

Uniting Tasmania

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



Issue No. 210

December 2022

The Tasmanian Office will close from Friday 23 December, re-opening on Monday 16 January 2023. The office team wish everyone a blessed & safe Christmas!

Rev. Hoon You: with thanks & blessings

Rev. Hoon You will conclude placement as Presbytery Minister on 31 December 2022, following a recent period of extended sick leave and a challenging period of ministry transition during the past year.

Hoon has discerned that God's call to the role of Presbytery Minister for Mission Development in Tasmania has concluded. Presbytery's Standing Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee, and Synod Placements Committee, have approved early release to enable Hoon to discern God's next call.

Hoon's deep heart for growth in faith and mission through transformative ministry within a congregation will provide that next step.

It is with deep appreciation for Hoon's intercultural ministry experience and perspectives, his sustained attention to supporting smaller congregations during periods of significant challenge and change, his detailed attention to the Church's application processes for property and funds, and his willing engagement with the reconfiguration of Presbytery Minister roles earlier this year, that the PSC and PRC gives thanks to God for Hoon's ministry with Presbytery of Tasmania.



The Presbytery meeting on 4 March 2023 at Kingston Uniting Church will provide an opportunity for the Presbytery to express thanks and blessings to Hoon in person. The Church continues to uphold Hoon and Hannah as they explore God's next call to ministry placement for Hoon. Photo: [Crosslight](#)

Presbytery meeting: feedback invited
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Gambling Reform in Tasmania
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ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**



"I really enjoy my work". Indarwati, Senior Project Officer with our local partner in Indonesia, CWSI, assists local farmers in flood-affected areas to plant and harvest peanuts. Geoff Robinson / Act for Peace

Hello Friends,

"My name is Indarwati Palembangan...but you can call me Indar."

I'd like you to meet Indar.

She lives in Palu in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, and has been working locally with our partner, Church World Service Indonesia (CWSI), for 23 years.

Yep - 23 years.

Not only does Indar have a wealth of local knowledge (and the warmest smile I've ever seen), she knows CWSI's DREAM

project, which stands for Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Adaptive Measures, inside out.

This week, as climate negotiations take place at the UN's COP27 summit, the two of us met to discuss how climate change is already impacting communities in Indonesia, and how CWSI are working together with local farmers to help keep their homes and livelihoods safe as the climate changes around them.

"The community recognise and believe in climate change and it is becoming hard", she tells me.

"The impact of climate change on our community includes decreasing water availability, changing crop productivity, and increasing intensity of disasters in Indonesia."

"Dry seasons and irregular rainy seasons, changes in the amount of rain - it's difficult and less predictable than before."

To deal with these impacts, Indar and her team are implementing the DREAM 2 project in the Sigi District of Central Sulawesi, now in its second iteration after having success in a nearby village.

With your support, and the help of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), the DREAM 2 project is educating communities with new farming and livelihood skills so they can continue to earn an income.

"Bulubete village is one of the villages where floods occur almost every year", Indar continues.

"Often, floods bring malaria and pollute the agricultural land, so that people cannot use the land for agriculture."

"When this occurs, people who lose their land eventually look for other jobs in the city to support their families".

"Because of these problems", she says, "we created a demonstration plot as a trial, using conservation farming techniques and planting peanuts."

"The addition of solid organic fertiliser and clay soil is planted with peanuts...When the peanuts are 110 days out the peanuts can be harvested. The result is 15kg of peanut seed."

This demonstration plot has become a learning medium for farmers in the DREAM 2 project, and the harvest is planned to be used as a source of organic peanut seed that farmers can plant on their own land.

While we wait to hear the outcomes of this year's COP27 climate negotiations, including whether developed nations will scale up funding for communities being ravaged by climate impacts, we can find hope through the passion and dedication of people like Indar.

Thank you, Friends, for backing communities on the climate crisis frontline who are leading the way in finding sustainable solutions.

I hope our leaders look to them, their knowledge and their experiences to take more urgent action.

From Emma at Act for Peace

One way of being able to walk (or dance) during difficult times might be to intentionally invite God into the difficult and painful spaces we find ourselves in. Invite God in!

From Pilgrim Newsletter 11/11/22

Report of the Presbytery Meeting

Presbytery members and guests gathered at Oatlands Community Hall on Saturday 19 November for the final Presbytery meeting of 2022.

Guests, Moderator Rev. David Fotheringham and Rev. Nigel Hanscamp, shared stories from the Uniting Churches across the Synod, and resources for equipping leaders for mission in local congregations and regional networks.

Business of the meeting included election of Shirley Bowers as Presbytery Secretary for a further 2 year term, election of Presbytery Committee members, reports from the three Presbytery Committees, and setting key dates for 2023.

Presbytery Chairperson and SLM/PM-team leader, Rohan Pryor, provided an update on the reconfiguration of Presbytery ministry placements during 2022 as regional Presbytery Resource Minister (PRM) roles, and further changes for 2023:

- The current Presbytery ministry placement of Rev. Denise Savage is due to conclude on 30 June 2023, following a fixed term extension of 2 years in 2021.
- The current Presbytery ministry placement of Rev. Hoon You will conclude on 31 December 2022, following a challenging period of ministry transition.

Presbytery Ministry roles: process for consultation

Now is the time for the Presbytery to consider the structure and focus of the Presbytery Ministry roles in Tasmania: whether to continue with the current PRM regional resourcing structure, or to change further.

Presbytery Standing Committee is seeking feedback from Presbytery members, Church Councils and ministry leaders, and will report to the March 2023 meeting of the Presbytery with recommendations on Presbytery ministry roles.

Information about the PRM roles and an invitation for feedback has been sent to every Church Council and minister, with responses requested by 25 January.

Interested to provide your feedback? Contact your Church Council or the Tas Office for a copy of the feedback form.

Presbytery Property Strategy: process for consultation

Now is also the time for the Presbytery to consider the strategy for properties that are 'surplus to mission', and to invite congregations into conversation about long-term suitable and sustainable properties for church activities in each region.

Profound changes will occur in many places over the next five years, and congregations have initiative and choices to make in consultation with Presbytery.

The Resources & Development Committee (RDC) has drafted a Property Strategy for consultation and feedback from Church Councils, ministers, Presbytery members.

Interested to provide your feedback? Contact your Church Council or the Tas Office for a copy of the Presbytery Property Strategy.



The Uniting Church Assembly has welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to prioritise climate action and to implement the key aspects of the Uluru Statement in its revised Budget released last week. President Rev Sharon Hollis said it was pleasing to see the Government stand behind its commitment to cut emissions and transition Australia to a low carbon economy.

For information on this check out: <https://uniting.church/budget-response-october-2022/>

Ministry placements available now/soon include: NE TAS - Scottsdale and Bridport

Both of these from Synod eNews Update

**"It's just been one thing after another. And it really takes its toll, these ongoing pressures, incident after incident. That's why Frontier Services has been such a lifeline. To have somebody there to talk to or just to chat around the campfire or to have morning tea with, that cannot be underestimated and has been such a benefit to local communities that are isolated because of these serious events."
Rhonda, a farmer from Parkes**



Reflective Practice for Intercultural Ministry



About the workshop

Understanding the cultures of those we serve requires more than words and good intentions.

The journey towards cultural competence requires the willingness to learn from ones experiences and act.

There is much that ministry leaders need to learn about those whom we serve. Understanding the culture and history of the people; especially of those who do not belong to your culture, is essential to minister to them. One of the most valuable skills we can have is cultural competence—the ability to work across cultures in a way that acknowledges and respects the culture of the person being served. People bring with them both their theologically formed faith and their culturally formed faith practices and piety.

This workshop seeks to offer resources in reflective practice for those wanting to minister cross culturally and inter culturally.

When: Wednesday February 15, 2023
10am - 3.30pm

Where: Zoom, online event

Cost: FREE

RSVP: Monday February 13, 2023

[Click here to register](#)

For more information, contact

devanandan.anandarajan@victas.uca.org.au





Loss limits on pokies in Tasmania

The Synod Justice and International Mission Cluster has campaigned for gambling reforms in Tasmania since 2010. On 15 September 2022, the Tasmanian Government announced it would become the first state in Australia to allow people gambling on pokies to set enforceable limits. The limit will be placed on a card. The default loss limits will be \$100 a day, \$500 a week and \$5,000 a year. If any of these limits are exceeded then the person will be blocked from being able to gamble on pokies anywhere in Tasmania until the relevant period has passed. However, the person gambling can increase or reduce the default limits. Also, the Government has said it will review the default limits once the system has been in place.

People with gambling problems in Tasmania had a median daily loss of \$200 on the days they did gamble.

As a safeguard, people will only be able to increase their daily loss limit on the pokies to \$500 and their monthly limit to \$5,000. If the person wishes to increase their limit above those levels, they will be required to provide proof that they can sustain the proposed loss level. Evidence of their ability to support those losses will be required every 12 months. If the proof is not provided, limits will be reset to the default loss limit.

On the negative side, the card itself can be loaded up with cash. Research has shown that when people use money in an electronic form they are more likely to spend more than they would if they had to use notes and coins.

Tasmanian pokie businesses have expressed fierce opposition to the plan to allow people to set limits on how much they can lose.

The Tasmanian Government has also indicated that it will prohibit pokie venues from displaying outdoor signs that promote or encourage gambling on the pokies. Also, venues will be forbidden from offering vouchers, tokens and loyalty rewards that can be used to gamble. Hotels and clubs with pokies will be suspended from being able to offer loyalty programs attached to gambling.

The Tasmanian Government had also considered using facial recognition technology to reduce gambling harm. The Christchurch casino in New Zealand effectively uses facial recognition to detect people displaying behaviours indicating they are at risk of gambling harm. However, the Tasmanian Government has rejected implementing facial recognition technology in pokie venues as a harm minimisation tool.

The JIM Cluster will invite Tasmanian supporters to make their voices heard by the Tasmanian Government as the reform details are sorted out. There will be a need to counter the voices of pokies businesses willing to put their profits ahead of the well-being of the people who gamble at their venues.

Lay Preachers

Being a lay preacher involves a sense of accountability to the wider church.

Lay preachers express this accountability by:

- Maintaining a Working with Vulnerable People registration
- Being involved in Safe Church training
- Attending sessions on Code of Ethics
- Being involved with the above and other continuing education activities

Numerous lay preachers attended learning days in the north and south of the state recently organised by Rev Sherrin Jackman. The lay preachers and the others who attended these sessions heard mainly from Rev Susan Malthouse-Law on the gospel of Matthew. The lay preachers then had a conversation with Graham Booth regarding a number of questions he presented. The collated response to these questions will be presented in the February issue of Uniting Tasmania.

Lay preachers will soon be receiving two documents that they are given each year. One is a document which updates their contact information and enables them to indicate whether they are still active as lay preachers or need to be placed on the retired or inactive list. The other document is filled in by the lay preacher at most once in two years and indicates the continuing education activities with which they have been involved. This results in a certificate that is presented initially at the Lay Preachers' Conference in Melbourne and then distributed to absent lay preachers. Anyone having difficulty filling out either of these forms is encouraged to contact Graham Booth via the Tasmanian Office.

Graham is looking for an alternate to attend a few Zoom meetings of the Lay Preachers' Committee of Management while he is overseas between April and October. Please pray for someone to see this as an opportunity to be involved.

– Graham Booth, Tasmanian representative on the
Synod Lay Preachers' Association Committee of Management

Mission and Service Fund 2023 contribution

Mission and Service Giving sustains the mission of the Uniting Church in Tasmania.

The form indicating your congregation's 2023 contribution for the Mission and Service of the Uniting Church in Tasmania and Victoria is due 25th November 2022.

Please return it to the Tasmanian Office or contact the office if it has been mislaid.



As a member of the Uniting Church

you are invited to join our Uniting Church Historical Society.

The Society wants to enrich all church members with a better understanding of our unique heritage.

By better appreciating the identity of this church, you can be more confident to talk about the church and invite people to join it. The Society facilitates the promoting of interest in our buildings, the contribution of our people, and the value of our theology.

You can also share your story and that of your church through the Society.

The Society promotes the use of Synod Archives Centre, 54 Serrell Street, Malvern East 3145 and

Phone 039 571 5476

Please see our membership leaflet on the Synod website;

www.victas.uca.org.au/resources/finance-and-archives/synod-archives

and scroll to the Related Documents.

Enquiries: VicTas UCHS Membership Officer Clive Jackson, Phone 039 569 9178

(The above website also refers to the Wesley Hobart Museum so any connection also has a Tasmanian context. Ed.)

Ricky

If Wisdom is about making good choices; what sources do we seek for advice, or what principles do we apply, when we have to make decisions?

From Derwent Cluster Newsletter 30/10/22



Responding to Acts 2 this Christmas

We read in Acts 2 that the early Christians shared their possessions so that no one would be in need:

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. – Acts 2:44-45 (NIV)

That's why UnitingWorld, the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, created [Everything in Common](#).

This is the ethical gift guide that helps you respond to the call to share everything in common and support your brothers and sisters in Christ facing the most need – all while giving Christmas gifts your family and friends will love! [Click here](#) for gifts today.

Christmas solidarity with Ukraine – Rev. Dr Bob Faser

It's the time of year when many people in the community argue with each other about how early or how late is appropriate for families to put up their Christmas decorations. Rather than add to this issue, I'd like to make a modest proposal on a related issue. I propose that we don't take our Christmas decorations down too early, particularly this year.

In Ukraine, most churches and most families celebrate Christmas Day on the 7th of January. This is because most churches in Ukraine use the ancient Julian Calendar for the date of major celebrations.

For Ukrainians, whether in Ukraine or elsewhere, Christmas Day is 7th January.

I wish to suggest that, as an act of solidarity with - and a symbol of our support for - the suffering people of Ukraine, each of us who is able to do so should leave up our Christmas decorations (both indoor and particularly outdoor) until some time after the 7th of January.

With this simple act, we can express a silent sign of hope at this season of peace.

**This
'n
That**

■ Uniting Vic.Tas has **Christmas cards** available. Please visit unitingvictas.org.au/christmas-cards or call 1800 668 426 to order your Christmas cards.

■ Praying with Handel's Messiah – a space for prayer and reflection during Advent, Saturday 3rd Dec 2022. More information from Glenorchy Uniting Church.

Praying for Everyone

- We uphold Hoon and his family as they transition towards the next phase of their ministry.
- We pray for peace in Ukraine – and around the world – as Christians celebrate again the birth of the Prince of Peace, *God-with-us*, Jesus Christ.

Church Council Retreat Mission Priorities

- we pray together,
- we worship together,
- we build each other up as disciples,
- we witness to the world together

From Derwent Cluster Newsletter 20/11/22

What's On

Dec

Tue 6	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 13	11:30am	Resource and Development Committee

The Tasmanian Office will close from Friday 23 December, re-opening on Monday 16 January 2023. The office team wish everyone a blessed and safe Christmas!



Let the Outback hear your Christmas cheer!

This year's Christmas card collection features five stunning photographs of Outback Australia.

Share the beauty and grace of the rugged country this Christmas with unique cards, while spreading care and cheer with the people in the outback.

Please place your order by Friday 2 December 2022.

- Call our team on 1300 787 247
- Order online: www.frontierservices.org/shop

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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