

NEWSBEAT



NOVEMBER 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Three decades of multiculturalism. Coverage of these thought-provoking celebrations can be found on page 5.

Hearing the Word through the power of storytelling. Find out more on page 6.



"Luke's Story"

Sharing stories of faith and life

A WONDERFUL evening of interfaith sharing and learning was organised in our presbytery recently.

Four young women came to visit High Street Uniting Church, Frankston, on Sunday, October 18 to share stories of their faith and how they live that faith out in their everyday lives.

Organiser Rev. Jay Robinson explains: "Kelly Skilton spoke about the Christian faith – with the full understanding that this is what she believed and practiced – and then shared how that faith in Jesus impacted on her life and decisions.

"Anam Javed shared about her life as a young Muslim woman, what that means to her, what the pillars of faith are for a Muslim and how she lives that daily.

Erica Rothschild shared with us the Jewish faith, how broad the understanding of that can be and how she practices her faith. It was great to hear her stories and style of conversation - very rabbinic in style.

"Our last young lady and faith was Swarupa Dasi from



the Hindu faith. Swarupa told us of her lifestyle and beliefs as well as her choice of clothes. To hear that she was originally part of the Lutheran church and then chose to become Hindu was really interesting and gave us an insight into this faith that really connected with people.

What was the most surprising element of the night was how similar the pillars or foundations were of each of the faiths. Each of our young women shared personally

and openly; handling the questions that followed their sharing with such integrity and intelligence, particularly on a couple of tricky questions.

"It was an absolute joy to listen to these young women and we thank them so much for their willingness to share and be part of a great night."

Bonnie's memorial will continue to bring her smile to all



A MEMORIAL plaque will be unveiled next week for one of the UCA's favourite daughters.

On November 8, at morning worship, Rev Dr Francis Macnab at St Michael's in the City will unveil the plaque to mark the life and service of Rev Bonnie Bradley.

Rev Christine MacDowall says: "Bonnie was ordained at St. Michael's and spent nearly 30 years connected to Mayflower in Brighton East as chaplain. I was Bonnie's minister during my time at Brighleigh."

For the full story of Bonnie's life and contribution to the life of the church turn to page 3.

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucappp.org



WHEN we announced that Port Phillip East Presbytery and Koornang UCA member, Alison Campbell Rate, penned the Assembly theme song *With Hearts on Fire* we thought it would be useful to hear a little more from our musical maestro...

"I have been a member of Koornang Uniting Church in Murrumbeena since 1988 and began composing worship songs about 10 years ago. This was not long after I was asked to take up the role of music director - my many Methodist choir leading, organ playing, soloist ancestors would have approved of this occurrence!

"I wrote songs for our annual Countdown to Christmas children's program, for special occasions like baptisms and for general praise and worship throughout the year. When the UCA launched the Songs That Unite, STU, website to encourage the work of local songwriters and the singing of contemporary music in the church, I was able to introduce my songs to a wider audience.

"STU has run a number of song writing competitions since its inauguration. The most recent was to write a theme song for the Assembly conference in Perth this year, the theme being Hearts on Fire.

Fire is such an important image in Scripture. It

signifies cleansing, heat, light, warmth, energy, hope, life and Spirit. My submission, 'With Hearts on Fire' was a long time on the boil as I tried



to capture old themes in a new way. The main thought I wanted to convey was to ask the Spirit to ignite our passion for building the Kingdom of God here and now.

I have published about 20 songs with STU and acknowledge with thanks the great opportunity this initiative of the UCA has given lots of songwriters and composers who now have a chance to share the music the Spirit is giving them. I also thank Sarah, Hannah, Dave, John and Roger from Koornang Uniting Church, who have all generously helped me with recording, correcting my deplorable sheet music and giving me wonderful encouragement.

POSITION VACANT

Children and Families Pastoral Co-ordinator
Mornington

Help us to Grow!

St Mark's Uniting Church Mornington is seeking a creative, energetic part-time Children and Families Pastoral Coordinator to lead a ministry directed to younger families and children.

The ideal person will have a love of Christ, a passion to see people of all ages impacted by the gospel and support for the vision, mission and values of St Marks. We are seeking a person who can both strengthen our existing ministries in this area and provide a vision on how we can better reach young families in our community with the good news of Christ.

We seek a person with an optimistic attitude, an outgoing personality, with the ability to lead a diverse team, and who can contribute to the ministry of St Marks in a collaborative way and encourage members of the congregation to assist with programs in support of our ministry objectives.

Candidates should have an appropriate educational/theological degree or diploma (or be currently studying in these areas). Previous teaching and ministry experience will be highly regarded

This is a part time (.5) appointment. Salary in accordance with the recommendations of the Uniting Church Vic/Tas Synod

For further details and a full job description please contact:
stmarks.mornington@bigpond.com



Save the date

THE Induction Service for Rev Ngatokorua (Uru)Tairea will be held at the Cook Islands Uniting Church Clayton (14-16 Burton Ave – additional car parking available via Cooke Street with access via the rear gate) at 2 pm on Sunday 22nd November, 2015.

In loving memory...

Cont. from front page

Mary Frances Butler, born in 1926, became known as Bonnie due to her happy disposition.

The family lived in Tecoma, then North Brighton.

Bonnie married Les Bradley, pictured above, in 1948 - a union that would last 66 years.

Bonnie and Les raised four sons and a daughter, living for many years in the Melbourne suburb of Beaumaris. While raising her five children and supporting Les in his career in the 1960s and 1970s, Bonnie was deeply involved in the Presbyterian Church. At the age of 50, Bonnie returned to school, completing her Higher School Certificate and a Bachelor of Theology. In December 1982, she was ordained as one of the first female Ministers in the newly formed Uniting Church. In 1983, Bonnie became Minister of Cranbourne, Clyde and Devon Meadows in outer Melbourne, and led the congregation in building their own church. Many believe that the building, opened in 1989, would not have happened without Bonnie's leadership. Bonnie's third son decided to marry in 1984, and he and his

wife-to-be asked Bonnie to perform the service.



The ceremony was reported in a Melbourne daily paper as, "Mother marries son." In 1986 and 1992, Bonnie married two more of her sons - to their brides! After ten years, Bonnie left Cranbourne, and in 1994, became the Chaplain at Mayflower Retirement Community in Brighton, where she had served on the Board of Management since 1982. In 2001, Bonnie joined Brighleigh Church for six months, but stayed for six years. Bonnie continued as Mayflower's Chaplain until 2007, aged 81. In 2010, she stood down from the Board of Mayflower, after twenty-eight years of service.

Bonnie moved to Mayflower as a resident where she passed away quietly in her sleep in late August 2014. Her ashes were interred in Brighton Cemetery, not far from her childhood home.

Nominate now

ECUMENICAL Award nominations are now open.

They aim to show Synod and congregations ecumenical developments and projects that are occurring within our congregations and presbyteries. They wish to encourage recent initiatives, as well as long-standing projects. In 2016 there will be one award, of \$500 for an ecumenical project or event initiated by a local Uniting Church member, congregation, faith community, school or agency. Full details and application at <http://www.ucappep.org/newsbeat/events/>

**Mt Waverley Chadstone InterChurch Council
invites you to**



**Friday 11th December 2015
Hamilton Place, Mt Waverley**

Come One, Come All!

**Community Singing from 6.30pm to 8.30pm
plus a Children's Activity Tent
Please bring your own chair**

Supported by Monash Council and Mt Waverley Traders



www.mtwaverleychadstonechurches.org.au

Give something back this festive season



act for peace

Christmas Bowl

IF you'd like to experience the true spirit of Christmas this year then get involved with the annual Christmas Bowl program with Act For Peace. Outstanding and exciting resources are now available on the Act for Peace website at: www.actforpeace.org.au/ Christmas Bowl Plus, Christmas Bowl kits have been posted out so churches should have received them. If there is a problem please contact Jeff

Wild on 9650 6811.

Jeff says: "Again we will have the network of Christmas Bowl speakers. Anyone who would like to be a volunteer speaker, please contact Jeff as soon as possible. There will be a training session for the speakers this Friday, November 6 at 2pm.

"Likewise, any church that would like a speaker and has not already informed Act for Peace please give me a call. There are great resources for you, your church and community group to make a difference for extremely vulnerable people around the world."

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE actalliance

JOIN the Act for Peace Speakers' Network!

WHAT: Work with passionate people to make a difference for people affected by conflict and disaster, saving lives and building long-term change
Use your skills as a public speaker to help Act for Peace raise awareness and funds

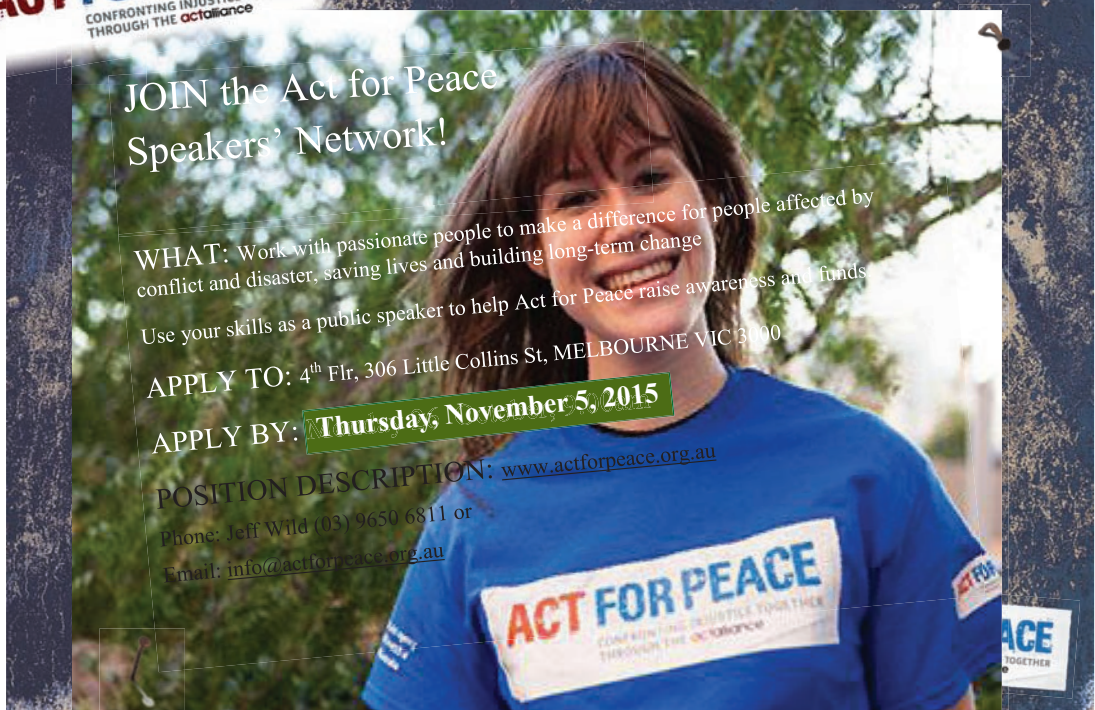
APPLY TO: 4th Flr, 306 Little Collins St, MELBOURNE VIC 3100

APPLY BY: Thursday, November 5, 2015

POSITION DESCRIPTION: www.actforpeace.org.au

Phone: Jeff Wild (03) 9650 6811 or

Email: info@actforpeace.org.au



Connecting builds strength

DOES your church have a Facebook page?

We invite people to Share their Facebook pages and postings with the Port Phillip East Presbytery page. Just search for Port Phillip East Presbytery on Facebook...

To learn more about how to do these things on Facebook please e-mail Rev Jay Robinson - our Facebook expert - on jay@robinsonfamily.id.au



*Write Your Own Icon
praying with a paint brush*

Paint an icon in the tradition of Eastern Orthodox Churches under instruction from an experienced iconographer. No previous painting or drawing experience required.

15 – 19 February 2016, 9.00 to 5.00

Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville

Inquiries: Peter Blackwood – pdblackwood47@gmail.com

OR 9434 4742

More information: writeyourownicon.wordpress.com



Cultures come together as one...

TO celebrate 30 years of being a Multicultural Church Port Phillip East staged a wonderful Cross-cultural Celebration a few weeks ago.

In addition to a moving and uplifting worship service, which included the sharing of cultural gifts in music and song, prayers and delicious food, there was also a panel presentation and discussions.

These were the questions posed:

1. What was the vision of the UCA when it declared itself a Multicultural Church 30 years ago?
2. What has the Synod of Vic/Tas achieved in Multicultural Ministry in that time?
3. What do we mean by “Multiculturally inclusive” and “Multiculturally exclusive” language?
4. What kind of Multicultural Church do we want to be?

Why not put these questions to your congregation and hear, and maybe share with Newsbeat, the thoughtful responses?

A report on the outcomes of the Cross-Cultural Celebration will be released soon.



Pancakes Drop In celebrates its silver jubilee with fashion on the field



Service in style... Gordon Stevenson and Robyn Maddaford glam it up in front of the art wall in Koornang's Community Garden.

IT'S been a landmark year for the Pancakes Drop-In at Koornang Uniting Church, Murrumbeena.

The Drop-in has been going for a quarter century, largely due to Sandra Conway and Melva Stevenson.

Each Thursday morning, from February to December, it allows people to share treats and a hot drink, chat and enjoy organised activities. Two days of the year they get special treatment - before the AFL grand final and the Thursday before the Melbourne Cup.

"Today, volunteers and drop-in-goers enjoyed a lavish spread of sandwiches, cup cakes, sweets and pink bubbly (soft drink) before taking to the catwalk to strut glamorous Melbourne Cup hats," says Rev Christine MacDowall.

Later people mingled among the windmills, murals, seats, gardens and art wall of the newly opened Anthony Breslin Community Art Garden.

Listen up to Luke

SINCE 1998 Rev Philip Liebelt has been telling 90-minute Biblical stories of Luke's gospel.

It began during a 12 year stint as National Co-ordinator of the Network of Biblical Storytellers (Australia), a role which took him to almost all Australian states and on to the USA.

In reality, he has been Biblical storytelling in the Network's style since before he was ordained 25 years ago.

Philip says: "This is not the whole gospel, as Luke is a long gospel. But the narrative of this storytelling event begins with the much loved annunciation and nativity stories and ends with the resurrection including the Emmaus story. Along the way a number of stories unique to Luke are told, including the Lost parables, the Good Samaritan and Zaccheus."

Philip's background as a Drama Teacher, and his passion for these stories are very much in evidence in this event, as he tells the gospel stories from memory, not paraphrased, but spliced together for performance in a church setting.

Hearing the outline of the gospel like this is an ideal way to prepare for the Lectionary year of Luke. In 2016, Philip would be open to invitations to share this performance at churches across the Presbytery. Workshops to teach others to tell the Biblical stories are also possible.



"Luke's Story"

Begin the Year of Luke by hearing 90 minutes of stories from that Gospel

dramatically told from memory by Biblical Storyteller, Philip Liebelt

**St. John's Uniting Church, 567 Glen Huntly Rd, Elsternwick
Sun. 29th. Nov. 2pm. \$5 inc. Afternoon Tea**

Reflections on Faith

The skill of the cartoonist. A message in thin line sketches.

Simple, yet profound. Sometimes incomprehensible - like life can be.

And looking at a cartoon duck, if I had one wish, I would like to walk alongside the duck, just for a little of his time, and sense the wisdom of experience.

Sometimes words, our vehicles of communication, seem so inadequate to express what the artist can do in a few lines. In Plato's Republic representatives of Greek society wrestle with the definition of Justice. Just acts can be identified. But what is justice?

There is a similar problem about a definition of love.

Where can it be found? Many, many words about love.

The Greeks identified several.

In his letter to the Corinthians Paul writes: "Love is..." and gives meaningful descriptions.

But what is Love, where is Love, where can we find it?

In the musical Oliver Twist, after being thrown into the cellars of a funeral parlour for getting into a fight with Noah Claypole, he sings the song *Where is Love?* "Must I travel far and wide? 'Til I am beside the someone who, I can mean something to.. Where...?"

Where is love?"

On a visit to a mining town in the north west, we met a special Salvation Army girl. She

supported abused women and children who took shelter in a refuge. One of her roles was to attend court as a support and counsellor for families in trouble.

One day in court she witnessed a scene where an aboriginal father was being tried for beating up his wife.

The father was led into the court, shackled and placed in the dock.

When his little son saw him there, by himself, he went forward and slipped his tiny hand inside the handcuffs and held his father's hand.

The court was touched. Nothing was said. Whatever the awful circumstances which brought about dysfunction to a family, the little boy was there for his dad.

Our Salvation Army Officer was reduced to tears, and so were we, when she told us the story.

There is love.



'Faith'
by Bill Pugh,
retired
Melbourne
minister



Readings and Conversation

A new, monthly daytime group for those wanting to explore faith and modern life through discussion of books, poems and writings

7 SEPTEMBER 2015

In the Eye of the Storm

Presented by Val Jemmeson

In his autobiography *In the Eye of the Storm*, renowned physicist and Nobel Prize winner Sir John Houghton discusses his Christian faith and why he believes in God.

6 OCTOBER 2015

Metaphors of the spirit

Presented by Malcolm Adams

Exploring David Tacey's *Beyond Literal Belief*

2 NOVEMBER 2015

A life given to prayer, and prayer given to life

Presented by Tim Angus

Sarah's experience of prayer in *The anchoress*, a novel by Robyn Cadwallader.

COMING UP IN 2016...

At one with nature and its creatures

Presented by Kath Linforth

From *Dolphin's Leap, Hind's Feet*, by Hedley Beare

Please join us on the first Monday of the month,
4:30 till 6:00 pm in the Parish Centre,
Hampton Uniting Church, 17 Service Street

A gold coin donation would be appreciated
Enquiries: Tim Angus 0400 383 628

Preliminary reading material is available
Email: dayspringcontact@hotmail.com

In thanks for friendship



Dear Lord,
We thank you
for fellowship and friendships. Bless our
time together that we may reflect your
truth in our lives, and carry your love in
our hearts.

Amen

Free training sessions in pastoral care on offer



Pastoral Care Volunteer Training
Thursday 12th and 19th November 2015 from 9.00 am – 12.30 pm
Canterbury (Highfield Road) Uniting Church.

As part of Uniting AgeWell’s ListenWell project, volunteers are trained to be effective pastoral visitors. Under the chaplain’s oversight, pastoral care volunteers can visit residents in our aged care communities.

This free training is being conducted by Rev Ross Pearce, Rev Jen Pretty and Rev John Clarke, pictured, and is available to anyone interested even if they are not considering becoming a pastoral care volunteer with Uniting AgeWell. The knowledge and skills gained would benefit anyone wishing to support people pastorally more effectively.

The two 3.5 hour sessions cover:

Session 1 - 12th November

1. Pastoral Care with older people
2. Active listening
3. Boundaries

Session 2 - 19th November

4. Grief and loss
5. Conflict
6. Referral and confidentiality
7. Self-care
8. Becoming part of a Pastoral Care Volunteer team

The first session is being offered:
Thursday 12th November 2015,
9.00 am start, finishing at 12.30 pm, with an optional BYO lunch.

Refreshments and session notes provided.
Canterbury (Highfield Road) Uniting Church,
the corner of Highfield Road and Prospect Hill Road, Canterbury.

[200 metres from Riversdale Road tram stop 51 on route 70]

There is no charge for this training
Attending the first session is a pre-requisite for attending the second session.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Rev John Clarke, Director of Mission, P: 03 9251 5209, E: JClarke@unitingagewell.org; M: 0427 994 972
RSVP to John by Monday 9th November would be appreciated for catering purposes.

Bethel Workshop

Bullying and Boundaries

run by Marcel Koper and Julie McDonald

This is a one day workshop for church council members, ministers and lay ministers who want to know more about:

- What bullying is and what it isn't;
- The impact of stress and trauma on individuals and congregations;
- How to respond to bullying;
- How to build a safe congregation.

Wednesday 11 November 2015

9:30am-4:00pm

Bethel Centre

59 Doncaster Road North Balwyn

Spaces are limited

Cost -\$10

To register, contact Marilyn on 9859 8700
or email marilyn@bethelcentre.com.au

Quote

“When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it - always.”

Mahatma Gandhi

of the month...

Upcoming Tours...

CAMBODIAN TEACHERS SUPPORT PROGRAM

Departing 3 January, 2016

Join a diverse group of adults investigating how best to resource Cambodian teachers and help provide education in marginalised villages in Cambodia.

Supported by the Ivanhoe Grammar school community, this 21-day tour to Cambodia and Laos offers educators and parents involved in planning school tours a wonderful opportunity to visit major tourist sites; engage in community skill sharing projects; support local businesses with accommodation and purchasing choices; and investigate the potential of an Australian community project to support poorly-resourced teachers in Cambodia.

Tour leader Robyn Angus may be contacted at robyn.angus64@gmail.com

**UNITING
JOURNEYS**

www.responsibletravel.org.au

Travel for
thinking
people



Sharing lunch near Siem Reap, Cambodia

A CULTURAL TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Departing April, 2016

AN enriching journey to arouse wonder, challenge perceptions, and stir your soul.

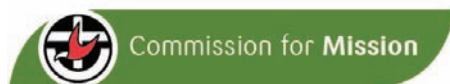
This carefully researched 21-day journey takes in Iran – ancient towns, magnificent mosques and trading routes



that date back more than 2,500 years; Jordan – a land of antiquity and the origins of faiths; Palestine and Israel – the spiritual home of the world's three monotheistic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The old cities of Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, and the Jordan River are just a few of the many places you will visit in the company of knowledgeable local guides.

Tour leaders Barbara Jackson and Sally Masters can be contacted at barbarajackson308@gmail.com or masters_sally@hotmail.com.



Commission for Mission

UNEARTH INCREDIBLE INDIA

Departing 9 April, 2016

India is a country of beauty, history, spirituality... and social challenges.

Join us for a journey into the sub continent that combines sight-seeing with support for a Mother & Baby Health Clinics program in the Punjab.

As part of Uniting Journeys 'responsible travel' initiative, this 12-day trip will take in majestic New Delhi, golden Amritsar, historic Shimla and spiritual Dharamsala. It also includes the chance to visit and share in the work of Mobile Community Health Clinics to rural villages, which are changing the lives of thousands of disadvantaged women and children.

As well as visiting some heritage building gems you'll also take in other 'responsible travel' excursions to explore and discuss the diverse facets of Indian culture and society.

This unique trip offers the delights of Indian architecture, cuisine and culture plus the opportunity to witness and support life-changing health work as it happens. Tour leader helen. beeby@gmail.com

Catching the train in New Delhi



Call Jim Wakelam on 0403 264124. Or e-mail Uniting Journeys at info@unitingjourneys.com.au

Bookings may also be made directly with Jetaway Travel at info@jetawaytravel.com.au



Dates for your diary

- Induction of Rev Andrew Boyle – Ormond UC, Sunday, November 15, 3pm.
- Leadership Colloquium - Korean Church Melbourne, Malvern, November 18.
- Ordination; Berlin Guerrero - Glen Waverley UC, Wednesday, November 18, 2pm.
- Induction of Rev Uru (Ngatokorua) Tairea at Cook Island Congregation, Clayton, Sunday, November 22, 2pm
- Presbytery in Council: Wednesday, November 25 at 7.15pm at Pakenham.



THERE'S still time to book into the FED Colloquium...

This event detailed left will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 3.00-9.30pm at the Korean Church of Melbourne, Glendearg Ave, Malvern, Victoria. Invitations are open for the submission of papers to be discussed and there are also subsidies of \$200 available to assist presenters on low incomes.

This colloquium is co-hosted by Assembly Formation, Education and Discipleship (FED) and the Assembly Mission and Evangelism Network. The cost is \$25 which includes dinner. The keynote speaker will be Dr Deidre Palmer. Deidre has a long background in education and mission and is the current Moderator of the Presbytery and Synod of SA and the President-Elect of the Uniting Church in Australia.

You can find out more and register online at <https://assembly.uca.org.au/fed/news/item/1741-colloquium-registration>

Photo: National Young Adults Leaders Conference members exposure visit to the Wayside Chapel in Sydney

The Colloquium is an opportunity for the sharing of research, innovation and reflection around the connections between formation, discipleship and mission in relation to the Uniting Church. The purposes of the Colloquium are to encourage critical thinking, foster dialogue, and provide encouragement and inspiration both in terms of thinking and practice within Australia.

The Assembly Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group seeks to help the church be intentional and effective in forming and educating life-long disciples for the sake of the mission of God. The Assembly Mission and Evangelism network seeks to encourage, stimulate and celebrate mission, with a particular interest in 'local' mission and evangelism. We hope that the Colloquium will provide an interdisciplinary space for conversation.

The program will include a plenary presentation on the theme followed by three rounds of concurrent presentations (50 minutes each – presentation plus discussion.)

Proposals for papers are sought from those engaged in practice and research, including tertiary students, ministers, researchers, lay leaders, other church workers.

Proposals

Proposals should be no more than 250 words. They should be submitted by Friday 31 July to Colloquium c/- Mr Craig Mitchell PO Box 1585 Mount Barker SA 5251

Presenters will be notified by Friday 21 August.

The Assembly is providing five subsidies of up to \$200 each to assist presenters who are students or on limited income to travel to the event. If you wish to seek such a subsidy, please indicate when you submit your proposal giving indication of your reasons for applying. Subsidy recipients will be notified by 21 August.

Online registration for attendance will be open from 24 August 2015. There will be a small fee for attendance to cover venue and catering costs.

For more information, contact
 Anna Catliffe annac@nat.uca.org.au
 Craig Mitchell craigm@nat.uca.org.au
 National Director – Formation, Education & Discipleship

Hosted by



The NEW Port Phillip East Presbytery website is an exciting additional resource tool for communication across our churches, agencies, schools and communities. We welcome submissions to the website, Newsbeat and Facebook, but should advise that photographs may be used across all unless instructed otherwise when submitted.

Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucappp.org and www.facebook.com/ucappp.org for news, events and more....

The views expressed by contributors and editorial to Newsbeat are not necessarily the views of the Presbytery.