



UC Information

Registered by Australia Post PP530028/00079

Our first calling is to understand our calling; our identity

Rev Rod Dyson
Executive Officer, MR (SA)

A couple of days ago I attended the national Mission and Evangelism Network meetings in Hobart. This group is drawn from each Synod and includes some Synod and Presbytery staff and some who work in Congregations. The mandate is to explore issues of mission and evangelism, and to network between Synods for the purpose of stimulating and resourcing missional action.

As is usually the case we take time to visit churches and other mission activities in the Synod in which we meet. This time we visited three churches in the greater Hobart area. Over the past several years all the churches in the greater Hobart area have participated in a project called Hobart Alive 2020. There was a recognition some years ago that if mission and ministry was not changed soon a number of ordained staff would have to move elsewhere and several congregations would close. It soon became clear that even the 'leave things as they are' option would mean a great deal of change.

Our first visit was to a church about 30 minutes from the CBD. This is primarily a government housing area and there are many needs. The congregation itself is very small and works closely and effectively with UnitingCare. A new Deacon is in placement and they are beginning the process of identifying their mission.

The second visit was to a church a couple of kilometres out of the CBD and they are embarking on a new building project. The aim of the project is to be more visible and to engage more effectively with the wider community.

The third site was about 30 minutes south east of the CBD. They have been through the process of identifying their mission and out of that has come the huge vision of establishing a residential community which would include people with various disabilities. They already have Government funding for the buildings which will accommodate the people with disabilities. The other units will

most probably be resident funded. This also was a joint project with UnitingCare and a disability group.

The common point in all places was to join with the Reign of God in their area. So the Hobart Alive project began with a year of listening. Congregations saw themselves as part of something much bigger – of joining in with what God was already doing in their area rather than them going about their own business.

All congregations also talked about their vocation. We are used to talking about individual vocation; the idea God using us, our experience, our gifts and graces and training for a particular purpose in every part of our lives. These congregations were asking about the congregation's vocation; of how God wanted to use the experience, gifts and graces and training of the whole congregation in harmony with what God was already doing in their area. Their first question was 'what is God calling us to be' rather than 'what do we have to do to survive'. Once each congregation understood their calling, their vocation, then the appropriate activity and structure would follow. Often we start with changing structure and hope that mission follows. It rarely does. We need to discern first what it means to be a missional church.

Those leading the Hobart Alive project spent a lot of time and energy fostering missional imagination, creating a space where the Holy Spirit could lead and generate new ideas and possibilities. This required constant effort because the forces that lure us back to the status quo are very strong. It was also clear that now is a time of missional experimentation. Our temptation is to not try anything until we are sure that it will work. Rather let's try lots of things knowing that some will hardly work at all and some will work only for a time. Others will flourish and transformation will occur. It's (still) time to have a go.

PLACEMENTS NEWS

Placements finalised since the last edition of UC Information:

- Rev Sean Gilbert as Ministry Practice Coordinator (0.7) at Uniting College from 1 May 2012
- Rev Leanne Jenski as Chaplain at Flinders Medical Centre from 1 August 2012

Wondering if any new placements have become available between UC Information mailings? Check out the Website under UC positions vacant:

resources.sa.uca.org.au/uc-positions-vacant

The following is the current list of vacant approved placements:

Profiles available

- Adelaide West
- Ardrossan (0.5)
- Barossa (Angaston, Greenock, Nurioopta, Tanunda & Truro)
- Bordertown, Buckingham & Mundulla
- Eden Hills (0.25)
- Hare Street (0.25)
- Plains Community Churches (0.5) (Windsor, Hamley Bridge & Owen)

Profiles not Available

- Blackwood
- Mallala and Two Wells (0.6)

Advertised Placement/Position

- Director in Missiology (0.5)
- Post Graduate Supervision (0.5)

If you wish to express an interest in any of these placements, or would like to have a look at the profile, please advise Rev Philip Gardner, pgardner@sa.uca.org.au, by **Tuesday 22 May 2012**. You should also inform your Mission Network's representative on Placements Committee of your interest. The next meeting of the Placements Committee will be held on **Monday, 28 May 2012** when names of Ministers will be considered to fill a number of these placements.

Presbytery and Synod June Meeting
"Intention to attend"

emails and forms have been sent out.

For all queries ring Secretariat (08) 8236 4200

Please join us at the following
Special Services

INDUCTIONS

Rev Peter Riggs
Playford

At: St Columbus School,
Presidents Ave, Andrews Farm
17 June 2012 4.00pm

Rev Ruthmary Bond
CitySoul

20 May 2012 1.00pm
Lunch \$5 at 12.30pm

Rev Sean Gilbert
Uniting College

At: Adelaide West
22 June 2012 6.30pm

Rev Dr Steve Taylor
Uniting College Principal

At: Adelaide West
22 June 2012 6.30pm

COMMENCEMENTS

Robyn Trudinger (MOP)
Resthaven,

Marion and Bellevue Heights
At Resthaven Marion
15 May 2012 2.00pm

See **UC e-news** for more
Celebration Services as information
becomes available

Code of Ethics - The Essentials

An introductory level, three-day intensive course introducing the Uniting Church Code of Ethics plus Prevention of Sexual Misconduct training is offered from **9 - 11 July**. This course is **required for candidates, pastors and ministers transferring from other denominations**. For further information go to: www.unitingcollege.org.au/courses/241-code-of-ethics.html

Code of Ethics - Refresher

For those who have completed previous
Code of Ethics courses

2012 Dates: 6 June & 13 September

Watch UC E-news for further information