Faithful Futures – resolution from Synod 2025

The resolution in full of the Faithful Futures Project, resolved at the 2025 Synod meeting **for presbyteries' consideration and requested endorsement of the modified Goals, as per clause (g), following.**

25.3.14.1 Faithful Futures Project

The Synod resolved by consensus:

(a) To adopt the Vision for the Uniting Church across Victoria and Tasmania of **Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation**.

(b) To adopt the Goals developed through the Faithful Futures Project for the Uniting Church across Victoria and Tasmania of:

A. **Coordinated Ministries**: Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as Local Government Areas by 2030: attentive to renewing discipleship, and to the life and needs of the local context;

B. **Respecting Country**: Honoring the Church's Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, all communities of faith will listen to and be able to tell about some of the histories of the Country on which they are located by the end of 2028, and be invited to develop local and appropriate ways to respond;

C. **Intercultural Leadership**: By 2028 to:

- be providing appropriate intercultural leadership formation and equipping for all ministry agents and congregations; and
- develop intercultural networks for worship, witness and service.

D. **All-Age Growth**: To have at least one all-age community of faith that is interactive, diverse, inclusive and transformative in 80% of Coordinated Ministries by 2030.

E. **New Communities of Faith**: establish at least five new Christian communities by 2030.

(c) To establish a Faithful Futures Steering Committee (FFSC) with the following characteristics (1-8 below),

1. Purpose to:
   (i) Provide oversight for the work of the Faithful Futures Project Lead (FFPL);
   (ii) Develop a strategy and resourcing plan for the implementation of the five Faithful Futures Goals;
   (iii) Assist with identifying progress and difficulties being faced around the presbyteries with respect to the Goals;
   (iv) to receive input from the goal focused groups (see g below); and
   (v) Develop a review process for the Project including a major review to be presented to the 2027 ordinary Synod Meeting.
2. Membership to consist of:
   (i) One member appointed by each of the presbyteries (8 in total);
   (ii) Chairperson appointed by the Synod Standing Committee;
   (iii) The General Secretary (or nominee); and
   (iv) The eLM Executive Officer (or nominee).
3. Meeting at least quarterly;

4. Quorum of at least five appointed presbytery members and at least one member from categories 2(ii) or 2(iii) or 2(iv) above;
5. FFPL to attend meetings as a participant;
6. Providing updates at least twice per year to the Presbytery Standing Committees and to the Synod Ministry and Mission Committee;
7. Providing a report to ordinary Synod meetings;
8. Meetings to be resourced by presbytery and Synod Ministry and Operations personnel as required.

(d) To request the Synod Standing Committee to finalise the FFSC's Terms of Reference, noting clause (c) above.

(e) To request the Synod Standing Committee to ensure resourcing for a Faithful Futures Project Lead (FFPL) and related matters, with the role including the following characteristics:

1. up to full-time role;
2. Appointed by and reporting to the Associate General Secretary, and accountable (for overall role emphases) to the Faithful Futures Steering Committee, with the FFPL nominating committee comprising at least two members with significant presbytery life and mission engagement.
3. Primary relationship with the Faithful Futures Steering Committee;
4. Key responsibilities including but not limited to:
   - A. Resource the development of a Project Plan, for approval by the Faithful Futures Steering Committee, including mapping and measurement of progress;
   - B. Provide leadership towards the achievement of the Faithful Futures Goals;
   - D. Support Goal-focused groups;
   - E. Facilitate the sharing of Faithful Futures related resources drawn from the breadth of Faithful Futures related activities;
   - F. Facilitate and track the measurement of progress against the Goals;
   - G. Liaise with the Act2 related Assembly staff and commissions/committees regarding relevant possible changes to the Regulations to enable the Coordinated Ministry Goal and any Act2 related matters; and
   - H. Attend Presbyteries-Synod Forum meetings as a participant, as negotiated with the Associate General Secretary.

(f) to note that the Faithful Futures Implementation Plan includes the formation of Goal Focused Groups for each of the Goal areas, to be overseen by the Faithful Futures Steering Committee;

(g) To invite the presbyteries to give heed to the Synod's discernment regarding the Faithful Futures project: and

(i) to endorse the amendments in Faithful Futures Goals A, B and C; and

(ii) to endorse the additional Faithful Futures Goal E of **New Communities of Faith:** establish at least five new Christian communities by 2030.

Modifications made by the 2025 Synod meeting to the Faithful Futures Project Goals that were initially presented to the Synod meeting.

25.3.14.1 Faithful Futures Project

(b) To adopt the Goals developed through the Faithful Futures Project for the Uniting Church across Victoria and Tasmania of:

A. **Coordinated Ministries**: Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as Local Government Areas by 2030: attentive to renewing discipleship, and to the life and needs of the local context. ~~Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as Local Government Areas, attentive to the life and needs of the local context, by 2030;~~

B. **Respecting Country**: Honouring the Church's Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, all communities of faith will listen to and be able to tell about some of the histories ~~All communities of faith will be able to tell some of the story~~ of the Country on which they are located by the end of 2028, and be invited to develop local and appropriate ways to respond;

C. **Intercultural Leadership**: By 2028 to:

- ~~be providing appropriate formation and equipping for leaders of different cultural groups; and~~
- ~~develop networks to support worship, witness and service among communities of diverse languages and cultures;~~
- be providing appropriate intercultural leadership formation and equipping for all ministry agents and congregations; and
- develop intercultural networks for worship, witness and service.

D. **All-Age Growth**: To have at least one all-age community of faith that is interactive, diverse, inclusive and transformative in 80% of Coordinated Ministries by 2030.

E. **New Communities of Faith**: establish at least five new Christian communities by 2030.