

18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **News for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions**

*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 Staffing**

##### **Presbytery Leadership Roles - Nominations**

The 2024 call for nominations for our Presbytery leadership roles and presbytery committees are now available on our website:

[http://yarrayarrapresbytery.unitingchurch.org.au/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1689725167.7794039249420166015625](http://yarrayarrapresbytery.unitingchurch.org.au/?doing_wp_cron=1689725167.7794039249420166015625)

The first link on our website takes you to the Nomination Form, the second link provides Profiles of each position.

Please consider nominating for one of these Committees and share this information and request with your congregation.

Our Committees' play an invaluable role in the work of the Presbytery, from finance and property to assisting congregations in calling a minister, supporting our candidates and lay preachers. We need your help in ensuring these committees have the variety of skills and people to be able to undertake their important work.

If you have any questions about these committees, please contact Lisa Carey at [lisa.carey@pyy.victas.uca.org.au](mailto:lisa.carey@pyy.victas.uca.org.au).

#### **Presbytery Secretary**

We are still looking for a Presbytery Secretary. The role includes an Honorarium. The role is not an onerous one with the Office Secretary now taking on most of the administration work. Tasks would involve:

- assisting the Chairperson at inductions and ordinations;
- attendance as Secretary to Presbytery Standing Committee and Presbytery Meetings,
- working with the Office Secretary to ensure Presbytery Minutes and resolutions are recorded accurately,
- signing certificates, and
- organising memorial minutes.
- Some understanding of UC regulations desirable but not necessary.

If you are interested please contact the Chairperson:

[Lisa.Carey@pvy.victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Lisa.Carey@pvy.victas.uca.org.au)

### **Presbytery Secretary Reg 3.6.2**

#### **Secretary**

The Presbytery shall elect a secretary for such period up to five years as the Presbytery may determine. The secretary shall be a confirmed member of the Church.

The duties of the secretary shall include:

- (i) convening meetings, preparing the agenda and keeping a record of all proceedings of the Presbytery;
- (ii) attending to all other correspondence on behalf of the Presbytery, including advising all affected parties of the decisions of the Presbytery;
- (iii) maintaining and having custody of the books and records of the Presbytery, including the roll of the Presbytery, except such as may be assigned to other officers;
- (iv) furnishing information and reports to the Synod and Assembly and to other bodies as required;
- (v) dealing with property, disciplinary and other matters in accordance with Regulations;
- (vi) performing such other duties as may be assigned by the Presbytery.

Should the secretary be temporarily unable to perform the duties of the office or should the office of secretary fall vacant, the Presbytery may appoint an acting secretary who shall have full authority and responsibility to perform all the duties of the office until such time as the secretary is available to resume those duties or another secretary is elected.

### **Code of Ethics Training**

Thank you to those of you who attended our recent online ethics sessions in the Yarra Yarra Presbytery and for the very significant and meaningful conversations.

For those of you who were not able to make the latest training, you have a number of other upcoming options available to you through the Port Philip East and Port Philip West presbyteries, details are available on their web sites. You can also contact the Synod Culture of Safety unit for more information.

Ray McCluskey, Presbytery Minister Ministry

### **Presbytery Meetings**

October meeting: **THIS WEEK** 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

- Zoom meeting
- Presentation by Sally Douglas: ***The Church Triumphant as Salt: Becoming the Community Jesus Speaks About***

December meeting: 2nd December 2023

- **Note new date** to prevent clashes with Synod Meeting in November
- 9:30 am in person – Location TBA

## Other News

### Synod Intercultural Form – Sat 28th October 9am-3pm

*Please share this event with your congregations and other interested people.*

*Message from Devanandan Anandarajan, Intercultural Leadership Development Coordinator at eLM:*

Please join with the Canterbury Tongan Uniting Church who are presenting the Synod Intercultural Forum on Saturday 28th October.

Help our Church to explore what it means to be truly intercultural. It is a journey in which we need to constantly remind each other of the diversity of the Church and help embrace that diversity as a gift. Our Synod has invested much resources in personnel to enhance the intercultural (especially CALD) leadership and support CALD communities.

The Church needs our insights, experiences and gifts that we bring from our diverse backgrounds. But more particularly our discomfiting voice borne out of our own experiences with the structures, processes and experiences to help the Church to continuously reflect and reform her ways.

I would kindly ask you to give your intentional support to this aspect of ministry in which we all need to do our part for the glory of God who wants his Church to be a sign of the Kingdom of God (loving community of God).

**For further information about this event and to registrar for this free event, please go to the flyer at:**

<https://victas.uca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/A-Borderless-Community.pdf>

### An Invitation to join the Yarra Yarra Lay Preachers

*Please share this event with your congregations and other interested people.*

On **Sunday 29 October** the Yarra Yarra Lay Preachers are meeting for their Annual General Meeting.

After a short worship service Rev Salesi Faupula will speak on **‘The borderless church’**.

This is an open invitation to join the Lay Preachers to hear Salesi.

The session may also be zoomed. If you are interested in joining the zoom please email the LP Secretary, Alastair Davison, on [yy-lp@iinet.net.au](mailto:yy-lp@iinet.net.au) to receive the link a day or so before the session.

**Venue:** Warrandyte Uniting Church, cnr Taroona Ave & West End Road, Warrandyte

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Date:** Sunday 29 October 2023

## **Uniting CPE 2024 Program**

### **Supervised Pastoral Education Unit – February-June 2024**

A part-time unit will be offered commencing Feb. 12 & concluding June 25.

Peer group seminars will run each Monday commencing 8.30am sharp. 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 April 23 and June 25.

Interviews are scheduled for November 16 and 17, 2023.

This Centre, with its particular focus on people engaged in community based pastoral ministry contexts, is under the auspices of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE:  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

For further details please head to <https://victas.uca.org.au/clinical-pastoral-education/>

## **Morning tea with the Ukrainian ambassador**

*Lindsay Herbert, Presbytery Rep. - Deepdene Uniting Church congregation.*

Three members of DUC were invited to meet with the Ukrainian Ambassador recently. About 20 recently arrived Ukrainian refugees were present along with about 10 already settled Ukrainians who have been supporting them. As part of its missional outreach, the DUC has allowed space at its property to be used as a site for collection, storage and distribution of good quality used clothing and household goods for recent refugee arrivals, many of whom arrived in Melbourne with little more than the clothes they were wearing.

The Ambassador recognised and thanked the Australian people and Government for the support offered in the current difficult situation. The Ambassador recognised that whilst some of the refugees clearly want to stay in Australia, others expect to return when peace is re-established, to help rebuild their country. Mention was also made (by the local Liberal party member) of the difficulties our Government creates for these people by not providing them with long term visas which allow them to work and have benefits such as Medicare and free schooling. Those arriving now are only provided with Tourist Visas which last 3 months.

We thank God that we are able to offer this aid to these very distressed people.



## Preachfest, Nov 1-3, Wesley Uniting Church, Melbourne and online

PreachFest! is a 3-day festival focusing on the vocation of preaching. People from around Australia will gather to be inspired by experienced preachers and learn more about the craft from world-

class teachers and theologians. Keynote speakers include **Dr Amy-Jilly Levine, Stan Grant** and **Rev Dr Rick Dacey**, and a variety of workshops will be on offer – all information and registration link here:

[preachfest.org.au](http://preachfest.org.au)

## An Advent Retreat –Wed 29<sup>th</sup> November

*Please share this event with your congregations and other interested people.*

At the beginning of Advent you are warmly invited by Robert Gribben and Sally Douglas to spend a day in quiet retreat with others. There will be a little bit of input, space for silence, for shared worship and Holy Communion, space for your own reflection times in the church, in the gardens, or in silent walks, and an opportunity to share in lunch and conversation with others.

BYO: art materials, journal, your lunch (there are cafes near by).

Tea and (real) coffee provided.

Wednesday 29 November **10am - 3pm**

Richmond Uniting Church, 304 Church St, Richmond

**RSVP: [Richmond.uniting@bigpond.com](mailto:Richmond.uniting@bigpond.com) by Friday 24 November**

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*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](mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au) with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.*

## **Geoff Barnes Prize Fund for theology students**

### **A prize for theology students studying history**

A prize has been set up for the best essay in history undertaken by an undergraduate student in any Uniting Church theological college. While essays about the Uniting Church or its precedent bodies are welcomed, this prize is not limited to those themes, and may be on any historical period or aspect of historical study. The essay should already have been assessed by the college and received a grade result of 75% or higher. Nominations are by a member of academic staff, with the consent of the student. The amount of the prize is currently \$250 subject to increase as the fund grows.

The fund & prize are now managed by the UC National History Society (UCNHS) on behalf of Assembly, replacing an earlier Committee 2017.

### **About Rev Dr Geoff Barnes**

The Rev Dr Geoffrey Barnes (1926–2005) was born and educated in Melbourne and ordained a Congregational minister in 1951. In 1967 he moved to Sydney, to serve as Principal of Camden Theological College and later as Lecturer in Church History at United Theological College from 1975-1993. He was Moderator of the NSW Synod from 1987-1988.

### **Helping by donating**

It is appropriate that a history-writing award for theological students set up in Geoff's name. It should be promoted to help grow the fund. Can you please support the development of this prize, by a donation to the account.

**Contributions of any amount to the Geoff Barnes Memorial Fund can be deposited into the following account:**

UCA Assembly Limited BSB: **032-828** Account number: **301985**

Please indicate '**Geoff Barnes Memorial Fund**' with your deposit (and your own name unless you wish your gift to be anonymous).

### **Personal footnote**

The only time I met Geoff was at a Sunday evening East St Kilda Congregational church anniversary talk, presented by him in 1993. It was the only occasion when I experienced that church completely packed. I took the last seat available.

Geoff was, in his youth, a friend of my Uncles Frank and Gil and Mum at the East St Kilda Church. Being nurtured in youth group and church influenced how he was led to become a Minister. He was the only one to go into Ministry out of East St Kilda. The Church continued to remember him in prayer in worship, throughout his career. Having a Minister come from your number was a matter of great pride for a Congregational Church.

**Clive Jackson, Membership Officer, VicTas UC Historical Society**

Source: UC National Historical Society –'Newsletter' June 2023 and personal information.