



The Uniting Church in Australia
PRESBYTERY OF YARRA YARRA

PYY NEWS

March 2026 Edition

News for the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

Calendar of Events – 2026

Date	Time	Event
Sun 22 March	2pm-4pm	Standing Committed Meeting has moved to every 4 th Sunday of the month
Sat 28 March	10am-12pm	COMMONS Gathering. Koonung Heights Uniting Church, Cnr Belmore and Winfield Roads Balwyn North 3104
Wed 29 April & Thu 30 April	9.30am-12pm	Ethical Ministry Refresher (Code of Ethics) Session 1 2026 (Registration Opens Soon)
Sat 30 May	9.30am – 2pm	Presbytery in Council Meeting

Commissioning of Office Bearers 2026



At our first Presbytery in Council meeting for 2026, we joyfully commissioned our new office bearers: Chairperson Rev. Dr. Craig Thompson, Deputy Chairperson Rev. Joan Wright, and our Secretary, Jacob Westley. We give thanks for their willingness to serve the Presbytery in these leadership roles and for the gifts and experience they bring to this ministry.

Please keep Craig, Joan, and Jacob in your prayers as they begin their service, praying that God will grant them wisdom, strength, and encouragement in the year ahead.

Synod Senior Leaders and Presbytery Ministers' Retreat



Ray, Nadine and Chris attended a Synod Senior Leaders' Retreat during the first week of March. The focus of the retreat was leadership, and it was a rich and valuable time of connection with leaders from across the Synod.

Nadine had the privilege of being invited to share her journey in ministry and leadership as part of a panel discussion. She was also invited to interview the Moderator as he reflected on his experiences in leadership.

The final day of the retreat brought together the cohort of Presbytery Ministers for a focused time of conversation on *Leadership for Change*. While only beginning to explore this important topic, the value and need for these opportunities to connect, reflect, and work together was strongly reaffirmed throughout the week. Plans are already underway to find ways for Presbytery Ministers to connect more regularly and more meaningfully during the year ahead.

Ringwood and Heathmont Amalgamated



The newly amalgamated Ringwood and Heathmont Congregation celebrated their first service as one Congregation on 1st February. It was a warm, lively and joy-filled service, with members committing to this new chapter of living life together as part of the wider church - sharing responsibility, offering their gifts and walking in partnership with others for the sake of God's mission.

They promised to be a community at mission – seeking justice, practising compassion, welcoming the stranger, and bearing witness to God's love in their neighbourhood and beyond.

As this new chapter begins, we give thanks for the ministry of Rev. Rod Brown with the Heathmont Congregation, especially through this time of transition.

Mission Grants 2026 – Applications Now Open



Applications are now open for the **2026 Mission Grants**. Congregations and ministries across the Presbytery are encouraged to apply for support for initiatives that strengthen mission, outreach, and community engagement.

Synod Mission Grants assist congregations and other UCA entities in funding mission and ministry programs, as well as capital works projects. These grants are made possible through a combination of bequests, specific purpose funds, and general Synod funds, including Mission and Service Giving.

Some of you may already have received an email with the application forms. Please ensure that all completed applications are submitted to the Presbytery Office **by 4:00pm on Thursday, 28 May 2026**.

If you did not receive the email or would like further information, please contact the Presbytery Office at pyy.office@victas.uca.org.au or call **03 9857 1003**.

Upcoming Presbytery Events

COMMONS Gathering

COMMONS

COMMONS gatherings are a new initiative aimed at connecting, blessing and encouraging those who are actively serving congregations across Yarra Yarra.

Taking place on Saturday March 28 from 10am to midday at Koonung Heights Uniting Church (cnr. Belmore Rd & Winfield Rd, Balwyn North), this first **COMMONS** gathering provides an opportunity for lay preachers, lay presiders, active retired ministers and those currently engaged in providing supply to gather for mutual encouragement, sharing and prayer.

If you have not registered you can RSVP [HERE](#) as soon as convenient.

Ethical Ministry Refresher – Session 1, 2026

Save the Dates!
Get ready to refresh your ethical ministry skills. While registration and course materials aren't available yet, you can pencil these sessions into your diary:

Session Dates & Times:
 Wednesday 29 April 9:30 am - 12:00pm
 Thursday 30 April 7:00 - 9:30pm
 Wednesday 6 May 7:00 - 9:30pm
 Thursday 7 May 9:30am - 12:00pm

✦ More details and registration links will be shared soon.
Don't miss it – mark your calendar!



UNITING CHURCH PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST

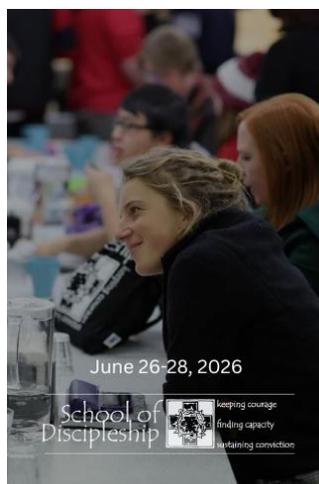
Ethics Ministry Refresher (Code of Ethics) Session 1 2026

Dates for Session 1 of the 2026 Ethical Ministry Refresher are now available! While the course materials are not yet ready and registration links cannot be created at this time, we encourage you to pencil these dates into your diaries so you can plan ahead. Session Dates are:

- Wednesday 29 April 9:30 am - 12:00pm
- Thursday 30 April 7:00 - 9:30pm
- Wednesday 6 May 7:00 - 9:30pm
- Thursday 7 May 9:30am - 12:00pm

Further details and the registration link will be shared as soon as they become available.

School of Discipleship



The Synod Younger Generations Team are taking a group of 20 young people to the NSW School of Discipleship in 2026. Places are heavily subsidised. Expressions of interest are due by April 30. You'll find the expressions of interest form below.

June 26 -28 • Stanwell Tops, NSW

[Expression of Interest for School of Discipleship](#)

Resources to Explore

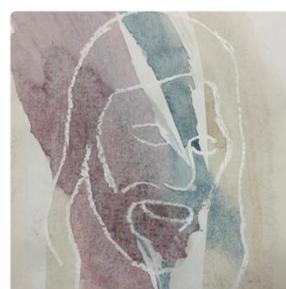
Intergen Lectionary Resources



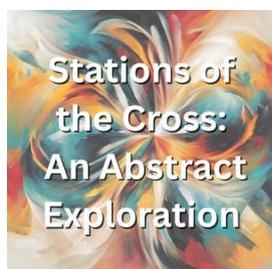
Intergen has resources available to Lent. The Lent series is written by Beth Waldron Anstice, and the Easter series by Sandy Brodine. There resources [here](#) are made for intergenerational communities, to engage people of all ages in worship together

Craft Ideas for Easter

Check out Sandy's Pinterest page that's packed with great ideas for activities that can be used with people across all ages to help them explore the story of Easter [here](#).



Stations of the Cross: An Abstract Exploration



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Creative Minister Rev Amanda Nicholas has produces Stations of the Cross that can be used with people of all ages this Easter. You can download and explore it [here](#).

PYY News is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please email pyy.office@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person to receive PYY News.

April Newsletter Deadline: 25th March 2026

Please forward articles, events and other information you wish to share across the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra (in Word or image format, not PDF) to pyy.office@victas.uca.org.au by 25th of March 2026.

*I can do all things through Christ who
strengthens me* *Phil 4:13*
