



3rd October 2022

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

As usual, the newsletter contains a number of 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

Presbytery Ministry

We have been excited at the news that Rev Ray McCluskey has accepted the Call of the Presbytery to become our new Presbytery Minister Ministry. Those who were online for the special meeting last week heard the Chairperson of the Joint Nominating Committee, Rev Trevor Bassett, explain the process and present a strong recommendation from the Committee, and this was supported unanimously by the meeting.

Trevor told the presbytery of Ray's love for the Church and his call to serve to the best of his ability. He brings a heart for the gospel as he responds to the love of God expressed in Jesus Christ. We heard of Ray's ability to lead and think in a strategic way, and that this is supported by strong organisational and time management skills. The JNC found him to be an enabler, with enthusiasm and a strong sense of call to this role, in which his collaborative and consultative style will be valuable assets.

Ray will commence with Yarra Yarra Presbytery on 15th October, allowing a short period during which he will be able to work with Rev Liz McMillan before she commences leave on 27th October in anticipation of her move to Canberra in December.

Presbytery and Synod, and will have an opportunity to say this and to thank her at the next Presbytery meeting on 19th October. Please note the date as there was an incorrect date circulated in earlier advice that went to members. A draft agenda for the meeting will be circulated to members shortly, but it is already possible to register for this Zoom meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcO-qrTgjGdIogUQVIYBKRpjyH1VJ0NBc>.

Chairperson	Lisa Carey	03 9857 1006	lisa.carey@pyy.victas.uca.org.au
Presbytery Ministers	Liz McMillan	03 9857 1002	liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au
	Sunny Chen	03 9857 1001	pyy.pmc@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

Annual Surveys

By now we hope that all congregations have completed the annual online surveys. Church Council Secretaries are asked to double-check that your congregation has completed both surveys. If you are having difficulties, please contact Ruth Boermans in the Synod support team at [Returns@victas.uca.org.au](mailto>Returns@victas.uca.org.au).

SONGS AND STORIES FROM THE DEEP

Kew Congregation and Boroondara Community Outreach invite you to join them as they celebrate the launch of a CD of five original songs written by the All Directions Community Choir. There will be an art exhibition, poetry reading and performances from the choir. Refreshments will be provided. Funds raised from this event and sales of the CD will go towards Music and Art Programs offered at Boroondara Community Outreach. Bookings and tickets (\$40) are available at <https://trybooking.com/CCNSO>.

CELEBRATION OF SHARED MINISTRY AT SOPHIA'S SPRING

On 23rd October Sophia's Spring will celebrate their shared ministry in a service to mark the commencement some time ago of Christina Rowntree in a placement in the congregation. The service will be at 2:30 pm in the Learning Centre at Ceres, 2 Lee Street, Brunswick. To assist in planning, those wishing to attend are asked to note:

- Parking can be difficult on weekends. The Cretan Brotherhood carpark, close to Nicholson Street, access from Stewart Street, is a reliable option. There is one disabled carpark in Lee Street, close to the Learning Centre.
- Please drop a note to sophias-spring@ceres.org.au if you are planning to attend to assist with planning and catering.

UNITINGWORLD DONOR RELATIONS COORDINATOR POSITION

UnitingWorld is seeking to appoint a Donor Relations Coordinator to a role based in Melbourne, ideally to connect with UCA congregations and individuals across VIC/TAS but also possible to do some work in SA and WA. A Position Description and more information is available at <https://unitingworld.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/202209-Advert-Donor-Relations-Coordinator.pdf>.

SUPERVISED PASTORAL EDUCATION UNIT, FEBRUARY-JUNE 2023

A part-time unit will be offered commencing 2nd February and concluding 8th June. Peer group seminars will run each Thursday from 8:30 am. Ten hours of individual supervision will be included in that period. The times for these will be negotiated with your supervisor at the beginning of the course. Two extra days are also required for group/individual evaluation: at mid-term and final, being 5th April and 7th June. This program will be conducted entirely on-line (via zoom), so reliable internet connection is essential.

Enquiries should be directed to Andy Calder, Centre Director, Uniting CPE – the John Paver Centre, Centre for Theology and Ministry; Tel: 03 9340 8844, Email: andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au.

*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.