

1. Introduction and background

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that each congregation and mission group has a need of its own local leader to work in partnership with the

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pastoral and teaching role, would be the first point of contact in the event of pastoral need, would provide continuity of worship and nurture, and would be the focus of the C (para.7.1). The present need suggests this ministry may also provide leadership in mission.

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Prior to Resolution 23, some Synods had a number of people in church posts that would now be considered Local Church Leader posts or Elders in Local Leadership. For the purpose of this paper, the designation of Elders in Local Leadership (ELL) shall be used.

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In some cases, it is possible that appointments were made to local leadership relatively informally and limited formal provision was made as to role description, terms of agreements, training or review. Ministries Committee is seeking to regularise the approach to these issues and to achieve parity/consistency and accountability for local leadership to form a Synod accredited ministry, namely Elders in Local Leadership

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With the reduction in stipendiary ministry numbers, some Synods are looking to establishing ministry teams across available ministries whether stipendiary or non-stipendiary Ministers of Word and Sacraments and CRCWs, Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers, Locally Recognised Lay Preachers or Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers. A ministry of Elders in Local Leadership would enhance this team and give recognition to and accountability for ministry which is already happening but sometime in a rather ad hoc way. This paper has been written with the assistance of the Synod Moderators.

2. Marks of Ministry of Elders in Local Leadership

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5.3 Upon completion of training the Synod Moderator or their representative shall:

- a) meet with the elders of the local church to finalise the role description and Terms of Settlement;
- b) organise a Service of Commissioning for the ELL.

6. Oversight.

- 6.1 All ELLs shall be subject to the supervision of an experienced Minister of the Word and Sacraments who will be appointed as a pastoral advisor. When making the appointment of any ELL it is the responsibility of the Synod to ensure that adequate provision is made to ensure that such oversight is carried out.
- 6.2 ELLs may be appointed to one church as part of a team ministry where there is a multiple church setting alongside Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers.

7. Appointments:

- 7.1 The initial appointment shall be for three years, with a review at year 2.5 with the possibility of renewal.