



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 228 | August 2024

Welcome to the West Coast of Tasmania!

The Presbytery of Tasmania is delighted that Rev. Deacon Peter Harvey accepted the call of the Presbytery to the West Coast Tasmania ministry placement, following conclusion of Peter’s current placement as Chaplain for the Bush Fire Recovery – Frontier Services Patrol in East Gippsland.

The Presbytery Standing Committee resolved to issue this call of the Presbytery, and Peter responded very promptly. Peter’s current placement concludes at the end of August and the new placement formally commences from 1 September 2024, with the standard three weeks of removal leave between states.

The Presbytery Standing Committee also resolved to engage Shirley Scolyer on a part-time basis with a parallel role description. As a long-term West Coast resident Shirley has been a key Uniting Church ‘presence’ offering a range of pastoral and chaplaincy services for the communities of the West Coast.

The clear intent of the Presbytery is to establish a local ministry team to share and coordinate ministry activities and missional opportunities for the next stage of ministry on the West Coast.

Your prayers of support are invited for Peter and Shirley at this exciting time of transition and fulfilment of long-held aspirations for renewed ministry and mission with the West Coast Communities.



Rev. Peter Harvey. Photo: Frontier Services

The Primary purposes of this ministry placement are:

- To provide community chaplaincy (‘bush chaplaincy’) to the remote communities of the West Coast of Tasmania, and to develop local leadership capacity for longer-term Uniting Church presence.
- Based in Queenstown but potentially reaching from Waratah in the north to Derwent Bridge in the south, the role will focus on connecting with communities and families building up resilience, networking and developing community connections.
- This ministry placement of the Presbytery is not intended to plant or (re)develop a worshipping congregation of the Uniting Church.

The ministry placement is founded on significant grant funding from both the Synod’s Mission Support Fund (formerly BOMAR) and Frontier Services, additional support from generous donors for remote ministry, and the Presbytery’s Money For Mission Funds (MFMF).

Tony's Walk



One of the Mission Projects supported by the Longford Uniting Church is Blue Dragon Children's Foundation.

Blue Dragon has for more than twenty years been a leading agency in Vietnam's fight against human trafficking.

Amongst their achievements are:

- Rescued 1,594 people from trafficking
- Enabled 6,396 kids to go back to school and training
- Served 687, 023 meals

One of Blue Dragon's fundraising activities is Walk For Change. Tony Tymms (pictured above) will be participating in this walk. To see more about Tony's Walk and how to support him go to

<https://www.bluedragonwalk.org/bluedragonwalk-2024/posts/tonys-story>

For more on Blue Dragon go to <https://www.bluedragon.org/>



"Health and Safety (OHS / WHS) is everyone's responsibility"

When somebody is injured on Uniting Church property, we have some legal obligations to report "Notifiable Incidents" to WorkSafe Tasmania (or WorkSafe Victoria). The Synod People & Culture staff now provide OHS advice to congregations and presbyteries, including advice on what must be reported, how & when, and to whom.

Two recent incidents provide examples of what may need to be reported:

1. Congregation member fell on a step outside a church after turning quickly. She lost her balance flicking an insect off another congregation member's shoulder. Her wrist was injured on a handrail. (Vic cong)
2. One contractor fell while repairing a roof. He was a member of the congregation as well as a contractor. He was admitted to hospital and suffered several fractured ribs. The incident has been investigated by a Worksafe Investigator, who will provide advice about mitigating risks regarding working at heights. (Vic cong)

Resources under the heading "Incident / Near Miss Reporting" include an incident reporting flowchart, incident/near miss report forms, and an incident register, see: <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/ohs/>

To fulfil the Church's OHS requirements under relevant government legislation in both Vic and Tas, incident reports should be forwarded to Synod OHS for review, advice and support.

OH&S contacts for assistance:

Phone: (03) 9116 1994 or 0458 591 507.

Email: SynodOHS@victas.uca.org.au

That's a wrap for Assembly



Rev Charissa Suli

The 17th National Assembly wrapped up with a new President and General Secretary ready to guide the Uniting Church in Australia into an exciting future.

The meeting featured the installation of Rev Charissa Suli as President, and election of Andrew Johnson as General Secretary, and Rev Dr Paul Dongwon Goh as President-elect.

One of the main discussion topics was the Act2 Project, shaping how the Uniting Church will look in the future.

The Assembly included a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Covenant between the UCA and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and recognised the 30th anniversary of the creation of the UCA Manual for Meeting.

A proposal was also passed that seeks to affirm, welcome and honour the life and faith of transgender, intersex and gender diverse people in the Uniting Church.

The work of the Assembly's Net Zero Emissions Steering Group was recognised, and a decision made to continue its mandate to support and encourage the whole Church to move towards zero emissions by 2040.

A number of members from within the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania were appointed to roles, with Moderator Rev David Fotheringham, Sandy Boyce, Rachel Kronberger, Alison Overeem and Jong Soo Park to serve on the Assembly Standing Committee for the next three years.

Victoria and Tasmania Synod members were appointed to the Assembly Circles of Interest: Virginia Lavaki, *Discipling the Next Generation Circle Advocate*; Matthew Julius, *Transforming Worship Circle Advocate*; Alex Sangster, *Working for Justice Circle Advocate*; and Alison Overeem *Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle Advocate*.

Rev Heather Den Houting was appointed Chairperson of the Frontier Services Board.

From <https://victas.uca.org.au/thats-a-wrap-for-assembly/>
More detail <https://uniting.church/assembly-full-summary/>



Andrew Johnson



Rev Dr Paul
Dongwon Goh

FOSTER CARE SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

8 out of every 1000 children in Australia are in Out of Home care. 91% of these are in family-based care which yields generally better outcomes than residential care.

Foster Care Sunday occurs on September 8th, but you can choose another time that works for your congregation. You could combine this with Child Safe Sunday (see below) or move both to another time to make way for the Season of Creation.

Australian Christian Foster Care Network offers a toolkit of resources that will stimulate your thinking in developing a worship service marking this important issue as well as other activity suggestions.



For more information check out:

<https://www.fosteringhope.net.au/foster-care-sunday>

Child Safe Sunday 1 September 2023



A safe church is who we are called to be

Safeguarding is the approach we take to ensure the wellbeing of children and young people, so they flourish and thrive into the people God calls them to be.

Safeguarding is about more than "safety", which is about preventing risk and harm. It is about working with them so they feel safe, supported, and their sense of wellbeing enables them to thrive.

God calls us to safeguard children and young people.

Our Church expects us to safeguard children and young people.

The law requires everyone over the age of 18 to safeguard children and young people, as individuals, groups and as an organisation.



Child Safe Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate that we are called to be a community of Christ in which we are all safe. There will be a prayer posted here that can be used on the day; but whatever way you recognise the value of being a safe community, we invite you to re-commit to working together to make that so. Check <https://uniting.church/2024-assembly-calendar-of-dates/> for an updated link for this year's resources.



The Uniting Church National History Society (UCNHS) was formed to preserve and promote the historical journey of the Uniting Church in Australia and its predecessor churches. We are a nation-wide community of people passionate about the past, present and future of our uniquely Australian church. Join us for just \$25 per year.

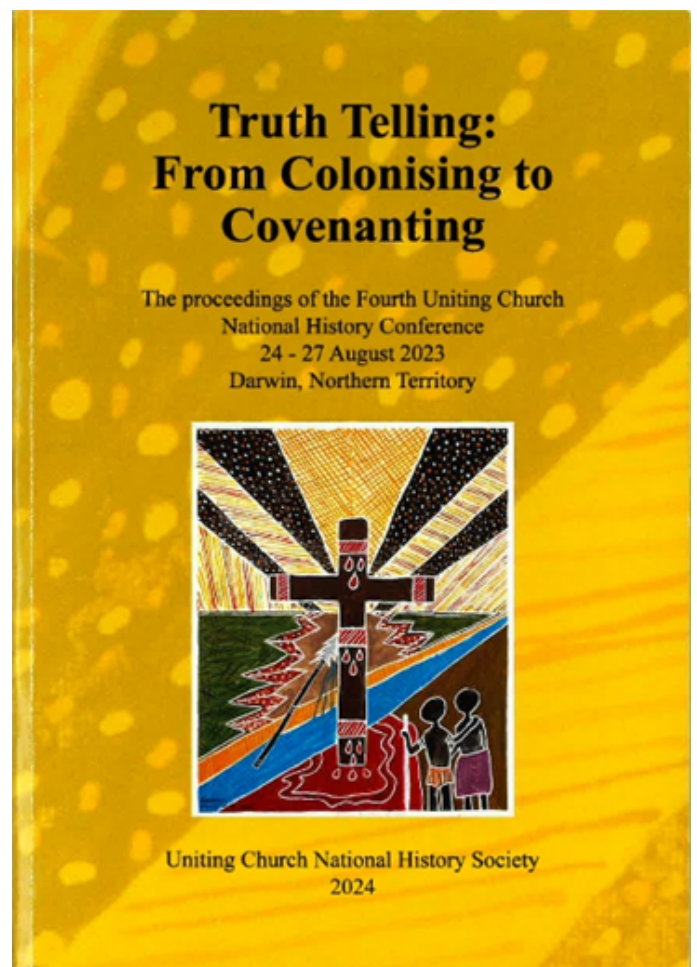
What will I get with my membership?

- Access to our Biennial Conference Publications and Resources, such as the newest publication (at right)
- A voice in planning the future direction and priorities of the UCNHS at our Annual General Meetings

Webinar: History, Truth-Telling And The Uluru Statement From The Heart

In 2022, the UCNHS presented a webinar exploring the Uluru Statement from the Heart. You can watch the recording and read papers presented by Emily Hayes, Tim Matton-Johnson, Laura Rademaker and Nathan Tyson in recognition of the importance of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Truth-telling to the future of Australia. <https://uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/>

The UCNHS newsletter, Uniting Church History and Heritage, edited by Robert Renton, is published four times a year in March, June, September and December, and is circulated to all members and posted on our web page as a



free download.

The editor is always keen to receive publishable articles, book reviews, letters, notices about upcoming events etc. from UCA congregations and members. We also publish edited volumes of proceedings from each of our biennial History Conferences. These are available in PDF on our website, and in hard copy to members. Hard copies can also be purchased

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directly from our Treasurer via our website:

<https://uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/>

The Uniting Church National History Society remains committed to historical reflection, not out of antiquarian interest, but because it understands that the church's present mission both flows out of history and makes history. As we were reminded at the 150th anniversary celebrations in Darwin last August, history is about honouring the past, transforming the present and creating the future. We are well aware that history is currently not a high priority for many people in the churches, in academia, including in our theological colleges, or in society at large. This is a source of frustration for those of us who understand the study of history as highly valuable to the maintenance of broad, informed, generous and imaginative perspectives on what makes for a good society that optimises chances for human freedom and flourishing, and what threatens those common goods and thus our future. Believing that these are things that Christians and the churches ought to take seriously, we remain committed to flying the flag of history wherever and whenever we can. And we value the collaboration of our UCA community in that endeavour.

Yours in hope,

Dr Judith Raftery
Chairperson, Board of the Uniting Church
National History Society

This article is based on content from the UCNHS website and report B13 to the 2024 Assembly meeting, <https://uniting.church/17th-assembly-papers/>



As part of the Synod's 2023-26 Disability Action Plan, equipping Leadership for Mission is offering **free 'accessible worship' online training** in September for all Ministers, Lay Leaders and Church Councils. The training will be presented by the Centre for Accessibility Australia, with information on how to make your worship service and other content accessible, and how people with disability engage with content.

<https://victas.uca.org.au/focus-on-content-accessibility/>



SURVEYS DUE END OF AUGUST

Community Life Return and Financial Return are due to be returned by August 31. Your secretary and treasurer would have received the appropriate links for these in May. More information about these surveys can be at

<https://victas.uca.org.au/annual-survey/>

Rejecting Eurocentric Christianity: Embracing Hopelessness

12 SEPTEMBER, 6.30PM

September 12 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm AEST

NORTHEY LECTURE:

REJECTING EUROCENTRIC CHRISTIANITY: EMBRACING HOPELESSNESS



For more information about the speaker: <http://drmigueldelatorre.com/>

To register for the event (free) in person or online: <https://events.humanitix.com/rejecting-eurocentric-christianity-embracing-hopelessness>

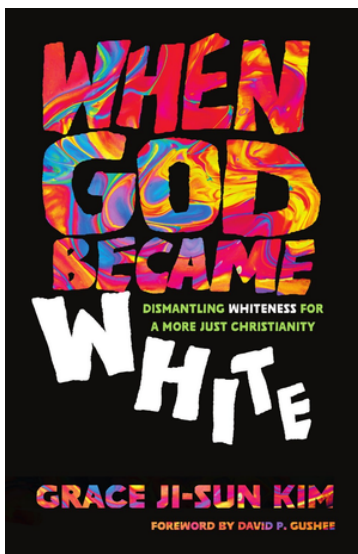


Sat 5th Oct 2024, 9:00 am - 4:15 pm AEST

Morning session is online: \$10

More about JIM: <https://victas.uca.org.au/social-justice/>

Convention Registration: <https://events.humanitix.com/justice-and-international-mission-convention-2024>



New book by Grace Ji-Sun Kim available at CTM Resourcing for \$32 + postage <https://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/when-god-became-white>

WHAT'S ON!

AUG - SEP, 2024

AUG
06

10am - 3pm
Pastoral Relations Committee

SEP
03

10am - 3pm
Pastoral Relations Committee

AUG
13

10am - 2.30pm Resource and
Development Committee

SEP
10

10am - 2.30pm Resource and
Development Committee

AUG
17

South: Hobart North UC
North: Devonport UC
9.30am Special Meeting of Presbytery
11am - 2pm Regional Gatherings

SEP
26

10am - 4pm
Presbytery Standing Committee

AUG
22

10am - 3pm
Presbytery Standing Committee



MONTHLY CHECKLIST



Log Books are due back at
the Presbytery Office.



Ensure your AGM report
has been sent to the
Presbytery Office.