

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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

Issue No. 198

September 2021

Rev. Dennis Cousens - Conclusion of Ministry Placement



On Sunday, 8 August 2021, the ministry placement of Rev Dennis Cousens with the Midlands-Glamorgan region was celebrated and formally concluded with a service of worship. Dennis has been in placement since 2013, and has moved home to Hobart.

Representatives of the congregations of Bothwell, Oatlands and Swansea, family and friends, and representatives of the Presbytery of Tasmania gathered at Ross Uniting Church, where the afternoon service was followed by afternoon tea and fellowship.

Dennis is designated as Awaiting Placement for the present time, while he recovers from knee surgery and considers future possibilities. More photos on page 10.

Reflection

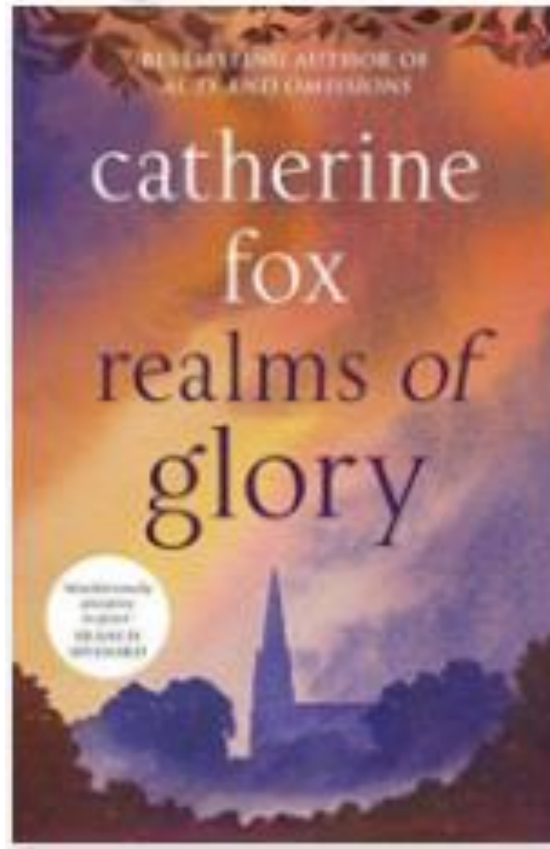
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“The table where we cannot unfriend, unfollow, block or mute our brothers and sisters. Eat. Drink. Love. We are all one body. We have to hang on to one another now. At all costs.”

Uniting Church Tasmania Events

We have been working hard to keep our website up to date with events and other information.

Events include all key information including dates, locations, any costs as well as links to booking pages where available. Please have a look from time to time to see what is coming up.

Click on the link below

[Upcoming Events – Uniting Church Tasmania – ucatas.org.au](https://ucatas.org.au)

or copy and paste this link into your browser

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

Next Presbytery of Tasmania Gathering

Saturday 13th November 2021 at Cam Rise Uniting Church, Somerset

Building community connections for Pacific Island workers on Tasmanian farms



Our Synod has employed Taua Ritiata (pictured) to connect people from the Pacific Islands and Timor-Leste working on Tasmanian farms with local community groups, including churches. Taua is from Kiribati and has been working for a labour hire business in Tasmania to support workers from the Pacific Islands in Tasmania. He is employed two days a week by the Synod and is keen to connect with any congregations interested in making connection with workers in their area.

Taua is part of a larger national community connections project funded by the Commonwealth Government to support people on the Seasonal Worker Program. The project is jointly managed by the Synod, the Salvation Army, the Pacific Islands Council of Queensland and the Pacific Islands Council of South Australia. The project is funded until the end of 2022.

Taua can be contacted by e-mail taua.ritiata@victas.uca.org.au

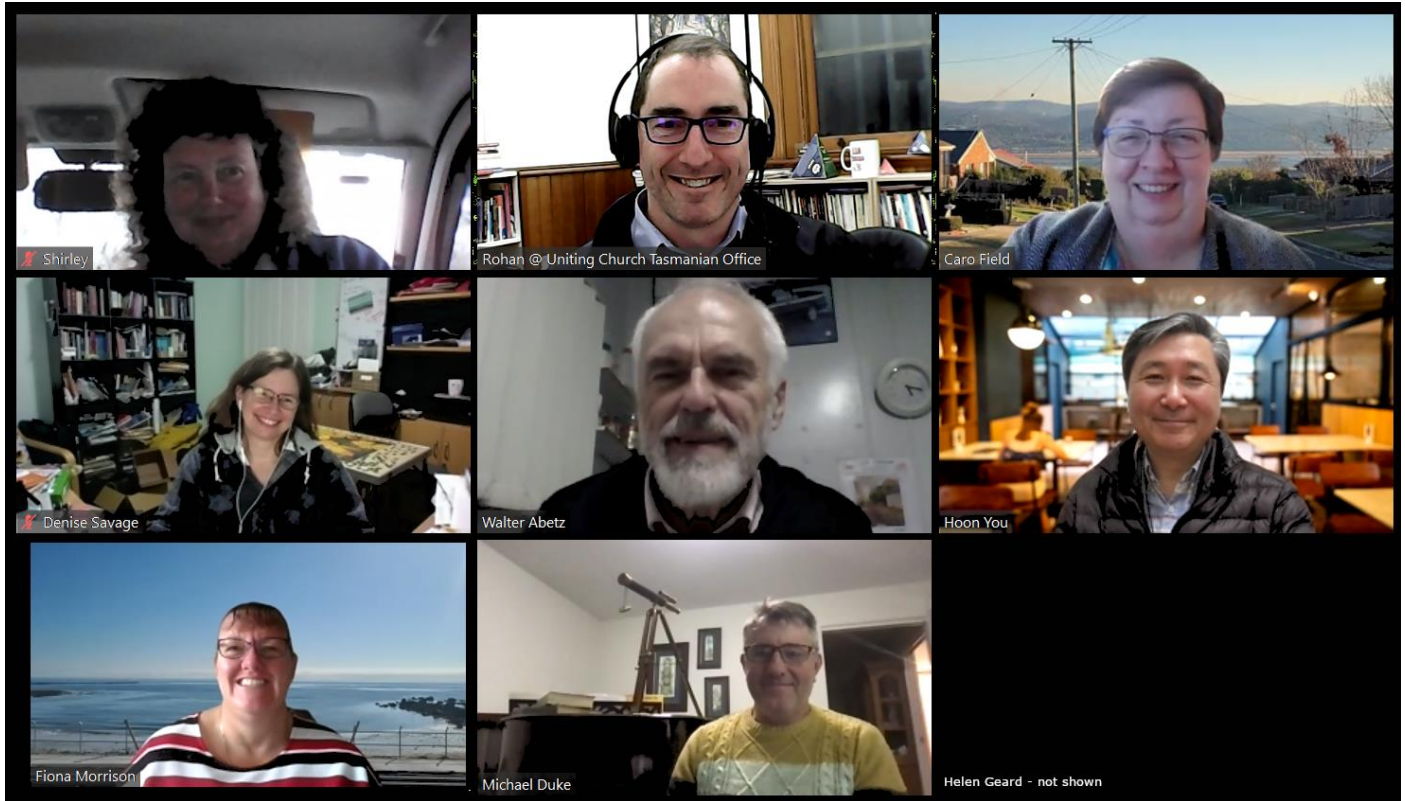
Further information on the Seasonal Worker Program can be found at [Seasonal Worker Programme - Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Government \(dese.gov.au\)](https://www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme)

Further information about the Community Connections project can be found at [Strengthening community connections for seasonal workers | Ministers' Media Centre \(dese.gov.au\)](https://www.dese.gov.au/strengthening-community-connections-for-seasonal-workers)

Longford congregation has some connection with workers from Vanuatu. What is the experience of other congregations? Share your story with us, and with others.

Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC)

Below is a picture of the current members of the Presbytery Standing Committee “captured” in a recent Zoom meeting at various locations across Tasmania and the country. On screen are Shirley Bowers, Rohan Pryor, Caro Field, Denise Savage, Walter Abetz, Hoon You, Fee Morrison and Michael Duke. Helen Geard was not on screen when this snap was taken.



Responsibilities of the Presbytery Standing Committee

- Priority setting and evaluation – report to Presbytery meetings to be approved
- Establish task groups to do defined tasks
- Establishing and organising the agenda of Presbytery gatherings to ensure timely discussion of issues and encourage participation
- Acts, when necessary, as the Presbytery between meetings of the Presbytery. This means decisions that have to be made before the next Presbytery meeting are made by PSC and reported to Presbytery.

Responsibilities Delegated by Presbytery to PSC

- Formation or alteration of bounds and the closure of congregations and other pastoral charges (Reg 3.1.3 (d)(i))
- Receiving and dealing with matters referred to it by congregations and church councils (Reg 3.1.3(d) (iii))
- Administration essential for effective working of the presbytery including annual reports to synod and auditor for presbytery accounts (Reg 3.1.3 (o)).

This includes oversight of the work of the Presbytery Ministers Mission and Leadership.

- Delegating duties of an officer of the presbytery to another officer (Reg 3.1.3(s))

Contrary to public opinion the people at this meeting usually sit! They 'stand in' for the whole Presbytery between its gatherings or meetings as a Council.

They are the human beings who interact with the institutional needs of the church and help us navigate the many responsibilities and discern amongst competing priorities.

Each meeting receives reports from the other committees of the Presbytery and the members of the Presbytery Ministry Team; hearing issues, feeding back support and providing suggestions or directions balanced by an overview of the total work of the Presbytery. It also has an overview connection with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Rohan Pryor's role is embedded in both Presbytery and Synod. One example of this connection: congregations and agencies make annual reports to the Synod. The Standing Committee receives comparative reports about the way in which this presbytery is both similar to and different from other presbyteries, enabling it to better target its agenda to emerging needs and potential issues or opportunities.

Zoom enables the disparate members of the group to maintain connection and be able to manage their time more effectively, even though they are spread across the state and even while Secretary, Shirley Bowers, is travelling and being with family in Queensland.



For more info visit the Uniting Church 'Just Act' website <https://justact.org.au/> or download <https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-JIM-Convention.pdf>

Next TCCEM Training Day (Updates)



Our next Personal Support training day will be in Campbell Town on Saturday September 11th. This training in Psychological First Aid and Emotional & Spiritual Care is for potential new volunteers and also acts as a Refresher course for current volunteers. Topics covered include:

- Understanding the emergency setting
- Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements
- The impact of emergencies on individuals and communities
- Psychological First Aid principles
- Emotional & Spiritual Care principles
- The role of a TCC Emergencies Ministry volunteer

TCC Emergencies Ministry deploys faith-based volunteers to care for affected people in situations such as evacuation centres during fires and floods. No formal qualifications are required but we do need a positive reference from your faith community leader.

The registration form is online at https://www.tccem.org.au/register_for_training/. The price is \$110 (incl GST), with a discount offered to Regional Coordinators and LGA Reps.

TCC have had to bring the RSVP date forward so note that registrations close on Friday next week (August 27th).

If you are a specialist in this area you might also be interested in crowding your week with this as well. For details see the next page.





MINISTERING IN DISASTER AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Good advice for congregations and faith communities

DETAILS

Who for:

Congregations and faith communities

When:

Thursday, September 9 2021
7-9pm

Where:


Zoom

Cost:

Your time and ongoing care

Presenter:

Rev Dr Stephen Robinson,
National Disaster Recovery Officer,
UCA Assembly

[Click here to register](#) 

ABOUT THE EVENT

In past years, we have been through some tough disasters together.

Do you and your congregation/faith community feel equipped to help your community when they are in need from disasters? Come to the training and learn some good advice on ministering in disaster-affected communities - before a disaster occurs, when a disaster occurs, and long-term recovery.

For further information, please contact Mel Perkins,
Lay Leadership Development Coordinator
mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au



Scripture Union in the North

Stephanie Sebastian, the Field Development Manager for Scripture Union in the north of Tasmania has a number of ways in which people can become involved in the work of this cross church group. They include:

'Many Cultures: One Team' - this intercultural outreach ministry focuses on engaging families from the Hazara community and other cultures through basketball at Summerhill Baptist Church. Seeking assistance for people to come, watch and chat to develop relationships amongst the crowd.

Boots'N All walks happen every fortnight on a Saturday and provides opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. <https://sutas.org.au/bush-walking/>

Northern Suburb Kids Games on Tuesday afternoons after school. They need volunteers to assist the team in various ways.

Monthly SU Prayer Breakfast 8am – 9.30am on Saturdays with the next one being on the 11th of September.

SUPA Camp for grades 4-6 from the 25th – 28th September

Element Camp for high school students from the 6th – 9th October

"Celebrating the Past - Embracing the Future" on Saturday 4th September at Punchbowl Christian Centre marking the merger of the independent SU movements across the nation into one SU National.

- Breakfast at 8:15am Book in for the \$10 breakfast at <https://sutas.org.au/celebrations/>
- Free Children's Celebration 10.30am – 12 Noon – still looking for some helpers with this, particularly face painters.

The Tasmanian Office has access to flyers for some of these events, or check the UCATAS website events section - <https://ucatas.org.au/events/>

Stephanie Sebastian can be contacted regarding venues etc. 0427 553 424 or (03) 6244 8422 or stephanie.sebastian@su.org.au

If you are interested in Scripture Union more generally in Tasmania check out www.sutas.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia

Presbytery of Loddon Mallee

Expressions of interest are invited for the full-time Presbytery Minister, Administration (PMA) position in the Loddon Mallee Presbytery, to commence at the earliest opportunity.

The primary role of the PMA is to assist and support ministry agents and lay leaders across the presbytery in dealing with matters related to property and finances, in conjunction with the Presbytery Standing Committee.

The PMA will work cooperatively with the Presbytery Ministers in the northern and southern regions of the presbytery and will have the responsibilities of Presbytery Secretary.

Inquiries can be made to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania at Placements.Secretary@victas.uca.org.au

Did you know?

- All congregations are required to appoint a Presbytery Member in order to participate in the meetings of the Presbytery, to contribute to discussion and discernment on important matters, and to report back to their congregation about the activities and concerns of particular meetings.
- Scots Memorial provide a time during the week when someone is available for prayer and/or direct prayer requests for Sunday worship.

Photos from Conclusion of Placement for Dennis Cousens



Online Spring Journey

A Sustainable
September
Journey

7:30pm Weekly
Tuesday 7 Sept to 28 Sept
Via Zoom
Contact Rev Denise Savage for zoom
link



Connecting images and biblical story as we enter a season of new growth, discovering and bright colours. What sustains us? What is our part in this big world? Where is God calling me as part of God's creative activity?

Letting our stories and questions, connect with the story of Jesus. Finding our words to grow in faith.



*What in this image helps you to
connect with God in a season of new
growth?*

*What does that tell you about who God
is?*

What will you do different

For more information or for the zoom link contact Rev Denise Savage
denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au

Communion Cross Finds New Home.



Up to now there has been a small wooden cross in the Uniting Age Well's Strathaven Chapel Tasmania, which was hard for the congregation to see. The donation of this bronze cross, which is much bigger and shines out against the background of the stained glass windows, has really added to the atmosphere of the chapel. The chapel is a small open space as part of the activity room and the cross helps identify the area as a chapel. Residents and staff have commented on how much they appreciate the cross and how it adds to the atmosphere of worship. The small wooden cross has become a part of the resources available for residents who want to have a worship focus in their own room.

Our sincere thanks to the New Norfolk Congregation who donated the cross. You can be assured it has come to a good home where it is being treasured.

Blessings

Heather Cowled

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Worship & Preaching ONLINE TRAINING 2021

PREACHING

- 1 Sept** **Exploring Preaching – What is Preaching?/The place of preaching in different cultures**
with Mel Perkins & Rev Dev Anandarsan, 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
- 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
- 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 Battier, Mission and Education Resourcing Minister, Presbytery of Gippsland

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.

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



equipping Leadership for Mission



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Ideas for Worship



The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home. Together, the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect God's creation.

The season starts 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Resources can be found at <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Sunday 5th October

Child Safe Sunday



Register your email at <https://uniting.church/uca-child-safe-week/> for resources to be sent.

Sunday 10th October



Worship and other resources available at [Share Sunday | Uniting Vic.Tas \(unitingvictas.org.au\)](https://unitingvictas.org.au)

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.

■ 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 from 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 Everyone

- For the ministries, personnel and volunteers of Scripture Union in Tasmania, Australia and beyond.
- For us as we maintain appropriate distancing, and good habits and get our vaccinations to avoid an outbreak of Covid19
- For the blossoming of new and innovative ministry and mission ideas
- For the members of the Presbytery Standing Committee, individually and together, for the complex issues they sometimes have to help sort out and for the joys that they hear about.
- For Dennis and Sally Cousens, their Staffy, Raffy, and for the congregations of Oatlands, Bothwell and Swansea.
- For all who are dealing with the consequences of change.

What's On

September

Tue 7	10am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 14	11am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 23	10am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Tue 28	11am	Resource and Development Committee



National Conference of Lay Preachers 2021

Saturday 11 September 2021

Sunday 12 September 2021

Now Online via Zoom

Conference cost is \$20 pp (plus a 50c ticket fee)

The updated Registration Form is available at

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=796906>

Program at https://ucaqlld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2021/06/20190910-NLP-Program-ONLINE-v2.3.pdf

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 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
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Tasmania_location_map_blank.svg