

The Faithful Futures New Communities of Faith Goal Group Terms of Reference

1 Name and Source of Authority

- 1.1 The name of this body shall be **Faithful Futures New Communities of Faith Goal Group**.
- 1.2 Source of Authority – Synod Resolution 25.3.1.14.1, clause (f), and Faithful Futures Steering Committee resolution 26.19.3.

2 Statement of Purpose

The Faithful Futures New Communities of Faith Goal Group's purpose is to support the presbyteries and the Synod to fulfil the Shared Vision and, specifically, the New Communities of Faith goal: "To establish at least five new Christian communities by 2030". (Ref: Synod Resolution 25.3.14.1(b) E).

3 Responsibilities and Functions

The Goal Group will:

- 3.1 Develop a strategic framework that supports the establishment of new communities of faith, for discernment and consideration by the Faithful Futures Steering Committee. This will include:
 - a clear agreed definition of 'new Christian communities' with its associated elements, relevant to the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Faithful Futures Vision,
 - underpinning missional and theological frameworks,
 - practical considerations and/or resourcing requirements to support success (e.g. leadership requirements/capacity, networks of support, financial sustainability, property/physical resources),
 - recommendations about governance and decision-making processes,
 - opportunities for missional engagement,
 - consideration of geographic and demographic factors, including both rural and metropolitan contexts (opportunities and constraints), and
 - consideration across various cultural contexts (opportunities and constraints).
- 3.2 Support and enable presbyteries and the Synod to learn from others' experiences (internal and external to the UCA) – their strategies, successes and challenges, and translate these learnings into practical contextually-appropriate action.

- 3.3 Articulate leadership elements required for supporting successful and sustainable new communities of faith – and provide advice to the Faithful Futures Steering Committee regarding leadership training requirements and pathways.
- 3.4 Collaborate with presbyteries and the Synod to strategically identify regions/areas that might support the establishment of a new community of faith, including advising on the contextually relevant resources and support.
- 3.5 Make recommendations to the Faithful Futures Steering Committee about the tools and methods that could be used to effectively measure achievement of the New Communities of Faith Goal (quantitative and qualitative).
- 3.7 Make recommendations to the Faithful Futures Steering Committee about the ‘next steps’ that presbyteries and the Synod can take to continue establishing and/or growing new communities of faith beyond 2030.

4 Membership

4.1 Members

- 4.1.1 The membership of this Goal Group shall consist of four to six people, including the Chairperson, who have specialist skills, experience or interest in promoting and expanding new communities of faith. At least two of these people will be from congregations or faith communities who have lived experience of establishing new communities of faith.
- 4.1.2 These members will be nominated through Expressions of Interest and appointed by the Faithful Futures Steering Committee.
- 4.1.3 Faithful Futures Steering Committee members, and staff wholly employed or placed within Synod Ministries & Operations (SMO) and Presbyteries may not be members of the Goal Group, with the exception of those who are members due to these Terms of Reference.

4.2 Participants

The participants, as associated members of the Goal Group, shall include, but not be limited to:

- 4.2.1 The Faithful Futures Project Lead (or nominee).
- 4.2.2 The eLM New & Renewing Communities resource staff member.
- 4.2.3 The eLM Younger Generations New & Digital Ministries resource staff member.
- 4.2.4 Subject matter experts may be invited to attend as participants from time to time to support the Goal Group in fulfilling their responsibilities (e.g. SMO staff; chaplains; chairperson or members of the Faithful Futures Coordinated Ministries Goal Group; and members of local congregations/faith communities).

4.3 Chairperson

- 4.3.1 The Chairperson will be appointed by the Faithful Futures Steering Committee.

- 4.3.2 The Chairperson may be required to attend, and/or provide a written report to, the Faithful Futures Steering Committee no more than bi-annually.

5 Casual Vacancies

- 5.1 When a member ceases to be eligible for membership by reason of:
- i. resignation; or
 - ii. death; or
 - iii. moving outside the bounds of the Synod; or
 - iv. becoming a member of staff of Synod Ministries and Operations; or
 - v. for such other reasons as the Faithful Futures Steering Committee determines,
- then a casual vacancy shall arise.
- 5.2 The casual vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Faithful Futures Steering Committee after it has consulted with the Faithful Futures New Communities of Faith Goal Group.
- 5.3 Persons appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall hold office for the duration of the term of the person who they replace.

6 Length of Service

- 6.1 Members shall be appointed for an initial term until the end of term of the Goal Group: 31 December 2030.
- 6.2 Persons appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall be appointed for the remainder of the appointment period until 31 December 2030.

7 Meetings

- 7.1 The Goal Group shall meet at least 4 times per year, at a time and place to be determined by the Group.
- 7.2 A quorum shall be a minimum of three appointed members of the Goal Group.
- 7.3 Confirmed meeting notes of all resolutions passed at each meeting shall be kept and provided to the Chairperson of the Faithful Futures Steering Committee.
- 7.4 Meetings may be held in person or through the use of technology.

8 Indemnity

- 8.1 Any person acting as a member of the Goal Group shall be entitled to be indemnified in accordance with Regulation 4.11.2.

9 Definitions

In these **Terms of Reference** unless the context indicates otherwise:

Term	Definition
“Church”	Means the Uniting Church in Australia
“Congregation”	Means any congregation within the Synod
“Committee”	Means the Faithful Futures Steering Committee
‘Constitution’	Means the Constitution of the Uniting Church in Australia
“Member”	Means a person appointed as a member to participate in the activities and decisions of the Committee
“Participant”	Means an associated member of a committee who is given permission by the Committee to participate in meetings of the Committee for all or part of the proceedings as appropriate (Manual for Meetings, Chapter 5). A participant may contribute during the worship, general, information and deliberative sessions of a meeting but not in the decision. The leave of the Committee is required for a person to be recognized as a participant.
“Presbyteries”	Means any presbytery within the Synod.
“Regulations”	Means the Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia.
“Reporting Institution/s”	Means the Institution as defined in Regulation 3.7.4.7 (a) (i) that has a direct reporting relationship with the Synod, whether such Institution is incorporated or not.
“Synod”	Means the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.
“Synod Ministries and Operations (SMO)”	Means all ministry, missional, operational, and administrative functions undertaken by or on behalf of the Synod, as expressed in the Synod’s staffed Units of the Secretariat, equipping Leadership for mission (eLM); and Mission Resourcing Unit (MRU). Synod Ministries and Operations’ responsibilities are to act in response but not limited to: Synod governance committee advice/direction; as required in accordance with the Regulations; and through the exercise of executive direction; to support Synod committees and/or Synod officers to ensure fulfilment of the Synod’s responsibilities of general oversight, direction and administration of the Church’s worship, witness and service within its bounds.

Document Control

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1.0	July 2026	Faithful Futures Program Officer	Grammar updates to align the Faithful Futures Steering Committee feedback.	10/07/2026
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