



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

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

15th December 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 and Leadership

Presbytery Property Support

As announced at the recent presbytery meeting, our Property Support Officer, Rob Nosko, has resigned. He expressed his appreciation for the support of congregations across the presbytery, and a motion of appreciation was passed by the presbytery. We wish Rob well as he moves on to a new opportunity that will give him increased scope for career development.

We are still working through the result of this change to our staffing. In the immediate future, any property issues should be addressed to the Secretary so that they can be forwarded to the relevant contacts from the Resourcing and Property Committee, or elsewhere as appropriate. Inevitably the loss of the expertise that Rob brought to the role will be felt and may result in slower responses than would have normally been expected. We ask for patience and understanding as we address the issues related to filling the position as quickly as possible.

Presbytery Minister — Secretary and Administrative Leadership

The previous newsletter noted that this position has been listed with the Synod Placements Committee, and is open to both Ministers and lay members of the Uniting Church. It is being advertised, and another copy of the advertisement is included in this newsletter. You are invited to share this information with anyone who you believe may have the gifts, skills and qualifications for the role.

Chairperson	Lisa Carey	03 9857 1006	lisa.carey@pyy.victas.uca.org.au
Presbytery Ministers	Ray McCluskey	03 9857 1002	ray.mccluskey@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

Presbytery Meeting

At the last meeting for the year we enjoyed being part of worship for the induction of Rev Ray McCluskey as Presbytery Minister Ministry. Significant decisions made at the meeting included a recognition that Christopher Booth is ready for ordination at the end of his formation for the ministry of Deacon, and the amalgamation of the congregations of Mitcham, Forest Hill and Blackburn North Nunawading. The new congregation will be known as Whitehorse. Elections were held for leadership roles and committee membership; at the next meeting co-options to the presbytery for 2023 will be on the agenda.

The next meeting will be held on 25th February.

Presbytery Celebrations

We rejoice with the Kew congregation that James Tang has accepted a Call to join their ministry team. This will be James' first placement, and so the Presbytery has the privilege to ordain him as he marks the transition from Candidate to Minister of the Word. Please note the following dates for the ordination and induction services. All members of presbytery are asked to attend; it is usual for ministers to robe using red as the appropriate liturgical colour.

Ordination of James Tang

Sunday 22nd January, 2:30 pm at Melbourne Gospel Hall, Wesley Church, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Induction of Rev James Tang at Kew

Sunday 5th February, 2:30 pm at Kew Uniting Church, 23 Highbury Grove, Kew.

Induction of Rev Denise Liersch

We will also join the Banyule congregations for the induction of Rev Denise Liersch as she commences a new placement in February. Once again, we hope that many members of presbytery will attend to support Denise and Banyule.

Sunday 29th January, 2:30 pm at Scots Church, 183 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg.

Land Tax notification requirements

If a congregation has a manse property that is long-term vacant or leased out as at December 31 this year, it is liable for Land Tax, which applies where the site value of a property is over \$300,000. Property Services is reviewing church records to advise the State Revenue Office of any

properties that are liable for Land Tax, as is required by law. Likewise, if you are renting out a shop, office or carpark, this property is unlikely to be exempt from Land Tax. Please email to Property Services at property@victas.uca.org.au the address of any property for which your congregation is the responsible body (whether a manse not occupied by a minister or any other form of non-missional property) and its anticipated or actual use as at December 31. In cases where part of a property is used exclusively for non-missional purposes, please provide details and a contact point for your congregation. Any delay may result in penalties that will be passed on to the congregation.

Annual Tasks for Church Councils

The next month or so may be a quiet time in most congregations, so this would be an ideal time for Church Council Secretaries to go through a check list to ensure that all of the annual tasks have been completed for 2022. These include:

- Sending an electronic copy of your annual report, including the financial report, to the presbytery.
- Reviewing Mission and Service Giving to ensure that all 2022 contributions have been made, and that any updated advice for 2023 has been advised to the Synod and presbytery.
- Ensuring that you have appointed your congregation's member(s) of Presbytery, and that they understand that this does actually involve attending meetings.
- Completing the annual update of key contacts and other information. A copy is attached with this newsletter. Please note that this must include anyone receiving financial remuneration from the congregation.
- Checking that the Essential Safety Measures have been completed, that records are in place, and that all required work has been completed.
- Checking that the annual Community Life and Financial Surveys have been completed for 2022. (It is disappointing to note that one third of our congregations have not completed the former, and that ten have not completed the required Financial Survey. This makes it very difficult for presbytery planning and care of congregations, so 100% completion would be appreciated.)
- Advising Property Services of any property that could be subject to Land Tax (see above).

Presbytery Office over Christmas–New Year

Please note that the Presbytery office will be closed from Saturday 24th

December to Monday 2nd January 2023. In case of emergency issues, please contact the Secretary by using the phone number on the first page of this newsletter.

Seasonal Greetings from the Presbytery Office Team

On behalf of the Chairperson of Yarra Presbytery and the whole leadership team, may I wish you a Christ-centred and happy Christmas. May the Good News inspire and refresh you as we look forward to a quieter month in January, and prepare for all that the New Year may bring.

Yarra Yarra Presbytery

Presbytery Minister — Secretary and Administrative Leadership

The Yarra Yarra Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia invites applications for the full-time role of Presbytery Minister — Secretary and Administrative Leadership.

Yarra Yarra Presbytery includes over sixty congregations, and covers a large wedge of the majority of the north-eastern suburbs of Melbourne. It has an extensive varied demography, from high density inner city living, to the medium density living of the Eastern suburban sprawl, to low density housing of the outer semi-rural country side surrounding the Dandenong ranges.

The position combines the positions of Secretary and Administrative Leadership. The person appointed to the role will be a key member of the leadership team, working with two other Presbytery Ministers to provide support to the Presbytery, its leadership and committees, and to congregations to live out the Presbytery strategy of Looking, Learning, Leading and Loving.

The appointee will have responsibility for the administration of the Presbytery, and will have the role of Secretary as defined in the Uniting Church in Australia Regulations.

For further information or to apply, contact:

Rev. Sue Clarkson, Placements Secretary

Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

EMAIL: placements.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

Applications should include a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, a Uniting Church profile if appropriate, and the names of three referees.

YOUNG ADULTS IN LEADERSHIP

The National Young Adult Leaders Conference planned for 2023 has been temporarily postponed to January 2024. Through 2023, in the lead-up to the 2024 NYALC, the President will host a number of NYALC online events for Uniting Church young adult leaders. This will include opportunities to begin exploring faith and leadership and to contribute to Act2 – a major project considering the future shape of the UCA. The first of these online events will take place on Saturday 28 January 2023 from 2-4pm AEDT. Save the date, and to express interest or for more information contact Lara: LaraR@nat.uca.org.au

UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society wants to enrich all church members with a better understanding of our unique heritage. By better appreciating the identity of this church, you can be more confident to talk about the church and invite people to join it. The Society facilitates the promoting of interest in our buildings, the contribution of our people, and the value of our theology. You can also share your story and that of your church through the Society.

The Society promotes the use of Synod Archives Centre, 54 Serrell Street, Malvern East 3145 and Phone 03 9571 5476

Please see our membership leaflet on the Synod website: www.victas.uca.org.au/resources/finance-and-archives/Synod-archives and scroll to the Related Documents.

Enquiries: VicTas UCHS Membership Officer Clive Jackson, Phone 03 9569 9178

THE QUARTERLY ESSAY

Would you be interested to discuss the Quarterly Essay with others? Mark the Evangelist (North Melb UCA) is running a discussion group on the latest issue at the North Melbourne Library in February. More info: www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.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.