

# Uniting



Presbytery of

# Tasmania

<https://ucatas.org.au/>

Issue No. 163

July 2018

## Safe Church



**Keeping  
Children  
Safe**

This is about Keeping Children Safe, but it is more than that. It is about protecting the vulnerable in our communities whatever their age. It is about responding to our legal obligations, but it is also about doing what is loving and right.

**Foundations of Safe Church Awareness** sessions are for any appointed leader who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or not attended one since June 2017. (See details under Opportunities on page 2)

All “**appointed leaders**” in the Uniting Church are required to have a Working with Children Check / Vulnerable People . The Standing Committee of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has defined an appointed leader this way:

*Appointed leaders are people who are in a position of trust, influence or authority because of their leadership role within the Church. This would include, but not be limited to, lay preachers, elders, church councillors, worship leaders, anyone involved in children and youth events/ programs/activities, anyone commissioned by the Church Council to perform a leadership role, music leaders, organists, Bible study leaders, and ‘home group’ or ‘cell group’ leaders.*

*(Synod Standing Committee Resolution 16.4.14)*

### **Learning to be a safe church involves several things:**

- Understanding how to report disclosures of abuse
- Having a Culture of Safety Contact person
- Attending Safe Church Training which will help all appointed leaders understand the importance of Keeping Children Safe and their own responsibilities. The training will be offered by ministry agents and others trained to lead.

(continued page 8)

# Opportunities

## Code of Ethics/Safe Church

Code of Ethics: 10:00am to 12.30pm

Safe Church: 1.00pm to 3.00pm

**North** – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August Westbury Uniting Church

**South** – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



**UnitingWomen** is a biennial conference hosted by the Uniting Church in Australia with Christian women coming together in God's name, finding acceptance, encouragement and inspiration.

Apply via the Tasmanian Office for one of our grants to assist you to attend.

Register here: <https://cre8itevents.eventsair.com/unitingwomen-2018/registration/Site/Register>

## Craft Day In at Rowallan Park Community

Centre, 42 Jindabyne Road, Kingston from 10am-5pm on Saturday 30 June and 11 August featuring patch-working for beginners, floral felting, card making, rock painting, scrapbooking, and jewellery making.



More information from Rose 0447 089 856.

Did you know that the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (or is that Tasmania and Victoria?) has a set of Vision and Mission Principles? They are intended to provide a focus and starting point for spiritual discernment. In combination with some Statements of Intent they then inform how the church will act into the future.

The principles are outlined in the graphic beside:

It might be worth a little time to reflect on the meaning of the words and phrases contained within this statement; how they describe who we are as a church and how they might help us in being the people of God on the ground in our communities.



If you wish to go further a set of six studies has been developed which help to help us reflect on the themes developed, their connections with Scripture and how we might respond.

The prayer below is taken from the third study which focuses on Seeking Community.

### ***Closing prayer (by Rev Jennie Gordon)***

**We go on,  
in the compassionate community of love,  
finding wonder and wisdom  
in all we encounter,  
being bearers of hope, kindness and grace  
in the name of Christ,  
Amen.**

For more information and to download the studies go to:  
<https://ucavictas.org.au/visionandmission/studies/>

## UCA Assembly Meeting 2018



### Discerning the Spirit together

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> to Sat 14<sup>th</sup> of July, Melbourne

More Details:

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/>

## 120 Years of Continuous Worship: 1898 – 2018



On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 10am the

Woodbridge Uniting Church will celebrate 120 years of continuous worship in their building. All are welcome to share in this celebration, especially those who have had a connection with the Woodbridge church. We look to our future knowing that it is God's Church and we are His people called to serve Him in the Channel area and beyond. Contact Vic Malham: [vmalham@gmail.com](mailto:vmalham@gmail.com) or 6292 1778

<https://ucatas.org.au/events/category/congregation/>

## Crafty Corner Craft Group



Crafty Corner Craft Group is an outreach program run by the Launceston South Uniting Church each Friday morning between 9.30am and 11.30am during the school terms. With an average attendance of around one hundred members everyone, both male and female members are most welcome. We provide fourteen to sixteen different craft classes each week and as well have a class called "Chat and Listen" which means being able to work at anything one pleases.

We are a very friendly group and morning tea is a time when we all enjoy the food and interaction with one another. We currently meet at the Punchbowl Christian Centre and the cost which includes your morning tea is \$5.00 a morning. We have two bus trips a year which are very popular and on occasions we have a guest speaker. Before morning tea we always have a "Think Spot" and Rev Chris Duxbury, is usually in attendance.

The joint coordinators for the group are Hilary Parry and Mary Rothwell (pictured with Jo Palmer). For any enquiries: 63446210 or 63444813.



## Leadership Formation

### How do we grow in our faith?

Whether we are 95 or 5, we can each grow in our faith. Life has for us questions that invite us to ponder why God matters to us. Think about your life's circumstances at the moment. What are some of the concerns you have on a personal level? What about in relation to community groups or work situations you are part of? Where are there challenges? Where are there joys? Where are you struggling? Where do feel delight?

Now sit with these questions in light of this one - How do you know God is there? What is it about who God is that you can identify God's presence? Do you feel different because of God's presence?

These are powerful questions of faith. These are questions that continue to help us as we live out being disciples of Jesus Christ.

Powerful questions of faith remind us that we are always on a growing journey. God invites us to step into new experiences of life and new experiences of being with God, and with each other all the time. God's regenerative, creative purposes are dynamic, not static, are living, growing type of purposes.

Two challenges you might like to take up. One - share with someone where you see God working in your life, where are you growing in your faith? Two - share with someone else where you have seen them growing in their faith.

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](mailto:denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au)

**Where is God for you in each of those moments, relationships, situations, experiences?**

# Presbytery Gathering 2 June 2018, Launceston Pilgrim Uniting Church



## From the feedback forms:

### Recommend others to come? - YES

- Learning and encouragement
- Good learning and understanding of the workings of the church
- Networking/knowledge of what's happening in the Presbytery
- Awareness of/engagement with the wider UCA
- Good stories – the “business” of the church
- Good model for meeting process
- Opportunity to be part of the discernment and to contribute to the life of God's people



*Part of the Presbytery gathering included the Commissioning of Synod Liaison Minister, Mr Rohan Pryor – photos Chris Perrin*

## Comment on specific sessions

- Launch of Pres Tas website funny, informative, necessary, useful
- Important work on and communication of info on First and Second peoples
- Great to have a better understanding of Uniting
- Loved the Pilgrim stories – and ideas for other churches
- Appreciated the gentle support and respect of the meeting.

## THIRSTY GROUND VISIT ULVERSTONE



After visiting Scottsdale in April, the Thirsty Ground Choir, from Scots Church in Hobart, was on the road again to visit the Ulverstone/Sprent Parish. The choir had already visited Ulverstone in June 2017 so we knew we were going to have a great weekend.

The group arrived in Ulverstone on Friday night and enjoyed soup and pizzas and met their host families for the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon the choir members met for rehearsal at the church. Under the leadership of Eleanor Tucker and John Coleman, the choir joined our newly formed choir to practise the song *The Spirit Moves and Shines* for the worship service on Sunday. To the surprise of the church choir a bracket of new songs was added for the concert.

The concert on Saturday night was a lot of fun and the weekend rounded off with a combined worship service in which Adrian gave a powerful testimony. Lunch followed before the choir boarded the bus for their trip back to Hobart.



# A CANDIDATE'S STORY: *Annetia Goldsmith*

Getting to the point where I was ready to put myself forward for ministry training has been a long one. My story at Launceston Pilgrim really began last year.



Last year was my first year as a Candidate with the Uniting Church. I am only the second person from Tasmania to participate in a regional formation program, and the first from Launceston. The formation of ministers in the VicTas Synod of the Uniting Church is a three-year commitment on behalf of both the Synod, the Candidate and the Candidates' family and friends. Even with only part-time University theology subjects, the formation process is all consuming as you are constantly evolving towards the end goal of professional ministry. I know that my use of professional would have at least one of the Candidates annoyed with me, but coming as I do from a background of lay leadership and ministry within the Uniting Church I appreciate the gifts and strengths of both. The Uniting Church is amazing in its upholding of both and welcoming of its members into a plethora of roles.

Why I use the word professional ministry, is partly because of my love of classic literature (Jane Austin and George Eliot), and because it is a learned and academic service to which we are called on behalf of congregations and most importantly God. All ministers lay and ordained within the Uniting Church are asked to be "lifelong learners". My learning here at Pilgrim was to experience firsthand how a larger church can and should work. There are different calls upon ministers in placement as to what their work is. Some ministers are called to service using: administration skills, accounting, interpersonal skills, mediation, and counselling, artistic or organisational skills. This is apart from the ability to contextually teach and interpret the bible for their congregations, run engaging and meaningful worship services, discernment of the directions of the Spirit within their congregations and have at least a good idea of both theological and Uniting Church sacraments, doctrine and practices!

Towards ordination, my journey has seen me travel through a Period of Discernment (POD), Selection (a process of going from Congregation to Presbytery to Synod vetting). Then three years of Formation and Academic training (which I am half way through!) and the still to come all-important Exit

Panel, which determines readiness for ordination before the Placements Committee works with you to discern where you will be in ministry.

One of the most important points that I have learned from my Candidate placement, is that you do not just learn from the ministers to whom you have been placed with, (although yes, I have learnt a LOT from Rod!) but you also learn from the people within the congregations that you are placed. Shown in the way they treat each other, by what they say about each other and how they live the way of Christ. None of us is perfect, but perfection takes time and we have only one life to live. Just as I chose to answer God's call on my life to be in ministry, I also choose to answer your hospitality and am delighted to walk for a time with you.

As mentioned, last year my placement was with Launceston Pilgrim under Rod Peppiatt's supervision. This year it is with Uniting in Launceston, with Nicole Day as my supervisor. In placements such as these, Candidates are encouraged to expand their knowledge and experience of the Uniting Church and its Agencies and the role of ordained ministry within each. Sometimes it can be very clear as to the role of a minister, and other times it is a place of mystery, faith and trial and error. As in all uncertain things, it is a place for growth, from which we as Candidates are formed into ministers for God.

---

## **Safe Church** *(From page 1)*

The Synod requires a report about how the Tasmanian congregations are going in implementing the KCS policies and procedures (2018 Tasmanian Revised Collection form). The link to the Synod Keeping Children Safe website <https://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe/resources/> is an essential part of this process since it has all the up-to-date forms and information. Overall, Tasmanian congregations have done an excellent job of attending Safe Church Training, maintaining current working with children checks and reading KCS (KCS1) & working with children (WWC1) policy.

Some areas that need urgent attention by church councils include:

- A. Ensure all church councils as a group have adopted, and signed
  - i) Form KCS3: Our Statement of Commitment
  - ii) Form KCS4: Keeping Children Safe Code of Conduct
  - iii) Form KCS5: Statement of Commitment to Induction and Training
- B. Ensure that all church council members have personally signed a Code of Conduct (Form KCS4A) + those working with children/youth.

Should you wish to hold a Safe Church session in your local area, please contact the UCA Tasmanian Office for further information. [Tas.office@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Tas.office@victas.uca.org.au) or 6331 9784

## Riak Majok: Uniting at Work

In her mid-twenties Riak is a social worker with definite enthusiasm for her work. With a couple of years professional experience already behind her, working with both child protection and immigrant and refugee family resettlement with the now defunct Humanitarian Settlement Service, Riak is looking forward to her position with Uniting Launceston.



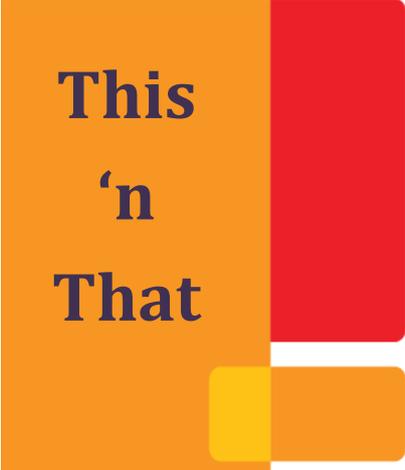
Still working with the Migrant Resource Centre three days a week, Riak is new to the Uniting PYPS (Pregnant and Young Parent Support) programme. Viewing the appointment as a continuation of her experience of working with families, Riak wants to continue to expand on her knowledge of relational aspects of social work especially between parents and children.

Consumers of Uniting's PYPS services are referred through the Gateway system with goals already identified to work towards. Riak is eager to help parents achieve these goals which commonly include parenting skills with emphasis on attachment and bonding between parent and child. Hoping to improve her own knowledge of the impact and stages of learning in child development Riak is a willing help and companion to walk with the families that she is assigned. The chances to learn as well as support are evident in her approach and demeanour.

When asked about her goal in the PYPS area Riak is definite in her reply; "For them to achieve what they want for the safety of both the children and the parents." In this she is insistent that the process be mutually respectful in reliability and flexibility encourages the parents to be equally responsible in the success of the outcomes. One of the best outcomes would be to "watch the parents grow." Riak enjoys working at Uniting because it is a hopeful space in family services.

Originally from Sudan, Riak has lived most of her life in Australia and understands some Arabic and Dinka. Her ongoing work with migrant teenagers in her other job, and work with Healthy Tasmania, bring an engagement with wider community and broaden her experiential knowledge base. Future professional interests may include growing an understanding of family violence and mental health. Private goals are sleep, television and hanging out with friends!

Still new in her position with Uniting, Riak is looking forward to long term results and happy outcomes for families she works with. *Annetia Goldsmith*



## This 'n That

■ Beth Vellecoop of King Island and Marcia Guy of St Helens are requesting copies of **Together in Song**. Contact the Tasmanian Office for more details.

■ Marilyn Goninon has copies of **Australian Hymn Book** buried in a shed at Glenorchy and even some Methodist hymn books – does anybody have a need for these?

■ Wanted: to borrow for KUCA Campout – a seven branch Menorah, a nine branch Hanukah Menorah and a small terracotta oil lamp. Contact

the Tasmanian Office.

- 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.
- **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. Thanks for the response to this. Another of the group has a similar need if you are able to find a copy.
- The **Synod Lay Education Day** will be on August 4 at Centre for Theology and Ministry Melbourne. Details to follow but please put this date in your diary. Everyone is welcome.
- **ACC Seminar** at Poatina on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Catering cost of \$20. For more information contact Walter Abetz: 10 Denison Ave, Poatina, 7302; mobile: 0417 421 678; email: [wkabetz2@bigpond.com](mailto:wkabetz2@bigpond.com)
- The Outreach Op Shop in Ulverstone and African Outreach Ministry are holding a **Christmas in July fundraising dinner** on Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Anglican Hall, Ulverstone from 5.30pm. For Tickets contact the Outreach Op Shop.
- Dr. Holly Allen, author of **Intergenerational Christian Formation**, will be in **Melbourne** over **Friday July 27** and **Saturday July 28**. Especially suitable for those in *any* ministry leadership role, participants can register for *either* or, ideally, *both* days. For best value, participants are encouraged to register with others from their church or organisation *before July 5*.
- **Congregation Checklist for July:** Have you sent a copy (hard or electronic) of your **Annual Maintenance Logbooks** due by the end of June. What about the Review of your **Safe Church Policies**?

## what's On

### July

Sun 8 to Sat 14		National Assembly Meeting, Melbourne
Thur 19	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee, Launceston
Sat 21	10.00am	Assembly report-back at Penguin
Sat 21	2.00pm	Assembly report-back – North – venue TBA
Mon 23	10.30am	Resource and Development Committee, Launceston
Tues 24	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee, Launceston
Fri 27	7.30pm	Induction of Rev Fee Morrison into the Cradle Coast Parish, Burnie Uniting Church
Sun 29		King Island ecumenical service and Assembly report-back for UCA folk

### Aug

Sat 4	2.00pm	Assembly report-back – South – venue TBA
-------	--------	--

## Praying for the Presbytery

### This month please remember in your prayers:

- For Revs. Amanda and Will Nicholas and family as they relocate to Geelong
- For Rev Fee Morrison and the people of Cradle Coast as they prepare to work together. For Rev Brian Cole as he gains a colleague in ministry
- For Annetia Goldsmith and others who are exploring the call of God in their lives
- For the faithful past at Woodbridge and many other small and larger communities and the transition into a faithful future

Published and distributed in the week before the last Sunday of each month.  
Contributions received seven days prior to publication.

Editor: Graham Booth PO Box 1076, Launceston, 7250

or (03) 6331 9784 or [tas.office@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:tas.office@victas.uca.org.au)

Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://www.victas.uca.org.au/tasmania>