



Adelaide West
Uniting Church

Annual Report 2014



Chairperson's Report

There can be no better objective than to improve the lot of all people. In all the differing personalities, abilities, cultures and social, economic and climatic environments peoples relationships with one another must be paramount.

As a Council we are committed to endeavouring that Adelaide West has adequate governance, risk management and resources in place and are able to create opportunities to nurture and challenge our members. With management accepting a greater role in the day to day operations, Council has been able to devote more time developing documentation on Risk Management and Strategic Planning, to overview the general operations and to help develop opportunities for growth.

The announcement by Presbytery and Synod that the property north of the church building and known as Uniting College is to be sold highlighted our need to assess the consequences this would have on our activities. At this point of time Presbytery and Synod has not made any firm decisions but we have had to seriously consider a number of options to safeguard our position.

At the May 2014 elections we were pleased to have Esmond Dowdy, Darren Bailey, Daniel Rance and Ali Andris join Council and each has made welcome contributions to our discussions. Norm Scrimshaw retired after 10 years of

active service conducting worship, chairing Church Council, doing kitchen duties and as Visiting Pastor. We were pleased to recognise Norm's contribution during worship services on 7th December.

There are five Councillors whose term expires at the Annual General Meeting in May. Greg Roberts, Amy Schmidt and Amos Davies have decided not to re-nominate. Colin Rowe will seek another 3 year term and Wes Ashman will seek a part term of 1 year.

A Planning Session was held in April when attention was given to revisiting the draft Strategic Plan and placing emphasis on specific areas.

Some Church Treasurers have been known to retain that position for a number of years but I am sure none can equate to the quality of service of our Peter Whiting. Peter was Treasurer of Torrensville a constituent Church, the Parish and then Adelaide West Uniting on an almost continuous basis for 45 years. During the last 12 months he has been assisting with the transition to new Treasurer Darren Bailey.

Peter has displayed dedication, diplomacy, patience and skill consistently over those years and his quiet, amiable style has made him a pleasure to work with. His position has not only had him controlling the expense side but also influencing the income

side and the current results we have are significantly due to Peter. At a later date we will have an opportunity to more adequately thank Peter.

It is now over 2 years that Rod has been our Lead Minister and we would like to acknowledge the pleasant way he has infiltrated the culture of AWUC, built relationships within the Community and maintained his connection with the Presbytery and Synod which enables dialogue to readily occur. His Pastoral Visits are always appreciated and he makes ev-

ery effort to address urgent situations as they eventuate. Rod's ministry has been gratefully welcomed at Adelaide West. I thank those who have served on Council during my term as Chairperson as well as the staff and volunteers who have diligently supported the activities and mission of the Church and provided fellowship and hospitality. In God's care may the future become all that it promises to be.

Wes Ashman



Lead Minister's Report

I was reminded recently of the story in Luke 5 where Simon is asked to go out into the deep water to let his nets down for a catch. Simon responded by saying that he had been out all night and caught nothing at all. I love fishing and even standing on a beautiful shore and catching nothing is nice. But standing on a beautiful shore and catching a feed of fish is something else altogether. Simon was a professional fisherman but takes note of what the carpenter says and ends up with two fishing boats so full that they were on the verge of sinking.

Peter knows about fishing, Jesus knows about abundance. Doing Church has all kinds of life giving aspects to it but doing church with abundance is something else altogether. I think we had a glimpse of this last year when our offerings increased so much and we went from a deficit budget to a surplus one.

Abundance is not just about finances and I continue to hope for and expect that abundance flows from the presence of the Holy Spirit amongst us.

Last year we saw many signs of this abundance. This included the gift of time and abilities of hundreds of volunteers who made Adelaide West a kingdom place.

I saw this in the Student Field Placement of Susan Doughty as she gave of her time and gifts and received wonderful encouragement from the community here. We will always have eyes to see where she goes and what she does.

I saw it in the trip to East Sumba as our partnership with people there deepened and carried the possibility of future cooperation.

I saw it in the work of staff who give well beyond their contracted hours.

I saw it in the arrival of new members and the growth that occurred in the seasons of the church such as Lent and Advent. I saw it as people thoughtfully read and studied the bible.

I saw it in the diversity of people who gather at Adelaide West who express love for each other despite their differences.

We live in a time where people want to be spiritual but not necessarily members of a church. It is my hope that we will engage more and more with the surrounding community. It is my hope that we won't do this with a fixed ideology but with grace, mercy, kindness and acceptance. It is my hope that we will also stand for justice so that Australia, and the community

around Adelaide West in particular, will increasingly be one of acceptance, hope and transformation in Jesus.

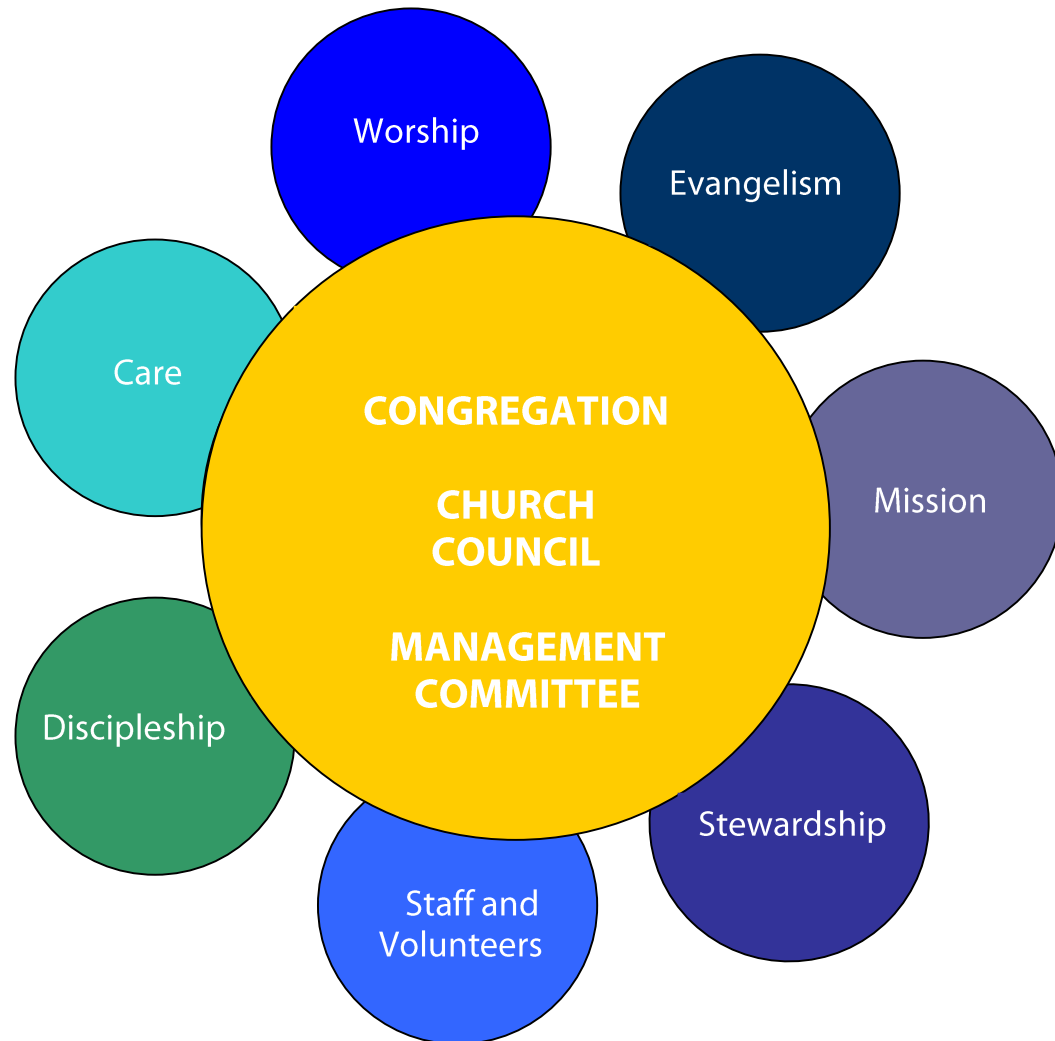
It is a joy, if a challenging one, for me to be the minister here. I pray that I may grow with you as we seek to serve Jesus Christ in this place.

Rod Dyson

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Organisational Chart



Strategic Plan 2015-2016

Introduction

Adelaide West Uniting Church is a regional church that draws members from a broad area. A total of approximately 350 people attend four weekend services. Numbers right across a broad age range are very even. We seek to be a church which increasingly lives out its vision statement of Acceptance, Hope and Transformation in Jesus. We want to be a church which appreciates peoples' gifts and strengths, where community is strong and healthy, where future leaders are mentored and where we are effective in mission and ministry. We seek to be inclusive, caring, expectant, growing and giving.

We rejoice in the diversity and size of our congregation and know that we are always called to be a congregation that shares the gospel in ways that are relevant to the wider community.

Churches, in general, are struggling to engage with the wider community in effective ways and many churches are declining in numbers or even closing. We recognise that we have limited resources and know that we need to use these in the most effective ways. Church Council has been working on a strategic plan for several months. This identifies the key areas that we want to focus on over the next few years. Recently the Church

Council and staff met for a planning morning to identify a number of mission and ministry areas that we will focus on over the next year.

Mission and Ministry Goals

Seven goal areas have been identified by Council:

Worship: Develop a culture of worship that is a transforming experience.

Care: Develop a culture of care for one another and the world.

Evangelism: Develop a culture that equips people to share their faith.

Discipleship: Develop a culture in which people will grow to maturity in Christ.

Mission Service: Develop a culture of living out Christ's teachings in the local community and the world.

Staffing and Volunteers: Develop a culture that grows, develops and supports our staff and volunteers.

Stewardship: Develop a culture to ensure the best use of our time and resources.

Within each of these areas we will focus on a few clear strategies that will begin to make each goal a reality and yet be achievable within the time and resources available to us. This document only identifies the new strategies that will be focussed on during the coming year. Most existing ministries will continue as normal (e.g. the development of a partnership with East Sumba).



Strategies for 2015/2016

Worship	
Strategy	Implementation
Excellence in Worship	Prepare a guide for worship leaders that details our aims, expectations and hopes for worship services.
Mentoring	Develop a system of feedback and on-going training for worship leaders.
Worship as a way of life	Run a sermon series and develop small group resources so that worship is seen as the way we live every part of our life.
Care	
Strategy	Implementation
Welcoming	Develop a culture and process to excel at welcoming newcomers and members.
Small groups	Increase the profile of small groups in our church.
Evangelism	
Strategy	Implementation
Intentional Engagement	Provide input and resourcing to facilitate engagement with those who do not yet know Jesus.
Discipleship	
Strategy	Implementation
Growing Disciples	Intentionally increase the number of groups that grow disciples.
Mission	
Strategy	Implementation
New Mission initiative	Listen to the congregation to identify one new area of mission that a number of members of the congregation are passionate about and begin implementation.
Property to Mission	Continue making the Adelaide West Uniting Church property a great place to gather.
Staff and Volunteers	
Strategy	Implementation
Resourcing	Review the positions of Office/Events and Youth and Young Adults with a view to future needs.
Clarity of structure	Develop a new Organisational Chart for AWUC
Stewardship	
Strategy	Implementation
Financial plan	Develop a longer term financial plan to ensure intentional rather than habitual spending.

Receipts and Payments Statement

FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2014

	Budget 2014 \$	Actual 2014 \$
RECEIPTS		
Offerings	243,000	287,861
Fundraising	18,000	13,961
Interest	1,500	1,813
Manse rental	19,000	19,008
Property income	30,000	43,512
Ministry income	24,000	20,783
Sundry income	3,000	3,695
TOTAL RECEIPTS	338,500	390,633
PAYMENTS		
Lead Minister Stipend & Allowances (1.0 FTE)	91,000	91,102
Youth Pastor Stipend & Allowances (0.8 FTE)	51,000	49,067
Visitation Pastor Stipend & Allowances (0.2 FTE)	14,000	12,420
Childrens and Family Pastor Salary (0.8 FTE)	50,400	43,684
Office Co-ordinator Salary (0.2 FTE)	10,500	10,492
Event Co-ordinator Salary (0.3 FTE)	15,000	14,831
Cleaner Salary (0.3 FTE)	12,300	12,670
Caretaker Salary (0.1 FTE)	1,700	1,249
Administration Expenses	10,700	12,811
Wider Church Payments	26,800	24,330
Local Ministry Expenses	5,500	1,896
Specific Ministries Expenses	5,500	1,798
Property Expenses	54,000	45,777
Loan Repayments	26,000	26,044
TOTAL PAYMENTS	374,400	348,171
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(35,900)	42,462

Finance Report

We had a very successful year financially in 2014. Offerings reached a record level of \$287,861 for the year, significantly exceeding our budget for offerings of \$243,000. We also well exceeded our budget for the hiring out of the Adelaide West Uniting Church property – actual income was \$43,512 versus a budget of \$30,000. Total income was \$390,633. We made significant savings in expenditure as well. Our total expenditure was \$348,171 against a budget of \$374,400. A contributing factor was savings in electricity costs as a result of commissioning the solar panels on the church roof at the start of the year. Overall we were able to achieve a surplus for the year of \$42,462 – an excellent result, given that we had budgeted for a deficit. We give thanks for the generosity and hard work of so many people that have enabled such a blessed result.

Darren Bailey, Treasurer
Peter Whiting, Assistant Treasurer

A full financial statement for the 2014 year is available at the office.

Future Challenges

The Christian faith always calls us unto new places and new spaces. The church in the western world is finding that, in general, the way Christianity was expressed is not effectively engaging the wider community. Adelaide West is larger than many churches but nonetheless we have challenges that must be faced in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. We share the following challenges that we may be prayerful and obedient in facing them.

- Community Engagement: part of our strategic plan is to listen to the congregation for new areas that the Spirit may be leading us into. We need some focussed areas where we engage well with the community around our church building.
- Volunteering: A significant part of our fundraising efforts are through older rather than younger volunteers. Events like the synod meetings require a lot of volunteers but we are not drawing many non-retired volunteers into helping with these events. This is despite repeated requests for help. Are the requests framed in the wrong way? Do we stop

running these events? If so how do we replace the income that comes from these larger events?

- Theological College sale: At the time of writing we do not know what is happening to the adjoining college. If the college land is sold how much do we seek to buy? How do we finance the purchase?
- Ministry Teams: some ministry teams do not have a team or a coordinator. A number of people have been approached to lead teams but there are still vacancies. How do we build teams of people who are excited about their mission and ministry areas?
- Work Health and Safety: Legislation in this area has changed significantly and this continues to be a challenge to us. We want our church to be a safe and healthy place where people can meet in community and worship and where we can grow in our faith.

