

Uniting



Tasmania



Presbytery of

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

Issue No. 189

November 2020

The borders may be opening, but....



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



Stay Safe



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.**

For more information including links to WorkSafe Tasmania's COVID-19 Safety Plans and Uniting Church checklists, see menu COVID-19: <https://ucatas.org.au/>

Opportunities

The Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children

Nov 25-27, Dec 1,2, Parkville – NOW ONLINE

This excellent professional development opportunity is for **Ministers, Chaplains, Pastors, Thoughtful Practitioners** and **Christian Educators** and especially suitable for **church-based, school-based** and **community-based** expressions of ministry.

More information: [2020 Intensive](#) or e-mail Erlinda.love seed@pigrim.edu.au

Lay Preacher / Worship Leader Days for the Year of Mark

These will operate as regional hubs. Dates and places are not finalised as of going to print, but will look like this:

21st Nov – North West Region at Ulverstone UC

28th Nov – Southern Region in Hobart

5th Dec – Northern Region at Launceston North UC

The time will probably be 10am to 3pm and will consist of worship, reflection on the lectionary focus for the Year of Mark, and discussion about issues facing lay preachers and worship leaders. Look out for the website, Facebook and email for further details or contact Denise Savage or Graham Booth through the Tasmanian Office.

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.





O loving Lord,

You are the source of life,
sustaining us in every stage of life's journey;
You are the mother earth,
ageing trees with time and nourishment,
and embracing each fallen leaf back to its roots.

O loving Lord,

today we pray for our senior citizens,
keep those living in isolation in your sight,
enfold others in your safety.
In this pandemic, we remember the frontline staff,
protect these ordinary heroes as they leave home and care for the elderly.

O loving Lord,

we also lament for the Royal Commission findings.
We hear stories of abuse and neglect;
We hear of greed for profit at the expense of quality care;
We hear of ill-fated policies shifting the duty from the government to consumers;
We hear of a culture that keeps the aged away from their families.

Forgive us, Lord,

through the prophets, you have taught Israel - do not rebuke the elderly harshly,
but exhort them as if they were our own parents
In Jesus, we have learned the Son of Man
did not come to be served but to serve; .
and God made the old to have hopes and dream dreams. *(Cont. on next page)*

Lead us, Lord,

Direct our energy about past regrets
into blessings to the people near us.
Turn our attention from fault finding,
to seeing each person made in your divine image;
Stop us from only using money to fix the problem,
Build the capacity of our families and community for care.

Guide us, Lord,

since the ancient times, your grace rises in the presence of the aged,
and your blessing is honoured among the elderly.
Through ancient cultures, we have learned:
Respect for the elderly is the foundation of all social goodness.
Raise us in your grace, Lord, as we rebuild a culture of respect;
Send your blessings, as we honour life together you.
Amen.

Written by Rev. Dr Ji Zhang, Assembly theologian-in-residence and accessed via
the [Uniting Church Assembly website](#).



Target Christmas Appeal 2020

Watch out for new ways to contribute towards this appeal which is one way in which you can show care towards the most vulnerable in our society. <https://www.unitingcarechristmasappeal.com.au/>



Shaped by Jesus

What does that mean for us?
<https://uniting.church/shapedbyjesus/>

Encountering the Human and Divine

Below you can find details of an online Advent/Christmas workshop with excellent UCA biblical scholars, teachers and ministers Rev Dr Robyn Whitaker and Professor Rev William (Bill) Loader. Event: November 13th and 14th, 10am – 3pm each day – ONLINE

Themes:

- Introduction to Mark's Gospel
- Power in Mark
- Advent & Christmas Readings
- Mark's Approach to Scripture

More info: <https://victas.uca.org.au/event/encountering-the-human-and-divine/>

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/encountering-the-human-and-divine-tickets-123616100083>



What does this mean for us?

<https://uniting.church/zero-emissions-church/>



TCC Emergencies Ministry

Our pastoral care ministry into evacuation centres and the like is seeking new volunteers to be trained and accredited for future deployment. This training day is a prerequisite to becoming an accredited Emergencies Ministry volunteer, which opens the door for volunteers to serve as part of Tasmania's Emergency Management Arrangements.

Our next training days for faith-based pastoral care in emergencies and disasters are:

Saturday 5th December 2020, Paranaple Convention Centre (Aberdeen Room), Devonport, 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. Cost \$110 (including GST)

Saturday 13th February 2021, Hobart, (date and venue TBC)

Snacks, lunch and course materials are included.

The training day covers Psychological First Aid and Emotional Spiritual Care. Specific topics include:

- introductions to the emergency setting and TCC Emergencies Ministry
- impacts of emergencies on individuals and communities
- stress
- community and individual recovery after disasters
- practical exercises around caring for people and practising Psychological First Aid.

The day also covers those who require a refresher (recommended every two years and required every three years).

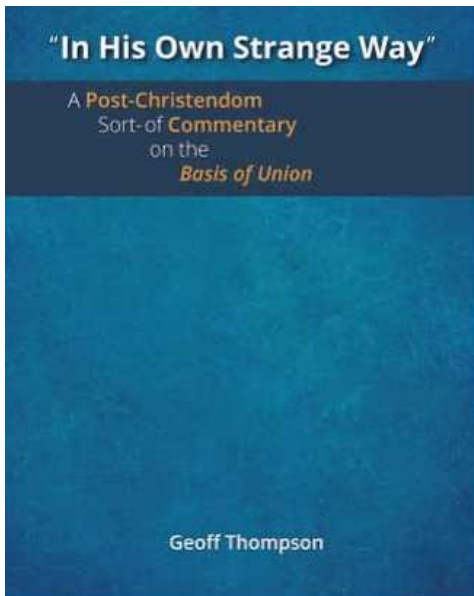
If you would like to participate, or nominate someone to be involved, please go ahead and register online now. Registrations are open for December 5th and will be open soon for the February event.

There are further details and the registration form on our website (https://www.tccem.org.au/register_for_training). Please note that this training day requires 2 or 3 hours of pre-reading.

Given the nature of our ministry, there is always the possibility that the training may be postponed if we are busy with an emergency/disaster.

If you would like more information, please be in touch with Gus Yearsley gusy@tccem.org.au

For more information about TCC Emergency Ministry go to www.tccem.org.au



In His Own Strange Way

by Geoff Thompson

Reviewed by Ennis Macleod

It is always a useful thing to reexamine one's roots; to see what they say about what is happening with us today. That's what Geoff Thompson's 2018 'sort-of commentary' of the *Basis of Union* does. Our churches have members who lived through union in 1977, but increasingly, many members have no knowledge of the document around which the decision for union was made, or the fact that in 1997 this document

was recognised as the theological foundation of the UCA. Geoff's book is an engaging resource around which groups could dip into the *Basis*, and examine for themselves what realities and opportunities are opened up in the world of 2020, from a text that still has relevance today

He examines what was established as the founding theology of the UCA and demonstrates its relevance to the post-Christendom world in which we find ourselves. An illuminating image he proposes is that the *Basis* is useful when we see it not as a map with defined routes to follow, but as a compass that provides directions in unfamiliar territory.

Each chapter of the book examines the relevance of a section of the *Basis* to issues that arise in the post-Christendom world, with easy to read summaries headed 'Post-Christendom reality' and 'Post-Christendom opportunity,' as well as relevant questions and Bible passages to think about individually or as a group.

[The book is available through Mediacom and can be ordered online via this link.](#)



Happy birthday Crossroaders!

Crossroads North recently celebrated their 27th birthday with a party at the Ravenswood Over 50s club and the 'all important' birthday cake, being shown here by Daniella.

Uniting Church President's Conference

Uniting Church members from every state and territory came together in early October to reflect on what it means to live out their Christian vocation as part of the President's Conference webinar "Called by God." The webinar was an entrée to the rescheduled face-to-face conference which will take place in 2021 from 29 April – 2 May.

The webinar included 13 panellists who shared personal stories of the ways God has called them and reflected on the processes of personal and communal discernment that have guided them in living their Christian discipleship in daily life. President Dr Deidre Palmer said it was inspiring to hear so many personal stories of call and an encouraging time of supporting one another in online community.

On Sunday, many participated in a recorded online worship which continued to draw on the theme of living our Christian vocation. You may choose to watch the recorded worship alone, or with others to share in faith and hope.

Webinar: <https://uniting.church/woven-together-in-christ/>

Worship: <https://vimeo.com/464603902>



Retirement of Dr. Ian Smith as Lay Preacher

At Pilgrim UCA Launceston on October 25 Dr Ian Smith concluded over sixty years service as a lay preacher.

As a young man of 32, Ian began lay preaching in 1957, and was subsequently accredited by the Methodist Church. For over 60 years Ian has exercised the ministry of lay preaching in both small and large congregations. Ian now recognises that at the age of 91 the time has come to conclude this aspect of his Christian discipleship, and he will deliver his final lay preaching appointment at the Pilgrim service on Oct 25.

Ian and his wife Kay moved to Launceston five years ago after living most of their life in NSW.

Originally trained as a teacher, Ian developed particular strengths in higher education and held very senior positions in a range of educational institutions in New South Wales, as well as serving on the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board. He was also involved as a wise head in the disciplinary processes of a couple of Australia's major banks.

When he retired he was approached by the NSW Synod of the Uniting Church to be the Warden (i.e. Principal) of the Centre for Ministry the new training college for ordained and lay ministries in NSW/ACT. In his so-called "retirement" he held that full-time position for four years. Ian was appointed to that role not only because of his status as a senior educator, but also because of his commitment to the Christian faith, and his awareness that God's hand has guided him through all the changes of his life – personal and professional.

Ian is one of the large group of lay preachers who have enriched the life of the UCA and its predecessor denominations, and we thank God for all of those endowed with the gift of the Spirit for the ministry of lay preaching.

(Allan Thompson)

New Warden

Dr Ian Smith BA MEd PhD is to be the new Centre for Ministry's warden.

Ian Smith is a member and Lay Preacher in the West Epping Uniting Church and is one of the most distinguished educationalists in Australia. His educational career began in Primary School teaching, moving to lecturing in NSW Teachers' Colleges.

He has taught courses in the University of Sydney and the University of NSW in Teacher Education and Educational Administration. His skills have been used by Universities and other educational bodies in several States. From 1976-1983, he was a member of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board/Equal Opportunities Tribunal.

As Warden of the Centre for Ministry he will be responsible for co-ordinating the educational activities of the four Schools, but will not belong to any one of the Schools. The Warden will assist in developing understanding and a close working relationship between the Schools within the life of the Centre.

REMOVALS

Small or Large

**STORAGE
PACKING
TAXI TRUCKS**

Smith Owens Service
9 Pioneer Ave, Thornleigh
Ph: 84 6467, AH 489 1537




Photo snip from 'Uniting' Vol 6 No 8, the NSW newspaper of the Uniting Church, June 5th 1987



Leadership Formation

Let us pray

Prayer is an integral part of our faith living. It is the moment when intentional and intimate connection with God takes place. Prayer happens in the quiet of individual spaces, and the gathered community. Sometimes prayer has a formality to it, much like we might experience during worship. Sometimes prayer is informal - much like our own personal conversation with God, or in a small group or family.

When we pray together in worship or in our families, children present with us learn and experience the nature of the deep connection to God that comes in prayer together. They watch, listen, experience and grow within themselves a heart for what it is to pray, and be with God with such intimate intention. They learn different ways we come to God. Sometimes we need to say sorry - to take ownership and responsibility of our part in the relationship, to acknowledge we don't always get it right, and that in our humanness that will be okay. In that moment of being sorry, we are also receivers of God's gift of grace and forgiveness. In the Declaration of Forgiveness in the Christian community, we bear witness and receive again and again, that immeasurable gift of God calling us to God's heart, of being in relationship with God and are drawn over the boundaries that separate us from God.

To pray for the world, the need of others, isn't so much about God hearing the needs and suddenly being aware and called into activity to change the dire situations that exist. It is more about an activity of love. From a place of love we bring into the heart of God our part of God's activity of love in being aware and conscious of the distress of humanity. As we pray for the world, God invites us into God's activity in those situations, and we become a part of the answer to that prayer. When we pray God feed the hungry, we are invited to be part of providing food for those who hunger by whatever means there is available to us.

Contributing to a local community food pantry, being part of the food bank projects, advocating in the political and social systems for change to bring greater benefit who are hungry.

Some people are worried about getting the words wrong when they pray, either when they are by themselves or in a group. It is important to remember that what comes to the space is our hearts. God will listen to us and engage with us in our hearts. We don't have to bring perfect words or phrases. We can always begin a prayer with God by bringing "hello God, it's me. This is who I am today. . . . This is the world I am in today . . . this is what is worrying me I am thankful that .

...” The internet has many ways you can pray also. You might like to start there to get some ideas.

How do you engage a time of prayer? Are you outside watching the beauty of God’s creation around you? Do you find a quiet place in your home? Do you use a devotional prayer? What about when you are with other people - what is it like to be praying with others?

If you would like to grow and learn more in this area, get in contact with the Presbytery ministers.

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

Longford Blooms 14/15th November. Both days 10am - 2pm
11 Gardens to be open to the public. Day ticket is \$10 pp obtainable from registration point on the Village Green in Wellington St opposite Christ Church.
Activity at Longford UCA 3 High St. on both days: 5 plant stalls, 3 pop-up shops, raffle, produce stall with lots of yummy homemade products, lunches and morning & afternoon teas, coffee cart.
Information available by ringing Martha on 0417 526 346

Praying for the Everyone

- The courage and commitment to make our Earth, God's beautiful creation, safe from human-induced climate change.
- Dedicated staff and managers in our aged care services, as they care for vulnerable Australians at a time when the sustainability of their sector is under intense national scrutiny.
- Our legislators and regulators that they might make wise decisions that respect the dignity of older Australians.

What's On

November

Fri 13	9.45am	Presbytery Gathering, Poatina
Tues 10	11.00am	Resource and Development Committee
Mon 23	10.00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tues 24	11.00am	Resource and Development Committee

December

Thur 3	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
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NOTICE!

Presbytery Meeting

will be held at Poatina on November 14th.

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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