



10th June 2020

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. It is helpful if you can provide text, rather than copies of fliers which need to be transcribed and summarised. Please include contact information for those seeking more information.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Inductions and Ordinations

Members of Presbytery were pleased to be able to join, by Zoom, in the induction of Rev Rod Peppiatt at The Avenue, Blackburn. Now we look forward to another induction which will take place in the same manner.

Rev Jinseon Park is commencing a new placement at Mooroolbark. The service will be conducted by videoconference, with a small number of people present at the Church and others taking part from their homes.

The service will take place at 2:30pm on Sunday, 14th June, via Zoom. An event has been created on the Presbytery web site with details. The page is at <http://yarrayarrapresbytery.unitingchurch.org.au/events/>.

Click on this link or paste it into your browser to see further details and to join the service.

An Order of Service will also be linked to that page to allow participants to share in responses.

Ministers are asked to wear a red stole so that they can be easily identified by Jinseon and others participating. You may wish to wear your alb if that is your normal practice at services such as this.

In the meantime, we are pleased that Yoo Mi Park has been able to commence her ministry at Eltham-Montmorency, pending her ordination

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by the Presbytery of Port Phillip West. The Pastoral Relations Committee has authorised her to engage in all the activities of a Minister, including the sacraments, until her ordination can take place.

Synod and Assembly News

Here is another reminder to read the newsletters published regularly by the Synod and Assembly. To subscribe, please use the following links:

- Synod: send an email request to communications@victas.uca.org.au
- Assembly: send an email request to comms@nat.uca.org.au

Congregational activity

Many congregations are starting to review the requirements for the resumption of face-to-face meetings and worship, but it is important that there should not be a rush to commence activities too quickly. The letter from our Chairperson, Lisa Carey, contains more information about this, and reference should be made to the Synod web page which has an useful and important question and answer document. Note that this is updated weekly, usually on a Thursday, so you should not assume that because you read it last week you are up-to-date with the latest advice.

Please note the advice that Presbytery is to be informed about face-to-face gatherings including worship. Please do this by sending a note to the Secretary, at pvy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au.

Presbytery Meeting

A well-attended Presbytery meeting was held by Zoom on 30th May. We learnt much from this large gathering, and are now planning that the next meeting will be held in a similar way. Because of the limitation on numbers that could be managed, the invitation was not sent to Associate Members of Presbytery, but a copy of the draft Minutes will be circulated shortly.

Annual Mission Grants Programme in 2020

If you had been thinking about an application to the Annual Mission Grants Programme in 2020 then the following information will be important to you.

The Synod has advised that “no new applications for grants be considered from the Annual Mission Grants program (including funds from general reserves, trusts and bequests, and special purpose funds) and Small Rural Grants program in 2020 for funding commencing in 2021.”

We know that this will have an impact on those who were planning to

apply for grants. The Synod advice goes on to note that “The grants process being postponed is not simply a financial matter, but also an opportunity for prayerful discernment regarding how we ‘do’ Church in a radically changed world and how to work together as a whole Church to live most faithfully through these unprecedented times.”

One of the ways we can respond as a Presbytery is to look to our neighbour congregations to see who may need support for projects that would have been eligible for Synod Grants. Please raise this with your Church Council to see if there are opportunities for sharing your resources beyond your congregation.

Disability Royal Commission

Every congregation will have received information about the Synod’s response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC) announced by the Commonwealth Government last year. It is important that the two steps described in the correspondence are followed quickly:

- Please inform all of your members about the opportunity to provide stories about personal experience to the DRC; and
- Undertake a document search for information which may be relevant for inclusion in the Synod response.

Refer to the Synod guidelines for more information.

ILLUMINATING FAITH RESOURCES

The second batch of new Illuminating Faith resources for 2020 have been posted on the [Mark the Evangelist web site](#). These are the first two parts of a study series based on a great online resource from Yale University – an introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures. With an engaging teaching style and supporting materials, Professor Christine Hayes leads groups through the content of the Old Testament and provides a useful introduction for lay people to modern historical critical ways of engaging with the text.

*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 and Presbytery members. 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.