



# Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 214 | May 2023



## ACT2

## HAVE A SAY IN OUR FUTURE

Act2 is a project born of the conviction that now is a critical time for the Church to consider afresh the ordering of its life.

We have changed as a Church in the last 45 years and the context of our society is significantly different. This is a whole of Church project, led by the National Assembly. We're discerning God's call for our future as the Uniting Church and we need everyone's voice.

Your Church Council or local leaders are invited to give feedback on six questions, to help local communities of faith flourish into the future:

**ONE:** What is most life-giving about your community of faith (eg, congregation)?

**TWO:** What does the wider Church (eg, your presbytery, synod, Assembly, agencies or schools) do to help you be a life-giving community of faith?

**THREE:** What's hard, frustrating or hindering the ministry and mission of your community of faith?

**FOUR:** For those things that are hard what could the wider Church do that would help?

**FIVE:** How does your community of faith contribute to the wider Uniting Church?

**SIX:** What do you value most about the national identity or national work of the Uniting Church?

**For more information, [click here](#)**

# United in faith learning

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible? Do you want to get a better understanding of Christian faith in God, Jesus and the world? Are you wanting to know more about leading worship and preaching? Or are you simply interested in doing some sort of study for continuing education, personal interest or to deepen your faith and relationship with God?

You can do all these things through Uniting Learning, an online learning platform developed by the Uniting Church with a range of courses for local leaders.

The courses are designed to be used by anyone to increase knowledge and to encourage faith and discipleship formation. The online courses may also be undertaken by those exploring a Period of Discernment or training as a Lay Preacher or local worship leader.



Courses can be undertaken for personal interest, or participants can work towards a “Competency Achieved” award by undertaking assessment tasks.

You can take as long as you like to complete a course and there is no cost to you other than your time and effort. The material is engaging and the journeys with participants through the course and provides support and guidance as.

The online learning platform also offers the Uniting Church’s national Child Safe Foundations (Module 1) training as a separate course.

**To find out more, or to access the training, contact: Rev Sherrin Jackman (Presbytery Ministry Support), by email or 0447 507 059**



## COURSES OFFERED

- ☐ Exploring Old Testament
- ☐ Exploring New Testament
- ☐ Exploring Theology from a UCA Perspective
- ☐ Exploring Christology
- ☐ Exploring Worship in The UCA
- ☐ Exploring Preaching in The UCA

## REVIEW BOOKS

### THE CHURCH AS SALT

By Sally Douglas



In *The Church as Salt*, Sally Douglas (Rev. Dr) crystallises with clarity and insight the many resonances of salt with leadership in the Church, now that the seductions and corruptions of Christendom are clearly ended. In recent years Sally's "salty reflections" have been dissolved within many shared conversations with ministry colleagues and friends across the Uniting Church in Australia.

Into these important conversations Sally also engages (much) earlier writers including Justin (the) Martyr, Tertullian, Origen, the Didache, John (the "golden mouthed") Chrysostom, and the many authors of "the good book".

With kindness and grace Sally cuts away or leaves aside the many distractions, and focusses again on the core vocation of the Church as Jesus communities: embodying grace and love for the good of the local community and the whole world, particularly the poor and those on the margins of power.

Sally lays out the reasons why the Christian Church, including the Uniting Church, has often been distracted by power and action, is already - visibly and viscerally - hard work.

Local church leadership is hard work, and important conversations are helped by the wondering questions, reflection and prayer resources at the end of each chapter.

Rohan Pryor

### PASTRIX

By Nadia Bolz-Weber



Foul-mouthed and heavily tattooed, former stand-up comic-turned-Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber weaves hilarious rants and stunning theological insight into her personal narrative of a flawed, beautiful, and unlikely life of faith.

Bizarre, rich, and remarkable, *Pastrix* turns spiritual memoir on its ear in a sardonically irreverent and beautifully honest page-turner.

Bolz-Weber takes no prisoners as she reclaims the term *pastrix* (a negative term used by some Christians who refuse to recognise women as pastors) in this wildly entertaining and deeply resonant memoir about an outrageous, unlikely life of faith.

From a funeral in a smoky downtown comedy club to an unexpected revelation during the Haitian stations of the cross, *Pastrix* is a journey of cranky spirituality that intersects religion with real life.



Both books can be borrowed free of charge at the Otira Book Club.



## REFLECTION EPHESUS

**From Graham Booth in Ephesus, a wanderer on the Way, to the saints who are in Tasmania who are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**



Theatre of Ephesus.

Here in Ephesus, we are a multicultural and multi-faith community. As followers of the Way we are very much in the minority.

The majority here are enamoured by the goddess Artemis; the hunter, the mother. Her temple may in time become lost and desolate.

Our friend Paul set up shop for tent making and conversation in the Agora. He also sat and taught in other places where people gathered. Paul was with us for a couple of years and his influence spread along the trade routes fascinating those looking for something different, and disturbing many of the locals who were invested in the status quo.

Shop keepers who happened to make tourist tat and silver figurines of Artemis became stirred up about the impact he started to have on their business. One of them, Demetrius, provoked a full

on riot, dragged off our friends Gaius and Aristarchus, and set up a noisy protest meeting at the theatre.

Their cry was "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" (Make Ephesus great again!) The town clerk, a professional scribe, managed to settle the crowd and reminded them of the legal avenues for following up any complaints.

After things settled down Paul eventually had to leave. He boarded a boat which then had to navigate a path through the silting gulf and on to Macedonia.

We were left to continue our journey on the Way by ourselves until the next itinerant supplied our little group with ideas and news from beyond our community. We continue on enduring the ups and downs, though it is sometimes hard to maintain the enthusiasm we once had.

# Sign up for Sunday aid

The Uniting Church is connected in partnership with churches across the Pacific, Asia and Africa. They are vibrant, inspiring, and formidable people who are transforming lives and communities for the better.

As the international aid and partnerships agency of the UCA, UnitingWorld works together with the global church to address poverty and injustice.

UnitingWorld Sunday is an opportunity to be part of this movement. Sign up to get their excellent resources for hosting a service, including a sermon from a sailing canoe by Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches!

If you want to lobby for your own church to get involved too, that would be great! We are looking for early sign-ups.

For more information [click here](#).



**Some links you may like:**

**Young leaders connect to share their vision for our region.**

**Update from India**

**A season of change**

## CATASTROPHE

# 75

## YEARS

## MAY 13

## 4PM

**SIR RAYMOND  
FERRALL CENTRE,  
UTAS, NEWNHAM CAMPUS**



**Registration:**  
Try Booking

May marks the 75th anniversary of Nakba – the Palestinian catastrophe.

Learn about the colonisation and dispossession of Palestinian people with guests:

**Dr Adel Yousif**  
Lecturer and Palestinian-Australian

**Anne Urquhart**  
Labor Senator for Tasmania

**Anonymous Human Rights observer**  
Recently returned from West Bank





## EXPLORING THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

The Tasmanian Council of Churches in collaboration with the Uniting Church in Australia and Religions for Peace Tasmania will conduct a workshop in person and online to help interested people to understand the First Nations' Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Statement from the Heart invites us to respond to what Indigenous Australians are calling for: Voice Treaty Truth. The day will include stories, small group conversations, moments to pause and opportunities to commit to further action.

The workshop will be led by Aunty Kris Schaffer and a light lunch will be provided.

### WHEN

June 3,  
10am-2.30pm

### WHERE

Friends Meeting  
House, Boa Vista  
Rd North Hobart

### COST

Free

### ENQUIRIES

David O'Halloran  
0408 211 944

### REGISTER

By [email](#)

**MAY**  
**06**

### Refresh: Sustaining practices for local church leaders

**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.

**When:** 9.30am-3pm

Sessions will include:

- When big change is hard – Rev Denise Savage
- Caring and over-caring – Rohan Pryor

Choice of Workshops:

- Contemplative Practices – Rev Rosalind Terry
- Energising Practices – Rev Jeff Savage

**Cost:** \$15 for catered lunch. Free for those who BYO lunch.

**Register:** By [email](#) or on 6331 9784 by May 1, indicating if you want lunch provided and any dietary requirements.

**For more information, contact Rev Sherrin Jackman by [email](#) or 0447 507 059**



## SAVE THE DATE

**AUGUST**  
**26**

**WHERE:** Devonport UC and Hobart North UC

**WHAT:** *Sharing the Journey:* regional gatherings of conversation and sharing for all interested local UCA members, along with members of the Presbytery of Tasmania.

**SEPTEMBER**  
**25-27**

**WHERE:** Poatina Chalet

**WHAT:** *Renew:* annual retreat for Ministers and ministry workers. An opportunity for ministers and ministry workers in placement or supply ministry to gather together for a time for sharing and renewal.

**NOVEMBER**  
**11,25**

**WHERE:** Kingston UC (11/11), Longford UC (25/11)

**WHAT:** Lay Preacher "hub days" for worship leaders and Lay Preachers, learning more about preaching and ethical ministry for leadership in the UCA.

## COMING UP

MAY

06

**9.30am-3pm**

Refresh workshop for all lay leaders.

MAY

27

**10am**

Net Zero Carbon Emissions, Devonport UC.

MAY

28

**2pm**

Net Zero Carbon Emissions, Kingston UC.

JUNE

06

**10am**

Pastoral Relations Committee meeting.

JUNE

13

**10am**

Resource & Development Committee.

JUNE

22

**10am**

Presbytery Standing Committee.

JUNE

24

**9.30am-4pm**

Presbytery Meeting, Longford UC.

## CROSS THESE OFF YOUR CHECKLIST



Check items in Annual Maintenance Log Book



Working with Vulnerable People registrations for all leaders are up to date



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