

# Uniting Tasmania

Presbytery of

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



Issue No. 192

March 2021



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**ASSEMBLY**

## Assembly Meeting 2021

The triennial Assembly Meeting will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

Save the date. Members from Tasmania elected at the February Presbytery Meeting are Caro Field and Marian Bissett.

This meeting will now be online due to the uncertainty of face to face gathering, particularly with the emergence of more contagious strains within the Covid 19 pandemic. There is hope of a face to face reconvening of the meeting in 2022.

The “online Assembly meeting in July will gather in worship, give thanks for God’s blessings, build community and discern the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in guiding our life and mission.”

More details on the 16th Assembly meeting arrangements will be published as they become available.



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# Opportunities

## KUCA

What has been your experience of KUCA Campout? Anthea Maynard and others are exploring the ways that this ministry needs to adapt to the changing needs of the church and the pandemic environment. What are your thoughts about this? What is the best way for us all to connect with children, their families and all ages within the church? I'm sure Anthea would be thrilled to receive your input. Contact her via the Tasmanian Office.



Lent Event is UnitingWorld's annual fundraising event, bringing people together to learn about our overseas partners and commit to end poverty. Pledge to live simply for the 40 days of Lent (17 Feb – 29 Mar 2021) and help our global neighbours be free from poverty and injustice.

Find out more at <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event>

## Pastoral Care Seminars – online in 2021

Are you a great listener? Do you know what it takes to be a great listener? The UCA Presbytery of Port Philip West is running 4 seminars to equip people with listening, and pastoral care skills like understanding why we do the things we do, how to understand the meaning behind the stories that people tell you and much, much more. The pastoral care seminars are being held both in the daytime and evening. They are open to both lay and ordained people.

Seminar 1 is a prerequisite for the other three. Choose the dates that suit you.

Seminar 2: Feb 24 and March 4

Seminar 3: March 11 and 19

Seminar 4: April 16 and 22

Register online: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=706>



**I read the Bible often  
I try to read it right  
As far as I can understand  
It's nothing but a burning light**

Bruce Cockburn from his song Soul of a Man

How often do you read your Bible?

Is it possible to read the Bible wrong? How do we read it right?

What is an image or metaphor that helps you in your understanding of the Bible?

## 2020 Christmas Card Sales

Christmas cards are sold from the Tasmanian office, through congregations and the Combined Charities Christmas Shop, raising funds to support the Midlands Glamorgan region.

We received our report from the Combined Charities in February, and the amazing ladies who run the shop were very pleased with the money raised this year for multiple charities, given their loss of trade from tourism.

Also due to requiring to only buy a small number of cards this year, the profits for the year were very pleasing, and we have been able to donate \$1,420.87 to the Midlands Patrol.

We thank the congregations and individuals who supported the Christmas Cards fundraising efforts in 2020, despite the challenges you all faced during the year.



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*"Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck." – Dalai Lama*

# AMPLIFY

We are excited to announce that there will be two regional Hubs of the national AMPLIFY\* conference in Tasmania in March 2021. This is a wonderful training and transformational opportunity for you, your leaders and those with a heart for younger generations in everyday life. The theme is "Lead Well".

[Mar 13 Amplify – Tasmania North \(Longford\)](#) nb. Specific Tasmanian Hub info [via here](#).

[Mar 20 Amplify – Tasmania South \(North Hobart\)](#) nb. Specific Tasmanian Hub info [via here](#).



CMN facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TasCMN/events>

The conference will be a blend of face to face and online presentations + facilitated workshops in two locations. The workshop elective topics include:

- Life is Intergenerational
- Adventuring into the bible with children
- Catering for Children with special needs
- The power of story
- Mental health & spirituality
- Working with 0-5s
- Empowering parents
- Developing Young leaders
- Cross cultural engagement
- Addressing children's questions

\* Amplify - Previously known as *Ignite* and run in Queensland, *Amplify* has for over a decade been Australia's largest Children & Families ministry training event. In 2021, though, *Amplify* will be moving to an on-line + local hub model - thus making accessibility much easier - *and* including Youth stream.

For more information on speakers, electives, and the overall process, feel free to e-mail [anthea.maynard@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:anthea.maynard@victas.uca.org.au) or [jenny.cowley@sutas.org.au](mailto:jenny.cowley@sutas.org.au) for all the latest info.



Synod  
2021

Meeting virtually (online) Friday 26 to Sunday 28 February 2021

The Synod meets approximately every 18 months to hear reports, discern proposals, and discuss matters that concern the general oversight, direction and administration of the life of the Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

The meeting will be over three days, meeting about five hours each day in a few blocks of time.

Rather than a challenge, the Synod Business Committee invites the Church to see the opportunities which this new way of meeting presents.

You can find links from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at <https://victas.uca.org.au/about-us/synod-meeting/>

The entire meeting, excluding any member-only sessions, will be broadcast live for members of the wider church.

The first session begins at 1.45pm on Friday February 26 with the final session finishing at 3.15pm on Sunday February 28.

The above page provides amongst other items an Indicative Program. This will give a broad outline, but can be subject to change as the meeting responds to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The following people will be Synod members from Tasmania:

**Ordained members:** 4 (of 8 possible)

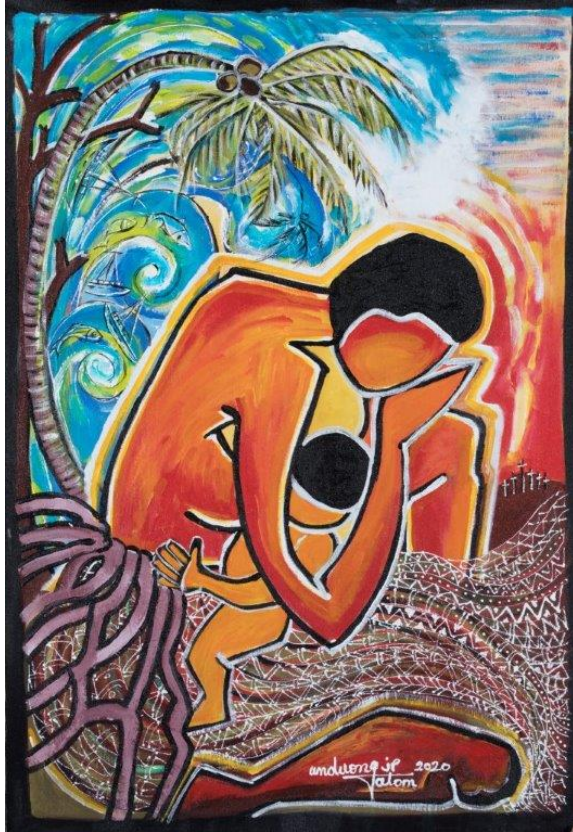
Rev Caro Field, Rev Fiona Morrison, Rev Gospel Ralte, Rev Joanna Wierenga

**Lay members:** 8

Marian Bisset, Shirley Bowers, Corine King, Melanie Morris, Rohan Pryor, Lynn Templar, Margaret Wilson, (Ebenezer) Vanlal Zirsangliana

***"Like leaven in the loaf"***





## World Day of Prayer 2021

**The World Day of Prayer 2021 host country is Vanuatu and the theme is “Build on a Strong Foundation”.**

The program was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu and the service takes as its biblical focus Matthew 7:24-27 The Wise and Foolish Builders

Through the worship service we hear the voices of the Vanuatu women, whom invite us to focus on the Bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells a story about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which the house is built. Choosing the land on which to build the house is an important decision for people in Vanuatu. The

combination of considering the terrain and the climate is crucial in a tropical archipelago located in the South Pacific Ocean prone to earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions and rising sea levels. On April 6th, 2020, Vanuatu was hit by Cyclone Harold, which had made its way across the Pacific destroying many islands in its wake.

Vanuatu’s susceptibility to cyclones is highlighted in the painting chosen to represent WDP 2021, titled “Cyclone Pam II: 13th of March, 2015”. It shows a mother bending and praying over her child. The waves crash over her but a palm tree bends protectively over them. The woman’s skirt is modeled after the traditional clothing on Erromango. On the horizon you can see small crosses representing the lives taken by cyclone Pam in 2015.

The artist, Juliette Pita, born in 1964 on Erromango Island, is currently the most well-known artist in Vanuatu. Her talent was discovered early on. At school she was always the best in art classes. She was the first woman to graduate from the Institut National de Technologie du Vanuatu (INTV). Juliette never imagined making money from her art but she believed God had plans for her. She gives all the money she earns to anyone who needs help.

**Connect with your local faith communities in a COVID safe manner to experience an on the ground ecumenical experience coming together in prayer. If you have not received resources go to <https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/world-day-of-prayer/wdp-2021/> or contact Heather Martin on 0412 735 469**



## What is our candidate getting up to?

Marian Bisset moved from a ministry placement with the Bridgewater-Gagebrook community to training as a deacon in Melbourne. The article below is taken from <https://uniting.church/day-of-mourning-stories/> a page that gives numerous examples of ways in which Day of Mourning resources were used in diverse contexts. Tasmanians may be interested in this as an example of what “our” candidate is getting up to.

### **“Uniting AgeWell Hawthorn, Victoria**

The Uniting AgeWell Hawthorn community shared the Day of Mourning Service 2021 on Thursday 21 January 2021. It came about at the request of residents to remember our First Nations People.

As one resident said, “They were here first”. The group of ten residents with Chaplain Marian Bisset lamented, remembered and reflected with a generous and open spirit of reconciliation. After the service, the conversation moved to listening to the story of a resident who had lived under British, Dutch and Portuguese rule in his homeland prior to coming to Australia. He was able to articulate for us all the impact it had on him, the resulting affinity he felt towards the treatment of First People in Australia, and the disappointment and surprise he had felt. It was a powerful, sobering and humbling time together.

**Marian Bisset”**

# COVID-19 update:

## stay safe, risks are still real

- *Follow health authority advice, and if unwell for any reason, stay home and stay safe*
- *Maintain safe practices for church gatherings, including 'maximum density' and physical distancing*
- *Holy Communion and hospitality need careful attention to ensure everyone feels safe, and remains safe*

The Uniting Church provides guidelines for safe activities including Pancake Day: <https://victas.uca.org.au/all-you-need-to-know-answers-to-your-frequently-asked-questions/>.

More information from the Tasmanian government:

<https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/facts/important-community-updates>

- *Keep contact lists for 28 days, including name, phone number, date and time of visit (and keep the contact list secure to respect privacy legislation)*
- *If you have concerns or questions, contact your local leadership group (Church Council or Minister) or the Tasmanian office*

## Other Options

If you feel uncomfortable attending worship in a public space or for some reason are unable to attend check out: <https://ucatas.org.au/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>  
This page has links to online worship services and other resources to help you maintain a sense of spiritual connection. The following are the services that are reportedly active still:

[Hobart North Uniting Church: YouTube channel](#)

[Launceston Pilgrim Uniting Church](#)

**Cradle Coast Uniting Church:**

- Zoom gatherings every Sunday from 10am. Contact the minister [Fee](#) for more details.





If you have links to helpful resources or requests for information, let us know.

## An anonymous donor creates a forever Valentine

Are you ready for the greatest love story the Aussie bush has ever seen? Well listen up because this is one that's sure to make you melt. And the most amazing part is that our Cunnamulla-Burke & Wills Remote Area Bush Chaplain, Cain Hartigan had the privilege of bearing witness to it all unfold.

On a gorgeous sunny day in October last year, Cain officiated the wedding of a couple whose incredible story is a testament to the resilience of people living in the bush and the power of love. The happy couple, affectionately known as 'Hamo' and 'Budgie' first met at the Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane in 2007. Hamo was on the waiting list for a heart transplant and was in the hospital for treatment.

On the 14th of February 2008, Hamo's wait for a donor heart was over. While others were celebrating Valentine's Day, he was wheeled into a hospital theatre to receive a lifesaving heart transplant.

As he recovered, Hamo continued to visit the hospital for checkups. At his 6-month checkup, one miracle turned into another when he finally plucked up the courage to ask Budgie – the nurse who had caught his eye – out on a coffee date. She said yes!



As Hamo continued his recovery, Budgie became his constant companion. The two of them would sit by the hospital pool, sharing a packet of hot chips and a bottle of red wine. The rest, as Cain told guests at the wedding, is history.

In a touching addition to their wedding ceremony, Hamo and Budgie shared a prayer for the donor whose heart was the beginning of their love story.

*"Thank you my friend, whoever you are. I am here today because you gave me the ultimate gift of life. I am healthy and thankful to you that I may live today. Today I give my heart away to my love and our two hearts are filled with love and thanks for your gift."*

(Photo) Cunnamulla-Burke & Wills Bush Chaplain Cain Hartigan officiating the wedding of Hamo and Budgie in October, 2020

This article is adapted from the February 2021 edition of Frontier News.

You can find it at <https://frontierservices.org/an-anonymous-donor-creates-a-forever-valentine/>

# This 'n That

■ **Thanks to Bruce Cullen** who was able to pass on a copy of the Music Edition of Together in Song to the **Sprent Congregation**. Advertising in Uniting Tasmania sometimes works!

■ **Online Lenten Journey** 7.30pm weekly until Holy Week via Zoom. Contact Rev Denise Savage for the zoom link at [denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au) This will be a time of connecting images and biblical story and letting our story and questions connect with the story of Jesus.

- **dv Alert:** Did you know that at least one person dies each week in Australia as a result of Domestic and Family Violence in Australia? dv Alert is a training time run by Lifeline and would make a useful addition to your understanding of this issue and how to respond or refer.
- Have you read a **good book** lately that has extended your understanding of spirituality, theology, the Bible? If you have, could you share this with a recommendation and a brief report and we will publish in Uniting Tasmania. If you are a lay preacher this could give you extra points towards your continuing education. This was one of the helps that would be appreciated, shared by lay preachers at last year's learning days in November and December.
- There are small **libraries** around the congregations of the Uniting Church in Tasmania. Some of these include Pilgrim, Ulverstone, the Tasmanian Office. Let us know if you also have this type of resource in your congregation and whether you are prepared to allow others to borrow. Gospel at Ulverstone was keen for lay preachers and others beyond Ulverstone to avail themselves of books and DVDs that they have in their library.
- Are you aware that the Bethel Centre is available as an independent and free of charge counselling service for people connected with the Uniting Church. The Bethel Centre is at 59 Doncaster Rd, North Balwyn, and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.30am-5.30pm. Telephone: (03) 9859 8700. Email: [support@bethelcentre.com.au](mailto:support@bethelcentre.com.au) They assist people in both Victoria and Tasmania.
- In the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania you will find:



**600**

Congregations



**60,000**

Members



**12**

Schools

# Praying for the Everyone

## ■ for those continuing and newly elected to Presbytery Committees:

### ○ Pastoral Relations Committee

Alison Claridge

Sherrin Jackman

Chris Duxbury

Caro Field

Fee Morrison

Rohan Pryor

Margaret Wilson

### ○ Resource and Development Committee

Walter Abetz

Keeton Miles

Tetsje Elgersma

Hoon You

Rod Fraser

Lucia Fitzgerald

### ○ Presbytery Standing Committee

Helen Geard

Anthea Maynard

Shirley Bowers

Hoon You

Caro Field

Walter Abetz

Rohan Pryor

Fee Morrison

Denise Savage

## ■ Our Synod and Assembly members as they prepare, interact and tell the story afterwards.

## What's On

### February

Fri 26 - Sun 28

Synod meeting (online): *include the meeting in your prayers*

### March

Tue 2 10am

Pastoral Relations Committee - Hobart

Tue 2 11am

Resource and Development Committee

Fri 19 7pm

Induction of Valentina Satvedi Leydon at Pilgrim  
live stream available at the following:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_vxpBTV2hP1qupabddXbcQ/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_vxpBTV2hP1qupabddXbcQ/live)

Tue 23 11am

Resource and Development Committee

Thu 25 10am

Presbytery Standing Committee

## Did you know the Uniting Church has a Code of Conduct for lay leaders?

It applies to all the Church's lay leaders, including but not exclusively Church Councillors, elders, worship leaders, chairs of committees, team / activity leaders. That is, any lay person who accepts a leadership role within a Congregation, Presbytery, Synod or Assembly within the Uniting Church. For more information go to [Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders](#)

## Ministry Placement Changes

**Rev Valentina Satvedi Leydon** has accepted a call to the Pilgrim Uniting Church and will start on 1.3.21.

**Sherrin Jackman** has completed her placement at Scottsdale/Bridport and has accepted placement at Derwent Cluster beginning in February.

**Grace Reynolds** is in placement as chaplain at Scotch Oakburn. Grace is a deacon in the Anglican church with experience as a school chaplain.

**Susan Malthouse-Law** has accepted a call to the Cradle Coast.

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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  
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