
PROPOSAL 7 - MISSION AND SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS

That the Presbytery noting the following:

- That the bulk of the income to fund the work of the Presbytery comes from the Mission and Service contributions of congregations
 - That 67% of the Mission and Service income currently comes from the Uniting Church in the City
 - That the Uniting Church in the City has indicated that it is likely that it will need to reduce its contribution to Mission and Service in 2020
 - That currently about half of the congregations and faith communities in the Presbytery contribute nothing to Mission and Service
 - That if there is a significant reduction in income from Mission and Service contributions from congregations in 2020 and beyond, the Presbytery of WA will need to reduce the services it currently provides to congregations within the Presbytery.
1. Calls upon all Congregations and Faith Communities to review their giving to Mission and Service for 2020 as a way of “encouraging one another and bearing one another’s burdens”
 2. Requests all Congregations and Faith Communities who currently do not contribute to Mission and Service to begin making a contribution

Rationale

The role of the Presbytery is to “exercise oversight over the congregations within its bounds, encouraging them to strengthen one another’s faith, to bear one another’s burdens and exhorting them to fulfill their high calling in Christ”. (Basis of Union para 15 (b). The Presbytery does this through its committees and networks and through the work of its staff.

The services provided by Presbytery to congregations include

- Pastoral care of congregations including assistance in placement of ministers, support of congregations and faith communities without a placed minister, and providing pastoral counsel and support as needed.
- Recruitment and training of candidates for ordination and continuing education for ministry.
- Training of Pastors, Lay Preachers, lay presiders at the sacraments and other lay leaders.
- Support for congregations wanting to establish new missional activities, including training in Mission Shaped Ministry.

- Support for small rural congregations and faith communities without a minister in placement
- Encouragement of intergenerational ministry, including training of young leaders and organization of events such as KCO
- Support for CALD congregations who are already part of the UCA or wanting to move closer to it.

In 2019 the total cost of providing these services to congregations is \$1,574,670. The income sources to cover this expenditure come from

- Mission and Service contributions from congregations- \$1,053,960.
- Grants from the Synod- \$219,500
- Income from Trust Funds- \$137,000
- Event income- \$100,500
- Grant from GSI- \$50,000
- Sundry income- \$3,000

So the largest source of income for the work of the Presbytery is Mission and Service contributions from congregations. And the largest contributor to Mission and Service is the Uniting Church in the City which gives about 67% of this income. Of the other congregations and faith communities, 49 contribute to Mission and Service and 52 (including some of our larger congregations) contribute nothing. Of the 49 who contribute, 27 (including some of our larger congregations) are giving less than \$5,000 a year. The table below sets out information about Mission and Service giving in 2018 and 2019 results are very similar.

2018 Mission and Service Contribution	Number of Congregations and Faith Communities
\$710,604	One (UCIC)
\$35,000 to \$40,000	One
\$30,000 to \$34,999	One
\$25,000 to \$29,999	None
\$20,000 to \$24,999	Two
\$15,000 to \$19,999	Two
\$10,000 to \$14,999	Four
\$5,000 to \$9,999	Eleven
\$2,500 to \$4,999	Nine
\$1 to \$2,599	Eighteen
Nothing	Fifty- two

The Presbytery has been able to provide services to congregations in recent years largely due to the generosity of the Uniting Church in the City. However much of their income is from leasing of property in the City of Perth and that income has dropped dramatically due to the loss of a major tenant. With a current high vacancy rate in their property and rental incomes low, the UCIC have indicated that they cannot continue with the same level of giving into the future. Their contribution to Mission and Service in the current year has only been able to be maintained because they have drawn down from reserves, but this cannot continue.

Now is the time for all congregations to review their giving to Mission and Service. If the income of the Presbytery declines substantially in coming years then the services provided by the Presbytery to congregations will have to be curtailed.

All congregations receive services from the Presbytery and should be contributing towards the costs of providing these services. But giving to Mission and Service is not just a way of paying for services rendered. Your giving is a way to support other congregations who may not be as well off as you, and so carry out the role of the Presbytery “to encourage one another and bear one another’s burdens”. Your contributions enable support to be given to CALD congregations, small rural congregations and faith communities and new and emerging young leaders in the church.

Mover: Rev Bev Fabb

Seconded: Ps Marilyn Price