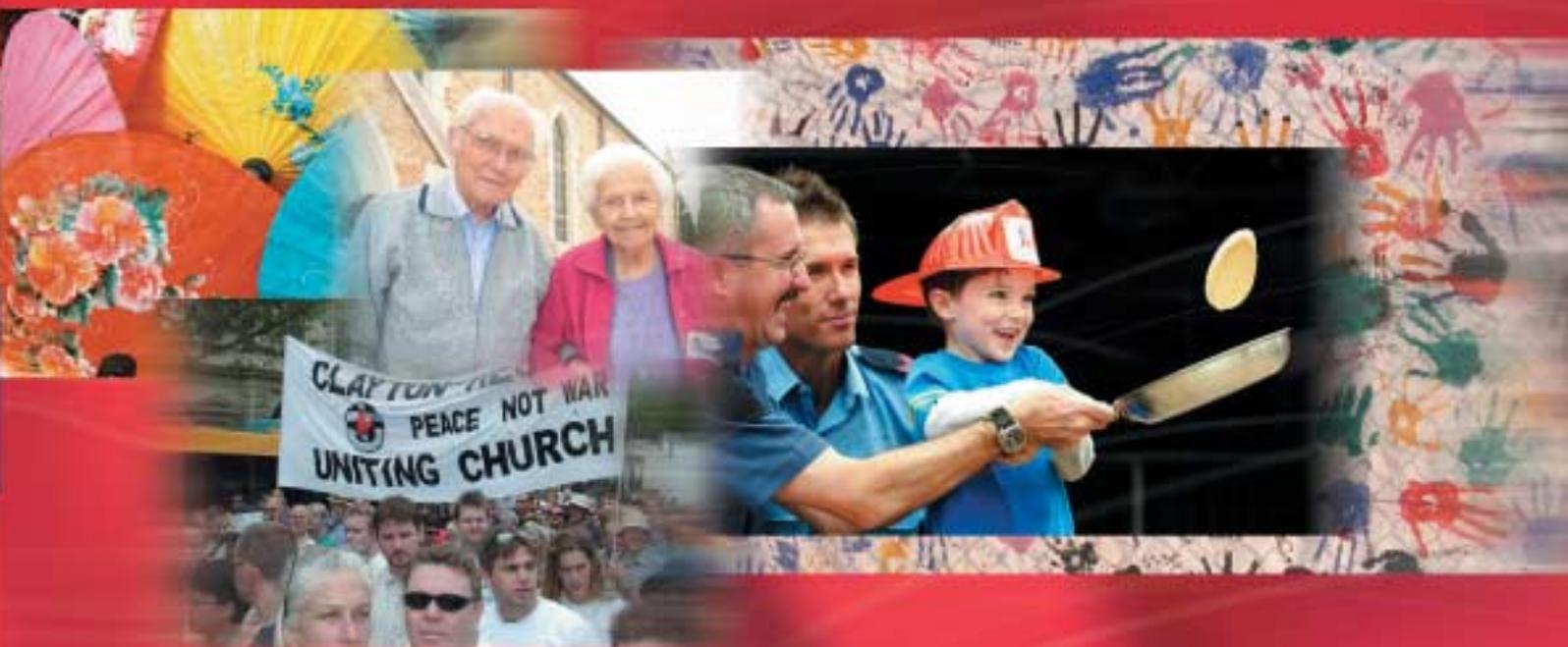


# 2003-04 Annual Report



Uniting Church  
Synod of South Australia

*Uniting Church . . . there when it counts*

# Greeting

*Go and make disciples Go and make disciples Go and make disciples Go and make disciples Go and make disciples*

## Uniting Church (SA Synod) Vision Statement

An innovative, growing church proclaiming Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit to transform God's world.

Such a church will be:

- Enthusiastic about celebrating God.
- Passionate about knowing God and making God known.
- Focused on empowering congregations and faith communities for effective ministry in diverse contexts.
- Committed to initiate and embrace change, freeing resources for new initiatives.
- Purposeful in identifying, developing and using people's gifts.
- Deliberate in identifying, equipping and releasing leaders for ministry.
- Compassionate and innovative in caring for people.
- Proactive in working with God for justice for all people.

As a church community, God calls us to "Go and make disciples." Part of this challenge is for us to go out into our communities to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in as many relevant ways as we can.

This means that we're called to be "there when it counts" ... for the person struggling with the pressures and difficulties of life ... for the individual looking for meaningful relationships ... for the Year 12 student worried about exams and the future ... for the refugee in Baxter Detention Centre ....

This annual report illustrates just some of the ways that we connect with our community. It also shows how the \$1.2 million donated by church members to the Mission and Service Fund is used for ministry.

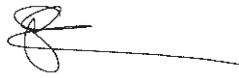
Our hope is that the stories and images in this report will encourage us to pray for the wider church to which we all belong.

While this report demonstrates some of the exciting things God is doing in our Church – our hope is that it will inspire every one of us in our own faith journey and also challenge every local congregation to discover the new ways that God is calling them to reach out to people in their local communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace



Graham Humphris  
Moderator



Stuart Cameron  
General Secretary

*Front cover photos:*

*Handpainted umbrellas drying in the sun at a paper factory in Chang Mai. PHOTO: DAVID CLAYTON (a participant in the bi-annual Mission Ignition visit to Thailand); The No War Rally – many Uniting Church congregations and individuals took part; Eric and Mavis Thompson of Trinity Uniting Church, Alberton, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary by taking part in the Uniting Church Adult Fellowships national celebration; Participants in the launch of Pancake Day 2004 in Rundle Mall. PHOTO: COURTESY THE ADVERTISER; A "hand painted" banner made by hundreds of children at KCO (KUCA Camp Out).*

*Back cover photos:*

*Don Hopgood played to 1,200 people at the Uniting Church Adult Fellowships National celebration service at the historic Moonta Mines Uniting Church; The Shine Choir participates in worship at Synod 2003; Russell, Tom and Douglas from the Clare Valley with Cleo, the black headed python, at the KCO carnival; Adelaide will host the National Christian Youth Convention in 2005. Pictured are: Jo Watts, Dean Drayton, Rachel Jennings and Graham Humphris.*

# Practical and pastoral support

*The Uniting Church is a dynamic church* *The Uniting Church is a dynamic church* *The Uniting Church is a dynamic church*

## Leading our church

Young people aren't our "leaders of tomorrow" – they're leading the church now.

Two of the ten people on the Two Wells Uniting Church's council are under 25. Nineteen year old Eleisha and 21 year old Sarah bring a youthful vigour to the council meetings.

"Their involvement isn't tokenistic," says their minister, Allen Cameron. "They are very committed in their faith and to the future ministry of the church. They put forward ideas and ask questions that those of us who've been around for longer wouldn't ever think of."

Together with David and Tim from Mallala, the young women are going to the 2004 Synod meeting.

Eleisha thinks it will be good to experience the wider church and share some thoughts of her own.

Her willingness to be involved in the church as a youth leader, elder and Synod member is summed up in one sentence.

"I want to be there for others - just like those who have inspired and looked after me in my Christian walk."



*Tim, Sarah, Eleisha and David will attend Synod 2004. The Synod is the annual decision making body of our church. The meeting is organised by the Secretariat team.*



*Volunteers "cook up a storm" at the Red Dove Café at the Royal Adelaide Show. The Café raised \$30,000 for mission projects in 2003.*

*Tee Jay gives KUCA Camp Out the thumbs up. He's pictured with Graham, Matthew and Ashley – all from Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church.*

*Kath Smart has served Uniting Church Adult Fellowships as a volunteer typist for their Together Magazine for 20 years.*

## Secretariat

*The Secretariat provides practical and pastoral support to congregations and church leaders.*

### Highlights of 2003-04

- Over 400 people attended the 2003 synod meeting in the Barossa Valley.
- The **Communications and Public Relations** unit co-ordinated promotional postcard campaigns at Christmas and Easter.
- Since its inception in 1999, the **Indigenous Employment Strategy** assisted over 120 people. Government funding for the project ceased in December 2003, and the Synod is exploring other ways of maintaining its commitment to provide employment for Indigenous people.
- 1,775 children from 80 church communities attended **KCO (KUCA Camp Out)**.
- Another 300 young people attended **SAYCO** (SA Youth Camp Out).
- The **Moderator and General Secretary** provided support and advice to ministers, congregations and presbyteries affected by the sexuality debate in our church.
- **Solidarity and Justice** advocated for the release of children out of detention, for affordable housing, and an end to poverty.
- **Uniting Church Adult Fellowships** continued to represent over 200 groups and 4000 members. The national committee hosted a conference in April.

# Community

God can and does change lives God can and does change lives God can and does change lives God can and does chan

## Congregations & Presbyteries

There are 351 congregations and seven presbyteries within South Australia.

### Highlights of 2003-04

- Around **23,000 people** worship in our congregations around the State.
- A national **rural ministry conference** was hosted by the Coorong Presbytery and SA Rural Ministry Unit in 2003.
- \$56,000 in **grants-in-aid** was donated to four congregations who were facing financial challenges in 2003. Three congregations will receive a total of \$31,000 in 2004.



*Pictured above: Steffan Ennis, Callum Isles and Mike Annells at the coffee machine at Golden Grove High School.*

## Have coffee machine ... will travel!

Each Friday, Mike Annells sets up a café in the Year 12 Common Room at Golden Grove High School.

Mike is Chaplain at the school and Youth and Young Adults Pastor at Pedare Uniting Church.

The church has underwritten the purchase of the commercial coffee machine as part of their commitment to ministry with young people.

Mike's office is on the outskirts of the school. He believes it makes more sense to be where the students are.

"Year 12 can be a stressful time. We provide a place where people can chill out before re-focusing on their studies.

"We might talk about school or music .... many a godly conversation has sparked up over coffee."

Mike is supported by a team of volunteers from Pedare Uniting Church, Greenwith Salvation Army and the Victory Christian Centre.

And things are certainly looking up at Pedare Uniting Church. Worship attendance has increased by 60% in the past 18 months with 300-350 people regularly attending.



*Trevor Backler, member of the ministry team at Kingston, Robe and Reedy Creek.*



*Anne Wills and Rev Peter Whittington at the opening of the Computer Centre which operates as part of the Wednesday at Enfield Program.*



*Church members from across Kangaroo Island celebrate worship at American River.*

# Mission

Effective and innovative in ministry Effective and innovative in ministry Effective and innovative in ministry Effective and innovative in ministry

## Inspired to 'thrive'

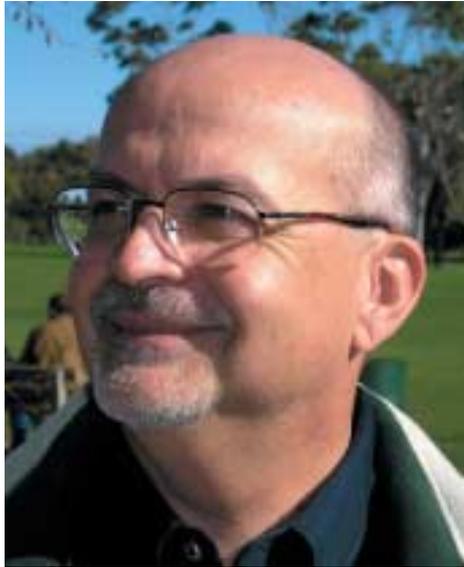
Challenging ... Inspiring ... Invigorating ... Risky. These were just some of the words used to describe Thomas Bandy's presentation to 430 Church leaders at the *Thriving Church* leadership conference in July 2004.

The Mission Resourcing Network (MRN) was instrumental in organising Tom's visit to Australia. More than 1,000 people participated in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Adelaide.

"Tom helped us to focus on establishing a vital mission, creating healthy congregations, and planning for growth," explains Ian Price, Mission Network Leader. "He encouraged us to see the many opportunities that lie before the church to engage in ministry with the community."

More than 30 ministers have signed up for a one-year continuing education program that is related to this conference.

Both of these initiatives are part of the MRN's mandate to help the church embrace the necessary change that will enable us to minister effectively in the next decade. To find out more about the MRN visit [www.missionresourcing.net.au](http://www.missionresourcing.net.au)



Thomas Bandy – key speaker at the *Thriving Church* leadership conference.

## Mission Resourcing Network

The Mission Resourcing Network (MRN) helps congregations to engage in effective mission, locally and globally.

### Highlights of 2003-04

- More than 50 people were involved in **short term exposure trips and work parties** to places like Tonga, Thailand, India, Vanuatu and the Philippines.
- The SA Synod has a two-way relationship with our four **partner churches**. During the year, we hosted guests from Papua New Guinea and West Papua. We also supported local mission workers serving overseas including Rachel and Scott Litchfield and Kate and Adam Tretheway.
- The inaugural **Mission Expo**, held as part of the 2003 Synod, attracted over 300 people.
- The network includes ten **MRN Centres** - many of these are based in local congregations.
- **Leadership Development** continues to be a priority. A dozen ministers participated in an educational exposure trip visiting dynamic regional churches in Queensland and Victoria.



The Litchfield family from Adelaide have spent the past 2.5 years in Northern Thailand. In late 2004, they continue their ministry in Bangkok.

The 2004 Lenten Appeal raised over \$40,000. Funds raised will help a number of projects including establishing a weaving workshop in the Porn Niran Village near Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand which will assist in generating funds to send local children to school. PHOTO: DAVID CLAYTON.

Aberfoyle Uniting Church is a Centre for Evangelism. Children's programs are just one of the many ways the congregation reaches out to the local community.

# Indigenous Ministry

Pro-active in working for justice Pro-active in working for justice Pro-active in working for justice Pro-active

## Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

*The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) plays a vital role building bridges between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the Uniting Church and wider community.*

### Highlights of 2003-04

- The **Congress' ministry** continues to grow – highlights include a developing ministry in the South East and Sunday afternoon worship services at Salisbury North.
- **Congress Port Augusta** led ministry trips to Naracoorte, Morialta, and Peterborough.
- **Wandu Yapa**, the Congress' arm for community development work, supported Sorry Day and other reconciliation projects.
- The Congress worked in partnership with UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide and Bowden on **Indigenous respite care** issues.
- The UAICC called on church members to stand with them in expressing deep concerns about the decision to disband **ATSIC**.

## From Oodnadatta to Kingston



The Uniting Church is committed to working in partnership with Indigenous people through the UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress). David Wright and Ken Sumner live out that commitment every day.

David is the Mobile Aboriginal Patrol Minister, based in Port Augusta. With the financial support of Frontier Services, he is responsible for ministry with Aboriginal people from the

Flinders Ranges to Marree and Oodnadatta. This is no mean feat, given that his "church" is spread a distance equivalent to travelling from Adelaide to Melbourne.

"I feel a deep sense of privilege and humbleness in being able to be in ministry with people of great spirituality and immense faith," says David.

Meanwhile, Ken Sumner has been focusing on another part of the State. As Development and Outreach Officer, Ken is nurturing the Congress' ministry in the South East particularly in towns such as Kingston and Mt. Gambier.

"Congress ministry is all about empowering and encouraging Aboriginal people," says Ken.

*Pictured above: David Wright, Mobile Aboriginal Patrol Minister and Ken Sumner, Development and Outreach Officer.*



*Port Augusta hosted a cultural tourism event at Easter called "Thru Yura Eyes." Catherine Freeman attended the event.*

*Indigenous artists worked on a mural at the UAICC hall at Salisbury North in late 2003. Pictured are Kingsley A'Hang and Simone Lane.*

*The Congress took a key part in a rally protesting about the disbanding of ATSIC.*

# Education

God-given gifts to share God-given gifts to share God-given gifts to share God-given gifts to share God-given

## Putting her passion into action

Twenty-two year old Miriam Schultz is bursting with enthusiasm. She's just completed Youth Ministry Foundations and is now taking part in the Youth Ministry Project run by Parkin-Wesley College.

"This has been a great opportunity to put my passion into action," says Miriam.

"We are part of the changing church. As potential leaders the course helps us to seek out what God wants us to be.

"It's been helpful to share my ideas as well as learn from other people."

The youth ministry project involves working alongside a mentor. Miriam is working with the youth minister at her home church at Port Adelaide.

"I've learned about the values of networking and building community as a basis for ministry. As a result of that, I've been part of starting a small group at my church. I've learned that its okay to start small ... and think big."

To find out more about youth ministry courses contact Matthew Carratt, Youth Project Officer at the College on 8416 8432.



Miriam Schultz was one of 15 students from around Adelaide who studied Youth Ministry Foundations this year.

## Educational Ministries Commission

The United Church is committed to providing:

- Theological education for lay people and candidates for ministry
- Continuing education for ministers
- Quality education for children and young adults.

### Highlights of 2003-04

- Almost 5,000 students were enrolled in our seven **primary and secondary** schools.
- 247 tertiary students were boarding at **Lincoln College**.
- 205 students were at **Parkin-Wesley College**, including 18 candidates for specified ministries.
- The International Association of Methodist Related Schools, Colleges and Universities (IAMSCU) – which has over 700 member institutions in 70 countries – has invited Westminster School to host its next **international conference** in July 2005.

Primary students at Pilgrim School at Aberfoyle Park.

Westminster's new Sports and Swimming Centre was opened in 2003.

Parkin-Wesley College Exit students who completed their studies in 2003: David Wallace, Jonathon Davies, Ross Honey, Rob Mayne, Ian Dow and Lawrie Lingood.  
PHOTO: ERIC MAPP.



# Outreach

Reflecting Christ's love through practical action Reflecting Christ's love through practical action Reflecting Christ's love through practical action

## UnitingCare

The UnitingCare Commission supports a wide range of services including chaplaincy, health services, post-disaster care, aged care and missions.

### Highlights of 2003-04

- **UnitingCare** continues to build in profile as a recognisable brand that identifies the variety of ways in which the Uniting Church engages in issues of poverty and community concern Australia wide.
- The **agencies** of the Uniting Church in South Australia employ around 7,000 people and spend over \$300 million each year on community services.
- The establishment of the **Baxter Detention Centre** at Port Augusta has led to the development of a chaplaincy services to asylum seekers and refugees.
- The church's concern to speak out against the unjust effects of **problem gambling** has been led by Mark Henley, an employee of UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide.
- **SOAP** (the Synergy Opportunity Assessment Project) continues to help our agencies release funds for service delivery.

## An anchor in a storm

Chaplain Sharonne Price describes her role as being "an anchor or safe harbour for people in a storm."

Sharonne is Chaplain at the Flinders Private and Memorial Hospitals which are part of the ACHA Health Group. She supports patients, their families, and hospital staff.

"People in our care need to know that they are valued and that there is hope and meaning despite life's difficulties."

"Spiritual needs are really important in the healing process. All of us find that our values

and thinking get really scrambled in times of crisis. It is important that people have access to support and understanding as they begin to make sense of what is happening to them."

Sharonne is one of 31 chaplains serving in full or part-time paid positions associated with the UnitingCare Commission. There are around another one hundred people serving as assistant chaplains or volunteer visitors around the State.



Chaplain Sharonne Price talks with a patient at Memorial Hospital.



Over 200 South Australian groups took part in Pancake Day – a national fundraising appeal for UnitingCare.

Dorothy Wilson was the Matron at Resthaven Leabrook for over 21 years. Since retiring, she has continued to serve as a volunteer.  
PHOTO: COURTESY THE ADVERTISER

Graham Cornes and Gary Toop take part in the launch of UnitingCare's Share Christmas Gift Appeal in Rundle Mall at Christmas.

# Wider Church

Working to transform our world Working to transform our world Working to transform our world Working to transform our world



## Called to serve God in 'retirement'

We all have grand plans for our retirement. So did Jan and Jeff Hudson. But they had their plans turned upside down when, after 10 years in retirement, God called them to Thailand.

The couple from the Tusmore Memorial congregation are serving in an 18-month placement with our partner church – the Church of Christ in Thailand. They are working alongside local Thai teachers in Chiang Rai.

"My hope is to be obedient to God, to be able to adapt to a new culture and to work alongside the people in Thailand," said Jan at their commissioning service.

The Uniting Church's *People in Mission* program provides an opportunity for people of all ages to serve in placements with partner churches in the Asia-Pacific region. There are a variety of short-term and long-term opportunities available, as well as short term exposure trips and work parties. To find out more contact Sandy Boyce on 8236 4240 or email [sandy@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:sandy@sa.uca.org.au).

Pictured above: Jan and Jeff Hudson were inspired by Micah 6:8 ... *The Lord has told us what is good: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.*

## Wider Church

The South Australian Synod supports the wider Uniting Church and works in partnership with other denominations.

### Highlights of 2003-04

- **Coolamon College**, the Uniting Church's national agency for theological education by distance mode, relocated to Adelaide in January 2004.
- As part of our church's commitment to working in partnership with other denominations, almost \$50,000 was distributed in **ecumenical grants**. Beneficiaries included the South Australian Council of Churches, Schools Ministry Group and the Christian Television Association.
- **The Assembly** (the national council of the Uniting Church in Australia) continued to support a variety of national initiatives including People in Mission (based in South Australia), Frontier Services and Uniting Overseas Aid.



Rev Dr Samuel Kobia, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, visits the Baxter Detention Centre.

Emma Hutchinson, a member of the Rosefield congregation, used her skills as an occupational therapist while serving as a volunteer in Romania from July to December 2003.

Dean Drayton, Assembly President, with Lee Levett-Olsen, Principal, Coolamon College. Lee is holding an Aboriginal coolamon presented to him during his induction service.

# Resources

Sharing Christ's message of hope Sharing Christ's message of hope Sharing Christ's message of hope Sharing

## Resources

*The Resources Board and staff are committed to helping church communities to engage in mission by providing property, financial, insurance and investment support.*

### Highlights of 2003-04

- **Called to Care** equips church councils to provide a safe environment for mission and ministry while managing risks and responsibilities. This Duty of Care resource kit was launched this year.
- **Epworth building**, former home of the SA Synod, was sold with proceeds invested to provide on-going income to the Mission and Service Fund and Uniting Foundation.
- **Regular Electronic Giving (REG)** is attracting a growing number of users. Over 480 people in 51 congregations give their weekly offering electronically.
- A new **Synod grants committee** was established to oversee the distribution of funding in 2004: \$60,000 grant in aid, \$586,000 gift funding and \$625,000 from the Uniting Foundation.
- The **Uniting Church Insurance Agency** and the **Uniting Church Investment Fund** continue to financially support the Mission and Service Fund.
- The **Uniting Foundation** was launched in April 2004, with a start up capital of \$3.8 million. The foundation will provide funding for leadership and property development.

## Financial Report: 2003

Through weekly offerings, church members contribute directly to the wider mission and ministry of the Uniting Church. Many of the stories shared in this Annual Report are only possible because your congregation gives to the Mission and Service Fund. The Mission and Service Fund is exactly what its name suggests - a fund that supports the mission and service activities of the Uniting Church. Your generosity has touched the lives of thousands of South Australians. Thank you.

### How much do we spend?

In 2003, the Uniting Church (Synod of SA) had a budget of \$5.62 million. This amount does not include the expenditure of individual congregations or church agencies (such as aged care providers, missions and schools). Our income comes from three main sources:

- Contributions from Congregations (\$1.2 million) – donations from congregations to the Mission and Service Fund in 2003 represent 23% of SA Synod income.
- Income from investments and grants (\$2.46 million) – the Synod generates income from investments accumulated over the years through good

stewardship; from bequests; and from rental returns from buildings at 33 and 212 Pirie Street and 164 Fullarton Road. The Synod's Insurance Agency and Investment Fund, also make annual donations.

- Income raised by Synod ministry centres (\$1.58 million) – many of the Synod's activities contribute towards their own running costs (for example, Parkin-Wesley College generates income from course fees and grants).

### Where does the money go?

All councils of the Uniting Church receive grants from the Mission and Service Fund, including Assembly, Synod Ministry Centres, Presbyteries and Congregations.

The income and expenditure chart is a numerical summary of the church's activities in 2003. The real story is not about numbers – it is about lives changed .... communities transformed ... and a church that is there when it counts.



*Peter Rumbelow, chair of the Epworth Board, outside the Epworth building – former home of the Uniting Church (SA Synod).*

*Young members of the Freedom Worship and Community Centre in Adelaide's northern suburbs are delighted with their new playground. The Uniting Church Investment Fund contributed \$7,000 towards the project.*  
PHOTO: STEVE DAVIS

*Building works started in December 2003 on a new worship centre and ministry complex at Port Lincoln.*

# 2003 Income and Expenditure

## INCOME 2003 \$

### Mission and Service Fund

#### - contributions from congregations

Adelaide North West	266,693
Eyre	58,205
Fleurieu	360,500
Frome	63,557
Mount Lofty	300,750
The Coorong	85,313
Wakefield	91,884
	<u>1,226,902</u>

### Income from other sources

Epworth Building	200,000
Investments, donations, etc	908,412
Parkin Mission	560,000
Camps and Conference Centres	3,406
Uniting Church Insurance Agency	300,000
Uniting Church Investment Fund	491,000
Other	74,776
	<u>2,537,594</u>

### Income raised by Synod ministry centres

Mission Resourcing Network	66,099
Mission Resourcing Network Centres	2,312
Educational Ministries Commission	707,691
Resources Board	323,846
Secretariat (Including Events and Ministers Support)	137,060
Communications and Public Relations	102,418
UnitingCare Commission	138,275
Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)	99,475
Indigenous Employment Strategy	540
	<u>1,577,716</u>

**Total income** 5,342,212

## EXPENDITURE 2003 \$

**Presbyteries and congregations** **462,005**

### Synod ministry centres

Mission Resourcing Network	394,321
Mission Resourcing Network Centres	129,060
Educational Ministries Commission	963,374
Resources Board	760,108
Secretariat (Including Events & Ministers Support)	769,800
Communications and Public Relations	242,546
UnitingCare Commission	633,335
Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)	297,976
Indigenous Employment Strategy	63,046
	<u>4,253,566</u>

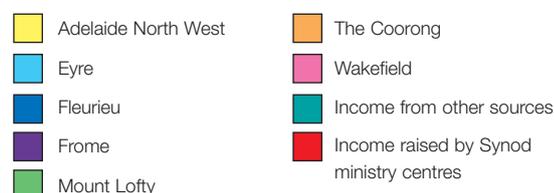
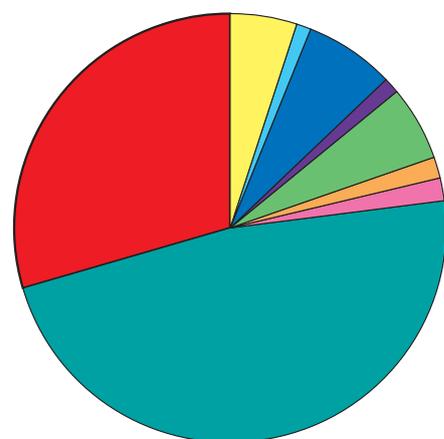
**Wider Church** (Assembly & ecumenical support) 454,400

**Other** (rent, depreciation, interest, accruals) 454,739

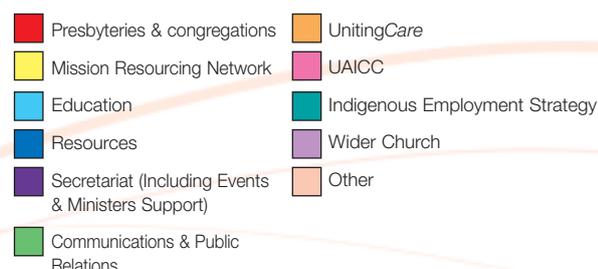
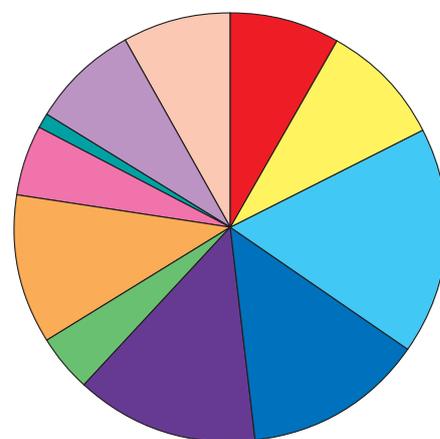
**Total Expenditure** 5,624,710

**Operating Deficit for the year** (282,498)

## INCOME 2003



## EXPENDITURE 2003



This financial report is a summary of the results for the 2003 calendar year. If you would like to receive the detailed audited reports, or any further information please phone Jo Watts on (08) 8236 4260.



*Uniting Church . . . there when it counts*



Uniting Church  
Synod of South Australia  
2003-04 Annual Report

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Further information about the Uniting Church,  
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[www.sa.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.sa.unitingchurch.org.au)

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