



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 219 | October 2023



BEING

AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

The Assembly has released a new resource that sets out our vision for what it means to live our life and faith as an Intergenerational Church. This valuable new resource, 'Being an Intergenerational Church', includes an expression of commitment, a statement of vision, an invitation to act and plenty of resources to explore. Fundamentally, 'Being an Intergenerational Church' is about relationship. It is about being who, and how, we are called to be as the Body of Christ. Becoming a more intergenerational church involves our thinking, our attitudes and our behaviour.

It is about our caring, celebrating, learning, praying, serving and growing ... together as followers of Jesus. For individuals, congregations, Presbyteries, Synods and the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, 'Being an Intergenerational Church' is an opportunity to discover what intergenerational church is and isn't, to embrace a strategic foundation for being a more intergenerational church and to act more intentionally around becoming an intergenerational church.

[Download the resource here and watch an introduction video from Chris Barnett.](#)



A prayer for after the *Referendum*

Uniting Church President, Rev Sharon Hollis has written the following prayer to be used in the wake of the referendum on Saturday.

God, ancient of days,
we give you thanks
for the ways in which First Nations people
have cared for Country since creation
and for their unbroken Sovereignty over their lands and waters.

We give you thanks
for the ways in which they encountered You
through law, custom and ceremony
and for their particular insights into Your ways.

We give you thanks
for the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress,
for the ways it nurtures Indigenous spirituality
and shares holistic ministry with First Nations People.

We pray for all First Nations People today,
acknowledging all they endure as a result of colonisation
and lamenting the racism and vitriol experienced across the Referendum
campaign.

We pray for our nation,
that following the Referendum we might seek unity
in reconciliation, justice and truth telling.

We pray for our Church,
that we might into our Covenant more fully
and continue walking together as First and Second Peoples.

In the name of Christ, our lodestar.
Amen.

In the wise words of Palawa woman Alison Overeem: "We hold hope,
healing and history in our hands. May they be hands of empathy,
compassion, care and covenanting. May the Creator of justice guide and
surround us all in unconditional love."
Amen.



TRAINING VIDEOS FOR CONGREGATIONS

Good governance is an important part of overseeing the worship, witness and service of our congregations. Church Council members and other local leaders may find [a set of 15 short videos](#) very helpful in exploring effective leadership in the local Church, including the significance of governance in achieving mission goals. In these videos you will be introduced to good governance practices and expectations in the UCA. These videos were developed by Sydney Presbytery in collaboration with the Synod of NSW and ACT.

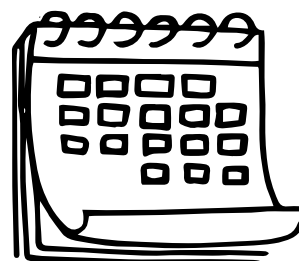
**NOV
11 & 25**

Lay preacher days

A learning day for worship leaders, lay preachers and interested people on creativity, copyright and code of ethics will be held on Saturday, November 11 from 9.30am-3pm at Kingston Uniting Church, 2/40 Jindabyne Road and on Saturday, November 25 from 9.30am-3pm at Longford Uniting Church, 3 High Street.

Presenters will be Rev. Sherrin Jackman, Rev. Jeff Savage, and Graham Booth. The morning sessions will include exploring creative and engaging elements in worship, the use and choice of music in worship, and copyright issues when reproducing music and videos. The afternoon session will be mainly focused on code of ethics for worship leaders and preachers. There is no cost, but BYO lunch, with morning tea provided. Register with the Tasmanian Presbytery Office by [email](#) or by phoning **6331 9784**.

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



THEOLOGY FOR PILGRIMS IN THE UCA

BY ROHAN PRYOR

For a fairly young church, the Uniting Church seems to have a very short memory. “Theology for Pilgrims” is a very significant collection of Uniting Church documents – and is now available online at no cost. This collection of documents is the outcome of the discussions, debates and discernment that took place through the 1980s and 1990s, and which set many of the core commitments of the Uniting Church that we now either take for granted, or overlook. The book includes introductions by two astute and experienced Uniting Church leaders that provide valuable context and insights into the significance of each document (personal disclosure by the reviewer: Rev Dr Rob Bos was once a minister of a congregation I belonged to, and Rev Dr Geoff Thompson was formerly a ministry colleague in the CTM team).

The ordination of women and men has always been a foundational commitment of the Uniting Church, but the Church has been willing to engage in conversation about many other areas of the Church’s life, including the path to union, core practices of the Church and controversies, and the Church’s vocation in the world. This collection includes three very significant documents that led to the formation of the Uniting Church: ‘The Faith of the Church’ (1959), ‘The Church: Its Nature, Function and Ordering’



(1963), as well as the well-known ‘Basis of Union’ (1971). The Church’s vocation in the world was expressed in ‘Statements to the Nation’ in 1977 and 1988. The identity of the Church as both deeply multicultural and in deep relationship with First Peoples is documented in ‘The Uniting Church Is a Multicultural Church’ (1985) and ‘The Covenant Statement’ (1994).

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Many long-time Uniting Church members no longer see baptism of children or lay leaders presiding at Holy Communion as controversial, but at the time deep faithful discernment was required – and for people new to the Uniting Church these documents can unveil the theological thinking and more importantly the theological practices of the Uniting Church. Such matters include the Church's baptism of both infants and grown-up believers, inclusion of children in Holy Communion, lay presidency at the Sacraments, understanding and use of the Bible, and even why the Uniting Church ordains women to the Ministry of the Word. This last document is an excellent example of the Uniting Church's theological understanding of the Gospel's implications – in contrast to most of the rest of the Christian church in most places for most of its history, and continuing today in many Christian traditions including within Australia.

If you are confused about the Ministry of Deacon alongside the Ministry of the Word as equal but distinct ordained ministries in the Uniting Church, the relevant introduction and document may provide some insight. You might find illuminating the Church's understanding of ministry as the task of all people based on the gifts given by the Spirit to each one, as well as the particular identity of ministers ordained by the Uniting Church within the global Christian church. But remember that the Uniting Church is open to constant reform under God's Word – who is Jesus Christ, the Lord and Head of the Church, and to which the Bible witnesses.

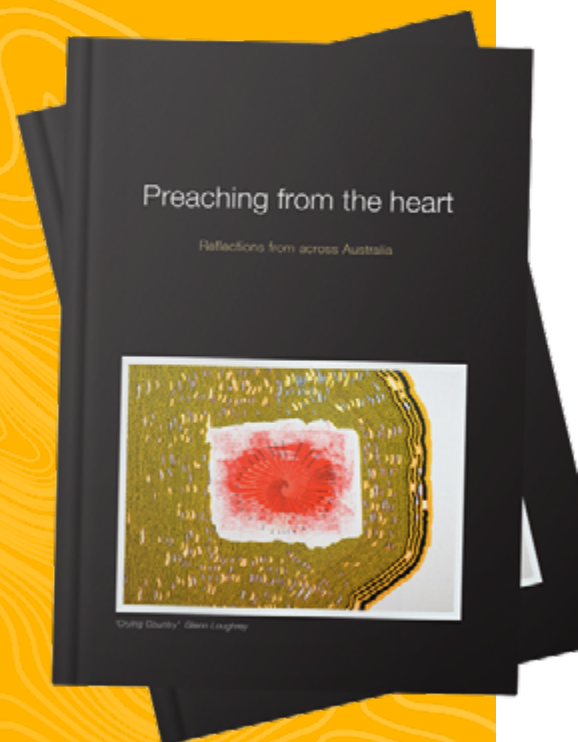
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PREACHING FROM THE HEART

'Preaching from the Heart: Reflections from across Australia' is a project of the Creative Ministries Network congregation in response to the invitation from the *Statement from the Heart* to join Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on a movement of the Australian people to a better future.

You will hear God's unequivocal 'yes' to the *Statement from the Heart* in the 20 sermons from indigenous and settler preachers as they reflect on what this journey means for churches and the nation.

[Download the book here](#)



From P5

The Church is always on the way towards a promised goal, is open to an informed faith, is subject to revision in order that it may better serve the Gospel, and prays that God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life (Basis of Union, pars. 1, 3, 11, 17, 18).

For these reasons, since the collection of documents in this book, the Uniting Church has continued to engage in challenging and deeply faithful conversations, including on matters of sexuality and leadership, marriage, gender identity, the renewed covenant with First Nations peoples and recognition in the UCA Constitution, and many other important implications of the good news of Christian community in Jesus Christ, and God's abundant love for all creation. Another collection, "Building on the Basis: papers from the Uniting Church in Australia", is also available from the UCA Assembly website, but that is another review ...

['Theology for Pilgrims' can be downloaded here](#)



PreachFest! 2023

As part of PreachFest, Devonport UCA will be hosting an online hub. Preach Fest is a three-day festival created to inspire and enliven the craft, art and vocation of preaching across churches in Australia. It brings together preachers from all backgrounds and cultures who share a passion for proclaiming the inspirational and transformational message of Scripture. The event is organised by the Uniting Church Synod of NSW & ACT in partnership with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

[Buy tickets online by clicking here](#)

REFLECTIONS ON THE THEOLOGICAL CULTURE OF THE UNITING CHURCH

In May this year, the Act2 Project issued a [Call for Papers](#) from theologians and others across the Uniting Church about our theological culture as a Church. On the webpage you will find papers, reflections and provocations from those who have offered contributions for this series. It is part of Workstream 4 on Theological Culture and Education and seeks to foster a vibrant and honest conversation about our theological life as a Church.

Visit the [Act2 website](#) or ask the Tasmanian office staff to print and send the material.



Uniting AgeWell

UNITING AGEWELL CHAPLAINCY

Uniting AgeWell is keen to grow their spiritual care team, with vacancies at a number of residential aged care facilities in both Melbourne and Tasmania.

Uniting AgeWell is looking for experienced, compassionate and spiritually mature chaplains to work as integral members of the care teams. Please visit [Uniting AgeWell](#) or contact Judy Fry on 0455 45 45 38 for more information.



SUPERVISED PASTORAL EDUCATION UNIT

Applications are now open for the **Semester 1, 2024 Unit** being offered by Uniting CPE – The John Paver Centre, from February 2 to June 25 next year. Applications close on November 8, with interviews scheduled for November 16 and 17.

Supervisors are Rev Lauren Mosso and Rev Andy Calder. Contact Andy Calder on 9340 8844 or by [email](#) for more information.

WHAT'S ON!

OCT – NOV, 2023

**OCT
19**

7pm - via Zoom
God's Gift

**OCT
21**

9.30am
Presbytery meeting, Penguin UC

**NOV
02**

10am
Presbytery Standing Committee

**NOV
02**

10.30am Resource and
development committee

**NOV
06**

All day - pres office closed
Recreation Day

**NOV
07**

10am
Pastoral Relations committee

**NOV
16**

7pm - via Zoom
God's Gift

**NOV
11 & 25**

9.30am till 3pm
Lay preacher days

The latest newsletter from SU
Australia for North and North West
Tasmania is now available!

[Click here to View](#)



MONTHLY CHECKLIST



**Check items in Annual
Maintenance Log Book.**



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

Published and distributed in the week before the last Sunday of each month. Contributions received seven days before publication. Contact Graham Booth, editor, by [email](#), phone 6331 9784 or post: 36 Paterson St, Launceston, 7250.