

Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 234 | June 2025

Faithful Futures



We are hearing a whole lot about “*Faithful Futures*” at the moment. What is it, what isn’t it, will this impact me in my corner of the church and a myriad of other questions. This short article will give some outline and encourage you to follow and engage with *Faithful Futures*.

Faithful Futures is a combined project, 18 months in development. At the Synod meeting in August this year proposals will be presented to bring the project to life, having first been endorsed by all eight presbyteries. Based around the Synod vision statement of “Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation”.

Goals and dates are still to be confirmed by Presbyteries and the Synod meeting in August 2025

Coordinated Ministries (2030) – “looks to strengthen and/or develop mission into geographical areas, whilst remaining attentive to the needs of the local context.” The Presbytery of Tasmania has for some time been considering what coordinated ministries might be and have already begun to rethink ministry.

Respecting Country (2028) – “looks to encourage all communities of faith to be able to tell the story of the Country on which they are located. There are many ways to hear and share stories and build relationships with local Traditional Owners.” The Presbytery of Tasmania continues to develop a listening posture with UAICC Tas and build connections around the presbytery.

Intercultural Leadership (2028) – “to provide appropriate formation and equipping leaders from different cultural groups alongside developing networks to support worship, witness and service among communities of diverse languages and cultures”

Continued on page 6

PreachFest

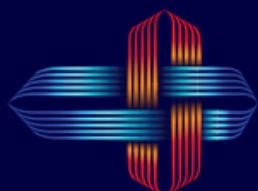
Ancient Futures

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/



Presbytery Meeting Saturday 31 May by Zoom

Members of Presbytery and others interested as visitors are invited to the next Presbytery meeting on Saturday 31 May (the last day of Autumn!).

To reduce the burden of travel, as the days get colder and shorter with the brumal clime, this meeting will be held via Zoom.

Attendees can either gather in groups or join on their own but are asked to contact the Presbytery office (ph. (03) 6331 9784, email: tas.office@victas.uca.org.au) by Wednesday 28 May if possible to confirm attendance or notify apologies or alternates.

A test run zoom meeting was held on Wednesday 14 May, which offered some learnings, including that we are asking attendees to connect at 9:30 am to ensure the technology is working prior to the start of the meeting at 10:00 am.

Meeting remotely offers connections that are otherwise not possible, as I note that our Presbytery Secretary, Shirley, who is leading devotions, will be joining this meeting from outback Queensland. As ever, the meeting is intended to share what's happening in the life of the local congregations, within the Presbytery and in the wider church, to encourage and strengthen one another's faith as well as discern our mission and ministry on the way, so attendees are encouraged to share what's happening in their local area.

In our reflection on the Basis of Union, the focus is the continuing witnesses aspect of Section 11, where we learn from the wider church, as Marian will give an introduction to the Reformed Churches' Belhar Confession, which grew out of the need to confront the sin of racial segregation.

Lunch will be self-catered, with an encouragement to share together where you can, and for amusement pictures of your food can be shared, with a virtual prize (and the envy of others) for the best lunch.

A key focus of this meeting is the "Faithful Futures Project", following the participation of Rohan, Marian and Shirley's participation in the VicTas Synod gathering in March.

More information will be given over the coming months, but this is a project for the church to focus on shaping our future mission and ministry, that invites us all to see how we can share the abiding love of God in a rapidly changing world.

Hope to see you (online) then.

Grace and Peace,
Ricky Beswick, Presbytery Chairperson.



Community, Culture & Connections

**Supporting Cultural Spaces:
Murrayfield Restoration Project**

Elders Council of Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation and Uniting AgeWell Partnership



For these and more [**subscribe**](#) to the newsletter from Leprena



Recently at Kingston Uniting Church we had Alison Overeem and Ayla Williams,, from Leprena, UAICC talk to us on the topic 'Reconciliation from a palawa perspective.'

There were 25 people present and everyone were blown away with the presentation.

The Chief Executive Officer of Reconciliation Tasmania commented, "It was a wonderful presentation - in fact the best I have been to. It had a bit of everything and much more ..."

COMMON GRACE

National Reconciliation Week
27 May - 3 June, 2025

**Reconciliation
as Responsibility
Come to the Feast**

Sign up [**here**](#) to get resources to help your place help celebrate National Reconciliation Week



Marian's Musings



“...who cries for them.”

It is hard to go past the election at this moment in time. Australia faced a choice which became hugely important which way the country would speak. And they did, clearly, loudly and with a mandate to hold government to a higher standard than we are seeing around the world.

Does the loud voice cease to shout now it is all over, and the results are beyond doubt? Does the responsibility of every one of us to continue to stand up and shout out for what is just, for what is fair and importantly to be the ‘annoying voice’ when things are far from right or just?

First Nations people remain at tangible disadvantages, who cries for them?

LGBTQIA+ people face growing discrimination, who cries for them?

Refugees and Asylum Seekers remain unwelcome, who cries for them?

I remember very clearly one of the first decisions Pope Francis took was to not wear the papal red shoes and to wear his own shoes. He was clear throughout his papacy that people mattered and as much as the role allowed this has been the mark of his papacy.

Pentecost is four weeks away, as I write this and every year I wonder the same thing, in what way do the celebrations of Pentecost and the cries of *veni sancte spiritus* (Come Holy Spirit) engender a change of heart, a time of sitting silently in the noise to see the small still voice of God around and in all.

As the noise of the election fades and is replaced with the busyness of life and work we are still the ones who cry out at injustice and unfairness.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Faithful Futures (cont)

All-Age Growth (2030) – “to have one all age community of faith which is interactive, diverse and inclusive in at least 80% of Coordinated Ministries.” The presbytery of Tasmania has small groups which engage with Messy Church, Godly Play, but some other ways might include digital/online communities of faith, laundry cafes, Labyrinth walks, connections with childcare and aged care facilities.

Some final points:

Faithful Futures developed following Presbytery Ministers advocating to the Synod that something had to change; presbyteries were and continue to groan under the ever-increasing requirements and ever decreasing numbers of faithful followers.

The four goals are not intended to replace existing ministry; rather they invite us to explore the ways communities of faith continue to be present in the wider community. Finally, Faithful Futures has been considered in the light of the proposed changes under Act2 and works alongside it, whilst separate from it.

Marian Bisset

Presbytery Resource Minister (Northern) and eLM minister for Tasmania.

In the next edition of UnitingTas there will be a short article outlining the proposed Implementation Plan, including the Goal Focused Groups, Faithful Futures Steering Group and the Faithful Futures Project lead...stay tuned.



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

\$ 450 Early Bird (by May 1), includes program, food & accommodation

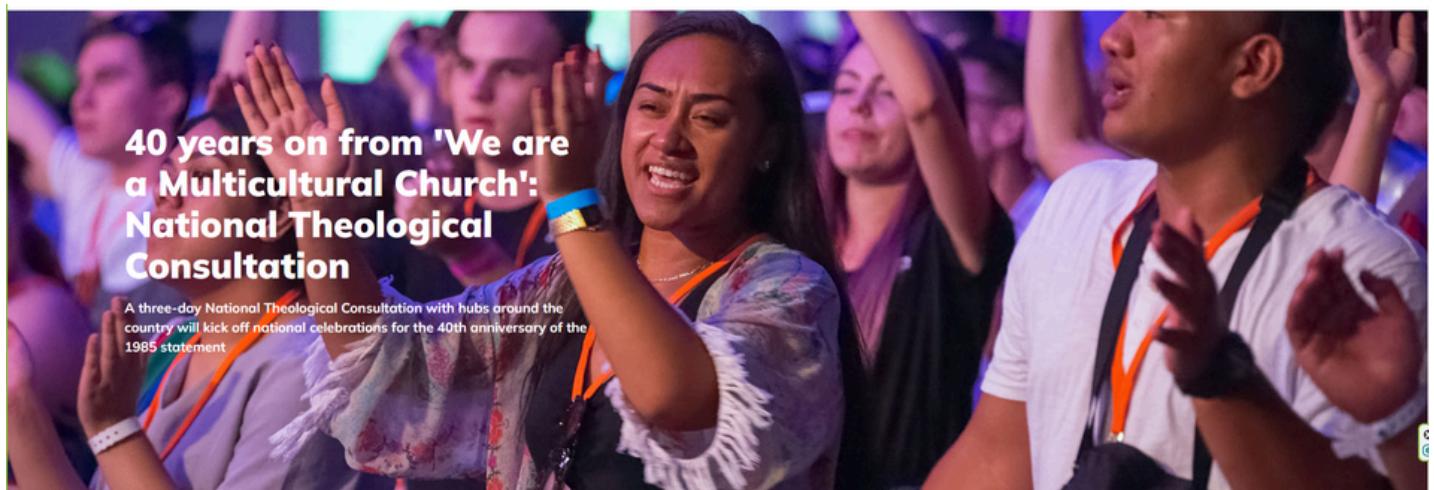
<https://leaderstogo.org.au/conference-2025/>

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 children and families – along with other leaders of leaders from across Australia and New Zealand.

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



40th Anniversary of the 1985 'The Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church' Statement National Theological Consultation: 10-12 June 2025

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the Uniting Church Assembly's 1985 declaration, 'The Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church.'

To mark this significant occasion, a three-day National Theological Consultation will be held from 10-12 June, co-organised and co-hosted by the Assembly, United Theological College, and NSW-ACT Synod Intercultural Ministry. The event, with the theme Being a Multicultural Church: Forty Years On, will be held at United Theological College with online streaming and hubs around the country.

The program

Tuesday 10th June: Being a Multicultural Church: Forty Years On – Reflection on the Declaration

25 speakers around the country, from people who witnessed the declaration to those who travel on this journey, share their insights and reflections.

Wednesday 11th June: "Living Cross-culturally as a Multicultural, Intercultural Church" – A Theological Reflection for the Present Time

Four papers contributed by academics and practitioners are presented and then followed by conversation and discussion. Those papers examine the topic through biblical, theological, historical, and praxic lenses.

Thursday 12th June: Being a Multicultural Church: Forty Years On and Beyond!
Papers contributed by people around the country will be presented.

Join the event Online

Zoom link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95579232232> (Meeting ID: 955 7923 2232)

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>Coordinated Ministries</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>Respecting Country</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>Intercultural Leadership</p> <p>By 2028, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be providing appropriate formation and equipping for leaders of different cultural groups; and (b) develop networks to support worship, witness and service among communities of diverse languages and cultures. 	<p>All-age Growth</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> 
---	--	--	--

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



Faithful Futures-Proposed Implementation

Goal focused groups:

Coordinated Ministries

To enable collaboration for those working in this area

Respecting Country

To resource communities of faith for research and storytelling



Faithful Futures Steering Committee

Including a member from each presbytery, to oversee the work and identify progress, stories and challenges around the presbyteries.

Faithful Futures Project Lead

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

Principles

1

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.

2

Outcomes need to be measurable, financially sustainable, and requiring suitable criteria to be developed and working with the Congregational Insights report developers.

Effective communications throughout presbyteries and the Synod.

3

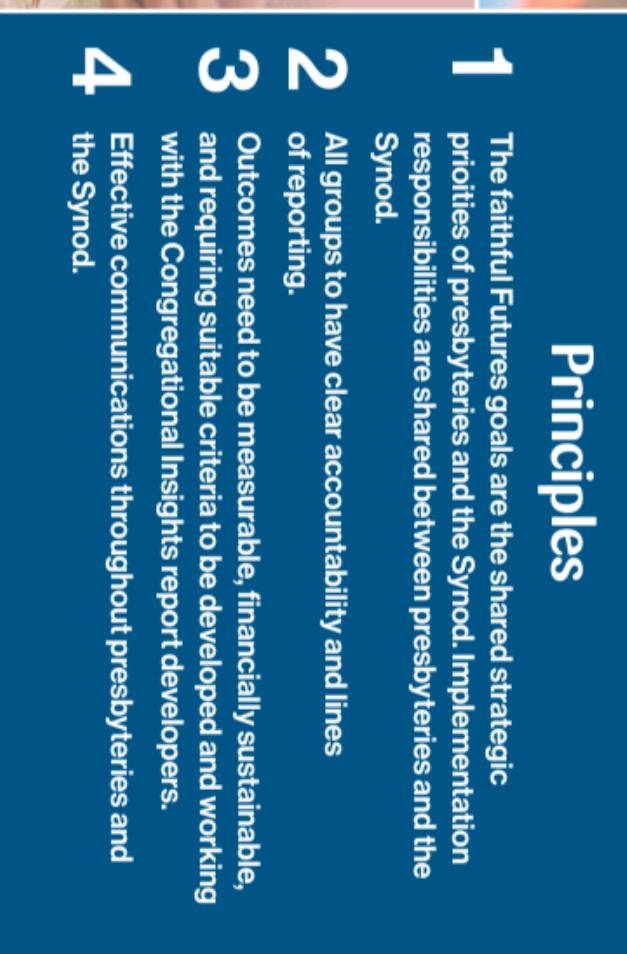


Intercultural Leadership
To be a reference group for the implementation of this goal



All-Age Growth

To enable collaboration for those working in this area



4

Outcomes need to be measurable, financially sustainable, and requiring suitable criteria to be developed and working with the Congregational Insights report developers.

Effective communications throughout presbyteries and the Synod.

Tasmanian Presbytery Committees

– Presbytery Standing Committee

These notes are to inform church members on how the committees within the Presbytery work. The Uniting Church regulations specify (Reg 3.7.2 (a)) that the Presbytery formally establish three committees to carry out the relevant activities:

- (i) a Standing Committee; (PSC)
- (ii) a Pastoral Relations Committee; (PRC) (dealing with ministry and pastoral issues.)
- (iii) a Property Committee; aka Resource Development Committee (RDC) (dealing with property).

In addition the Presbytery may also establish Task Groups to attend to specific functions.

The following is to give some details about the Standing Committee.

As outlined on the Presbytery webpage:

The Presbytery Standing Committee responsibilities are:

- priority setting and making recommendations to Presbytery
- establishing task groups to do defined tasks
- establishing and organising the agenda of Presbytery gatherings to ensure timely discussion of issues and encourage participation
- act, when necessary, between meetings of the presbytery.

(This means decisions that have to be made before the next presbytery meeting, or referred by Presbytery, are made by PSC and reported to Presbytery.)

Currently the Presbytery Standing Committee meets monthly, usually on the fourth Thursday of each month from about 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, sometimes in person but often by zoom.

The current membership of the PSC includes: Ricky Beswick (Presbytery Chairperson), Shirley Bowers (Presbytery Secretary), George Kogios (Presbytery Treasurer), Chris Duxbury (PRC Chairperson), Geoffrey Howells (RDC Chairperson), Marian Bisset (PM North and eLM), Rohan Pryor (Synod Liaison Minister and PM team leader), Helen Geard, and Scott Parkes.

In its discussions and follow up activities, PSC like the Presbytery and the other committees rely heavily on the expertise and efforts of the Presbytery staff, as well as input from the wider church. The agenda generally includes reports from the Presbytery staff, usually highlighting specific congregational or other needs, planning Presbytery meetings and other Presbytery events as well as considering our interactions with the wider church. One of the key issues over the next months will be considering the Faithful Futures project, as the Synod and Presbyteries look at our future mission and ministry, and work together on common projects and strategies for the future.

If anyone is interested in potentially serving on one of the committees, please speak to one of the Presbytery leaders. 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.

Safe Church Training

There will be two options to attend:

- Tuesday 27th May 7-9pm online. Zoom link sent nearer the time
- Wednesday 4th June 10-12noon, in person at Kingston Uniting Church.

Please confirm your attendance at one of the sessions by sending an email to TAS.OFFICE@victas.uca.org.au by Friday 16th May to ensure there will be sufficient booklets for all attendees either in person or online. You will need to supply an email address for the certificate to be sent to. The certificate comes from the Synod and is also the means to record who has completed the training. This will also prompt a reminder in 3 years to renew the training.

The current UCA policy states:

This Policy applies to all entities and individuals associated with the Uniting Church in Australia – Synod of Victoria and Tasmania who engage in child related services or activities. Entities of the Church include, but are not limited to: Congregations, Presbyteries, agencies, ministries, childcare services, out-of-home care services, family and community services, disability services, health services, camps and schools. It will be implemented by board/council members, employees, volunteers, children, parents, carers, presbytery members, church council members, elders, congregation members, people in the specified ministries of the Church, and any other person with responsibility for the care of children.

Simply put, any form of leadership from flower roster people, organist, committee member, worship leaders need to have completed the Safe Church Training. This forms part of the compliance aspect of the Presbytery and Synod.



Rev. Sandy Brodine and Kelly Woods will be leading a new online community for teens over winter. If you'd like to join us to build bible stories and talk about faith together from your own home, then sign up [here](#).

The first of our Messy Miners events happens next Sunday afternoon! I'm sending this to you in the hope that you can encourage the parents of the teens that you work with to sign up. There will be 4 Messy Miners events over winter (one per month). The kids will need Minecraft Java edition, and will need to log into our Minecraft server and Zoom at the same time.

In order to join in, parents will need to sign up via Humanitix (it's a free event) and then you'll receive the server details and zoom link next week. The first Messy Miners is next Sunday 11th May 4:00-6:00 and each event is 'stand alone' - so if you miss one, you'll be fine to join in another time!



[Check this out](#) as a way of modelling ministry into the social media space.

Scattered
* /somewhatscattered



**PILGRIMS of the
SPIRIT**
Read the flip book [here](#)

**Synod
2025**

Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice sessions: Professionalism

Attendance at Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice is required for all ministers, pastors, lay people in ministry placement, and retired ministers providing any active ministry or pastoral care.

The first ethical ministry refresher session for 2025 on the topic of "Professionalism" (CoE Section 3.5), will be conducted on Zoom and provided through the Presbytery of Port Philip East.

Four different times are offered:

- Wed 11th June 9.30am to 12.00pm,
- Thurs 12th June 7-9.30pm
- Thurs 19 June 9.30am to 12.00pm
- Wed 25 June 7-9.30pm

Further details, including registration and materials to be released soon.

Mark the session which suits you best in your diary.

For further information please contact:

Rev Marian Bisset, marian.bisset@victas.uca.org.au

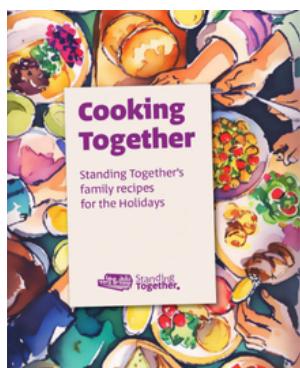
or via the Uniting Church Tasmanian Office

Get some JIM here...

Victorian and Tasmanian Family Violence Reforms

Domestic and family violence is oppression that breaks the human spirit and relationships, preys on vulnerable people, violates the safety of homelife and attacks the most basic human values of trust, love, hope and self-worth. Children are often left invisible within policy and practical responses to Family violence. Help us elevate the voice of kids and young people to be heard.

[This](#) takes you to a document with background and suggestions for letter writing.



Standing Together, Cooking Together

We know that Jews and Palestinians sharing food is more than just eating together. It is a refusal to give in to hatred and fear at a time when powerful extremists are doing all that they can to stoke racism and dehumanization. This collection of recipes from families and friends celebrates the holidays, honors traditions, and affirms deep ties of solidarity with one another.

Download the recipe book [HERE](#)

Information on Red Meat

Red meat contributes a lot to polluting the planet, but the high phosphates additives also have adverse impacts on our bodies. Red meat consumption was also linked to increased risk of pancreatic and prostate cancer. This resource offers your additional information that will inform the role of red meat in our diets. Click [HERE](#) to download

News from the Justice and International Mission Cluster

JIM Cluster Work Survey 2025



[Click here for the survey](#)

Help inform the direction of JIM's work by telling them what Social Justice issues matter to you!

Each year the Justice and International Mission (JIM) Cluster seeks feedback from its supporters, that's you, about what issues you would like the Cluster to resource you to take action on. Your responses directly inform the focus of the JIM Cluster's work by helping them set their priorities.

The survey is quick, and mentions 20 key social justice issues with a 1 to 5 scale for you to tell them their importance to you. At the end, there's space to write any other feedback, or to name any other issues you would like them to resource you on.

Christian Community and the pursuit of Common Good

Justice and International Mission Convention 2025

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

When Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me," (Mt 25:40) he was inviting us to seek the Common Good. Jesus saw a common good as fulfilling God's will that we love and serve others, creating a society where all people are valued and treated with dignity, and where justice and peace prevail. The common good is a collective responsibility, where people live in harmony, sharing resources, offering help, and showing kindness to one another in ways that build up the community, and not just for individual gain.

Political and financial inequality across the globe and in Australia is increasing, resulting in people on lower incomes believing that the democratic system does not work for them. The increase in these inequalities also erodes trust and social cohesion in our society, and increase the growth in racism. It also makes it harder to address problems that require whole of society and international cooperation, such as climate change and pandemics.

The problem of the erosion of trust and social cohesion is enhanced by the spread of disinformation and misinformation in the online world. The ability of generative artificial intelligence to create realistic video material will increasingly make it more difficult to tell the truth from lies in the online world.

The Convention will examine what we, in the Christian community, can do to reverse these trends and rebuild a commitment to the common good in our society.



WORKSHOP OPTIONS

- One person, one vote - Giving people an equal say in democracy
- Unequal access - Regulation of Lobbyists
- Separating ice from snow - Misinformation and Disinformation and the role of AI
- The other person might be right - Addressing political polarisation
- Giving First Peoples a fairer say in democracy
- Limitarianism - limiting the role of wealth in democracy
- Riders of the Apocalypse - Responding to threats to humanity's future
- Make me a channel - The Synod's role in peace-building

When: Saturday July 12, 9 am-4:15 pm

Where: Centre for Theology and Ministry,
29 College Crescent, Parkville

Cost: \$50 Metropolitan / \$30 Concession and Rural and Regional

Visit: events.humanitix.com/justice-and-international-mission-convention-2025
for more details, the program and to register.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



equipping Leadership for Mission

Justice & International Mission

14



WHAT'S ON!

MAY - JUN 2025

MAY 31	Presbytery Meeting - all on Zoom 10am - 4pm	JUL 01	Pastoral Relations Committee 10.30am - 4.00pm
JUN 03	Pastoral Relations Committee 10.30am - 4.00pm	JUL 15	Resource and Development Committee 10.30am - 2.30pm
JUN 17	Resource and Development Committee 10.30am - 2.30pm	JUL 24	Presbytery Standing Committee 10am - 4pm
JUN 26	Presbytery Standing Committee 10am - 4pm		

Faithful
past
Faithful
present
Faithful
future

MONTHLY CHECKLIST



MAY - Annual Reports and Directory Information to UCA Tasmanian Office



JUN - 24/25 Logbooks to UCA Tasmanian Office



ACNC return for treasurers due by 30th June



Synod Congregation Surveys due by 15th June

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, phone 6331 9784 or post: 36 Paterson St, Launceston, 7250.