



The 2018 SCC Presbytery Young People Project



Vision and Values

The Sydney Central Coast Presbytery is committed to equipping young people to share, nurture and grow faith in ways that are tailored to them. With generosity and courage

- We will invite, invest and inspire our young people to spread our shared hope in Christ.
- We will value our young people and their discipleship as full members of the Body of Christ. Their contribution sustains the life and vitality of our church communities.
- We will seek out, and make space for, the gifts and graces that young people bring.
- We will stimulate new contextual expressions of church in order that we might respond to the call to pass on faith afresh to the next generations.

To deliver on this vision, and in response to the SCCP Strategic plan 2018 -2021 Catalysing Growth: Resourcing Congregations and Zones for Strategic Mission and Growth, the Presbytery commits itself to the Presbytery Young People Project (PYPP) as a vehicle for raising up leaders who are called to participate in and contribute to the engagement and discipleship of young people. The PYPP will be accountable for this task to the Presbytery Standing Committee, and, at times will consult with PRC.

The PYPP is designed to be an “opt-in” arrangement with a congregation/ school / agency from which the ministry agent is appointed, and the SCCP.

Objectives

The PYPP has three pillars, or objectives that help articulate the Project; prayerfulness is at the heart of each of them. The PYPP isn't a program, or a network, rather the PYPP is a *collaborative community* that is

- *Connected,*
- *Spirit-led*
- *Purposeful,*
- that aims to build a *Discipling Culture.*

CONNECTED

There are 33 (at least) ministry agents; lay and ordained, who are currently appointed to ministry roles with children, youth and young adults. Furthermore, each of these 33 people have teams of volunteers that they lead, and young people and communities whom they influence. This cohort of ministry agents; “the 33” is a valuable resource, in fact they are a scarce resource.

In the past efforts such as the Presbytery Youth Council and SNAK have effectively supported lay ministry agents in their various roles. PYPP will re-establish this vital pillar of ‘connectedness’; peer support, pastoral care and collaboration.

As important as connectedness to each other, their teams and those they lead, is connectedness to God. PYPP will encourage a holistic connection with God, and themselves, so that a clearer sense of gifts, passions and strengths may be gained, the challenges and opportunities they face.

Additionally, the PYPP will equip this cohort with tools for (i) theological reflection, (ii) Christian living & rhythms of life in ministry, (iii) leadership development and multiplying leaders, (iv) gifts and calling, (v) prayer & spiritual health, (vi) evangelism, (vii) Ministry strategies and resourcing, all within UCA polity and ethos framework.

SPIRIT LED

Spirit led is about reliance upon the Holy Spirit's guidance and leading, who leads us into ministry frameworks and methods that are relational and Incarnational. God’s Spirit gives gifts for ministry which we seek to discover, develop and encourage one another in exercising them. Individually and together, we seek to be moved and led by the Holy Spirit – an instrument in the Spirit’s Hand.

In a rapidly changing society and culture, the need exists for the pioneering of fresh ways of engaging with our neighbours, schools, community groups etc and starting up ministries where they haven’t existed for some time, or ever before. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the times and seasons of our various ministry contexts, and prepares new wines skins needed for new wine. The PYPP relies on the inspiration of the Spirit of God that sustains our on-going commitment, creativity and courage to a life of faith.

PURPOSEFUL

Beyond the visioning, values and processes, it is necessary to move to action. The PYPP is committed to the putting “hand to the plough”; to articulating purposeful and strategic direction and carrying out the necessary work.

Purposeful direction provides the momentum and the operational aspects of ministry. It also “counts what counts”, in order that ministry flourishes, multiplies and is sustained over the long haul.

[Strategic Directions](#)

In order to achieve the aim of a *collaborative community that is Connected, Spirit-led and Purposeful, that aims to build a discipling culture, the PYPF seeks to deliver:*

1. Local Space; “Think Tank”, Apprenticing, Discipleship Huddles, Local Events

“The 33” ministry agents are situated in congregations, school or Uniting agency settings. They are immersed in the work (rather than in a classroom) and the ‘placement’ is where learning takes place and experience is gained. Within ‘the 33’, there is a range of gifts and graces and ministry experiences from different ministry contexts.

This strategic objective connects less experienced ministry agents with someone with similar or greater experience. Importantly, mentoring groups (“ThinkTank”) and apprenticing is always experienced in a collaborative, collegiate, mutually transformative manner.

Mentoring Groups and Apprenticing will provide a vehicle for;

- exploring, initiating, supporting and sustaining new forms of ministry,
- drawing on the experiences and skills that are shared and learned from someone(s) who has been practicing “the trade” for some time.
- providing resources and tools, such as “Starting from Scratch” for new ministry initiatives.

Discipleship huddles involve

- Groups of five or six that regularly meet for bible study, reflection, and prayer and to collaborate in preparing for ministry activities. This style of gathering will utilise on-line platforms such as Zoom or Skype.

Local Events

(Held within the Presbytery / Zones)

- Guest speakers – invite well regarded speakers and teachers to conduct half day seminars in classroom-like environments. Speakers may cover areas of learning such as (i) theological reflection, (ii) Christian living & rhythms of life in ministry, (iii) leadership development and multiplying leaders, (iv) gifts and calling, (v) prayer & spiritual health, (vi) evangelism (vii) Ministry strategies and resourcing,

2. Regional Space; Heart of Worship

Ministry with young people revolves around regular times to 'hang out' together. The regularity, purpose, size and venue for 'hanging out' varies from context to context. PYPP Regional Space strategic objective seeks to provide opportunities for multiple groups (100 plus children, or youth or young adults), to participate in a combined Gathering; a 'rally', or conference, or camp, that has a strong worship component, as well as a relational one. The combined gathering will also deliver opportunities for training up young people in areas such as creative arts ministry, prayer, story telling /preaching/sharing testimony and so on.

Regional Events:

- Kids Campout (Primary School)
- Soul Survivor (High School)
- Teen Street
- Justice Conference (young adults)
- U-nights
- Heart of Worship nights
- Special Guest events like Colin Buchanan.

3. Global Space; Mission Experiences

Short term cross-cultural mission experiences provide wonderful and mutually transformative opportunities for growing learning and discipleship, sharing of skills and passions, faith and vocation formation, and for young people to experience God's mission in the world. Whilst the goal and purpose of the experience may vary (cross-cultural encounter, work party, faith-sharing, developing a presbytery /congregation link) participants return home profoundly impacted, energised, and equipped to better understand and impact their own ministry setting.

In visiting another country or another part of Australia, the PYPP will align with the UCA/Uniting World values of: invited guest representing the UCA, commitment to partnering for the long term, mutual respect, awareness and sensitive to global issues, and a willingness to give, receive, be challenged and changed.

Possible short term cross cultural experiences/ projects may include:

- The Pacific
- India
- Port Augusta
- Walking on Country

[Resources](#)

- “Starting from Scratch”
- Toy Library, Games Bank
- PYPP team: Project leader - PDO (2 years), Rev Paul Simpson, + 2 others (Field Education placement?)
- UME resources and people
- Approved budget with access to Presbytery Development Growth Fund

Evaluation and Timelines

(to be developed)

Rev Fiona Blair
March 2018