

Spring into Action

Pathway to Renewal and the Future



STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE 2022



A STEP IN FAITH

As members of our Morialta UC worshipping congregation we are sharing in the *Spring into Action* discernment process - most recently we have participated in Consultation 1.

This Consultation prompted heartfelt, extravagant thinking, and “flew some kites”, with many sound steps and exciting ideas for the future of Morialta. And, as we all know, this was prompted by our undertaking to address the budget deficit, and to do it with a view to the future.

We celebrate Morialta’s past Mission story. We give thanks for all that this has meant for us and allowed us to share in growing together and living the gospel. But now, while we hold that dear, we also recognise the need to consider our place in a rapidly changing future. There are new challenges! Yet we are mindful that we continue to be endowed with strengths, gifts and talents. These can take us forward, perhaps as conduits or baton carriers towards a differently framed mission. It is an exciting prospect and we look forward to exploring the possibilities raised in the Consultation.



On this discernment Pathway we are challenged to consider, *who we are, what we do and hope*. As Rev Bob Hutchinson has asked: “What is our core business?” What is this business that is “based in the life, purpose, ministry, and the way of Jesus Christ?”

We believe that this is answered in other statements which encapsulate much of what we say of our church community:

We profess Morialta UC to be a Christian church which is progressive, spacious, liberal, welcoming, embracing, holistic and allowing questions rather than giving answers, and which can offer a haven for those who can no longer subscribe to a theology that dictates what we should and should not believe, and who we should not accept.



In the Consultation, responses to questions and opportunities raised, we affirmed this description of Morialta’s DNA.

Now we must take a **STEP IN FAITH** along the **Pathway to the Future**.

We anticipate that this will involve

- a continuation of our Morialta UC worship centre
 - opportunity to explore and develop our Missional focus into the future
 - knowing that it will differ from all-encompassing church-cum-social-community-setting of yesteryear,
- and, if we are successful in initiatives,
- it will be supported by missional partnerships/connections which lead to financial viability.

REDUCING THE DEFICIT...WITH A VIEW TO OUR FUTURE MISSION

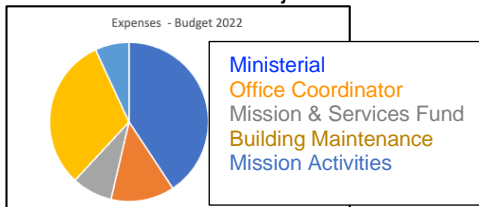
Consider this:

- Projected Deficit approved by the Congregation \$51,320.00
- Projected Deficit to 31 July 2022 29,937.00
- Actual Deficit at 31 July 2022 11,487.00
- Further Projection for the Actual 2022 Deficit, based on these figures, may amount to an Actual Deficit of \$28,587 which is a notable improvement on the initial figures. However, there is still substantial concern. Although the revised figure is a more manageable amount to consider, we do require more income. The most practical means of achieving this is an increase in regular giving.

At this stage of the discernment process, we must consider our GIVING if we are to continue to resource our Mission, both now and into the future.

The monies expended in “doing” Mission are actually conservative, and our Minister plays a crucial role in focussing and challenging, supporting and nourishing us in all areas of Mission.

The pie chart reminds us of the major cost centres:



In this focus on STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE we propose
this Step in Faith, with prayerful consideration of
GIVING: OFFERING and **SERVICE: ACTION**
in the Life and Mission of Morialta.



STEWARDSHIP – GIVING

We need an increase in funds. Increase in Giving will go some way towards meeting the costs of Mission, but it will not wipe away completely the projected Deficit which we agreed to support. In the short term, whilst we continue mission and explore the future, the Actual Deficit will need to be met from our Financial Assets to allow those investigations to proceed.

*In essence, those investigations are part of the **STEP IN FAITH**. They will take time, commitment to strategic thinking and action, and support in prayer and finance. How we consider a Giving Response to this **STEP IN FAITH** is a personal and individual matter. Please give prayerful consideration to how you will invest in God's mission.*

STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE - ACTION

As Christians we have always been called to service of others. Even in these challenging times we are encouraged to use our skills for the benefit of others, although we recognise a change in our capacity to engage as we once did.

We have begun reviewing the team structure which supports Mission but whatever the structure, we will continue to need people who will be Responsible Persons in particular activities and who will share the responsibilities. Activities where help is needed stretch across the complete range shown on the familiar Weekly Roster, and beyond.

*In the next phase of **Spring into Action** we will be seeking response through personal commitments of support for our ongoing activities from our many talented members. In the meantime, please consider where you can participate in the activities and tasks that enable our mission.*

CONSULTATION 1

14 August 2022



*As Observer for the Consultation,
Rev Bob Hutchinson shared his reflections
on the warm engagement of members,
and the lively, creative thinking
which was reported by table groups*

He concluded with this quote -



“Our future is as important as our history”