

A huge thank you to everyone who came along on 17th July to receive and engage with the “Re-imagining the BUV” report (available at www.buv.com.au)

This is the first of two bulletins leading up to the **Delegates Dinner on 8th October**, when we will consider a motion to approve the report’s recommendations. The purpose of these bulletins is to respond to questions, articulate the report’s vision and help delegates to engage with their churches.

- ***Will the “re-imagining report” impact local churches, or is it mostly a review of head office?***

The report follows a process of conversation which involved hundreds of Victorian Baptists. It embraced our dreams and concerns for our local churches and our ideas for how we could enhance our shared ministry for the Gospel together. Following on from these considerations, there were some questions about how our priorities could shape denominational staffing and resourcing.

Some of the recommendations in the report do focus on this staffing and resourcing level, but most are about directions that we hope will enhance the way Victorian Baptist Churches go about their ministries. All recommendations are shaped around the visions Victorian Baptists shared through the re-imagining process.

- ***Becoming “better together” through association***

This is one of the report’s visionary highlights and it received strong affirmation and some questions at the gathering. Active cooperation together as churches has always been part of the Baptist vision, but giving the concept renewed energy was one of the consistent emphases in people’s responses to the re-imagining process. This includes:

- A greater emphasis on pastoral networks for support and accountability;
- Cooperative ministry networks and partnerships among churches, based both on locality and shared approaches to mission;
- More actively sharing resources among churches to reduce administrative burdens;
- Churches making decisions about the use of resources and property in conversation with other churches;
- Reclaiming the name “Baptist Union of Victoria” as an expression of our life together and using different language to refer to the staff we employ and the office they work in.

So, is the emphasis on local church autonomy preserved?

Absolutely. Each local church will still discern God’s leading for its future. At the same time, Victorian Baptists are expressing the desire for less isolation and more sharing of conversation and resources so that we can be more fruitful in our ministry together.

Does it mean that smaller churches will be swamped by larger churches in their regions?

No. Again, in the re-imagining vision, all churches will still make their own decisions about their future. But if we could engage freely with other Baptist Churches about ministry and mission in our communities, regions and State, couldn't it have an exciting impact on our work for God's Kingdom?

Something you could do: Provide copies of the report's "Overview of Key Findings" (pages 3 to 4) to the people of your church and invite their responses.

Something you and your church could pray: That God would continue to grow in your church, and in all our churches, a passion for people, families and communities to be transformed by the Good News of Jesus.

- **Director of Ministries**

The Union Council will be undertaking a search to fill the position of Director of Ministries of the Baptist Union of Victoria. The Council is forming a nominating committee to assist them in bringing a recommendation to Assembly. The committee will consist of the Chair of Union Council, two Council members and three members of the Baptist community appointed by Union Council. It is unknown how long a search will take, however we anticipate the need for an Assembly early in 2011. The time and location of the Assembly will be announced closer to the date. Please see below an ad for a Director of Ministries.



The Baptist Union of Victoria is seeking a Director of Ministries.

- The Director of Ministries (DOM) is responsible for:
- the leadership and development of the mission and vision of the Baptist denomination in Victoria,
 - all ministries of the denomination,
 - the implementation of the strategic directions of the BUV and
 - is the senior manager of the BUV office staff.

Union Council is requesting expressions of interest in the position. Please contact Jon Price (Union Secretary) at the BUV on 9880 6177 or jon.price@buv.com.au for a copy of the position description.

Expressions of interest will be treated as confidential and should be received by 17 October.