



Presbytery Meeting- 16 March 2024

Proposal 8

PRC – Dissolving of Congregations and Recognition of Faith Communities

That the WA Presbytery agrees:

1. To dissolve the following congregations according to Regulation 3.4.3 as they are no longer able to carry out the responsibilities of a congregation.
 - Badgingarra
 - Bencubbin
 - Gidgegannup
 - Tammin
2. To dissolve the following congregations according to Regulation 3.4.3 as they are no longer able to carry out the responsibilities of a congregation and recognise them as faith communities according to Regulation 3.9.2
 - Carnamah, Coorow and Three Springs
 - Kellerberrin
 - Narrogin
 - Southern Cross
 - Toodyay
 - Trayning

Rationale

It is clear that some congregations are no longer able to carry out the responsibilities of a congregation and should be dissolved.

Badgingarra- The one remaining UCA member has requested that the congregation be dissolved. He has transferred his membership to Moora congregation. An ecumenical group not affiliated with the Uniting Church continue to meet in the CWA Hall. The UCA has no property in the area.

Bencubbin- Two members remain, only one of whom appears to be a UCA member, and UCA worship is no longer held there. There is a church building owned by the UCA and the Presbytery Property Committee will need to consider what happens to this property. The remaining UCA member/s will be transferred to the oversight of the Merredin congregation.

Gidgegannup- this was a joint Anglican/Uniting Church meeting in the Anglican church but the UCA members have now moved out of the area. The UCA used to provide worship leadership two Sundays a month but this has not happened for the last few years.

An Anglican group continues to meet in the Anglican church with worship led by an Anglican priest. The UCA has no property in the area.

Tammin- The existing congregation ceased worshipping there some time ago. A group from Congress meet monthly for worship led by a UCA minister and are exploring closer relationships with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Congress may request that this group be recognised as a faith community. There is a UCA church building which is used by Congress for worship and they have asked if this could be officially transferred to Congress. This request is being considered by the Presbytery Property Committee in consultation with Congress and Synod Property Services.

After consultation with the following congregations we recommend that they be dissolved as congregations and re-constituted as faith communities. Changing them from congregations to faith communities will free them from all the responsibilities of being a congregation while enabling them to continue to worship and serve in their local communities.

Carnamah, Coorow and Three Springs- small groups remain in each town and they worship with the Anglicans. They have requested that the three congregations be dissolved and that they be re-formed as one faith community. The only property owned by the UCA is in Three Springs and they are negotiating with the Presbytery and Synod that this be transferred to a local incorporated body of the church members who have maintained it since its inception. Dongara Congregation has agreed to hold the membership rolls for the new faith community.

Kellerberrin- A group of about 12 people meet monthly for worship in the Uniting Church building led by Community Minister Valda Knott. They have requested that they be dissolved as a congregation and re constituted as a faith community. The membership roll will be held by Merredin.

Narrogin- They requested some time ago that they be dissolved as a congregation and recognised as a faith community. A small group meets in homes or in a nursing home. They relinquished their buildings some time ago to the Synod as they were no longer able to maintain them. Wagin congregation has been asked to hold the membership roll.

Southern Cross- A small group meet for worship led by a Uniting Church minister once a quarter in the Anglican Church. There is no UCA property in the area. Membership roll is held by Merredin congregation.

Toodyay- A small group of UCA members meet for worship with the Anglicans. The UCA property was sold some time ago. They have requested that they be recognised as a faith community. Northam congregation to be asked to hold membership roll.

Trayning- the Community Minister Valda Knott has requested that this congregation be dissolved and re constituted as a Faith Community. The membership roll will be held by Merredin.

We are still in conversation with a number of other congregations and may bring recommendations in relation to them to later meetings of Presbytery.

Mover: Rev Lorraine Stokes

Second: Sue Strutt