

Queanbeyan Uniting Church

Pastoral Care Policy

Pastoral care is caring for members of the church community.

QUC aims to express the reality of God's love by being a community of compassion and care which builds supportive and loving relationships between its members.

In line with Jesus' commandment to love God and love our neighbour with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, QUC aims to be a safe community which is:

- welcoming and accepting of diversity;
- compassionate and caring;
- loving and serving; and
- respectful, encouraging and supportive.

While the Minister has specific responsibilities for pastoral care, especially in times of crisis, pastoral care is the responsibility of the whole church; each member of the church has an obligation to support other members and to build relationships based on love, grace and compassion.

Pastoral care can take many forms, including:

- informal contact based on personal friendships, networks and interests;
- pastoral visits, phone calls or other contact;
- specific assistance to those with particular needs; and
- referral to professionally trained personnel.

The Pastoral Care Committee comprises a small number of church members who have particular gifts in this area. Under the overall guidance of the Minister and Church Council, the Pastoral Care Committee:

- monitors the ongoing pastoral needs of the congregation;
- initiates appropriate care where needed;
- encourages a culture of caring within the congregation and educates congregation members on ways in which they can care for others;
- supports initiatives to build closer relationships between congregation members; and
- oversees the welcome and assimilation of new church members.