

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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

Issue No. 193

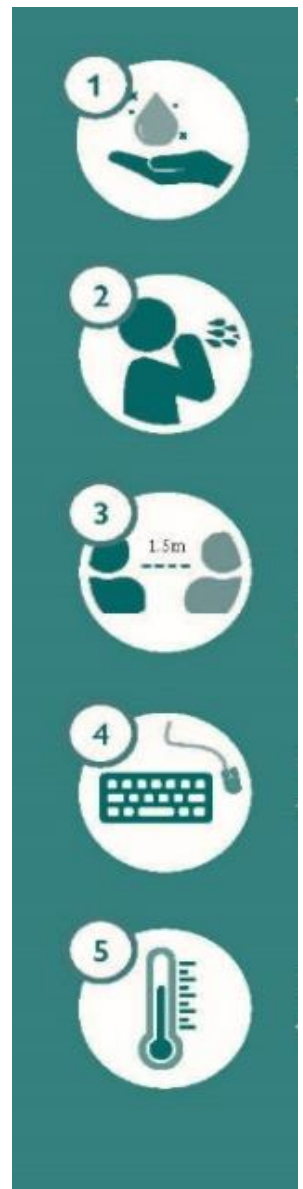
April 2021

COVID-19 update:

- **Changes to gathering numbers at churches**
- **All churches to use 'Check In Tas' app**

Tasmanian Public Health advises churches will be able to have more people in attendance under changes detailed at <http://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

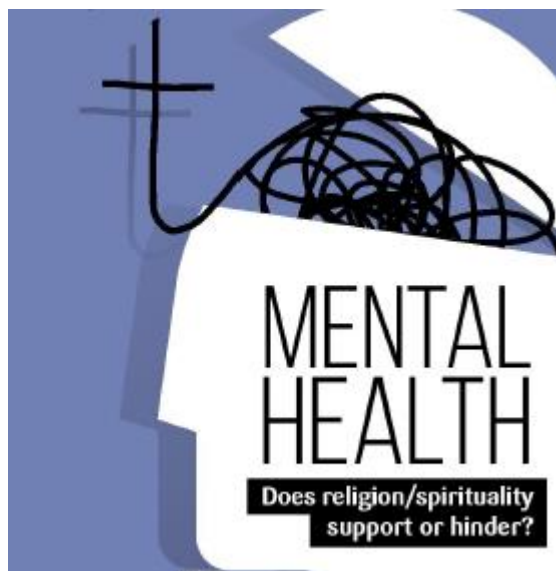
- Indoor gatherings may now routinely accommodate up to 250 people or 75 per cent of their seating capacity in an indoor space, whichever is fewer.
- Churches still require a [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) and [contact tracing](#) is required. Density limits and physical distancing guidelines still apply.
- From 1 May the [Check In TAS app](#) must be used to support rapid contact tracing if required. Register now to create a QR code for your local church.
- By 1 May 2021, you must clearly display the Check in TAS QR code (sent to you after you've registered) at all entrances of your premises or event and all patrons aged 16 years and older must be checked in by scanning this code if they spend 15 minutes or more there.
- **What if my participants do not want to use the QR code?**
- If a person does not have a smartphone or is unable to use one, others attending the premises with that person can use their own phone to check that person in. Alternatively, an organisation can register a patron's details using that organisations' device. If there is no internet access or working device, the organisation can check them in manually on paper. This information must be retained by the organisation for 28 days
- **My organisation operates at multiple premises. Do I need to set up multiple codes or can I use one for all of them?**
- Each Check in TAS QR code is assigned to a physical address. If you operate at multiple premises or locations, you need to complete a separate registration for each site.



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Opportunities

Mental Health Forum



June 4 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm AEST •

John Swinton is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care and Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen. For more than a decade John worked as a registered mental health nurse. He also worked for a number of years as a hospital chaplain, and as a community mental health Chaplain. In 2004, he founded the University of Aberdeen's Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability.

He has published widely within the area of mental health, dementia, disability theology, spirituality and healthcare, qualitative research and pastoral care. In 2016 his book *Dementia: Living in the memories of God* won the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ramsey Prize for excellence in theological writing.



To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mental-health-forum-tickets-144297231905>

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Congregational Checklist for March

Annual General Meeting needs to be held by the end of March – reminder that part of the AGM or following meeting will include a recommitment to the Safe Church Policy and electing or reaffirming the Safe Church Contact Person and the person responsible for keeping the list of people with Working with Vulnerable People registrations.

Check items in Annual Maintenance Statements Log Book

Notify UCA Tasmanian Office of any changes to Presbytery Directory – office bearers, worship times etc.



Every place has its story. Welcome to Cataract Gorge.

Welcome to Cataract Gorge is the first in a series of place-based resources called *Connection to Country* in The Orb, online resources developed by Aboriginal Education Services of the Tasmanian Department of Education to assist the teaching of Tasmanian Aboriginal histories and cultures. It is a dynamic project and will be regularly updated with new resources.

These resources explore the significance and responsibilities that Country holds for Aboriginal people.

Aunty Patsy Cameron, Dean Greeno and Cecillia Wheatley invite us to walk with them around Cataract Gorge, in Launceston. On the traditional lands of the Northern Midlands Nation, it is rich in cultural and natural resources.

We hear the stories of The Gorge, the rivers, the landforms and the history of the people belonging to this place. Aunty Patsy, Dean and Cecillia share their reflections on The Gorge as a place of being and learning that connects them with the past.

This place has always been a gathering place, a feature of landscape and life. It holds the stories of the people who have come before and reveals the relationship between people, Country, the past and the present.

You are invited to visit the familiar and experience it in a new way: as an Aboriginal place, as Country!

The Orb can be found at <https://www.theorb.tas.gov.au/> . Follow the link for Welcome to Cataract Gorge.

Use these resources to reflect/meditate on the Aboriginal experience of Country.

Use these resources to reflect/meditate on your own experience of land, world, environment.

Use these resources to reflect/meditate on your spiritual connections and the relationship between the creative world and the created world.

worship & preaching online training

2021



Access 3 points of Training:

- **Online delivery across the Synod – 2 hours per week.**
Join others in Zoom delivery of Worship and Preaching workshops, combining a tutorial based on the online units, and input from a variety of church leaders.
- **Access to online Worship and Preaching units**
Access online units written around the Assembly W&P competencies for Lay Preachers and Ministry of Pastor.
- **Local assessment**
For those who opt for assessment, this will occur within their Congregation/Faith Community/Hub or Presbytery.

Worship and Preaching training for Communities and Lay Leaders.

The world has and is changing and we are seeking new ways of leadership and being in church, including worship and proclaiming God's Word.

Join us for multiple options of engaging with 6 Worship Units and 6 Preaching Units.

Participants can choose their level of input and connection. Have a conversation with your faith community, congregation or Presbytery about what would be good for you and them.

Units are engaging and creative. Assessment is both theoretical and practical.

When?

Worship:

**First 3 weeks in May &
first 3 weeks in June**

Preaching:

**First 3 weeks in
September &
first 3 weeks in
October**

For more information, contact your Presbytery or:
Mel Perkins, Lay Leadership Development, eLM
mel.perkins@victas.ucs.org.au



Synod
2021

SYNOD REPORT

FROM MEETING HELD 26 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2021

It was stated a number of times in this three day meeting that it was “a meeting with a difference”. The main difference was that this meeting was online and lasted three days rather than face to face for six days. There were a number of throw-away lines that could only relate to an online meeting – do not need to say where the toilets are; hope the caterer is good and no lost property. Isobel Thomas-Dobson appeared a number of times in the three days as a concierge. She came on and explained what was planned to happen in the next session and passing on any announcements that members needed to hear.

The voting was done not with orange and blue cards but with a box appearing on the screen to select either orange or blue lines and then submit. The result of the vote showed on the screen about a minute later. The reports from the various committees were taken as read. Questions received in advance were answered and then the Moderator called for questions from the members – by the members selecting the “raise hand” button on the screen.

Some of the groups reported back via “virtual booths” – this involved selecting the group that I wanted to visit and being able to hear and speak to the people from this group for a period of time. This would have been good however for the groups that I visited had only myself and another person in there at the time – this meant that we were expected to ask questions – not something that I prepared in advance.

There were a number of ballots as part of this meeting including selecting the next Moderator - Rev David Fotheringham. The members of Synod Standing Committee and the Property Trust for Victoria and Tasmania were also selected from ballots. The members of Assembly selected to represent the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania was another set of ballots. Tasmania members selected from this process for Assembly include Rev Fee Morrison; Jack Oates Pryor; and Rohan Pryor.

The Justice and Mission Unit proposals for this meeting were about Online Gambling Advertising; protecting people on temporary Visas from family violence; Urgent action on Climate Change; and Online Safety and preventing Child Sexual Exploitation.

One of the other proposals was to put in place a process to follow if the Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation is passed in Tasmania.

The meeting was introduced to a new booklet on Covenanting – called “A Guide to the Church in Walking Together as First and Second Peoples”. This booklet is available on the Synod website: <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/covenanting/>

“Like leaven in the loaf”



Check out this article on the VicTas Synod Website. It compares the experiences of Tasmanian and Victorian UCA congregations with an interesting comment on the Korean word for crisis by Rev Hoon You. <https://victas.uca.org.au/comparing-victoria-and-tasmanias-different-pandemic-experiences/>

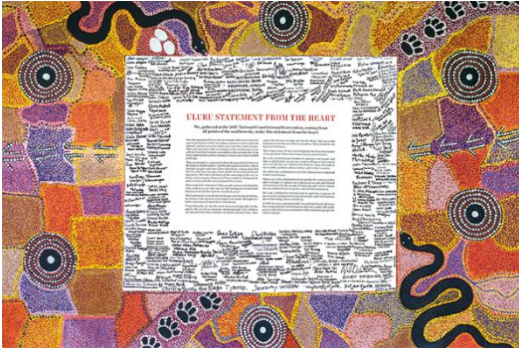


Not only for those involved in Messy Church programs

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/messy-discipleship-book-launch-tickets-146200797521>

Statement from the Heart



The *Statement from the Heart* emerged from The First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru in May 2017. It was the coming together of 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to articulate the nature of reforms desired by First Nations, and advise parliament on a pathway toward a successful referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution.

The *Statement from the Heart* called for two reforms. They are:

1. The establishment of a First Nations **Voice** enshrined in the Australian Constitution to empower First Peoples to have a greater say in policy and legislation which governs their affairs and, in so doing, improve their autonomy and prosperity.
2. The establishment of a Makarrata Commission to;
 - Supervise a process of agreement-making, or **treaty**, between governments and First Nations, and
 - Provide a means for **truth**-telling about the history of Australia's First Peoples.

JustAct have produced a study guide on the *Statement from the Heart* written by and for Second Peoples seeking to explore and pursue a truthful, just and meaningful relationship with First Peoples. In creating this study guide, the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania is seeking to further its commitment towards First and Second Peoples walking jointly together in an intentional relationship it calls 'Covenanting'.

Find at <https://justact.org.au/first-people/actions/>

The study guide includes a guide for participants and a facilitator's companion.

Statement from the Heart Study Guide



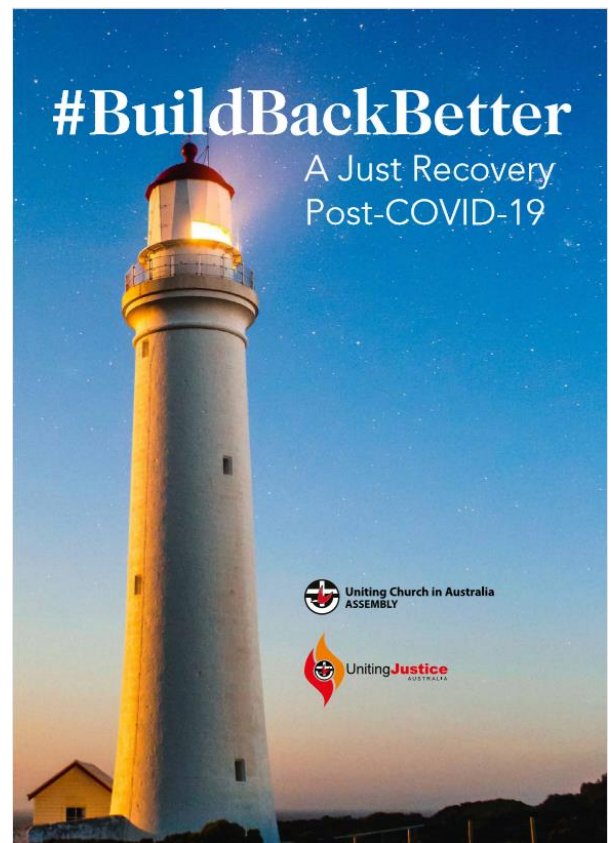
Facilitator's Companion



Rebuilding communities

UCA Assembly resource on key actions for recovery and rebuilding communities:

1. Stimulation of the economy with a focus on job creation by investing in projects that are good for all Australians and for our planet.
2. Fix gaps in the social security safety net and ensure a permanent increase to JobSeeker Allowance, providing a liveable safety net for those out-of-work.
3. Ensure community services are properly resourced to support vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, families and communities, and to respond to areas of growing need, including domestic and family violence and mental health.
4. First Peoples and rural and remote communities must have adequate access to food and health services.
5. Develop initiatives that improve access to affordable housing for all people.
6. Ensuring our tax system is fair and transparent, with individuals and corporations contributing fairly to the costs of post-COVID-19 recovery.
7. Doing our share for the global recovery from COVID-19 and building a more equitable, safe and sustainable world for the future.
8. Reducing fossil fuel usage, and excessive consumption of resources to build for a sustainable future.
9. Adequate support for people living with disability and older Australians.
10. Prioritising work towards Voice, Truth and Treaty for First Peoples, meaningful action on incarceration rates for Indigenous Australians and calling out racism and building inclusion across all Australian society.
11. A focus on creating pathways to permanent migration.
12. Collaboration between governments and civil society with political leadership focused on the common good.



Further explanation and other good material: <https://uniting.church/build-back-better/>



Lay Preacher News

Norton Harvey started participating in the leading of worship when he was about 16 as a member of a “Flying Squad” in the Presbyterian Church. This was a group of young men, of varying experience, who went around the churches taking services as a group and learning “on the job”, under the oversight of a minister, of course. This was apparently the way budding preachers were trained in the Presbyterian Church at that time.

Norton was accredited as a Lay Preacher and began taking services on his own in his 21st year. His mentor at this time was the Rev. Wilfred Paton, who had returned from the mission field in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) and was ministering at the Mowbray Presbyterian Church in Launceston. During the ensuing years, Norton conducted many services in churches across the region, including all Presbyterian churches in Launceston, in the North-East, the Meander Valley, West Tamar and as far as the Central Highlands. A few years ago, he drew up a list of places where he could remember preaching and got up to a count of 54 places. Sometimes he would take up to four services on a Sunday. At one stage there was a group of four preachers who would take turns in spending a day taking all services in the West Tamar area – at Glengarry, Winkleigh, Sidmouth and Flowery Gully. At least they were provided with two meals by the local parishioners during this long day!

Norton and his wife Jean were members of the congregation at St Stephens Church in Launceston for many years before transferring to Evandale and later Exeter after they moved to Blackwall in about 1991. A member of the Uniting Church from its inception, he was authorised to preside at Communion some time in the late nineties and continued to do so until a year or so ago. His services were always thoroughly prepared and well presented.

Norton has, of course, also fulfilled other roles in the church, including as a lifetime Elder, as Chair of the West Tamar Parish Council and, more recently as Parish Treasurer – a position which he only relinquished a short time before his recent 93rd birthday.

Indeed a remarkable life of faithful service!

God bless you in your well-earned retirement, Norton.

John Beswick
West Tamar Parish

Lease or License of a Uniting Church property?

The Uniting Church is ready to share property resources with others in ways that respect and meet mutual needs, and also meet the legal and stewardship responsibilities of the Church as a whole, including essential safety measures.

Lease or 'exclusive use' rental of a Uniting Church property requires approval by the Presbytery Resources & Development Committee (RDC) as well as the Uniting Church Property Trust (PART). Residential rental is normally approved for up to 12 months. Commercial leases may extend for a longer time period.

'Non-exclusive' hire of a Uniting Church property for up to 12 months can be approved by the local Church Council and require a hirer agreement or **license** specific to Tasmanian legislation requirements. Longer-term license agreements or commercial use requires further Church authorisations.

Lease and license/hire application forms for Tasmania can be found on the website <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/property/forms-and-resources/>. This website also includes information sheets about the annual Essential Safety Measures (ESM) audit requirements for any building with public access, safety information about induction of contractors and care of UCA volunteers, and maintenance of UCA property for mission. Synod Property Services staff (Property@victas.uca.org.au, 9116 1422) and the Tasmanian office (Tas.office@victas.uca.org.au, 6331 9784) can provide further help.



■ **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. This will be a time of connecting images and biblical story and letting our story and questions connect with the story of Jesus.

■ 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.

■ Does your newsletter editor know that there are some resources for newsletters at <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/pew-sheets-worship/> ?

Praying for the Everyone

- For Anthea, Denise, Hoon, and Rohan as they engage with diverse ministries in changing times.
- For Bronwyn, Kate and Lucia as they provide hospitable administrative support.
- Thanks to all those who made, make and will make life more bearable.
- Our Assembly members as they prepare, interact and the tell the story afterwards



Human conversation in the digital age

What's On

April

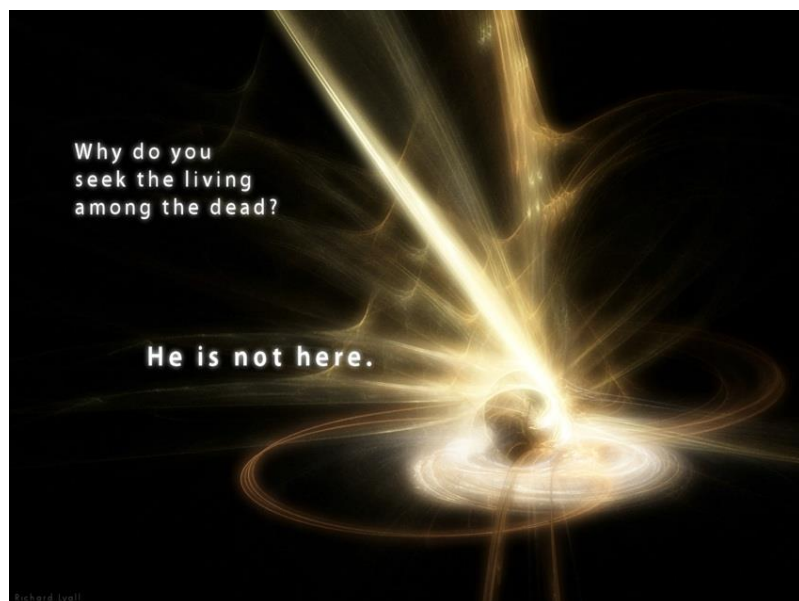
Tue 13	10am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 13	11am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 22	10am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Tue 27	11am	Resource and Development Committee

Did you know the Uniting Church has a Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice?

It applies to Candidates, Community Ministers, Deacons, Deaconesses, Interns, Lay Pastors, Ministers of the Word, Pastors, Youth Workers and Ministers from another denomination serving in an approved placement. It can be found at

<https://www.assembly.uca.org.au/images/assemblies/appendixdcoe.pdf>

Don't forget last month's reminder about the [Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders](#)



Accessed from Area 52 Engage Worship at

<https://engageworship.org/area52>

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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