

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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



Issue No. 206

August 2022

Join us in 'Sharing the Journey'

You are invited to a morning of sharing with members of the Presbytery of Tasmania and interested local Uniting Church members, at two regional 'hubs':

Saturday 27 August 2022:

- 9:30am for a cuppa and chat
- 10:00am for gathered worship
- Conversation and local story sharing
- Stories from each region, and beyond
- BYO lunch, or to food share
- Concluding by 1:00pm

Two locations – you choose!

- *South:* Hobart North Uniting Church hosted by Rev. Denise Savage
- *North & North-West:* Devonport Uniting Church



Photos: Rohan Pryor

The Uniting Church is “a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal” (*Basis of Union*). Sharing the journey together is both a joy and challenge. Sharing our insights into being the people of God in our local communities, as disciples of Christ and as communities of compassion and justice for all creation, is our purpose.



A Gospel for all ages
–see p. 2

Facing Fears in Pastoral
Encounter – see p. 3

Growing Up Uniting
– see p. 5



Synod 2022 was held from June 30 to July 3 at Box Hill Town Hall. This was the first in-person Synod meeting since 2019. The meeting was also live-streamed and the recordings of most sessions, including the Opening Worship and installation of Moderator David Fotheringham.

Thoughts from our Synod members from Tasmania:

I was thrilled when the proposal that the M & M Committee enter into conversations with the Pentecostal Movement was agreed to by consensus after some acrimonious debate and a very appropriate and encouraging response by our President, Sharon.

Barrie Robinson, Launceston North

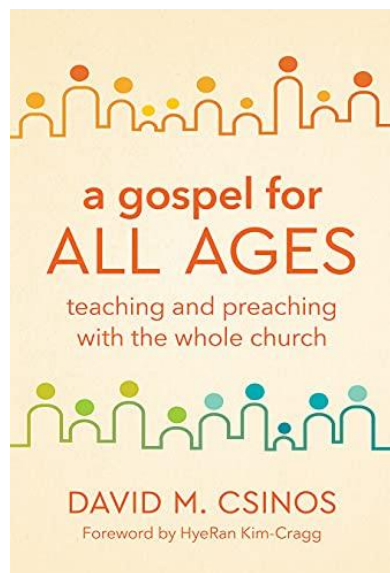


Moderator David Fotheringham marked NAIDOC Week with a jacket featuring this year's theme "Get Up! Stand Up! Speak Up!"

For a more detailed summary of Synod reports, discussions and resolutions including the Church's response to Tas VAD legislation, see page 4.

Zoom Book Huddles

Interested in engaging further with the NEW [A Gospel for All Ages: teaching and preaching with the whole church](#) book by Rev. Dr. David Csinos? Why not express your interest in being part of a Zoom Huddle!



For **those who preach** (regularly or occasionally), **those involved in worship leadership** (regularly or occasionally) and **those interested in influencing a more intergenerational approach to worship**, each Huddle will meet for one hour fortnightly over three sessions (commencing late August). Huddles will provide the opportunity to gather with peers in order to both **engage the theoretical** and **explore actual implementation** of the book content for your own context. Click here to express your interest – [A Gospel for All Ages: Huddles](#) or e-mail chris.barnett@victas.uca.org.au for more information.

Facing Fears in Pastoral Encounters

DETAILS

Who for:

Anyone offering pastoral care

When:

August 31 & September 14, 2022
6:30-9pm
(must attend both nights)

Where:

Zoom

Cost:

\$30

Presenter:

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

[Click here to register](https://events.humanitix.com/facing-fears-in-pastoral-encounters)

ABOUT THE EVENT:

Engaging in pastoral care can be a scary place – for both the one being cared for and the carer! Many carers experience fear in pastoral encounters, with some thinking they are the only ones who do so.

Come along to this workshop to explore what it means to be honest about facing fear as a carer in pastoral encounters.

For further information, please contact
Mel Perkins, Lay Leadership Development
Coordinator.

melperkins@victas.uca.org.au

This 2-part online training through Zoom is for anyone offering pastoral care.
To register visit <https://events.humanitix.com/facing-fears-in-pastoral-encounters>



The Synod meeting commenced with an Opening Worship service when Rev. David Fotheringham was installed as the Moderator for the next three years. The VicTas Synod meeting then continued at Box Hill Town Hall as an in-person gathering of members of the church appointed by all eight presbyteries. A daily 'recap' of the meeting was provided by the Synod Comms team through [Crosslight](https://crosslight.org.au).

Friday included opening devotions led by the Moderator's Chaplains, Rev Jinseon Park and Rev Semisi Tauali'i, before National Assembly President Rev Sharon Hollis offered a theological orientation on Uniting Church meetings: governance and major decision making is best done together; all councils of the Church wait upon God's word and seek to obey God's will; this work is not easy, and takes careful intention and effort to discern collectively together. The ex-Moderator Rev. Denise Liersch provided her reflections on the identity and state of the Uniting Church across the Synod, the need to now articulate to others why we are part of the Church, to describe our experiences of 'graced moments' and the difference these may to our everyday life and work, and the need for experiments and experiences finding new ways to share our faith with others seeking community, compassion and justice. Rev. Prof. Sean Winter led a bible study on the story of Jesus in Mark's gospel, who takes action to prepare for sharing good news beyond his home community, going out into other towns.



Photo: Crosslight, from <https://crosslight.org.au/2022/07/01/synod-2022-day-one-recap/>

A report on the Church's response to the Tasmanian *End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act 2021* was presented, before community working groups further discussed the report's proposals. The day concluded with theological reflection from Rev. Mark Kickett, Interim Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), and a closing prayer by Moderator David Fotheringham.

Saturday's major focus was on the Church's response to the Tas Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation, and the Synod facilitation group provided feedback on the community working group discussions the previous day. Some possible 'tweaks' had been suggested, but the proposals had received a high level of support from Synod members. Senior leadership of Uniting AgeWell and Uniting Vic.Tas shared the experience of these two Uniting Church Institutions since implementation of the Victorian VAD legislation. Lots of requests were made for resources for pastoral care and family support. These have been available on the Synod website since early 2021, with an invitation for feedback including any gaps in resources provided.

Reports from *Leprena*/UAICC Tasmania and *Narana*/UAICC Victoria included affirmation of the work of the new *Walking Together in Covenant Committee*. The long and rich ministry of Rev. Dr Jenny Byrnes was recognised with a Minute of Appreciation, as Jenny concludes as eLM Executive Officer and retires from ministry placement. Proposals from the Synod's Senior Social Justice Advocate, Dr Mark Zirnsak, included ways to improve the lives of people with disabilities, and raising the age of criminal responsibility. Rev. Andy Calder, Synod Disability Inclusion Advocate, presented a report on updating the Synod's Disability Action Plan for 2022-2025. Uniting Vic.Tas CEO Bronwyn Pike presented proposals on improving the system of income support, and making homelessness a thing of the past. Assembly President Rev. Sharon Hollis and General Secretary Colleen Geyer, and a range of Synod committees, provided reports before a dinner hosted by the Hanbit Korean congregation at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Box Hill.



Moderator Rev. David Fotheringham, Uniting Vic.Tas CEO Bronwyn Pike, and UVT Board Deputy Chair Rev. Alistair Macrae, cut a cake celebrating Uniting Vic.Tas' fifth birthday. Crosslight.



Retiring eLM Executive Officer Rev. Dr Jennifer Byrnes reflected on four decades of ministry in the UCA, with recognition from Assembly President Rev. Sharon Hollis and Synod General Secretary Rev. Dr Mark Lawrence.

Sunday morning began with Alison Overeem speaking on NAIDOC week 2022 theme “*Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!*” and the work of reconciliation (see image above). Bible study with Sean Winter explored Mark 10, where Jesus revisits the site of his baptism as he heads towards Jerusalem. Sean noted that baptism brings us into the family of God in the Church, giving us a home, but also sends us out from our home, leaving it in order to follow God’s mission in the world, with the Holy Spirit to direct and sustain us that we may not lose the way. Further discussions explored succession planning and leadership development, ministry pathways, and ecumenical engagement with Pentecostalism. Synod meetings commonly conclude with ‘one minute’ speeches, during which Barrie Robinson recognised the Tasmanian Chin Christian Church congregation as an answer to prayer, and Rev. Fee Morrison recognised the new project of Devonport Uniting Church to advocate for, connect with, and build relationships with, the LGBTQI+ community. Synod Standing Committee members were elected including Helen Geard, along with ex-officio members including Alison Overeem as a UAICC Tasmania representative.



Photo: Rohan Pryor

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

The Synod 2022 meeting was live-streamed and recordings of most sessions, including the Opening Worship and installation of Moderator David Fotheringham, are available to be viewed on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZN_DH-IU6rmNOQUJWXhq9A) (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZN_DH-IU6rmNOQUJWXhq9A)

INVITATION

TO JOIN THE Uniting Church Historical Society Victoria/Tasmania



Rev Dr A H Wood in Tonga 1968 Centenary of Tupou College

The Society aims to promote interest and study of the heritage of this Church including its antecedent churches, enrich the membership of the Church with an increased awareness of its heritage and encourage the collection and preservation of historical documents, artifacts and records. We publish historical articles and lectures, support the research facilities of the Synod Archives Centre, manage the Society with a Committee of members and cooperate with other societies interested in National, State and local histories, and of the Uniting Church and local histories, and of the Uniting Church

Our activities include occasional newsletters published and mailed to members, a program of meetings with speakers presenting their research, we have a guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting. Members are encouraged to contact the Archives Centre. Our Journal, "Proceedings" is posted to members twice yearly. Articles are contributed by researchers, members and guest writers. It is a well-documented reference for history in our field with host speakers. For more information contact Rev Robert Renton on M: 0418 317 942



A Methodist Minister in Politics: making public policy

Rev Brian Howe AO

At this second talk in a three-part series, Brian will reflect on his 19 years in politics 1977-1996. In the years of the Hawke and Keating Governments, as a cabinet minister, he was responsible for many important reforms.

Sunday 14 August 2022 at 2.00pm Free event

Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston Street Carlton

Or register for an online link by email to: ken.barelli@bigpond.com

Enquiries: Mobile 0418 317 942

VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society



Book Review

***Growing Up Uniting: The Proceedings of the Third Uniting Church National History Society Conference*, ed.**

Patricia Curthoys and William W. Emilsen (Hoppers Crossing, Vic., Uniting Church National History Society, 2021). Perfect bound, paperback, 226 pages.

If you didn't grow up attending a Uniting Church, this book should interest you.

It should interest you even more if you did! What is special about the UCA? What is different about the church? The UCA has much to offer the Australian community today.

This book is a journey into the experiences of eighteen people who have been influenced by belonging to the UCA. These people include theology teachers, clergy, lay people, youth leaders, musicians, historians and more.

The book is the proceedings of the Third Uniting Church National History Society Conference held in Parramatta and online in June 2021. It is published by the Society with editors Patricia Curthoys and William Emilsen, and with a foreword by the Society's president, the Rev. Associate Professor Glen O'Brien. It was launched by President-elect of the Uniting Church Assembly, the Rev. Charissa Suli.

The conference proved to be a watershed, where its theme, 'Growing Up Uniting' combined reflections and learnings from the past, with a focus on the present, and a commitment to a more positive future. There are refreshing and encouraging discussions on intergenerational relationships, multi-cultural opportunities, education, roles such as Deacon, and the church today.

This book is recommended reading for every member and adherent of the Uniting Church so that they are more conscious of the church's influences, and more able to communicate its values to those who are starting their journey with the church, or are simply searching.

This is not a book of history. It's a book with the future in mind.

**GRO
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The Proceedings of the Third Uniting Church National History Society Conference, are available for purchase, for \$30 (including postage) from Bob Coote, the UCNHS Treasurer. Please e-mail Bob at bandybc@gmail.com if you would like to purchase copies. Preferred payment is by direct transfer into the UCNHS Account, including 'Proceedings' and your name as the reference.

BSB: 032-828
ACCOUNT NO.: 301985
ACCOUNT NAME: Uniting Church National History Society.



Understanding the UCA

The workshop called "Understanding the UCA" is coming up in September:

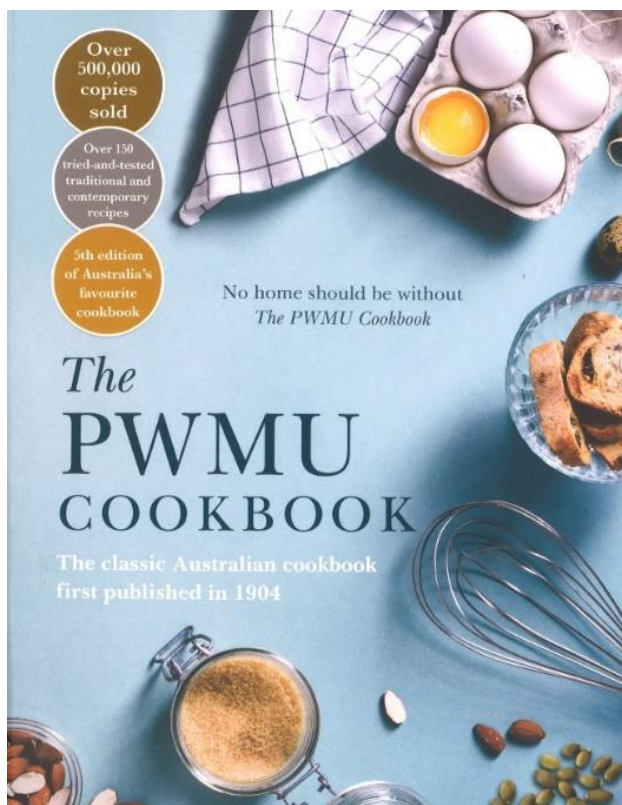
- 2 September - 6-9pm
- 3 September - 9:30am-4pm
- 16 September - 6-9pm
- 17 September - 9:30am-4pm

Cost - \$40

This workshop is for those in Ministry of Pastor positions, Lay Preacher candidates, and anyone who needs to train to achieve the core competency of "Working within the doctrine, ethos and polity of the UCA". Those who feel called to the Ministry of Pastor or Lay Preacher, or anyone who would like to know more about the UCA are also welcome to attend this workshop.

The registration page will soon come up on the Synod Events page

<https://victas.uca.org.au/events/>.



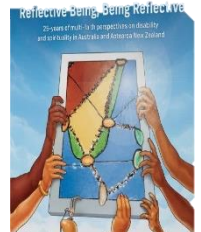
The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) cookbook, an Australian Classic, revised and fully updated for the 21st Century. This latest collection of 150 recipes includes a selection of Australia's most tried and tested treats, recipes for everyday meals, contemporary dishes, notes for new cooks and hints for cleaning and home remedies.

Available as a Paperback or e-Book from a range of commercial bookshops and online stores.

This 'n That

Grieving Your Way – A reflective workshop for Christian women with Karen Mace and Alison Whishaw. 10am – 4.30pm, Saturday 20th August at the Trevallyn Life Church, Launceston. Register by 12 August (\$65 per person), late registration \$85 per person. Places are limited. Presented by New Mornings Ministries Inc. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite. Click on the link here: [Grieving Your Way – A reflective workshop for Christian women](#)

- Reflective Being, Being Reflective – 25 years of multi-faith perspectives on disability and spirituality in Australia and Aotearoa, New Zealand. Soft cover book \$30.00 plus \$12.70 postage in Australia. Copies available by phoning 03 93408800
- Burnie Regional congregation is seeking contact details of a technician who is able to service a Rogers Digital organ. Should you know of such a person, would you kindly phone John Packham on 0417 594 846 or email: jwpack@bigpond.com
- 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/>



Praying for Everyone

- For Healthcare workers providing care to the sick with continuing waves and new strains of Covid-19 affecting so many.
- For the blossoming of new and innovative ministry and mission ideas
- For Anouk Vittori as she settles into her new role as Presbytery Admin staff

Annual reminders for leaders in Congregations:

(this section is back by popular demand)

August:

- 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
- Copies of AGM reports to Presbytery Office (if not already sent)

What's On

Aug

Tue 2	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 23	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 25	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Sat 27	9.30am-1pm	Presbytery Regional Gatherings

Sept

Tue 6	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Thu 22	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Tue 27	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee

Did you know?

- All congregations are required to appoint a Presbytery Member who can participate in the meetings of the Presbytery, share the interests and challenges of the local Church, contribute to discussion and discernment on important matters, and to report back to the congregation about the activities and concerns of particular meetings and the wider Uniting Church in Australia.

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

Contributions received seven days prior to publication.

Editor: Graham Booth, 36 Paterson Street, Launceston, 7250

or (03) 6331 9784 or tas.office@victas.uca.org.au

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