



15th August 2017

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

It was a little disheartening to find at the last Presbytery meeting that very few congregations had actually been told of the information in the last newsletter. Can we encourage you to make sure to share the Presbytery News, if nothing else, as this is important information, not only for those who receive this newsletter, but for the whole congregation.

Please identify other items relevant to your community, and 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 NEWS

Presbytery Meeting

The meeting of the Presbytery held at the Forest Hill on Saturday 5th August was well-attended, and important decisions were made which will affect some of our congregations. Please find an opportunity to hear about these from your Presbytery Representatives – perhaps a short update during weekly worship would be helpful to everyone.

Membership of Assembly

The next meeting of the UCA Assembly will take place in Box Hill in July 2018. The Presbytery has appointed three members, and now the Synod will appoint a further 31 (not 32 as I said in the last newsletter). Nominations are now open and need to be made to the Synod before 4pm on 24th August.

Nominations for these places, and for membership of a number of Synod Committees, may be made through <http://nominations.victas.uca.org.au/>.

Yarra Yarra Mental Health Research Project

The Uniting Church (Presbytery of Yarra Yarra) is undertaking a research project to explore issues and opportunities for people living with mental illness and explore future opportunities for the Church and community to develop support in creative ways. The project will be launched at Habitat Uniting Church, Kew, on 17th August at 4.30pm. For more information, contact Natalie Dixon-Monou on ☎ 0409 019 269.

Chairperson	Lauleti Tu'inavai	03 9878 6608	lauletitui@gmail.com
Presbytery Ministers	Paul Stephens	03 9857 1001	paul.stephens@victas.uca.org.au
	Morag Logan	03 9857 1002	morag.logan@victas.uca.org.au
	Dan Wootton	03 9857 1000	dwootton@victas.uca.org.au
	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary			

SPIRITUALITY AND WELLBEING CONFERENCE

The Spirituality and Wellbeing Centre brings together a group of Spirituality, Health and Wellbeing practitioners with program facilitators based at Habitat Uniting Church. Their inaugural conference will be held on 18th and 19th August, and will be followed by an Enneagram Workshop. Keynote speaker Uranio Paes will present an address on the topic of “Spiritual Awakening”.

More information and cost details: ☎ 9819 2844 or this [Registration Page](#).

WISDOM’S FEAST – CROSSING BORDERS

A feast of workshops, music, art and sharing, exploring identity, respect, faith and culture. This is the description of this conference being run by the Centre for Theology and Ministry in conjunction with the Presbytery of NE Victoria on 18th and 19th August in Yarrowonga. Leaders will include Sean Winter, Lecturer in NT studies at CTM, and Sue Withers.

Contact for details and registrations: Merryn Gray, ☎ 9340 8815 or info@ctm.uca.edu.au or www.facebook.com/wisdomsfeast2017/

PERMANENT CARE OPPORTUNITIES

Uniting Connections is seeking to contact people who are generally open to caring for children with complex needs, and to offering permanent care. An information session for potential Permanent Carers of Complex Children (generally children above age five and/or sibling groups) will be held on Tuesday 22nd August at Uniting Connections Windsor, 274 High St, Windsor.

Contact: Alannah Andrew, Caseworker, Adoption and Permanent Care ☎ 03 9521 5666 or alannah.andrews@connections.org.au

CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Famously this religious and political revolution was sparked by the monk, Martin Luther, nailing 95 points of disagreement with the Roman Catholic Church onto a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Learn more about this over three Wednesday evenings, 23rd and 30th August and 13th September at Koonung Heights Uniting Church, corner Belmore & Winfield Roads Balwyn East from 7.30 to 9 pm.

Contact: David Carter ☎ 9816 3218 or drcarter@adelaide.on.net

DISABILITY, THEOLOGY AND THE CHURCH

A warm and engaging speaker, Amos Yong is an international expert in theologies of disability. He is the author of *The Bible, Disability, and the Church: A New Vision of the People of God* (2011) and *Theology and Down Syndrome: Reimagining Disability in Late Modernity* (2007), Yong will introduce the key themes informing the contemporary discussion, and a panel including Andy Calder and Susan Stork-Finlay will respond.

When: Wednesday 23rd August, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

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

Contact: ☎ 9340 8815 or info@ctm.uca.edu.au

MIND, BODY, SPIRIT AT NORTH BALWYN

This year marks the 50th year of the Israeli military occupation of Palestine. Nell Potter, who has studied Theology as well as International and Community Development and has a passion for the environment, justice and poverty alleviation, has recently returned from spending 3 months in the West Bank on a World Council of Church’s program. She will speak on “Witnessing life in Palestine”. The talk will be followed by soup and then a short reflective service.

When: Sunday, 27th August, 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Where: North Balwyn Uniting Church, 17-21 Duggan St, Balwyn North.

Contact: Nell Potter ☎ 9857 8412 or mail@nbuc.org.au

RENEWING OUR COVENANT WITH THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Weaving a New Cloth is a document which has been prepared as a basis for renewing our commitment to Anglican–Uniting relationships. It has been formally received by the Anglican General Synod and the Uniting Church Assembly.

The Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, The Most Rev. Dr. Philip Freier, and the Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, the Rev Sharon Hollis, will “launch” this agreed document for use in our churches within the Anglican Province and the UCA Synod of Vic/Tas at a service of Evensong in St Paul’s Cathedral at 5.10 pm on Tuesday, 29th August.

More information: Ian Cayzer at ianrcayzer@hotmail.com

EXPLORING INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY AND MISSION

If an intergenerational approach is the key to effective ministry with people of all ages, what does it look like in practice? How can it be implemented by local congregations? What can stay the same and what needs to be changed? Re:Generations — Exploring intergenerational ministry and mission is a unique opportunity to engage with these questions and more! Two sessions will be held in August, at Greensborough (29th August) and Mitcham (31st August). Facilitated by Chris Barnett from the Centre for Theology & Ministry, each event will include three engaging, participatory and practical core sessions. Come for the whole day or simply select the session/s that are of most interest to you.

Session titles will be:

- Intergenerational ministry - worship, mission and more
- Messy mission - learning from Messy Church as an intergenerational model
- Here to Stay – a framework for nurturing lifelong discipleship

Each session will run for 90 minutes and there will be time to browse resources and connect with others in-between sessions. Register for any one session and participate in as many of the others as you like for FREE.

Greensborough — 29th August, 10.30am to 4pm

Mitcham — 31st August, 1.30pm to 7pm

More information & registration: [Re:Generations Registrations](#) or Chris Barnett ☎ 9340 8806

NAVIGATING AGAINST THE TIDE

North Ringwood Uniting Church is hosting another Keynote Speaker Breakfast in our Hope series. The next occasion will be on Saturday 2nd September, when the Keynote Speaker will be Steve Bradbury former CEO of Tear Australia. Theme for the event will be *Navigating against the tide. Bringing hope to dark places. Being effective Christians.*

Where: North Ringwood Uniting Church, 14 Dickson Crescent, Ringwood North.

Contact: John Oettinger ☎ 0487 327 259, jc.oett@bigpond.net.au or

<https://www.trybooking.com/reuj>

*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 pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.