reminded that Wimala stretches across metropolitan, regional and rural South Australia. Each congregation and faith community brings its own story, gifts, challenges and opportunities to our shared life. As we gather, it is a delight and great encouragement to us all as we share some of these stories together.

Another particularly valuable gathering was our retired ministers' morning tea. Our retired ministers hold enormous wisdom, experience and history within the life of the church, and it is important that we continue to honour their ministry and recognise the contribution they continue to make.

Throughout the year, our regular staff meetings, Pastoral Relations Committee meetings and Standing Committee meetings have continued. Much of this work happens quietly behind the scenes, but it is essential to the life of the Presbytery. I remain grateful for the commitment of those who give significant amounts of time, energy and prayer to these responsibilities.

Connect - Connection continues to be at the heart of our life as a Presbytery.

Personally, I have continued to value opportunities to preach in congregations across Wimala. These visits provide much more than an opportunity to lead worship. They enable me to hear something of the life of congregations, meet people, listen to their stories and experience the extraordinary diversity that exists within our Presbytery.

We have also continued to strengthen our relationships with the other Presbyteries, Synod leaders and Synod staff. At a time when the church is facing significant challenges and opportunities, these relationships are increasingly important. None of us can work effectively in isolation. We need to share resources, wisdom and ideas and, perhaps most importantly, remind one another that we are part of something larger than our own congregation or Presbytery.

A significant focus during 2026 has been the Presbytery Review. This has involved considerable listening, conversation and reflection across the Presbytery. Reviews can sometimes be uncomfortable because they ask us to look honestly at who we are, how we operate and whether our current structures continue to serve the mission to which God is calling us.

However, review was not simply about identifying what was not working. At its best, it enabled us to recognise what is strong, what needs nurturing, what may need changing and what new possibilities might be emerging. Overall, we as Presbytery leaders considered many of the recommendations to be very constructive and supportive of many of our ideas. This was endorsed by the whole Presbytery at our extraordinary meeting to share these outcomes together.

As we received the recommendations of the review, the challenge before us was to listen carefully and respond thoughtfully rather than simply preserving what we have always known.

Go - The review inevitably led us to the question: *where do we go from here?*

Since receiving the review recommendations as a whole Presbytery, significant discernment has been undertaken regarding the staffing and structure of Wimala Presbytery. Standing Committee needed to consider how our resources can best support congregations and communities of faith in a church environment that continues to change rapidly.

The challenges identified in previous years have not disappeared. Many congregations are ageing, some are becoming increasingly dependent upon lay leadership, and others are discerning difficult questions about sustainability, property, ministry and mission. At the same time, there are signs of creativity, courage and new life occurring across our Presbytery.

Our task was not simply to maintain structures because they are familiar. Rather, we needed to ask whether our structures and staffing enable us to equip congregations for mission, support leaders well and encourage communities of faith to flourish.

The results of this discernment will be before you as we gather for our AGM.

The MAPS work continues to be an important part of this conversation. Questions concerning mission, property and sustainability are rarely easy. Buildings often carry deep memories and emotional connections. Yet we also need the courage to ask whether our resources are helping or hindering the mission of the church.

These conversations need to be undertaken with sensitivity and compassion, but also with honesty. Our goal is not simply the preservation of institutions or buildings. It is to discern how we might faithfully participate in God's mission within the communities in which we have been placed. There will undoubtedly be difficult decisions ahead. But there are also opportunities. Change creates space for us to imagine new ways of being church, new partnerships, different models of ministry and different ways of supporting congregations and communities.

To help our Presbytery to flourish and “go”, we have employed a Young People and Family Learning and Information Officer recently to undertake a short-term project in establishing an understanding of what resources we have in this area and how the Presbytery can best support them. Danica Patselis is taking on this role, starting effectively from now.

Alongside of this role, with funding made available from UC Invest through the Synod Secretariat, we are currently advertising for someone to take up a Growth and Mission role for the Presbytery, commencing soon we hope.

Personal

On a personal level, 2026 has certainly not unfolded as I expected. Moving house brought one significant transition. More unexpectedly, a broken ankle resulted in an extended period of sick leave and forced me to stop in a way that I would probably never have chosen for myself.

It has been a reminder that none of us is indispensable and that ministry and leadership are always shared. Sometimes we discover this most clearly when circumstances mean we simply cannot do the things we normally do.

I am enormously grateful for the care, support and patience I received during that period and particularly grateful to those who quietly picked things up, carried additional responsibilities and enabled the work of the Presbytery to continue.

Perhaps there is something in that experience for us as a Presbytery as well. The church cannot depend upon one person, one committee, one congregation or one way of doing things. We need one another. We need to trust one another, share responsibility and allow others to bring their gifts.

As I look back over 2026 and forward to what lies ahead, I remain deeply grateful for our Presbytery staff and leaders and for the many people across Wimala who faithfully serve Christ in ways that are often unseen. Thank you for your wisdom, your commitment, your willingness to wrestle with difficult questions and, importantly, your willingness to keep imagining what might be possible.

The church continues to live through a period of considerable change. There are challenges before us that we should not minimise. Yet our hope has never rested in our structures, buildings, programs or even our own abilities. Our hope rests in the God who continues to call the church into life and mission.

As we receive the Presbytery Review and discern questions of staffing, structure, MAPS and our future priorities, may we resist the temptation simply to ask, *"How do we keep what we have?"* Instead, perhaps the more faithful question is: **"God, what are you calling us to become?"**

May we have the courage to listen, the wisdom to discern, and the faith to go where God leads us.
Blessings,
Dianne Holden

2.2 Secretary, Amy Duke

Over the past six months, my work has included:

- Supporting the Presbytery Review process with Robert McFarlane and progressing the resulting action items.
- Coordinating the advertising, recruitment and appointment process for the Young People and Family, Learning and Information Officer.
- Preparing agendas, papers and minutes for the Presbytery Standing Committee, which meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month.
- Responding to and actioning matters arising from the Synod Office and Synod Standing Committee.
- Serving on the John Lodge Trust Fund Committee.
- Providing administrative and practical support to congregations across the Presbytery.
- Producing the monthly communication, *Words from Wimala*.
- Maintaining and updating the Presbytery website and social media platforms.

The past six months have been both busy and encouraging. Following the Presbytery Review, there has been a strong sense of momentum as we begin to move from listening and reflecting into action. It has been exciting to see the commitment of people across the Presbytery as we consider together what God is calling us to be and how we can flourish into the future. I am grateful to be part of this journey and look forward to seeing the next steps take shape in the months ahead.

2.3 PRC Chairperson, Rev Rebecca Purling

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) faithfully meets each month; at our meetings we prayerfully discuss the life and health of the congregations across our presbytery. We hear from our two regional coordinators about the congregations they look after, and when we need to assist with a consultation or extra support and plan how we can make that happen.

At our meetings we reflect on how we can support ministry agents and lay ministry teams, including giving permission and training people to celebrate the sacraments. Through Rev Ann Philips we remember people doing a Period of Discernment and our four candidates for ministry. The MAPS officer reports regularly to the PRC so that we are aware of congregations discerning their future, and in some cases making the decision to close.

The PRC hosts morning teas for retired ministers who like to keep up with the goings on of the wider church. and we try to hold gatherings for ministry agents serving across our Presbytery.

Since our last AGM there have been no new placements have commenced, and no ministers have moved or retired.

Rev Rebecca Purling

2.4 Treasurer Report and 2026 and 2027 Budget

Executive Summary

Wimala Presbytery commenced 2026 with equity to the value of \$656,709.65, with an approved 2026 budget returning an operating deficit of \$4,505. 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. We have also been using the TEQ for travel as this is still available for us.

New programmes, projects and salaries in 2026 were able to be taken onboard which did not adversely impact on the budget as we did not use all the budget item budgets through the year either, especially travel.

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

Context

We held 3 meetings in 2026 due to presenting the review, whilst some minimal approved travel by representatives of the Wimala Presbytery as required was undertaken.

Standing Committee continued to endorse the investment of

1. \$323,920.64 into a UC Invest fixed term account; this has generated \$9,812.65 by the end of September 2026.
2. \$26,667.37 into a UC Invest fixed term account; this has generated \$807.84 by the end of September 2026.

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 2026, we 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.

2027 Budget

Actual expenditure during 2026, to date, has been below budget again this year: from the beginning of the year.

Wimala Presbytery Chairperson and Treasurer (with Standing Committee) are determined to continue to commit to delivering a balanced operating budget again for 2027, with an expectation of income through the Mission and Service Fund being paid by all Congregations in Wimala, in 2027. 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, salaries and programmes come forward that are set for the Presbytery to undertake. At this stage this seems unlikely as we have very healthy bank balance.

The 2027 budget is set for a small \$4,525 deficit.

Income

The 2027 budget shows a conservative \$255,575 total income; this is an estimated slight increase on 2026.

Based on September 2026 census, Wimala's portion of the Presbytery 3-way split of M&SF will remain at approximately 29%, budgeted to be (hopefully) \$175,575. Expected Direct 2% congregation 2026 contribution is budgeted as \$65,000. As more Congregations have contributed this year this income has risen on 2026 figures.

Important note: The 2027 resourcing model will be based again on the previous year (2026) 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. Only 56% of Wimala congregations have provided their financial information to date.

During 2026 we have had 70 Congregations in Wimala: 49 have contributed; 21 not contributing 2025; (7 not contributing for several years now).

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 **(before May 2026)** as possible in the year too.

No new income streams have been forecasted/ considered for 2027.

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.

Expenditure

Our 2027 budgeted expenditure for most non-wage expenses is budgeted to be about the same as for 2026 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 2027 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 0.5FTE.
- c) Treasurer position stays as is: (2/hrs week).
- d) Chair of PRC stays the same at 0.2 stipend payment.
- e) The 1 x 0.2 and 1 x 0.4 FTE Regional Coordinator placements will continue as they have for 2026.
- f) An additional Young People and Families Learning and Information Officer casual role (approved by the standing committee) has been budgeted for 0.2 for a further 3 months.
- g) A MAPS role 0.1 top up has been budgeted as Funding is otherwise only provided for 0.4.

The 2027 budgeted total expenditure is \$260,100: an increase on 2026.

Summary

The 2027 budget has been set, with in mind, identified and maintained achievable expenditure costs, against realistic income expectations resulting in an estimated operating deficit of \$4,525 in 2027.

The Wimala Presbytery will commence 2027 with a provisional Total Equity as at 30/9/2026 of \$675,851.99. The full extent of our Total Equity will not be known until 31/12/2026. It will be declared at the April 2027 Presbytery meeting and any amendments to the budget will be set out then.

Carolyn Hall - Wimala Presbytery Treasurer

October 2026

2027 Budget

INCOME	BUDGET
M&SF Portion	175,575
Additional Presbytery 2%	65,000
Interest	5,000
Sundry Income	10,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 255,575
EXPENSES	
, Presbytery - General Operations (MC:001)	(108,500)
Presbytery Exec Costs	(4,500)
Standing Committee / Exec Costs	(21,000)
Presbytery Meeting Costs	(7,000)
Communication / Administration Costs	(4,550)
Presbytery: Pastoral Relations Committee (MC:002)	(28,700)
Presbytery: Hub Regional Meetings (MC:003)	(4,400)
Presbytery: Missional Resourcing Costs (MC:065)	(81,450)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(260,100)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(\$4,525)

2.4 Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinator Report to Wimala Presbytery – October 2026 – Outer Metro East

It has been a full and busy six months (or thereabouts) since we last met as a Presbytery. In this time, I have continued to visit with congregations, and it is my delight to share in Sunday services, as well as the times spent of cups of tea, and sometimes lunch, after the services. With only two Sundays a month to do this, I don't always get around to places as often as I would like in order to support you all. Please get in touch if you'd like me to visit in the new year. I would love to come and visit when I can – to support you as a congregation, and to have conversations about how we, as the Presbytery can support and help.

It was a great personal joy (as well as a joyful time for the wider church) to be involved in the service of celebration at Elizabeth Grove back in May. We celebrated the formal merger of the Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church with the IPPC (International Pentecostal Prophetic Church) faith community as the new Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church. This was also the Day of Pentecost, and the 70th anniversary of the opening service of the original Elizabeth South/Grove Methodist Church. It was a very full day of celebration – songs sung, prayers prayed, joy shared, the Word of God spoken and heard. The Playford mayor – Mr Glenn Docherty – was able to be present for the celebration, and shared words of gratitude for the history of the Elizabeth Grove church and encouragement for the future. And of course, food was shared in abundance.

I had the opportunity a few months ago to attend the National Presbytery Ministers' Conference in Hobart. It was a great week of meeting new friends – and old ones as we shared together what it means to support congregations across the country in our own presbyteries. We spent some time on Palawa country understanding that seasons come and go, neither early nor late, but at the time they need to be. We worshipped together. We learned about change, transition, and how we need to be looking after ourselves as ministers/ministry agents as we lead congregations and the wider church in change and transition.

We (the Presbytery leadership team) are still having many conversations across the Presbytery about how we can continue to be faithful worshipping communities – particularly in view of the Synod MAPS project. If you would like to have a conversation about these things, or you're wondering about how to go about creating a mission plan for your congregation, or any other questions about life as a worshipping community, please get in touch. That is why we are here.

Being part of the Pastoral Relations Committee has been an important part of the role for me as we continue to care for our congregations, congregational leaders and ministry agents across the Presbytery. It is in this role, I have been able to share with groups from many congregations as we learn what it means to be part of a church council, and what our responsibilities are as a church council. If you think you would like to be part of this 'training' (which is more like a conversation than anything like a 'lecture') – from across the Presbytery (and not just the Outer Metro East area), please get in touch with either Amy or me, and we can organise a session in your area. And also, if there are any other topics you would like us (the PRC) to look at to help you flourish as a congregation, then please get in touch with those ideas, and we will work on it.

Rev Leanne Davis

2.5 Property Report

The Wimala Presbytery Property Team, comprised of Malcolm Wilson, (Convenor) have assisted congregations with property matters ranging from helping congregations work through building compliance issues and organising repairs to site development proposals and effective utilisation of sale proceeds. Sites currently undertaking significant property upgrades include Scots UC, Moonta UC and Semaphore UC.

The cost of maintaining ageing buildings, with in many cases, decreasing numbers regularly attending worship and other mission activities results in congregations struggling to be financially sustainable. This is particularly acute for those with heritage listed buildings, several congregations are reviewing their mission foci and how the property could better enhance mission rather than eroding capacity for effective mission. This in some situations may require disposal of property and significant upgrading of remaining facilities utilising both congregation funds and external grant opportunities. Congregations are required to complete the Annual Property Review Questionnaire. This exercise is an opportunity to reassess missional viability and what property / facilities are fit for purpose to enable effective delivery of mission to their communities,

Members of the Property Team continue to assist several congregations with building utilisation projects and future missional possibilities. Among them are....

- **Woodville UC**, which is exploring missional possibilities for a church community located in a "medical precinct" through better utilisation of vacant land. This has progressed to a point where an open EOI has been undertaken and options being considered.

- **Port Adelaide UC** is exploring ways in which their mission can be enhanced and the financial costs of maintaining an ageing building reduced. An open EOI process will likely be required and is being explored.
- **Brougham Place UC** has completed some initial safety upgrade work. A significant amount of structural issues remain to be addressed. Presbytery reps. and others are currently working with this congregation.
- **Berri and Barmera UC** congregations are reviewing their mission and property needs, including the possibility of an amalgamation with a longer-term view for sustainability.
- **Clayton Wesley UC** continues to consider 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.

It is important that congregations considering with Property improvement projects contact a Presbytery Property team member before commencing any work. This ensures that the appropriate approvals are in place and avoids potential delays and difficult funding scenarios.

Malcolm Wilson- Wimala Presbytery Property Team Convenor - October 2026

2.6 Mission and Property Strategy (MAPS) Report

Since beginning in the MAPS Officer role in February 2025, I have visited and conversed with approximately 30 congregations spread across both the urban and rural areas of the Presbytery. This work continues.

The process undertaken involves visiting a congregation, often to share in worship, which is followed by a structured conversation where a range of questions are addressed. The questions revolve around the congregation's mission activities, vitality, financial capacity and the suitability of property being utilised by the congregation.

Following each visit, I write a report which forms the basis of assessment and recommendations for each congregation's future directions. The Presbytery has developed a Property Assessment Policy which is used to guide the Standing Committee members in their discussion, deliberations and decisions for a particular congregation. It is important to note that the Presbytery Standing Committee is the Council which has oversight and makes decisions in regard to congregation life and beneficial use of property. Reg. 3.1.3 and 3.4.3.

The Presbytery has determined in several situations, to dissolve and cease to recognise a congregation. In each of these situations the MAPS Officer informs the congregation of the decision and works with the congregations to determine an appropriate timeline for closure and transfer of property. When Presbytery determines that a congregation shall be dissolved or cease to be recognised the associated property is normally transferred to Synod which, using the "Property Transferred to Synod Framework Policy", determines the best future use of the property.

The past several months has seen the MAPS Officer role become more challenging and intense as the Presbytery Standing Committee decisions relating to some congregations are executed.

The congregations which the Presbytery has determined to “dissolve and cease to recognise” include.

- Kersbrook congregation which was closed in November 2025 and the property has been sold.
- Pinery church, which was being used by a non UCA congregation, was transferred to Synod as from 31st January 2026. The property has since been sold.
- Cudlee Creek congregation was closed, effective 30th June 2026. The property has been transferred to Synod who are undertaking the required processes. The congregation now attends a nearby UC congregation.
- Greenock UC building has been transferred to Synod effective from 31 August 2026. Presbytery has determined that the congregation can continue for a few months without property. The property will be sold following the required processes for sale.
- Gulnare UC congregation closed effective from 31 August 2026. The property has been transferred to Synod who are undertaking the required processes. Some of this congregation now attend another UC congregation.
- Warooka UC congregation will be closed effective form 31st October 2026. The future of the property is still to be determined.

As Wimala Presbytery MAPS Officer I meet with other persons in similar roles as part the Synod MAPS Group. This group is developing a map which will show strategic locations, congregation and sites. This map will be useful to ensure that the UCA maintains an effective presence across all of South Australia.

I encourage congregations to contact me if they are seeking assistance in identifying their future mission and ministry goals.

Malcolm Wilson, Wimala Presbytery MAPS Officer, October 2026

Proposal 3 – Presbytery Staffing Changes (See additional documents Appendix 1)

That Wimala Presbytery, having considered the findings of the Presbytery Review and the supporting rationale outlined below, approves in principle the following changes to its staffing structure:

1. Rename the existing Regional Coordinator positions as Presbytery Minister positions, with updated position descriptions reflecting their ministry, leadership and support responsibilities.
2. Increase the staffing allocation for Presbytery Ministers from one 0.4 FTE and one 0.2 FTE position to two 0.5 FTE positions.
3. Increase the PRC Chairperson allocation from 0.2 FTE to 0.4 FTE.

The Presbytery is invited to consider these recommendations and determine whether to endorse the proposed direction. The additional financial implications and implementation arrangements will be discussed at the Presbytery meeting when the Wimala Budget is presented.

Background and rationale

The recommendations arising from the Presbytery Review, together with feedback from congregations over the past three years, have highlighted a growing need for support and engagement across the

Presbytery. As the number of lay-led congregations increases, so too does the need for accessible, consistent and proactive Presbytery support. The current staffing allocation limits the extent to which these needs can be met.

The original conservative staffing approach has provided a stable foundation during a period of transition and growth. The review now offers an opportunity for Presbytery to consider whether a more intentional investment in congregational support is warranted.

Presbytery Minister roles

The proposed change from Regional Coordinator to Presbytery Minister is intended to clarify the nature and visibility of the support offered on behalf of Presbytery. It would be accompanied by clearer responsibilities, updated position descriptions and stronger accountability, building on support already provided rather than diminishing previous work.

If approved, the increased allocation would strengthen capacity to:

- Resource and equip congregations for ministry and mission.
- Provide wraparound support and coaching to faith communities and lay-led congregations.
- Assist congregations experiencing challenges, tension or conflict.
- Identify emerging concerns and opportunities at an earlier stage.
- Encourage collaboration and stronger relationships across Presbytery.
- Identify and encourage emerging leaders and potential PoD participants.

The MAPs findings have also identified congregations that may be vulnerable or beginning to struggle. More timely engagement may enable encouragement and strategic support before more intensive intervention is required.

PRC Chairperson allocation

The PRC Chairperson's responsibilities extend beyond the existing 0.2 FTE allocation, encompassing pastoral oversight, ministry leadership, governance and support for congregations and ministry agents. The proposed increase to 0.4 FTE seeks to align allocated time more realistically with these responsibilities.

Together, these changes would allow responsibility for congregational support to be shared more deliberately across the paid leadership team, improving continuity, communication and resilience.

Relationship to renewal and growth

Funding has also been received from UC Invest via the Synod for a Renewal/Growth position. That role offers complementary capacity to work with congregations seeking and able to flourish beyond their current circumstances. It is noted here as part of the wider staffing context, rather than as an additional change requiring approval under this resolution.

Missional purpose: Gather, Connect, Go

At the heart of this proposal is the Presbytery's calling to Gather, Connect and Go. If adopted, the staffing changes are intended to increase the capacity to gather congregations and faith communities for worship, discernment and learning; connect people through relationships, communication and pastoral support; and equip disciples of Jesus to go into God's mission through outreach, justice, reconciliation and care for creation.

The question before Presbytery is therefore not simply whether to increase staffing hours, but whether the proposed structure is an appropriate and sustainable way to support congregations and faith communities in their changing circumstances and shared mission.

Gather. Connect. Go. In the power of the Spirit.

Proposal 4 –Nominations

4.1 Presbytery Standing Committee Nominations

*Election by ballot

Bruce Ind – Morialta Uniting Church
Simon Story – Alberton Village Church
Sandra Webb – Yorke Peninsula
David Badger – Barmera Berri
Leon Green – West Lakes United

4.2 Pastoral Relations Committee Nominations – NA

4.3 Presbytery Secretary Nominations

* As Amy is the sole nomination for the secretary role, and is the current Presbytery Secretary. This nomination will be decided by consensus decision making – coloured cards.

Amy Duke – Alberton Village Church

4.4 Assembly Rep Nominations

* The Assembly representatives require one lay person and one minister. As there is only one lay nomination, Amy Duke will be elected unopposed as the lay representative. As there is more than one ministerial nomination, the minister representative will be determined by ballot.

Minister Nominations:

Rev Cate Baker – Para Hills and Para Vista Uniting Church
Rev Paul Turley – Scots Uniting Church
Rev Leanne Davis – Henley Fulham Uniting Church

Lay Nominations:

Amy Duke – Alberton Village Church

Proposal 5 – Presbytery Membership Rule and Census Date

Amy Duke and Leanne Davis

To adopt the revised membership rule (appendix 1) with a census date of 1st March 2027.

At the previous Presbytery Meeting, Leanne Davis and Amy Duke proposed a presbytery membership rule change to allow lay led congregations to send an additional Presbytery Representative from their congregation. There was warmth to the idea but it required more work. We have amended the rule to reflect the change.

See appendix 1: **WPR 1.05 PRESBYTERY MEMBERSHIP**

Proposal 6 – Presbytery Meeting dates

1st May 2027

23rd October 2027

Appendix One – Proposal 3 Staffing Changes

Budget

					With no changes to FTE			
Current Position Title	Currently held by (employee name)	Current Base Salary	Current FTE	Cost 2026	2027	2028	2029	
Regional Coordinator	Paul Turly		0.2					
Regional Coordinator	Paul Turly		0.2	48,025.00	49,705.88	51,445.58	53,246.18	
Regional Coordinator	Leanne Davis		0.2	24,431.80	25,286.91	26,171.95	27,087.97	
PRC Chair	Rebecca Purling		0.2	19,839.30	20,533.68	21,252.35	21,996.19	
MAPS	Malcolm Wilson (UC Invest funded)	Paid directly by Synod	0.4					
Presbytery Chair	Dianne Holden		0.5	61,079.50	63,217.28	65,429.89	67,719.93	
Presbytery Secretary	Amy Duke		0.3	21,432.00	22,182.12	22,958.49	23,762.04	
Treasurer	Carolyn Hall		0.05	3,900.00	4,036.50	4,177.78	4,324.00	
Total Salary				178,707.60	184,962.37	191,436.05	198,136.31	
					With proposed changes			
Future Position Title			FTE		2027	2028	2029	
Pesbytery Minister Governance	previously regional coordinator - increased fte	same as regional coordinator pay	0.5		62,080.18	64,252.99	66,501.84	
Presbytery Minister Pastoral	previously regional coordinator - increased fte	same as regional coordinator pay	0.5		63,217.28	65,429.89	67,719.93	
PRC Chair	increased by .2		0.4		41,067.35	42,504.71	43,992.37	
MAPS	.4 UC Invest	Paid directly by Synod	0.4					
Growth and Renewal	.4 uv invest and .1 Wimala		0.5					
		Wimala Portion	0.1		12,706.67	13,151.41	13,611.71	
Presbytery Chair	no change		0.5		63,217.28	65,429.89	67,719.93	
Presbytery Secretary	no change		0.3		22,182.12	22,958.49	23,762.04	
Treasurer	no change		0.05		4,036.50	4,177.78	4,324.00	
Total Salary					268,507.39	277,905.15	287,631.83	
					2027	2028	2029	
Increase in cost with proposed changes					83,545.02	86,469.10	89,495.52	259,509.64
								\$ -
				P&L Movement per budget - Jul-Dec	Cash and Cash Equivalents and Financial Assets balance per year			
				30-Jun-26	2026	2027	2028	2029
Current Cash & Cash Equivalents								
501305 - Synod "Bank"				\$ 334,928	\$ 322,728	\$ 239,182.98	\$ 152,713.88	\$ 152,713.88
Current Financial Assets								
12 Month investment - matures 31 Dec 2026				502079 Term Investment (UCI 251916)	\$ 333,733	\$ 333,733	\$ 333,733	\$ 244,237.48
12 Month investment - matures 31 Dec 2026				502086 Term Investment (UCI 260229)	\$ 27,475	\$ 27,475	\$ 27,475	\$ 27,475
					\$ 683,936	\$ 600,390.98	\$ 513,921.88	\$ 424,426.36
2026 Annual Budget (deficit)				-4500				
Results at 30/06				\$ 7,700				
Remaining movement				-\$ 12,200				
Assumptions								
Annual Salary uplift of 3.5 %								
2026 Actuals match Budget								
Cashflow matches P&L								
\$Nil Bottom Line in 2027, 2028 and 2029 prior to proposed salary changes								

Wimala Presbytery Review and Proposed Changes



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The appointment of Dianne Holden as Chairperson provided an opportunity not only to give thanks for the strong foundations already in place, but also to thoughtfully reflect on the future and consider what opportunities and priorities might lie ahead for our Presbytery

Prayer, Discernment and Reflection

As we prayerfully considered how best to respond to the feedback, we reflected on where God has already brought us and where we are being called next. Recognising both the growth we have experienced and the opportunities ahead, we commissioned an independent review by Rev Dr Robert McFarlane to help guide our discernment.

Listening and Learning

Over many Presbytery Meetings, gatherings, and feedback sessions, we asked our community:

- Where do you need support?
- What could we be doing differently?
- What are your hopes for the Presbytery?

The responses were very helpful. We received valuable insights, ideas, and aspirations that helped shape our thinking about the future.



Review and Recommendations

Robert immersed himself in the life of the Presbytery. He reviewed our documents, policies, and strategic vision, and heard from: Presbytery members, Committees, Synod staff and Presbytery staff



He also considered feedback gathered through Presbytery meetings and consultations before preparing a report containing a range of recommendations for our future.

Planning and Proposal

We carefully considered the recommendations together. Through conversations with staff, the Pastoral Relations Committee, and the Standing Committee, we identified priorities and developed a practical plan for responding to the review.



Presbytery Ministers

Moving away from region based support, to a Presbytery Minister model which is more in line with the wider Uniting Church. In response to feedback and the review, increase roles from a total of 0.6 (0.4 and 0.2) to the equivalent of 1.0 (two 0.5 Presbytery Ministers)

PRC Chair increase

Increasing the allocation of time from .2 to .4 means that the Pastoral Relations Chairperson is able to commit additional support hours to our committee, congregations and Presbytery Ministers.

Appendix Two – Presbytery Membership Rule

WPR 1.05 PRESBYTERY MEMBERSHIP

Updated by Standing Committee 16/09/2026

Adopted by Standing Committee 24/02/2021

In exercising its power to appoint, co-opt and invite as per below, all persons shall be confirmed members of the Uniting Church in Australia.

These Rules presume that the Presbytery will pay particular attention to ensuring that members of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) congregations and members of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) are members of the Presbytery.

WPR 1.05.01 Presbytery membership shall be determined in accordance with Regulation 3.3.4

Where a congregation does not have an active Ministry Agent, the congregation may nominate one additional lay confirmed member at the time of the annual census. Where a Ministry Agent ceases to serve in their role after the census date, adjustments to congregational representation may be determined in consultation with the Presbytery. Where a Ministry Agent commences service after the census date, that person shall ordinarily replace the additional lay representative nominated under this rule. The census date will be determined at the second Presbytery Meeting of the year.

WPR 1.05.02 Associate Presbytery membership shall be determined in accordance with Regulation 3.3.5.

WPR 1.05.03 Election for Presbytery representatives on boards and committees of the Presbytery and of the wider church shall be by two thirds majority vote of those members present physically and electronically at a meeting of the Presbytery.

WPR 1.05.04 In relation to the election of Lay Preachers under Regulation 3.3.4 (c) (ii)

- a. The Presbytery shall co-opt up to five (5) active Accredited Lay Preachers nominated by the Lay Preachers Committee.

WPR 1.05.05 In exercising its power under Regulation 3.3.4 (f)

- a. The Presbytery shall co-opt the Treasurer.
- b. The Presbytery shall advise each congregation that the congregation may nominate additional lay confirmed members who are under the age of thirty five (35) for co-option;
- c. The Presbytery shall advise each Faith Community that they may designate a participant to attend meetings of the Presbytery as non-voting participants (Regulation 3.9.2 (d)).

WPR 1.05.06 In exercising its power of co-options under Regulation 3.3.4 (f) and (g)

- a. The Presbytery shall co-opt those Candidates who have candidate for a specified ministry through Wimala Presbytery, provided they are neither
 - I. employed in a Ministry of Pastor role, nor
 - II. holding a leadership role in another Presbytery.

- WPR 1.05.07 In exercising its power of co-options under Regulation 3.3.4 (f)
- The Presbytery may co-opt Retired Ministers who are offering supply at 0.5 full time equivalent or higher.
 - The Presbytery may co-opt up to five (5) Retired Ministers nominated by the congregation of their membership.
 - If nominations exceed required numbers, Standing Committee shall decide those who will be co-opted.

WPR 1.05.08 The Presbytery shall invite the Moderator and the General Secretary to be associated with Wimala Presbytery as non-voting participants. **

** Refer Presbytery decision PA19.01 of 16 November 2019

Appendix Three- Wimala Decisions

SUMMARY OF STANDING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

March 2026 – October 2026

*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
Proposal 15426c 15 th April 2026	Wimala SC to fund the remaining costs for the Paravista Uniting Church hall flooring to the total of \$3370.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 150426a 15 th April 2026	Wimala Standing Committee recognises that Plains Community Churches formed one church council consisting of Windsor UC, Owen Community Church, Hamley Bridge UC and Pinery UC in 2011. Now functioning as one congregation with a single church council with two worshipping sites consisting of Owen Community Church and Hamley Bridge Uniting Church.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 150426b: 15 th April 2026	Wimala SC will fund the grant application of Brougham Place UC.	Approved by Agreement
Proposal 150426d 15 th April 2026	Wimala Standing Committee will vary the travel allowance for 3 months from 1 st of April through to 30 th June with minimum travel of 50km.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 290726a 29 th July 2026	That Wimala Standing Committee increase the FTE 0.1 (of the .4 provided by UC Invest to 0.5 for the Growth and Mission Project Officer role.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 290726b 29 th July 2026	That Wimala PSC decline the application of Athelstone UC as it stands but encourage Athelstone UC church council to reconsider the guidelines and encouraged to re-submit based on the grant guidelines.	Approved with consensus

Proposal 290726c 29 th July 2026	That the Wimala Presbytery Standing Committee support the decision to dissolve the Kadina- Wallaroo Parish entity, and transfer financial and other matters as indicated in the letter from Kadina- Wallaroo Parish meeting held 1 st July 2026.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 290726d 29 th July 2026	The Wimala SC invest \$1475 to fund 5 people from within the presbytery to attend the Safe Guarding Conference.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 290726e 29 th July 2026	The Presbytery SC endorse Rebecca Purling to communicate with Deirdre Palmer about possible use of the RH White Fund for lay led congregations.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 190826a	Wimala Presbytery Standing Committee dissolve and cease to recognise Greenock UC Congregation effective from 30/11/2026.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 190826c	Wimala Presbytery Standing Committee: 1. Dissolve and cease to recognise Warooka Uniting Church congregation effective from 31/10 / 2026. (Reg. 3.4.3 (a)) 2. Transfer the Warooka UC property to Synod effective from 31 /10 / 2026.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 190826f 19 th August 2026	Wimala Presbytery Standing Committee to endorse the letter to the Resources Board, seeking their indication of the possible amalgamation and transfer of beneficial use of Hallett and Whyte Yarcowie UC properties to the new entity.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 160920a 16 th September 2026	That Wimala Standing Committee endorse the suggested staffing structure for consideration and approval at the 17th October 2026 Presbytery Meeting.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 160920b 16 th September 2026	That the Standing Committee accept the new Presbytery Rules - WPR 1.05 PRESBYTERY MEMBERSHIP with the census date proposed at the October Presbytery Meeting.	Approved with consensus
Proposal 160920c 16 th September 2026	Wimala Standing Committee fund \$5000 towards the Dernancourt Uniting Church grant application to improve their property which will contribute to their current and future ministry to the community.	Approved with consensus

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 Four – Minutes/Summary of the Previous Wimala Presbytery Meeting

Wimala Presbytery Meeting

14 March 2026 – Nuriootpa Uniting Church

The Wimala Presbytery gathered in Nuriootpa for a full day of worship, reflection, decision-making, storytelling, and connection across our diverse congregations.

Worship, Reflection & Gathering

We opened our Presbytery Meeting with a warm welcome from Rev Amel Manyon on behalf of the Nuriootpa Uniting Church. Craig Zubrinich welcomed us to Country: the land of the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna Peoples. Thanks Craig!! In case you're wondering (the acknowledgement on screen comes from this document produced by UAICC and the Assembly. Here's the link: [Acknowledgement of Country in the UCA.pdf](#))

Rev Leanne Davis, Re Ann Phillips and Carolyn Hall lead us in uplifting worship. We appreciate you sharing your gifts with us! Thank you.

The Moderator, **Rev Peter Morel**, offered a powerful reflection on *being seen by God*, sharing stories from ministry, pilgrimage, and community life that invited us to recognise the deep value of being seen by our Creator and hearing one another. This is the work of Ministry - where we truly see one another.

Rev Morel encouraged us to remember that we are deeply loved and fully seen by God. To let that Truth shape the way we related to each other over the course of the day. To use the gifts that God has given- eyes to notice, ears to listen and hands to respond with compassion. That everything we do flows from the love we have received, leaving an imprint of God's grace on the world.

An important way to start our day.

Poetry woven throughout the day offered moments of grounding and creativity between sessions; curated by Rev Paul Turley. We're grateful to the volunteers who shared these gifts with us. For some, these poetic pauses were a welcome breathing space; for others, they felt unfamiliar or even a little uncomfortable. And that's okay — it's exactly why we wanted to create opportunities to experience worship in different and diverse ways.

Proposals & Decisions

Proposal 1 – Setting the Scene

Standard order, voting processes - manual of meetings, safe church commitments, and meeting boundaries were formally adopted for the day.

Proposal 1a – Minutes from October 2025

Approved.

Proposal 2a– Synod Meeting Nominations - Approved by Consensus

Names for nomination to the Synod of South Australia were presented and affirmed, with encouragement for congregations to identify additional nominees for remaining vacancies.

2b That the Wimala Presbytery Standing Committee, in consultation with the Wimala Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee, appoint such other members or members in association of the Uniting Church (from within Wimala Presbytery Congregations) to be members of the Synod of SA as may be required to fill the Wimala Presbytery's quota of required nominations. **Approved by Consensus**

Proposal 3 – Reports

Reports from the Chairperson, Secretary, PRC, Treasurer, Regional Coordinators, Property, and MAPS were received and **accepted by consensus**.

Proposal 4 – Presbytery Membership

The Presbytery agreed *in principle* to extend voting membership so that congregations without a ministry agent may send an additional lay voting member.

Proposal: **That formal Presbytery Membership be extended in the following way:**

Congregations (or congregational groups/clusters) without a ministry agent (Ordained / Ministry of Pastor / Lay Pastor) in place at the time of a Presbytery Meeting may send an additional lay member (as a voting member).

A Presbytery rule will be created. This change in formal membership will apply only to Wimala congregations.

Further work will be completed by Standing Committee to prepare a final proposal for the **October 2026** meeting.

Stories from Across the Presbytery

A major focus of the day was hearing how congregations are renewing mission and deepening community connection.

Nuriootpa Uniting Church – Community Kitchen

Celebrating 10 years of meals, hospitality, and fellowship. The Community Kitchen continues to serve hot meals, home-delivered frozen meals, and long-standing community traditions such as the Christmas Lunch. Partnerships across churches and community groups remain strong.

Oodnadatta Remote Area Ministry

A vibrant update from Ian Dempster and Rev Sunny Kadaparambil on behalf of Julia Lennon, including:

- Last year's opening of the new **church and community facility**
- A healing garden was planted involving local schoolchildren
- Strong support across the Uniting Church for ongoing ministry
- There's an upcoming **work party trip** in May 2026 (and again in May 2027) details to be shared in *Words from Wimala*

Renew Grants – Congregations Sharing Their Projects

Woodville Uniting Church

Launching **The Open Table**, a discussion space in a local pub for people exploring faith outside traditional church settings.

Spicer Uniting Church

Renew-inspired community connections through “Craft in the Park,” focusing on conversations that bring church to the people rather than expecting people to come to church.

Village Church Alberton

Community dinners that foster authentic relationships without agenda, plus upcoming *Intergenerate* event (more info here [UCA SA - Event details](#)).

Prospect Uniting Church

A collaborative mural project called *From the Inside Out*, integrating congregation, arts groups, council, and community to create a colourful expression of local identity and story.

Reports – Key Themes

Financial Update

The Presbytery ended 2025 in a strong position, with a significant surplus achieved through prudent spending and generous Mission & Service contributions.

Pastoral Relations Committee

Ongoing work supporting ministry placements, congregational leadership, and candidates for ministry.

Young Adults, Uniting World & Other Updates

- Wimala SC members have arranged a Young Adults connection opportunity to share and listen - discovering how we can support young adults within the Wimala Presbytery. Please join us on **Sunday the 12th of April 5.30pm-6.30pm**. *If you have an interest in supporting Young Adults within our Presbytery, you are a young adult or you represent a congregation who wants to support this work, please join us!!*
- Uniting World invited congregations to reflect on Lent as a rhythm of turning inward (prayer, fasting) and outward (gifts, global mission).

[UnitingWorld : Lent Event](#)

- The L3 Resource was offered as a resource which Wimala Presbytery would pay 50% of cost for those congregations who would like to give this resource a try.

Small Groups & Review Conversations

The afternoon included round-table conversations providing input into the **Presbytery Review**, with responses to be collated for Rev Dr Robert McFarlane.

Concluded the day at 4pm.

A tentative extraordinary meeting is planned for **Saturday 13 June 2026** to present the findings of the Presbytery Review.

Poetry at Wimala Presbytery Meeting

Hafiz – I sometimes forget that I was created for joy

<https://compassioncamp.com/2024/08/18/i-sometimes-forget-that-i-was-created-for-joy-by-hafiz/>

Dan Gerber — Only This Morning

<https://www.writersalmanac.org/index.html%3Fp=10876.html>

Faith Shearin – Adam Naming the Animals

<https://www.garrisonkeillor.com/radio/twa-the-writers-almanac-for-march-9-2020/>

Louise Glück – Telescope

<https://www.slowdownshow.org/episode/2024/11/22/1245-telescope-by-louise-glck>

Dorianne Laux – In Any Event

<https://www.slowdownshow.org/episode/2024/11/22/1245-telescope-by-louise-glck>

Malena Morling - Simply Lit

<https://writersalmanac.publicradio.org/index.php%3Fdate=2011%252F11%252F13.html>

Mary Oliver – Praying

<https://readalittlepoetry.com/2025/10/28/the-prayer-by-mary-oliver/>

Tamara Madison – Drop Dead

<https://writersalmanac.publicradio.org/index.php%3Fdate=2011%252F11%252F11.html>

U.A. Fanthorpe – BC:AD

<https://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/549-ua-fanthorpe-bc-ad>