



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 217 | August 2023



As part of the Act2 Project, we want to engage widely across the breadth of the Uniting Church to explore together the national life and work of our Church. From July to September we'll be hosting a series of public forums exploring the national life and work of our Church. What matters most to us to do nationally, and how we resource it?

Five forums will be hosted online with key contributors and panel members, Act2 facilitators and the opportunity to contribute through Q&A and break-out discussions. We will share emerging themes after each session.

Registration for each forum is open. [Click here](#)

FIVE FORUMS

JULY 19, 7:30-9:30PM

1. OUR NATIONAL VOICE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

JULY 25, 12:30-2PM

2. OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

AUGUST 3, 12:30-2PM

3. OUR MULTICULTURAL AND INTERCULTURAL IDENTITY

DATE TBC

4. OUR NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CULTURE

SEPTEMBER 5, 7:30-9:30PM

5. PROMOTING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH



ACT 2

FORUMS

WED JULY 19, 7:30-9:30PM

1. OUR NATIONAL VOICE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Confirmed panelists:

- Claerwen Little (National Director, UnitingCare Australia)
- Rev Sharon Hollis (Uniting Church President)
- Rev Alex Sangster (Advocate, Assembly Working for Justice Circle)
- Dr Mark Zirnsak (Senior Social Justice Advocate, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania)

TUE JULY 25, 12:30-2PM

2. OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Confirmed panelists:

- Dr Sureka Goringe (National Director, UnitingWorld)
- Rev Dr Apwee Ting (International Partnerships Manager, UnitingWorld)
- Rev Sharon Hollis (Uniting Church President)
- Rev Dr Seforosa Carroll (Lecturer - Cross Cultural Ministry and Theology, United Theological College Sydney)
- Rev Dr Cliff Bird (Pacific academic, theologian and community leader, United Church of the Solomon Islands)

THUR AUGUST 3, 12:30-2PM

3. OUR MULTICULTURAL AND INTERCULTURAL IDENTITY

Confirmed panelists:

- Rev Sharon Hollis (Uniting Church President)
- Rev Lindsay Cullen (UCA Assembly Associate General Secretary)
- Matagi Vilitama (Circle Advocate - Being a Multicultural Church)

DATE TBC

4. OUR NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CULTURE

TUE SEPTEMBER 5, 7:30-9:30PM

5. PROMOTING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Confirmed panelists:

- Colleen Geyer (UCA Assembly General Secretary)
- Rev Lindsay Cullen (UCA Assembly Associate General Secretary)
- Rebecca Beisler (UCA Assembly National Manager - Media and Communications)
- Mardi Lumsden (UnitingWorld Donor Relations Manager)
- Rob Floyd (Frontier Services National Director)

Registration for each forum is now open



Read & respond

Act2: In Response to God's Call is the first Act2 report and emerges from one of the most comprehensive and ambitious direct consultation processes the Uniting Church Assembly has ever undertaken, drawing from a deep well of insight gathered through engagement over the past six months. The report has been prepared by the Act2 Project Unit and Steering Committee.

This report includes:

- A summary of what we did and what we heard during the Exploration Phase (November 2022 to May 2023).
- A theological reflection on the Exploration Phase.
- An introduction to the Collective Discernment Phase (current phase - June 2023 to November 2023)

- A set of directions for Workstream 1: Local Communities of Faith and Discipleship.
- A set of four different options for Workstream 3: Governance and Resourcing.

An intensive engagement phase will run until the end of November. You'll be able to find all opportunities to engage and discern about the report and its options and directions on this page. You can also use the form below to contact the Act2 team about the Report or ask a question.

You can get involved and contribute to the future of the Uniting Church:

Download the report [here](#).
Respond to the report [here](#).



GOD'S GIFT: THE CHANGING FACE OF THE UNITING CHURCH

Online Zoom gathering August 17, 7-9pm, and the third Thursday evening of each month. Hosted by the Uniting Church Presbytery of Tasmania

JOIN: From your own device, or with a friend who uses Zoom technology, or as a local church hub.

HEAR: Rev. Valentina Satvedi Leydon (Minister at Pilgrim Uniting Church, Launceston) exploring the intercultural identity and ethos of the Uniting Church. Valentina has a rich story of cultural diversity to share, with ministry experiences in the Mennonite Church USA as well as insights into the Uniting Church in Australia.

SHARE: Your own stories in small breakout groups with other local church leaders and members around Tasmania, and beyond.

REFLECT: and learn more about diverse experiences of the Uniting Church as a multi- and inter-cultural church, the challenges and joys, theology & faith. Racism is not God's way: we invest in relationships as expressions of our faith in God and our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. As the Uniting Church we invite deeper questions and engage conversations that help shape our understanding of who God is, and what that means as we live that out in faithful communities together.

WHO? Everyone – ministers and local ministry leaders, members and adherents – interested in conversations about the intercultural identity of the Uniting Church and how we encourage each other with care and respect for the diversity of the Church as God's gifts to each other and to the whole world.



Looking ahead to the third Thursday evenings for the rest of the year.

SEPTEMBER 21

Alison Overeem & Ayla Williams,
Leprena UAICC/Congress Tasmania.

OCTOBER 19

Rev. Charissa Suli, Uniting
Church Assembly President-elect.

NOVEMBER 16

Nia Lavaki, eLM staff for Younger
Generations: Multicultural
Communities, and convenor of
the Assembly Discipling the Next
Generations Circle.

FACILITATION TEAM

Rev. Denise Savage (Presbytery
Resource Minister), Rohan
Pryor (Synod Liaison Minister
and Presbytery Chairperson),
Julie McDonald (Bethel
Pastoral Centre), and Rev. Dev
Anandarajan (Synod Intercultural
Leadership Development
Coordinator).

Session input will be recorded for
you to hear again later, or if you
miss a session.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

Meeting ID: 885 8662 5952,
Passcode: 725050

20
23

WORSHIP & PREACHING

ONLINE TRAINING

The world has and is changing and we are seeking new ways of leadership and being in church, including worship and proclaiming God's Word.

Join us for multiple options of engaging with six Preaching Units starting **August 1, 2023**.

Participants can choose their level of input and connection. Units are engaging and creative. Assessment is both theoretical and practical.

To register ASAP, [click here](#).

For more information, contact Rev Sherrin Jackman by [email](#).

Access 3 points of training:

1. ONLINE DELIVERY ACROSS THE SYNOD – 2 HOURS PER WEEK

Join others in Zoom delivery of Worship and Preaching workshops, combining a tutorial based on the online units, and input from a variety of church leaders.

2. ACCESS TO ONLINE WORSHIP AND PREACHING UNITS

Access online units written around the Assembly W&P competencies for Lay Preachers and Ministry of Pastor.

3. LOCAL ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

For those who opt for assessment and feedback, this will occur within their Congregation/Faith Community/Hub or Presbytery.



Q&A WITH NOEL PEARSON

WHAT A VOICE TO PARLIAMENT WOULD MEAN FOR AUSTRALIA

Wednesday August 16, 7.30pm via Zoom

Join us for this special opportunity to hear from Indigenous leader Noel Pearson. Uniting

Church President Rev Sharon Hollis will be in conversation with Noel about his life journey, his passion for Indigenous rights and what he thinks a Voice to Parliament would mean for Australia. Hear also from constitutional lawyer Dr Shireen Morris who has worked alongside Noel on a constitutionally guaranteed Indigenous Voice for many years.

All are welcome to join this online webinar. Invite a friend.

[Register here](#)



Budget update

The Commonwealth Government handed down a budget on May 9. Below are measures announced that relate to the areas Uniting Church members have expressed interest in, have campaigned on, and may have received limited mainstream media attention. The following is a brief snapshot.

Climate change:

- The Government budgeted to spend \$1.6 billion to improve energy efficiency, including for social housing and small businesses. The Government has pointed out that Australia ranks 58th out of 63 countries on energy use per person.
- \$302.1 million is to be spent over five years to support a climate-friendly, sustainable agriculture sector.

Refugees and people seeking asylum:

- No news was bad news with the Government not announcing any increase in the number of refugees Australia will provide places for. The refugee intake remains at 17,875 places, despite the new Government having promised to increase it incrementally to 32,000 places, including 5,000 places available through sponsorship by community groups.

Family, domestic and sexual violence:

- \$8.5 million over four years for early

intervention measures to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence.

Tax reform:

- In bad news, there was no change announced to the stage 3 tax cuts that give away \$69 billion over the next four years, mainly to wealthy Australians who need extra income least.

TASMANIAN BUDGET MEASURES

In areas we have been collectively campaigning on, the budget delivered by the Tasmanian Government on 25 May contained the following measures:

- \$50 million over four years to deliver the third Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan.
- \$1 million to expand and boost the delivery of the Family Violence Offender Intervention program and violence prevention programs across Tasmanian prisons.
- \$3.75 million over two years to fund the Renewable Energy Plan.
- \$900,000 over three years to progress the development of the Tasmanian Green Hydrogen Hub at Bell Bay.

Greenhouse gas emissions:

The Tasmanian Government announced that the state's greenhouse gas emissions had been a net negative for nine years.



Resources for new church council members

The Uniting Church provides a range of resources to support Church Councils in meeting together, discerning together, and sharing in leadership for local congregations and their mission in local communities.

The Uniting Church's [Manual for Meetings](#) and [Meeting Together](#) workbook are two key resources:

Meetings can be rewarding, whether the issues that we face together are large or small. The Meeting Together workbook will assist councils, committees and groups in the Uniting Church to work more collaboratively, to understand the role of their group and leadership in the wider life of the church, and to deal with poor behaviour in meetings.

It can help to build the capacity in our members to meet and work together well, to respect and listen to one another, and to value each person's voice. It looks at the

Scriptures and what we believe, the Basis of Union, the Manual for Meetings, and other resources.

The booklet includes 14 short sections that can each be used to start discussion, plus resources for community building. These resources are an invitation to pause from what we do, and to have conversations about why and how we meet. [Click here.](#)

The Presbytery of Port Philip East has a valuable manual on [Healthy Church Councils](#), along with a range of [other resources](#) and [training videos](#) under their resources for Leaders in various roles. [Click here.](#)

The Presbytery of Sydney has a good presentation for [Church Council Chairpersons](#), along with a resource book and a range of videos and other resources on governance, mission and effective councils. [Click here.](#)



WE BELONG TO THE DAY

Synod
2023

SYNOD 2023 WILL BE HELD FROM NOVEMBER 18-21 AT BOX HILL TOWN HALL.

The Synod meeting includes nominated representatives from all eight presbyteries. Our Tasmanian reps are **Merril Clayton** (Devonport), **Corine King** (Launceston North), **Teresa Kingsbury** (Hobart North), **Mel Morris** (Launceston North), **Cecily Rosol** (Launceston Pilgrim), **Ricky Beswick** (Glenorchy), **Rohan Pryor** (Synod Liaison Minister), **Irene Nichols** (Kingston), **Laura De Bruyn** (Launceston South Esk), **Rev Caro Field** (Launceston North), **Rev Fee Morrison** (Cradle Coast), **Rev Sherrin Jackman** (Derwent Cluster) and **Rev Denise Savage** (Presbytery Resource Minister – South).

These meetings are important in defining who we are as the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania. Synod meetings are sometimes faced with challenging matters and important decisions, such as discerning who will be our next Moderator-elect, and such decisions are best made when we gather together to discern God's direction for our Church, and listen to the varied voices that make up our Synod.

THIS YEAR'S GUESTS ARE:

Brooke Prentis -

Aboriginal Christian Leader, international speaker, writer, educator, and poet will preach during the Opening Worship.



Rev Associate

Professor Robyn Whitaker - Senior Lecturer in New Testament, Pilgrim Theological College, will lead the Bible Studies.



YOU ARE INVITED!

If you would like to be a member and attend, speak to your minister and/or contact your Presbytery Secretary for details on how to nominate. Any confirmed member of the UCA can nominate as a Synod member.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Aug-Sept WHAT ON!

01 AUG, 10AM
**PASTORAL
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

26 AUG, TBA
**REGIONAL
GATHERINGS**

5 SEPT, 10AM
**PASTORAL
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

12 SEPT, 11.30AM
**RESOURCE AND
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

28 SEPT, 10AM
**PRESBYTERY
STANDING
COMMITTEE**

Nov 11 & 25 SAVE THE DATE!



LAY PREACHER HUB DAYS

An opportunity for lay preachers, worship leaders and interested people to get together for learning and sharing of ideas. Kingston Uniting Church, November 11 and Longford Uniting Church November 25.

More information
to follow.



This is my church

Visit the beautiful lands of the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation on the far north coast of NSW, where you'll find a generous welcome from the spirit-led, big-hearted community of Bangalow-Byron Bay Uniting Church.

As part of the This is my Uniting Church series, read this Q&A with Minister Rev Phil Dokmanovic about how they are striving to build an inclusive, loving, intergenerational community, following the example and teachings of Jesus.

Phil speaks about their growing engagement with families, youth and children and their deep passion for justice. Currently, they are seeking ways to support an increasing number of rough sleepers in their community, including opening the church as a place to sleep during severe wet weather.

The Congregation is keen to follow the leading of the Spirit as they undergo a time of strategic mission planning, seeking to join in with what God is already doing in the community around them.

Phil says, "we are energised by offering inspired hospitality and far-reaching generosity at any and every opportunity and responding to the needs of the community around us in word and deed". Does your congregation have a great story to tell? [Email us](#) to nominate a Uniting Church community to be a part of this series.

[Read story here.](#)

CHECKLIST

- ☐ 2022/23 Log book completed and a copy sent to the Presbytery office.
- ☐ Check items in 2023/24 Annual Maintenance Log Book.
- ☐ 2022 Annual Report sent to the Presbytery office.
- ☐ Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registrations for all leaders are up to date.



Presbytery seeks a Chairperson

The Presbytery of Tasmania is seeking someone with leadership gifts and experience, and a broad perspective of the Uniting Church in Tasmania, to share in leadership as the next Chairperson of Presbytery. The Presbytery meeting 'in council' discerns and appoints the Chairperson, commonly for a two-year term.

Responsibilities include:

- Participating with others in the leadership of the presbytery, discerning key priorities and areas of focus to support the mission and ministry of congregations, communities and committees within the Presbytery of Tasmania.
- Chairing meetings of the Presbytery and Standing Committee, and attending Pastoral Relations Committee and other presbytery meetings as needed.
- Working with the Presbytery Secretary, Presbytery Ministers and Tas Office administration staff to construct the agenda for the Presbytery and Standing Committee meetings and ensuring follow up on decisions made.
- Supporting the Presbytery strategic directions and meeting themes.
- Networking with other Presbytery Chairpersons and Presbytery ministry leadership, to support the coordination and effective operation of all presbyteries.
- Helping arrange induction and ordination services in consultation with others.

Time requirements:

- The role has moments of intense busy-ness around Presbytery and Standing Committee Meetings. The Tas Office staff are very helpful in emailing information, printing papers and service sheets, and meeting logistics.
- At least one day per week on average can be taken up with this role.

For a full role description contact the Presbytery Secretary through the Tas Office.

Ministry placements

Who do you know, who God might be calling to ministry leadership in Tasmania? The Uniting Church in Tasmania is seeking ordained ministers and lay people with suitable skills and ministry experience to share in ministry leadership.

Join a great ministry team and share your passion for the mission and outreach of the Uniting Church, particularly across the communities of the north and the west of Tasmania.

The roles of Presbytery Resource Minister–North Tas, and the West Coast, are both placements of the Presbytery reporting to the Presbytery Standing Committee.

For more information, including ministry role descriptions for each of the four placements, [click here](#), [email](#) the VicTas Synod Placements Secretary or telephone (03) 9340 8834.

If you know someone who might be suitable and interested, pray about it and contact them: sometimes God nudges us through each other's inspirations.



Clarence Uniting Church
(0.7 FTE) (Bellerive and
Lindisfarne)

North East Uniting Church
(0.5 FTE) (Scottsdale and
Bridport)

**Presbytery Resource
Minister for
congregations in
Northern Tasmania**

**West Coast 'bush
chaplaincy'/
ministry for remote
communities**

GET IN TOUCH

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.

YARN FOR YES

Thanks to all those who joined us for the Yarn for Yes webinar hosted by the Assembly Circles, Working for Justice and Walking Together as First and Second Peoples. If you missed out on this fantastic, heart-felt and stirring conversation around the Voice to Parliament, the recorded video is now available to [watch here](#). Thanks to our amazing panel, Palawa woman Alison Overeem, Gamillaroi man Ben Moodie and Olkola/Djabaguy woman Sherry Balcombe and host Rev Alex Sangster.