

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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



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“The evangel is complete only when the action of the Gospel matches the message of the gospel.”
Rev. Frank Byatt, 1954.

Christmas Bowl resources for 2022 are now available from Act for Peace.

They cover the period from Reign of Christ Sunday (20 Nov) before Advent (27 Nov) through to the First Sunday after Christmas (1 Jan 2023). Included online are general resources, specific Sunday worship resources, videos and PowerPoints.


These resources are obtainable either as a

hardcopy Christmas Bowl Toolkit or for digital download from <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/resources>.

Act for Peace is an activity of the National Council of Churches in Australia, of which the Uniting Church in Australia is a long-term member and key contributor.

Reflection: *A moment of peace...*
– see p. 2

Lay Preachers
– see p. 5



Earlier this year, Dylan Alcott became the first person with a visible disability to receive the prestigious Australian of the Year award. In his emotional acceptance speech, he reflected on how different things were for him growing up: *"Whenever I turned on the TV, or the radio or the newspaper, I never saw anybody like me."*

Often, change happens so slowly and incrementally over time, it's easy to forget what 'normal' once looked like. It's even easier to dismiss how challenging those first actions of change can be for the individuals and organisations leading the way to seek equal opportunities for all. ...

But with your help, and the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), The Border Consortium (TBC) is committed to ensuring that refugees living in camps on the Thai-Burma border have a say over their future, wherever possible. This means providing opportunities to assume leadership roles and meaningfully engage in decisions affecting their lives - regardless of their gender, age, race, religion, sexuality or disability status.

Act for Peace helps resource TBC's 'Lead from Within' project, which supports refugee-led camp committees – a vital system of refugee self-governance that enable refugees to decide their own affairs, and determine how best to respond to their own needs. Twenty to thirty years ago, these committees only included men.

"At that time, people couldn't imagine that women would be on the committees", says Sharni, International Programs Coordinator with Act for Peace, who recently visited TBC's team in Bangkok. "But last year, they proudly supported 90 women refugees in leadership roles in the camps, which is a huge achievement. It is TBC's hope that this shift towards acceptance and inclusivity continues to be reflected in the number of refugee leaders who are living with a disability." ...

"Looking ahead, Act for Peace and TBC will continue to collaborate and look at ways to better meet the needs and increase the inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable refugees", Sharni says.

Just last week, there was another first for disability inclusion in Australia, when Paralympian and disability advocate, Kurt Fearnley, was appointed to chair the board of the agency which oversees the NDIS. Reflecting on this, Alcott told the media he was so excited he almost *"got up and walked"*. *"That's putting lived with experience back at the heart"*, he said.

When people are included, or see themselves represented in media, culture, arts and leadership positions, their worth is recognised and respected. In turn, this drives connection rather than division between human beings and creates a more positive and unified experience for all. *(Edited from an email by:) Emma - Act for Peace team*

BICHENO COMMUNITY CHURCH

1882 - 2022



140th Anniversary

CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, 10TH DECEMBER

OFFICIAL WELCOME - 11.00am

Please Join Us for our Open Day

*Inside Church - Bicheno & Church History Boards

*Church Grounds - Devonshire Teas & Lemonade Stand
Children's Games & Activities

Calling young adults in the UCA...



Applications are open for the Uniting Church National Young Adult Leaders Conference (NYALC) taking place from 26-29 January 2023 at Merricks Lodge on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

A key part of our Uniting Church identity is that we celebrate the leadership, passion, and many gifts of young adults. NYALC is an opportunity for emerging leaders, aged 18-30, to explore what leadership is, build their leadership skills, and reflect on how faith shapes and guides leadership.

NYALC aims to nurture and equip our next generation of UCA leaders. Across three days, participants will share in worship, input sessions, bible study, peer reflection groups and more. See this invitation from the President.

Please consider if there is a young person in your community who you could encourage to go, or consider contributing towards the costs for a young adult leader to attend. Places are limited to 70 participants. Applications close 7 November.

<https://uniting.church/nyalcisback/>



Clarence Uniting Church are celebrating this event with lunch at Bellerive on Sunday 13th November. RSVPs are due on the 28th October indicating name and dietary requirements to Claire Green, 23 Natlee Crescent, Old Beach 7017 or text to 0408 880 384

Lay Preachers

- Ever contributed to the leadership of worship?
- Ever thought of being a lay preacher?
- Ever been asked to be a lay preacher?

Being a lay preacher is but one way in which those of us who are not ordained ministers can express our ministry.

According to Christine Sorensen in *Formation for Ministry: A resource for Lay Preachers* (You can Google it) there are five areas involved in the formation of a lay preacher.

Vibrant Spirituality: our ongoing journey of spiritual discovery with God, including our individual and corporate faith practices.

Thinking Theologically: the studies that shape our developing understanding of faith and how our theological thinking becomes more mature in the ways we think about our faith and our world.

Ministry Identity: developing skills to preach or lead worship, growing in our passion to communicate the gospel in word and deed to the context in which we find ourselves, and our understanding of ourselves as one who is involved in ministry.

Relational Maturity: learning to respond in more mature ways to the joys and pain we find in human relationships.

Self-awareness: our own self knowledge, how aware we are of the things that shape us, our hot buttons, and the ability to stop and reflect in the formation journey.

Becoming a lay preacher is about formation rather than education. There is learning involved. Being online it has nowhere near the monetary cost of the past though there is still a time cost. Being online can be daunting for some, but there are lay preachers and others who can assist in the process and be a sounding board if necessary.

A first step in this direction might be to explore the gifts that God has given you to exercise in conjunction with others in your place and to listen to what God says to you in that process.

Find a lay preacher and have a conversation....



What does Christ's vision of Reconciliation and Renewal look like in our world today? Join members of the Assembly Resourcing Unit (ARU) in this podcast as they ponder and reflect on our mission and ministry as the people of God.

Picture this: R&R episode 3

If you were to walk into a local Uniting Church, what would be the signs that this community is doing a good job of living interculturally? What might you look for?

Welcome end to Cashless Debit Card

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, the Uniting Church in Australia and UnitingCare Australia have welcomed moves to scrap the Cashless Debit Card. “We have long advocated for the abolition of the Cashless Debit Card and we are pleased that action is finally being taken to end a program that fundamentally undermined self-determination for First Peoples,” said Rev Mark Kickett, Interim Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Voice of the Martyrs have suggested that one way of remembering Christians who live and have died on All Saints Day is by noting that some of these have been subject to persecution even to death.

The Uniting Church is committed to nurturing personal Christian faith, Christian community and social justice in response to the gospel. This commitment includes addressing the persecution of Christians in other parts of the world (see JustAct, <https://justact.org.au/resources/>), through support of partner churches in country, participation in ecumenical networks, as well as advocacy for appropriate action by Australian governments. Whilst not all of the beliefs of Voice of the Martyrs Australia (VOM) align with those of the Uniting Church, and there are some concerns online about other overseas branches of VOM including use of funds raised, Uniting Church members may find the call to an International Day of Prayer for persecuted Christians a way of connecting in our own way with the wider body of Christ.

Maybe your people can remember those from your congregation, and beyond by lighting a candle to remember also those who have died in response to persecution from earliest times by political power, ideological difference and sheer human vindictiveness.

This 'n That

An online (Zoom) part time **Supervised Pastoral Education Unit** in Clinical Pastoral Education will be offered from February to June 2023. Applications close Nov 14th, 2022. Email andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au for further inquiries.

■ Uniting have **Christmas cards** available. Please visit unitingvictas.org.au/christmas-cards or call 1800 668 426 to order your Christmas cards. See also their **Coffee Cup Challenge** which runs from October 1st until Shrove Tuesday. This involves donating the cost of a cup of coffee each week towards assistance to people in crisis.

- **Prayer Vigil for Aboriginal Deaths in Custody** Since 2018, the Common Grace movement has gathered annually to pray, lament, learn and act together to #StopAboriginalDeathsInCustody. Learn from and deeply listen to Aboriginal Christian Leaders, engage in prayer and lament through words, song and art, and receive inspiration from the strength and determination of Aboriginal communities who take action for justice. **Where:** Online – Zoom

When: Thursday 3rd November, 7:30pm AEDT **Register:**

<https://www.commongrace.org.au/>

- **Protect our planet with your finances (Banking)** Is your bank investing your money in fossil fuels? There is much work we can do to ensure that our big financial institutions – banks, insurance companies and superannuation companies – are divesting from fossil fuel industries, and investing into renewable sources on the path to a reducing emissions. Come learn, share and discuss within an ARRCC multifaith group on aligning your finances and faith to protect the planet by divesting from fossil fuels. This is the one in a series, other sessions cover other aspects of finance such as Superannuation, Energy utilities, Insurance, and Shareholder actions. Sessions are 90 minutes on zoom. Book your session on **Banking** for either **Thursday 10th November 2022, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AEDT**, or **Friday 11th November 2022, 12 NOON - 1:30 PM AEDT** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=725749&>

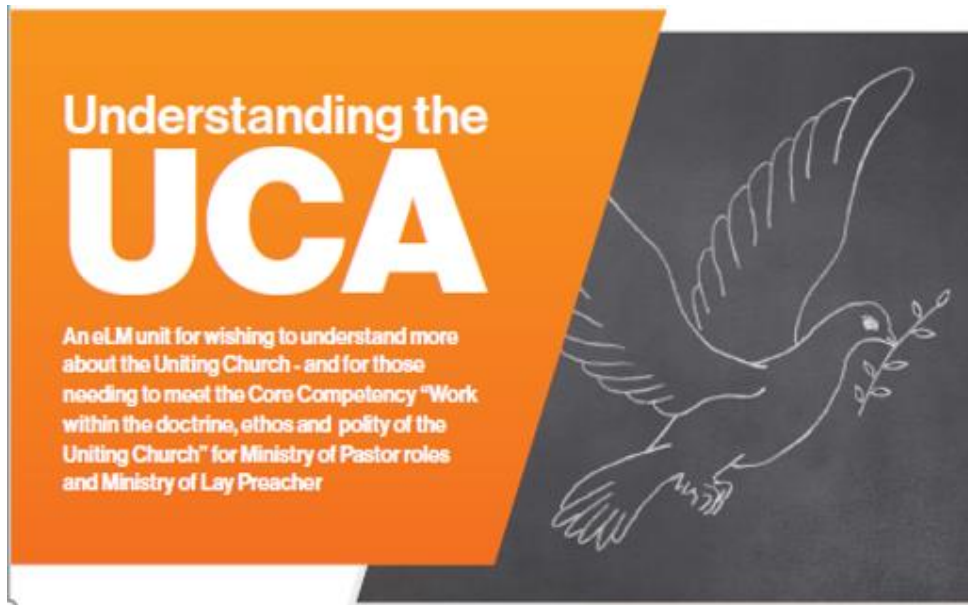
Praying for Everyone

- We give thanks for the joyful gifts and insights that the diversity of the UCA contributes to the life and faith of our church and pray for its continuing mission and place in the life of the UCA.

What's On

Nov

Tue 1	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 15	11:30am	Resource and Development Committee



Cost

\$40

Tutorial dates

Via Zoom

Introduction and Assessment

Thursday, 3 November,
6:30-8:30pm

History and Theology of the UCA

Wednesday, 23 November,
6:30-8:30pm

Life and Witness, Councils and Ministries

Wednesday, 14 December,
6:30-8:30pm

Walking with First People, Intercultural relatedness

Wednesday, 8 February,
6:30-8:30pm

For further informaton contact Mel Perkins mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au

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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