

# “On The Way Together”

## Spirited Conversations towards Future Directions

**Four Conversations in Lent:**

Week 1: Gifts Mapping Conversation  
(Who are we and our neighbour?)

**Week 2: Appreciative Conversation  
(What is our mission?)**

Week 3: Foresightful Conversation  
(Where does God guides us?)

Week 4: Engaging Conversation  
(How can we be a missional church?)

**Questions to aid reflection:**

- Remembering your entire experience of this congregation, when were you most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement?
- What made your involvement so stimulating and worthwhile?
- Who else was involved at that time?
- What factors from the wider context of the time contributed to that stimulation and excitement?
- What part did you play in the congregation’s life and work at that time?
- Describe how you felt.

### After Gifts Mapping Conversation

Last week, we have had a great conversation identifying 5 different categories of gifts that God gave to us.

1. Physical assets (gifts)
2. Individual assets (gifts)
3. Associational assets (gifts)
4. Institutional assets (gifts)
5. Economic assets (gifts)

We’ve learned that these gifts means ‘strengths’ that God has given to us and continued to find what are the hidden strengths of our congregation. Please find the lists of current and hidden strengths.

### Bible Reading:

Listening from Psalm 66:1-6

1 Shout with joy to God, all the earth! 2 Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! 3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. 4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.” *Selah* 5 Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf! 6 He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot — come, let us rejoice in him.

### Appreciative Conversation: Round 1

#### WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ‘APPRECIATIVE’?

We appreciate the things that we value highly. Appreciative conversations provide a way for a group or community to explore together the values that they hold in common, or in particular. Appreciative conversations focus on the positive, moving our attention away from being a dominated by problems, or feeling ‘stuck’. Appreciative conversations help us to imagine into reality new ways of being and doing and relating, arising from the best of our heritage and values. Appreciative conversations are not about engaging in yet another round of problem solving.

Appreciative conversations may also make space for us to hear God’s story in new and exciting ways. Sometimes, themes

**Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“Looking back, the things that contributed most notably to my experience of being very motivated about the congregation I am part of were...”*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



arising from appreciative conversations can become important channels for receiving God’s guidance.

A more detailed explanation of appreciative conversations is included in the instructions of each conversation.

Five conversations are offered as above.



### Appreciative Conversation: Round 2

**Questions to aid reflection:**

- What do you value most about this congregation?
- What activities or elements of its life, or ways it goes about doing things are most important to you?
- What are the best features of this congregation?

**Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“I really am very thankful for characteristics of how the congregation I am a part of - such as...that have enabled...”*

---



---



---



---



---

### Appreciative Conversation: Round 3

**Questions to aid reflection:**

- When you think about how this congregation has related to the community it seeks to serve or the wider community within which its life and work occur, What do you think has been most important?
- When the congregation was at its best, how did it express God’s love, grace and justice to other people and groups?
- What has been your own most important ministry or missional experiences in relating to others beyond the life of this congregation?

**Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“What strikes me most about the way this congregation has made connections with the wider community is...”*

---



---



---



---



---

### Appreciative Conversation: Round 4

**Questions to aid reflection:**

- What are the most valuable ways this congregation contributes to the worship, witness and service of the Uniting Church?
- What ethos and character, what knowledge and skills; what relationships and partnerships...?

**Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“Thinking about the worship, witness or service of the Uniting Church being influenced by what our congregation does, I appreciate that...”*

---



---



---



---



---

### Appreciative Conversation: Round 5

**Questions to aid reflection:**

- When the Uniting Church is at its best, what do you think is the most important life-giving, life affirming, life-enriching characteristic of the church?

**Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“When I think about the best, most life giving characteristic of the congregation I am a part of, ...”*

---



---



---



---



---



---



### KEY QUESTIONS

The ‘On the way Together’ approach has posed three key questions:

- Who are we?
- What are we called to?
- Who is our neighbour?

These questions are explored with a guiding metaphor and four movements.

In this journey we are reminded that the church is the community of people founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ, renewed and sustained by the Holy Spirit. The church lives between the time of Christ’s death and resurrection and the final fulfilment of God’s Easter victory for all creation.

In its life in the world, the church has the unique privilege of

celebrating, embodying and witnessing to the new way of life, which is God’s gift and promise in Jesus Christ.

(from the report ‘On the way Together’)



# Appreciative Conversation: Round One

## **Questions to aid reflection:**

- Remembering your entire experience of this congregation, when were you most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement?
- What made your involvement so stimulating and worthwhile?
- Who else was involved at that time?
- What factors from the wider context of the time contributed to that stimulation and excitement?
- What part did you play in the congregation's life and work at that time?
- Describe how you felt.

## **Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“Looking back, the things that contributed most notably to my experience of being very motivated about the congregation I am part of were...”*

# Appreciative Conversation: Round Two

## **Questions to aid reflection:**

- What do you value most about this congregation?
- What activities or elements of its life, or ways it goes about doing things are most important to you?
- What are the best features of this congregation?

## **Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“I really am very thankful for characteristics of how the congregation I am a part of - such as...that have enabled...”*

# Appreciative Conversation: Round Three

## **Questions to aid reflection:**

- When you think about how this congregation has related to the community it seeks to serve or the wider community within which its life and work occur, What do you think has been most important?
- When the congregation was at its best, how did it express God's love, grace and justice to other people and groups?
- What has been your own most important ministry or missional experiences in relating to others beyond the life of this congregation?

## **Sentence to open the conversation:**

*What strikes me most about the way this congregation has made connections with the wider community is..."*

# Appreciative Conversation: Round Four

## **Questions to aid reflection:**

- What are the most valuable ways this congregation contributes to the worship, witness and service of the Uniting Church?
- What ethos and character, what knowledge and skills; what relationships and partnerships...?

## **Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“Thinking about the worship, witness or service of the Uniting Church being influenced by what our congregation does, I appreciate that...”*

# Appreciative Conversation: Round Five

## **Questions to aid reflection:**

- When the Uniting Church is at its best, what do you think is the most important life-giving, life affirming, life-enriching characteristic of the church?

## **Sentence to open the conversation:**

*“When I think about the best, most life giving characteristic of the congregation I am a part of, ...”*