

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

<https://www.victas.uca.org.au/tasmania>

Issue No. 161

May 2018

Presbytery Gathering

Invitation for all...

9.30am – 3.00pm Saturday 2 June 2018

at Launceston Pilgrim Uniting Church



Sharon Hollis, Moderator



Rohan Pryor, SLM

- Worship will be led by the Moderator, the General Secretary and Presbytery leaders
- Commissioning of Mr Rohan Pryor as Synod Liaison Minister
- Listening to each other about Sovereignty and Treaty
- Launching new Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://uctas.org.au>

Please note that there will be a cost for lunch. RSVP Friday 25 May to the UCA Tasmanian Office tas.office@victas.uca.org.au or 6331 9784

Opportunities

New Website Coming!

Do you have or do you know of others with interesting stories relating to personal faith that can be introduced in a 200 word reflection for sharing via the website and could be used in the Reflection page of *Uniting Tasmania*? Please contact the UCA Tasmanian Office – we'd love to hear from you.

Code of Ethics/Safe Church

Code of Ethics: 10:00am to 12.30pm

Safe Church: 1.00pm to 3.00pm

North – Tuesday 21st August Westbury Uniting Church

South – Saturday 25th August at venue to be arranged



Foundations of Safe Church Awareness for anyone who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or one since June 2017. **All leaders and those with Working with Children Checks** are required to attend a Safe Church session.



The upcoming 1-day Psychological First Aid course for Emergencies Ministry is at **Rokeby Saturday June 23rd**

Details and the registration form are on the website at tccem.org.au under the 'Register for Training' tab.

Please contact the State Officer, Gus Yearsley, with any questions at gusy@tccem.org.au or through the contact form on their website.

Desk Available



This desk (pictured) is surplus to requirements at the UCA Tasmania Office. If your congregation or agency needs a desk it is available at no charge. If you require it for personal use a small donation would be appreciated. The desk would be available for collection from the office during working hours.



President-elect Dr Deidre Palmer is inviting Uniting Church members to make creative submissions interpreting the 15th Assembly theme “Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope”.

“I am inviting you to reflect on what you hear in the Assembly theme. Where, and in what ways, do you hear and see God's abundant grace at work in the world, through the life

of our church and in your own life? Where, and in what ways, do you experience God’s liberating hope and where do you see the Church embodying this liberating hope? In reflecting on this theme, what creative expressions emerge for you?

I have been inviting people to write prayers and songs, create photos and other art, that reflect the ways we hear and see God's abundant grace and liberating hope. These creative resources will enhance our preparation for the Assembly meeting and contribute to the life of the Uniting Church as we seek to faithfully respond to God’s abundant grace and liberating hope.

We will be producing a printed book to be given to Assembly members. If you would like to contribute to this book, please submit your creative contributions by May 1st through the Assembly Communications team: comms@nat.uca.org.au or contact me for any further enquiries: president-elect@nat.uca.org.au “

In order to give some guidance to your imagination the printed book for Assembly Members will include:

PRAYERS:

Gathering/Adoration and Praise/Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness/ Intercession/Sending out/Words of Mission and Blessing

REFLECTIONS ON THE BIBLICAL STORY:

1Samuel1:1-27/Ezekiel37:1-14/Luke7:36-50/Romans5:1-11/
Isaiah40:28-31/John4:3-42/1John4:13-21

COMMUNIONLITURGIES

POETRY

VISUAL ART(including photographs)

MUSIC



Jill Ruzbacky 28/01/1970 – 09/04/2018

Jill worked in the Justice and International Mission Unit of the VicTas Synod. Part of this role was maintaining links with her native Tasmania. Jill will have been known to many as Jill Cooper.

Below are edited comments from the Assembly President and the Moderator of the VicTas Synod.

On behalf of the Assembly we extend our love and prayers to Rob, Jill's family and her colleagues in the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

We pay tribute to a warm and wonderful member of our Church who shared her gifts and passion for justice so generously with so many.

Jill made an enormous contribution to our social justice efforts nationally and was a respected leader in the national Justice Staff network.

...

Let us honour Jill's love of life, her care for others and commitment to justice by following her example in our own lives.

Stuart McMillan, President, Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania is deeply saddened by the recent death of beloved staff member Jill Ruzbacky.

Jill worked in the areas of social justice and covenanting for many years. She inspired, encouraged and equipped many, many members of the Uniting Church to pursue social justice.

...

As a natural builder of community and coalitions of support she made an enormous contribution to the wider church, ecumenically, nationally and internationally.

Jill was full of joy and life, with a ready smile, and an infectious sense of humour. She treated everyone she met with warmth and respect. She will be missed by the staff of the Synod office and all across the church who knew her and her work.

We remember in prayer her husband Robert, her family and friends who mourn her most deeply and offer them our sympathy.

The best tribute we can offer Jill is to live our lives with the same joy and deep commitment to creating a kinder, more compassionate world.

Rev. Sharon Hollis, Moderator, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania



Leadership Formation

The challenges before us today as a church globally in the Western world is the intentional connections and discipling of those who are learning what it is to follow Christ. Experienced Christians are finding a rising challenge to not only understand their faith, but to own it and talk about it with others.

We have tools to hand to help us rediscover the way in which we might share our faith with others. For some, the actions of love, justice and kindness will go a long way. For others, we need to help give some words to what it is we believe and why. For some of us we are learning to pray in ways that we have never had to before. We are even learning to pray with our children and grandchildren. Life's tougher moments and experiences are those times, when our faith will hold us. How we talk about those moments with others, can matter.

Parents, grandparents, trusted adults, are people within families and communities who can help young people, and curious adults, discover what it is to know God in their lives. It is no longer the responsibility of Church leaders and clergy. Vibrant, healthy communities of faith are those that have a sense of God's purpose, are responding to the needs of the local community, have people who are in their ordinary everyday lives, knowing and sharing their faith with families and friends. They are able to discern and work with the concerns of the community of faith, and look beyond to where God is at work. They pray. They engage with the biblical story and ask questions that can bring to light meaning and learning. They are communities where the fruit of the spirit is apparent.

Ask yourself this question - how do I know God is with me this day? What is the sense of God in my own faith community? What stories come to mind that help you to answer those two questions? How and who might you share those stories with?

We are each growing in faith, at any stage of life. These are questions that we can ask at any stage of life. You are invited to step into the challenges of what it is to be a faith community in today's world. These kinds of questions will help you grow and learn in the challenging space of being faithful people of God in today's world.

If you would like Denise to visit your congregation, to listen and share around leadership formation, contact Denise 0427 647 395 or denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au



UCA's Public Liability Insurance

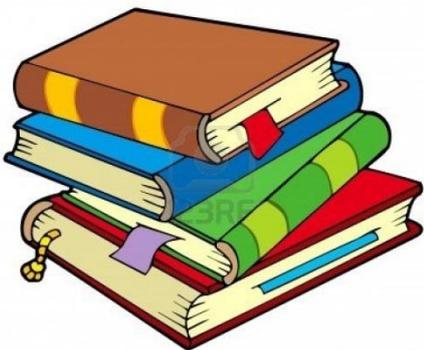
covers Uniting Church sponsored activities. UCA church services, church council meetings, UCA bible studies, ecumenical services with UCA participation, etc. are covered without a need for any church council minutes noting these activities.

If the buildings are used by a craft group, bridge club, breakfast club, etc. and these activities are run as an outreach to the community (i.e., sponsored by the congregation and attended by members) then these “not directly religious” activities should be noted in church council minutes at the start of each year as UCA sponsored activities.

If the buildings are used by another denomination for specifically religious activities not sponsored by the congregation, or if other groups meeting on church property are not sponsored by the Uniting Church, it is important to ask for and inspect a certificate of insurance held by the group. If they do not have one, the church should charge an extra \$50 per hire for public liability cover and notify Synod Insurance of the event before the event occurs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Secretary of Resource & Development Committee, Walter Abetz, on 0417 421 678 or Synod Insurance on 1800 136 747.

Book Possibilities for You



■ Leprena recently had a book launch of the book *Voices of Strength*. Please contact leprena2015@gmail.com or 6272 9234 for more information.

■ The Tasmanian Office has copies of *Building Emotional Health and Wellbeing – A Pastoral Handbook for Ministry with Children and their Families* available at no cost.

■ A selection of books from MediaCom, the Uniting Church publishing group in Adelaide are now available for perusal and sale at the UCA Tasmanian Office and will be available at Presbytery Gathering on 2 June.

This 'n That

■ Beth Vellecoop of the King Island congregation has a good problem. She needs ten to fifteen more copies of the **Together in Song hymn book** to cope with a growing congregation. If you have any to spare you can contact her on 64631183. King Island are happy to cover the postage costs.

■ Marcia Guy of St Helens also is requesting ten copies of **Together in Song** for the Fingal congregation.

- In 2018 **the Moderator**, Rev Sharon Hollis, would like to engage more in the mission areas of the wider church. She would really like to share in the week day activities of congregations, agencies, etc. If you know of places that might like to host the Moderator mid-week to share their activities with her, please know that invitations will be received warmly by email Debra.Penaluna@victas.uca.org.au or phone 9251 5216
- **A Vanuatuan Concert** will be held at the Longford Uniting Church Hall, 3 High St, Longford at 7pm on Sunday 29th April with profits to support a Dental Health Programme in Vanuatu. Cost is \$25 and bookings are essential. Contact Martha Tymms on 0417 526 346 or tmtymms@gmail.com
- **Wanted: Pulpit size Good News Bible** in reasonable condition for an elder from Vanuatu to take back to his country for use locally. Contact Rev Colleen Grieve on 0437589755.
- **Congregation Checklist for April/May:** Have you sent a copy (hard or electronic) of your **Annual Reports**, including minister's report, reports of various group activities, financial statements to the UCA Tasmanian Office? What about the Review of your **Safe Church Policies**? Look out for **Insurance Premiums**, **Online Church Surveys** which will be coming your way later next month.



what's On

May

Tues 17	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee, Launceston
Mon 28	10.30am	Resource and Development Committee, Launceston
Tues 29	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee, Launceston

June

Sat 2	9.30am	Presbytery Gathering, Pilgrim UC, Launceston
Thur 21	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee, Launceston
Mon 25	10.30am	Resource and Development Committee, Launceston
Tues 26	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee, Launceston

July

Sun 8 to Sat 14	National Assembly Meeting, Melbourne
Fri 27	Induction of Rev Fee Morrison into the Cradle Coast Parish

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember in your prayers:

- For Rohan Pryor, his family and the Presbytery of Tasmania as they navigate the use of his time and person, particularly during 2018.
- For Deirdre Palmer as she prepares to take up the role of President of the UCA and Stuart McMillan as he relinquishes this responsibility. For all of those attending Assembly as members or as supporters in the background.
- The family and colleagues of Jill Ruzbacky.

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