



## **NORTHERN PRESBYTERY**

Uniting Church in Australia

13<sup>th</sup> August 2026

**Subject:** 2026 Northern Presbytery Elections:  
Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) Information and Nomination Instructions

Dear Friends across the Northern Presbytery,

The first meeting of the Northern Presbytery Council will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September. Until then, an Interim Standing Committee will serve the Presbytery following its appointment by the Joint Standing Committee.

This inaugural meeting will:

- Formally constitute the Northern Presbytery in prayer.
- Confirm current Presbytery membership.
- Elect the Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) and other officers.
- Establish the next stage of work for the new three-Presbytery model in northern NSW.

**This guidance note addresses the election of PSC members.**

### **1. Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC)**

PSC is appointed to act on behalf of the Presbytery between its full meetings ensuring that the work of the Presbytery in providing oversight and support of congregations is done in a timely manner.

Formally, the Presbytery is responsible for:

- providing oversight as is necessary to the life and mission of the Church in the area committed to it;
- stimulate and encourage the Congregations within the bounds;
- providing them with opportunities for counsel in the strengthening and assistance of one another and in their participation in wider aspects of the work of the Church.

### **2. Presbytery Standing Committee Member**

In this time of transition with renewed attention on supporting congregations and being in mission, these tasks are more complex than they have been in almost 50 years. At least for the next two years our leaders on the PSC will need to balance:

1. Completing the tasks and priorities of transition,
2. Overseeing the “business as usual” of running a Presbytery, and
3. Envisioning and embarking on future mission.

This requires a mix of missional awareness, strategic thinking, operational oversight and above all, adaptability. No one person needs to possess all these gifts.

### **3. Presbytery Standing Committee membership numbers**

As a transitional arrangement for the first two years, there will be twelve (12) Presbytery-elected members of the Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC). The two (2) nominees receiving the highest number of votes within each constituent Presbytery will be declared elected, thereby ensuring that each constituent

Presbytery is represented by at least two elected members on the PSC. For Sydney Central Coast it is three nominees receiving the highest number of votes.

Following the election of the eleven members identified above, the remaining position will be filled by the next highest-polling unelected nominee across the whole Presbytery irrespective of their constituent Presbytery.

It is recognised that there will also be additional participation on PSC and attendance will vary according to operational requirements.

#### **4. Invitation to be a PSC member**

So, you are invited to test a call to being in leadership with a team of people with complementary skills and experience, with much work to do. The challenge is one of planning, delegating and pragmatically working to make sure that transition tasks don't stall current ministries in the Presbytery, and that everyday administration does not crowd out timely responses to future mission and ministry opportunities.

This opportunity is not restricted to current and continuing congregation Presbytery representatives or those recently elected by congregations to participate in the Northern Presbytery. Regulations allow for a mix of Presbytery members and others on committees, including the Standing Committee, with a majority of members being members of Presbytery.

So, if you know of someone who you believe has gifts and experience to contribute to this transition and launchpad phase of our new Northern Presbytery, please let them know and offer to nominate them.

You may also know of someone, a younger person perhaps, with obvious potential to help lead the church into the future. Their experience could already include: strategic vision, staffing oversight, administration management, or finance. Encourage them to apply, offer to nominate them and suggest that in their application they focus on why they feel called into the life of the Presbytery providing governance and spiritual oversight to congregations.

All applicants need to demonstrate being active in the life of the Uniting Church for at least 12 months and will be required to meet compliance requirements.

#### **5. Nomination process and timeline**

If you discern a call to the PSC, you are asked to submit a nomination including two (2) nominators names (with email addresses). Staff will contact referees to confirm the nominations.

To nominate, fill in the attached form and email it to Interim Standing Committee admin support, Leslie D'Mello [LeslieD@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:LeslieD@nswact.uca.org.au) by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

*Please also email a recent photograph to accompany your nomination.*

### **Chairperson & Interim Standing Committee Task Group Northern Presbytery**