

# Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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

Issue No. 197

August 2021

## Faces of Uniting Church Leadership



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Deidre Palmer (Immediate Past Assembly President), Rev. Sharon Hollis (Assembly President), Colleen Geyer (Assembly General Secretary), Rev. Charissa Suli (Assembly President Elect)

Read more at [“The exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them”: celebrating women in leadership in the Uniting Church – An Informed Faith \(johntsquires.com\)](https://www.johntsquires.com/)

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Covid virus continues to dominate our media, administration, personal planning and so much more – what seems to be given scant attention are the opportunities offered.

There has been a slowing of the flow of new citizens into Australia, what an opportunity to clear the backlog of people in detention/prison for no other reason than seeking asylum in an allegedly 'free' country. Others are not restrained by oceans or wire fences but are restricted within the community simply by lack of the right pieces of paper. These could all be granted the freedom to join our community. The opportunity is right now.

Covid has shown no favourites, every person on earth shares this common challenge, we are all in this together. Covid infects only one race of humans, the human race, there is no other. All that is essential to us in isolated island Tasmania is essential to every other citizen of planet earth. We cannot deny this unity. What an opportunity to build on that bond, establish new and stronger friendships. Many of the people known to me have been inoculated against Covid, I for one found myself in a dilemma, the case for making my dose available for a person in Indonesia, or elsewhere, is so strong. The practicalities dictated that I be inoculated anyway. Am I a citizen of this planet, or am I not? Are we as a people making use of this opportunity of evident unity to build on that foundation, to make friendships, to strengthen international ties, to acknowledge and live the message that there is but one human race. The evidence is scant. We continue to play war games. We are progressively being drawn into the trap of having communities, indeed electorates, hooked on / addicted to defence industries. Half the national defence budget spent on making friends with fellow earth citizens would surely lead to better outcomes.

A sad result of Covid is that the UN Millennium goals are being over shadowed. To the great credit of the international community, achievement of those goals was, for the first 15 years of the 2000s, generally, on a positive trajectory. Conflict in several countries then brought a slowing of that progress. Now in the 2020s we are going backwards. Gains in nutrition, education, disease management, justice across gender, race and minority groups are all off target. Those communities which are better able to help are more introspective. It is a challenge to every citizen to ensure that Covid does not negate those goals, that we as individuals and as a nation hold on to the message that we are all in this together and give renewed effort to recover the lost ground to achieving the UN Millennium goals.

Most citizens used to be proud to be called 'Australians'. Threats to that pride are invading our community. That is a 'border control' where we are under threat. There are messages in the Covid phenomena, let us take heed.

*Ian R F*



## Our Vision for a Just Australia

In her first week as President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Rev Sharon Hollis has launched the updated statement "Our Vision for a Just Australia".

With many still suffering the impacts of COVID-19 in Australia and across the world, Rev Hollis says the vision statement reminds us that we are called by Christ to build communities of justice, equality, reconciliation and love.

"The pandemic has shown us what can be achieved when we have the courage to take measures that are designed to protect all people. It has demonstrated that we are stronger as a nation when we care for those

most vulnerable and at the margins of society."

The document is a resource for conversations, reflection, advocacy and collaboration.

The complete document can be found at <https://uniting.church/visionstatement/> or by searching for the title.

**Highlights of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly** can be found at [Highlights of the 16th Assembly - Uniting Church Australia](#) The 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly will reconvene in 2022.

First Nations leaders from Nungalinga College led Bible Reflections in the opening worship on Day 2 of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. A summary, a video and a study guide can be found at [Bible Reflections from Nungalinga College - Uniting Church Australia](#)

**Uniting Care Australia** has welcomed the funding boost from the Federal Government towards those areas currently dealing with outbreaks of Covid 19 [Funding providers welcome boost for Emergency Relief and Food Relief in Greater Sydney and Victoria - Uniting Care Australia](#)



## Resources and Development Committee (R&D)

Below is a picture of the current members of the Presbytery's Resources and Development Committee "captured" in a recent Zoom meeting and on location at the Tasmanian Office meeting. On screen are Lucia Fitzgerald and Rod Fraser. At the table are Hoon You, Tetsje Elgersma and Walter Abetz. Keeton Miles was an apology.



### **Delegated Responsibilities:**

- Finance\
- Property
- Resource Development
- Synod Mission Grants
- New Initiatives

Walter Abetz is the current Chair of this group and contact can be made through Tetsje Elgersma, the current Secretary, via the Tasmanian Office.

At each of its meetings R&D considers the balance between the spiritual development/ mission of congregations and property/finance issues. This is guided by a devotional Bible study and concern for matters in each of the communities of faith in the Uniting Church. Missional conversations are to the fore. There are two meetings each month; one focuses on issues relating to cemeteries/manses and the other on other worship centres/financial issues. The two meetings make the committee more flexible for congregations, fit Synod timetables better and being shorter are more effective and healthier for the members of the committee.



### **Next TCCEM Training Day**

Face-to-face training day in Campbell Town on a Saturday in September.

### **Upcoming Courses**

Saturday September 11, 2021

Campbell Town Recreation Ground Complex

9.30 am to 4 pm

Catering provided

Price: \$110 (including GST)

Registrations close September 6

This will double as training for new volunteers and also refresher training for existing volunteers.

### **Contact**

The TCCEM general phone number recently changed to 0455 840 050. Our Executive Team members can be contacted on: Gus Yearsley (0432 620 253), Margaret Savage (0409 843 756) & Paul Hueston (0400 422 009).

Supporting donations are requested: \$2 and above tax deductible. **Tasmanian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry BSB 067103 Account 1064 1483**

### **Uniting Church Historical Society: 'Searching for Sister Grace'**

This presentation will take you down some unexpected paths as the stories of four church workers known simply as Sister Grace are uncovered. During the presentation, issues such as why so many women's stories are absent from the Church's history and history in general will be explored.

**Speaker** Dr Cheryl Griffin has a particular interest in researching the lives of women in the early twentieth century.

**Sunday 22 August 2021 at 2.00pm**

Zoom meeting – attend free

For the Zoom link, email [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com)

Enquiries: mobile 0427 812 606

VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society

## From the news.....

Two interesting articles relating to the Uniting Church have appeared on websites recently.



The first from the ABC is headed **Regional church sets up shop in local cafe to reach wider community**. This tells the story of the Tatura Uniting Church congregation which has dealt with change by selling their previous worship space and buying a coffee shop that they have renamed Olive and Wine. You can find that article at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-05/tatura-church-heads-to-local-cafe/100267452>

## LIMELIGHT

Music, Arts & Culture

The second from Limelight is headed **Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra launches TSO Community**. This tells about how the TSO has set up a program whereby digital versions of performances and other content can be delivered to aged care homes in the community for a monthly fee. It was launched at the Uniting Age Well site of Strathdevon in Latrobe.

You can find that article at:

<https://www.limelightmagazine.com.au/news/tasmanian-symphony-orchestra-launches-tso-community/>

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## Did you know.....

At Glenorchy Uniting Church you can find **Jo's Zoom Room?**

Some congregations include bank deposit details on their newsletter for those who wish to have this option for their contributions towards the mission and support of their local congregation?



**WE NEED YOU!**

## **Volunteer Opportunities in QLD**

### **Birdsville Caravan Park**

The coordinator of the Birdsville Caravan Park is in desperate need of some backup support with having someone help look after her 2-year-old son as she is running the caravan park during its peak periods, being the Big Red Bash from the 9th of July 2021 and for the 2021 Birdsville Races from the 1st of September 2021.

### **2021 Birdsville Races**

We are in need of a group of 6 volunteers to help us with the running of our stall at the 2021 Birdsville Races, your support with setting up and packing down, managing the stall, and promotion of Frontier Services and our Bush Chaplains would be so greatly appreciated! The dates of the event are 1st September until the 5th of September 2021.

Please reach out to us today if you are able or interested in one of our volunteer opportunities. Your support would be so greatly appreciated!



[outback.links@frontierservices.org](mailto:outback.links@frontierservices.org)



**1300 787 247**



**Eight long years**

[Eight long years - Uniting Church Australia](#)



### Ideas For Church

Rock music  
Open Doors  
Art Classes  
Coffee & Kiosk  
Tie-dying  
Landscape painting  
Choirs  
Chess  
Just to be more of a willing. Responsible participant  
Weekly Communion (Lay Preacher can do\*)  
More combined services  
Work with other Uniting congregations across Hobart, explore what is possible  
More combined services with other Hobart congregations  
More Intentional prayer time  
More opportunity to meet together outside worship  
Shared lunches (picnics?)  
Church picnic?  
Pastoral care outreach visitation (special needs)  
Evangelism – how do we let people know about Jesus in a sensitive way  
Regional Youth Group (? Monthly)  
How can we include kids more?  
Make church more family friendly  
Making worship more inclusive of family, younger generations  
Family and children's ministry - ? Messy Church and ? Cooking with kids  
Options for Sunday School?  
Derwent Waters Retirement Village – how do we engage?  
Thought provoking posters (about four or so) in the Hall so people other than "church" people see them  
Prayer and Praise evenings (about twice annually) – not on a Sunday service, perhaps midweek  
Sing more choruses  
Use more of our talents and share them weekly  
Carol/Hymn service at Christmas – by candlelight?

\*Lay people can preside at Holy Communion, but only if they have been nominated by Church Council, complete a short training course and have been approved by the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Tasmanian Presbytery. Approval is given for a set period of time and for particular reasons.

Ideas contributed by members of the Derwent Cluster as in their 18/7/2021 Newsletter. How many can you add? How many can you steal?



20  
21

# 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.

**WORSHIP** May 5, 12, 19 & June 2, 9, 16

**PREACHING** September 1, 8, 15 & October 6, 13, 20

**TIME** 7-9pm each night (will also be recorded and made available for learning)

*See over for more information on sessions.*

**Register at:**

[Worship and Preaching Online Workshop - WORSHIP](#)

[Worship and Preaching Online Workshop - PREACHING](#)

For more information, contact your Presbytery or: **Mel Perkins**, Lay Leadership Development, eLM

[mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au)



equipping Leadership for Mission



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA





The Worship Zoom sessions for this training have finished with time for those who wish to be assessed now available.

The Preaching sessions will begin in September and the topic outlines of those sessions are here.

You can join for interest or for assessment. Tasmanian assessment is arranged via Denise Savage.

## PREACHING

- 1 Sept Exploring Preaching – What is Preaching?/The place of preaching in different cultures**  
*with Mel Perkins & Rev Dev Anandarajan, Intercultural Leadership Development, eLM*
- 
- 8 Sept Understanding Preaching 1 – Interpreting Biblical texts/working with difficult texts**  
*with Mel Perkins & Rev Dr Sean Winter, Head of Pilgrim Theological College*
- 
- 15 Sept Understanding Preaching 2– Responding to the Word (as Preacher and hearer)/ Preaching for the senses and multiple intelligences**  
*Mel Perkins & Gordon Wild, Presbytery Minister, Southern Region, Presbytery of Loddon Mallee*
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- 6 Oct Preparing to Preach - Putting bits together/The art of Preaching**  
*with Mel Perkins & Rev Linley Liersch, Mission Development Strategist, Presbytery of Port Phillip West*
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- 13 Oct Preaching as Leadership 1 – The ethics in and of Preaching/ Getting your message across: Communication in Preaching**  
*with Mel Perkins & Rohan Pryor, Synod Liaison Minister (Tasmania)*
- 
- 20 Oct Preaching as Leadership 2 - The challenges and joys of preaching as yourself/ Preaching with Creativity and Imagination**  
*with Mel Perkins & Rev Deacon Peter Batten, Mission and Education Resourcing Minister, Presbytery of Gippsland*

## This 'n That

Have you read a **good book** lately that has extended your understanding of God, spirituality, theology, the Bible? Send us a review.

■ A day event **“Liturgy and Lectionary: New Perspectives”** incorporating two Northey Lectures on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August at The Centre for Theology and Ministry. The theme is reflecting on liturgies and lectionary from non-western perspectives. Our guest speakers are Jione Havea, a Tonga Pastor and scholar, and Tanya Riches, a scholar who has worked with indigenous-led Pentecostal

congregations. Registration link is here: [https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-northey-lectures-liturgy-and-lectionary-new-perspectives-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-northey-lectures-liturgy-and-lectionary-new-perspectives-tickets-161423547175)

[161423547175](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-northey-lectures-liturgy-and-lectionary-new-perspectives-tickets-161423547175) Registration is essential if you'd like to come to lunch and join the discussion groups. You can listen to the lectures for free.

- The Target Christmas Appeal has been discontinued. Target are changing their business model to smaller stores and a greater online presence. They will maintain a donations register of charities for the distribution of excess stock.
- Beryl Osborne from George Town asks if there are any spare copies of the large print version of Together in Song available as they are out of print and her congregation has a need.
- There will be a Crossroads Tasmania State Council Meeting on Saturday, 28th August, 2021 at 10.30 am at Unit 14, Wardens Court, Masonic Garden Village, 177 Penquite Road, Norwood. Contact: Secretary 0475 470 248 for more information

## Praying for the Everyone

- For other states of Australia and countries of our global community who are doing it tough under necessary Covid19 guidelines
- For us as we maintain appropriate distancing and good habits to avoid an outbreak of Covid19
- For the blossoming of new and innovative ministry and mission ideas
- For the members of the Resource and Development Committee, individually and together, for the complex compliance issues they sometimes have to help sort out and for the joys that they hear about.

## What's On

### August

Tue 3	10am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 10	11am	Resource and Development Committee
Tue 24	11am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 26	10am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Sat 28	10.30am	Crossroads Tasmania State Council



## Lay Preaching Unleashed

2021 National Conference of Lay Preachers  
Sunshine Coast

10 September - 13 September

Alexandra Headlands Conference Centre  
13 Mari Street, Alexandra Headlands QLD 4572

To find out more about the National Conference of Lay Preachers and to register check out [National Conference of Lay Preachers 2021 - Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod \(ucaqld.com.au\)](https://ucaqld.com.au)

**SAVE THE DATE: October 15th Family Getaway** - Simon Gurteen, Anthea Maynard, and Jeff Savage are putting their heads together to take advantage of a booking at the Scotch Oakburn camp site in the Fingal Valley. The leadership team would appreciate your ideas and perspectives. If that is for you, please contact Simon at [skgur@internode.on.net](mailto:skgur@internode.on.net) or phone 0433 843 070.

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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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