

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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



Issue No. 202

March 2022

VicTas Moderator visits Tasmania

Moderator Rev Denise Liersch is visiting Tasmania for these events and more:

- Thu 17 March: Leprena community gathering – see *page 8*
- Fri 18 March: Walking on Country together – *more details to come!*
- Fri 18 March: evening BBQ for young people around the Hobart region

Need more learning? You can DIY!

do it yourself



“Learning more about the Uniting Church’s understanding of mission and ministry – the gifts that every member has contributing to God’s mission in the world – is an exciting discovery. Learning together about the church in the local community, in the workplace, at home and in public, gives us a better sense of what the Church is actually here for, and how we contribute as members and leaders today. When these DIY learning resources were created over 20 years ago they were widely-known, but since then they have become a bit of a hidden secret – and they are a great resource for local church leaders!” – Rohan Pryor

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Uniting Church “Do-it-Yourself” (DIY) Modules

Educational sessions for local leaders and small groups that you can run yourself

Looking to understand more about faith and leadership in the Uniting Church?

Have a small group wanting to learn more, but not sure if you are confident to lead?

Any small group can explore a wide range of issues in the life of disciples, leaders and congregations in the Uniting Church. With these small-group educational resources you can do it yourself! The set of ‘Do-It-Yourself’ (DIY) modules introduce and explore a range of important topics within the Uniting Church, and provide the resources to facilitate an educational session on each topic.

Each DIY module is a stand-alone session of 90-120 minutes which you can run yourself – no expertise is assumed, just a small group willing to share in learning together. The Leader’s Guide for each session suggests everything you need to say and do, and handouts are provided for participants. All you need to do is help everyone in the group to participate and contribute.

Every DIY module is available for download at no cost from CTM Resourcing:
<http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/?rf=kw&kw=diy>

DIY module of the month: C1 The changing face of the church

“All of us are aware of the rapidly changing nature of the world around us. Frequently it is difficult to understand fully the cause of such change, and how we are affected. This module is an introduction to discussing our perceptions of the change affecting our congregational and community life. The module sets out to offer opportunity to reflect together on the changes that we currently experience and

to listen to one another as to how these changes are making us feel. Follow-up modules are available to explore further this issue in the light of common themes across the western world regarding the life and place of the church.”

- The aim of this module is to introduce participants to the changes in the world and the church, and to give opportunity for discussion on how these changes are evident within the church community.

- When you have completed the work for this module, you will be able to locate your congregation and yourself within some of the changes which are occurring in society and in the church. You will also be able to identify your attitude to some of these changes.

Session outline	90 mins
1. Introduction	5 min
2. Plenary discussion	5 min
3. Group activity (C1.H1) with plenary response	20 min
4. Plenary questions	5 min
5. Plenary activity (C1.H2)	10 min
6. Group activity (C1.H2) with plenary response	15 min
7. Group activity (C1.H3)	20 min
8. Plenary discussion	5 min
9. Close	5 min

Thomas, the injured seafarer.

Stories of love and care for Seafarers have continued to reach us over the holiday period. The photo below shows a Seafarer setting off for home, after he was looked after by Bell Bay Seafarers' Mission and the Burmese community, following an injury on board last year. Although taken to hospital and in an isolation ward, Bell Bay Seafarers' Mission delivered an international plug, a SIM card and recharge vouchers and a care package to remind both him and hospital staff that he was cared about. Before leaving he shared a meal with a local family.

Our thanks to hospital staff, Bell Bay Seafarers' Mission, MtS Hobart, MtS Burnie, the Launceston Burmese Community and Devonport Shipping agents for all working together to help support this Seafarer in need.

Gospel Ralte says, "We took Thomas to our home in Ulverstone and had Burmese tea together. It was wonderful....We are now serving the Lord in Gippsland, Victoria.



Burmese Pastor, Rev. Gospel Ralte's family from Ulverstone with Thomas.



Uniting Church in Australia
Lay Preachers' Association of Victoria and Tasmania



Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting 25-26 March 2022 Advance Notice

The Friday night and Saturday meetings will be open for Lay Preachers etc at CTM

AND as a fully interactive Zoom meeting with multiple cameras
Full details and a registration form will be with the February *Witness* to be sent out in about ten days.

Update your skills in Biblical interpretation
This is a programme that should not be missed

Programme

Friday Night	7.00 pm Annual Lay Preachers' Service Holy communion with Rev Dr Sally Douglas 8.15 Session with Sally Douglas – UCA Minister at Richmond, author, blogger and lecturer
Saturday morning (approx times)	9.15 am Opening worship 9.30 am Session 1: Exegesis Workshop with Rev Dr Sean Winter and Rev Dr Robyn Whitaker 11.30 am Session 2: Further Exegesis workshop
Saturday afternoon	1.45 pm Session 3: Ethics Workshop with Mel Perkins, Peter Morris and Robert Lees 3.15 pm Session 4: AGM

Both in-person and Zoom participants will need to register using the form with *Witness*.

Zoom participants are encouraged to create a small group to gain the maximum benefit from the workshop tasks. Start thinking about forming a group now.

The CTM venue is an educational institution with different Covid protocols, so rules may be stricter than general rules. Registrants will be kept up-to-date with any changes.

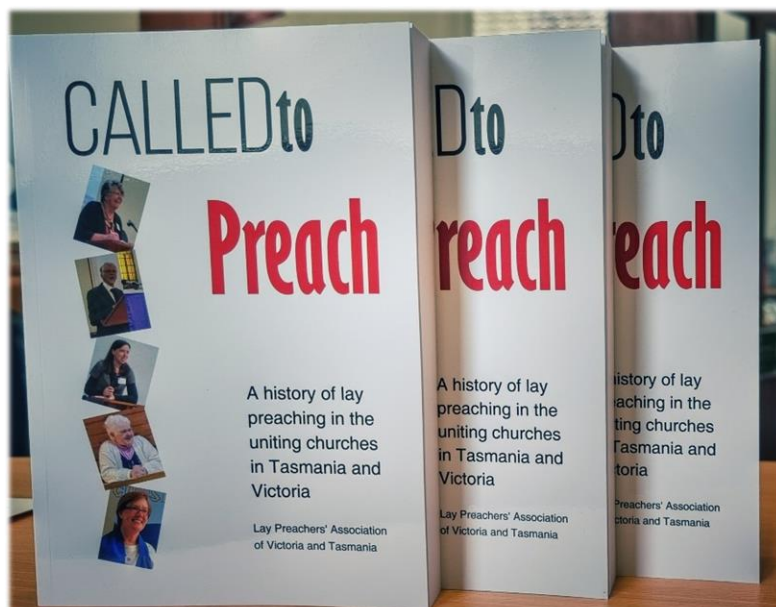
If there is a severe change to Covid regulations, the conference may go ahead as a Zoom only conference.

Limited accommodation is available at McLean House. Contact CTM on 03 9340 8800 or info@ctm.uca.edu.au



A project to commemorate 150 years of the Local/Lay Preachers' Association

Published by the Synod Lay Preachers' Association of Victoria and Tasmania
in association with the Uniting Church Historical Society ISBN 978-0-9807168-7-0



Called to Preach

A history of lay preaching in the uniting churches in Tasmania and Victoria

This is the readable story of the origins and development of lay preaching from the early settlement of Van Diemen's Land to modern Victoria and Tasmania, describing events and people who helped shape lay preaching; with an historical review of the Lay Preachers' Association from 1869.

Authors:

Barry Brown, Alastair Davison, Cheryl Griffin, Glen O'Brien, Daryl Pedler, Robert Renton, and D'Arcy Wood, with a Foreword by the Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch



In this book... We hear of adaptation to changing circumstances, of being responsive to the call of God and the needs of the community as they were perceived at the time. And along the way, we hear something of what we might learn, not just of other people and their stories from the past, but of where we've come from and what has formed us: of who we are and how we might move into the future.

Chapters: [including a conversation with Arthur Tonkin]

Lay preaching in historical perspective; Methodist Lay Preaching in Tasmania and Victoria, 1820–1902; Methodist lay preaching in the Victoria-Tasmania Conference 1902–1977; Congregational and Presbyterian Lay Preaching; The Basis of Union and Lay Preaching; Lay Preaching in the Uniting Church, 1977 to the present; After the call to preach, what then?; An association of local preachers; Information from the Lay Preacher questionnaire; Observations, comments, challenges.

Price \$25 [add \$9 if posted] 300 pages including Foreword, Preface, Glossary, Index of names.

Available now through the Uniting Church Presbytery of Tasmania Office on 03 6331 9784 or email tas.office@victas.uca.org.au



Have you seen the new video-based Lifelong Faith Training programs?

We've created 14 training programs that present the latest thinking and practices for faith formation today. Each program includes a one-hour multi-part video program, design tools, strategies, and programming examples.

We've designed Lifelong Faith Training to assist you in working with your leaders and teams in designing faith formation with all ages & generations.

And it's all free!

Examples of training sessions are:

- Children's Faith Formation with Dr. Tanya Campen
- Adolescent Faith Formation with Rev. Michael Droege
- Young Adult Faith Formation with Sarah Jarzembowski
- Adult Faith Formation with Janet Schaeffler, OP
- Family Faith Formation with Denise Utter
- Intergenerational faith formation with Dr. Kathie Amidei
- Milestones Faith Formation with Debbie Streicher
- Community and Relationship Building with Jane Angha
- Faith Formation Pathways with Rev. Kathy Pittenger
- Faith Formation Playlists with Rev. Kathy Pittenger
- Organizing for Faith Formation with Rev. Christine Hides
- From Design to Implementation of Programming with Jim Merhaut
- Lifelong Faith Formation Models with Catherine LaVecchia



EVENTS

February and March

17th of February-

Have a heart day 12pm-2pm

3rd of March-

Community Gathering 12pm-2pm

8th of March-

International womens day gathering (there will be more information out soon)

17th of March-

Community Gathering 12pm-2pm

31st of March-

Community Gathering 12pm-2pm

There will be various Cultural activities across these events, come and join us for a good yarn with the community. We'd love to see you all. **RSVP via our Facebook page or email: leprena2015@gmail.com for catering purposes**



Did you know the UCA Assembly has a strategic plan?

Download from [Assembly Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023 - Uniting Church Australia](#)

The national Assembly's plan has the following five elements:

ASSEMBLY STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2023

FIVE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

**RESPOND TO
THE CHURCH**

IDENTITY

INNOVATION

**INTER-
GENERATIONAL**

INTER-CULTURAL

RESPOND TO THE CHURCH

**Respond to the ongoing
needs of the whole Church
and other Councils**

**Respond to specific issues
within areas of mandated
responsibility**

**Enact Decisions of the
Assembly**

**Standards for Ministries
(Education and Reception)**

**Maintain and Extend the
Work of Circles of Interest**

For more information about
UCA Circles of Interest

go to:

[https://assembly.uca.org.au/
circles-of-interest](https://assembly.uca.org.au/circles-of-interest)

METHODOLOGY

- Listen - constantly attend to the external context and the inner life of the Church.
- Speak - constantly remind the Church of its vision and values.
- Collaborate - create roadmaps with other Councils and Church Members and use our distinct responsibilities to enable outcomes.
- Evaluate - measure and review effectiveness against vision and values.

Money worries shouldn't stop you leaving a violent partner. The Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) Program is available for people 18+ who have recently experienced family violence, have a changed living situation and are experiencing financial stress.

That violence can be:

- Physically, verbally or sexually abusive
- Emotionally, spiritually or psychologically abusive
- Economically abusive
- Threatening, coercive, or seeks to control or dominate the other person.

How does it work?

If you have recently left and you are struggling with finances to live your life in safety, you could be eligible for up to \$5,000 financial assistance:

- Up to \$1500 in cash (or cash equivalent based on your needs and preferences)
- Goods and services such as removalists, bonds or basics for a new home
- Wrap-around support including casework from the EVP provider.

You do not need to be connected to Uniting to access the program. If you are already working with a family violence support service, talk to them about what to do next.

Who can access the service?

The payment is available to:

- Australian citizen / permanent resident in Australia
- People over 18 years old
- Have not accessed EVP in the last 12 months

For further information and people needing this assistance contact the program directly at:

<https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-violence-payment/> or can be supported by a referring agency or worker.

If you are in a situation of danger now, please call 000. If you are experiencing family violence and need immediate support or advice, call 1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732 and they will let you know what you can do.

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.

■ Reminder: Contractor and Consultant Safety Management – these must be pre-qualified and have completed the Linksafe online safety management induction before starting work at any UCA property

■ Reminder: Volunteers are asked to complete an induction session on Linksafe which covers very basic safe church information and ethos of Uniting Church.

Accreditation lasts for one year. Find this at

- Tearfund invites us to the launch of their report on climate, young Christians and the Church in Australia on 16th March, 2022 at 2pm. Rev. Tim Costello says, “Any serious discipleship in these days needs to take climate change seriously. We are stewards of a beautiful but threatened creation. I encourage all churches and their leaders to embrace this good research undertaken by Tearfund, and to engage with the dialogue and campaign it opens up.” You can find a link to the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/they-shall-inherit-the-earth-tickets-257645553787>
- The Southern Cluster of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations met at Tarroona Uniting Church on Sunday 27th February for prayer, fellowship, Bible reflection and to discuss current ACC issues. The editor apologises for not having this edition out in time for this to be advertised.

Praying for Everyone

- The people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia
- For Gospel Ralte and family as they continue their ministry in Victoria
- For Presbytery as they meet on the 5th March
- For congregations as they add Contractor Induction and Volunteer Induction to their to do lists
- For people in the Uniting Church as they continue to learn about faith and being good citizens in the world
- Churches coming together for World Day of Prayer

From Derwent Cluster Newsletter

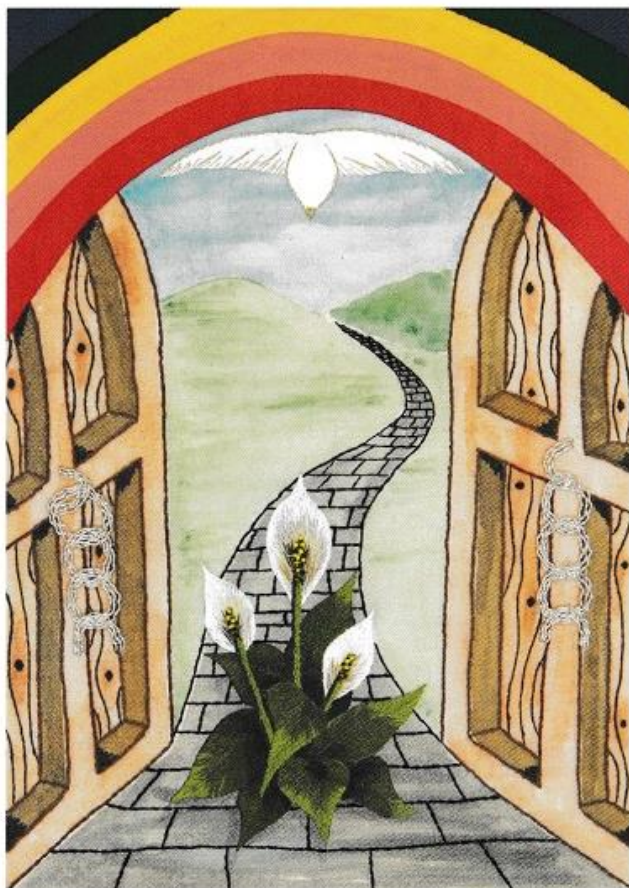
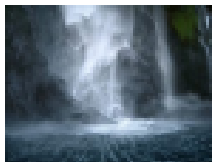
Going Deeper John 4:1-42

Jesus talks about his "living water" as a "spring of water welling up to eternal life" which He freely gives us to drink.

To consider

1. How do we turn the tap on to receive this abundant life-giving gift?
- 2: What might this gift bring to you?

Prayer: Loving God, shown to us in Jesus, show me how to tap into this "living water" to refresh my faith with new hope and peace and love. Amen



World Day of Prayer 2022

England, Wales and
Northern Ireland

**Find one in your local area on
Friday 4th March
Two we know about are:
St Andrew's Anglican Church,
Evandale
Longford Uniting Church
Both are at 7pm**

Annual reminders for Congregations:

(this section is back by popular demand)

March:

- AGM by end of March
- Check items in Annual Maintenance Statements Log Book
- Notify UCA Tasmanian Office of any changes for the Presbytery Directory – office bearers, worship times etc
- Working with Vulnerable People up to date

What's On

March

Tue 1	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Sat 5	10:00am	Presbytery Meeting: Clarence Uniting Church, Bellerive
Tue 8	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee
Wed 23	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee

Presbytery Agenda

Opening Worship - Rev Sherrin Jackman

Today's worship will include the Acknowledgement of First Peoples, the Moomairremener people

Good News Stories and news from around the Presbytery

Grace Reynolds

Chaplain at Scotch Oakburn College

Karen Woolford

Aged Care Chaplaincy at Ningana & Lillian Martin

Learning from Reports

Uniting AgeWell presentation Clare Brockett

Ballots for Chairperson of Presbytery and Synod 2022 Members

Update on Tasmanian Voluntary Assisted Dying

2022 strategic reconfiguration of Presbytery and Synod staff roles

General Business

Reflection on the Gathering

Published and distributed in the week before the last Sunday of each month.

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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