

Uniting



Presbytery of

Tasmania



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

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Farewell and Thanks after 20 years

As I head towards retirement, my appreciative thanks go to the Uniting Church for the opportunity given to me 20 years ago when Rev Rob Brown, Wendy Groot and Graeme Barwick agreed to hire me as a part time secretary at the Uniting Church Tasmanian Synod Office. Less than a year later I was offered the job of Office Co-ordinator, a position I have held in both the Synod of Tasmania and then from 2002, in the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Right back then it had been 17 years since I had been employed, as I was busy raising a family of 4 children with lots of volunteering with church, community and sporting groups. It was the many skills I gained through these volunteering groups, especially Nursing Mothers Association of Australia, that gave me the skills to fulfil the roles required in my new employment with the Synod. When I started I used a facsimile machine, an overhead projector, a dictaphone (Isabel Thomas Dobson, as secretary of Pastoral Relations Committee, used this to dictate all her PRC correspondence onto, which I would then transcribe), Microsoft Works database, floppy discs, paid all invoices by cheque, had phone conference calls and most communication was by snail mail with a few Outlook emails.

Of course, gradually more and more UCA contacts got IT savvy and emails became the way of communicating so now there is now very little snail mail. In my time at the Tas Office, *Uniting Tasmania* was born, Bronwyn and I ran the Target Christmas Tree Appeal for a number of years, we started selling Presbytery Christmas cards to raise money for both Uniting World and Frontier Services, the Presbytery of Tasmania got a website, we have seen the introduction of the Essential and Health and Safety Log Book, Working with Children Registration and Safe Church, PART Forms 1, 2B, 3E etc., and changed to a new Access database, seen around 81 UCA church properties sold! and a very big one was the move of the Tas Office to 36 Paterson Street, over 2 years ago now, a very positive outcome for the Tassie Office I believe.

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Opportunities

Safe Church



✚ Saturday 15 August – Hadspen Uniting Church

✚ Tuesday 25 August – Glenorchy Uniting Church

Safe Church 1.00pm – 4.00pm

✚ **ZOOM Safe Church: Tuesday 18 August 7 - 9pm** – contact the UCA Tas Office for a link.

Safe Church Training is for anyone who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or attended over 3 years ago. All those in designated leadership positions are **required to attend** and others with Working with Vulnerable People Cards are **encouraged to attend**.



Next Presbytery Gathering

9.45am Saturday 12 September 2020

face-to-face – venue to be advised

Put this date in your diary. This extra gathering will be an opportunity to gather again due to the shortened June Gathering and cancellation of several Presbytery events in the 2020 year. Confirmation of this Gathering venue will be advised.

Presbytery of Tasmania Directory

- updated and now available

The UCA Tasmanian Office has updated Presbytery Directories available. Please contact us at 6331 9784 or tas.office@victas.uca.org.au to order your copy. A PDF copy can be emailed to you, a hard copy collected at the UCA Tas Office, or mailed to you for \$5.00. The Directory will continue to be updated and available for those congregations who are having delayed AGMs this year.



The roof on the house was straining hard on the ropes I had put in place, to stop it lifting off. The house stood on the south side of Queechy Road. It faced straight down Sandown Road, which stretched steeply down to the base of the hill. Last year I watched the 4mm glass panes bowing in their frames against the high winds, brought on by spring weather. They howled up the Tamar River, sweeping up Sandown Road, and slamming into my house, through it, around it and over it!

Then it went. The neighbour down the road said it floated like an aeroplane wing as it suddenly lifted off its moorings, snapping the ropes like string. He watched it disappear over the fence with sixty-five bricks as baggage! Only four houses in the street escaped damage that day, and it was the first time I ever appeared in the Examiner!!

This major event changed the direction of my nursing career. As I see it, God had extra plans for my life, and He wanted to broaden the scope of my practice. I had settled at working in the operating theatre at the LGH and thought this would be my place for the remainder of my career, until retirement.

Jeremiah 29:11 says; "*For I know the plans I have for you 'declares the Lord', plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future*"

I'm sure my mother prayed this scripture over my life, because it was she who suggested I try nursing. So here I was, six years later, wondering where this turn of events would lead. Looking back, I saw God's hand of protection, blessing and provision as a new roof went on, and a change of states, homes and hospitals took place. Now it was the Blue Mountains and Blacktown District Hospital.

After training as a midwife, I moved inland to be a Remote Area Nurse, (bush nurse). I returned to Launceston to become the first male midwife at the Queen Victoria Hospital. Then there was part time pastoring, part time nursing in community health, research with the Red Cross, and caring for Alzheimer's clients. In all those years God was there, blessing, protecting and providing.

You know, I would do it all again, but try a bit harder. If God had not been the catalyst in all of this, the blessings would not have been bursting from His storehouse in the way I saw Him give! So Michael, you continue to-

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path". Prov 3: 5-6

Michael Jessup, Launceston Pilgrim Uniting Church

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Throughout my time in the Tassie Office, it has been the incredible, fun, humble, smart, wise, prayerful, gentle, helpful, inclusive, caring people that have made my job so rewarding, and the reason I stuck around so long - the people of the Uniting Church in Tasmania, the people in the community with whom I was in contact, later on the Synod people in the Melbourne Office and of course my colleagues in the Tassie Office over the years. The diversity of these colleagues, the different tasks I carried out for each, and the way I was included in being part of what they were doing was truly appreciated. It's so great to work in a place where your ideas and opinions are kindly listened to, appreciated and often incorporated.

During my time at the Office, I have worked with...

Sue Langdon, Wendy Hinds, Lorna Brent, Wendy Renton, Rob Brown, Beth Hancock, Graeme Barwick, Allan Thompson, Alan Dutton, Barbara Wood, Rohan Prowse, Andrea Bartley, Bronwyn Morton, Natalie Dixon-Monu, Scott Guyatt, Alison Whish, Carol Bennett, Nigel Tapp, Rob Dalgleish, Michelle Cook, Anthea Maynard, Denise Savage, Lucia Fitzgerald, Rohan Pryor and Hoon You and of course my fellow traveller at the front desk, Bronwyn Howard.

Bronwyn started at the Synod less than a year after me and I think we have made an awesome team during that time, being able to cover for each other for leave (allowing me to do plenty of outdoor activities and volunteering) and sick days and also to do what we love best – I like the graphics of flyers and Uniting Tas and planning and organising, Bronwyn loved making money balance and stuffing envelopes and has new interest in cemeteries! I sincerely thank Bronwyn for being such a great work colleague in keeping the Tassie Office running efficiently and smoothly for all our time together.

I wish too to thank my family, husband Allan, children Chris, Nick, Tim and Scott, for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of the Uniting Church and my work place all those years ago and in the ensuing times, a workplace from which I have gained so much, from the work I have done and the wonderful people I have met and worked with.

Allan and I look forward very much to retirement and have plans to spend some months in Queensland with a grandson who is quickly growing up, aged now 8, and to explore and experience living in another place for a while (when circumstances allow). More outdoor volunteering opportunities with Wildcare and other groups of interest also await and I wonder what else?

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who have been part of this journey with me.
Sue (virtual hugs to all)

COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan Checklist

The Uniting Church provides various COVID-19 safety planning resources and information posters, plus links to the WorkSafe Tasmania **COVID-19 Safety Plan** template for small businesses. Visit the Uniting Church Tasmania webpage <https://ucatas.org.au/> where you can find **COVID-19 safety** on top of the front page.



Take time

Take the time required to assess risks, address them and only proceed once you're sure that you have people, plans and resources needed to open up again.

Take care

Consider the needs of people who are vulnerable because of their age and health as you put in place your plans. Anxiety about being in public spaces may be addressed as we demonstrate that we've worked out ways to keep people safe in this time.

As we plan gatherings for worship and other activities again, the **COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan Checklist** will help you ensure that you do so safely:

SECTION A: PREPARING A COVID-SAFE BUILDING

This section should be completed before re-opening any building for worship or any other type of gathering. This needs to be completed only once.

SECTION B: KEEPING A BUILDING COVID-SAFE

This section outlines the ongoing and recurring measures required to keep buildings safe in which to gather. This needs to be completed and updated regularly.

SECTION C: COVID-SAFE GATHERINGS

This section outlines the specific measures required before/during/after every gathering for the safety of all attendees. This needs to be completed before and after every gathering.

SECTION D: COVID-SAFE KITCHENS and FOOD SHARING

This section outlines specific requirements for morning/afternoon tea and any other activity where food/drinks are shared. This needs to be completed before every such activity.

The requirements shown in all sections are based on current Government directives. All requirements must be followed to ensure COVID-compliance.





Leadership Formation

The Uniting Church in Australia affirms the gifts and ministry calling of both lay and ordained members. As part of communities around Australia, we are asked to be people of faith with a high standard of care and engagement that maintains integrity of the other without bringing harm. It is part of our DNA to act justly among the communities in which we live, work, worship, play and learn.

As such, there are codes of conduct that leaders across the life of the church are asked to adhere to, as part of demonstrating to our communities a commitment to be the best that we can be, and maintain a care for the other with integrity.

For anybody in a local lay leadership role, there is a Code of Conduct for you. Whether you read the Bible regularly in worship, participate in decision making areas of a local faith community, or have a leadership role with significant responsibilities in the life of the church, we are asked to adhere to this Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders.

Did you also know, that everyone who is a recognised Lay Preacher in the life of the church has a Code of Ethics for Lay Preachers. Ministers too have a particular Code of Ethics for Ministry Practice which is required ethical ministry.

These documents are all available online for you to be aware of and know what is expected of Lay Leaders, Lay Preachers and Ministers in the life of the Uniting Church.

To find them you can type in Code of Ethics Uniting Church to an online search engine and links will appear that can take you through to each different Code. Alternatively, you would be welcome to get in contact with the Tasmania Office to have a copy forwarded through to you.

The importance of these Codes cannot be underestimated. Our awareness of them means that as a whole body we can help keep each other accountable in the way we conduct ourselves as we engage in ministry and mission in the world. It helps us be the best that we can be, to build community trust and respect, which can be much needed in some places. It is also part of how we keep children, youth and vulnerable people safe in our communities of faith and beyond. These Codes are safeguards for the whole we are, as part of Christ's church actively engaging with the world around us. They are a gift to us.



May we continue to seek to be the best we can be wherever God calls us, however we respond, for the sake of the other, the vulnerable, disadvantaged, hurt, lonely, friend and stranger.

Presbytery's strategic focus: helping congregations and faith communities to thrive, and to utilise their resources for mission.

Denise Savage, Presbytery Minister for Leadership Formation

If you would like Denise to listen and share around leadership formation, contact Denise 0 427 647 395 or denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au.



Safe Church Training Implementation Workshop

In early 2021 the National UCA Safe Church training program will be released. This will be an opportunity for all leaders to update their safe church training awareness. The implementation process for safe church matters will probably not change significantly.

This year we have an opportunity to focus the emphasis of the upcoming Safe Church Training awareness workshops to more of a practical workshop, answering questions and making sure church leaders understand how to implement the policy and procedures in their context.

During the Safe Church sessions in August, there will still be a 30 minute overview of the keeping children safe policy and principles, followed by a guided process of implementing Safe Church processes for your local church.

- **Saturday 15 August – Hadspen Uniting Church**
- **Tuesday 25 August – Glenorchy Uniting Church**
 - Safe Church 1.00pm – 4.00pm
- **ZOOM Safe Church: Tuesday 18 August 7 - 9pm**



– contact the UCA Tas Office for the Zoom meeting details & link.



Intergenerate Conference and Learning

A number of Uniting Church leaders across Tasmania had the privilege of attending an online National conference called “**Intergenerate**” in June.



This conference aimed to encourage faith communities to connect in life, ministry and mission across the generations.

The beauty of this intergenerational framework is the inclusive nature of all generations, not just focusing on children. It celebrates people of all ages, emphasises who we are, not just what we do, and encourages intentional relationships and connections. The UCA members in Tasmania follow the call of Christ in their family lives, congregations and communities in such life-giving ways. This is worth acknowledging and celebrating. As we seek to be the body of Christ, are there intentional ways to encourage mutual connections, relationships and faith sharing across the generations? (this may include 80 year olds listening and praying for 60 year olds, and vice versa)

Over the past decades, who was it in your faith community or Christian connections who noticed you, knew your name and nurtured your faith? *A couple called Kay and John Hunter noticed, named and nurtured me through the early years of motherhood. They regularly came for a meal and simply showed love to my family and I. Kay has disciplined and mentored each member of our family. What a precious gift.*

The conference and subsequent catch-ups have allowed deeper conversations and ways of reflecting how we can encourage, celebrate and incorporate intergenerational understanding in our relationships, mission and ministry. I hope other participants and *UnitingTas* readers will share their own reflections over the coming months.



Code of Ethics workshops – dates postponed

We have been informed by Synod that the second Code of Ethics material will NOT be available until September. We are therefore postponing the second Code of Ethics session until we have further notice. The topic will be on "Reporting abuse, grooming and the Code of Ethics".

Tasmanian applicant for Ministry of the Word

At the June gathering of Presbytery the members heard from Lisa Haynes by Zoom. Lisa has recently completed a Period of Discernment, as well as a Master of Ministry degree by distance education (received in absentia due to COVID-19, see picture at right). Following a postal ballot the Presbytery enthusiastically affirmed Lisa's response to the call of God in her life, by endorsing her application for the Ministry of the Word in the Uniting Church. The next step will be for Lisa to participate in the annual Selection Conference later in the year. Please continue to pray for Lisa, David and the children, as the process continues, and they prepare for the next steps in following the call of God for Lisa's ministry and their life as a family.



COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 / MAY 2020



Leprena
U A I C C Tasmania

Please find attached a blessing from Leprena. Did you read their newsletter attached to the June *Uniting Tasmania*? If you would like to be added to their newsletter mailing list please contact UAICC at leprena2015@gmail.com or 6272 9234 or look them up on Facebook.

Let Nothing Disturb You

*Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
all things will pass away.
God never changes;
patience obtains all things,
whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices. Amen.*



St. Teresa of Avila wrote a beautiful poem during her lifetime that has been used as a prayer throughout the centuries. It is simple in its format, which is why many turn to it in times of distress. If you are feeling afraid or anxious right now, consider praying this prayer, opening your heart to God and adding your own words, invoking God's help in your hour of need.

This
'n
That

■ **Sunday 25 August** Refugee and Migrant Sunday

■ **Share Sunday** August's Share Sunday is an opportunity for us to celebrate the community services being undertaken by our agencies, parish missions, presbyteries and congregations. This year's focus is youth homelessness, with the theme "a place to call home". Uniting Vic.Tas has compiled worship resources to help your congregation mark

this important event, which occurs on August 30. Find out more [here](#)

■ **Uniting Winter Share Appeal** means more than ever before to so many people. In these trying times, the face of vulnerability is changing. Thousands of Victorians and Tasmanians are finding themselves unemployed for the first time and are already reaching out to Uniting services for support - and this is only the start. With your support we can assist people of all ages and stages of life who are experiencing hardship and dealing with life's complexities. Now more than ever, all of our services across Victoria and Tasmania are working together as one to provide tangible support to those experiencing crisis, disadvantage and social isolation. Your [donation](#) today will allow those in greatest need to be nourished, sustained and strengthened during this period of uncertainty and beyond.

■ **The Uniting Church offices at Wesley Place** now host 417 staff from the *UCA Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting Vic.Tas, Uniting AgeWell* and *UEthical*. The 35-storey gleaming glass tower at 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, shares a green public space with the restored 162-year-old Wesley Church and its associated buildings.



Synod General Secretary Rev Dr Mark Lawrence says moving Synod operations and mission staff from 130 Lt Collins St to Wesley Place presents exciting opportunities to work in close proximity with staff from the agencies and congregations,. "There are already a lot of ways in which the different parts of the Uniting Church family engage with and relate to each other," he says. One day we may be able to visit and see the building for ourselves! Read more about this exciting new opportunity in [Crosslight](#) or visit the Synod website and search for Wesley Place.

Synod Reception phone number is now (03) 9116 1400. Source: *Crosslight* June 2020

Praying for the Everyone

- Thanks for the opportunities that being able to worship together once again is bringing, or to continue with online options and keep safe
- For the people of Victoria in lockdown once again....family, friends and church communities, and high-rise residential towers
- For families who are separated by distance, barriers, health issues
- For those in our communities who are working to keep us safe at this time – state and local government leaders, health workers, cleaners and those who businesses we frequent.
- For our church leaders as they navigate changes in our ways of meeting and connecting

Congregational Checklist for August

- Annual reports, including reports from ministers, chairpersons, various church activities, financial statements to be sent to UCA Tasmanian Office (if you have had the opportunity to hold your AGM yet)
- Review of Safe Church Policies (following AGM)
- Notify UCA Tasmanian Office of any changes to Presbytery Directory – office bearers, worship times etc. (following AGM) We have sent a copy of your entry to the Church Council secretary.
- Check items in Annual Maintenance Statements Log Book for June and send to UCA Tasmanian Office
- Annual Manse Inspection Report to UCA Tasmanian Office

what's On

August

Tues 4	10.00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tues 11	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Sat 15	1.00pm	Safe Church, Hadspen UC
Tues 18	7.00pm	Safe Church Zoom Meeting
Tues 25	1.00pm	Safe Church, Glenorchy UC
Thur 27	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Tues 25	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee

September

Tues 1	10.00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Sat 12	9.45am	Presbytery Gathering
Tues 15	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Thur 24	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Tues 29	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee



Uniting

This year's Share Sunday, Sunday 30 August 2020 theme is "a place to call home", focussing on Youth Homelessness.

Uniting has just released the 2020 resources for a full worship service.

- A sample service outline, including a liturgy, reflection and suggested hymns
- PowerPoint presentation
- Stories of people supported by the Church's faithful generosity.

The resources are available to view and download from the Uniting Vic.Tas. website at: [2020 Share Sunday Worship Resources.](#)

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://ucatas.org.au>

The map of Tasmania including King and Flinders Islands has been adapted from a Creative Commons file
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Tasmania_location_map_blank.svg