

Uniting Tasmania

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



Issue No. 213

April 2023



The Challenge to the Uniting Church – reaching Net Zero Emissions by 2040

The scientific evidence is that climate change is already causing severe harm to the lives of hundreds of millions of people across the globe. Addressing human-induced climate change will require a sustained global effort over decades. Failing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now will lock the planet into further climate change, with increased climate-related damage. Failing to act will also make it harder to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the future.

The Synod Climate Action Task Force encourages, facilitates, and assists all parts of the Synod in taking as much action as possible to reduce emissions. The Task Force is made up of interested members from Presbyteries and congregations, staff from Synod operations and from Uniting Vic.Tas.

The Synod Climate Action Task Force is keen to hear the views of Uniting Church members on what action the Synod should take in response to the National Assembly resolution requesting that all Synods reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 at the latest.

We will be visiting Tasmania in May, so save the date for the in-person/hybrid consultations closest to you: **Saturday 27th May at Devonport UC**, and **Sunday 28th May from 2:00pm at Kingston UC**. Tim Molineux from the Climate Action Task Force is keen to meet with people wanting to discuss any issues related to the Uniting Church reaching net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest.

Uniting for The Voice – page 2

Act2 – page 3

Vale Rev. Bob Imms – page 10



This year all Australians will be invited to vote on whether we should recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution. It is a rare opportunity to consider a change to our constitution in a way that will honour and celebrate First Nations people at the heart of the nation.

At the heart of the Uniting Church is a commitment to walk together with First Nations people in seeking justice. We seek to work and pray together as First and Second Peoples for more just, inclusive and equal relationships in the church and in this nation.

President of the Uniting Church in Australia Rev Sharon Hollis and UAICC Interim National Chair Rev Mark Kickett have affirmed their strong support for a Voice to Parliament as a critical step toward honouring the sovereignty of First Nations Australians in this land and furthering the work of truth-telling and treaty. The Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) in March resolved to call on church, community and political leaders to engage in respectful and constructive dialogue in response to the referendum.

Learn about the Voice and the Uluru Statement to help you stay informed or to guide discussion and conversation in your small group or congregation: <https://uniting.church/voice/>



There is opportunity for every person who calls the Uniting Church home to contribute their voice and help shape the work of Act2. Find resources for local communities, church councils and presbyteries, make a submission, sign up for a focus group or national forum, join a Drop-In or pray with us: visit <https://www.act2uca.com/>

As part of the Act2 Project we are inviting every Church Council or group of local leaders to have a conversation about the Act2 Project and how it relates to their local community.

Between now and the end of April we are inviting you to gather together your Church Council, either in a regular meeting or at another time and respond to six questions. You may like to invite some other leaders for your community of faith to join you for this conversation.

Ask someone in your group to take some notes - dot points or a few sentences for each is enough - and share it with the Act2 Team. Your responses will contribute to shaping the directions and options we offer to the Church over the second half of 2023.

Download the local leadership conversation pack, and/or respond to the six questions here: <https://www.act2uca.com/ccresource>

Junia - an 'Outstanding Prophet'

reflection by Rev. Dr. Robyn Whitaker

We don't know much about Junia, a first century Christian woman Paul greets by name at the end of his letter to the Romans (16:7). According to his brief mention of her, Junia was a Christian before Paul, possibly a relative, and was imprisoned with Paul for preaching the gospel.

She is described as "prominent" or "outstanding" among the apostles and would therefore have been active in ministry.

It is important to remember Junia on International Women's Day precisely because for centuries she was written out of the Bible. Despite Junia being a common female Latin name at this time, male translators of the Bible changed Junia to Junias (a made-up male name) presumably because they could not imagine that Paul would call a woman "outstanding among the apostles."

Junia stands as a reminder of all the women in the Christian tradition who have been silenced or minimised. She also reminds us that women were active apostles and co-ministers in the earliest Christian movement, threatening enough to the authorities to be put in prison, and impressive enough to have once been prominent.

If you're interested in learning more about Junia, [The Junia Project](https://juniaproject.com/who-was-juniab) is a great spot to get started.

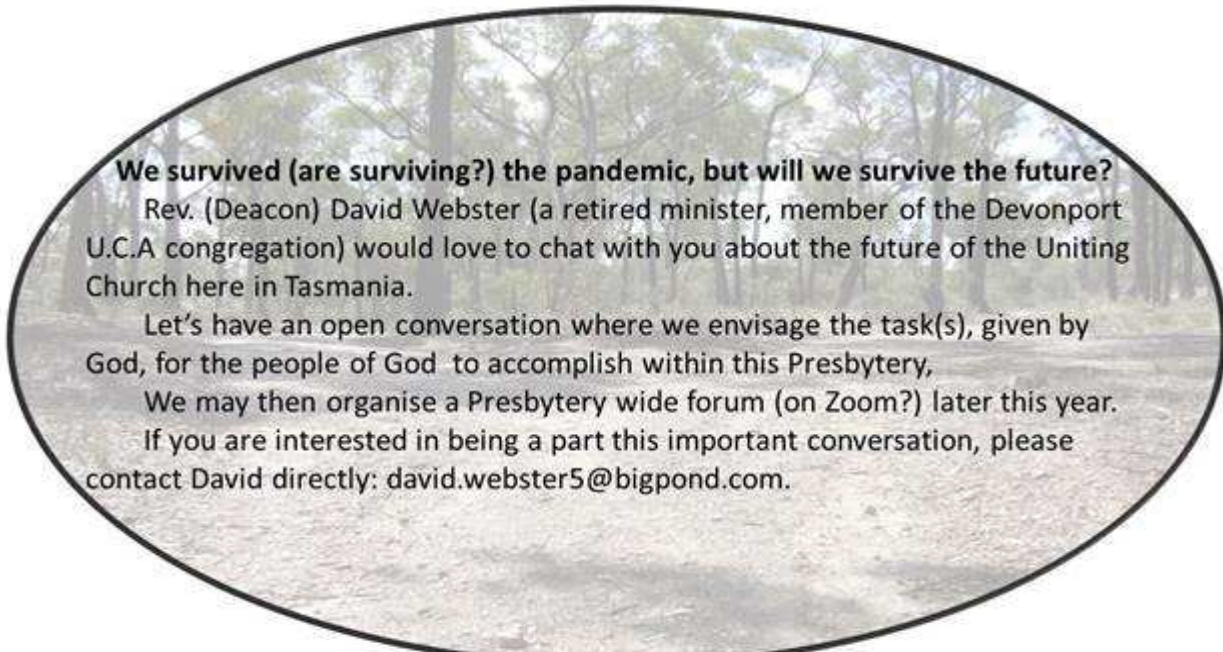
<https://juniaproject.com/who-was-juniab>

From a series of reflection on women for International Women's Day 2023 sent in an email from Pilgrim College.



Will the Church survive the future?

Your invitation to conversation about the future of the Uniting Church in Tasmania



We survived (are surviving?) the pandemic, but will we survive the future?

Rev. (Deacon) David Webster (a retired minister, member of the Devonport U.C.A congregation) would love to chat with you about the future of the Uniting Church here in Tasmania.

Let's have an open conversation where we envisage the task(s), given by God, for the people of God to accomplish within this Presbytery,

We may then organise a Presbytery wide forum (on Zoom?) later this year.

If you are interested in being a part this important conversation, please contact David directly: david.webster5@bigpond.com.

We survived (are surviving?) the pandemic, but will we survive the future?

Devonport U.C.A congregation) would love to chat with you about the future of the Uniting Church here in Tasmania.

Let's have an open conversation where we envisage the task(s), given by God, for the people of God to accomplish within this Presbytery.

We may then organise a Presbytery wide forum (on Zoom?) later this year.

If you are interested in being a part this important conversation, please contact Rev. David Webster directly: david.webster5@bigpond.com.

Please share this information with everyone in your local congregation or faith community, by including this notice in your local church newsletter (graphic and plain text versions are included for convenience), forwarding to everyone on your contact list, or making an announcement during a worship service or another meeting. If you are interested in being a part this important conversation or have further questions, please contact David directly at the above address.

Intergenerational Resources for ministry with Children & their Families

Chris Barnett has been resourcing the Uniting Church for ministry with Children & their Families for the past fifteen years. The recent Presbytery meeting at Kingston Uniting Church recognised and appreciated this vital ministry, and the regular email updates with links to great resources from around the world.

Chris is next moving to a part-time role with [Intergen](http://intergen.org.au). If you would like to ensure continued receipt of Resource Updates from Chris, please e-mail chris.barnett@intergen.org.au.

Intergen was formerly the Victorian Council of Christian Education (VCCE) and before that the Victorian Sunday School Union, established by



passionate laypeople in 1871 who championed the support and resourcing of the early bush missions and urban Sunday schools of Victoria. InterGen continues *Amongst other important initiatives, InterGen is developing and implementing a fresh strategy that includes the provision of weekly resources for churches, the re-energising of Messy Church, the establishment of a new model for supporting leaders and much more. Continuing in the entrepreneurial spirit that has characterised our history, InterGen is making a remarkable contribution to ministry and mission with children and their families in Victoria, across Australia and beyond.* <https://intergen.org.au/integens-history/>

Refresh - Sustaining Practices for Church Life

9.30am—3.00pm (10am start) Saturday 6 May

Who: lay leaders, worship leaders, lay preachers, church council members, elders and anyone else who is interested.

Where: Scotch Oakburn College, Briggs House Dining Room, 85 Penquite Rd Newstead

Sessions will include: “When big change is hard” – Rev Denise Savage
“Caring and over-caring” – Rev Fee Morrison

Choice of Workshops: Contemplative Practices – Rev Rosalind Terry
Energising Practices – Rev Jeff Savage

Cost: \$15 for lunch. Free for those who BYO lunch. Morning tea provided.

Register: Email: tas.office@victas.uca.org.au or Ph: 6331 9784 by **Monday 1st May**, indicating if you want lunch provided and any dietary requirements.

For more information, contact Rev Sherrin Jackman:

E-mail: sherrin.jackman@victas.uca.org.au, or phone 0447 507 059



EMPOWERING LAY PREACHERS

Proudly Hosted by the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LAY PREACHERS 2023



FOR LAY PREACHERS, LAY PREACHER CANDIDATES
AND THOSE INTERESTED IN LEADING WORSHIP.

BE ENCOURAGED, SUPPORTED AND CHALLENGED IN YOUR MINISTRY

STARTS: 4:30PM FRIDAY, 4 AUGUST

ENDS: 1:00PM MONDAY, 7 AUGUST

Alexandra Park Conference Centre
13 Mari Street, Alexandra Headlands QLD 4572

Website: [National Conference of Lay Preachers 2023 - Uniting Church in Australia \(ucaqld.com.au\)](https://ucaqld.com.au/national-conference-of-lay-preachers-2023)

Support from the Alcorn Fellowship Trust will help lower Registration Fees

<https://ucaqld.com.au/national-lay-preachers-2023/>

Attendance at the conference for lay preachers from Tasmania is an expensive operation involving conference fee, accommodation and airfares. Lay Preachers from Tasmania should consider applying for a Go Grant through the Presbytery. Please contact the Tasmanian Office.



UNITING CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORY SOCIETY

4th Biennial History Conference Truth Telling: From Colonising to Covenanting

Keynote Speaker

*The Hon Yingiya
(Mark) Guyula MLA*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE:

Welcome to Country &
Smoking Ceremony by
Traditional Owners
the Larrakia Nation

Tour of Nungalinga
College

Visit to Chung Wah
Chinese Temple &
Museum

Celebration of 150 years
of continuing ministry in
Darwin

Evening at Darwin
Festival Park (optional)

UNITING CHURCH
NATIONAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

Conference 2023 webpage
[https://
ucnhs2023.my.canva.site/](https://ucnhs2023.my.canva.site/)

Rev Steve Orme
Convenor, Organising Committee
Mob: 0447 148 744
Email:
ucnhs2023conference@gmail.com

This Conference will have a focus on the history of the
Uniting Church and its predecessors in Northern Australia.

It coincides with the 100th anniversary of the commence-
ment of the Methodist Mission at Milingimbi in Arnhem
Land and the 150th anniversary of the commencement of
the Darwin congregation of the now Uniting Church.

**Thursday 24th August
to
Sunday 27th August 2023
DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Venues include:

Darwin Memorial Uniting Church, Smith Street, Darwin CBD
Nungalinga College, Dripstone Road, Nakara

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FULL CONFERENCE FEE

\$260

EARLY BIRD*

\$220

**Early Bird registrations
close 30 April 2023*

Includes access to
all conference sessions,
most meals,
transport between venues

Conference On-line Fee \$80

Includes Keynote Speaker
Opening address,
Conference sessions Friday
morning & afternoon
Conference sessions Saturday
@ Nungalinga

Registration through
Trybooking

[https://
www.trybooking.com/CGJUQ](https://www.trybooking.com/CGJUQ)



The Uniting Church National History Society Conference
Organising Committee gratefully acknowledges
the support of
The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation

PreachFest 1-3 November 2023

The Uniting Church Synods of NSW.ACT and VicTas are collaborating on a preaching conference for all preachers: 1st – 3rd November in BOTH Melbourne and Sydney.

Preachfest 2023 will involve keynotes, workshops and preaching live in each location – to encourage locals to gather in person – alternating with streaming material from respective interstates. Please find attached a half page advertisement for you to spread through your networks: lay, ordained, anyone interested!

(FYI the Melbourne location will be Wesley Uniting Church and Wesley Place in Lonsdale St, Melbourne). Fine details of the program are still being



finalised, but the advert gives the opportunity, through a QR code, to register interest (get the early bird price) and be kept up to date.

Save the date – annual retreat Ministers and ministry workers

Renew: 25-27 September, Poatina Chalet

An opportunity for ministers and ministry workers in placement to gather together for a time for sharing and renewal, a great circuit breaker for sustaining ministry, and growing collegial relationships.

Vale Rev. Robert (Bob) Imms

The Presbytery of Tasmania gives thanks for the ministry of Rev. Bob Imms, who recently passed away quietly in his sleep. A funeral and celebration of life was held in Wesley Church, Hobart. Bob was ordained in the Methodist Church in Tasmania in 1963, and served in Burnie-Somerset, Devonport, Launceston East, New Town, Kingborough, and in Aged Care Chaplaincy.

An essential feature of Bob's ministry – as with all ministry, as expressed in paragraph 13 of the Uniting Church's *Basis of Union* – was working with gifted and committed local lay people on the practical, financial and spiritual aspects of life-long discipleship and Christian community.

The whole Uniting Church gives thanks to God for the life-long service of Rev. Bob Imms, who with other ministers of the Uniting Church will be remembered at the tributes service held during the meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania in November 2023.



For an engaging description of ministry life alongside Bob, read the Crosslight article *Shipwrecks and Sunday Services* by Miriam Imms:

<https://crosslight.org.au/2018/08/19/shipwrecks-and-sunday-services/>



Get involved in Postcard and Letter Writing Campaigns through JustAct.

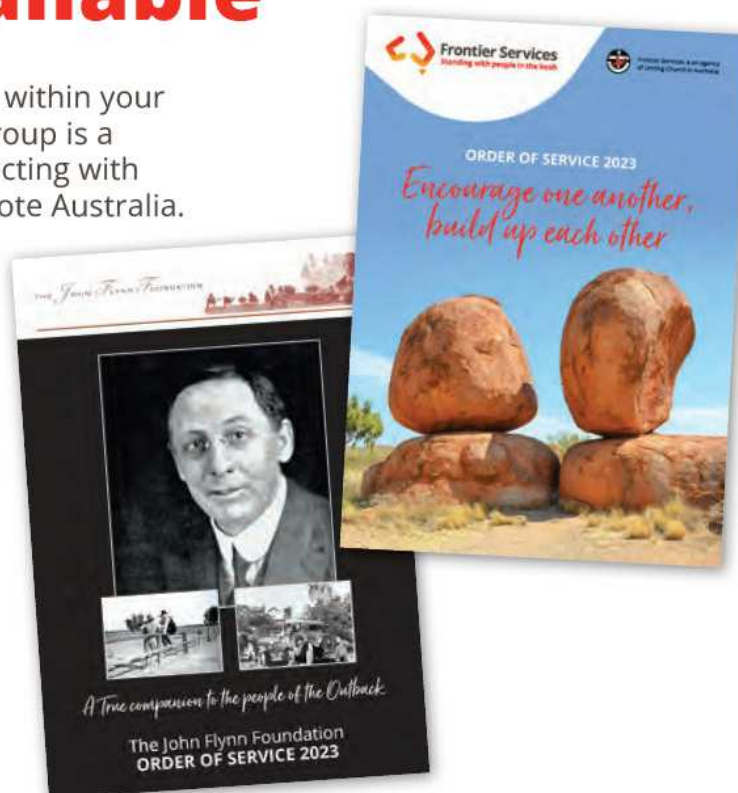
See

<https://justact.org.au/resources/>

2023 Order of Service now available

A dedicated celebration within your church or community group is a wonderful way of connecting with people in rural and remote Australia.

There are two Order of Service options available for 2023, each contains a beautiful selection of prayers, hymns and readings that reflect life in the bush and Reverend John Flynn's vision for the inland.



Order yours today at frontierservices.org/order-of-service

Hosting a Great Outback BBQ is a fun and easy way to show your support for people in rural and remote Australia. The funds you raise will help provide practical, pastoral and spiritual support for those doing it tough in the bush.

We'll send you a free BBQ host kit and the rest is easy.



Register now at greatoutbackbbq.com.au

What's On

April

Tue 4	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Fri 7 – Mon 10		Easter – Tas Office closed
Tue 11	11:30am	Resource and Development Committee
Tue 25		Anzac Day – Tas Office closed
Thu 27	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee

May

Sat 6	9.30am – 3pm	Refresh workshop for all lay leaders
Sat 27	to be advised	Net Zero Carbon Emissions – Devonport UC
Sun 28	to be advised	Net Zero Carbon Emissions – Kingston UC

From Checklist for UCA Congregations - April

- AGM's completed and reports to the Presbytery office
- Check items in Annual Maintenance Log Book
- Notify UCA Tasmanian Office of any changes to Presbytery Directory – office bearers, worship times
- Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registrations for all leaders are up to date

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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