

## QUC Church Council 2015

### New CC Structure

#### Background

From its election in November 2014, the new Church Council has been busy: it's been considering the nature of QUC, the many things (both existing and new) that are happening; it has reflected on the discernment process of 2014; its considered current research into church health and growth and discussed the need that our structures are to be shaped to responding to what God is doing among us (while adhering to all statutory requirements of a Church Council).

All our work is prefaced on the belief that the Spirit of God has and continues to lead us (QUC): calling, forming, equipping, nurturing and challenging us as part of the body of Christ – in our day and context.

In looking to what structures are needed, we have started with two questions:

1. Where is God? and;
2. How do we respond to where God is moving and calling us?

#### Where is God?

We do not claim to 'perfectly' see the fullness of God. However, as a Council, we do believe we see God present in and through the people and activities that make up who we are today, we see God present in the beginnings and endings of ministries within QUC, we see God in and through the processes of discernment and 'waiting upon' the call of the Spirit. We see God, among each other and others, within worship, prayer, care, times of community, acts of service and love, in creativity and academic pursuit. We also hear God within the scriptures, in moments of revelation and scientific discovery.



*1 The events and activities of QUC in 2015 – the Cross being at the centre*

As a council we affirm we see God in the life of QUC – such as (not exhaustive):

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|--|--------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Morning Worship                        | ❖ Adult Fellowship             | ❖ The Shed   |
| ❖ Evening Worship                        | ❖ Bible Studies                | ❖ Spring Fair  |
| ❖ Messy Church                           | ❖ Community Garden             | ❖ Safe Shelter                                       |
| ❖ Sunday morning teas                    | ❖ Hungry Souls Men's Breakfast | ❖ Our Partnerships with St Benedicts and UnitingCare |
| ❖ Moments of Quiet and Creativity        | ❖ Women's Get Together         | ❖ Individual conversations and pastoral care         |
| ❖ Playgroup                              | ❖ The Bethany Group            |  |
| ❖ Scripture and Chaplaincy in Schools    | ❖ Woodshed                     |  |
| ❖ Youth Group                            | ❖ Young Adults Get togethers   |  |
| ❖ End of Year Coast Trip and other Camps | ❖ Jumble Sale                  |  |

## How do we respond to where God is moving and calling us?

The Church Council has been considering how it establishes structures and processes that best support and properly enable it to fulfill its responsibilities and lead the church as it responds to God's calls: how do we enable rather than impose, how do we encourage rather than block, how do we guide rather than gate keep, how do we be a people of life long discernment and not short term obstructionists and how do we comply with all aspects of regulation and requirement without losing sight of who we are and whose we are?

To begin with the Council considered the various aspects of what makes up QUC (as it stands today). We considered 4 elements – these are to be the foundation of any new structure:

1. Christ at our centre
2. Individual Disciples
3. Ministry through groups
4. The Resources needed by the above

The structure, that best enables the QUC Church Council fulfil its responsibilities, in the context of our time and place:

### Church Council:

- The caretakers and custodians of the BIG picture: the QUC Vision
- Determines overall policies and substantive procedures
- Official body for other UCA Councils eg Presbytery
- Oversight of all Church Council Teams (see below)
  - including determination of Team membership
- oversees all QUC partnerships eg UnitingCare
- Ensures compliance with all UCA and statutory requirements.
- meets quarterly and as needed

### The Church Council will be supported by 4 key teams:

**Church Council Teams:** all CC teams have a maximum membership of 6 people including Church Councillors/Leaders, team member will be determined by the Church Council.

The Church Council believes a structure that reflects the above 4 key elements will best enable and support how we respond to where God is moving and calling. Each of the elements working alongside each other to support the life of QUC, the Vision rooting us in the ground of who we are and what we do within our context. The structures would look something like this:

**Vision Team:** keeping our vision clear and focussed on Christ: being informed and challenged by Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension; being enabled and equipped by the same Spirit that was in Christ himself; and seeking to continually discern 'where is God and how do we respond to God's call' in our day and context.

- Reviews the big picture of QUC Vision and Mission
- Thinks, dreams and prays 'outside the box' and encourages others to do the same
  - to be a prophetic voice among us: constantly reminding us to focus on Christ

- celebrates our theological diversity, while always calling for further learning and growth
- Reviews all ministry group profiles – ensuring a clear connection with QUC vision and mission
- Across the life of QUC
  - reviews the entry and exit points for individuals and groups
  - reviews the blockers and barriers to fulfilling the vision
- liaises with all other CC Teams
- Reports to Church Council

### Vision Team Membership & Meetings

- 4 Church Councillors/Leaders (including MOW)
- 2 appropriated called and gifted QUC members (determined by CC)
- meets monthly (minimum)

**Discipleship Development Team:** we are first called to be disciples: our worship, witness and service flow from this point. As individual disciples we need to be encouraged, nurtured and sustained as we seek to follow Jesus in our everyday life. What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, in this place?

- Establishes appropriate and effective entry and exit points for individuals into and out of the life of QUC
- Encourages and fosters the discipleship of the individuals who connect with QUC
- Enables ongoing individual discernment
- Supports and encourages individuals moving into existing ministry groups and/or enables conversations about new passions (that may result in new ministry groups)
- liaises with all other CC Teams
- Reports to Church Council

### Discipleship Team Membership & Meetings

- 2 Church Councillors/Leaders
- 4 appropriated called and gifted QUC members (determined by CC)
- meets monthly (minimum)

**Ministry Development Team:** we are not just individuals, as a church we are called to work together, with one another and members of the wider community. As a church all our ministries come out of the calling of individuals to work together, as a group, in the ministry of Christ. Such ministry can be diverse and scattered, but at its core relies on God calling and equipping at least 2 or 3 disciples to ‘live-out’ their God given passions.

- Establishes appropriate and effective entry and exit points for individuals moving into and out of ministry groups (in co-operation with Discipleship Team)
- actively foster the development, training and sustaining of ministry groups including but not limited to bible study/small groups, service and ministry groups, fellowship groups, pastoral care groups, worship planning groups etc
- intentionally finds, fosters, trains and enables group leaders – on an ongoing basis
- assists and ensures the completion of ministry group profiles
- liaises with all other CC Teams
- reports to Church Council

## Ministry Development Team Membership & Meetings

- 2 Church Councillors/Leaders
- 4 appropriated called and gifted QUC members (determined by CC)
- meets monthly (minimum)

**Resources Team:** maintaining and developing the property, finance, administration, and statutory compliances needed to perform our many ministries

- Drafting (in-consultation with other teams) and management of budget
- Drafting and management of policy and procedures in regards to WH&S, HR, Volunteer agreements, Working with Children Checks, Safe Church and other UCA and/or statutory requirements as directed by Church Council
- Management and maintenance of all QUC related property
- liaises with all other CC Teams
- Reports to Church Council

## Resources Team Membership & Meetings

- 2 Church Councillors/Leaders
- 4 appropriated called and gifted QUC members (determined by CC)
- meets monthly (minimum)

## Next Steps

The Church Council (CC), assisted by each of the CC Teams working within their particularly areas, will in all that it does seek to support, encourage and discern how we as a church know and serve God. The CC will fulfil its obligations and responsibilities according the rules and regulations of the Uniting Church, within the QUC context.

The CC teams will need time to understand their roles and responsibilities, they will take time to understand the QUC Vision and its implications, they will make time to relate with those with whom they work, support, and encourage within the life of QUC, and they will at all times be prayerful and discerning, constantly listening for the voice of Christ in the church and wider community.

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