



CANBERRA REGION PRESBYTERY

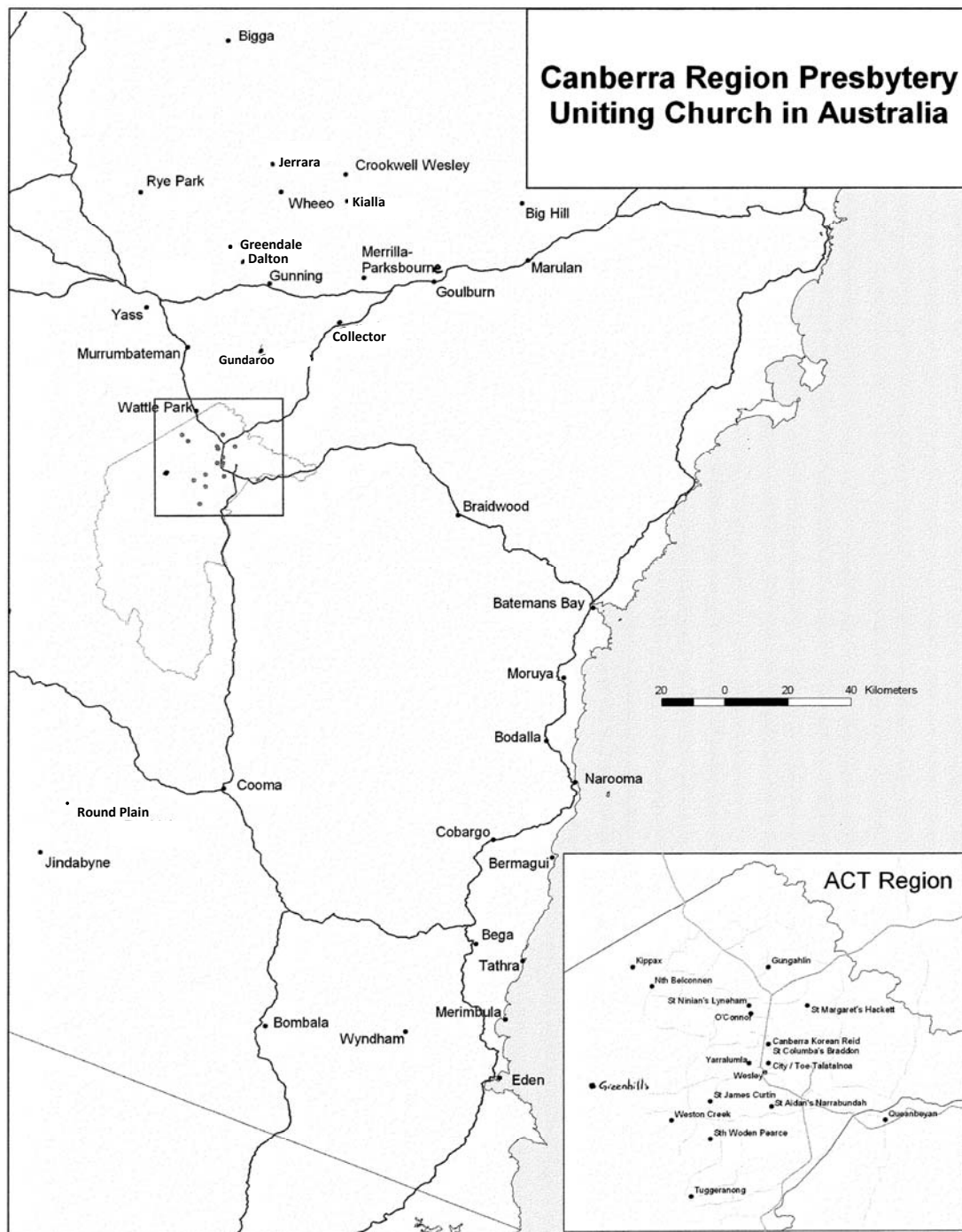
AN INTRODUCTION

COUNTRY, COAST & CAPITAL



PRESBYTERY HAS GEOGRAPHIC SHAPE AND BOUNDARIES

Canberra Region Presbytery is a group of 54 worshipping communities organized into 30 congregations and/or groupings which, along with agencies such as Greenhills Conference Centre, live out the mission of Jesus and the call to enter into the unity which Jesus prayed for in John 17.



Canberra region Presbytery has three geographical regions:

1. COUNTRY

- a. Alpine (Jindabyne, Round Plain)
- b. Braidwood
- c. Crookwell (Bigga, Crookwell Wesley, Jerrara, Kialla, Wheeo)
- d. Goulburn District Parish (Big Hill, Collector, Dalton, Goulburn, Greendale, Gunning, Gundaroo, Marulan, Merrilla-Parkesbourne)
- e. Grace, Faith Community (Goulburn)
- f. Monaro (Bombala & Cooma)
- g. Murrumbateman
- h. Yass (Rye Park & Yass)

2. COAST

- a. Bega-Tathra (Bega & Tathra)
- b. Eden
- c. Eurobodalla (Batemans Bay & Moruya)
- d. Mount Dromedary (Bermagui, Bodalla, Cobargo, Narooma)
- e. Sapphire Coast (Merimbula & Wyndham)

3. CAPITAL

- a. Canberra Central (St Aidan's & Wesley)
- b. Canberra City (Canberra City & Toe Talatalanoa)
- c. Canberra Korean
- d. Gungahlin
- e. Kippax
- f. North Belconnen
- g. O'Connor
- h. Queanbeyan
- i. South Woden
- j. St Columba's
- k. St James
- l. St Margaret's
- m. St Ninian's
- n. Tuggeranong
- o. Wattle Park
- p. Weston Creek
- q. Yarralumla

COUNTRY, COAST & CAPITAL



PRESBYTERY HAS A MISSION AND PURPOSE

A MOVEMENT AND AN INSTITUTION

The Church is both Institution and Movement.

An institution values the good ordering of its structures.

A movement values inspiration, education and information.

**Canberra Region Presbytery seeks to encourage the Movement
and ensure the requirements of the Institution are managed efficiently.**

1. Relational Oversight

All of the functions of Presbytery are dependent upon the key factor of the Presbytery having relational oversight* for those congregations within its bounds. This is not oversight as exercising power or control but a relational way of being where the gathered members of the Uniting Church are cared for and working together to fulfil their call to discipleship in Jesus Christ.

**Relational Oversight is the focused care that a council or person has for another that involves ensuring they keep the faith of the church, are given support and encouragement for ministry and are held accountable for faith and action.*

2. Gathering for Inspiration and Education and Communicating Encouragement

a) The **Presbytery Meetings** held 3 or 4 times a year on a Saturday give priority to feeding the Movement.

It is the Holy Spirit's gift of discernment at work in this meeting that sets it apart from a business meeting and gives it a distinct ethos.

Each meeting has a particular educational/missional focus (eg What does the ministry of Chaplaincy have to say to the mission of congregations? How are we to engage with the Government's policy on Indigenous Issues? How do we focus on the heart of our faith? etc) These sessions use presentations and table conversations around a theme and are a means of building relationship and giving a sense of vision.

This session is open to full participation by everyone who chooses to attend.

Those attending are encouraged to spread the word about what is discussed.

In recognition that the Presbytery has institutional responsibilities time is devoted to more formal business. Anyone is welcome to attend this session but from time to time only specified Presbytery Members are called on to make decisions using the consensus method.

b) Regional Meetings, normally held twice yearly are designed to supplement the Presbytery Meetings. Congregation/Church Council Office-bearers, Lay Leaders and Ministers in placement participate in these event whose focus includes: information sharing; raising of concerns/issues; developing relationships between congregations.

3. Communication Strategy

The quarterly magazine **Perspective** offers to all members the presentations from the morning session of the Presbytery gathering and reflections on the theme from the Presbytery Ministers, Chairperson and others to help keep everyone connected.

The **weekly notices** are sent out to all congregations for distribution to members as appropriate.

PRESBYTERY HAS A VISION OF HOW IT CAN BE

Canberra Region Presbytery seeks to be a Presbytery in which:

- a) *Congregations:*
 - a. *Know they are appreciated and valued as the first line of the mission of Christ in the Community;*
 - b. *Are encouraged to seek the signs of the Spirit within them, calling them to authentic Christian community and mission that is appropriate to their context;*
 - c. *Recognise they are part of a larger whole that is not a threat to them.*

- b) *Ministry Agents:*
 - a. *Know they are appreciated and valued in their roles with congregations*
 - b. *Recognise they have a key role in helping their congregations discover their authentic calling as Christ's people;*
 - c. *Generously offer and receive support with colleagues.*

- c) *Presbytery Staff:*
 - a. *Know they are appreciated and valued as they guide the Presbytery in considering future directions by looking for and responding to signs of the Spirit in timely and effective ways so as to "get on board" with what God might be doing in contexts we might not have expected*
 - b. *Grow the confidence of ministry agents, lay members, congregations by being available and present to the needs and opportunities that emerge in our Presbytery;*
 - c. *Ensure that, in an age of increased compliance requirements, the decline in volunteer engagement does not hinder the effective business of the church.*

- d) *The Presbytery:*
 - Is able to participate with other Presbyteries and the Synod as a whole in*
 - (i) discovering the call of God on our Church; and*
 - (ii) addressing the issues facing our church with transparency, trust and honesty.*

PRESBYTERY HAS A 5 YEAR PLAN – 2014 and Beyond.

In 2014 CRP adopted a 5-year plan to give broad guidance and direction to the actions of staff and committees. (The Vision Statement was developed in 2015 to give a higher level focus.)

2014 and Beyond is a separate document that is worthy of attention as it names a number of things that are in the pipeline and that give direction to the decisions of our committees.

This 5-year plan is constantly under review.

PRESBYTERY HAS RESPONSIBILITIES

1. (Constitution para 26)

The Presbytery shall have such oversight as is necessary to the life and mission of the Church in the area committed to it; it shall stimulate and encourage the Congregations within the bounds, providing them with opportunities for counsel in the strengthening and assistance of one another and in their participation in wider aspects of the work of the Church.

2. (Regulations)

- Oversight of Ministers

- a. pastoral and administrative oversight of all Ministers including:
 - i. counselling and disciplining of Ministers in accordance with Regs 5.4.1 – 5.4.3
 - ii. ensuring Ministers receive regular professional supervision;
 - iii. providing opportunities for further training;
 - iv. determining the intervals at which Ministers shall be counselled by its Pastoral Relations Committee in accordance with Regs 3.7.3(b) and 5.4.3(a)
- b. maintaining and reviewing annually the roll of Ministers;

- Oversight of Congregations

- i. the formation of, the alteration of the bounds of and the dissolution of Congregations and other pastoral charges within the bounds; (See Reg. 3.4.1 and 3.4.4)
- ii. conducting consultations on the life and witness of Congregations within the bounds in accordance with Regulation 3.1.4;
- iii. receiving and dealing with matters referred to it by Congregations and Church Councils as provided for in Regulation 3.3.3(d) and the transmission of those matters where appropriate;

- Wider Work of the Church

- i. promoting the wider aspects of the work of the Church;
- ii. setting up agencies as may be determined;
- iii. arranging for the contribution by Congregations of funds for the purposes of the Presbytery, the Synod and the Assembly and other approved purposes;
- iv. the promotion and conduct throughout the Presbytery of such activities as will encourage and instruct the people generally toward a better understanding and a fuller participation in the whole range of Christian witness and service;

- Selection and Oversight of Candidates

- Ordination, Accreditation or Recognition of Specified Ministries

- Oversight of Lay Preachers

- Placement and Appointment of Specified Ministries and Supervision of Vacancies

- Administration including:

- i. receiving and dealing with applications to acquire property or to sell, mortgage, exchange or lease the property of pastoral charges in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Acts and Regulations;
- ii. submitting Presbytery reports and records annually to the Synod;
- iii. appointing a qualified auditor who shall audit the books of account and report to the Presbytery at least annually.

PRESBYTERY HAS ORGANISATION

1. Presbytery Meetings

Reps from all congregations meet three or four times each year to address a range of issues relating to the local church context (eg extensions of placements, selection and oversight of candidates, ordinations) and also the wider context (eg the UCA position on refugees, proposals for restructuring of Presbyteries).

This gathering moves around the Presbytery – two meetings in the ACT, one in NSW and one at Greenhills Conference Centre.

Congregations whose membership is:

- a) under 150 are asked to elect one (1) confirmed member to Presbytery;
- b) between 150 and 250 may elect two (2).
- c) over 250 may elect three (3).

It is expected that the Presbytery Reps will report back to each Congregation and Church Council concerning the matters dealt with at Presbytery meetings so that congregations are kept in the loop as to developments across our region and beyond.

2. Standing Committee (SC)

SC acts on behalf of the Presbytery between the four meetings, above.

It normally meets twice between Presbytery meetings whenever there is work to be done or decisions to be made, ie 8 times per year. When there is nothing to do we do not meet.

In 2017 it was decided to increase the financial capacity of the Standing Committee. Rather than have a formal Finance Committee, Standing Committee will call on an ad hoc financial advisory group as needed.

The majority of members of this group need also to be members of Presbytery, ie reps to Presbytery from congregations.

At least four SC members are expected to be from outside the ACT

3. Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)

PRC meets monthly and is responsible for regular consultations with ministers and congregations; placement approvals and other matters pertaining to ministers and the congregations in which they serve; general oversight of the well-being of congregations.

Candidates Sub-Committee This sub-committee meets as needed and always once per year to process applications from people wishing to be considered for training for ministry, either Minister of the Word or Deacon. It also processes any requests from Presbytery that a person be considered for the position as Pastor and to engage in a Period of Discernment.

4. Property Committee

This committee advises and approves building applications.

5. A minimum of meetings

Individuals and groups are encouraged to come together to pursue common interests and passions without becoming formal meetings.

PRESBYTERY HAS ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The functioning of Presbytery depends significantly on the participation of people elected to particular tasks and committees. The willingness of these people to offer their expertise and experience to the Church is greatly appreciated.

Here are the people currently serving our Presbytery as elected members of committees:

Presbytery Co-Chairs:	Vanessa Crimmins, <i>O'Connor</i> (2017 to end of 2018) currently on sick leave
	John Williams, <i>Kippax</i> (2017 to end 2019)
Deputy Chairpersons:	currently vacant
Treasurer:	John Sutton, <i>Canberra Central</i> to end of 2018)

- **Standing Committee - 12 elected members**

Ex Officio: Chair of Presbytery, Deputy Chairs, Treasurer Presbytery Minister (PW), Presbytery Minister (CF)

Members to Dec 2019:

Rev Gary Holdsworth *Weston Creek*
Chris Lockley, *St Margaret's/St James*
Jared Mitchell, *St James*
Rev Anne Ryan, *Retired*
Rev Karyl Davison, *Kippax*
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Members to Dec 2018

Jill Ireland – *Bega-Tathra*
Judy McKinlay – *Alpine*
Delia Quigley – *Tuggeranong*
John Sutton – *Canberra Central*
Harold Small – *Canberra Central*
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- **Pastoral Relations Committee - 12 elected members**

Ex Officio: Co-Chairs of Presbytery, Presbytery Minister (Presbytery Well-being) as Secretary, Presbytery Minister (Congregatin Futures)

Members to Dec 2018:

Rev Tim Jensen, *North Belconnen*;
Rev Riana Kok, *Yarralumla*;

Kumar Subramaniam, *Canberra City*;
Dorothea Wojnar, *Tuggeranong*

Members to Dec 2019:

Rev David Russell, *Sapphire Coast*
Kay Diamond, *Kippax (Chair)*

Rev Elizabeth Richardson – *Canberra Central*
Rev David Stuart, *Yass*

Members to Dec 2020:

Rev Julie Lawton-Gallard, *Goulburn*
Rev Kerry Bartlett, *retired*

Rev Mark Faulkner, *Synod*
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Candidates sub-Committee

Rev Elizabeth Richardson – *Canberra Central*
Rev Aimee Kent – *Grace Community*
Terry Birtles- *Canberra City*

Campbell Macknight – *St Columba's*
John Goss – *St Margaret's Hackett*
Graham Brown – *Canberra Central*

- **Property Committee**

Members to Dec 2019:

Mike Evans, *Kippax (Convener)*
Geoff Driscoll, *Weston Creek*
Willem Kok, *Yaralumla*
Glen Chalmers

Members to Dec 2018:

Keith Thomas, *North Belconnen*
Rev John Braakman, *retired*
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PRESBYTERY HAS STAFF

Presbytery Minister – Presbytery Well-being *Rev Kevin Dilks*

Primary tasks (not exhaustive) include:

- Exercising the role of **Presbytery Secretary and Secretary of the Pastoral Relations Committee**;
- Coordinating the work of the Presbytery Office;
- Facilitating the work of the Presbytery by developing communications networks and strong relationships
- Offering pastoral care to those in specified ministries and to lay pastoral workers and to congregations where appropriate, with an emphasis on the important preventative role of such pastoral care;
- Ensure the proper functioning of its sub-committees (Candidates and Chaplaincy)
- Deal with changes and crises which emerge for ministers and/or congregations;

Presbytery Minister - Congregation Futures *Lay Pastor Geoff Wellington*

Primary tasks (not exhaustive) include:

- Helping to equip and enrich all congregations and agencies to engage in mission beyond the bounds of the church;
- Engaging in regional planning for the life and work of the Uniting Church in the area through congregations, faith communities, agencies and chaplaincies;
- Developing expertise in mission and theological discernment in congregations, faith communities and agencies;
- Encouraging the development of local and Presbytery leaders for their ministries;
- Advocating for the work of the Uniting Church throughout the Synod and Assembly;
- Facilitating relationships **between** those in various ministries of the UCA;
- Helping Presbytery establish and strengthen links with Greenhills Conference Centre and any other agencies of the Presbytery;
- Helping congregations and agencies identify suitable placements for specified ministries; and
- Encouraging the development of lay education;

The Ministry of Mission and Education may include:

- *Relational Oversight* of those providing ministry undertaken within the congregations in the Presbytery;
- Helping congregations and ministry agents to implement and evaluate their mission plans;
- Developing, resourcing and supporting effective mission networks;
- Promoting and encouraging national and world mission;
- Developing mission leadership by ensuring effective teaching and theological teaching within the presbytery
- Monitoring and researching emerging mission patterns and models throughout Australia. ; and
- Seeking ecumenical opportunities for congregations;

Operations Manager *Janice Woods*

This role will take significant responsibility for support of Presbytery Treasurer and Presbytery Property Committee. It will also be the first point of call for congregations with questions about these things.

Many operational functions that have been carried by the two Presbytery Ministers will also be taken up by this role.

Church and Community Engagement Consultant *Briony Griffiths*

The Church and Community Engagement Consultant (Uniting NSW/ACT) will work in cooperation with congregations, the Presbytery, Uniting and local and regional service networks and as appropriate:

- Provide community service planning advice and support to Presbytery/ congregations and Uniting
- Assist congregations identify effective and sustainable ways to engage with and support disadvantaged or vulnerable people within their communities.
- Forge working links between Uniting and local congregation community service activities and with Territory agencies and service forums.
- Provide links for congregations and Uniting to local initiatives in service planning and the development of community responses /initiatives targeting the needs of disadvantaged groups.
- Monitor social justice issues within the ACT and with congregations, Presbytery, Uniting and local service networks aim to influence social policy within the ACT
- Provide regular reports on work done including lessons learned to the Advisory Committee
- Develop annual work plans in consultation with the Advisory Committee
- Assist in the formulation of strategic plans for mission or community service activities within the Presbytery

This position is funded by Uniting NSW/ACT

Office Secretary *Carolyn McAllister*

Primary tasks

- Supporting the work of the Presbytery Ministers
- Coordinating communications and preparing the Perspective magazine
- Assisting organisation of Presbytery Meetings and other gatherings
- Anything that comes her way

