



Regenerating the Church

2021 Strategy



Regenerating
the Church

2021 STRATEGY

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DEFINITIONS

Coaching: Is partnering with people to achieve personal growth as followers of Jesus, and become more effective in a chosen area such as mission development or leadership. The role of the coach is to facilitate a process that empowers people to clarify their thinking, unlocks options and alternatives for actions, and motivates and encourages a person to take committed actions as they respond to the call of God.

Regenerating the Church (Strategy 2013): Is a strategy that was adopted by the Presbytery of Port Phillip West for the period 2013-2016.

2021 Strategy: Is a whole of Presbytery strategic plan for the Presbytery of Port Phillip West from the year 2016 to 2021.

MSR: Is the Major Strategic Review undertaken, the outcomes of which were then adopted by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

Contextual Expressions of Church: Is a form of Christian community that emerges from a mission context. It is shaped by both the cultural context and encountering the gospel in fresh ways. It is especially focused on the development of Christian community and growing as followers of Jesus for people who do not belong to any church.

Mission Pioneering: Mission Pioneering is a way of describing the ministry of lay or ordained people in crossing all sorts of boundaries to join in with God's mission in new and fresh expressions of the gospel. Mission pioneering begins with Jesus as the pioneer of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus crossed all sorts of boundaries in new and innovative ways to bring the good news to people. The UCA Regulations defines one of the duties of a Minister as 'pioneering new expressions of the gospel and encouraging effective ways of fulfilling the mission of the Church.' (2.2.1: Xii).

Regeneration Ministry: A Regeneration Ministry placement prioritises the focus of a ministry on the development of contextual expressions of church or mission development consistent with the vision of the *Regenerating the Church* strategy. The ministry is also assisted by the Presbytery via specialised mission development support.

Communities of Christ: Communities of Christ is an inclusive term encompassing the diversity of existing and new forms of church. This includes congregations, faith communities, communities that are yet to be recognised formally, communities in schools, social enterprise fresh expressions, agencies that have emerging communities, and other ways of gathering as Christian communities across the Presbytery.

INTRODUCTION

We are excited to continue the journey of the Regenerating the Church Strategy. The 2021 Strategy gives the Presbytery focus and direction until the year 2021. Ultimately, our call is to be faithful as God's people joining in with God's mission in the world. The Presbytery has a role within this. It includes the resourcing, supporting, encouraging and equipping communities of Christ across our region to fulfil our high calling in Christ Jesus.

Over the last three years the Presbytery has been on an exciting and challenging journey. The Spirit of Christ has been regenerating the life of the church enabling us to participate in and witness to the mission of God. We are a pilgrim people and therefore we never 'arrive' as the church. God constantly calls us forward, we are always on the way, and we are always becoming the church anew in every generation. As a Presbytery we are called to continue walking this journey.

The 2021 Strategy is born out of a process of action and reflection, listening, engagement and consultation with the Presbytery and the wider Synod. An important part of this has been the 'Report on the Review of Regenerating the Church' June 2016. Much of the 2021 Strategy has built on the learning captured in the Review report.

Our prayer and hope is that the Spirit of Christ will enable us to witness to God's mission in the world. As we continue on our journey as a Presbytery, we commit ourselves to prayer, listening to God in Scripture and community, and to serve Christ in the world. May we have the imagination and courage to respond to the call of Christ in our day.

Rev. Dr. Adam McIntosh
Presbytery Minister Mission and Education
August 2016

SECTION 1: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

The Vision of the 2021 Strategy speaks about participating in and witnessing to the wonder of God's mission. Joining in with God's mission, centred in Christ and empowered by the Spirit, is our call as a Presbytery. This mission is wondrous. It is beautiful and amazing, awe inspiring and ineffable; it is life giving and liberating. It is also the mission of the Crucified God. God who is present in pain and suffering; God beside the marginalised and broken; God with the rejected and oppressed; God who heals the fragile creation.

This is God's mission and not the church's mission. God's mission is both beyond and within the church. The church exists to serve the mission of God. "It is not the Church of God that has a mission. It is the God of Mission that has a Church." (Williams, R 2004, Mission Shaped Church). The simple truth that grounds the life of the church is that the Triune God is ahead of us in the world. The church is called to participate in and witness to this mission; to be mission shaped.

"It is not the Church of God that has a mission. It is the God of Mission that has a Church."
-Rowan Williams (2004)

To be mission shaped means two primary things. First, for the total life of a community to be an instrument through which 'Christ bears witness to himself' in the power of the Spirit. One of the ways that the Basis of Union describes the witness of the church is as follows:

'The Church's call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself.' (PARA 3)

The Spirit of Christ makes possible the witness of any community of Christ and enables us to participate in and witness to the mission of God. Every aspect of our life is an opportunity to bear witness to the Gospel as we find our identity in Christ by following his mission into the world. This includes the way we gather as communities, our treatment of each other, our use of property, our ecumenical engagement and our love and service in the world. The church may be fragile 'clay jars', but we have an irresistible and beautiful treasure that shapes our life, and that our total life witnesses to (2 Corinthians 4: 7). Participating in and witnessing to God's mission is transformational; as we encounter God's grace, forgiveness, liberation, love, justice and reconciliation. As a Pilgrim people, we invite others to journey alongside us in participating in and witnessing to the new humanity and new creation that God has inaugurated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The calling of the church is to witness to Christ through the shape of our life as followers of Jesus Christ in the life of the Spirit.

Second, to be 'mission shaped' means that participating in and witnessing to God's mission in Christ through the Spirit is essential to the life of communities of Christ. Mission is not an optional extra to being the church. It is essential to *being* the church. Our call is not simply to do 'things better' or to do 'new things', but to allow the Spirit of Christ to regenerate and reshape our life as we join in with God's mission. The Basis of Union puts it this way:

"Our call is not simply to do 'things better' or to do 'new things', but to allow the Spirit of Christ to regenerate and reshape our life as we join in with God's mission."

'The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church is able to live and endure through the changes of history only because its Lord comes, addresses, and deals with people in and through the news of his completed work. Christ who is present when he is preached among people is the Word of God who acquits the guilty, who gives life to the dead and who brings into being what otherwise could not exist.'

Through human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command people's attention and awaken faith; he calls people into the fellowship of his sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified Lord; in his own strange way Christ constitutes, rules and renews them as his Church.' (PARA 4)

The Basis of Union affirms that the possibility and power of the church entering deeper into God's mission is the gift of God. We are always on the way into the world as a Pilgrim people because Christ is Risen and active in the world ahead of us. Our call is to follow the mission of God who creates all things, the Crucified and Risen Christ who reconciles the world; and the Spirit who liberates and gives life to the world. We have confidence to live as communities of Christ in our rapidly changing world because the Spirit of Christ is both within the world and the possibility of the witness of the church in the world.

1.1. MISSION PRINCIPLES

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has undertaken a Major Strategic Review (MSR) since May 2013 and adopted the following Mission Principles in its June 2016 meeting.

God in Christ is at mission in the world and sends the Church in the Spirit to:

- 1. Share the Good News of Jesus Christ**
- 2. Nurture followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation**
- 3. Respond in compassion to human need**
- 4. Live justly and seek justice for all**
- 5. Care for creation**
- 6. Listen to each generation and culture so as to live out the Gospel in fresh ways**
- 7. Pursue God's mission in partnership**

The seven mission principles are a description of what we might call different 'marks' of mission. Below is a brief commentary on these mission principles in relation to the 2021 Strategy.

- 1. Share the Good News of Jesus Christ**
- 2. Nurture followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation**

Nurturing followers of Jesus and sharing the good news of Jesus is not about 'saving souls' or getting someone to Sunday worship, but is about a mutual transformation of individual's and communities as we encounter Christ. The church is made up of people who are continuously growing as disciples of Christ in our life together as reconciled people. This is not about the church 'having grace' and the world 'needing grace'. Rather, it is about the grace of God *for the world* being encountered afresh in communities of reconciliation. The church's call is to invite the world to 'come and see' (John 1: 39) itself in light of the Crucified and Risen one; as a new creation and new humanity, as a sent people called to participate in and witness to God's mission in the world. Through the Spirit, Christ bears witness to himself in the world. The church's call is to be an instrument through which the transforming and life renewing love of God is encountered anew. Our hope and prayer is that the Spirit may make use of our fragile communities to awaken and deepen faith in Christ. This is not the witness of the church, but the witness of Christ in, through and beyond the life of the church. In the 2021 Strategy the Presbytery is committed to being open to the renewal of the Spirit hoping and praying for growth as followers of Jesus and nurturing new followers of Jesus.

- 3. Respond in compassion to human need**
- 4. Live justly and seek justice for all**
- 5. Care for creation**

Principles 3, 4, and 5 are fundamental to any understanding of mission that is shaped by the Biblical story and the God whose loving and restorative purposes for all of creation are made known in Jesus. Mission is deeply concerned for all that God has made, loves and reconciled. In the 2021 Strategy the Presbytery is committed to diverse and contextual expressions of mission, encouraging and supporting communities of

Christ to engage in new mission initiatives or expanding existing mission activities. This will be reflected in a range of mission initiatives in the future, as they are today. Such initiatives today include the work of the PPW Asylum Seeker Network in which a number of congregations participate supported by Lentara UnitingCare; communities addressing social isolation and the search for work; communities working with children struggling in education, environmental initiatives and many other ways that communities of Christ are working for justice, care for creation and compassionately responding to human need.

6. Listen to each generation and culture so as to live out the Gospel in fresh ways

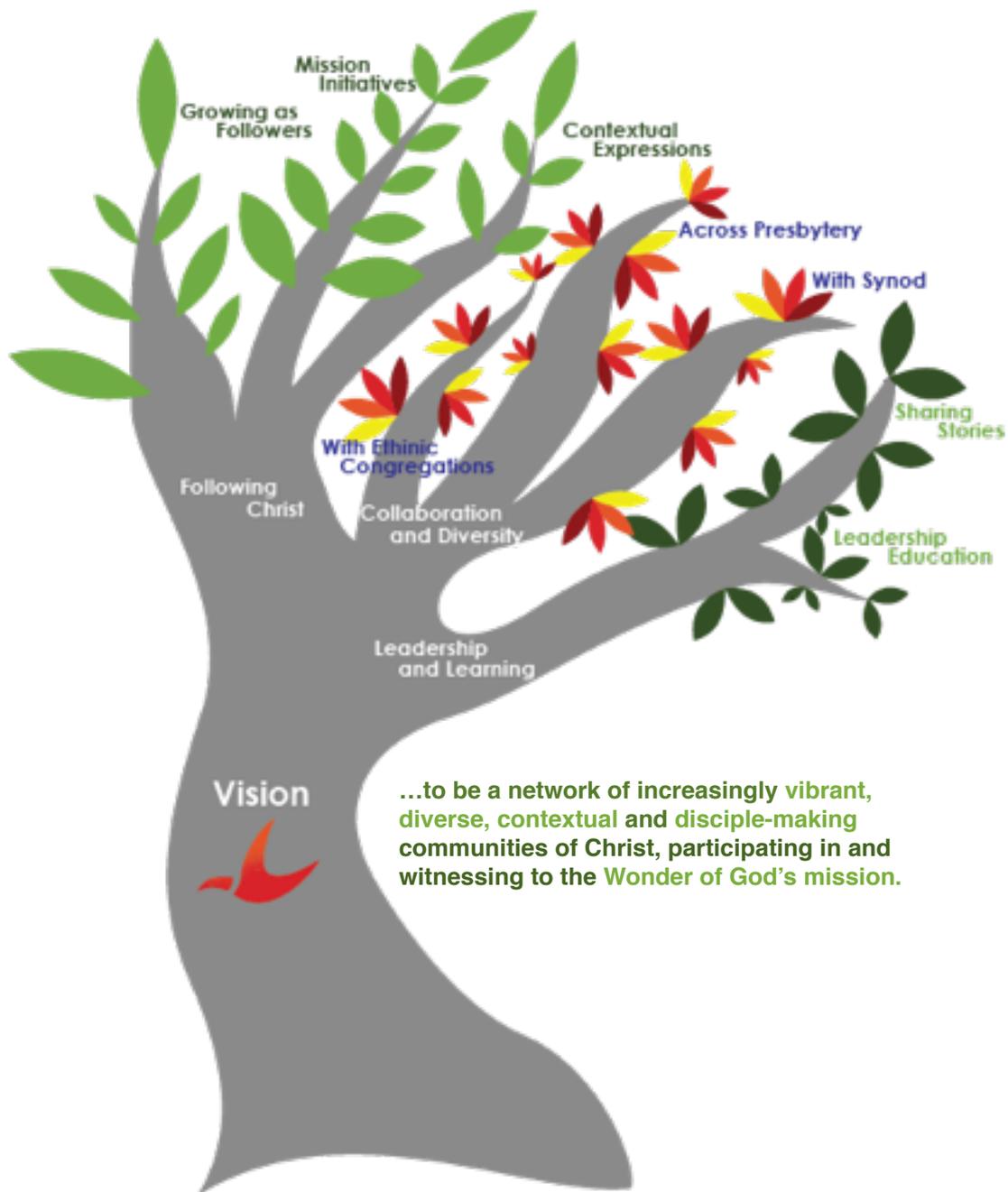
Mission Principle six describes the need for diverse and contextual communities of Christ responding in fresh ways to the Gospel in each cultural context. 'Fresh ways' doesn't mean simply to do things in a new way or try something different. Rather, 'fresh ways' means taking seriously the particular ways that God is encountered in each context, culture and generation. The 2021 Strategy reflects this principle with its emphasis on diverse and contextual communities of Christ that are shaped by pioneering new expressions of the gospel, crossing all sorts of boundaries to join in with God's mission, following Jesus the pioneer of our faith.

7. Pursue God's mission in partnership

Partnerships in mission start with the recognition that God is already at mission in the world. These partnerships take many forms from Uniting Church Agencies and schools, different parts of the Synod, UAIC Congress, ecumenical partnership, partnerships with community groups, businesses, government organisations etc. '*...the Uniting Church also stands in relation to contemporary societies in ways which will help it to understand its own nature and mission*' (PARA 11). These partnerships are central to the achieving of the 2021 Strategy. In these partnerships, we are learning from each other, serving together, enhancing our effectiveness in participating in God's mission in the world. This is especially important in the development of contextual expressions of church and contextual mission, which emerge from crossing boundaries to encounter Christ in each other, pursuing God's mission in partnerships.

REGENERATING THE CHURCH

2021 STRATEGY



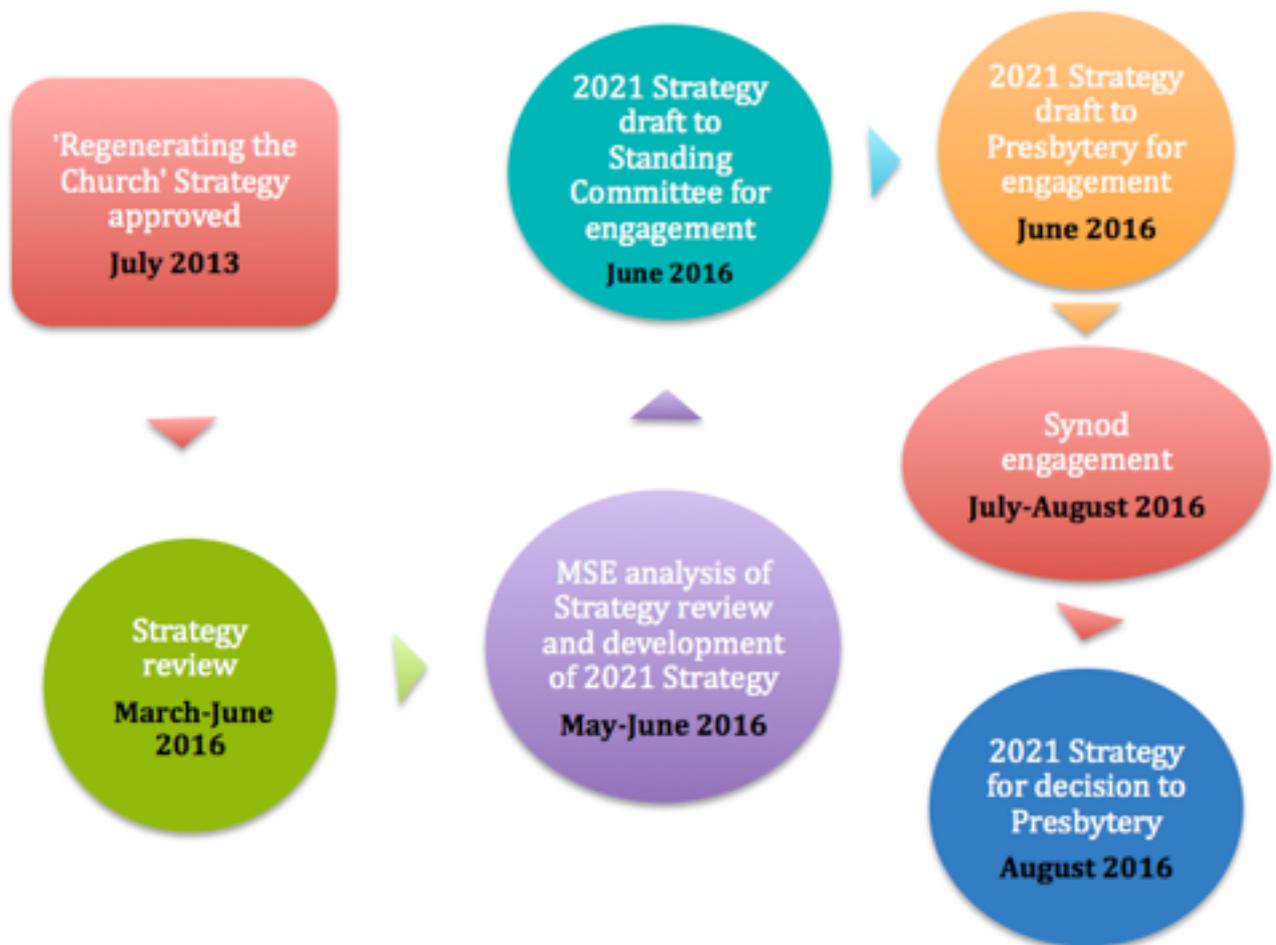
SECTION 2: THE 2021 STRATEGY

The Regenerating the Church 2021 Strategy (2021 Strategy) is the next phase of the Regenerating the Church Strategy (2013 Strategy) adopted by the Presbytery of Port Phillip West in July 2013. This strategic plan is intended to be Presbytery wide and to inform Presbytery decision making until 2021. A strategy is simply a plan to assist us in achieving our vision. Our vision is undergirded by prayerful discernment and ongoing theological reflection on what God is calling us to in our day. The 2021 Strategy includes the following parts:

- Vision: This is what we want to be like as a Presbytery in the year 2021.
- Vital Elements: These are essential areas that must be addressed for the Presbytery to achieve its vision.
- Objectives: These are clearly defined aims designed to achieve the Vital Elements.
- Measurement of Progress: These are how we measure the achievement of each objective.

The Presbytery initiated a review of the 2013 Strategy with its findings presented in 'A Report on the Review of Regenerating the Church' June 2016. Each congregation across the Presbytery had the opportunity to contribute to this review. This provides a great deal of learning about what has worked well, the stage we are at in the Presbytery, areas to further develop and emerging opportunities. The 2021 Strategy builds upon these learnings and developments and should be read alongside the review report. A key finding of the review report was that the Mission Development Strategist (MDS) role has been a key component in the success of the 2013 Strategy. The MDS role is also a critical component in the resourcing of the 2021 Strategy. The following figure sets out the 2021 Strategy development process.

Figure 1: Strategy development timeline.



2. THE 2013 STRATEGY AND THE 2021 STRATEGY: ITS PROGRESSION

As a Presbytery, we have been on a journey over the last three years. The progression of the 2021 Strategy is set out in the table below.

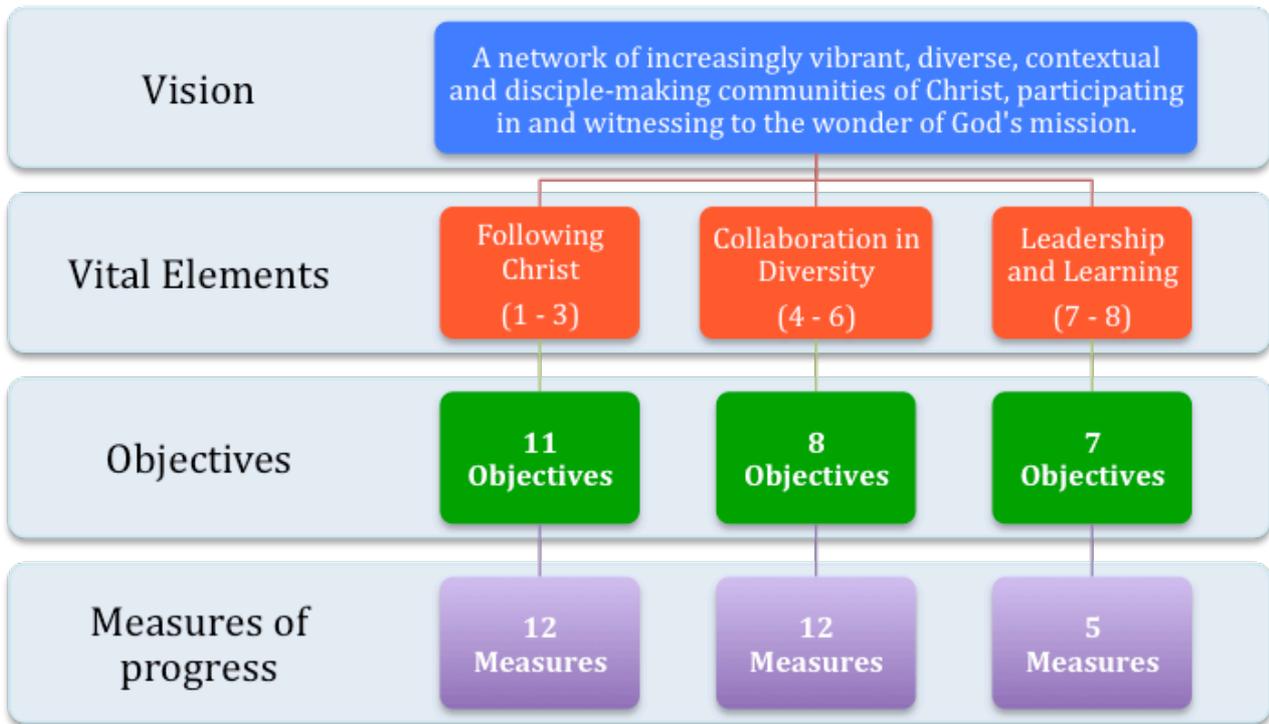
Table 1: Foci of Strategy Phases

Regenerating the Church 2013 - 2016	Regenerating the Church 2016 - 2021
Changing the conversation: despair to hope, from church survival to our call to mission and the possibilities of new forms of Church	Sparking conversations around discipleship formation, faith sharing, contextual expressions of church and Christian practice in the C21st
Developing a mission culture across the Presbytery	Greater collaboration within the Presbytery and with the Synod in mission development
Development of strategy processes, communications and education	Needs based mission support and education
Nurturing missional life and new forms of church	Expanding of mission initiatives across the Presbytery
Identifying and training mission leaders	Ongoing identifying and training of mission leaders
Development of coaching and various long term mission support	Expansion of coaching, mission consulting and various long term mission support
Encouraging and supporting early stage missional experimentation and new forms of church	Expansion of mission experimentation and new forms of contextual church
	Development of cross cultural mission collaboration and resourcing

3. THE 2021 STRATEGY

The 2021 Strategy focuses on a vision for the next five years. The vision is defined by eight vital elements which must be addressed for the vision to be realised. Each vital element has a corresponding set of objectives, which provide a roadmap for its achievement. Each objective has measures of progress. All of this is undergirded in prayerful discernment and ongoing theological reflection on our call to be God's people. Figure 2 indicates the structure of the 2021 Strategy.

Figure 2: Strategy Summary



3.1. VISION

Through the work of the Spirit of Christ:

For the Presbytery of Port Phillip West to be a network of increasingly vibrant, diverse, contextual and disciple-making communities of Christ participating in and witnessing to the wonder of God's mission.

3.2. THE ROLE OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Basis of Union calls upon the Presbytery to nurture the 'the life and mission of the Church in the area for which it is responsible' and 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 fulfil their high calling in Christ Jesus' (para 15).

3.3. VITAL ELEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

The Vital Elements are numbered 1-8 with relevant Objectives below each Vital Element.

Following Christ

1. Communities of Christ across the Presbytery open to the renewal of the Spirit hoping and praying for growth as followers of Jesus and nurturing new followers of Jesus.

- a) The development of training opportunities within the UCA ethos that strengthens faith sharing and the nurturing of new followers of Jesus.
- b) Generating and stimulating conversations within the Presbytery around Christian practice and formation in the 21st century.

2. A high proportion of communities of Christ engaging in new mission initiatives or expanding existing mission activities.

- a) Develop and implement needs based assessments for communities of Christ across the Presbytery in the area of mission development.
- b) The provision of mission consultants acting as a 'critical friend' who asks questions, provides fresh eyes and stimulates fresh thinking.
- c) The provision of mission resourcing through personalised mission education options including local and online learning opportunities, and the exploration and development of sustainable models of mission including social enterprise.
- d) Individual or group mission coaching options.
- e) Personalised mission planning, visioning facilitation.

3. A growing number of contextual expressions of church.

- a) The provision of mission pioneer education within the Presbytery and engaging with pioneer practitioners beyond its bounds.
- b) The development of specialised mission coaching related to the birthing of contextual expressions of church.
- c) Ongoing research of new and emerging contextual expressions of church.
- d) The development and expansion of Regeneration Ministry across the Presbytery.

Collaboration in Diversity

4. Sharing with ethnic and multi-cultural congregations the journey of mission development and building together culturally appropriate tools and support processes.

- a) Working with cross-cultural leaders to develop tools and processes to communicate and participate in the 2021 Strategy.
- b) Translation of the 2021 Strategy information into key languages across the Presbytery.
- c) To offer support and work together with cross-cultural leaders in equipping young emerging leaders for mission across the Presbytery.
- d) To encourage an effective inter-cultural presence on all Presbytery committees to better reflect the diversity of the Presbytery and the Uniting Church in Australia.

5. A collaborative culture across all areas of the Presbytery working together to achieve the vision.

- a) Develop a collaborative culture across the various committees and leadership team of the Presbytery to work towards achieving the 2021 Strategy vision.
- b) Each committee of the Presbytery to develop goals that will support the 2021 Strategy.
- c) A Presbytery culture that further develops ways to work cross-culturally.
- d) Each Presbytery committee, within their area of responsibility, to resource the life of communities of Christ across the Presbytery through the provision of need based education.

6. A collaborative relationship between Presbytery and Synod leadership whereby resourcing and learnings can be shared.

- a) Plan regular communications with Synod leaders as appropriate, focussing on strategy progress, connections with Synod strategic priorities, opportunities for collaboration and shared learning opportunities.

Leadership and Learning

7. Multiple opportunities to learn from each other and share stories of mission development and contextual expressions of church.

- a) The further development of regional mission learning opportunities across the Presbytery.
- b) Regularly sharing mission experiences and progress of the Strategy across all the committees of the Presbytery and Presbytery in council.
- c) To share diverse models of church within and beyond the Presbytery through a range of media.
- d) Sharing and hearing stories and experiences of mission experimentation and contextual expressions of church within local, national and international church networks.

8. Well resourced leadership across the Presbytery that supports Communities of Christ to participate in and witness to God's mission.

- a) Specialised leadership coaching across the Presbytery.
- b) Providing education opportunities around the development of leadership skills.
- c) The provision of lay worship leaders and lay preachers education within the Presbytery.

3.4. MEASURES OF PROGRESS

The following 28 statements are the expected outcomes of the strategy's objectives and the means by which progress will be measured.

Following Christ

1. Training opportunities have been offered within the Presbytery to equip people to share faith, nurture new faith and grow in faith.
2. Opportunities have been provided across the Presbytery to engage with the needs of discipleship formation and developing Christian practice in the 21st century.
3. A communication plan has been developed and implemented that communicates the mission support, consulting, planning, visioning and coaching opportunities offered within the Presbytery.
4. An assessments process has been developed that identifies mission development needs and tailors Presbytery support options.
5. Mission consultants have been trained.
6. Tailor made opportunities have been created for mission learning and practice.
7. Sustainable models of mission such as social enterprise have been researched and communicated.
8. Coaches have been identified and trained for use within the Presbytery in the area of mission development, birthing contextual expressions of church and leadership development.
9. Tools and processes have been developed to monitor and continually improve the effectiveness of coaching.
10. Mission pioneer learning opportunities have been provided through the engagement with mission practitioners within and beyond the Presbytery.
11. Research about emerging contextual expressions of church has been undertaken and learnings communicated across the Presbytery.
12. Regeneration Ministry documentation, processes and support has been reviewed and developed.

Collaboration in Diversity

13. Collaborative relationships have been developed cross-culturally.
14. Culturally appropriate support has been developed to assist mission development in ethnic and multi-cultural congregations.
15. Strategic documentation has been translated into key languages.
16. All committees of the Presbytery have at least three representatives from inter-cultural communities.
17. Education programs have been developed that take into account the particular expertise, needs and cultural priorities of ethnic and multi-cultural congregations and particularly of young leaders.
18. Systems were developed to facilitate more collaborative work across the committees of the Presbytery.

19. Presbytery paid staff collaborated in developing team goals and processes to support the objectives of the 2021 Strategy.
20. Strategic goals have been developed by each committee of the Presbytery that support the 2021 Strategy.
21. Consultation with cross-cultural leaders has resulted in culturally sensitive communications and decision making processes.
22. Each committee of the Presbytery has provided learning opportunities according to their area of responsibility.
23. Meetings have been held with Synod leadership to enhance the achieving of the strategic priorities for the Synod and the Presbytery.
24. Learning opportunities that assist the Presbytery to achieve its strategic objectives have been explored with the Synod, and developed together.

Leadership and Learning

25. A process has been developed for regular communication and conversation about the development of the 2021 Strategy with each committee of the Presbytery.
26. The Regenerating the Church website and social media has been regularly updated with new information and stories about emerging models of missional church.
27. A communication plan has been developed where strategic progress, mission experimentation and contextual expressions of church have been shared within and beyond the Presbytery.
28. Leadership skill development training has been offered within the Presbytery.
29. Lay preacher and worship leader training has been provided within the Presbytery.

SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE 2021 STRATEGY

4. MISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIST ROLE

The Mission Development Strategist (MDS) placement was an integral part of the 2013 Strategy and continues with the 2021 Strategy. Key findings of the review report regarding the MDS role include:

1. the role has been a major contributor to the success of the 2013 Strategy;
2. the focus of the role has changed over time;
3. the importance that the MDS is a part of the Presbytery leadership team (including PM's, chair of Presbytery and chairs of committees).

The MDS role therefore continues as a vital part of the 2021 Strategy with the primary purpose of assisting with its implementation. The following table outlines the oversight role within the Presbytery of all the Objectives of the 2021 Strategy. What is meant by 'key responsibilities' is ensuring that the objective is achieved, while closely working with the Presbytery and engaging with the Synod. These responsibilities are to be read as flexible and collaborative, and may be shared or delegated as appropriate.

MDS Key Responsibilities	PMME Key Responsibilities	Oversight Responsibility
	Training opportunities to strengthen faith sharing, Christian practice and formation (1 a/b)	MSE
Develop and implement needs based assessment processes (2a)		MSE
Mission consulting skill development and implementation (2b)		MSE
	Provision of mission resourcing education (2c)	MSE
	Identification and training of coaches (2d, 3b, 8a)	MSE
Mission planning facilitation and visioning (2e)		MSE
Research and communication of sustainable models of mission including social enterprise (2c)	Provision of mission pioneer education (3a)	MSE
	Research of emerging contextual expressions of church (3c)	MSE
Development and expansion of Regen Ministry (3d)		PRC/MSE
Development of tools and processes to work with cross-cultural leaders (4a)		Intercultural Committee
Translation of the 2021 Strategy information (4b)		Intercultural Committee
Work with cross-cultural leaders to equip young emerging leaders for mission and to encourage a strong inter-cultural presence on all Presbytery committees. (4c/d)		Intercultural Committee/MSE
Develop a collaborative culture across the Presbytery and goals to support 2021 Strategy (5a/b)		Presbytery Leadership Team/All committees of the Presbytery
Presbytery culture to further work with ethnic congregation in culturally sensitive ways (5c)		Presbytery Leadership Team/All committees of the Presbytery
	Committees providing need based education (5d)	Presbytery Leadership Team/All committees of the Presbytery
	Regular communication with Synod leadership about Strategy (6a)	Chair of Presbytery, Chair of other committees as appropriate
	Development of regional learning opportunities across the Presbytery (7a)	MSE

Regular sharing of mission experiences and progress of strategy across committees and Presbytery in council (7b)		MSE
Share diverse models of church within and beyond the Presbytery through a range of media (7c)		MSE
	Sharing mission experimentation and contextual expressions of church within local, national and international church networks (7d)	MSE
	Leadership skills training (8b)	MSE
	Lay Preacher and worship leader training (8c)	MSE

Table 2: Key responsibilities of the MDS and PMME and oversight responsibility.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS:

This full time placement is to be reviewed in 2021 with recommendations brought to Presbytery in Council by July of that year.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIP:

The position will report to the MSE committee, with the PM ME as key contact point. The person will serve as part of the Presbytery Leadership Team and participate in team meetings, Presbytery Standing Committee and the MSE committee meetings.

5. 2017 BUDGET

An annual budget will be developed each year and presented to Presbytery in council for approval. For 2017, the budget for the 2021 Strategy is as follows:

- 1. Research and Development: \$12,000
- 2. Education and Coaching : \$34, 000
- 3. Communications: \$5000
- 5. Mission Development Strategist Position: \$90,000

Total: \$141,000

6. SYNOD STRATEGY FOCUS AREAS AND THE 2021 STRATEGY

The VicTas Synod Strategy affirms the unique shape and focus of each Presbytery within the Vision and Mission Principles adopted by the Synod. It calls for a regional, local and contextual focus of building capacity to engage with the Vision, Mission Principles and Statements of Intent so as to prayerfully and theologically discern authentic ways of being church at mission in local contexts. The June 2016 Synod adopted the following as key strategic priorities:

- i. Ministry which foster diverse gathered communities of renewal, Christian practice and mission.
- ii. Culturally diverse mission and ministry.
- iii. Mission and ministry with children, youth, their families and young adults.

The Synod also resolved the following:

‘To enable better outcomes for our gathered communities, a strong, vibrant, regional presence will be maintained and proactive relationship encouraged between the Synod and presbyteries. Core relational expectations provide guidelines and parameters for fostering mutual relationship between the Synod and presbyteries. Engaging with the Vision, Mission Principles and Statements of Intent, Synod and presbyteries working together on:

- a) building capacity for being the church at mission in contextual ways;
- b) a strategic use of property for missional purposes;
- c) a coordinated relationship between the Synod’s leadership and presbyteries’ leadership, with a spirit of mutuality and mutual accountability; and
- d) nurturing the roles of Presbytery Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer’

The 2021 Strategy has prayerfully engaged with the Vision and Mission Principles and the above three focus areas of the Synod. There is a strong alignment of the 2021 Strategy and the Synod strategic priorities, while recognising the contextual focus of the Presbytery of Port Phillip West. This is indicated in Table 3.

Synod Strategy Priority areas	2021 Strategy Vital Elements	Commentary
<p>1. Ministry which foster diverse gathered communities of renewal, Christian practice and mission.</p> <p>3. Mission and ministry with children, youth, their families and young adults.</p> <p>2. Culturally diverse mission and ministry.</p> <p>Synod and Presbytery working together: a) building capacity for being the church at mission in contextual ways.</p>	<p>1. Communities of Christ across the Presbytery open to the renewal of the Spirit hoping and praying for growth as followers of Jesus and nurturing new followers of Jesus.</p> <p>2. A high proportion of communities of christ engaging in new mission initiatives or expanding existing mission activities.</p> <p>3. A growing number of contextual expressions of church.</p> <p>7. Multiple opportunities to learn from each other and share stories of mission development and contextual expressions of Church.</p> <p>8. Well resourced and effective leadership that enables mission.</p> <p>4. Sharing with ethnic and multicultural congregations the journey of mission development and building together culturally appropriate tools and support processes.</p> <p>6. A collaborative relationship between Presbytery and Synod leadership whereby resourcing and learnings can be shared.</p>	<p>The 2021 Vital Elements and Objectives indicate a strong alignment with MSR priority areas 1 and 3, built on the Mission Principles. Equipping, resourcing and stimulating mission initiatives and contextual expressions of church are core to the 2021 Strategy.</p> <p>Port Phillip West Presbytery has and will continue to invest significantly in capacity building in fresh approaches to mission and contextual expressions of church through education, mission consulting, mission coaching and mission planning/visioning.</p> <p>The development of mission and ministry in the areas of cultural diversity is core to the 2021 Strategy. Port Phillip West Presbytery is one of the most culturally diverse presbytery's of the Vic/Tas Synod. The 2021 Strategy includes the objectives of partnering with cross-cultural leaders to develop tools and processes to contributed, communicate and participate in the 2021 Strategy. We are also seeking to encourage a strong inter-cultural presence on all Presbytery committees.</p> <p>Another important objective is the translation of the 2021 Strategy information into key languages across the Presbytery. We also have a strategic focus on working with ethnic leaders in the area of mission and ministry across the Presbytery.</p> <p>The intentional development of collaboration of the Presbytery with different parts of the Synod in order to build capacity for the church to be at mission in contextual ways is key to the 2021 Strategy.</p>

Table 3: Alignment between the Synod Strategy Areas of Focus, and the Presbytery 2021 Strategy

STRATEGY TASK GROUP

The 2021 Strategy document was developed by the Mission Strategy and Education Committee of the Presbytery of Port Phillip West. The members include Rev. Dr. Adam McIntosh and Rev. Rose Broadstock (co-authors), Rev. David Withers (chair of MSE), Rev. Deacon Peter Batten, Mr David Wall, Rev. Isabel Greenall, Rev. Ian Pearse, Mrs Janet Pavlakis and Mr Robert Coulson.

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‘May we have the
imagination and courage
to respond to the call of
Christ in our day.’

