

# Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 235 | August 2025

## Sharing the Journey



**Plan now to join us in 'Sharing the journey' as disciples in the Uniting Church in Tasmania on Saturday 9 August: two venues, see below.**

The Uniting Church is “a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal” (Basis of Union). Sharing the journey together is both a joy and challenge: sometimes we need a GPS! Sharing our insights into being the people of God in our local communities, as disciples of Christ and as communities of compassion and justice for all creation, is our purpose in gathering.

If you are a UCA member or involved in the Uniting Church somewhere across Tasmania, you are invited to attend one of the two regional gatherings on Sat 9 August from 10:00am in Devonport or Kingston – you get to choose:

These regional gatherings are open to anyone and everyone:

- Uniting Church members & adherents
- Ministers & ministry workers in placement, supply or retired
- (this is NOT a formal meeting of the Presbytery of Tasmania)



Come and share with other Uniting Church people in your area:

You are encouraged to RSVP to the UCA Tasmanian Office to confirm attendance:

Please email [Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au) or phone 6331 9784.

*More detail on following page.*



## Sharing the Journey (cont.)

Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Devonport UC 12 Forbes Street</b>	<b>Kingston UC 42 Jindabyne Road</b>
9.30 am	Arrive for a cuppa and chat, <i>hosted by Rev Marian Bisset, PRM and PeM</i>	Arrive for a cuppa and chat, <i>hosted by Rohan Pryor, SLM and PM team leader</i>
10.00a m	‘Regional gathering’ open to all: <i>everyone involved in the Uniting Church</i>	‘Regional gathering’ open to all: <i>everyone involved in the Uniting Church</i>
1.00pm -ish	Conclude and depart	Conclude and depart

It is great to get together with other Uniting Church people who I don't get to see very often, to hear what is going on in their church community and to share what is going on in ours, and to hear how the wider Uniting Church is trying to work through the challenges of being the Church in our communities today. It is important to get a bigger picture, to have an understanding of the breadth of what our Church does. I hold that value as being very important: if our vision doesn't extend beyond our own borders, we are losing touch with God's Church as the bride of Christ – it is bigger than us, and we need to keep ourselves informed. – *Beth Chapman, Burnie Regional Uniting Church*

I love hearing and sharing stories of where God is working in our own lives and our church family, and where that links us to the communities where we find ourselves. I know God is working within Australia and in the world around each of us. We can share with others how our GPS – “God’s Positioning System” – is talking to us along our journey; we can note signs to turn off the road to rest and ponder; we can take care and be aware of what is happening around us; we can notice how a new bridge is different from an old bridge; we can reflect on the signs we see, and follow that up with each other. – *Meg Fiddymen, Kingston Uniting Church*

### Gathering Program Outline:

- Acknowledgement of Country and opening worship/devotion
- Howzit goin' 4U? Conversation will include table group & plenary sharing about how it's going in each local area and each community of faith
- Faithful Futures Project: an update on this ‘all presbyteries and Synod together’ project, ahead of the Synod meeting at the end of August
- Encouraging local communities of faith and discipleship for mutual support across regions

BYO lunch, other refreshments are provided

We conclude with lunch, so you will be free to leave by about 1pm, or stay for a chat



Information and images from Mina Nina used with permission.



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA  
Presbytery of Tasmania

**You are invited! You are welcome in this country, and you are encouraged to practice cultural safety with everyone you meet, and in each place you walk.**

What?

- **Cultural Safety Awareness Training** is an introduction to culturally safe practices that influence relationships and communication with Aboriginal people. Grow 'allyship' in individuals by supporting and gaining a deeper understanding of the struggles faced by Aboriginal people to create a more just and equitable society for all.



Who for?

- Uniting Church local leaders, members & participants, ministers and chaplains, including Church Council members and ministry leaders, Presbytery members and committee members, and Presbytery/Synod staff.

Who by?

- **Dewayne Everett Smith**, experienced Cultural Safety Trainer & Consultant with Mina Nina Education: for more info see Mina Nina's [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

When?

- **Thursday 11 September 2025, from 10.30AM-4PM**
- Arrive in time for a cuppa from 10:00am, the program includes lunch and refreshments.

Where?

- **Launceston North Uniting Church**, 128-132 George Town Rd, Newnham

Costs?

- The Presbytery of Tasmania's Education & Training Fund will meet the training cost of the first 20 participants from Uniting Church congregations, faith communities and agencies. Other interested participants please contact the UCA Tasmanian Office.
- [Leprena/UAICC Tasmania](#) will cover the catering costs for the day in the spirit of walking together as First and Second Peoples.

RSVP/registration?

- **Please register by Thu 4 September:** send your contact information and any dietary requirements to the Uniting Church Tas Office: [Tas.office@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Tas.office@victas.uca.org.au) or phone 6331 9784.



- ❖ The Uniting Church is committed to the Covenant between the UCA and the UAICC, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. In UAICC Tasmania is known as Leprena. Read more about [Covenanting in the Uniting Church](#), including the [Covenanting Statement](#), the [Walking Together circle](#), and [Covenanting](#).
- ❖ The Uniting Church pays our respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, their Elders past and present, and acknowledges their continued connection to the skies, lands, waterways and seas of Lutruwita/Tasmania.



Rev David Fotheringham, Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has been involved in working with the Yoorrook Justice Commission. This is a Royal Commission of the Victorian Parliament that has been investigating historical and ongoing systemic injustices perpetrated by State and Non-State entities in Victoria.

The final report of this commission was tabled in the Victorian Parliament in July and members of the Uniting Church are encouraged to welcome its findings and recommendations.

While this commission is a Victorian based issue, Tasmanians can gain valuable awareness of what might come from a similar process in Tasmania.

David Fotheringham asks, “In whatever other ways are appropriate in your own contexts, I encourage you to welcome the Report, and encourage engagement with the enormous body of evidence and stories that Yoorrook has collated, so that, in the very least, we can be well informed about this history of these lands as we walk together into the future.”

To find out more about the commission go to <https://www.yoorrook.org.au/>

To read the evidence provided by the Uniting Church to the commission go to <https://www.yoorrook.org.au/shared-truths/truth-archive> and search for Uniting Church

To find out more about the Synod's Covenanting process go to <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/covenanting/>

As the report is received David Fotheringham proposes the following prayer:

*God of all, our redeemer, our life and our hope,  
you teach us that the truth will set us free.*

*As we hear truth through the work of the Yoorrook Justice Commission,  
grant us grace to hear your calling upon us.*

*Teach us the ways of reconciliation and justice.*

*Bring relief to all who have borne the burden of truth telling.*

*Open the roads to a more just future  
for First and Second Peoples walking together  
in community, compassion and justice;  
in the name of Christ,  
Amen.*

# CHILDREN'S DAY

4 AUGUST



## CHILDREN'S DAY GATHERING

 **When:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of August

 **Time:** 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

 **Location:** Dru Point Bicentennial Park  
(Dru Point Rd, Margate TAS 7054)

 **Lunch provided**

 Join us for an afternoon of connection and togetherness  
as we come together on country, sharing stories and  
celebrating our shared journey.

All are welcome – Come celebrate the strength and spirit of  
our kids this Children's Day – a day of joy, connection, and  
culture.

RSVP by COB Friday, 1st of August  
via email at [leprena2015@gmail.com](mailto:leprena2015@gmail.com) or through our  
Facebook page.



UAICC TASMANIA



**REVD DR  
GARRY  
DEVERELL**



[vimeo.com/showcase/aboriginal-culture](https://vimeo.com/showcase/aboriginal-culture)

In three 7-8 minute videos Revd Dr Garry Deverell responds to questions about Aboriginal Spirituality and Culture. This short video series is produced by Craig Mitchell. The videos can be streamed from Vimeo or can be downloaded to be shown without Internet connection. Craig has produced a brief study guide which includes a relevant song and short selections from other writings by Garry Deverell. This can also be downloaded for free.

Access this helpful learning resource for individuals or groups from  
<https://craigmitchell.com.au/aboriginal-culture/>



**Godly Play Australia**

Training and Events

The best way to learn about Godly Play is by attending a workshop or training led by an accredited trainer.

"The Presbytery of Tasmania welcomes registrations for the upcoming Godly Play Core Training. This is a 3 day training, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, offered by two trainers, one from Melbourne and one from Adelaide for those who would like to learn how to use story through Godly Play. The training is 3 days and all 3 days need to be attended to complete the training and be recognised by Godly Play Australia.

The presbytery will be fully funding the cost of the training per participant. We ask for \$100 per participant to cover the full catering for 3 days. There are Go Grants available if needed."

Registration to [tas.office@victas.org.au](mailto:tas.office@victas.org.au) and include dietary requirements

For more information on Godly Play Core Training go to <https://godlyplay.com.au/training/>

Enquiries to [marian.bisset@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:marian.bisset@victas.uca.org.au)



The people at Common Grace have produced a set of resources for celebrating the Season of Creation in 2025. The general resources require you to register but are free or donation based. See the titles below, Click on the circle logo above to follow a link to

[https://www.commongrace.org.au/season\\_of\\_creation\\_2025](https://www.commongrace.org.au/season_of_creation_2025)

### **2025 Season of Creation Webinar – Faith in Action for All of Creation**

We're excited to be kicking off our 2025 Season of Creation celebrations with a special Season of Creation Webinar 'Faith in Action for All of Creation' as a time to explore actions we can take, both big and small, for the flourishing and protection of God's beautiful creation. Join us for an evening of great conversation, practical steps to take for creation and climate justice within your home and community, as well as a time of prayer and reflection together.

Monday 1st September 2025, 7:30pm – 9:00pm AEST

### **Season of Creation 2025 Resource Toolkit**

A flexible set of materials for your church service or gathering. Includes Bible readings, prayers, a blessing, PowerPoint slides, promotional materials and a creative advocacy activity – all designed to be easily adapted to your context.

### **Season of Creation Bible Study**

A five-week Bible study series reflecting on God's vision for a just and restored creation. This study is an updated version of our series from 2024, including additional stories, prayers, and practical ideas to take action for creation and climate justice.

### **Faith & Climate: A Conversation Guide**

A simple, encouraging guide to help you talk about climate change with friends, family, or your church community. Offers practical tips, myth-busting truths, and a faith-based perspective to help you speak with grace and courage.

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# Faithful Futures

"Faithful Futures is well underway for presenting to the upcoming Synod Meeting at the end of August. As part of this publication of Uniting Tas is a double sided document which sets out the 4 goals of Faithful Futures and a brief expansion about each goal. A reminder the goals are Coordinated Ministries, Respecting Country, Intercultural Leadership and All Age Growth. The second component of the document gives some clarity about the process beyond the Synod Meeting, including the 4 groups to be formed to focus on each goal, as well as the forming of the Faithful Futures Steering Group and the recruitment and appointment of the Faithful Futures Project Lead. This person will be fulltime for 5 years.

As a presbytery I ask we pray for the full Synod Meeting and for all the 19 Tas presbytery people attending the meeting that we all my discern well, pray well and listen to the voice of the Spirit moving through the wider gathering throughout the 4 days."



The World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee met recently in Johannesburg, South Africa. Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli attended the gathering as an advisor, alongside elected member Rev Sharon Hollis and others from Australia. The Committee's work across the week included an important statement calling for an end to apartheid, occupation, and impunity in Palestine and Israel.

**Leaders to go Conference**

11-14th September 2025

L2g is a four-day conference for key leaders in children and families ministry. A space to listen, reflect and encourage each other. Join with us to network and learn from the experiences in the room. Register now.

The Tops Conference Centre  
Stanwell Tops, NSW

**L2g**

<https://leaderstogo.org.au/conference-2025/>

leaderstogo.org.au

Is this something worth applying for a Presbytery Grant to cover travel and fees?

Four days of networking, learning, enriching and developing our ministries with with children and families – along with other leaders of leaders from across Australia and New Zealand.

More information at <https://leaderstogo.org.au/conference-2025/>



# Marian's Musings



## “Caring in the mess...”

It only seems the other day we were at the polls electing a Federal Government, and just last weekend we were back at the polls electing a State Government. We are in a time of transition and change, of uncertainty and questioning politically within Tasmania and Australia. We are all only too aware of the mess and horrors of international politics resulting in the stripping away of humanity, rights, freedoms, and basic needs.

If ever there was a time when we need to respond to God's call on our lives to hold to account leaders at every level and in every walk of life, church included, that time is now. We heard recently the story of the “Good Samaritan” and I don't know about you, but it is easy for this to become more about moral and ethical behaviour than the actual care of a neighbour. Jesus challenged the mindset of the “expert in the law” to rethink who is my neighbour. “The one who showed mercy” yes, but with the further expectation to “go and do likewise.”

The perennial question of “who is my neighbour” ought to make us uncomfortable and leave us wondering what this will change in our community if we reshape who our neighbour is and our response. It is, after all, what Jesus called us to or what the psalmist wrote about in many psalms. We heard that most recently in Psalm 82, to give justice to weak, orphans, those in need and to maintain rights of those who are destitute.

As we gallop full steam into increasingly unkind and selfish times ahead if we each commit to ask ourselves who is my neighbour and how must I respond, we can keep hope and kindness alive, if only in our own corner of the world.[1]

Go gently, Marian

[1] All scripture quotes and references are from The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (Zondervan, 2022).

# UNITING CHURCH VIC & TAS

## *Faithful Futures recommendations*

**Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.**

<p><b>Coordinated Ministries</b></p> <p>Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as Local Government Areas, attentive to the life and needs of the local context, by 2030.</p> 	<p><b>Respecting Country</b></p> <p>All communities of faith will be able to tell some of the story of the Country on which they are located by the end of 2028, and be invited to develop local and appropriate ways to respond.</p> 	<p><b>Intercultural Leadership</b></p> <p>By 2028, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) be providing appropriate formation and equipping for leaders of different cultural groups; and</li> <li>(b) develop networks to support worship, witness and service among communities of diverse languages and cultures.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>All-age Growth</b></p> <p>To have at least one all-age community of faith that is interactive, diverse, inclusive and transformative in 80% of Coordinated Ministries by 2030.</p> 
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The Uniting Church is called to be a pilgrim people, participating in the movement of God. Presbyteries and the Synod have been engaging in a “Faithful Futures” Project discerning ministry and mission ahead. The VISION is widely recognised. Each prestery is invited to consider the VALUES that guide their approach to ministry and mission. The GOALS have been developed through Bible study, survey, prayer and consultation. The Faithful Futures Project Meeting on 21 March 2025 resolved to recommend this Vision and these Goals to the presbyteries across Victoria and Tasmania, and to the Synod. Shared goals will help to relieve burdens and strengthen new mission opportunities as we follow Christ together.

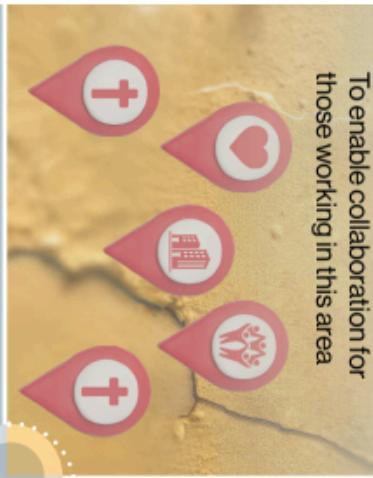
For further information contact [FaithfulFutures@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:FaithfulFutures@victas.uca.org.au)

## Faithful Futures-Proposed Implementation

## Goal focused groups:

## Respecting Country

To enable collaboration for those working in this area



To resource communities of faith for research and storytelling

To enable collaboration for those working in this area

## Faithful Futures Project Lead

Providing leadership, working with the Steering Committee and Goal-focused groups.

## Principles

The faithful Futures goals are the shared strategic priorities of presbyteries and the Synod. Implementation

responsibilities are shared between presbyteries and the Synod.

All groups to have clear accountability and lines of reporting.

Outcomes need to be measurable, financially sustainable, and requiring suitable criteria to be developed and working

## Effective communications throughout presbyteries and the Synod

A group of people, including a man with a beard and a woman in a red top, smiling and posing together indoors.

# PreachFest

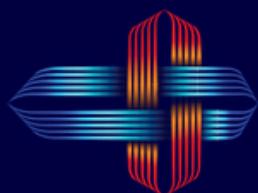
## Ancient Futures

24/25 OCT 2025

St Stephen's Uniting Church

**PreachFest** is for anyone who shares in this gift of proclamation. The conference is grounded in worship, aiming to uplift and inspire all participants.

This year's **PreachFest** theme is *Ancient Futures*. We honour the voices and faithful witnesses of those who came before us, connecting them to our participation in service in the future hope of reconciliation and the renewal of all things in Christ.



### Keynote Speaker

#### Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon

Associate Professor, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies and now Research Coordinator at the Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity



### About Monica

Monica's vocation has been a unique blend of the joy that comes with ministry and the resourcing of the wider church, a passion for working with communities of women, and love of academic research, teaching, and mentoring.

Find out more



[nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/preachfest-2025/](http://nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/preachfest-2025/)

# Tasmanian Presbytery Committees

## – Pastoral Relations Committee

A previous article gave an overview of the current Presbytery committees:

- (i) Standing Committee; (PSC), (ii) Pastoral Relations Committee; (PRC)
- (iii) Resource Development Committee (RDC). Property Committee, with a focus on the Presbytery Standing Committee.

The Pastoral Relations Committee's broad responsibilities within the Presbytery include:

- Oversight of ministers, lay preachers and candidates
  - Pastoral and administrative oversight of ministry workers.
  - Role in selecting, pastoral care and oversight of ministry candidates.
  - Oversight of lay preachers.
- Oversight of placements
  - Supervision and filling of ministry vacancies.
  - Appointment, recognition and placement of lay pastors and youth workers
  - Oversight of congregations with no minister in placement.

(including oversight of supply ministry or appointing Presbytery liaison person or Associated minister.)

- Lay presidency (designated lay people to conduct sacraments in a local context.)
- Conducting consultations on life and witness of the congregation.
- Oversight of complaints.

The following notes outline the very important role of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) in the life of the Presbytery.

The designated role and responsibilities of the Pastoral Relations Committee are outlined in Section 3.7.3 of the Uniting Church regulations.

Currently the Pastoral Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month from about 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, usually in person, with meetings now alternating between Hobart and Launceston.

The current membership of the PRC includes Rev. Chris Duxbury (PRC chairperson), Barb Wood (PRC secretary), Rev. Marian Bisset, Rohan Pryor, Margaret Wilson, Kirsten O'Halloran, Rev. Michael Duke, Lynne Matton-Johnson, Rev. Caro Field, Ricky Beswick.

The agenda generally includes consideration of a wide array of ministry and pastoral matters.

Noting that there are currently six or so ministry placements in the Presbytery of Tasmania that are either currently unfilled or will be in the near future, ongoing oversight of the process to seek ministry workers for these positions remains a key and challenging focus.

Other key items include oversight of current ministry placements, (including supply arrangements), general pastoral oversight of the congregations and faith communities, which the PRC considers and prays for every month. As there are many congregations without an ordained minister, the PRC also meets with local lay leaders to support them.

*Cont. p14*

# Tasmanian Presbytery Committees – Pastoral Relations Committee (cont)

The annual reports from congregations are read by the PRC and these assist in providing an overview and highlighting specific issues for attention.

The PRC also has a role in dealing with specific complaints and conflicts that arise.

Attention is given to the implementing of training and standards for ministry workers, lay preachers and others with particular attention to the ‘safe church’ and ethics responsibilities.

Due to the nature of many of the issues dealt with by the PRC, significant attention is paid to maintaining the appropriate levels of confidentiality.

The work of the PRC is supported and enabled by the expertise and efforts of the Presbytery staff, as well as input from the wider church.

If anyone is interested in potentially serving on any of the committees, please speak to one of the Presbytery leaders. As noted previously, to broaden the representation on the committees, representation from the North West area and from younger members would be particularly appreciated.

*Ricky Beswick, Presbytery Chairperson.*

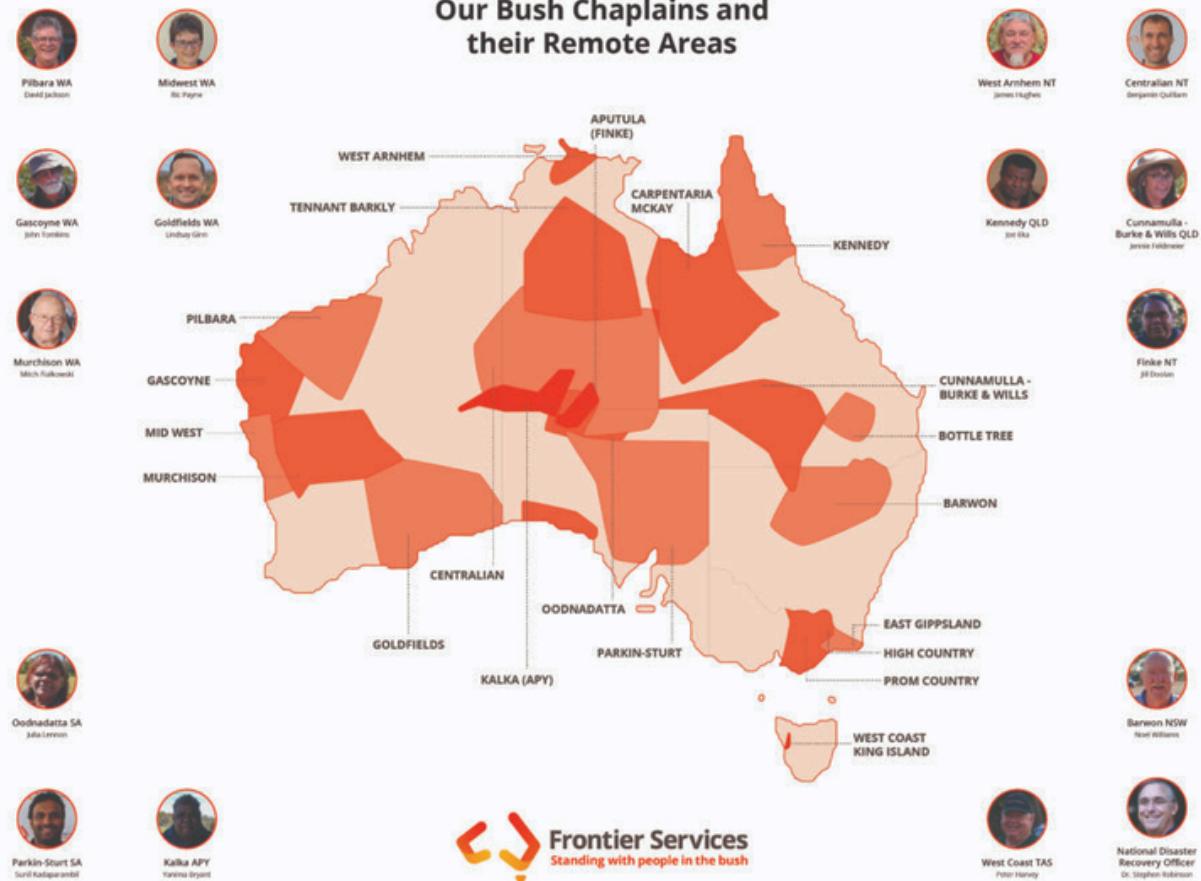
## Synod 2025 meeting:

The Presbytery of Tasmania appoints up to 10 lay and ordained members as members of the Synod meeting. Synod 2025 members:



- Bron Howard
- Melanie Law
- Ricky Beswick
- Shirley Bowers
- Rohan Pryor
- Teresa Kingsbury
- Meg Fiddyment
- Julie Blake
- Rose Hetherington
- Rev. Caro Field
- Rev. Peter Grayson-Weeks
- Rev. Sherrin Jackman
- Rev. Marian Bisset
- Rev. Peter Harvey
- Rev. Bron Morton
- Rev. Carol Bennett
- Rev. Colin Gurteen
- Rev. Valentina Satvedi Leydon

## Our Bush Chaplains and their Remote Areas



 Frontier Services  
Standing with people in the bush



**PILGRIMS of the  
SPIRIT**

**Synod  
2025**

Read the flip book [here](#)

You can find an introductory video featuring Moderator-elect Salesi Faupula at  
<https://victas.uca.org.au/synod-meeting/>

Pray for the following Tasmanians attending:

# Get some JIM here...



## UNITING CHURCH PRESIDENT OUTLINES WHY THE UNITING CHURCH SUPPORTS WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli issued a statement supporting Welcome to Country after it became a matter of public debate in the media. She wrote: The Uniting Church in Australia stands in complete solidarity with First Nations peoples and honours the Elders who continue to offer Welcome to their ancestral Country with extraordinary generosity, even when their grace is met with disrespect and racism. Welcome to Country is not a courtesy or a formality. It is a sacred act that affirms the sovereignty, cultures, and dignity of First Peoples. With roots in the ancient customs of First Peoples who welcomed visitors onto their lands to ensure safe passage and a peaceful relationship, today it remains a gift that invites all who gather to walk humbly and respectfully. Aunty Alison Overeem, proud palawa woman from South-East Tasmania and First Nations elder in the Uniting Church, describes the Welcome to Country with these words of grace: Welcoming people into and on country is about welcoming all into a woven shared story. It's a welcome to all the stories that connect us. It's empowering for all to be welcomed into the stories of the land, which centre us in our call to creation, to relationship, to solidarity. It's not for division. It's a call to a shared vision. As a Pacific daughter, I know that land is not merely land — it is family, life itself. First Peoples have cherished this sacred connection since time beyond memory.

For more of this see: <https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/JustAct-Newsletter-June-2025-DIGITAL-Copy.pdf>

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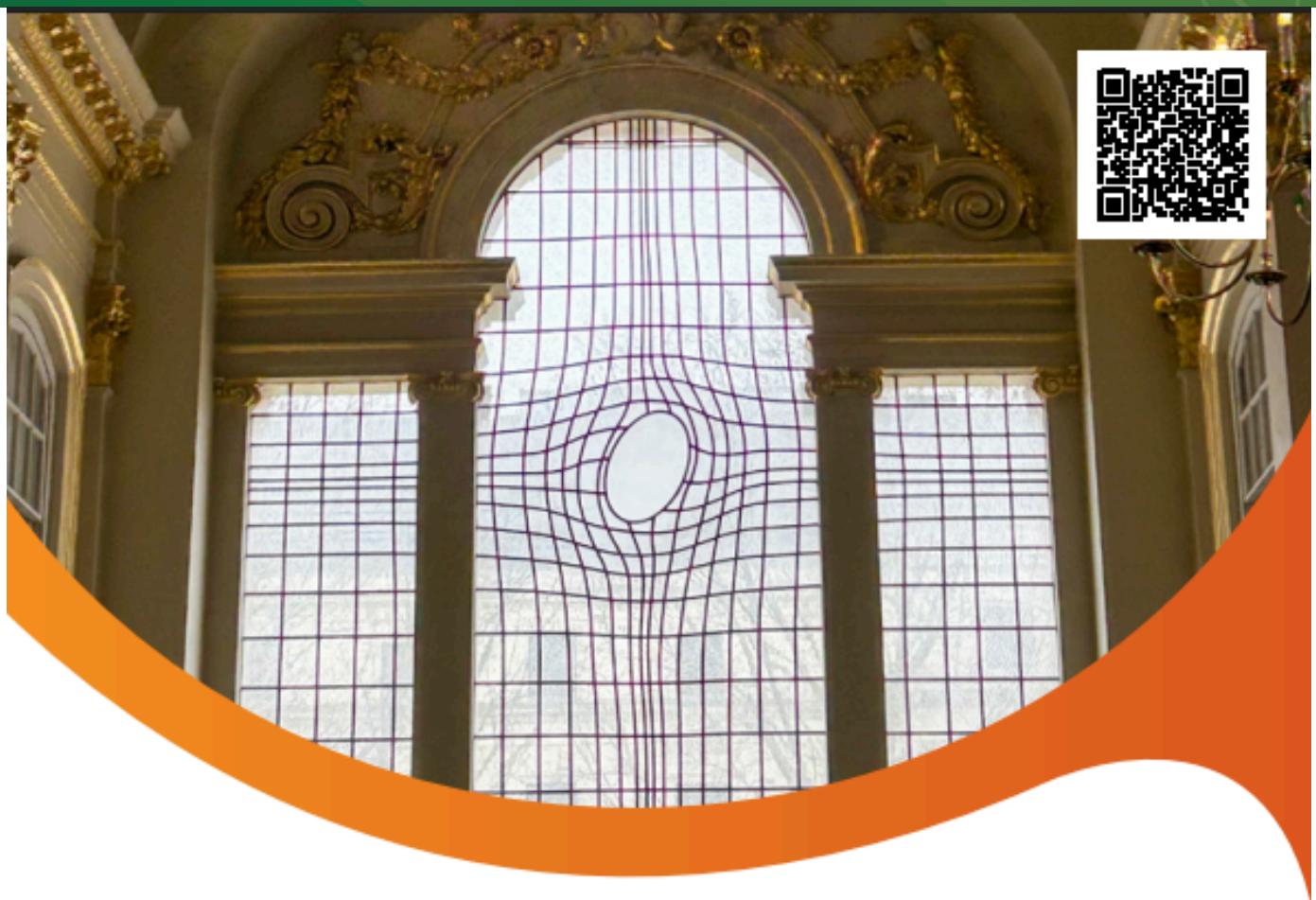
News from the Justice and International Mission Cluster

### JIM Cluster Work Survey 2025



See the issues that will be shaping the work of the Justice and International Mission Unit over the next year.

The results of this survey can be found at  
<https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Feedback-sheet-on-JIM-Cluster-issues-work-areas-June-2025-Copy.pdf>



# Discernment Day

## About

Come and see ... An opportunity to learn about discernment, discipleship and ministries in the Uniting Church, and pathways into lay and ordained ministries.

- Meet UCA Ministry agents and learn about their different roles and contexts
- Discover educational pathways for discipleship and ministries
- Learn about the Period of Discernment and ministry pathways
- Consider how to discern your gifts and your sense of call

Register online at [https://events.humanitix.com/  
discernment-day](https://events.humanitix.com/discernment-day)



## Where:

Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville VIC 3052



## When

9:00 am – 4:00 pm,  
Saturday 25 October



## Cost

\$40pp



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



equipping Leadership for Mission



## Women in church life and leadership

### Women's participation in church life and leadership

While women generally outnumber men in church attendance, what does the picture look like when it comes to leadership roles?

NCLS has gender analysis that reveals which roles are held more or less by women in church life. Some areas of church life, however, show a relatively equal involvement of both women and men.

### How many women hold senior leadership roles in their local church?

By senior local leader, NCLS refer to ministers, pastors, or priests who either lead a ministry team or serve as the sole leader of a local church. According to NCLS results, around 22% of senior local church leaders are women. Given that women make up the majority of churchgoers, this highlights a significant under-representation of women in senior leadership. Read the article to find out which denominations have the highest proportion of women in senior leadership in local churches.

### A strong majority of churchgoers support the ordination of women

In the 2021 National Church Life Survey, 76% of attenders expressed no objection to women being ordained. NCLS has data about how many church attenders enthusiastically support women's ordination, or have no issue with it, those who felt it was inappropriate, and those who were unsure?

For more information on these points look at:

<https://www.ncls.org.au/articles/womens-participation-in-church-life-and-leadership>

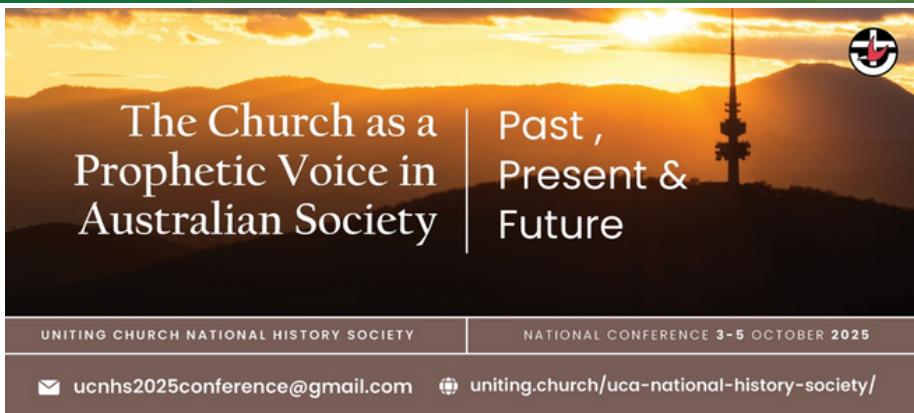
<https://www.ncls.org.au/articles/women-in-senior-leadership-in-their-local-church>

<https://www.ncls.org.au/articles/a-strong-majority-of-churchgoers-support-the-ordination-of-women>



This ABC report expresses these understandings in a visual format.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-25-21/are-women-welcome-as-leaders-in-these-christian/105321046>



The Church as a Prophetic Voice in Australian Society | Past, Present & Future

UNITING CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORY SOCIETY | NATIONAL CONFERENCE 3-5 OCTOBER 2025

[ucnhs2025conference@gmail.com](mailto:ucnhs2025conference@gmail.com) | [uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/](http://uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/)

## Invitation to Uniting Church National History Conference

All who have an interest in the heritage of our churches are invited to register for the UC National History Conference to be held at Canberra City Church on 3-5 October.

The theme is about our church offering a 'prophetic voice' having spoken up on issues affecting Australia. Speakers will look at the impact of the church's influence in the past and give a focus to the present and offer inspiration for the future.

Please visit our website (below) for information and registration options.

[www.uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/](http://uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/)

Enquiries: Rev Ivan Roberts – mobile 0422 648 191



LAUNCESTON

# PRAYER SUMMIT



**HARVEST**  
is ready

the anointed  
RELEASED

STORIES  
of reaping

A day of prayer for revival across Launceston and the Tamar Valley

**Sat 23rd August 2025**

**Venue: The Ark**

**A Free Event**

**10:00 - 4:00**

**9 Killafaddy Rd, St Leonards**

**Fasting or simple foods provided**

Register: [2025PrayerSummit.eventbrite.com.au](https://2025PrayerSummit.eventbrite.com.au)  
or more info: [ben.hallam@citymission.org.au](mailto:ben.hallam@citymission.org.au)

# Position Vacant

## Children's and Youth Ministry Coordinator Uniting Church in Australia

North Hobart, Hobart TAS  
Community Development (Community Services & Development)  
Casual/Vacation  
\$52.57+ per hour (plus superannuation)

### About the Role

The Children's and Youth Ministry Coordinator focuses on re-establishing a faith forming and community connected ministry for Children and Youth. The role focuses on establishing new ministry initiative/s for children and youth in the school age group, and works with the Hobart North Faith Formation Team and Minister to enhance the participation of children, young people and their families in the total life of the congregation.

This is a Non Placement Pastor, casual position, based in Hobart North.

### About You

We are looking for someone who has:

- Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar role, and tertiary qualifications in Community Services or similar relevant discipline.
- An understanding of and involvement in worship and the Christian Faith, and willingness to work within the ethos and policies of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- Demonstrated experience engaging with a diverse range of young people and their carers in activities, events and initiatives.
- Demonstrated ability to plan, implement and evaluate programs for young people.
- Demonstrated competency with computer software, applications, social media, and the Microsoft office suite.

**The successful candidate will:**

- Have a Working with Children Check
- Have the right to work in Australia
- Undergo a National Police Check before commencement
- Undertake core competency training for pastors within the Uniting Church in Australia

### How to Apply

- Download the position description from <https://victas.uca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/PD-Childrens-and-Youth-Ministry-Coordinator.pdf>
- Email your application to [People&Culture@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:People&Culture@victas.uca.org.au) Please attach a PDF resume and a PDF cover letter. The subject line of your email should read "Application: Children's and Youth Coordinator".
- The closing date for applications is Wed 13 August 2025.
- Applications from recruitment agencies will not be accepted
- For all queries, please contact [People&Culture@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:People&Culture@victas.uca.org.au)

### The Uniting Church in Australia

- Is one of the largest churches in Australia, and a leading presence in the not-for-profit sector.
- Is deeply committed to faith, justice and the community, and partners with associated entities to support and provide a large range of community services outside Government.
- Is committed to child safety, equal opportunity, inclusion and recognition of First Peoples.
- Values Trust, Collaboration, Growth & Sustainability and characteristics aligned to the ethos of the Uniting Church.

This a copy of the advertisement. To follow the links type them into your browser.

## JOHN WESLEY'S CLOCK a Methodist mystery tour!

Talk by Prof Graeme Davison AO.

### FREE EVENT

Sunday 24 August 2025, at 2.30pm.

**Queen's College Chapel,**

University of Melbourne

1-17 College Crescent, Parkville

Or for a Zoom link, email:

[ken.barelli@bigpond.com](mailto:ken.barelli@bigpond.com)

For enquiries call Ken on **0418 317 942**

**VICTAS UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



# Give care and warmth this winter.

Donate today

Call us  
1800 668 426

Visit  
[unitingvictas.org.au/appeal](http://unitingvictas.org.au/appeal)



Scan to  
donate



Uniting is the community services organisation  
of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.



**Uniting**

**Uniting**

You may have heard about the skyrocketing rates of homelessness on the news. But the faces of the people with no place to call home may surprise you. They could be your work colleague, family friends or members of your congregation.

Each day, if you were to go out with our Uniting workers, you'd see rough sleepers who have jobs and go to work. You'd see mums with children, fleeing from violent partners. You'd see whole families couch surfing, living in their cars, or camping in tents - sometimes for years at a time.

And you would see caring young mums like Grace\*. She urgently needed a safe home for her 2 young daughters Esther\* and Rebekah\*. So Grace can keep them snug and warm this winter ... not wondering where they're going to sleep each day.

You've probably never thought you may become homeless ... neither did Grace.

"I always thought I'd have some sort of stable environment to be in," she admits. "I never thought I would end up in that position."

But then Grace learned a devastating fact. Her partner, Marty\*, of seven years – a man she was financially reliant on – was using drugs, which created an environment that was not safe for the children.

"It was a massive shock to me," Grace recalls. "There was a lot of anger, sadness, fear ... it was a very hard moment."

Grace faced a hard choice. She didn't want to keep her girls in an unsafe home. She had to leave for their sake.

And that's all it takes. One unexpected event to rip you from the safety and warmth of your home.

While Uniting is working with hundreds of families like Grace's who need a home urgently ... only a handful will find a permanent place to live this month.

Because Grace left her partner so suddenly, her only option was to take whatever short-term housing she could find. But it was never for very long ... and it was expensive.

With only very limited funds to live on, Grace resorted to living on credit ... with no guarantee she'd ever be approved for a rental.

Uniting workers stepped in to plead Grace's case with real estate agents.

Grace applied for more than 40 houses. Finally, with extra help from family and with Uniting assisting with the bond, Grace was approved at last.

**Cont.**

“Without help from Uniting, I would have ended up couch surfing or living in a share house, which would have been difficult with the girls,” says Grace.

Many families like Grace’s can spend months, even years, waiting for a home.

I’m sure you would agree that turning away a mum like Grace with 2 girls would be a tragedy.

Sadly, we have waiting lists of many more mums and other people who need help to survive the bitter winter.

We invite your congregation and its members to help us continue assisting people like Grace through our 2025 Winter Share Appeal.

Congregations on our physical mailing list will have already received a pack in the mail from next week which included some posters to display at your church and a Treasurer’s form for guidance on how your congregation can make a donation.

Self-mailing donation envelopes have been included as inserts in the June 2025 edition of Crosslight magazine for congregation members who wish to donate directly.

I have attached an electronic version of the poster for anyone who might wish to print additional copies to display in and around your church or in case you would like to include or send a copy of this out with your newsletter.

If any members of your congregation would like to make a donation to support our Winter Share Appeal, they can do this through our website at [unitingvictas.org.au/share-appeal](http://unitingvictas.org.au/share-appeal), or by calling 1800 668 426.

Ever present God; move us to a sense of prayer.

That we may turn to prayer and generosity towards those around us.

May we look with open eyes to really see what surrounds us in our communities.

As we look at the sights of a location help us remember those who’s looking is for places of shelter, warmth and safety.

May we listen and really hear the sounds and needs of others. May the voiceless find the language and the listeners they deserve.

As we taste we pray for the hungry with little food and poor nutrition. Flavour our giving with soft hearts for those struggling to meet everyday needs.

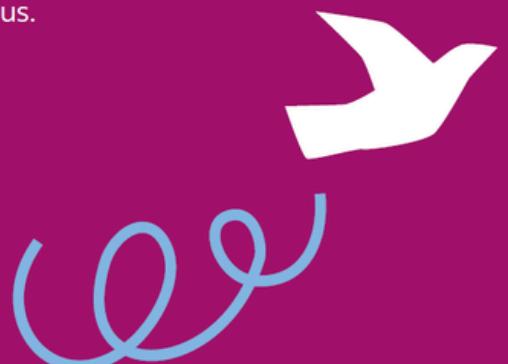
As we touch and feel we pray for those without shelter, whose skin has no protection and those who know winter without heating; even in their homes.

May we smell the sweet aroma of empathy and selflessness, rather than prejudice or ‘othering’.

Amen

**Pastor Susan Hobbs**

Horsham and District Uniting Church, partners with Uniting in the Wimmera.



Uniting is the community services organisation  
of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.



# WHAT'S ON!

AUG - SEPT 2025

<b>AUG 05</b>	Pastoral Relations Committee 10.30am - 4.00pm	<b>SEPT 02</b>	Pastoral Relations Committee 10.30am - 4.00pm
<b>AUG 09</b>	Regional Gatherings Devonport and Kingston 9.30am -1.00pm	<b>SEPT 11</b>	Mina Nina Cultural Safety Awareness Training @ Launceston North UC 10am - 4pm
<b>AUG 12</b>	Resource and Development Committee 10.30am - 2.30pm	<b>SEPT 23</b>	Resource and Development Committee 10.30am - 2.30pm
<b>AUG 28</b>	Presbytery Standing Committee 10am - 4pm	<b>SEPT 25</b>	Presbytery Standing Committee 10.00am - 4.00pm

On the  
road,  
following  
the  
leader.

## MONTHLY CHECKLIST



Monthly and quarterly log book entries

The next issue will be distributed in the week before the end of July. Contributions to be received seven days before publication. Contact Graham Booth, editor, by [email](mailto:email), phone 6331 9784 or post: 36 Paterson St, Launceston, 7250.