

Dollars & Sense

News for Church Treasurers and Financial People

March 2013 Newsletter from Financial Services, UCA Presbytery and Synod of SA



Peter Battersby
Deputy General Manager,
Resources/Manager,
Financial Services Team

As we start this year together, we wish to convey to you our gratitude and support as you serve in your local church community. It is our hope that we can be of assistance to you whenever the need arises.

It seems the first quarter of every year disappears so quickly, and this year has been no exception. And in the midst of the busy financial reporting season, the start of 2013 has been a period of change for the Financial Services Team.

Recently, we farewelled Anne-Marie Richardson who has retired after 14 years of tremendous service to the Uniting Church in SA. For many years Anne-Marie was the Assistant Manager Financial Services before she was 'convinced' to delay her retirement to help our growing Congregational Bookkeeping Unit on a part time basis. Anne-Marie served with much professionalism and grace - she will be greatly missed.

We celebrate with Yvette de Reuver (Payroll Officer) the safe arrival of a baby daughter. Whilst Yvette takes leave, we are grateful for Wendy Booth and Diane Hughes who will be helping Kathryn Bennett in the Payroll Bureau. We are also delighted to announce Lizzie Kupke is helping us on Fridays by providing administrative support. Lizzie is well known around the office, having worked in the UnitingCare Commission for a number of years.

Peter Harbison, who is currently contacting congregations, tracking down *2013 Mission and Service Response Forms*, and has been processing Police Checks in the Screening Services Unit, has picked up another role. Peter is assisting with the maintenance of the Synod database by keying in the names and contact details of new congregational and 'parish' office holders' along with other updates. This is important because this information feeds into the Synod communications processes used by various Synod departments. If you or someone else on your Church Council has changed roles recently, please go to our website, download the appropriate forms and forward the completed paperwork to the Synod office, so that our database is as accurate as possible.

Finally, and by no means least, we will be saying farewell to Barry Atwell, who as Executive Officer, Resources and General Manager Resources oversees a number of departments, including Financial Services. Barry's final address to the Presbytery and Synod was preceded by the Members standing to applaud his valuable contribution. As a member of staff working under Barry, I am grateful for his example of servant-hood leadership, his care and missional focus. His tireless efforts, seen and unseen, have been a blessing to the Uniting Church in SA. Thank you Barry. May you have a truly blessed retirement.

I would commend this issue of *Dollars and Sense* to you. I am sure that you will find it helpful. As always, if you need advice or encouragement, we are just a phone call away.

Regards

Peter Battersby



Our Mission and Service Fund at work

The Aboriginal Alphabet Soup

Recently I sat down with Denise Champion, Covenanting Coordinator in the Uniting Church SA Presbytery & Synod office. We discussed the support of congregations across the state to aboriginal ministry via their Mission and Service Fund contributions. This ministry is facilitated by various entities and Denise explained this alphabet soup, describing the ministry behind the names.

Firstly, UAICC, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, was formed in 1982. In 1985 it was granted authority to make decisions concerning ministry with aboriginal and islander peoples. The UAICC in South Australia (as in other states) operates independently but within a national structure. Here in South Australia congregational Mission and Service contributions along with a portion of proceeds from the sale of property factor into a formula used to calculate a block grant which funds UAICC's South Australian activities.

The UAICC State Office is now located in Ingle Farm (in the old Ingle Farm Uniting Church building). Resource Officer Ian Dempster and State Development and Outreach Worker Denise Champion use this as a base for their state-wide ministry, funded by congregational contributions.

Each congregation's Mission and Service Fund contribution also helps fund a part time Covenanting Coordinator based in the Presbytery & Synod office. Functioning within the Mission Resourcing SA team Denise Champion helps congregations, schools and agencies understand our shared history. She also works to raise an awareness of issues, works for reconciliation and is involved in advocacy.

Importantly, congregational contributions do more than merely fund paid staff. They also help aboriginal spiritual communities which offer the good news of Jesus Christ in three congregational settings. The Adelaide Congress Ministry at Salisbury is a congregation, with a Congress Placement. It contributes to the Mission and Service Fund but is partly funded by a block grant, as it disciples its 30-50 regular attendees. Kalparrin Faith Community, based in a former Drug and Alcohol facility provides spiritual nourishment and support in the Murray Bridge area. The Port Augusta Congress Faith Community, also frequented by about 30-50 regulars, is funded through the UAICC State Office and has its own Minister of the Word. These ministries touch and change lives, all with the help of congregational Mission and Service contributions.

If you would like more information check out the Uniting Church SA website which includes useful links <http://sa.uca.org.au/covenanting/> or read Message Stick the quarterly magazine of the UAICC <http://assembly.uca.org.au/uaicc/message-stick> Finally, research how an About F.A.C.E. (Faith and Cultural Exchange) event can change a young life <http://assembly.uca.org.au/youth-and-young-adults-faith-development/about-face>

Peter Harbison



Compliance

Federal Government Not-for-Profit Reform Update

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is the new independent Commonwealth regulator for Australian charities. It began operations on 3 December 2012.

The ACNC has been set up to achieve the following objectives:

- ★ maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the sector through increased accountability and transparency
- ★ support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative not-for-profit sector
- ★ promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the sector.

During the past few weeks the Presbytery & Synod office have distributed various communications to congregations on this subject, providing instructions about correspondence from the Australian Charities Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC). The ACNC requires each Congregation (charity) to confirm their details by completing 'Form AB'.

To ensure all Congregations have responded to the ACNC, therefore protecting their ongoing Charity Tax concessions status, please provide a copy of all completed and signed AB Forms with accompanying documentation attached to Marie-Ann Ellis, Congregation Finance Specialist – Uniting Church SA (GPO Box 2145, Adelaide SA 5001). If you have not received correspondence from the ACNC or the email Broadcasts from this office, or if you have questions regarding the completing of Form AB, please contact Marie-Ann Ellis at mellis@sa.uca.org.au

We continue to work collaboratively with the other Synods to provide the ACNC with clear and consistent responses to their enquiries. We will continue to provide updates and assistance as further information becomes available.

Further information can be found on their website <http://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Home/ACNC>

MYOB Rollover

Did you know that even if you have not completed the 'Start A New Financial Year' process, MYOB will allow you to enter transactions for the new year? You should NOT roll over to start a new financial year in MYOB until your auditor has signed off. Once you start a new financial year, it will not be possible to make any changes in the year just ended. When you are sure that you will not need to make any further changes to the financial records for the year just ended, you can Start A New Financial Year in MYOB.

The instructions can be found at <http://sa.uca.org.au/finance/congregation-bookkeeping-unit/>



Superannuation

Superannuation - increasing Superannuation Guarantee Rate and age limit

Please note changes to the Superannuation Guarantee (SG) rate that take effect from 1st July 2013.

- ★ The SG rate will be increased over a seven year period, with initial increments of 0.25 percentage points from 1 July 2013 and July 2014. Further increments of 0.5 percentage points will apply annually up to 2019-20, when the SG rate will be set at 12 per cent. Please see the table below.
- ★ The SG age limit of 70 will be removed from 1 July 2013 and employers will be required to contribute to complying super funds of eligible mature-aged employees aged 70 and older.

For further information relating to this topic, please click on the link.

http://www.futuretax.gov.au/content/FactSheets/downloads/Fact_sheet_SG_rate_increase.pdf

Please allow for this increase in your congregation's cash flow from July and in future budgets.

YEAR	RATE(%)
2013-14	9.25
2014-15	9.5
2015-16	10
2016-17	10.5
2017-18	11
2018-19	11.5
2019-20	12



Mission & Service Response Form

Thank you to those congregations (almost 75%) who have returned their completed 2013 Mission and Service Fund Response Form.

Mission and Service Fund information and forms can be viewed online at <http://sa.uca.org.au/mission-and-service-fund> If your congregation has yet to action this, please download a form, fill it in and forward it to the Presbytery & Synod office as soon as possible.



Miscellaneous

Database Changes



As mentioned in Peter Battersby's letter on page 1, Financial Services is currently helping to maintain the Synod's database which includes the contact details of office bearers in congregations, 'parishes' and agencies.

This information helps staff contact the right person and is used to generate mailings and emails. Your congregation can help us by ensuring that when key persons change their contact details or when there is a change in key leadership roles, that the Presbytery & Synod office is advised. In particular 'Parish' Secretaries and Treasurers, Church Council Chairpersons, Church Council Secretaries, Church Council Treasurers, Duty of Care Contacts and Privacy Contacts are key contact persons.

Forms can be downloaded from <http://sa.uca.org.au/online-directory-services>

Lenten Appeal Cheques



Treasurers are reminded that cheques for Lenten Appeal should be made payable to 'Lent Event' and posted to Uniting World in Sydney. This appeal is no longer processed through the UCSA office.

Address details are:
Lent Event
Relief and Development
Uniting World
Reply Paid 2266
SYDNEY SOUTH
NSW, 1235



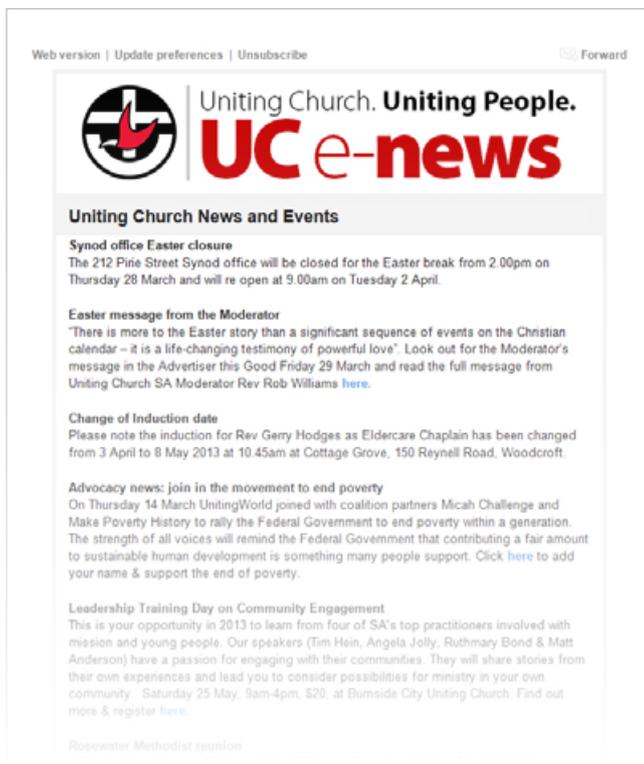
SYNERGY

Synergy coordinates solutions to some of the common purchasing and contracting requirements of Uniting Church organisations to obtain the best value on a range of products and services.

Jointly funded and managed by representatives from Uniting Church and UnitingCare organisations, Synergy aims to ensure the good stewardship of scarce resources and draws on the combined expertise within Uniting Church networks to ensure competitive prices and conditions are accessible to all parts of the Church including staff and volunteers.

Organisations that have participated in Synergy recognise the less tangible benefits arising as well as the financial benefits realised. Working collaboratively on Synergy projects provides the opportunities to share information, expertise and build relationships. Church congregations can benefit from information agencies and schools have provided through Synergy.

UC E-News



This weekly email news service is produced by the Uniting Church Synod office with a readership base primarily of church Ministers, Treasurers, Church Secretaries and Synod office staff. Synergy places regular short informational advertisements in this free email news service to alert readers of potential savings they can access for their Church. If you wish to receive this weekly news bulletin log on to <http://sa.uca.org.au/uc-e-news/subscribe-to-uc-e-news> to subscribe.

Synergy Brochure

The Synergy brochure has been updated to be similar in design to other UnitingCare informational brochures. It provides enquiring UnitingCare staff and service providers alike with easy reference points to enhance knowledge of valuable savings and contracts or simply information about how large our buying group is.



To obtain copies of the Synergy brochure for your congregation and for more information: www.synergy.unitingcare.org.au or email synergy@sa.uca.org.au

Financial Services Team - Contacts

Finance:

Phone: (08) 8236 4200
Country Callers Number: 1300 766 956
Email: finance@sa.uca.org.au
Fax: (08) 8236 4280

Congregational Book-keeping Unit:

Phone: (08) 8236 4215
Email: cbu@sa.uca.org.au

Payroll:

Phone: (08) 8236 4241
Email: payroll@sa.uca.org.au
Fax: (08) 8236 4286

