

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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



Issue No. 205

July 2022



Commissioning of Presbytery Leaders



The Presbytery meeting on 4 June 2022 commissioned Presbytery leaders including Rev Denise Savage, Rev Hoon You (not pictured), George Kogios as Treasurer, Rohan Pryor as Chairperson, and released Rev Caro Field (now ex-Chairperson).

Synod 2022 meeting
—see p. 2

Assembly 2022
meeting — see p. 3

Commissioning of Presbytery
Leaders— see p. 7

**“There is mercy enough,
There is grace enough,
There is love enough,
For all of us.”**

The Many



The 2022 Synod meeting will commence with an Opening Worship service on Thursday June 30 when Moderator-elect David Fotheringham will be installed as the Moderator for the next three years. Watch a livestream of the Opening Worship from 7:30pm via the UCA [YouTube channel](#) or the livestream link on the front page of the Synod website <https://victas.uca.org.au/>, and add your own prayers to uphold the Moderator and this meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

The Synod meeting will then continue from Friday 1 July until Sunday 3 July, as an in-person gathering of members of the church appointed by all eight presbyteries.

A timetable and other information about the Synod meeting at the Box Hill Town Hall is also online: <https://victas.uca.org.au/about-us/synod-meeting/>.

Ever wondered who goes to Synod meetings and why? Go to the VicTas Synod [Facebook page](#) and meet some of the members who will attending the meeting. Members appointed by the Presbytery of Tasmania comprise:

Lay members (up to 7 members):	Ordained members (up to 7 members):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Merril Clayton• Corine King• Rohan Pryor• Barrie Robinson• Margaret Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rev Carolyn (Caro) Field• Rev Susan Malthouse-Law• Rev Fiona (Fee) Morrison• Rev Hoon You

Supporting ministry leadership across the Presbytery

As part of the reconfiguration of Presbytery ministry in Tasmania, **Rev. Sherrin Jackman** has been appointed by the Presbytery Standing Committee to the **Presbytery's Ministry Support role starting part-time in mid-July**.

The primary purposes of this Ministry Support role are to coordinate key Uniting Church events for both lay and ordained ministry leaders, including *Refresh* for local lay leaders, *Renew* for ministry workers, and Lay Preacher 'hub' days, as well as structured online training in leading worship, preaching, interpreting the Bible and theology.



Sherrin will work with the Presbytery Resource Ministers (PRMs) for the Southern and Northern regions (Denise and Hoon) and the Synod Liaison Minister/Presbytery Chairperson (Rohan). This role is part of the Uniting Church's resourcing for Presbytery staff roles through the Synod Mission Support Fund (MSF), reporting to the Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) and with oversight of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC).

The Uniting Church affirms that every member has gifts for ministry, and every gift has its corresponding service in the ministry of Christ (*Basis of Union*, Par. 13).

VicTas Synod meeting (continued from previous page):

Key discussions:

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

Church communities are places where we seek to grow in faith and to follow Christ on the journey of discipleship, places where we "Experience the love of Christ and share this love." (Rev Dr Sally Douglas, *The Church as Salt: Becoming the Community Jesus Speaks About*).

This Synod, discussions will identify ways in which the growth of new seeds are shooting up around us, explore how might we nurture new Christian community, renew our existing church communities, and learn from one another across the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.



Oversight of reporting bodies:

Synods meeting receive reports from all the Uniting Church entities for which Synod has general oversight, direction and administration (*Basis of Union*, par. 15(d)):

- all eight presbyteries;
- UAICC Tasmania and UAICC Victoria;

VicTas Synod meeting: Oversight of reporting bodies (continued):

- property: the two Property Trusts, for Victoria and Tasmania;
- institutions: U Ethical (formerly UCA Funds Management), Uniting AgeWell, Uniting Vic.Tas (formerly UnitingCare) and Uniting Housing,
- committees: Synod Standing Committee, Mission and Ministry Committee, Theological and Ministerial Education Committee, Property & Operations Committee, Synod Ethics Committee, and other committees including Audit and Risk, Placements, Pastoral Assistance, Terms of Placement, and Nominations;
- working groups of the Synod: Money for Mission Steering Committee, Here for Good Working Group, Disability Royal Commission Response Task Group, Presbyteries-Synod Forum, Bethel Pastoral Centre, Ecumenical Relations Committee, Working Group on Christian Jewish Relations; and
- Synod work units including the General Secretary and Secretariat, equipping Leadership for Mission (eLM) and Mission Resourcing Unit (MRU).

Proposals for consideration by the Synod meeting:

- Response to the Tasmanian *End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act* (VAD) with Synod decisions to guide Synod agencies (Uniting AgeWell, Uniting).
- Length of term for future Moderators to be for approximately three years, as determined by the intervals between normal Synod meetings.
- Improving the lives of people with disabilities in Australia through support for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, specifically the Victorian Disability Act which is under active review.
- Advocacy for raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years in line with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Further develop the Synod's Disability Action Plan 2022-2025, and to invite other councils and institutions of the Church to adopt the Disability Action Plan.
- Recognising the impact of forced adoptions and the role of the Church in historical forced adoptions, to affirm the work of Uniting Vic.Tas' Heritage Service in accessing information and counselling impacted family members.
- Improved systems of income support through government income support payments in line with Australian Council of Social Service recommendations.
- Making homelessness a thing of the past through advocating for government homelessness and housing strategies that adequately meets the housing affordability and homelessness crises in Victoria and Tasmania.
- Minutes of Appreciation for the Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch (pictured at right); Dr David Cousins (U Ethical); Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes (CTM and eLM); Rev David Fotheringham (Placements Committee); Rev Claire Dawe (Synod Ethics Committee); Rev Rachel Kronberger (Committee for Counselling); Rev Jay Robinson (Synod Nominations Committee).



- **VicTas Synod meeting (continued from previous page):**

Proposals (continued):

- Reappointment of Rev Dr Mark Lawrence as Synod General Secretary for a further period of up to five years.
- Authorise the Synod Standing Committee to set the (annual) ministerial stipend and related allowances each year, rather than the full Synod meeting (held approximately every 18 months).

The Synod Tributes Service will again be held after the Synod meeting on **Saturday 23 July starting from 2:30pm**. This special service will be held at Wesley Uniting Church (Melbourne) which is open to all to attend and will also be livestreamed. The Tributes Service will honour and acknowledge Ministers who have:

- been ordained, retired or been received from other denominations since the preceding Synod meeting (2021).
- celebrated 50, 60, 65 and 70 years since ordination or commissioning.
- have died since the preceding Synod meeting.



John Roberto, who specialises in Intergenerational Faith Formation, is offering a number of courses free for church use. Even if your congregation doesn't have the age profile of the picture above there will be people from different generational perspectives: grandparents share faith with their whole families.

Resources can be found at <https://intergenerationalfaith.com/>

Dwelling in Love at the 16th Assembly



Key takeaways from the 16th Assembly:

- An historic renewal of the Covenant between the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Members were led each day in worship by Assembly Worship
- The Assembly acknowledge the work of the Act2 Project, affirmed its importance and urgency and resolved to continue this work..
- It warmly adopted a proposal inviting the Church to “listen anew for words of continuing witnesses from recent and contemporary contexts” through engagement with three documents from other churches, to challenge, renew and strengthen the faith of the Uniting Church.
- A resolution on climate justice commits the Church to take seriously the voices and wisdom of First Peoples on climate change and care of creation and calls on the Councils and agencies of the Church to join with the Assembly in committing to net zero emissions by 2040.
- A resolution prioritising ageing and aged care advocacy to ensure the dignity and care of older Australians, and establish a new annual day on the Church’s calendar to recognise the contribution of older people.
- Assembly members acknowledged with joy and expressed deep gratitude for the ministry of the diaconate within the Uniting Church in Australia, noting the 30th anniversary of the renewal of this ministry.
- The Assembly Standing Committee was tasked in another resolution with preparing resources to support and educate the Church in preventing harm from Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Change Efforts (often referred to as ‘conversion therapy’).
- In its final business session, the Assembly passed a proposal seeking to deepen the Uniting Church’s commitment to living faith and life interculturally in a range of ways including a new annual Sunday of celebration, ‘Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday’.

Credit to Assembly Comms Team via Caro Field

Commissioning of Presbytery Leaders for Ministry and Mission

The Presbytery of Tasmania commissioned Presbytery ministry leaders at the Presbytery meeting on 4 June at Launceston North Uniting Church, Newnham. This follows approval for reconfiguration of the Presbytery Minister/ministry roles at the Presbytery meeting on 5 March 2022, with changes to the roles for Rev Denise Savage and Rev Hoon You, where Rohan Pryor was also elected as Presbytery Chairperson for a two-year term.

Rev Denise Savage is Presbytery Resource Minister for the southern region, and Rev Hoon You is Presbytery Resource Minister for the northern region, with Rohan Pryor exchanging a previous role as Presbytery Minister for Pastoral Care for the Presbytery Chairperson. Rohan continues as Synod Liaison Minister for Tasmania (appointed by the Synod Standing Committee), and as manager for the UCA's Tasmanian Office in Launceston. Pastoral care oversight for ministers and ministry workers in placement is part of the two Presbytery Resource Minister roles, along with resourcing local leaders in congregations and faith communities for ministry and mission in each local community or region.



Left: Rev Caro Field recommissions Rev Denise Savage and Rohan Pryor, along with Rev Hoon You (absent) as the Presbytery Ministry team for Tasmania.



Right: Outgoing Presbytery Chairperson Rev Caro Field Commissions Rohan Pryor as new Presbytery Chairperson.



Left: Presbytery Secretary, Shirley Bowers, formally concludes Caro's role as Presbytery Chairperson. Caro expressed delight at concluding the role of Chairperson. She will continue serving on the Presbytery Standing Committee as ex-Chairperson.



The Presbytery meeting also elected George Kogios as Presbytery Treasurer for a 2 year term, upon which Caro and Rohan commissioned George with prayer and appreciation. George is a committed church member and very experienced finance manager and company executive with a day job with a large superannuation company. George values the contributions he can make to church and community organisations, and although based in Melbourne is very glad to visit Tasmania periodically as well as

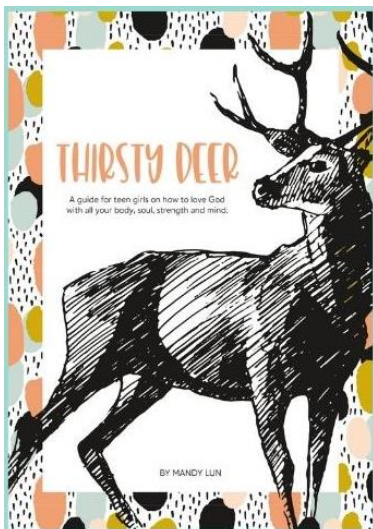


participate in regular meetings via Zoom. The Presbytery looks forward to the 'fresh eyes' and insights George will bring to the management and strategic use of the Presbytery's financial resources to assist congregations and faith communities to thrive and to utilise their resources for God's mission in Tasmania.

Photos by Bronwyn Howard, Rev Peter Grayson-Weeks and Rev Denise Savage.



Share Sunday resources are available online. This year the focus of the Share Sunday resources is hospitality - around the theme of 'God's kind of hospitality'. The 2022 resources include a sample service outline, including a liturgy, reflection and suggested hymns, PowerPoint presentation, and Stories of people supported by the Church's commitment to serve those on the margins. There is no specific date on the advertising so this might be an opportunity for someone who is prepared to lead and unfamiliar with putting together a Service of Worship to exercise their gifts of leadership. Download from <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/congregations/download-share-sunday-resources-form/>



Thirsty Deer

Thirsty Deer: A guide for teen girls on how to love God with all your body, soul, strength and mind is a practical guide to life for teen girls with a central theme of loving God and loving others (including yourself). Biblical truths are presented alongside personal stories that apply to teen life in an easy to read, beautifully presented, full-colour book – or as a PDF that will be emailed to you. (The PDF is for personal use only - if you would like to print multiple copies, please email amandalun@iinet.net.au)

A guide for teen girls on how to love God with all your body, soul, strength and mind. \$24 includes postage within Australia. <https://www.thirstydeer.net/>

Uniting Church DIY “Do-it-Yourself” Modules

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

Every DIY module is available for download at no cost from [CTM Resourcing](http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au). Visit





DIY modules of the month: <http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/>

- **E12 Dementia and pastoral care**

Module E12 explores some of the basics of dementia in general and pastoral care of older people in relation to dementia. Participants will work together to develop guidelines for effective pastoral contact with people experiencing dementia, and those caring for them. Elders in particular will benefit from this module, but also others in the Congregation who are recognised as pastoral visitors. A Church Council has oversight of pastoral care for all members of a congregation, and responsibility for relevant policies and guidelines to ensure everyone is included and kept safe.

- **E13: Dementia Friendly Congregations**

Module E13 is for all congregations and faith communities who are seeking to welcome, include and nurture people who have dementia and those who share their journey. After completing this module, participants will be able to discuss the issues and opportunities, implement some effective strategies for a congregation to become more ‘dementia friendly’, and source further information.



Congregational Leadership
Dementia Friendly
Congregations

DIY
E13

- Individual pens and highlighters
- A lined exercise book to use as a journal

Session outline (times are approximate)	Total 130 mins
1. Introduction	10 mins
2. Small group activity: Handout E13.H1	30 mins
3. Small group activity: Handout E13.H2	20 mins
4. Small group activity: Handout E13.H3	20 mins
5. Plenary conversation	10 mins
6. Small group activity: Handout E13.H4	30 mins
7. Individual activity: Handout E13.H5	5 mins
8. Close	5 mins

This DIY module was collaboratively developed by Uniting Church people in the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra including Joan Waters and Lionell Parrott, Uniting AgeWell, and the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM).

*Loving God, in whose image each person is created:
give us courage and strength
to face the challenges of dementia together,
and give us love and understanding
to share with those whose memories fail,
but whose faith remains in you. Amen.*

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
WICKING
Dementia Research and Education Centre

MOOC

Understanding Dementia
OPENS 5TH JULY - LET OTHERS KNOW



MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE

Explore your understanding of dementia: UTas online course

- It's FREE and you can enrol today
- Course opens on Tuesday 5th July 2022
- Duration is 7 weeks, with an estimated effort of 3 hours per week
- You can study day or night, on your smartphone, tablet or computer
- Receive a personalised certificate on completion

Responding To A Mental Health Crisis

The most heartbreaking thing for our Bush Chaplains is when they only hear about a suicide after it has already happened and it's too late to help. Sadly, this was the case recently when our Bush Chaplain in the Parkin Sturt Remote Area of SA, Rev. Sunil Kadaparambil was called to see a devastated family who had lost their son this way.



This mental health crisis is taking people's lives. It's an emergency. So I'm hoping you can help, as you have kindly done before. We know that our Bush Chaplains are a critical part of this. They are literally saving lives.

Almost every Frontier Services Bush Chaplain has their own story of how they have saved someone's life. We know how valuable they are and why they are needed. We believe that every life is valuable. We want to make sure that our Bush Chaplains continue to show up when and where they are needed. With your support we can. When someone is struggling with their mental health in these rural and remote places, Bush Chaplains are often the First Responders. But we need more of them, so more people who are hurting have a trusted contact on the ground who cares and listens to their concerns – no matter where they live.

I want to cry when I think how it must feel for people when the hard times never let up. And their predicaments are only growing.

Rev. Sunil says that in his area, anxiety and uncertainty have exploded. COVID restrictions have meant farmers have fewer hands helping them work the land. Some haven't been able to source spare parts for machinery. This has added to the deep mental stress caused by the unprecedented weather conditions of the last few years.

He has seen heartbreaking scenes of farmers forced to reduce their cattle herds because of a drought that has lasted nearly 10 years now. At the same time, other people he knows have suffered from catastrophic floods that cut off their supplies of food and other essential items.

"We talk about the peace and serenity of the Outback," he tells me, "but for those living here and having to deal with the severe challenges and hardships on the land, it is distressing. The Outback is the real heart of Australia, but it also holds many painful stories of those that live here."

For more info and ways to help, see <https://frontierservices.org/a-mental-health-crisis/>

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. Thanks to Margaret Wilson for reading Red Alert.

■ Speaking of Books – Bob Faser has a selection of books for sale. They include a first edition signed by the author. Some have a little water damage from recent flooding at a storage facility. Let Bob (faser.in.hobart@gmail.com) or the office know if you would like the two page list sent to you.

- Reminder: Contractor and Consultant Safety Management – contractors must be pre-qualified and have completed the Linksafe online safety management induction before starting work at any UCA property.
- Did you know that you can find information about current placements in the VicTas Synod at <https://victas.uca.org.au/ministry-mission/placements/#placement-vacancies> ? These currently include information regarding Hobart Clarence, Scottsdale Bridport, Queenborough Rise Chaplaincy.
- Did you know that there is a grant available for an arts/theology project of up to \$5000? It is the Kirk Robson Theology and the Arts Memorial Fund. Information can be found at <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/finance-and-archive/grants/educational-grants-scholarships>
- 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 <https://linksafe.com.au/uca/>
- The Western Australian Placements Commission has a crucial need for filling the positions of Presbytery Minister – Pastoral and Minister of Word/Pastor – Geraldton Lighthouse. For further information contact the Tasmanian Office or amanda.badenhorst@wa.uca.org.au

Praying for Everyone

- For Tasmanian members preparing to go to Melbourne in order to participate in a face-to-face Synod meeting – Margaret Wilson, Rohan Pryor, Barrie Robinson, Corinne King, Merrill Clayton, Caro Field, Fee Morrison, Susan Malthouse-Law, and Hoon You.

Annual reminders for leaders in Congregations:

(this section is back by popular demand)

June:

- Check items in Annual Maintenance Statements Log Book
- Annual Maintenance Statements Log Books due back at UCA Tasmanian Office
- Annual Manse inspection report to Presbytery

July:

- Synod Annual Returns due

What's On

July

Tue 5	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 12	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 28	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee



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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