



11th January 2017

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

On behalf of the Chairperson, Presbytery Ministers and Standing Committee, may I greet you as we commence a new calendar year in the life of the Presbytery. This year will see many changes, only some of which we can foresee, but as we work together to fulfil God's mission for this part of the Synod I am sure that we will find many blessings. Let us commit to supporting each other as we continue to fulfil our roles as members of congregations and the presbytery.

One important change will affect our Presbytery Minister team. As many of you will know already, Rev Paul Stephens will be seconded to the Synod from mid-January for a period of at least six months to work as Convenor of the Presbytery Transition Team. This group will work on implementation of the Synod decisions regarding the future model for Presbyteries, and we wish Paul and those with whom he will work our best wishes for this important task.

Please promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.

PRESBYTERY MEETING ON SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY

Members of Presbytery are reminded that the next meeting will be at the Doncaster East Uniting Church, 152 Andersons Creek Road, Doncaster East, on Saturday 25th February. The meeting will commence at 9.30am, with coffee and registration from 9am. Lunch will be provided, and members will be asked to make a donation of a minimum of \$5 to assist the Manningham Congregation. The agenda and available reports will be circulated before the meeting.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – STANDING COMMITTEE

The Presbytery resolved at its last meeting to call for further nominations for membership of the Standing Committee. If you wish to nominate a member of Presbytery who you believe has the skills appropriate for this committee, please use your computer to browse to the Presbytery web page which may be found at <http://yarrayarrapresbytery.unitingchurch.org.au/> and where, under “About Us” you will find a link to the nomination page for PSC.

LIFEASSIST FORUMS ON HOME CARE PACKAGES

Government funded home care is changing in February 2017. Older people will be given more choice and flexibility over their package. LifeAssist invites those

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Secretary			

interested to join them at one of our five forums which will discuss these changes. They will also be exchanging ideas about the services available beyond Council support, how to navigate the aged care system and break down the barriers surrounding living at home longer.

Chirnside Park

January 31, 10am–12noon
Chirnside Park Country Club
68 Kingswood Drive

Doncaster

February 7, 10am–12noon
Manningham Function Centre
699 Doncaster Road

Rowville

February 14, 10am–12noon
Kingston Links Golf Club
14 Corporate Ave

Caulfield

March 2, 10am–12noon
Caulfield Park Pavilion
Balaclava Road

Glen Waverley

March 7, 10am–12noon
UnitingCare lifeAssist
Ground Floor, Building 5
Brandon Business Park,
530-540 Springvale Road

Please RSVP on 1300 ASSIST (1300 277 478) or to info@lifeassist.org.au

DEATH AND DYING: LOOKING AT END-OF-LIFE ISSUES

Lots of laughter, lubrication and looking at end of life issues

The Eastern Metropolitan Region Palliative Care Consortium are organising an evening with Anny Byrne & Shelley O'Dwyer, two cancer nurses from Gippsland (Frock-up Promotions) and Die Laughing with Jean Kittson. This event includes information about palliative care; death, dying and legal decisions; and a humorous advance care planning hypothetical. Click here to download the poster. For further information contact Karen Conte 8804 0651 or email consortiummanager@epc.asn.au

When: Thursday 23rd February 2017, 6.30pm for 7pm start Supper provided

Where: Waratah Room, Whitehorse Centre, 379 Whithorse Rd, Nunawading

Cost: \$65 (all profits go to scholarships for palliative care education of health care workers in the Eastern Metropolitan Region)

UNDERSTANDING SACRAMENTS COURSE OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding the Sacraments is an introductory course for everyone interested in a deeper understanding of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion / Eucharist) as practiced within the Uniting Church in Australia. Prepare to be encouraged, challenged and inspired in a temporary but intentionally supportive community of learning.

The dates of the first Sacraments course for 2017 are:

- **Mon 6th Feb - 9am–5pm** – Day 1: Sacraments, Baptism & Holy Communion
- **Mon 27th Feb 9am–5pm** – Day 2: Uniting Church practices, policies & guidelines
- **Mon 20th Mar – 9am–4pm (optional)** – Day 3 (optional): class presentations & concluding Communion

Event details, course resources & costs, and online registration are available here: <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/sacraments2017/registration/> or ring Rohan Pryor at CTM on 9340 8816.

EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE

How are your gifts being used in God's mission to transform the world? What on earth does God want you to do with your life? How would you even know? And what has the (Uniting) Church go to do with any of that?

Join Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes (Head of Pilgrim Theological College) and Rohan Pryor (CTM Lay Leadership Educator) to explore discernment and your life's purpose on earth - all in just half a day! Survey the broad terrain of discipleship and ministry in the Uniting Church. Unwrap the gifts and ministries of the whole people of God. Unearth discernment, vocation, and formation. Map the questions that arise.

WHERE: Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville, 3052

WHEN: Saturday, 4th February, 9:00am – 12.30 pm

COST: \$5 contribution to BBQ lunch following

RSVP: Tuesday, 31st January to info@ctm.uca.edu.au or 9340 8815

PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT: MENTOR TRAINING

The Centre for Theology and Ministry are planning a training day for all current and prospective Mentors for the Period of Discernment. Whether you are an experienced PoD mentor or just thinking about whether you have the necessary gifts, come and share your experience with others involved in guiding participants through the Period of Discernment.

WHERE: Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville, 3052

WHEN: Friday, 24th February, 10:00am – 3.30 pm

COST: \$5 contribution to lunch

RSVP: Tuesday, 10th February to info@ctm.uca.edu.au or 9340 8815

TRANSFORM CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The next UCA young adults (18–35ish) Transform Conference will be held from 17th to 19th March 2017, featuring Robyn Whitaker speaking on the theme “Empires, Evil, and Evangelism: thinking about discipleship and mission with the book of Revelation.” For more info: www.transformgatherings.com

*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at pvy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.