

Newsbeat

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APRIL 2023 ISSUE



Port Phillip East Presbytery's

An insight into what congregations,
schools & members are doing

MAGNIFICENT CERAMIC TREE AT CORNISH

When a community and school that stand together in harmony - it shows that you can create beautiful things. Dennis Freeman, Director of Community Relations from Cornish College shares a recent 10 Year Anniversary of Cornish College.

At Cornish College a magnificent ceramic tree has now been completed, bringing to a close the series of community events and celebrations for our recent 10 Year Anniversary. Led by Art staff Bex Hinton and Ceridwen Foran and former staff members Geraldine Pollock and Gavin Byrt and with assistance from another former staff member Cheryl McHugh, the result is a collaborative art installation depicting a tree in full bloom.

During the course of 2022, members of the College community had the opportunity to create their own piece of the tree with the many hundreds of ceramic pieces gradually coming together to make a final artwork.

The mural is not only representative of who Cornish College is as a thriving community, but that of their commitment to sustainable practice, respect for the land, and collective creativity. It is very much in keeping with a longstanding tradition of creating art for display around the school.

The 10 Year Anniversary ceramic tree can be viewed on the exterior wall of the Dave Clark Art and Design Centre, at the front of the College.

Dennis Freeman



MISSION AT ST. LEONARD'S UC

Like most congregations, COVID through everyone off course. With St Leonard's UC goal and church vision to be a "hub of life", they picked themselves up and created missional groups to suit many needs of their members.

St Leonard's Church Council began collating findings from learnings for a Ministry and Mission strategy. And then COVID came! Fast forward a couple of years with a few revisions to take into account - then the new post COVID paradigm, we are now beginning to see developing relationships towards our vision for the church to be a "hub of life".

Playgroup

Playgroup has been rejuvenated. Our playgroup had been run by volunteers for over 10 years but with the retirement of Margaret Griffiths, crunch time had come. Could it continue? Yes - it must, for it provided a welcoming and safe place particularly for those who were new to the area without family support, or those who find a full day of child minding very long. A paid position for a leader was created, supported by a roster of volunteers from the church. It is fabulous to see parents, grandparents and carers in the hall on a Tuesday morning with their little ones.



St Leonard's Playgroup

Messy Church

Too many competing demands on a Sunday Morning? Messy Church is on the 4th Sunday of the month at 5pm. There is always a special project to be made, craft activities and a worship component followed by a shared meal. We are currently advertising for a Children's Ministry leader – a community-family position – to further a children's focused ministry.

The Coffee Cup Challenge

This has now concluded – it began on World Coffee Day in October and concluded on Pancake Sunday –we raised nearly \$20,000 this year to support the homeless. It is distributed through the services provided by Uniting VicTas.



Presentation from Bronwyn Pike, CEO of Uniting VicTas. to Barry Schofield to say thank you for instigating the Coffee Cup Challenge.

Choir Practice

Feel like singing? When some of our parishioners moved into a local Aged Care facility, they missed singing hymns. Each month the Mayflower Singers visit to sing with the residents. Numbers have steadily grown requiring larger venues and requests for favourite hymns, nurturing both residents and choir.



What is a LEAF group?

St Leonard's Environmental Action in Faith group. As people of faith, we have a responsibility to be faithful stewards of the earth. Following on from a series preached by our Minister Rev Kim Cain on "It's a beautiful world", this group was formed to encourage us with practical steps to reduce our carbon footprint both individually and as a church.

Alongside these activities, there is a group working towards ensuring that our buildings will be welcoming to people, accessible and flexible, not just now but in the future. Faith is shared and our community enriched when the church is an integral part of the "hub of life".

ARTS FESTIVAL AT HAMPTON PARK UC

Niki Oostwoud shares with us how Hampton Park UC celebrated their Creative Arts Festival from 17-19 March, which is becoming an annual event, choosing the theme "Life".

We had a great start to the festivities on the opening night with Eric Edwards and Jungala Ellis providing a "Welcome to Country" and smoking ceremony. We are grateful for their generous welcome and recognise that the land we meet on always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Local MP Gary Maas, together with Eric and Jungala, unveiled a wonderful new mural outside Uniting Place designed by artist and committee member Kellie Marriott. She has created an eye-catching design with the purpose of encouraging community involvement. The silhouette outlines in the artwork are designed to invite community members to pick up a piece of chalk and make their own mark. As the opening night continued, we were blessed with some lovely singing from the Peace Choir, led by award-winning conductor Patrick Burns. Committee member Debbie Bock welcomed us by sharing her Jewish tradition of prayer and candle lighting for the Shabbat.



Our Saturday workshops proved popular and provided locals of all ages the opportunity to try their hand at some art creation as well as enjoying the exhibition. Adults enjoyed workshops in cake decorating, book folding and acrylic painting while the kids participated with gusto in mono-print making, painting and drawing. The festivities continued with a Devonshire tea, sausage sizzle and face painting in the afternoon.

On Sunday morning the congregation and visitors shared in a creative service which finished with a stunning performance of highland dancing by a local dance group. The service was of course followed by more food: a shared lunch of rice, curry and noodles cooked by our congregation members and community volunteers. The federal member for Holt, Cassandra Fernando, visited on Sunday to partake in lunch, meet some of the artists and present the People's Choice Award.

All in all, it was a fabulous weekend of hospitality, community and creativity made possible by the hard work of our art festival organising committee. Committee coordinator Lyn McBain is already thinking ahead to next years' arts festival! This event has become an annual tradition in our church community which we anticipate will continue to build strong connections with the wider community in Hampton Park and beyond.



NEIGHBOUR DAY AT ARMADALE UC



Armadale UC took part in Neighbour Day on 26th March - an initiative of Relationships Australia. The theme this year was 'Create Belonging'. The congregation partners with Arrow Health - the mental health/addiction agency which also rents their office space.

The last Sunday in March is *Neighbour Day*. On that day each year, Relationships Australia encourages community groups to reach out and connect with their actual neighbours through organising an event - a morning/afternoon tea, a gathering of some sort.

This year, Armadale UCA – partnering with Arrow Health who work in the office space leased out by the congregation - decided to invite the local community into the church that Sunday morning 26th March - not to a church service but simply to come and have a look round, listen to the organ, light a candle, enjoy some morning tea.

We were delighted to work with Arrow Health and meet some local people together, welcoming them into the church space to talk and be together.

For those who could stay, we then held a simple reflective service: the valley of dry bones and the raising of Lazarus.

We will definitely do this again.

Rev Fiona Winn



Partnering up with our friends from Arrow Health who provided the sausages on Neighbour Day.

INTERGENERATIONAL & INTERCULTURAL: FAITH FORMATION AT ST ANDREW'S GARDINER UC



One church, one vision

Just as Indonesia is still struggling for unity in its diversity, our church's vision and mission captures this longing. This is the story of one church, one family, who are being disciplined into Christlikeness to be a blessing to the community. This vision and mission inform our practices. We strive to be intergenerational and intercultural through connecting our stories.



All congregations have different challenges, different programs and different demographics. It's our call as the people of God to share and share the Good News in a way that suits our congregation best.

From migrants to migrant children

The issue that we grapple with in St Andrew's Gardiner Uniting Church is how to strike a balance between faith formation that continued from the motherland for the migrant generation and another for the migrants' children. The original St Andrew's congregation speak English and feel more at ease in the Australian way of life. Most of St Andrew's Gardiner Uniting Church congregation are migrants from Indonesia.

Indonesia is an island nation that is still coming to terms with its diversity. There is a growing number of the congregation born in Australia who are not familiar with the faith formation culture of their parents and grandparents. With differing cultural assumptions, societal expectations, and the way of being church, how do we make both generations feel at home in a church community that is usually categorised as ethnic (or culturally and linguistically diverse)?

God's Story, Our Story

We see that our stories are interconnected at three levels. At the cosmic level, we believe there is God's story, from Genesis to Revelation.

Then we have our migration/border-crossing stories. This one is painful yet hopeful because we can still feel the pernicious effect of colonisation. At the local church level, God is transforming our stories at St Andrew's Gardiner.



This is how we try to make faith formation concrete:

Sunday worship services

We have two services in Indonesian (with English translation service) and English running concurrently, along with Kids and Teens ministries in English. Every fifth Sunday we have combined intergenerational service. We aim to raise awareness on generational and cultural issues. We try to understand each generation and their particulars so that the gospel can be heard in their “cultural language.”



ACTS 2 & CHURCH COUNCILS

As part of the Act2 Project, the UCA Assembly is inviting every Church Council or group of local leaders to have a conversation about the Act2 Project and how it relates to their local community.

Between now and the end of April, the Uniting Church's national Assembly is inviting you to gather together your Church Council, either in a regular meeting or at another time and respond to six questions. You may like to invite some other leaders for your community of faith to join you for this conversation.

If you are a community of faith that does not have a Church Council, invite your local leaders or even your whole community.

Ask someone in your group to take some notes - dot points or a few sentences for each is enough - and share it with the Act2 Team. Your responses will contribute to shaping the directions and options we offer to the Church over the second half of 2023.

Below you can download the Church Council Pack. Share your answers to the questions in one of the following ways:

- Use the online form on this page
- Email the Word Document provided below to the Act2 team: uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au
- Mail the Word Document provided below to: Act2 Project Unit c/o Uniting Church Assembly, PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235

Further details can be found [here](#).



Ministries during the week

(online and face to face). We have Senior and Family ministries that cater to their specific cohorts and their needs. Prayer fellowship, teachers' preparation for teens and children's fellowship are conducted online.

English Language Ministries

Kids, Teens and Young Adults ministries are in English. In our catechism classes, we invite generations X (born in Indonesia), Y (mixed) and Z (mostly born in Australia) to wrestle our faith questions using the Apostles Creed. We connect this ancient creed with today's issues. Through this, we can see the diverse generational concerns and ways of seeing life.

Each generation has a story to tell but only together we can tell our story about what happened in the past and why God let it happen and what is he doing in the present and towards the future. We still have a long way to find healing and reconciliation in Christ in this land.

Tracie Mulia

PORT PHILLIP EAST PRESBYTERY MEETING



On Saturday 18th March, 68 people from PPE gathered together at Glen Waverley Uniting Church, and were joined by 17 people via Zoom for our first Presbytery in Council meeting of the year. What a joyous occasion it turned out to be!

The meeting started with a combined Worship and Commissioning of our new Presbytery Standing Committee, consisting of Joy Blamires, Ira Budiono, James Douglas, Gavin Faichney, Jeff Gardner David Higham (Deputy Chairperson), Sam Joo, Ennis Macleod, and Tom Spurling (Chairperson).

The worship was led by Fiona Winn (Retiring Deputy Chairperson) and the reading from 1 Samuel 16: 1-13 was read in Bahasa Indonesian by Daniel Sihombing.

Moderator, David Fotheringham preached using 1 Samuel 16: 1-13. David then commissioned the Standing Committee.

The music was led by Craig Mitchell, Jay Robinson and Graham Bartley, accompanied by Matthew Boldiston from Glen Waverley UC. The Tech was handled by Warren Greenwood and Jeff Gardner.

In the business part of the meeting David Fotheringham talked about the work he has instigated, bringing together all parts of the Synod to work on a common strategy for the future of the Uniting Church in Victoria & Tasmania. Alex Sangster Minister at St Kilda South Port talked about how dreaming of what might be had brought together the St Kilda, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne Congregations. A session in table groups followed, with members invited to talk about the Annual Report for 2022, and think about what they would like to see happen in 2023.

After a break Craig Mitchell gave an interactive presentation on Community Engagement and Making New Connections in Mission.

The opening song was "A Thin Place" by Craig Mitchell, from his book *Deeper Water*, and the closing hymn "Called as partners in Christ's service" by Jane Parker Huber. Robert Johnson gave the closing reflection, I gained the impression Robert would make a very good Minutes Secretary as his summing up of the work of the day was so good.

A big Thank You to everyone mentioned above and all who helped on the day, setting up, tidying up afterwards, providing refreshments, Joanne Boldiston Office Manager and the members at GWUC, Anne Kim and especially to those I should have mentioned and haven't, my apologies."

David Highman



Photos taken by Rev Dr Ji Zhang

"BEING WITH" IN MISSION

During our Presbytery Meeting last week we explored mission as a community engagement. Craig Mitchell invited members to talk about their biblical inspiration for mission.

Mission is a big word. It means different things to different people. Is it about providing a weekly lunch for people who are lonely? Is it about advocating for social housing to provide for homeless people? Is it about starting an environmental action collective among like-minded groups in our local community? Or about hanging out with gamers at the Games Shop downtown on a Friday night? Or all of these things?

Rev Dr Sam Wells, minister at [St Martin in the Fields](#) in the UK, speaks of four ways of engaging in mission as exemplified in the Incarnation - the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, God-with-us. He emphasises one of them as being God's primary way of being with humanity in mission. Wells explores these four ways of mission across four solid books of biblical study, theology and social ethics - [Living Without Enemies](#), [A Nazareth Manifesto](#), [Incarnational Ministry](#) and [Incarnational Mission](#). The four ways of mission are

WORKING FOR - "where I do things and they make your life better." This is about seeing people's problems and using our resources to try to solve them to make people's lives better: charity.

WORKING WITH - "gains energy from problem-solving, identifying targets, overcoming obstacles." This is about energetic collaboration across organisation to address issues of disadvantage or injustice: partnership.

BEING FOR - is "concerned with getting the ideas right, using the right language, having the right attitudes." This is about big ideas, public awareness, public action: advocacy

BEING WITH - "believes one can seldom solve people's problems - doing so disempowers them and reinforces their low social standing." This is about enjoying and celebrating who people are and journeying with them in life: presence. The contrasts are about attempting to do good things for needy people without necessarily even consulting them - seeing people as objects of our charity, speaking on other people's behalf without even needing to get



involved, organising collective action that includes those being served, and being with people on their own terms and seeing their strengths, not their deficits. The latter, "being with" doesn't seek to fix people's problems but delights in them and accompanies them in finding fullness of life.

Watch Sam Wells explaining the four modes of mission on his ['YouTube Video'](#). Wells describes eight aspects of "being with" :

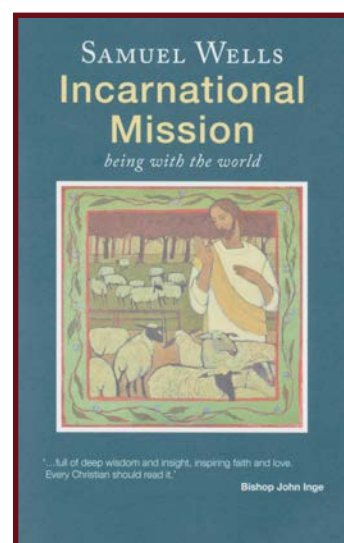
- **presence** – being in the same physical space
- **attention** – focused interaction
- **mystery** – exploring with appreciation (not problem-solving)
- **delight** – recognition of abundance
- **participation** – balancing our involvement
- **partnership** – sharing of gifts
- **enjoyment** – being with for its own sake
- **glory** – God being with us in Christ

We recommend the introduction to *Incarnational Mission* as a good overview.

You can download a simple Powerpoint, Keynote or PDF file of the four ways of mission from our presbytery website [here](#).

We also viewed an inspiring short video about Spearwood UC in Western Australia. The video is available [here](#).

Craig Mitchell



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT SYNOD

The Synod of Vic/Tas celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) for 2023 with some inspirational stories given by Isabel Thomas-Dobson, Associate General Seceratry, and Rev Sylvia 'Akau'ola Tongotongo, our Vic/Tas Intercultural Communities Development Coordinator, and also a member or PPE Presbytery.

Her passion is to talk about the importance of multiculturalism and developing an intercultural framework within the Uniting Church. Sylvia speaks from personal experience.

The theme for International Women's Day 2023 is "Embrace Equity".



Embracing Equity

At it's most realistic, to *Embrace Equity*, does not equal a bias-free world! We will always have our own biases, perceptions, gifts, and flaws based on context, situations, regulations and cultures, making our lives together interesting, colourful, rewarding, places of growth and more - the things that make us complete.

Embracing Equity is about saying yes to, advocating for, and demonstrating that the world is diverse, equitable and inclusive, where difference is valued and celebrated.

So for us as a Church, as a workplace, as a community, as a family, what do we acknowledge and celebrate on International Women's Day 2023?

Giving Thanks for Women

We are acknowledging with thanksgiving the value and worth of women's contribution to the rhythm of life in all its joys, challenges and hopes. Today we give thanks for women saying, "You matter. You belong. You make a world of difference. Who you are and what you do adds value to families, workplaces, communities, churches and life." This does not reduce, disqualify or demean men's contributions. They are equally vital to the same rhythm of life that we are all sharing.

We are reminded that embracing equity is never about competition of genders. We are never created to compete – we are meant to complete one another.

Our use of language matters. When we talk about success and achievement of women from an intercultural perspective, that's already talking about competition and comparing. Here we're appreciating the values of difference of being women! When we do, we appreciate more of the world of difference that men's contributions make, and vice-versa.

Intercultural Perspectives

From an intercultural perspective, migrants to Australia have different entry points into conversations about equality and equity - careers, obligations, duties, responsibilities; For example, Tongan family is a matriarchal system – a social organization by which a woman holds authority. The mother or grandmother is the head of the family and descent carry the social status through the female line.

As my mother's daughter, my maternal grandmother's granddaughter, and my brother's sister, I have a presence. I have authority - status. I am served and have the highest respect given by other members of the family in the different layers around me and beneath me according to the hierarchy of Tongan family structure.



It means I have responsibilities in that identity that differ from my responsibilities as my father's daughter, my aunty's (father's sister's) niece, and different yet again when I am a wife and mother, where I am the server of other members of the family - from a lower place in the family structure.

Responsibility and Reciprocity

Language is limiting because I am using words like higher and lower when I mean 'just different' responsibilities within family structures. These are not obligations, tasks to fulfil, duties or burdens. They are responsibilities, hence lived out as part of the cultural DNA - unwritten rules, no manuals - but raised to know our place when we are served and when we serve; a reciprocity of giving and receiving of a different kind, a way of being Tongan. It is a reality for my generation and older, and most of the migrant generations.

This is something that is changing and will eventually be missed from Tongans born and raised in diaspora because of different contexts, cross-cultural and intercultural families, as well as different principles and influences of systems, and different understanding of human rights.

Gender is Complex

There was no debate about gender where I grew up. Queen Salote was the king of Tonga - King being the office of her leadership responsibilities - not king as in a male person. In her book entitled *Queen Salote of Tonga*, Elizabeth Wood-Ellem quoted Queen Salote saying, "Missionaries and Christianity influences reduced the value, worth, importance and status of Tongan women" within the Matriarchal society that it is.

So for some women, their entry point into a conversation about gender disparity will be "Hang on, that's a demotion for women to fight for equality with men. Why not just stick to the facts? if it's about equal pay or division of labour, it's not about gender." For others from other cultures, they would rather not go there, because they simply wish to find a chance in life, which is why they escaped or chose to be here in this country. It does not mean that issues and challenges aren't important. Yes, they are, but migrants' priority might be to have a sense of belonging first.

There are many layers to peel off and hoops to jump before they even choose to engage with 'forging change or driving gender parity' as per the wordings of this year's theme for International Women's Day.

What about the Church?

Some will find this kind of language unhelpful because they are translated as contrary to the ethos of being church. Systems and organisations including the church have the capacity to transform the language use to be more welcoming and embracing. Last year we restarted Networking with Women's Groups who are already carrying out missional work in their own contexts, but these are not recognized or acknowledged as mission.

There is a focus on empowering a more united and more influential voice within the CALD women and advocating for connectedness and collaboration with UCAF (Uniting Church Adult Fellowship). We also established and launched a CALD Women's Group whose informed voices from their own contexts contribute intercultural frameworks and cultural intelligence to the Synod strategies for mission and ministry.

UCAF is an agency of the UCA Assembly and includes all adult members of the Church. UCAF is a volunteer group of at least 12,000 members. At various stages it has been called the backbone, powerhouse, lifeblood and heart of the UC. The UCAF is not widely known within the language specific congregations, hence the attempts to raise awareness, engage and participate in collaborating for the mutual enhancement of one another's missional responsibilities.

The goal of life - whatever we want to call it is within us, always present as the life-source in us. Our primary activity is to realize and understand what is most authentic, most real for us - the truth of our best self. If we calibrate our life to that which another tells us as right or good or even required, we exchange a fuller experience of life for something less than that of which we are worthy.

WE are created to express the values which are most meaningful and life-giving and life-sustaining. WE all have strength and resources to influence our best version.

With our best self, together we also create the best world for us and others to live in.

Rev Sylvia 'Akau'ola Tongotongo

Intercultural Communities Development Coordinator.



FRESH ENERGY AT MELBOURNE FIJIAN CHURCH

Melbourne Fijian Chadstone UC have had a gap missing from their congregation for quite some time now. Now the presence of youth and young adults has brought revitalisation and new ideas.

So let's introduce Anare!

The congregation was missing a major key factor for their youth and young adults - A YOUNG LEADER.

When Anare found their congregation in around July 2022, he knew his passion for younger generations would bloom here. With Anare having been a Young Adult Ministry Leader back in his homeland, Fiji, MFUC gave him a huge warm welcome.

Living alone in an unfamiliar country while working on an Australian visa in abattoirs, Anare was looking for a home and found one at MFUC.

He brought around 20 other people from his workplace. They now attend MFUC and have been providing their musical background and knowledge to the congregation. This has given a refreshing vibe to the gatherings. Anare, has taken it upon himself to create several initiatives to uplift the level of worship and spirituality with their music and youth work.

Their varied backgrounds has filled a void in the congregation which had mostly the very young children and also mature members. Their input has greatly enhanced the church life with the life and work experiences they have brought with them.

We look forward to growing as a church community with their participation.

Sarah Manase with Lusiana Varea.



INDUCTIONS AND COMMISSIONING OF NEW SYNOD STAFF AT CTM



On Tuesday 7 March Duncan Macleod and Kelly Skilton were inducted and commissioned into their new roles with the VicTas Synod. Anneke Oppewal, David Higham and Gavin Faichney represented our Presbytery sharing in the joy with gathered staff, friends and family. Moderator David Fotheringham led the service and Alicia Fung reflected on the reading from John 4, the woman at the well.

In a very meaningful worship service held at The Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) on 7 March, several staff, with widely varying roles, were inducted or commissioned. Rev Duncan Macleod, of course one of our own, is the new Executive Officer of the eLM Unit, and is now well into his new ministry. Others in the group (pictured) were Rev Lauren Mosso, Chaplaincy Coordinator at eLM; Kelly Skilton, 'Younger Generations, Digital and New Communities' Officer, working in eLM; Prison Chaplain, Siobhan O' Shaughnessy; and Julie Perrin, Royal Melbourne Hospital Chaplain.

Some of these people have already been in these roles for a while, but lockdown prevented meeting together to celebrate and dedicate them to their ministries. It is wonderful to be able to meet and to worship together after so long in lockdown.

Clare Boyd-Macrae & Sarah Manase



PRESBYTERY & SYNOD LEADERSHIP GATHERING

In early March our Presbytery Ministers, senior Synod management and senior leaders from our institutions gathered at Don Bosco Retreat Centre in Lysterfield for the annual Presbytery/ Synod Leadership gathering.



The theme for the gathering was *Respect, Reflect, Refocus*. Participants began the gathering by considering their own sense of wellbeing and resilience and having a chance to understand how others are travelling in terms of the energy that each brings to their roles.

This led into an identification and discernment of some of the key matters that will need leadership focus over the coming years, including resourcing, leadership development, communication, structural challenges, and mission focus. The gathering provided a much-needed space for leaders to step away from everyday tasks and appreciate new perspectives as a team.



DIARY DATES

Ramadan Mubarak

from 23 March - ends on 21 April

Consider reaching out to your local Muslim community to wish them well and to make connections, and join them for an Iftar meal for food, friendship and conversation.

Palm Sunday Walk

Sunday 2 April at 1.30pm with music and speakers, walk commences at 2.45pm
State Library, Melbourne
Event supporting refugees starts with

Reaching Net Zero Emissions by 2040

with Rev Deacon Andrea Mayes

Wed 26 April from 7:30-8:30pm via zoom
Fri 28 April from 10-11am via zoom
Sun 7 May from 4pm at Ormond Uniting

Pieta: Darkness into Light

Saturday 6 May

Victorian Council of Churches AGM

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 13th May (in person & on Zoom)
9.30am-11.30am
St Peter's Eastern Hill (hall), 15 Gisborne St,
East Melbourne



NET ZERO EMISSIONS



Do you want to make a change?

"The Challenge to the Uniting Church - Reaching Net Zero Emissions by 2040 - Discussion Paper" - is out!

The 4 page summary and full consultation paper are available on our website. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to give feedback to the Justice and International Mission Cluster by the end of May.

Andrea Mayes will be holding 3 presbytery wide sessions for people to discuss the Net Zero Emissions paper and give feedback. They will be on:

- Wednesday 26 April from 7:30-8:30pm on zoom,
- Friday 28 April from 10-11am on zoom
- Sunday 7 May from 4pm at Ormond Uniting.

The Zoom link for both zoom meetings will be:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81027202793?pwd=cmIzTmZUNGgxNUVEYkFsTmJSaG9iUT09>

Meeting ID: 810 2720 2793

Passcode: 363237

All other questions can be answered by Rev Deacon Andrea Mayes, Heatherton Dingley Uniting Church, 0408 615 939.

SYNOD DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

Accessibility for all is the theme of the UCA Synod's 2023-26 Disability Action Plan, which was launched recently. Synod Disability Inclusion Advocate Rev Dr Andy Calder said the plan, produced in plain language and easy English versions, was written to be as accessible as possible to all people.

The three principles the plan is based on, from feedback provided by people with disability, are:

- To get into a building and all internal spaces
- To feel welcome, in all senses of the word; and
- To have a say in what their contribution will be.

The Synod's 2023-26 Disability Action Plan can be found [here](#) and action plan summary [here](#).

Printed copies are available at the Presbytery office.



Uniting in Prayer April

Each week congregations are encouraged to include their neighbours in their prayers. The Presbytery's prayer calendar covers congregations, schools and agencies of the Uniting Church in our Presbytery and Synod. You can check the calendar on the Presbytery website.

April 9	Caulfield Indonesian - Rev Lingky Widodo, Chair Mr Sely Kapa
April 16	Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church in Chadstone - Chair Eroni Salabogi, Secretary Lusiana Varea
April 23	Clayton Cook Island Uniting congregation - Rev Ngatokoitu Ongoua St David's Oakleigh congregation - Rev Arthur Poole (Supply), Chair Betty Sibly, Robert Jones
April 30	The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly- Rev Sharon Hollis (President), Ms Colleen Geyer (General Secretary)

Prayer of Love

*Creative God,
We ask for your help in being
aware of your people and
creation.*

*Help us to keep our
eyes and hearts open to
your involvement in the
community around us.
Help us to see the need, see
the opportunities, and see
the people around us,
Remembering that all are
made in your image.*

*May we also be open to the
passion and calling of your
people,
People who are part of your
family and our congregations.
Help us to listen for the
whisperings of your Spirit,*

*And may we be inspired
by those whisperings.*

*May all that we do, all
that we explore and all
that we experience bring
your presence,
Your glory and your love
to the places that need it
most.
Journey with us as we try
to journey with you,
And be your church in
these times and needs.*

*In the name of the one
who journeyed with those
in need*

Amen.

Prayer from Rev Jay Robinson

Send your articles and photographs for Newsbeat, the Presbytery website and Facebook page, and weekly email, to Communications Officer Sarah Manase

comms-officer@ucappep.org



Visit the Port Phillip East Presbytery office
at 1 Allan St, Noble Park.



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