



News for the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

Calendar of Events - 2026

| Date | Time | Event |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| Sun 18 Jan | 2pm | Induction - Nathaniel Atem, Plenty Valley UC |
| Sun 25 Jan | 10:30am | Commissioning – Alvin Wong & Edmond Leung, South Camberwell Gospel Hall UC |
| Fri 6 Feb | 7pm | Induction – James Douglas, Whitehorse UC |
| Wed 11-Fri 13 Feb | | Theology & Culture Conference: Gendered Violence, The Wesley Centre |
| Sat 14 Feb | | Bring out the light! Cornish College |
| Sat 21 Feb | 10am-3pm | Inspiring 2026, Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville |
| Sun 15 March 2026 | | ADVANCE NOTICE Ivanhoe Centenary Celebrations |

Farewell Ann!

With much sadness, the Presbytery Team gives heartfelt thanks for Ann Williamson as she concludes her time with us at the end of January. Ann commenced in May 2023, offering her gifts in administration, hospitality and support to help strengthen the work and ministry of the Presbytery in her role as Office Manager and Presbytery Secretary. The team and Presbytery committees will miss Ann's presence with us, and all the ways she worked to support us are deeply appreciated.

Bless you, Ann. Thank you for your friendship and for all you have done in your time with PYY. We look forward to all that God has for you in the next chapter.

The Presbytery is currently recruiting a new Office Manager to join the team.

From 27 January, please direct any **email** for the **Office Manager** to pyy.office@victas.uca.org.au.

And please direct any **email** for the **Presbytery Secretary** to pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au.

These will be monitored by the Presbytery team in the meantime.

Presbytery Events

Upcoming Inductions and Commissionings

You are warmly invited to the following Inductions and Commissionings. Ministers attending the Inductions are invited to robe and wear their red stoles.

Sunday 18th January: Induction of **Nathaniel Atem**, 2pm at Plenty Valley Uniting Church (180-188 McDonalds Road, Epping). Presbytery members are invited to meeting at 1:45pm so we might pray with Nathaniel and process in together to commence the service.

Sunday 25th January: Commissioning of **Alvin Wong** and **Edmond Leung** as Pastors, 10:30am at South Camberwell Gospel Hall Uniting Church, 910 Toorak Road, Camberwell.

Friday 6th February Induction of **James Douglas**, 7pm at Whitehorse Uniting Church, 559-561 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham. Presbytery members are invited to meeting 6:45pm so we might pray with James and process in together to commence the service.

Presbytery in Council Meeting – Saturday 28th February

Our first Presbytery Meeting for 2026 will be held at Greensborough Uniting Church on Saturday 28th February starting at 9:30am.

An exciting start to 2026 with the Installation of our new incoming Chairperson, Rev Craig Thompson, Deputy Chairperson Rev Joan Wright Howie and Presbytery Secretary Jacob Westley. The meeting will include the recognition of retiring committee members, and the commissioning of new committee members.

'Bring out the light!' – A day of inspiration and celebration

On **Saturday 14 February**, Port Phillip East Presbytery will host a Creative Day that shines a spotlight on the incredible gifts of poets, musicians, writers, and artists within our church community. This will be a joyful opportunity to gather, share, and delight in creativity expressed in many forms.

The day will be held at Cornish College from 9.30am to 2.30pm, beginning with worship and including interactive workshops in creative writing, craft, liturgy, music, and dance. A catered lunch will be shared midway, during which we will launch the first volume of Rev Dr Denham Grierson's poetry anthology.

Attendance is limited to 70 people, and a \$5 contribution per person is requested to help cover the cost of lunch. Indoor and outdoor spaces will be used, weather permitting. To find out more and to register head over to <https://events.humanitix.com/creative-day-workshops>

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.



Wanted: Harmony Versions of Together in Song

After a significant search Richmond Uniting Church are still unable to source any copies of the Harmony (not the Melody edition) Version of *Together in Song*.

If anyone has any copies that your musicians are not using in your congregations, Richmond UC would really value it – and happy to pay! Thankyou.

Email: richmond@victas.uca.org.au

Theology and Culture Conference: Gendered Violence



How do religion, theology, and culture contribute to—or help combat—gendered violence? Join *The Wesley Centre's* inaugural interdisciplinary conference to investigate the intersections of theology, biblical interpretation, culture, sexism, colonialism, and justice. Together, we'll ask hard questions about gendered violence and explore resources for healing, inclusion, and change.

Date: Wed 11th February to Friday 13th February 2026.

For more information about keynote speakers, accommodation options, and other conference details please see www.thewesleycentre.org

This conference is organised by The Wesley Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Policy and sponsored by Pilgrim Theological College.

Synod Emissions Reduction Fund (SERF)

Funds to assist your congregation or Faith Community reduce emissions

In 2024, a Synod Emissions Reduction Fund was made available by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and many congregations applied and were granted funding to assist with their work in reducing their emissions. There is now a further opportunity for congregations and faith communities to apply for another round of funding. So, your congregation or faith community is invited to make an application to this fund, in order to assist your congregation's work towards reaching zero emissions.

Application close **5 pm February 28th 2026**. For the application form go to <https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/APPLICATION-FOR-FUNDING-FROM-THE-SYNOD-EMISSIONS-REDUCTION-FUND.docx>

No application will be funded more than \$10 000. We aim to inform congregations and faith communities the outcome of their applications by the end of March 2026.

Questions about the application can be asked of the SERF Administration Team members:

Jamie Thom 0427 210 787

Heather Baxter 0487 429 748

Tom Spurling 0409 461390

February Newsletter Deadline: 14th February 2026

Please forward articles and other information you wish to share with the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra (in Word or image format, not PDF) to pyy.office@victas.uca.org.au by 14th of February 2026.



inspiring 2026: Celebrating New and Renewing

Saturday February 21, 2026 10am-3pm

(9:30am registration for a 10am start)

Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville

Christian community coming together to:

- ✚ Learn from practitioners
- ✚ Discover opportunities for collaboration
- ✚ Hear about Mission Grants
- ✚ Celebrate edge and core leadership

Cost (Lunch provided): City \$45 Rural \$30 Online \$20

Register online at: events.humanitix.com/inspiring-2026

Faithful Futures Vision:

Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.

Faithful Futures Goals:

Coordinated Ministries: Coordinated ministry and mission in geographic areas such as Local Government Areas by 2030: attentive to renewing discipleship, and to the life and needs of the local context

Respecting Country: Honouring the Church's Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, all communities of faith will listen to and be able to tell about some of the histories of the Country on which they are located by the end of 2028, and be invited to develop local and appropriate ways to respond

Intercultural Leadership: By 2028 to be providing appropriate intercultural leadership formation and equipping for all ministry agents and congregations and develop intercultural networks for worship, witness and service.

All-age growth: To have at least one all-age community of faith that is interactive, diverse, inclusive and transformative in 80% of Coordinated Ministries by 2030

New communities of faith: Establish at least five new Christian communities by 2030.