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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The following relates to the Beenleigh Region Uniting Church Survey opened on 2 May, 2021.

The questions for this survey were formed through discussion with Rev Karen Ross, Office Manager, Leanne Collins, members of the Church Council and the Pastoral Care Coordination Team.

As explained in the covering letter to the survey, its purpose was to ascertain where we are at as a church and provide people with an opportunity to let Church Council know their thoughts on the various questions so that we can help our church moving forward.

Some people found the survey a helpful tool to reflect on their journey with God and their connection to BRUC and this can be seen in the quality of the responses received. Many highlighted the work of God in their lives and their response to His call.

Other people found completing the survey a challenge. For example, before the formation of the Uniting Church some churches had different processes around baptism, confirmation and membership and that may have led to some confusion when trying to answer those questions. Church Council apologises for any stress caused in this. BRUC has always welcomed fully those who, led by God's spirit, engage in the ministry and mission of the church whatever their membership status.

Certainly, Church Council thanks everyone who gave the questions some thought not just the 38 who returned the survey forms and it will prayerfully consider the implications of these results for BRUC and God's kingdom work in our region.

The interpretation of statistical information can be difficult. Multiple responses were often given to the same question. Like responses have been grouped together so the percentages reflect the proportion of responses in particular groups to the total number of surveys received – 38. Because of that, totals do not add up to 100%.

In Summary:

BRUC seeks to provide 'excellence in worship' and responses to question 1, "What does worship mean to you?" highlight our desire to *spend time with God in fellowship with other believers as we try to learn more about Him through scripture, singing, the message and prayer.*

Responses to questions 3 iv) "What does it mean for you to live out your baptism" and 4 iv) "What does it mean for you to live out your confirmation" indicate the importance people place

on *being part of the family of God and putting their promises into action – being both faithful and fruitful.*

Question 5 and 6 asked about being part of BRUC. There is always work to be done in embracing all people with the love of God in any congregation. People do not always agree and sometimes they are unintentionally upset. Perhaps this is seen in the 'Additional comments received' section (Point 10) but responses to these questions noted *the comfort and encouragement offered through an accepting and supportive BRUC fellowship.* This reflects the desire of the people at BRUC to be alive in Christ and enables the church to reach out in love to our community.

With the world as it is in 2021 it is easy to understand how *health, family, time and work could impact upon our capacity to engage with BRUC* (Q8 & 9). It highlights a challenge to each one of us to continue to support each other wherever we can and responses offer some suggestions for future courses and/or activities.

There is much more in the report so please take the time to look through it and as always, if you have any questions, concerns or further suggestions regarding this report please contact any of your elected Church Council Leaders. Their contact details are below.

Grace and Peace,

Trevor Marett
Church Council, Chair
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Church Council Leaders:

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