

2004–2005
Annual Report



Uniting Church Synod of South Australia

Uniting Church . . . there when it counts

Greeting

An innovative, growing church An innovative, growing church An innovative, growing church An innovative

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.

The past year has been one full of contrasts.

In December 2004, a Tsunami swept through Southern Asia and just over two weeks later, tragedy struck closer to home with fires devastating the Eyre Peninsula. The Church responded to both of those events with compassion and practical assistance. The SA Synod, through UC Invest, gave \$500,000 to Tsunami relief. We also released \$58,000 to support victims of the Eyre fires.

While the pain of those events is unimaginable for most of us, we have been part of sharing the love of Christ through those donations and the ministry of individuals who served on behalf of the Uniting Church.

The SA Synod also provided a pivotal point in the faith journey of many young people when it hosted the National Christian Youth Convention in Adelaide in January.

The 2004-05 Annual Report illustrates these and many other stories. These stories are your stories. Not only because church members donated over \$1 million towards the Uniting Church's ministry last year, but because these stories are interwoven with your own unique stories of ministry and lives changed in your own local area.

May the stories inspire all of us to discover afresh how God is calling us as individuals and faith communities to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace



Rev Dr Graham Humphris
Moderator



Rev Stuart Cameron
General Secretary

Front cover photos:

- Congress Minister, David Wright, with children at KCO (KUCA Camp Out).
- Jenny Charlesworth trained church leaders in Papua New Guinea - participants made hand puppets for telling modern day stories with a Christian message.
- Rev Diane Bury and members of the Morialta congregation.
- Candles were lit at a prayer station for Tsunami victims during the National Christian Youth Convention. Photo: photos.com

Back cover photos:

- Campers at KCO (KUCA Camp Out) raised money towards bikes for 15 children who lost theirs in the Eyre Peninsula fires.
- When people in Jaffna, South India, lost their boats in the tsunami, they also lost their livelihood. Volunteers in Mission, Bev and Trevor Watson, donated a fishing boat.
- Members of the Berri Uniting Church.
- Volunteer in Mission, Valerie Bartlett, has co-ordinated a Sponsor a Guitar program that has so far sent over 80 guitars to Vanuatu. Pictured are young people from Vanuatu.

Practical and pastoral support

Focused on empowering congregations Focused on empowering congregations Focused on empowering congregations



A CFS crew responds to the fires on Lower Eyre Peninsula on January 11 2005. While the fires lasted about 24 hours, the process of supporting and caring for victims of the fire continues. Photo courtesy of Snr Sgt Andrew Grant, Lock Police Station.

Hope springs from tragedy

When bush fires raced through Lower Eyre Peninsula on Black Tuesday, the Uniting Church was there. Members are volunteer CFS fire fighters. They experienced first hand the pain and loss of a bushfire.

Local ministers and Uniting Church people were part of the relief effort, providing practical support such as food and accommodation, counselling and help seeking government assistance.

Nine lives were lost, and in small communities, this grief touches everyone. Ministers arranged funerals and community memorial services. Our Moderator attended many.

The local communities are so grateful for the support they received. People to listen ... money to replace lost goods ... heaps of clothes and household items – all lovingly provided.

The rebuilding of fences, sheds, houses and lives continues. But so does the loving support of those who come from all over Australia with their caravans and tools to lend a helping hand.

In the midst of tragedy, we see God's unfailing love and compassion on all who suffer.

Rev Sybil Peacock



Dart, Daniel and Byron having a splashing good time at SAYCO 2005.

Young people from Parafield Gardens Uniting Church featured in the Advertiser, as part of a story profiling our Don't Be Alone this Christmas campaign. Photo courtesy of The Advertiser.

Moderator, Rev Dr Graham Humphris, and General Secretary, Rev Stuart Cameron. Photo courtesy of The Advertiser.

Secretariat

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

Highlights 2004-05

- 500 people attended the **2004 Synod and Mission Expo** at the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds.
- As part of an on-going commitment to mission, we moved towards the formation of the **Presbytery Synod Mission Network** – with one presbytery, one Synod and a number of mission networks.
- People were encouraged to worship with the Uniting Church at Christmas – thanks to the **Communications and Public Relations** unit's *Don't Be Alone this Christmas* campaign.
- 1,700 children attended **KCO (KUCA Camp Out)** with strong representation from Sudanese and Aboriginal communities.
- Young people attending **SAYCO** (SA Youth Camp Out) took part in leadership workshops thanks to a Uniting Foundation grant.
- **Uniting Church Adult Fellowships** continued to represent over 200 groups and 4,000 members.
- **KUCA News** provided up-to-date Australian reproducible resources for adults working with children in any Christian context.
- The Uniting Church provided key financial and volunteer support to the **Jesus: All About Life** media campaign, and a range of other ecumenical activities.

Community

Enthusiastic about celebrating God Enthusiastic about celebrating God Enthusiastic about celebrating God

Congregations

350 congregations are the local focus of the Uniting Church's ministry in South Australia.

Highlights 2004-05

- Around **23,000 people** worship in our churches around the State.
- The Uniting Church SA launched a **1300 number** to enable country members to call the Synod for the cost of a local call. The number is 1300 766 956.
- **Grant-in-aid** totalling \$31,000 was donated to three congregations who were facing financial challenges in 2004 - \$25,000 to Eyre Presbytery and \$6,000 to Fleurieu.



Pictured above: Deb Sorenson with Chris Sporn, who hosted the Big Brother project in her house on the sand hills at Goolwa. To find out more about the church's ministry: www.goolwauniting.com

"Big Brother" comes to church

The television series Big Brother, has inspired a congregation to "lock up" some of their church members for two weeks.

Goolwa Uniting Church is a vibrant congregation with a service called DriveTime on Wednesday nights.

DriveTime provides an alternative time and forum for exploring faith.

"It is geared towards people who aren't church goers and those looking for an alternative," explains Associate Pastor, Deb Sorenson.

The service, which started in May, has 40 – 60

people attending. It starts with coffee and concludes with a meal.

"We do things differently – there's drama, multi-media – it is always interactive."

Perhaps "different" is best illustrated by the decision to send four housemates to a secret location in Goolwa. The housemates took on the challenge of living "kingdom principles". Not only did they have to deal with each other and "intruders" but they also undertook community projects. And just like the television show, they were on display with live web cam and footage shown during DriveTime.



The Helping Hand Aged Care congregation with Rev Gayle McClimont.

Clare hosted the Ecumenical Trans Tasman Rural Ministry Conference in October 2004. Pictured are hosts Ian and Jan Trengove.

David Holden and Rev Ashley Davis by the youth wall at Adelaide West Uniting Church. The theme is: Think big, dream big ... and it can happen.

Mission

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

Changing face of ministry

Whether you live in Enfield or Berri, Ascot Park or Campbelltown – our congregations are changing.

There has been a significant increase in the numbers of refugees, migrants and international students worshipping in our congregations.

While people come from a range of countries – such as Korea and Indonesia – the largest number of people has come from Africa, and particularly Sudan.

Ascot Community Uniting Church, home to the Mission Resourcing Network's Centre for Multi-cultural Ministries, has intentionally developed its ministry to people from different backgrounds through English language classes and developing friendship links with international students at Flinders University.

"For other congregations, people have simply arrived at church," says co-ordinator, Meryl Gemo.

"For others, journeying with asylum seekers has led to much cross-cultural learning."



More than 80 people from many parts of Africa worship at Adelaide West Uniting Church. The Ecumenical Leadership Committee holds worship services fortnightly with special event services filling the church to capacity.

"No matter the congregation – the issues are the same. We're all asking the question 'what does it mean to be inclusive?' And we're all discovering that people from other cultures have a deep faith and much to teach us."

Mission Resourcing Network

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

Highlights 2004-05

- The Mission Resourcing Network developed its focus on hospitality and providing resources for leaders with the opening of the **Gathering Place** in 2005.
- The visits of **Arch Hart** and **Kennon Callahan** focused on the health of congregational leaders and developing small, strong congregations.
- **Leadership development** continued to be a priority, with 25 ministers involved in learning opportunities for leading regional churches.
- Rev Herman Awon, Vice Moderator of our partner church in **West Papua**, and his wife Jakoba, visited Synod 2004.
- A group of young people travelled to Thailand in December 2004 for **Mission Ignition**, with a group returning to Australia in Easter 2005.
- In partnership with UnitingCare, chaplaincy at **Baxter Detention Centre** was a priority with detainees and those now living in the community receiving support.
- A **Rural Resourcing Workshop** in the Coorong Presbytery helped lay-led congregations to be healthy, mission-focussed congregations.



Geng, Fhar, Som, Mew and Top from the Synod's partner church in Thailand visited Adelaide as part of Mission Ignition.

Andrew Hogarth and Amanda Wallace talk with Arch Hart during his visit to Australia. Photo courtesy of The Advertiser.

Rev Adam Tretheway (left) with other ecumenical chaplains at Baxter Detention Centre.

Indigenous Ministry

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

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 2004-05

- The **Congress congregations** at Salisbury and Port Augusta continue to grow with both congregations appointing youth workers.
- Thanks to support from the Synod and gift funding, both congregations now have **buses** to assist with getting people to and from worship and other community events.
- The **Mobile Aboriginal Patrol** minister, David Wright, organised an Easter event at Copley, Iga Warta and Nepabunna which was supported enthusiastically by the local community.
- A grant from the Uniting Foundation enabled six young people to travel to New Mexico for a **Multicultural Church Conference**.
- The Congress supported Indigenous people in the review of the **Anangu Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act**, and through issues of racism, prejudice, and discrimination experienced in **Port Augusta**.



Natalie, Coby and Initji at the National Christian Youth Convention.

Youth convention ... a life changer!

Since NCYC (National Christian Youth Convention) was first held 50 years ago, it has inspired and challenged young people from across the country in their faith journey.

Around 15% of participants at the convention held in Adelaide in January were Indigenous.

With people coming from as far away as Elcho Island, Townsville, and the APY Lands - including large numbers from Pukatja (Ernabella) and Amata - it was the largest group of Aboriginal participants on record.

"It was awesome" said NCYC Bible Study leader, Rev Hohaia Matthews. Hohaia and the Port

Augusta community played a significant role with their own music band and Indigenous hospitality team. Denise Champion also led an elective around a campfire.

Congress greatly appreciated the support of individuals, churches, Community Benefit SA and the Morialta Trust in assisting Indigenous delegates to attend the convention.

NCYC is just one example of the church's commitment to building bridges between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.



Rev Hohaia Matthews with the new Congress bus.

The Sumner family farewells daughter Natasha on her trip to New Mexico.

Robert takes part in worship and children's activities at Salisbury Congress.

Education

Equipping leaders for ministry Equipping leaders for ministry Equipping leaders for ministry Equipping leaders for ministry

Learning: Lifelong and Statewide

Steph and Jan are proof that no matter how old you are or where your passion for ministry lies – there's plenty of opportunity to learn.

Both are Flinders University students at Parkin-Wesley College. Jan has just completed her Master of Theological Studies and Steph is doing a Bachelor of Theology (Honours) in Old Testament.

The College faculty are committed to helping people grow in faith at every stage of life. They know that formal, on-campus study is not for everyone.

Some of the college's most popular offerings have been intensives – like the children's story telling workshop with authors Mem Fox and Christobel Mattingley – or workshops held at the request of local churches – with topics ranging from pastoral care to worship leading.

Distance is also no barrier to education with an increasing number of training events held in rural areas, and over 20 students undertaking their studies by distance mode.

Perhaps the question for all of us is "what would I like to learn?"



Jan Murchland and Stephanie Measday relax on campus at Parkin-Wesley College.

Educational Ministries Commission

The Uniting 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 2004-05

- Approximately 5,800 young people are enrolled in the Uniting Church's eight **schools and colleges**, making this activity one of the church's most significant points of contact with that generation.
- **Parkin-Wesley College** has 215 students, including 17 candidates for specified ministries.
- In July 2005, Westminster School hosted the **world conference** of the International Association of Methodist-Related Schools Colleges and Universities which attracted delegates from every continent.



Laura with children's author, Christobel Mattingley, at a Growing in Faith Seminar.

Moderator Rev Dr Graham Humphris acknowledges retiring ministers at Synod 2004.

Students from Prince Alfred College were among 1,600 who took part in an ethics seminar.

Outreach

Compassionate and innovative Compassionate and innovative Compassionate and innovative Compassionate

UnitingCare

The work of UnitingCare encompasses a wide range of activities including community welfare services, advocacy, aged care, chaplaincy, health services, and post-disaster care.

Highlights 2004-05

- **UnitingCare** is currently piloting new models of providing **mental health chaplaincy** in conjunction with local congregations.
- The **smaller agencies** and congregational outreach programs are gathering regularly to resource and support each other as they meet the needs of their local community.
- Discussions between the **UnitingCare Wesleys** and **Congress** are leading to an increased understanding of each other and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in the delivery of community services.
- Representatives from a range of agencies participate in the national committees of **UnitingCare Australia**, forming policy and undertaking advocacy, to ensure government decision-making does not exclude the vulnerable and marginalised members of community.
- **Pancake Day** continues to grow both within SA and across Australia. Events held by church, community and corporate groups on Shrove Tuesday raise money to support vulnerable people in the local community.

Practical help a "God send"



Chris Raffin and Necia Ebert – lending a practical hand to people on Yorke Peninsula.

Often it is the simplest ideas that have the biggest impact. And this idea is simple - help people who are doing it tough to buy whitegoods.

"We've been surprised at the number of people who simply can't afford to buy what they need," explains Linda Sutton, Chairperson of UnitingCare Copper Triangle.

UnitingCare Copper Triangle, is part of the Uniting Church's unique network of community service agencies. As one of the smaller agencies, UnitingCare Copper Triangle is supported by the Kadina and Wallaroo congregations.

In July 2005, they started a white goods scheme for people on Yorke Peninsula.

"Whether they need a refrigerator or washing machine – we can help."

"We source good quality re-conditioned white goods. We match them with people who need them. They commit to pay back the purchase price. We don't charge any interest and when the money is paid back, we use it to help someone else."



Gabriel Gate, just one of a number of celebrities to support Pancake Day – a national fundraising appeal for UnitingCare.

Deacon Jenny Walker – Chaplain to students at Annesley College.

Mrs Joyce Mitchell and Registered Nurse Aggi Parojus share a moment at Resthaven Bellevue Heights

Wider Church

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



Rev Stuart Cameron and Major Iain Trainor at the installation of the first billboard on North Terrace. Photo: Brett Hartwig.

Media campaign puts Jesus "out there"

Jesus featured on *60 Minutes*, *A Current Affair*, and *Australian Idol* this year – thanks to an innovative Christian media campaign called *Jesus. All about Life*.

In an Australian first, local denominations worked together to profile Jesus and the Christian message with close to 400 prime time TV, radio, print and billboard advertisements running in August and September 2005.

Over 400 events were organised by local churches to co-incide with the ecumenical advertising campaign. These included life skills

seminars, a stand at the Royal Adelaide Show, *Jesus. All about Life* courses and community events.

Local churches also distributed over 300,000 *Jesus. All About Life* postcards, pamphlets and books during the campaign.

The Uniting Church was well represented with just over 25% of the congregations taking part belonging to our denomination.

The \$250,000 campaign was entirely funded by donations from individuals and churches with \$50,000 coming from the Uniting Church's, UC Invest.

Wider Church

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

Highlights 2004-05

- By supporting the **Assembly** (the national council of the Church), we support a number of initiatives including:
 - **National Working Group on Worship** as they finalised the resource "Uniting in Worship 2,"
 - **Uniting Justice, Uniting Care** and **Frontier Services** as they continue to advocate for those on the margins of our society,
 - **Uniting International Mission** as they work alongside our partner churches and provide opportunities for Uniting Church people to serve overseas.
 - **Coolamon College** as they provide theological education by distance mode.
- 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.



Frontier Services has an annual display at the Royal Adelaide Show in the Old Ram Shed. Pictured are Tony Price and David Sullivan.

People in Mission Co-ordinator, Sandy Boyce, with Volunteers in Mission serving in the Church of South India. The garlands worn are a symbol of hospitality and welcome in India.

Uniting Church President, Rev Dr Dean Drayton met with over 30 young people including Emma Hutchinson at a President's Table dinner in May.

Resources

Freeing resources for new initiatives Freeing resources for new initiatives Freeing resources for new initiatives

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 2004-05

- **Called to Care** and Mandatory Notification training continued, with significant improvements also made to our police screening process.
- **UC Invest** is now managing \$190 million worth of investments and has more than 2,000 customers. In addition to donating \$500,000 to the Tsunami Appeal, UC Invest allocated \$6.5 million to the SA Synod through gift funding and grants to the Mission and Service Fund and Church Loan Fund.
- **Regular Electronic Giving (REG)** increased by 22%. Over 570 people in 62 congregations give their weekly offering electronically.
- **The Synod Grants Committee** approved Uniting Foundation grants totalling over \$900,000, \$72,000 grant in aid and \$675,000 in gift funding.
- **Property Services** supervised major construction projects at Port Lincoln, Western Link and Henley-Fulham. The team has also assisted congregations with smaller projects including church alterations and the purchase of new manses.



New homes being built for a Sea Gypsy community in Khao Lak in Southern Thailand – the project has received support from the Uniting Church.

Building hope for tsunami survivors



When the Boxing Day tsunami hit parts of South East Asia last year, people all over the world shared the grief and agony of victims and survivors.

UC Invest, on behalf of the Uniting Church SA, was able to make a generous and practical response to assist those ravaged communities.

UC Invest contributed \$500,000 to the Uniting Church Overseas Aid tsunami appeal, boosting our Church's national contribution to \$2.4 million.

The funds greatly assisted our partner churches in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia with rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction projects.

Uniting Church SA General Secretary Rev Stuart Cameron visited Southern Thailand six months after the tsunami struck, to view relief work with Partner in Mission, Scott Litchfield.

"We visited the village of Khao Lak where the tsunami's destruction was immediately evident," said Stuart.

"Equally breath-taking was the level of reconstruction already taking place.

"We visited a Moken (Sea Gypsy) community, whose new homes were nearly completed. The village leader was deeply appreciative of the support that has made the re-building miracle possible."



The Uniting Foundation supported many projects in 2004-05 – including a captioning service for deaf people at Balhannah Uniting Church. Photo courtesy The Advertiser.

After 27 years, the Uniting Church SA's investment arm launched a new name and a new look – UC Invest was unveiled in August.

The Western Link congregation opened in August – it is home to the former West Hindmarsh, Kidman Park, Flinders Park, Findon and Allenby Gardens congregations.

2004 Income and Expenditure

Passionate about making God known Passionate about making God known Passionate about making God known

Financial Report: 2004

Through weekly offerings, church members contribute directly to the mission and ministry of the Uniting Church. In 2004, the Uniting Church SA had a budget in excess of \$6 million. All of the stories in this Annual Report illustrate how your offering plays a vital role.

The income and expenditure chart (right) provides a financial summary of the church's activities in 2004. *Note: this budget does not include individual congregations or church agencies (such as aged care providers, missions and schools).*

Contributions from Congregations

(\$1.2 million)

Donations from congregations to the Mission and Service Fund represented 20% of Uniting Church SA income in 2004.

Income from other sources

(\$2.9 million)

The Synod generates income from investments accumulated over the years through good stewardship; from bequests (William Parkin was a major benefactor); from rental returns from buildings at 212 Pirie Street and 164 Fullarton Road; UC Invest and the Synod's Insurance Agency also make significant annual donations.

Income raised by ministry centres

(\$1.8 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 from Parkin Trust and RH White).

Where does the money go?

All councils of the Uniting Church received grants from the Mission and Service Fund, including Synod Ministry Centres, Presbyteries, Congregations and the Assembly. That's a \$6 million ministry!

The real story is not about numbers in a budget – it is about lives changed and communities transformed.

This report is a summary of the detailed audited financial reports. Copies and more information available from Karen Brown in Financial Services on 8236 4211.

OPERATING INCOME 2004

\$

Mission and Service Fund - contributions from congregations

Adelaide North West	273,938
Eyre	49,092
Fleurieu	338,940
Frome	62,968
Mount Lofty	277,672
The Coorong	84,950
Wakefield	79,531

1,167,091

Income from other sources

Epworth Building Inc	200,000
Investment Income	1,096,025
Parkin Mission	560,000
UC Invest	680,000
Uniting Church Insurance Agency	320,000
Other	46,537

2,902,562

Income raised by Synod ministry centres

Communications and Public Relations	110,795
Educational Ministries Commission	787,378
Mission Resourcing Network	65,329
External Mission Resourcing	4,947
Resources Board	482,001
Secretariat (including Events and Ministers Support)	152,067
UnitingCare Commission	167,584
Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)	68,559

1,838,660

Total Income

5,908,313

OPERATING EXPENDITURE 2004

Presbyteries and Congregations

502,000

Synod Ministry Centres

Communications and Public Relations	295,268
Educational Ministries Commission	1,110,515
Mission Resourcing Network	446,448
External Mission Resourcing	125,345
Resources Board	911,111
Secretariat (including Events and Ministers Support)	766,715
UnitingCare Commission	687,965
Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)	370,908

4,714,275

Wider Church (Assembly & ecumenical support)

447,275

Other (rent, depreciation, interest, accruals)

584,816

Total Expenditure

6,248,366

Operating Deficit for the year

(340,053)



Uniting Church ...there when it counts



**Uniting Church
Synod of South Australia
2004-05 Annual Report**

**Written and produced by the
Communications and Public Relations Unit:**

Writers: Shannon Short, Jill Freear
Photography: Nick Kerr
Design and printing: Openbook Print-50521

Printed October 2005.

**Further information about the Uniting
Church, is available from the
Communications and Public Relations Unit or
visit our website at www.sa.uca.org.au**

Uniting Church, Synod of South Australia,
Level 2, 212 Pirie Street. Phone: 8227 0822.