



Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Presbytery of Yarra Yarra

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

2nd July 2019

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

As usual, the newsletter contains two sections. The first has information directly related to Yarra Yarra Presbytery, and this is followed by information about items which may be of interest to your congregations.

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.

Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Presbytery news

The meeting of the Synod in Box Hill from 5th to 9th July will see a strong membership from the Yarra Yarra Presbytery. We are pleased that we have been able to fill our quota of 36 lay people, and there will be 29 of the Ministers from the Presbytery. This strong interest is encouraging as the Synod deals with some important issues including the way that the Uniting Church will respond to the recently introduced Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation.

All of the Presbytery leadership team will be attending the meeting, so the Presbytery Office will be unattended on 8th and 9th July.

Vacancy Forum

Representatives of congregations with current or imminent ministerial vacancies were invited to a forum which was held on 15th June at Koonung Heights UCA. The meeting was well attended with about 55 present. This provided a good opportunity for open and honest conversation with 'the system' and to discuss the realities currently facing the whole Church and the shortage of ministers for call.

One issue raised at the meeting was the need for offers from members of congregations who would be willing to assist other congregations by becoming involved in Mission Studies, which are an initial step towards determining the future ministry needs of a congregation. Training will be provided to those who offer, and those participating will also benefit

Chairperson	Ross Pearce	0437 561 833	rgpearce.au@gmail.com
Presbytery Ministers	Dan Wootton	03 9857 1000	dwootton@victas.uca.org.au
	Liz McMillan	0419 884 736	liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

through gaining an increased understanding of the way the whole process works. If you have people in your congregation who would be willing to be part of this programme, please contact Rev Liz McMillan at liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au.

Presbytery Meetings in 2019

Here is another reminder that the remaining Presbytery meetings in 2019 will be held on the following Saturdays:

24th August (Habitat) and 23rd November

Please note these dates for your local calendars, and plan to avoid clashes so that it is possible for Ministers and other Presbytery members to attend.

Congregational Records

The recent need to complete the annual Synod survey forms has highlighted the importance of keeping full and accurate records for each congregation, regardless of how small or how large. As this newsletter goes to every Church Council Secretary, can we remind you that it is your responsibility to work with the Minister to ensure that you have a current roll of church membership, including baptised and confirmed members, and members in association. It should include records of new members through baptism, confirmation or transfers in, with a note about the reason for any removals from the roll. While in the vast majority of cases the roll will be maintained as a computer file, please ensure that there is a backup of this being held at a different physical location, as there is always the possibility of a computer disk failure or worse. We would strongly recommend that a printed copy of the roll be generated at least once every six months and stored in your church office or other suitable location so that it is always available regardless of whether the record-keeper is on leave or unavailable for any reason.

It is also important that the Church Council maintains records for any minister(s) associated with the congregation. This needs to include dates for various types of leave.

Induction Services

Two congregations are looking forward to sharing with the Presbytery in induction services over the next couple of months as they welcome Ministers commencing placements.

Ringwood: Rev Lucas Tayler, on 14th July at 2:30pm

Glen Iris Road: Rev Gareth Darlow on 2nd August at 7:30pm

All members of Presbytery are urged to attend at least one of these services.

SUPPORTING OXFAM AT KOONUNG HEIGHTS

Koonung Heights is joining with Manningham Uniting Church, and under the auspices of our Social Justice groups, to host a presentation by Oxfam on its campaign to change the injustice of the poverty, underpayment and unsafe working conditions imposed on the women who produce so much of our clothing. Under the title “What she makes”, the program will help church, faith and other community groups learn how we can support achieving wage justice for women garment workers.

It will be held at Koonung Heights church, Cnr Belmore and Winfield Roads, Balwyn East at 7:30 pm on Monday, 5th August.

More information: Ian Anderson at iananderson@sandi.com.au or 0438 118 995

*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.