



UC Information

Registered by Australia Post PP530028/00079

Grounded in transformation

Sharonne Price
Executive Officer, Pastoral Relations

The signs of spring are everywhere, and similarly we are having those ubiquitous conversations about whether it's early, or how the earth has enjoyed the rain this year, whether the farmers are smiling or perhaps our fears for the coming fire season.

We have a glorious tree just outside our back window. Right now it is putting on new leaves – a strange process – awkward even. Spiky bits where I didn't think there were spikes; leaves turned in ways that don't quite look right; fresh translucent green, and still enough bareness for the yellow wings of the honeyeaters to catch my attention with their flutter and flash. The transformation of spring is well underway.

I think a lot about trees. In my office I have a small wooden curiosity in four parts – meant to be a puzzle, but it's not too puzzling! It is a tree in four seasons. The centrepiece is the rugged, unencumbered trunk and branches – winter. There is a surrounding canopy representing spring, and then, in still different woods, another canopy for summer, and finally one for the heavy fruitfulness of autumn. This is the seasonal life of trees. They know it and they draw deeply into "tree-ness" perhaps especially when times are tough. They can do no other. In the cold of winter, the tree draws down its sap and readies its life for the soft warmth of early spring.

In all my years in palliative care, I discovered a central truth. In hardship and suffering, people actually stay fairly true to the values of their life. Like the trees, they draw deeply into "Betty-ness" or "Sharonne-ness" or "Tom-ness". Privileged to hear many stories, and humbled by honest conversation, I came to know people at their most exposed moments and to wonder at the endurance

of who we really are. All those thousands of decisions, that emotional work, the prayerfulness, that distilling of life's challenges – it all matters. When control and dominion is no longer relevant, we have to return to that "ground of our being", that sacred partnership with God.

The trouble is, human beings get side-tracked by other voices and other desires. We are distracted by the sound of our own individual and independent importance, opinions, ambitions, resentments and pride.

Very soon we will gather as the Uniting Church in South Australia. Much of the gathering will be celebratory, some of it tough.

How many of us played those language games when we were kids? You know, the ones where you changed the emphasis on each word in a sentence in turn. "He loves to boogie with her" can mean a lot of things! I've been playing that game with "Because we are the Church" this week. Have a try with it yourself. One of those sentences just may have a challenging prickle in it for you!

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." (Philippians 2:1,2)

Maybe, during this Presbytery/ Synod meeting, we will witness transformation – like our lovely tree at home, with its fragile new shoots – as we respond to our essential nature, "because we are the church".



Uniting Church. **Uniting People.**

PLACEMENTS NEWS

Placements finalised since the last edition of UC Information:

- Michael Dowling (Candidate for MOW) to Eldercare, Kirkholme (0.8) from 1 January 2012
- Rev Judi Hartwig to Spicer from 1 January 2012
- Rev Gerry Hodges to Pastoral Relations Officer (Ministry & Congregations) from 1 October 2011
- Nathan Whillas (Candidate for MOW) to Loxton and Renmark from 1 January 2012

The following is the current list of vacant (or soon to be vacant) approved placements:

Profiles available

- Adelaide West
- Bordertown, Buckingham and Mundulla from 1.01.12
- South West Fleurieu
(Delamere, Inman Valley, Myponga, Range Road, Yankalilla)
- Southern Yorke Peninsula
(Brentwood, Corny Point, Curramulka, Edithburgh, Koolywurtie, Minlaton, Port Vincent, Stansbury, Warooka, Yorketown)

Profiles not yet available

- Mitcham Village

Advertised Positions/Placements

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

The following are due to be advertised in the near future.

- Chaplain, Royal Adelaide Hospital
- Chaplain, Flinders Medical Centre

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 18 October 2011**. 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, 24 October 2011** when names of Ministers will be considered to fill a number of these placements

Please join us as for the following Special Service.



Commissioning, Induction and farewell of UAICC staff

An invitation to spend the evening with UCA President Rev. Alistair Macrae and UAICC,

to help celebrate

The induction of Rev Dean Whittaker as Adelaide / Salisbury Congress Minister,

The commissioning of Denise Champion as Congress State Development & Outreach Officer

and to farewell

Rev Wali Fejo as Mobile Aboriginal Patrol Minister

When: Wednesday October 26th

Where: Congress @ 17 Bedwin Street, Salisbury North

Time: gathering @ 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

Child Safe Environments

26 October 2011

Uniting College, 34 Lipsett Avenue,
Brooklyn Park

Full day: 9.00am - 5.00pm Cost \$33
Lunch available at \$14 a person

Refresher: 1.30pm to 4.30pm Cost \$16

Book on line now

resources.sa.uca.org.au/duty-of-care/cse-training.html

Or Contact Karen Parker 8767- 2405

2 weeks left to order your Christmas postcards

Send some Christmas peace out into your local neighbourhood with this year's Christmas postcard, available from the Uniting Church SA Communications Unit. Online registrations & text need to be received by Monday 31 October. Postcards are \$65 per 1000. More info & to register: sa.uca.org.au/goto/postcards

Presbytery and Synod 2nd mailing papers are now online presbyterysynod.sa.uca.org.au/presbytery-a-synod-meetings/2011/339-october-27-29-2011.html