

Uniting



Presbytery of

Tasmania



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

Issue No. 187

September 2020

Giving thanks for the Queenstown Uniting Church

The Uniting Church is grateful for the faithful Christian witness and practical care for the local community that has been possible from the church site in Queenstown for the last 120 years, often in partnership with other Christian denominations. We know the church is the people, not the building. The Presbytery is currently working with local leaders to explore strategies for future ministry on the West Coast. Without a local congregation with the energy and time to care for and make regular use of the church, now it is time for a new owner and new possibilities.

The land was purchased in 1897 by a Wesleyan (Methodist) minister and some businessmen of the district. In that same year a railway linked Queenstown to Strahan. By 1901 the mining boom had transformed a miners' shanty town, *Penghana* in the Queen River valley, into *Queenstown*, Tasmania's third largest town which at the time boasted fourteen hotels.

The Queenstown church property as it is now was transferred to the Uniting Church in 1977.

The Church is committed to exploring Sale of the church will support ongoing mission and ministry in Queenstown and the West Coast.



Picture: Knight Frank / Harcourts West Coast

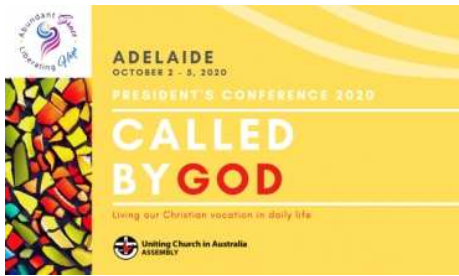
A service of thanksgiving is being planned by the Presbytery.

5 COVID-safe Behaviours



See page 9 for details

Opportunities



On Saturday October 3, Dr. Deidre Palmer will host 3 x 1 hour Webinars that showcase the theme.

On Sunday October 4, worship will be offered in two ways –

1. Livestreamed through the Assembly Online Worship forum
2. As a written liturgical resource and a short pre-recorded sermon that you may use with your own community.

For more detail see page 4.



Next Presbytery Gathering

9.45am Saturday 12 September 2020

face-to-face – Launceston North Uniting Church

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.

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.



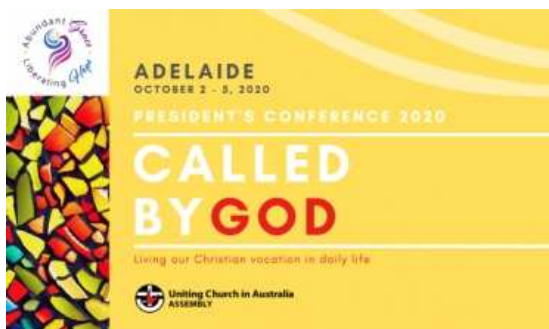
Reflection



As the Church
we have been called
into spaces
that we had not expected.

Dr. Deidre Palmer

Changes to President's Conference 2020



It is with sadness that I write to advise you that we have decided to defer the face to face President's Conference, Called by God, until next year 29 April – 2 May, 2021.

If you have registered for the Conference, we will send you a refund in the coming month.

I will still be offering an opportunity for the Church to gather online on the first weekend of October to open up the conversation about God's call to us in our everyday lives, but it will be in a shorter form, with a 'taster' of what the full Conference will hold next year.

On Saturday October 3, I will host 3 x 1 hour Webinars that showcase some of the content of the conference:

SESSION ONE: CALLED BY GOD 1-2pm AEST

We will hear about the Biblical themes on call and some insights and reflections about our response to crises in our contemporary Australian context.

Speakers include: Rev Dr Ockert Meyer and Rev Dr Stephen Robinson

SESSION TWO: EVERY MEMBER MINISTRY 2.30-3.30 AEST

We will hear from people who are living their Christian vocation in various ways through their work settings, through ordained and lay ministries, through advocacy and community work, and through their everyday living.

SESSION THREE: FAITH IN PUBLIC LIFE 4-5pm AEST

A discussion with people who are engaged in public life in a rich diversity of ways, who will invite us to think about ways we are living our Christian vocation, and embodying God's justice, compassion and hospitality through our local congregations, community service, advocacy and work context.

Speakers include: Assoc. Prof. Lorna Hallahan, social worker and disability advocate currently working as a researcher for the Royal Commission on Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability; Mr Mark Henley, Manager of Advocacy and Communication for Uniting Communities in Adelaide; Prof. Ian Olver, medical oncologist,

cancer researcher, bioethicist and lay preacher; Dr Sureka Goringe, National Director of Uniting World, Rev Sandy Boyce, President of Diakonia World Federation

On Sunday October 4, we will offer worship in two ways –

1. Livestreamed through the Assembly Online Worship forum

2. As a written liturgical resource and a short pre-recorded sermon that you may use with your own community.

The Webinars will be recorded and they will be made available for you to use in any of the many forums you have for Christian education in your community. If you decided to use them, I would be delighted to be invited to join with you as you do this.

It is free to register for the Saturday webinars. For more details on the webinar and registration, see <https://uniting.church/presidents-conference-2020-webinar/>. We hope you might join us online for these sessions, and we hope that you will save the date for the deferred conference and join us as we gather face to face then.

This global pandemic on top of the crises caused by bushfire, flood and drought, has called us to deeply consider and reconsider how we might be bearers of God's love, compassion, hope and comfort in this time of crisis. I have been encouraged and inspired by the ways our Church, our local congregations, faith communities, community service agencies, aged care organisations, schools, and Councils of our Church have responded with such grace, generosity, kindness and hope. Thank you for being the people of God, pilgrims on the way with Christ who continues to be our Light, our Hope and our Risen, Crucified Lord.

Dr Deidre Palmer

President, Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

DIY + BYO CAMPING WEEKEND

when? 25 — 27 SEPT 2020

where? SCOTCH OAKBURN COLLEGE, VALLEY CAMPUS, FINGAL

what happens? a relaxing and replenishing largely self- catered weekend

cost—Tent/Campervan \$5 per person per night (inc Saturday evening meal)

Cabin \$15 per person per night (inc Saturday evening meal)

more information? Contact Anthea: 0434 337 023 or by E:mail

anthea.maynard@victas.uca.org.au



The Great Outback BBQ is back for 2020!

We are getting excited about our Great Outback BBQ and like you we really don't need an excuse to catch up with family and friends. As Governments ease restrictions why not have a Great Outback BBQ to celebrate? Whilst getting together you can change the lives of those doing it tough in remote Australia. This year we really need your help.

Each year, people from all over Australia gather 'round the BBQ to show support for Aussie Farmers doing it tough. The Great Outback BBQ is an opportunity to do something fun and fundraise to make a real difference. Get the barbie sizzling with sausages or warm up the "billy" and ask your friends, family, colleagues for a donation to Frontier Services. This is a great opportunity to connect with others for a good cause!

This year is very special because our farmers need you now more than ever. They are trying to rebuild after the worst drought on record, devastating bushfires and now COVID19 which means some farmers cannot get their stock sold because overseas markets are closed. The disasters just keep coming for them, but you can show you care by holding a Great Outback BBQ and raising necessary funds to provide a helping hand. These recent natural disasters have had a devastating effect on many living on isolated properties around our country.

Please remember when you come together to adhere to current government advice in your local area; physical distancing and hygiene are still important.

By hosting a Great Outback BBQ, you are providing our farmers hope for the future.

From Frontier Services website <https://greatoutbackbbq.rallybound.org/>

We are the Uniting Church - Our Faith series

This six part series of short videos introduces the concepts of Christian faith as understood and practiced in the Uniting Church in Australia, told through the voices of the women and men in a range of ministries.

"Our Faith" was produced Dr Craig Mitchell for the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly. For more information about the Uniting Church, please visit <https://uniting.church>

Each video goes for 7-8 minutes and they feature a range of leaders from across the Uniting Church – congregational ministers, university chaplains, college lecturers, and lay members.

1. ***Believing in God*** –

Rev Dave Williamson, Rev Eseta Waqabaca-Meneilly, Dr Deidre Palmer

2. ***Believing in Jesus Christ*** – Rev Dr Geoff Thompson

3. ***Believing in the Holy Spirit*** –

Rev Dr Paul Dongwon Goh, Rev Steph Tai, Rev Dr Tim Hein

4. ***Receiving the Scriptures*** –

Rev Dr Monica Melanchthon, Rev Stuart Cameron

5. ***Living as God's Church*** –

Rhanee Tsetsakos, Rev Dr Andrew Dutney, Rev Charissa Suli,
Rev Alistair Macrae, Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler

6. ***Serving God's Mission*** – Rev Alistair Macrae, Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler

The videos are designed to open up discussion and be a resource for learning – they're not statements of dogma, even though they're full of doctrine. There's a discussion guide currently being completed. There are also transcripts which will be available.

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7374900>

<http://growing-disciples.org.au/our-faith-video-series/>



Target Christmas Appeal 2020

Target have committed again this year to raising much needed funds for the people Uniting serve. This will be the 29th year of partnership with Target, and we are very grateful for their continued support.

The world has certainly changed since last Christmas. 2020 has been an extraordinary year with much uncertainty and we will continue to feel the impacts of the pandemic across our work.

What we do know, is that many people reaching for our support have never needed it before, so this year's Christmas Appeal will be more important than ever, albeit a little different.

Last year the Appeal raised over \$240,000 with a further \$397,000 matched funding from Target and their customers to help families and communities hit hard by the devastation of the summer bushfires.

This year's Christmas Appeal will be slightly different to previous years in that it will be entirely focussed on raising funds. Although we receive many gifts from community organisations directly, we will not be accepting gifts at Target stores this year. We hope that keeping things simple for both organisations will keep the focus on fundraising efforts and distribution of aid.

The good news is that there will be many ways to donate both instore and online, including a refreshed approach to the gift tag offer to encourage customers to purchase and donate.

Stay tuned for the finer details, but please start thinking about how you can promote the Appeal in your own networks. There will be a full suite of social media and digital content plus key messages and media opportunities to share with you ahead of the official launch on Sunday 1st November.

Finally, you may have seen that Target are undergoing an organisational restructure. Though there will be a number of changes, at Christmas time this year the Target network will still be operating over 260 stores. There will be changes to a small number of store locations that have been converted to Khub stores but we will communicate directly with the relevant state teams about those sites.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. Your generosity makes a real difference.

*From the National Director of
UnitingCare Australia*



COVID-safe behaviour keeps the community safe

We all have the opportunity and a responsibility to protect lives and livelihoods by maintaining 'COVID-safe behaviours' – it's that simple and yet, incredibly effective.

There are 5 key behaviours that we must all be aware of and follow, every day. These behaviours will ensure that we lower the risks and continue to save lives during the pandemic. Remember them, remind your family and friends about them and keep them up.



COVID-safe behaviour 1 – **Stay at least 1.5 metres away from others.**



COVID-safe behaviour 2 – **Wash your hands often with soap and warm water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitiser when out and about.**



COVID-safe behaviour 3 – **Stay at home if you are unwell and always cover coughs and sneezes.**



COVID-safe behaviour 4 – **Get tested for COVID-19 if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms.**



COVID-safe behaviour 5 – **Be aware of, and follow, current gathering, business and travel restrictions.**

If we all follow the 5 key behaviours, Tasmanians will be doing everything they can to look after those we love most and keep our community safe and strong



Leadership Formation

There are times when I have said, “I wish God would just put in a letter what I need to do, or tell me where God wants me to be.” There are times when we enter periods of discerning God’s call in our lives. We enter deep questions, search for meaning and try and make sense of the gifts and skills we have for their purpose in a wider world, and in our faith communities.

The Uniting Church has a process for all its members to engage at any time, at any stage of life. A Period of Discernment is an intentional time of journeying with these deeper questions of call and purpose in our lives with God. With a mentor and learning opportunities both informal and formal, a person can engage this process. Sometimes we notice a pull or a tug at something and we wonder what that means. Sometimes we are trying to make sense of what it is we bring to the wider world. Sometimes we are looking to just be intentional in the way we live life as disciples of Jesus, and we want to do that with more integrity, or faithfulness. Sometimes we might need to discern what our working role brings, our vocation. Am I still called to be a nurse, a farmer, a mechanic. Sometimes we have a sense of call for a specific ministry in the life of the church and we are needing to test out that sense of call.

There are many people across the life of the Presbytery who have engaged in a Period of Discernment. With their mentor they have worked out a plan of how they will engage their time, what kinds of learning will assist them, who will be engaged in conversations with, what kind of spiritual and faith practices will help to nourish, sustain and enliven their journey. They meet regularly to discuss the journey and insights that are gained from the learning opportunities and intentional practices of faith. A mentor will help you wrestle with and tease out what it is you are discovering and what that means for the call you have in your life.

The Uniting Church understands that each person is gifted with particular gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God and to participate in the Body of Christ. Gifts given from the Holy Spirit. Each gift has a corresponding service whereby we can contribute our time and talents in the activity of God in the world around us.

If you are wondering what your gifts are, or if you are wondering about what God might be calling you to, then perhaps considering undertaking a Period of Discernment will be helpful in your journey of faith. Contact any of the ministers or the Presbytery Ministers to find out some more.

Presbytery of Tasmania - assisting faith communities and congregations to thrive and use resources well for mission

Denise Savage, Presbytery Minister for Leadership Formation

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

Praying for the Everyone

- For the people of Victoria still in lockdown once again....family, friends and church communities, aged care centres and their chaplains
- For families who are separated by distance, barriers, health issues
- For those attending church services as they adjust to the new normal
- For those who are remaining at home to worship as churches open
- For elders, lay preachers and ministry workers as they seek new ways of being church and caring for people in their communities
- 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 September** and send to UCA Tasmanian Office
- Annual Manse Inspection Report to UCA Tasmanian Office

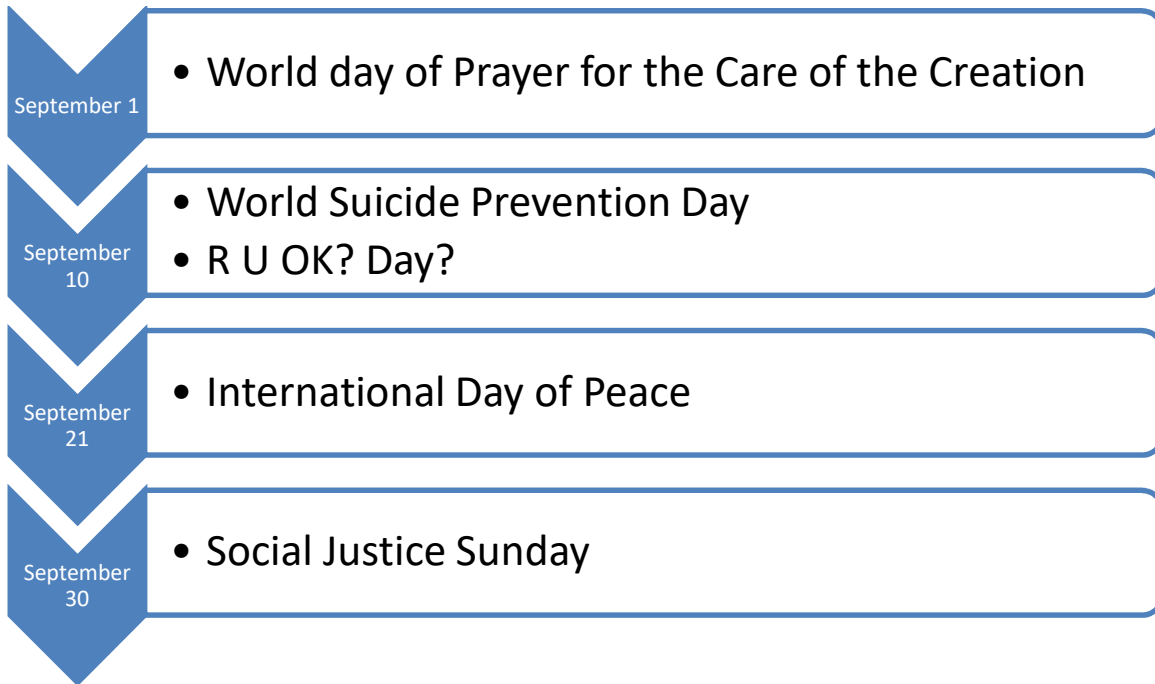
what's on

September

Tues 1	10.00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Sat 12	9.45am	Presbytery Gathering L'ton North UC, Newnham
Tues 15	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Thur 24	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Tues 29	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee

October

Tues 6	10.00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Thur 29	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee



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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