

**UCA Tasmania**

# *Walking Together*

## **Charter Journey Plan 2026**

This document guides our 2026 journey to develop a Charter for the Presbytery. It sets out how we will hear and hold stories, listen deeply across our communities, and work together to shape a clear and practical way forward in discerning God's call together.

Thank you to the people who helped shape this plan.



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA  
Presbytery of Tasmania



# Context

We are creating a clear and practical Charter to guide the focus of our communities of faith and Presbytery over the coming five to ten years.

Engaging together will help us respond well to the changes we are facing:

- Fewer young people are involved than in the past
- There are fewer ordained ministers available
- Congregations are smaller, so fewer people are sharing the work
- Our properties need ongoing care and management and rationalising, and a dedicated property strategic focus
- The needs in our communities are changing.

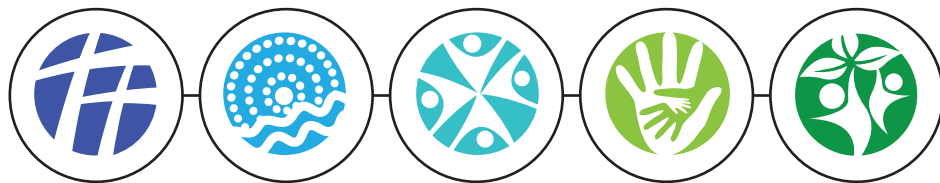
We will hear and hold stories together with congregations and faith communities, including Leprena UAICC Tasmania, so that diverse voices and hopes are reflected in the Charter.

This process will aim to create carefully held, guided spaces for respectful conversation, where we can name differences, hold tensions with care, and build shared understanding and commitment.



**Faithful Futures vision statement:**

*Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.*

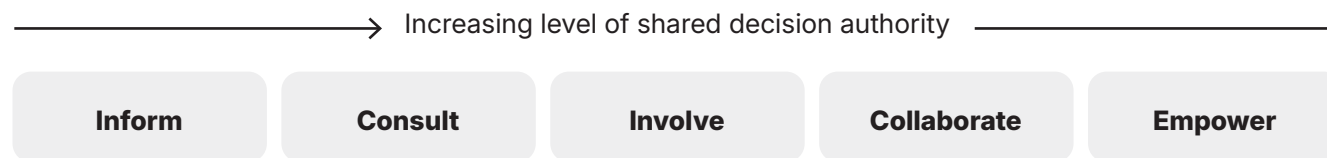


# The *Charter* will aim to:

- Be grounded in the **lived realities of lutruwita/Tasmania**
- Connect with **shared vision** *"Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation."*
- Connect meaningfully with **Faithful Futures** and **Act 2**

A further focus is to help the Presbytery's three key committees work well together by being clear about who does what, who makes decisions, and how decisions are made. These are the Presbytery Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee and Resource & Development Committee. This will support confident, consistent, and open responses to complex challenges such as changing attendance, long-term sustainability, and the future of our properties.

By creating this Charter together and making sure many voices are included, the Presbytery will be well placed to create a Charter that is **faithful, practical, and future-focused**, shaped by shared hopes.



In this process, the highest level of engagement will be **Collaborate** on the IAP2 Engagement Spectrum. At different stages, we may use different levels of engagement, depending on the kind of decision being made. (IAP2 = International Association of Public Participation).

**Collaborate:** To walk together in developing the Charter, including shaping options and identifying preferred directions together





## What are we *trying* to do?

- Hearing and holding people stories from congregations, faith communities, Leprena UAICC Tasmania, and other relevant voices in a variety of genre (word, image, art) as to suit the community.
- Creating a clear and practical Charter for the Uniting Church in lutruwita/Tasmania
- Grounding the Charter in UCA ethos, honouring the Covenant relationship with the UAICC and the realities of Tasmania's people, resources, and needs.
- Create a document which is in a mixed genre of presentation to be able to best engage/reach all communities, people, learning and reading styles and levels across the Presbytery.
- Helping the three Presbytery committees know who does what, work well together, and plan ahead.

## What kind of *experience* are we trying to create?

- Carefully held and well-structured conversations that respect Country and the Covenant
- Space to name difference, conflict, and uncertainty without becoming stuck
- Inclusive conversations that recognise how isolation is experienced differently across lutruwita/Tasmania, including quieter and more remote communities
- Practical, small steps so conversations are accessible and appropriate in workshops, surveys and gatherings



## What is *guiding* this work?

The Uniting Church is committed to forming disciples following Christ and walking together, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation. The Uniting Church in Tasmania has a range of resources, commitments, and responsibilities that need to be stewarded wisely in a changing environment. The Church includes a network of diverse communities of faith, Leprena UAICC Tasmania, heritage properties including many cemeteries, inclusive community services and an associated school, Scotch Oakburn College.

***What do we need to do, and who do we need to be as a church, to faithfully live out our call to discipleship across lutruwita/Tasmania?***

## Ways of *working* together

These things are important in the way we work together, we want to:

- Focus on what the Uniting Church in lutruwita/Tasmania can uniquely offer
- Recognise a variety of approaches - theological and otherwise
- Focus on real issues and experiences of the people involved
- Focus on moving forward not on history (recognise history but not focus on it)
- Focus on what we can do with what we have got - be realistic
- Allow for different solutions for different situations - allowing for differences
- Consider our involvement with other agencies of the Uniting Church - Uniting and Uniting Age Well

## Scope

In this part of the journey plan, we clarify what this conversation is really about, and where everyone's input can make a genuine difference.



### In scope

#### Topics we can discuss and influence together

- Our focus areas as a Presbytery within lutruwita/Tasmania
- How we work together, collaborate, and make decisions
- Who and what we most want to impact through our mission in the coming years



### Out of scope

#### Topics that are not open for changing as part of this project

- The overall vision of the Uniting Church in Australia
- Matters outside lutruwita/Tasmania, including Synod and Assembly issues



# What do we *hope* to get out of this journey?

A **Charter** for 2027–2032 that sets out

- Our shared commitments across the Presbytery of Tasmania
- How each commitment connects to Faithful Futures
- The resources available to support each commitment
- Practical next steps toward each commitment (including who is involved)
- Clear principles to guide difficult decisions (congregations, property, mission priorities)

A shared, plain-language summary of:

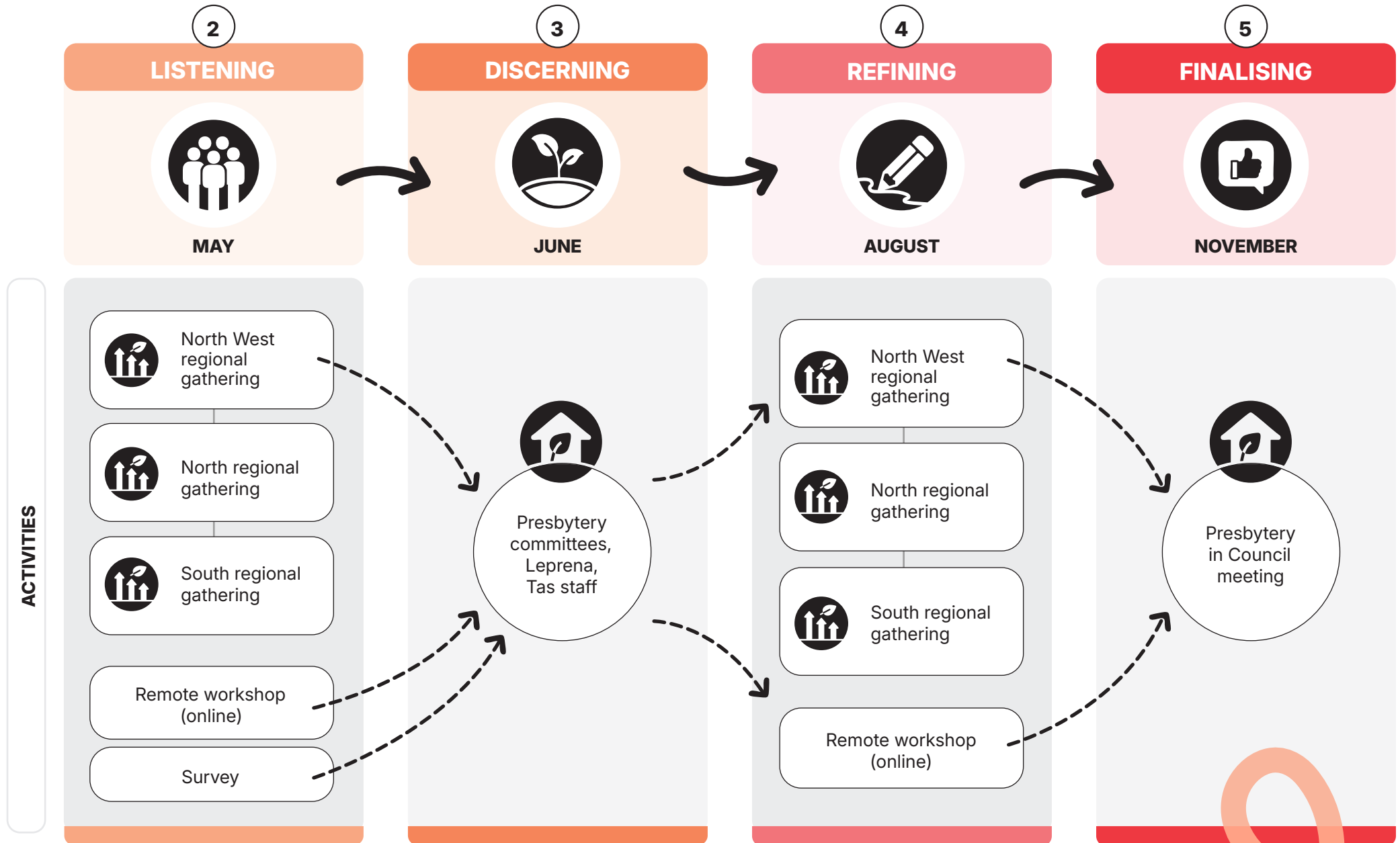
- Roles and responsibilities across the three key Presbytery committees
- How congregations, committees, and wider church bodies work together

## What is a *Charter*?

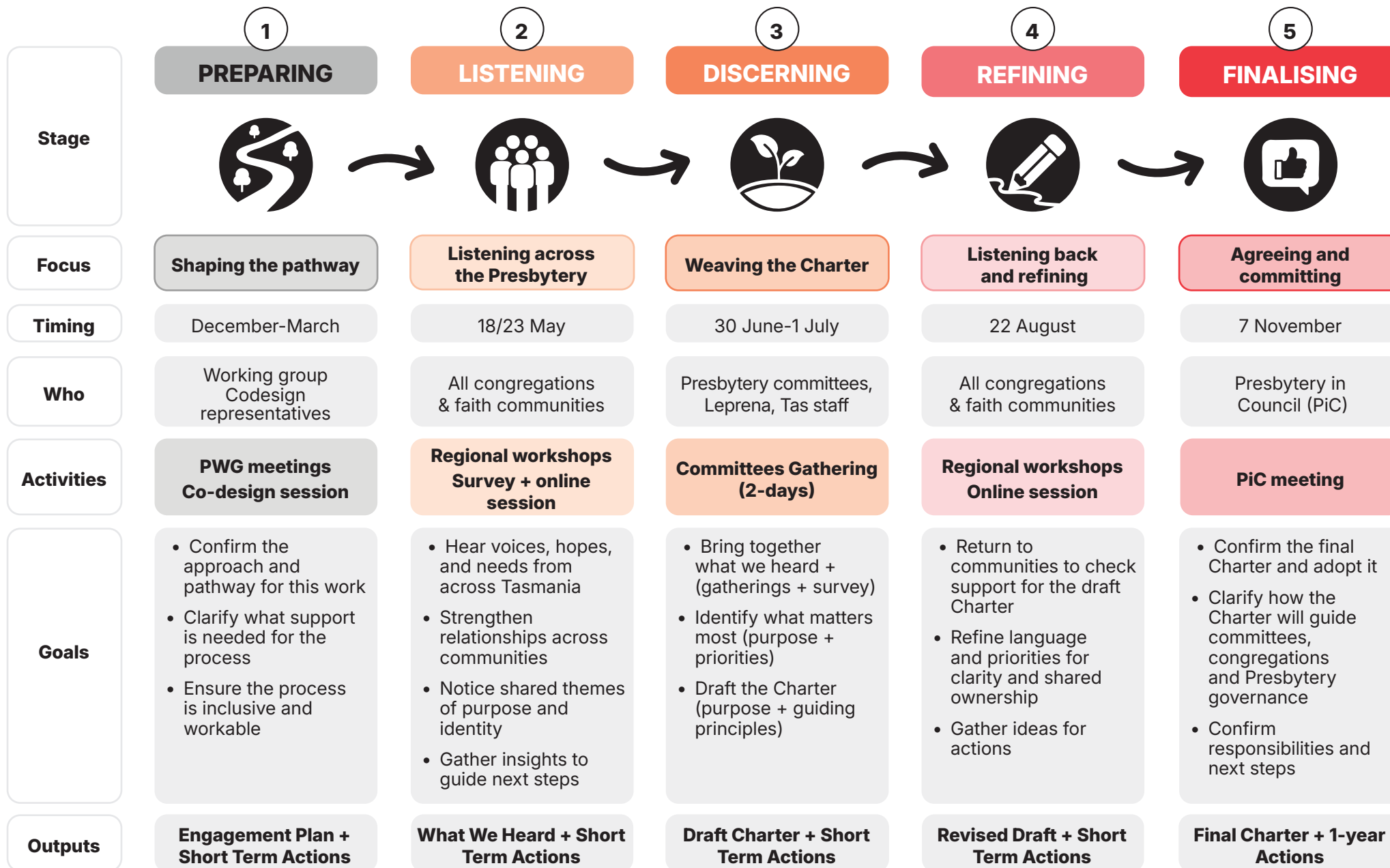
A Charter is a place where we write down our shared hopes together. It gives us something to return to when we need to make hard decisions and helps keep us moving in the same direction. We don't need to agree on everything, but the Charter captures what matters most to us as a faith community in Tasmania and how we connect with the wider Uniting Church. It also invites us to think carefully and together about where we want to go, and what it will take to get there, in ways that can unite and strengthen us over time.



# Journey Overview



# Journey Overview



## What is the *Covenant*?

The **Covenant** is a formal and binding relationship agreement between the [Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress](#) (UAICC) and the [Uniting Church in Australia](#) (UCA). It establishes a framework for shared life grounded in **justice, truth, equity and structural change**. In 1994, the Uniting Church formally acknowledged its role in past injustices, including dispossession and the Stolen Generations, and made a public apology.

The Covenant calls the Church into ongoing accountability, reform and active participation in truth telling and reconciliation. It recognises that this journey is unfinished and that significant work remains to fully realise equity, self determination and right relationship in practice, not just in principle.

The Covenant affirms the continuing sovereignty of First Peoples and upholds their right to self determination within the life of the Church. It commits to an independent Aboriginal voice in matters of governance, faith, culture and community development, while acknowledging that the lived experience of this commitment continues to require vigilance, advocacy and structural follow through.

## *Who* is Leprena UAICC Tasmania?

**Leprena UAICC Tasmania** is the lutruwita/Tasmania expression of the [Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress](#) (UAICC), serving as a cultural, spiritual and community base for Aboriginal people and the wider community.

Led by Manager [Alison Overeem](#), with the support of Ayla Williams and Grace Williams, Leprena partners with community to strengthen culture, faith, advocacy and connection across the vast lands of Country.

Our work centres First Peoples leadership and voice, creating spaces for gathering, learning, truth-telling and relationship-building between First and Second Peoples.

Through Culture, Country, community engagement, partnerships and governance leadership, Leprena contributes to reconciliation, justice and collective wellbeing across lutruwita/Tasmania and beyond



# FAITHFUL FUTURES

## Shared Vision

Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.

## Shared Goals



### RESPECTING COUNTRY:

Honouring the Church's Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, all communities of faith will listen to and be able to tell about some of the histories of the Country on which they are located by the end of 2028, and be invited to develop local and appropriate ways to respond.



### NEW COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:

Establish at least five new Christian communities by 2030.



### ALL-AGE GROWTH:

To have at least one all-age community of faith that is interactive, diverse, inclusive and transformative in 80% of Coordinated Ministries by 2030.



### INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP:

#### By 2028, to:

- be providing appropriate intercultural leadership formation and equipping for all ministry agents and congregations; and
- develop intercultural networks for worship, witness and service.



### COORDINATED MINISTRIES:

Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as Local Government Areas by 2030: attentive to renewing discipleship, and to the life and needs of the local context.

**Presbyteries and the Synod working together with shared goals and responsibilities, helping to relieve burdens and strengthen mission opportunities as we follow Christ together.**



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SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Scan the QR code to visit the Faithful Futures page

