



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 242 | October 2026

SEASON OF CREATION | 2026



Living Water

Christians around the world mark the Season of Creation from 1 September to 4 October, joining in prayer, reflection and action as we celebrate God's gift of creation and renew our commitment to care for our common home.

The call is for transformation – that Christians would be immersed in the living water flowing from the throne of God- stepping in deeper and deeper, inspired by the Spirit of God, working together for the renewal of Creation.

In Tasmania the *Season of Creation* aligns with the wonderful renewed life springing forth all around us, including in many places an abundance of water to nurture life!

Our Biblical text for this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

Resources and sources:

- <https://uniting.church/season-of-creation-2026/>
- <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Does your congregation or faith community have any stories about how you celebrated the Season of Creation this year, or general suggestions of worship resources so that others can connect with worship in this season for next year?

Send any comments to tas.office@victas.uca.org.au



Tasmanian Messy Church and Intergenerational Worship Training

**Devonport and Hobart, Tasmania
3-4 October 2026**



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Come to 2026 *Refresh* Days. The day will be split into two sessions. Elga Rodriguez, Synod Disability Advocate will be presenting a Disability Training session for everyone (Lay, Ordained, in placement, not in placement, Lay Preachers, congregation and committee members). Zoom is available for this session to assist attendance. The second session will focus on the two codes of conduct/ethics for lay people and Lay Preachers. All are welcome.

REFRESH

2026

SAT 10TH OCT

10-3PM

DEVONPORT UCA

SUN 11TH OCT

12-4PM

HOBART NORTH UCA

Registration essential for planning and catering.

Please email to

tas.office@victas.uca.org.au with name, email and mobile, location to attend, dietary requirements by Mon 5th Oct

Supported by Presbytery of Tasmania

YOU ARE INVITED TO
LEPRENA UAICC TASMANIA
ANNUAL COMMUNITY

Gathering of Remembrance

—❤—

**A TIME TO REMEMBER.
A TIME TO HEAL.
A TIME TO WALK TOGETHER.**

A culturally led gathering to honour
and remember our loved ones,
share stories, celebrate their lives
and find strength in community,
culture and Country.

—❤—
**EVERY STORY.
EVERY NAME.
EVERY MEMORY
MATTERS.**

 **DATE**
SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2026
1PM – 3PM

 **VENUE**
FANNY COCHRANE SMITH'S CHURCH
5 CROSS RD, NICHOLLS RIVULET TAS 7112

 **ALL ARE WELCOME**
Mob, families, friends and community

 **BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR**

 **RSVP BY COB FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026**
Via our Facebook page or
leprena2015@gmail.com

THE GATHERING INCLUDES

- Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony
- Cultural Dancers
- Music & Poetry
- Community Storytelling
- Candle Ceremony

*Take a moment, light a candle
and honour their memory*

—❤— We remember. We honour. We heal. We walk together. —❤—

 | 



Time 7-9:30pm AEST (online)

Cost: This is a free online event.

Discernment Evening 1 – Monday, 12 October 2026 – Stories of ministry
6 people from across the Synod share their stories of ministry. There will be time for listening and asking questions in both Breakout Rooms and all together.

Discernment Evening 2 – Monday, 19 October 2026 – Pathways and processes

This evening will look at:

Pilgrim Theological College units for next year

The Period of Discernment and how to begin one

Ministry pathways

What kind of support you could expect from your Congregation/Faith Community, Presbytery, and the Synod, as you navigate different ministry pathways

Timeframes associated with different pathways

FAQs

Please register your interest to attend by Monday 5 October at

<https://events.humanitix.com/discernment-evenings-2026>

This is a free event. Enquiries to pod@victas.uca.org.au



VicTas Synod General Secretary Rev Dr Mark Lawrence plans to step down in late November after 14 years in the role. From the time of his leave until the end of his placement, Rev. Sharon Hollis will be Acting General Secretary.

We wish Mark and the personnel in the Synod well in their time of transition.



The VicTas Lay Preachers' Committee of Management, mainly through the hard work of Alastair Davison, arranged the National Lay Preachers' Conference on the weekend of 4-6 September at the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) in Melbourne. Bruce Cullen and Graham Booth attended from Tasmania in person and others including Jan McGrath (see her report below) attended via Zoom. The UCA President, Rev. Charissa Suli, was present and you can read her report here:

<https://uniting.church/lay-preachers-gather-to-weave-christs-love-across-the-church/>

Reflections from Jan: "I am a self-confessed Conference junkie. I love attending them. There is so much value in them - the updated information, the quality of the speakers that just isn't available on the home front, the helpful options that inspire thinking for the future, the fellowshiping with 'like-minded' attendees, connections made, etc. etc. etc."

So, when the notification came through for the National Lay Preachers Convention in Melbourne in September - it was an invitation that just drew me in. Unfortunately, family circumstances prevented me from registering and I shelved the thought of attending. Then came an invitation to join the conference (2 or 3 days) via Zoom. I am familiar meeting on Zoom, so I registered for all 3 days.

And I am so glad I did. I was so fortunate to hear such quality speakers - Assembly President Rev Charissa Suli, Brooke Prentis, Sally Douglas, Bec Lindsay, Bill Loader - just to name a few! And I was able to attend inspiring, motivational workshops of my limited choosing - just by entering the Zoom links to enter that particular presentation. I was also fortunate to observe creative ways to enter into prayer and reflection during the worship. I was particularly inspired by the after-dinner speaker, Kelly Woods, as she spoke on 'Gathering and belonging in digital communities'. I found myself wishing I was 30 years younger - I could see this as a very real part of the future of the UCA, and I wanted to be part of it - oldie that I am!

I am so grateful the National Committee decided to include a Zoom coverage of the Conference. I put aside the time and I sat glued to my laptop for the whole 3 days - and it was so worth it. I came away from that time so enthused to continue in my work as a Lay Preacher - inspired to re-connect with that calling, and excited about how the Uniting Church does have a future in this fast paced world."

Jan McGrath, Lay Preacher, Clarence Uniting Church, Bellerive.



Held Together

President's Conference 2027

A gathering for young adults aged 18–35

21–24 January 2027

Merroo Christian Centre, Kurrajong, NSW

COME. GATHER. LISTEN. BE HELD TOGETHER.

Held Together is a four-day gathering bringing together young adults from across Australia and around the world.

Co-led by the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), this gathering will bring together diverse cultures, communities and stories through faith, worship, learning and connection.

It will be a space for:

- Faith & Worship

Deepen your faith through worship, reflection and shared experiences.

- Connection & Community

Meet and build relationships with young adults from different communities, cultures and places.

- Learning & Conversation

Listen, share stories and engage in meaningful conversations.

- Intercultural Engagement

Explore the richness of our diverse communities and what it means to walk together.

- First Nations Leadership & Perspectives

Learn through the leadership and perspectives of First Nations peoples and communities.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

We are inviting young adults from Victoria or Tasmania to express their interest in attending this national gathering by completing the form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/1yY66YAdgu?origin=lpLink>

EOIs close Friday 16 October 2026

CONFERENCE COST: \$450 per person

For more information contact: Pastor Nia Lavaki Virginia.Lavaki@victas.uca.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Current letter writing activities

Data Centres

Our increasing use of the online world, especially the development of artificial intelligence (AI), has created an ever-growing demand for data centres to process our requests and store our data. Data centres have high energy and water demands that could put Australia's plans to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 at risk. Write and advocate to balance between progress and corporate interests.

Resourcing Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Improving the situation in Palestine and working towards a just future will be impossible without resources. Israeli authorities are withholding tax revenues causing further hardship along with concerns this will author further violence in the region. At the same time, a Peace Fund is being established to assist finding a lasting path to peace. You can help by requesting the Australian Government to assist in resourcing a path to peace.

Whistleblower Protections and Ethics

Giant firms like PwC and KPMG have been found responsible for unethical behaviour. Without improvements in government regulations and increased protections and support for whistleblowers, the well-established unethical culture across parts of the financial sector is unlikely to change. Advocate with us to protect whistleblowers reporting highly unethical behaviour, and to better regulate professional privilege.

Food Principles in the PALM Scheme

Please join us in campaigning for social justice in our food systems. One of the ways Australian Governments have helped curb exploitation on farms has been the introduction of the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme. However, for the PALM Scheme to work as it should, it needs safeguards to detect, prevent and address exploitation in Australian farms when it occurs

Just Act also have a campaign for writing letters to the Tasmanian Minister for Housing and Planning, The Hon Kerry Vincent regarding the housing needs of children in Tasmania.

Just Actions:

- Email jim@victas.uca.org.au for information and assistance in wording such a letter and/or the ones above.
- Visit www.justact.org.au to subscribe to Just Act newsletters and to browse their resources on justice issues

Be Part of Action on Disability Plan

The VicTas Synod's current Disability Action plan has been extended to October 2027 to enable time for a renewal process covering the period 2027–2031. The current plan can be found at <https://victas.uca.org.au/disability-inclusion/> You are invited to contribute to the renewal process in various ways as outlined below. Elga Rodriguez, the Synod Disability and Inclusion Advocate, who is looking after this process will be with us in person as part of the Refresh days (see page 4).

The Disability Action Plan will help guide our Synod's commitment to creating a more accessible, inclusive, and welcoming church for people with disability. To ensure the Plan reflects the diverse experiences, needs, and aspirations of our communities, we are seeking broad participation from people with disability, families, carers, volunteers, leaders, and members of congregations across the Synod.

There are several ways people can contribute:

Attend a Community Forum – Have Your Say

We especially encourage participation in our community forums, which provide an opportunity for people to share their experiences, ideas, and priorities directly and help shape the future direction of disability inclusion and access across the Synod.

Community Forum Dates

- **26 November 2026** – Online
- **1 December 2026** – In Person at Wesley Place, Level 2, 130 Lonsdale St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Register: [Synod Disability Action Plan 2027–2031 Community Forum – Have Your Say](#)

Complete the Online Survey (open until 31 December 2026)

People can also share their feedback through the online consultation survey:

[Survey Synod Disability Action Plan 2027 – 2031](#)

Complete the Survey in Word Format

For those who prefer an alternative format, a Word version of the survey is attached.

Completed surveys can be returned to Elga.Rodriguez@victas.uca.org.au

Share your ideas and feedback

If you have any questions, need help, wish to share ideas and feedback, or would like a hard copy survey posted to you, contact Elga Rodriguez on (03) 9116 1436 or Elga.Rodriguez@victas.uca.org.au



Photo from VicTas Synod website

New Mission Statement
from Synod Standing
Committee regarding its
relationship with
Uniting VicTas



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Missional Purpose Statement

This document is sponsored and approved by the **Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Standing Committee** to express the Synod's commitment to, and relationship with, **Uniting Victoria and Tasmania** as a key expression of the UCA's community service, and advocacy in Victoria and Tasmania.

Uniting Victoria and Tasmania

Uniting Victoria and Tasmania (Uniting Vic.Tas) is a contemporary expression of the **Uniting Church in Australia's (Uniting Church's)** commitment to social justice and community care. As an agency of the **Uniting Church Synod of Victoria & Tasmania (Synod)**, **Uniting Vic.Tas** is a partner with the rest of the **Uniting Church in God's mission of reconciliation and renewal for all creation**. **Uniting Vic.Tas's particular role is to provide community services to reduce the impact of poverty, trauma and disadvantage; and to advocate for more just social arrangements.**

Finding our identity in Christ's call

The Uniting Church's commitments to social justice and community care are natural outworkings of its identity in Christ.

It understands itself as coming into being in response to the call of Jesus Christ to participate in God's mission. Within the Christian tradition, mission is about God's life and love at work in the world.

Jesus Christ revealed God's life and love by proclaiming justice, serving those in need and living and dying in solidarity with the suffering of the world. In rising to new life Christ revealed the unending hope that sustains our ongoing participation in mission.

The whole church discovers more fully who it is as it follows Christ's example in each time and place. It is a witness to the inherent dignity and worth of all people and exists to serve the world for which Christ died.



Responding to a changing context

Facing changes in contemporary society, the Synod saw the need for greater effectiveness and sustainability in many of its community service offerings. After a Synod-wide strategic review, in 2017 it brought together UnitingCare agencies and Wesley Mission Victoria within the Synod to form Uniting Vic.Tas.

Continued on the next page



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

This integration of community services was aimed at making it easier for consumers¹ to access the services they want and need. It also created a unified platform for advocacy driven by the needs, preferences and voices of community service consumers. It also enabled the consolidation of governance and risk management under a single skills-based board.

Uniting's current and future place within the wider Uniting Church

The Synod remains committed to delivering a breadth of community services with the quality, capacity, sustainability and risk management required to serve consumers faithfully and responsibly. Uniting Vic.Tas exists to provide community services to reduce the impact of poverty, trauma and disadvantage. This role sits alongside the roles of other expressions of the Uniting Church in all their forms.

Uniting Vic.Tas's vision is for a more inclusive, connected and just future for all, paying particular attention to the needs and aspirations of First Peoples, people with visible and hidden disabilities, people who identify as part of diverse rainbow communities, and people who are culturally and racially marginalised. Uniting Vic.Tas's work is made possible by the contributions of people from diverse faith traditions and none.

The Synod anticipates that partnerships between Uniting Vic.Tas and the wider Uniting Church will enable fresh ways for the Church to participate in mission. Such partnerships are made possible through shared discernment of missional priorities, and are characterised by mutual encouragement, resource sharing and open and respectful communication.

Now and into the future, the Synod anticipates that Uniting Vic.Tas will do all it can to remain a unified, impactful and sustainable organisation (both financially and operationally) that provides a breadth of effective community services that are responsive to need.



¹ "Consumers" is the term used to refer to everyone who accesses the services Uniting Vic.Tas offers. This particular word was recommended to Uniting Vic.Tas by the people accessing its services as a way of highlighting their central place and a degree of autonomy in service delivery.



Synod 2026 Part B

Members of Synod 2025 will join together online for Synod 2026 Part B on Sat 7 November 2026. This recalling of the Synod will have the purpose of electing the Synod-appointed members of the 2027 National Assembly. ***Who might you nominate as a member of the 18th Assembly in 2027?*** Any confirmed member of the Uniting Church in Australia is welcome to nominate to be a member of Assembly; however, the nomination must be submitted by a member of the Synod.

(The next in-person Synod meeting will be 11-14 September 2027 at Box Hill Town Hall, Victoria)

The 18th Assembly meeting will be held in the Adelaide CBD, on 8-13 July 2027.

As well as many other very important elements of the 18th Assembly, the meeting will be considering reports and key proposals related to the Act2 process with which the whole Church is engaging. Consideration of these matters and related decisions are likely to have a significant effect on the Church's ongoing life and mission. Therefore, it is very important to nominate people with suitable gifts and graces to share in the 18th Assembly's discernment and decision-making processes.

Provision is made in the UCA Regulations and through Synod resolutions for a total of 58 people from the VicTas Synod to attend the 18th Assembly, of whom at least six need to be of youthful age, which, for the 18th Assembly is 30 years of age or younger at the start of the Assembly meeting. Presbyteries appoint 24 of the 58 members and the Synod will appoint the remaining 34 members. Further details regarding the number of lay, ordained and youthful people required to be appointed by Synod members can be found on the Nominations website.

More information on Nominations is available [here](#)

To submit a nomination please contact a member of Synod, your Presbytery or the Synod (synod@victas.uca.org.au or 9116 1400).

Nominations close 12 noon Wednesday 7 October.

For further information regarding Assembly nominations or the online Synod meeting, email synod@victas.uca.org.au or contact your Presbytery.

From <https://victas.uca.org.au/synod-meeting/>

What can you contribute to this newsletter from your place as part of the community that is Uniting Tasmania?



President's Pastoral Prayer for Nepal

President's Pastoral Prayer for the People of Nepal August 28, 2026 As we hear of the devastating floods in Nepal, we pause in sorrow...

uniting.church

This is a helpful prayer referencing this particular disaster as well as being a useful model for prayers in similar situations. Find it at <https://uniting.church/presidents-pastoral-prayer-for-nepal/>



Event Details

Together, we'll enjoy a beautiful high tea, hosted by Alina Bain (CEO, Launceston Chamber of Commerce), featuring a keynote from family law & child protection expert Dr Patrick Parkinson AM, alongside heartfelt updates from City Mission leaders about our Children & Youth programs. Guests can also look forward to a live auction - all raising vital funds for local young people in need. \$75 per person or \$550 for a table of 8

By [purchasing a ticket](#) or making a donation to the Pay It Forward High Tea, you're not just attending a beautiful event - you're making a real difference in the life of a child or young person in our community.

Friday 23rd October, 2:00pm - 4:00pm at The Ark, 9 Killafaddy Road, St Leonards

Uniting Church Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice

The Uniting Church is updating its Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice to better support ministry agents in today's changing contexts. Following extensive consultation across the Church, the revised Code strengthens guidance around accountability, cultural safety, Safe Church practices, professional boundaries, technology and wellbeing. It also recognises the diverse settings in which ministry takes place and the Church's commitment to being an intercultural Church.

Scheduled to take effect from 1 January 2027, the revised Code seeks to equip ministry agents to exercise their calling faithfully, safely and with confidence.

Further information and links to the revised code can be found at <https://uniting.church/revised-code-of-ethics-and-ministry-practice-to-support-ministry-in-a-changing-church-and-world/>

Share your skills in finance and property and join our team!

We are keenly seeking an Administration Officer for finance and property to join the team in the UCA Tasmanian Office, following the conclusion of Anouk Vittori in this role.

If you know someone with potential interest and the necessary skills, please forward this message to them, and encourage them to consider this role using the link to the online recruitment process: <https://victas.uca.org.au/contact-us/work-with-us/>

About the Role

- The Administration Officer for Property and Finance supports the Uniting Church in Tasmania with operational administration across a range of areas including financial processing, reconciliations, and reporting through Xero.
- The role works closely with the Presbytery Treasurer, Administration Coordinator, Synod Property and Development Manager, and Synod Liaison Minister to ensure effective financial management, general office administration, event logistics, and Church communities and congregations are supported and informed.
- The position provides general office administration including property maintenance and applications, record keeping, and supporting committee meetings.
- This position is required to normally work onsite in the office in the town of Perth, Tasmania. Working from home is not normally available.
- This may be a part-time or full-time role between 0.7 – 1.0 EFT.
- This is a fixed term role for 2 years with the potential for ongoing employment.

We are looking for someone who has:

- Qualifications in administration, finance or property related field
- Excellent communication and organisational skills
- Demonstrated experience in financial processes and working with Xero
- Experience working with a not-for-profit or faith-based organisation preferred
- At least three years' experience in a similar role.

The successful candidate will:

- Be willing to undergo a Criminal History Check
- Be willing to maintain a Working With Vulnerable People registration
- Have the right to work in Australia full-time

How to Apply

- Read the position description
- Submit your PDF application via our recruitment portal, with resume and cover letter
- Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted
- A successful candidate appointed as soon as possible
- Applications from recruitment agencies will not be accepted
- Previous applicants need not apply

For all queries, please email People&Culture@victas.uca.org.au

UCA Tasmania

Charting Our Way Together

Refining Our Charter Phase

A 'what was said' report

August 2026 | lutruwita / Tasmania



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA
Presbytery of Tasmania



Have you seen the latest update to the thinking about ***Charting Our Way Together?***

This report draws together the thinking that has been taking place in the Presbytery via regional gatherings. If you haven't seen a copy please contact the Tasmanian Office via the links at the end of this newsletter. It is helpful preparation before the finalising of the Charter process in November for implementation over the next five year period.

Launceston & Northern Tasmanian Christian Women

Emily Manungo is the founder and administrator of a request only Facebook group and a Google directory that focus on connecting and building relationships between Christian women. Though primarily Launceston based it has openings to broaden to North West and North East Tasmanian information.

Suitable Christian events and groups are shared on a business list, and an events calendar. Though primarily female focused Scripture Union bushwalks manages to get into the directory and children's groups and family events get promotion. Some groups even advertise concert and conference style events which would seem to be gender diverse.

If you have groups within your faith community that wish to connect with other Christian women this may be an outlet through which to advertise.

Connections are made through:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1695381601669899/>

Directory: <https://sites.google.com/view/1st-christian-women-directory/home>

Email: northernchristianwomen@gmail.com



Thriving

By Andrew Humphries

Source:

<https://crosslight.org.au/2026/08/11/faith-placed-in-podcast/>

When Younger Generations Education and Strategy Coordinator Rev Sandy Brodine kicked off a new podcast at the end of June, it was easy to settle on a name for it.

With the aim of encouraging growth within Uniting Church congregations, the title of 'Thriving' seemed most appropriate.

"The purpose of the podcast is to showcase ways in which we can grow thriving church communities," Sandy explains.

"More than that, though, it's about creating thriving missional and worshipping communities, with an emphasis on thriving discipleship and faith formation and growing healthy and flourishing communities of faith."

In the podcast's first episode, Sandy explained to Discipleship and Advocacy Director Rev Nigel Hanscamp what she hopes will emerge from the weekly podcast.

"The one thing we want to do is to grow communities where discipleship thrives and where people are coming to know and love Jesus, to share the love of Jesus with others, and help to grow themselves as Christians, but also to grow a healthy and thriving community," she told Nigel.

With a background in ministry and faith formation within the Uniting Church, as well as extensive broadcast communications experience, Sandy is perfectly equipped to see the podcast thrive.

"'Thriving' and 'flourishing' seem to be the two words presbyteries are using around this particular space at the moment, which is why 'thriving' is such an appropriate word to capture the podcast's intent," she says.

Sandy says there isn't currently a podcast elsewhere in Australia that focuses on growing faith communities in this way.

Thriving (cont)

“It’s trying to meet the needs of congregations that are looking for ideas to grab hold of (that will allow them to thrive),” she says.

“People who listen to a specific podcast episode will hopefully come away with a few ideas on how their own congregation might grow or thrive.

“Each episode will be framed around a particular subject congregations might be interested in, so one might be on Messy Church, or all-age communities or neurodiverse children.

“It might be something a congregation can do a bit differently to help it thrive, with the podcast providing information about what that is and who might be able to offer guidance around establishing it within that congregation.

“The topics will all be very different, so people might not want to listen to it every week, but they can listen to an episode that might, for example, focus on preaching to intergenerational communities.” Sandy has a wealth of interview subjects, including some overseas, she plans to engage with to keep the podcast fresh and relevant.

“I will be talking to these people about the different ways they help communities thrive overseas and what we in Australia might be able to learn from that,” she says.

“I have a number of friends in Australia and around the world who are very heavily involved in youth and children’s ministry and intergenerational ministry, and also in growing missional communities, so I’ve got a number of people who are really excited to join me.

“I’m hoping that a bit further down the track there will be good examples of communities within the Uniting Church where things are starting to happen around Faithful Futures which we can showcase.” Sandy says obvious signs of growth within Victorian and Tasmanian congregations, rather than just the number of listeners, will mean the podcast is a success.

“If we can see evidence that there are a number of communities where shoots are growing and things are happening as a result of people listening to the podcast, it will be achieving its aim,” she says. “I’m more interested in people listening to it and taking something from it that encourages them in practice than I am about listener numbers themselves.

“There are plenty of examples of good things happening in the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania, so I’ll be looking forward to having some opportunities to talk with some of those people about what they’re doing, why they’re doing it, and how the rest of us can learn from them.” Sandy is keen to hear from any community that has an idea around one of the Faithful Futures goals they are trialling.

She can be contacted at Sandy.Brodine@victas.uca.org.au and the podcast can be found here: <https://thriving.castos.com/>

What podcasts do you listen to and find helpful

- sacred or secular

(if there is such a distinction)?

Tell us at Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au



Join us from 25-26 May 2027 in *Facing the Fire* with pastoral education from our keynote speaker Dr Naomi Paget.

Over 2 days we will look at how we provide Spiritual Care for those in Crisis and Trauma.

In a world where communities face escalating disasters - natural, environmental, and human-made - *Facing the Fire* equips chaplains and pastoral carers to meet crisis with courage, clarity, and compassion.

TASPE's annual conference delves into the realities of spiritual care amid trauma: supporting first responders, walking with survivors, and sustaining resilience in the aftermath of fires, floods, emergencies, threats, war, and public tragedies.

This year's keynote speaker, Naomi Paget (USA), brings internationally respected expertise in disaster spiritual care and crisis intervention, offering practical tools and deep insight for those who serve on the front lines of human suffering. This Conference will provide us with tools, skill and professional networks we need to assist those *Facing the Fire*.

Venue: Country Club Tasmania, Country Club Ave, Prospect Vale, TAS 7250

This year we are moving North to the Country Club Tasmania. This is a more central location, a larger venue, accommodation options and will provide more opportunities for networking and getting together.

For more information visit: <https://www.taspe.com.au/event/facing-the-fire-conference/>

Reflections

Matthew 14:13-21

The Matthew reading is the well-known story of the feeding of the 5,000 men plus women and children. There is likely to have been between 10,000 and 15,000 present. What amazes me about this reading is that the disciples cleaned up what was left over. Image a crowd of 15,000 and the mess that would have been left afterwards. The disciples cleaned up the mess and the leftover food leaving the area where they had been clean and tidy and maybe very little indication that they had been there at all. This event left to the memories of the Jesus, the Disciples and the people present and no photos to help the memory remain

There are times that we celebrate a special event maybe with hundreds of other people. One such event for me recently was a sunset concert the Queensland Opera Company performed at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs. I have photos and memories that will stay with me of the singing and the sunset behind them. There are times when God gives us memories that will stay with us for many years. Perhaps one of the things that we can do with these memories is to share them with others – just as the disciples and the people present at the feeding of the 5,000 did.



Psalms 124:8

Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Our help is in the name of the Lord. A help that is there whenever we need it and ask the Lord for his help. Yet how often do we delay asking the Lord for his help. I remember the time of my Mother's passing from this world. It was the first really close family member that had passed from me. I knew on my flight up to Cairns that she only had hours to live and saw and spoke to her before her passing. It was a time of high emotion to me. At some point I prayed to God asking for his comfort on myself and my family. Two things happened after this time. Firstly I felt as if someone was standing beside me supporting and comforting me. Secondly I had an urge to write, so I wrote my mother's eulogy and a second piece which the Minister encouraged me to use as the coffin was being lowered into the ground. During the time I spoke both the eulogy and the second piece again I felt that there was someone beside me – holding my hand.

So I go back to the question I started with "how often do we delay asking the Lord for his help?". The Lord is always there just waiting to help us in our time of need. Perhaps next time you need the help of someone or something that you ask the Lord for his assistance – his assistance is always there and willingly provided to us.

Shirley Bowers

WHAT'S ON!

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026



OCT 06	Pastoral Relations Committee 10.00am - 3.00pm
OCT 08	Public Holiday (South)
OCT 10	Refresh Day – Devonport UC (details on page 4) 10.00am – 3.00pm
OCT 11	Refresh Day - Hobart North UC (details on page 4) 2.00pm - 4.00pm
OCT 22	Public Holiday (South)
OCT 22	Presbytery Standing Committee 10.00am - 3.00pm

NOV 01	Public Holiday North Presbytery Office Closed
NOV 03	Pastoral Relations Committee 10.00am - 3.00pm
NOV 07	Synod Meeting (Zoom) 11.00am - 12.30pm
NOV 14	Presbytery Meeting Scotch Oakburn College 10.00am - 3.30pm
NOV 26	Presbytery Standing Committee 10.00am - 3.00pm

To lay preachers in the Presbytery of Tasmania, lay worship leaders and any lay person interested in leading worship.

You are invited to the next ZOOM gathering for lay preachers and lay worship leaders. Focus: Bruce and Graham talking about conference

16th October, 7.30-8.30pm
Links will be sent a few days before to lay preachers and others who express interest to the Tasmanian Office.

Checklist for UCA Congregations - October:

- Have you sent your Annual OHS Maintenance Log Book to the Presbytery Office to ensure compliance.
- Notify UCA Tasmanian Office of any changes for the Presbytery Directory – office bearers, worship times.
- Ensure Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registrations for all leaders are up to date, and notify the UCA Tas Office to update.

The next issue will be distributed in the week before the end of November. Contributions to be received at least seven days before publication. Contact Graham Booth, editor, by [email](#), phone 6331 9784 or 36 Paterson St, Launceston, 7250.