



Uniting Tasmania

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UCA Anniversary 2024

Uniting Church in Australia

PRESIDENT'S ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE 2024



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY



"We are one church across a great diversity of beliefs and practices, ways of being and doing and thinking about what it means to be the Uniting Church. That is what a Uniting Church should be."

"It's been a privilege to see the worship, witness and service of the Uniting Church. To see the way in which so many of you give so much of yourselves, your time, your energy, your gifts and your talents. To building communities of openness and inclusion, communities where the Gospel is proclaimed, where human need is met, where you create places of welcome, community and acceptance. It is a joy to know so many of you are about this work of the Kingdom.

I encourage you to keep doing that, to keep finding creative ways to share the Gospel, to keep finding ways to join with other people in this work, to keep reminding ourselves at the heart of who we are, is this call to be communities of worship, where the Gospel is proclaimed and prayer is offered, to be communities of witness, where we tell the good news of who Jesus Christ is for us, and to be communities of service, meeting the needs of our neighbours, either those close at hand or those at far afield. These communities that I have witnessed and the work of our agencies, our schools, point to the huge diversity of ways in which the Uniting Church is present."

This is a sample from Sharon Hollis' final Anniversary Message as President. The video and a transcript can be found at <https://uniting.church/presidents-uca-anniversary-message-2024/>

3 + 5 + 2 = Pentecost!

Pentecost Sunday at Hobart North UC included three adult baptisms, five confirmations, and two membership transfers. Marina wrote and shared her own statement of faith, below.

I believe ... by Marina

I believe God created a world of hope, promise & love he expects us to nurture.

I believe God wants us to love our neighbour - both locally & globally & speak up for those who are voiceless.

I believe God expects us to act with honour & integrity; to fight for life, justice, freedom, & equality for all.

I believe God is compassionate & full of love. I believe he's there during the hard times & smiling through the good.

I believe God is there when we stumble, ready with a guiding hand. He is not punitive when we err, but kind, as he wants us to succeed.

I believe Jesus came to us as a light in the darkness to show us the way back to God when we stray or falter.

I believe God, through the words & acts of Jesus, showed us how to live in a better world.

With the Holy Spirit to guide us, I believe we are to be there for those in need; to leave a better, kinder world than the one we were born into.

Most of all, I believe God wants us to live with love in our hearts & to always show compassion.

Finally, I believe we are to be a living example of God's Word. To stand strong in our faith, through the challenges life throws at us. To not stray from the path God sets before us, no matter the trials & tribulations which may lay at journey's end.



Photos by Denise Savage, Rohan Pryor



Exploring the New Testament

Learn more about the New Testament with other local leaders, and enrich your understanding & faith. **This course is on Monday evenings via Zoom from 7pm-9pm, July 15 to September 30, 2024.** Mel Perkins and Linley Liersch will be running “Exploring the New Testament” in Semester 2. This is one of the subjects towards accreditation as a Lay Preacher, but can be done by anyone for interest. Sally Douglas is hoping to pop in as a special guest. Sally is now Lecturer in New Testament at Pilgrim Theological College and author of *Jesus Sophia* and *The Church as Salt*. (Both of these are worth reading! Ed.)

Check out the Synod Events page and encourage others to do this course with you for joint support. The Synod Events Page can be found by going to the VicTas Synod, <https://victas.uca.org.au/>, move the mouse over the News and Events tab, and then click on Events from the drop down menu.

Registration for this event will be at <https://events.humanitix.com/exploring-the-new-testament>

The Exploring the New Testament unit will cost \$50. (Those intending this as study towards Lay Preacher should talk to Graham Booth about ways to reduce or cancel this charge if it is a barrier.)

All course participants are required to have a copy of “*Reading the New Testament: an Introduction*” (3rd Edition), by PHEME PERKINS, Paulist Press, 2012. It will also be helpful if you are able to obtain a copy of “*The New Testament with Imagination, A fresh approach to its Writings and Themes*” by William Loader, Eerdmans, 2007. The first Tasmanian person to make contact with Graham Booth and who is booked to do this course can borrow Graham’s copies of these two books.

Mel and Linley will be running “Exploring Worship in the UCA” in Semester 3, 21 Oct to 25 Nov.



Save the Date: 30th Anniversary of the Covenant

10 July marks 30 years since the historic signing of a Covenant between the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

Covenanting Statement

This July the Uniting Church will be marking two significant anniversaries in the life of the church and our relationship with First Peoples.

10 July marks the **30th anniversary of the Covenant** between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Uniting Church in Australia, while mid-July marks the **15th Anniversary of the revised Preamble** to the Uniting Church Constitution.

The Covenant was a result of years of discernment and planning from Aboriginal Christian leaders within the Uniting Church who held a prophetic vision for a more just and healed future in prayer, worship and walking together.

Within the tradition and practice of the Christian faith, a covenant is a commitment, an intentional promise of mutual understanding, listening and service within a shared life.

The Covenanting Statement was formally signed at the 7th Assembly, on 10 July 1994.

In the Covenanting statement read at the meeting, then President Dr Jill Tabart formally apologises for the church's role in colonisation and dispossession of Australia's First Peoples and commits the Church to a new relationship. In response Pastor Bill Hollingsworth, then National Chair of UAICC, offers an inspiring challenge to the church to honour this commitment.

The statement continues to serve as a formational part of the Uniting Church's commitments to walking together as First and Second Peoples and to self-determination for First Peoples.

Current UAICC National Chair, Rev Mark Kickett, says, "The Covenant helps us to express the relationship we have as one church, as we seek to live out issues of justice, reconciliation and unity."

In a significant milestone in the covenant journey, the Uniting Church's Constitution was revised to include a Preamble at the 12th Assembly (15-21 July 2009).

Both anniversaries fall in NAIDOC Week (7-14 July), a national celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture and knowledge.

The National Assembly will soon be releasing resources to equip Uniting Church communities to mark and celebrate these anniversaries in worship and reflect on their history and ongoing significance. *Crosslight* also includes features.

This text and the above image are edited from the Assembly website at

<https://uniting.church/save-the-date-covenant-anniversary/> where you can read more and register for resources.

New Worship Music Packs

The UCA South Australia *Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts* has launched a series of new Worship Music Packs called "Walk as One". We believe that they will provide welcome assistance to many UCA congregations across Australia.

The music is contemporary, Australian and in a range of styles - hymn-like, folky, Taize type chants, rock etc. The authors come from around the country - David MacGregor (QLD), Paul Somerville (NSW), Alison Campbell Rate and Rosie O'Reilly (VIC), Maratja Dhamarrandji (NT) and South Australians including Leigh Newton, Jenni Hughes, Robin Mann, Nelson Varcoe and others.

The lyrics are contemporary in language, mainstream UCA theology, and a range of themes - praise, confession, lament, hearing and responding to the word, praying for others, being called and sent in mission,

A Range of Formats

The packs are designed for any church of any size.

- Sheet music for musicians
- An audio recording either to learn from or to sing along with
- A lyric video either to learn from or to sing along with
- 2 Powerpoint files - plain black-and-white and a coloured background
- a Text file so the song can easily be copied into an order of service or projection software.

I hope you can see how this might be a great help to smaller churches or those who are musically challenged. We hope that you will want to promote them to congregations and leaders in through your leadership and lay preacher networks.

In 2024 we're releasing 5 packs of 5 songs each - one every two months. We're arranged the packs to be stylistically diverse and also with some potential links to the lectionary and themes/seasons of the church year. The first pack was released in March and the next will be out in mid-May. The first pack includes songs for Pentecost and the UCA anniversary (among others).

Pack Options

There are two options

- A single pack of 5 songs for \$35
- Five packs of five songs for \$150 (plus four bonus songs - sorry no steak knives).

People will receive any packs already released plus a new one every two months in May July, September and November. Every song comes in all of the formats mentioned above.

All of that information is on our website here, along with audio and video samples of each song. <https://www.cmla.org.au/blog/walk-as-one-music-packs-release/>

The Uniting Church SA *Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts* is an activity within the Synod of South Australia serving congregations and leaders both within and beyond SA. We're here to help churches have life-giving, imaginative and inspiring worship that has depth and speaks in our Australian context.

Proceeds from the sales support the songwriters and the Centre. There is copyright and licensing information on the website.

From Craig Mitchell

HYMNS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Join in singing some of the best in this free event!

Introduced by Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood with pianist Bruce Macrae and guest choir.

**SUNDAY 30 JUNE,
AT 2.30PM**

Stonnington Uniting Church
59 Burke Road, Malvern East

Or for a Zoom link, email:

ken.barelli@bigpond.com

For enquiries call Ken on

0418 317 942

VICTAS UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



UNDIVIDED
2024



Undivided is an event organised by YouthAliveTas.

Events in Launceston and Devonport were held in May, with this year's Hobart event to be held at Hillsong's brand new venue: 52 Melville Street, Hobart

"Hang time" starting at 6PM before moving into the event itself. This space will have some games along with food and snack options, including sausage sizzles, pancakes, soft drinks and more. While not a full on dinner, food will be hot and filling. While the main part of the night will have pre-show games, giveaways, and the Youth Alive band, the core part of the night will be a Gospel message that positions youth to make a faith commitment.

For more information see <https://www.youthalivetas.com.au/undivided>

Christmas Bowl - 75years



Church leaders and members from Sydney Uniting and Anglican churches came together for a 'Blessing of the Christmas Bowls' ceremony. Image: Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

The Christmas bowl marks its 75th anniversary this year, and is organised by Act for Peace. Elijah Buol from Act for Peace says, "The Christmas Bowl is more than just a charitable appeal; it embodies the spirit of solidarity and compassion that defines our faith. We are called to do good and seek justice, and for 75 years churches across Australia have followed this call and have given hope to refugees and displaced persons around the world. I am honoured that your church is already part of this incredible legacy. Thank you."

This is your reminder to be on the lookout for resources that will enable your congregation begin Advent, the Year of Luke and transition from 2024 to 2025 - bit tough thinking that far ahead!

Act for Peace's website is <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/> At this stage they are still advertising last year's resources, but you can expect renewed resources in coming months.

WHAT'S ON!

JAN - FEB, 2024

JUN 04 | 10am - 3pm
Pastoral Relations Committee

JUN 10 | All day - UCA Tas office closed
King's Birthday Public Holiday

JUN 22 | 10am - 3pm Presbytery Meeting -
Launceston North Uniting Church

JUN 27 | 10am - 3pm
Presbytery Standing Committee


JUL 04 | 10am - 3pm
Pastoral Relations Committee

JUL 04 | 10am - 3pm Resource and
Development Committee


Payment for Lay Preachers


Payment for Lay Preachers is not usual except reimbursement for travel when visiting a congregation other than their own. See more detail at <https://victas.uca.org.au/lay-preachers-association/>. Some congregations provide Lay Preachers with a resource allowance and a contribution towards Continuing Education.


MONTHLY CHECKLIST

 Insurance premiums from Synod to congregations

 Australian Charities Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) return

 Online survey - Community Life Church Council secretaries

 Online survey - Financial - Treasurer's questionnaire

 Log Books - Final check for 2023/24 year. Please return 1 copy of the completed log book to the Presbytery office in order to receive the 2024/25 books and keep the 2nd copy for your files.