Uniting Church Synod of South Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

SA Synod
370 Congregations from Penong to Port MacDonnell

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress UAICC
Salisbury Ministry Centre
Port Augusta Ministry Centre
Mobile Aboriginal Patrol (in partnership with Frontier Services)

Community Services Commission
Chaplaincy
Congregational-based community services
Aged Care – Eldercare, Helping Hand, Resthaven
Missions – Adelaide Central Mission, Hackney Mission, Port Adelaide Central Mission, UnitingCare Port Pirie Central Mission, Wesley Uniting Mission St Andrews Hospital
Part Disaster Ecumenical Ministry

Frontier Services in SA (Assembly Agency)
Andamooka Health Centre
Andamooka Community Support Service
Eyre Patrol
Marla Health Centre
Wentana Health Centre
Mobile Aboriginal Patrol (in partnership with UAICC)
Parkin Patrol
Sturt Patrol

Mission Resourcing Network
Mission Resource People
Mission Network Leader
MMR Resource Centre
People in Mission
International Mission
11 Congregational based Mission Centres

Secretariat
Administration
Communications Unit/News Times
Ecumenical Relations group
Events Manager
General Secretary
Indigenous Employment Strategy
Moderator
Reception

Educational Ministries Commission
Avonley College
Lincoln College
Parkins Wesley College
Pedare Christian College
Migrain School
Prince Alfred College
Satch College
Seymour College
Westminster School

Resources
Duty of Care
Financial Services
Insurance Agency
Investment Fund
Occupational Health Safety and Welfare
Public Relations
Property Services

Other Services
Uniting Church Adult Fellowships (UCAF)
NICA News
NYCC 2005 Office
Senior Adult Ministries

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Level 2, 212 Pirie St, Adelaide
GPO Box 2145, Adelaide, SA 5001
Phone (08) 8227 0822 Fax (08) 8227 0470
Synod Website: www.sa.uca.org.au

Vision Statement
An innovative, growing church proclaiming Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit to transform God’s word.
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.
God is up to something good!

AS WE MOVE around the state, we continue to be delighted by stories of hope and enthusiasm. Within our church are stunning happenings where lives are being changed and people encouraged in their faith. In this report you will find a sample of those stories. For every story you read, there are many, many others. God is up to something good. What a joy for us to be part of that!

The Annual Report gives us an opportunity to show how our church uses its resources. Thank you to all those people who contribute their time, talents and money to the work of Christ through the Uniting Church in South Australia. This is also a good opportunity to thank publicly the staff and volunteers who carry out the many of the missional activities of the Synod. The dedication and commitment of the mostly unseen people, is something we are very proud of. God is up to something good!

Thank God for the rural church

MODERATOR, Jan Trengove, says rural churches seem to be showing the way in local ecumenism.

For example, she preached at a Good Friday ecumenical service under gum trees at Keelunga, west of Yakka.

As people arrived they were presented with a gum twig to use as a fly whisk.

The service was arranged by the Uniting Church. All the local churches took part.

Jan’s farm is just out of Spalding. The Anglican church there needs repair.

ECUMENISM is very much alive in Ceduna.

“I think people in places like this are showing the way,” the Uniting Church’s Rev Sybil Peacock said.

“If you’re invited to pray at an Australia Day or Anzac Day service, you’re there representing the church – in the sense of the church universal – rather than a particular denomination.

All the ministers in Ceduna took part in a non-liturgical Easter celebration in the Uniting Church.

People of all churches took part in a discussion group hosted by the Catholics during Lent.

In Smokey Bay there is a community church. All the churches – Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting – use it. They take it turn and turn about. Many people go to all three Protestant services.

Rural ministry conference

Jan is chairing the committee planning the next Trans-Tasman Rural Ministry Conference. It will be held in the Clare Valley in September next year.

“The committee has Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans and Uniting Church people,” she said.

“It’s just electrifying the way we all get on.

“We’re drawing together the unique, the special things, from all our denominations and putting them together in one conference.

“It should be fantastic!”

Churches are getting together

People have worship every Sunday,” Sybil said. “They have a different flavour each week.”

At Penong at Easter Anglican priest, Rev Jeremy Greabes and Sybil Peacock officiated together at a service of Holy Communion.

“At the grassroots level, people want to come together,” Sybil said.

“If we’re open and hospitable and make people feel welcome, people won’t care what brand of church it is. They just want church.”

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An awesome event for kids

IF YOU NEED a sign that our church can anticipate a rosy future — you need look no further than KUCA Camp Out.

KCO began as a supposed “one-off” event during the International Year of the Child in 1979 when 700 children attended.

Now 25 years later KCO has grown into a major annual event, attended by 3,000 children and leaders from UC congregations and other denominations throughout South Australia.

KCO delivers 24 hours of non-stop fun — where primary school age kids share friendship and fellowship during a carnival of activities, craft, singing, swimming, worship and devotions.

The event has a major impact on attendees. Twelve-year-old Kathryn Porter first visited KCO as a pre-schooler, gaining early access through her group leader mum. Kathryn hasn’t missed a KCO since. While she’s sad to have graduated from KCO this year, Kathryn’s happy she’s now eligible to attend SAYCO (South Australian Youth Camp Out) for 12 to 16 year olds.

“I’ve had a really great time at every KCO,” she said. “I love catching up with old friends, going to the carnival and electives and also singing the upbeat Christian songs.

“I especially enjoy the Bible studies and can remember many Bible stories I first heard at Camp Out several years ago.”

Emerging ministers – a new breed

PARKIN WESLEY EXIT STUDENT Jonathan Davies may just exemplify the new emerging breed of ministers wanted in our church.

An Emerging Church Consultation organised by the Ministry Development Committee of the Educational Ministries Commission has identified a number of key attributes for ministers.

Among qualities such as drive, energy and enthusiasm, the consultation group believes future ministers must be willing to take risks to create new environments for ministry and mission.

The group also believes up-coming ministers should be able to adopt a business approach to ministry, will need highly developed communication skills and must be able to use modern technology.

Jonathan, who initially trained as a carpenter, supports the move towards adopting a business approach to ministry — “if that means being professional and striving for excellence”.

Jonathan has been developing a strong children, youth and family ministry at Malvern Uniting Church and believes modern technology has helped him connect with children and young adults.

“We’re lucky enough to have a data projector and a video camera — so the kids enjoy making contemporary movie-versions of Bible stories”.

“Many of our young people have mobile phones so I often use SMS to remind them what’s on at church. I also find group emails an effective way to communicate with youth.”

YOU’RE NEVER TOO OLD to learn something new. In fact, at the Holdfast College for Seniors, which operates from Glenelg’s Trinity Church Complex, you are likely to find yourself enrolling alongside seventy, eighty and ninety year olds.

Since the college began 16 years ago it’s been a place for making friends, sharing life experiences and participating in interest and learning groups — all in the spirit of “life-long learning”.

Rev David Houston, a former college coordinator, estimates more than 5,000 students have passed through the college doors.

“While it’s all about mental stimulation and learning opportunities, the social interaction, friendship and fellowship are also important to students,” he said. “With so many elderly folk living in the area, the college is an important and valued community activity.”

The classes offered include Computing, Australian and World Histories, Language Studies, Creative Writing and Poetry, the History of Music and Art, Christian Studies and other World Religions and Cultures.

This term a new model boat building class is popular. John Whatley from Clavellity Park is one student putting in the 200 hours to build a replica of the “Marguerite” Bristol Pilot Cutter.

“After so much effort it’s really fulfilling to see such detailed and intricate plans come to fruition,” John said.
New mission centres set up

The MRN centres
Aberfoyle Park Centre for Evangelism
Adelaide West Uniting Church Spirituality Centre
The Breathing Space Project
Resource Centre for Children’s and Family Ministry
Centre for Developing Passionate Spirituality
EARTH Grounding Young Adult Christians in Faith
Effective Living (Centre) through Education and Advocacy
Malvern Centre for Counselling
Next Generation
Port Elliot Computer Assisted Sunday Program
Centre for Ministry with Refugees

“The picture that is emerging is that each congregation and emerging faith grouping will find its own way forward.”

“The role of groups like the MRN is to help resource, clarify, encourage and support those who are trying to embrace new ways of faithful life together.”

“The development of new centres and the offering of leadership development will continue to be the key in shaping our future together, within an inclusive, multi-cultural and culturally demanding situation.”

“In this first 12 months we have been laying foundations for ways forward, responding to critical issues, and trying to identify strategic issues that will help us create a positive and faithful future.”

The MRN website

AS PART OF the move to resource the wider church, the MRN has launched its own website and also set up a Resource Centre.

Log on to www.missionresourcing.net.au (pictured left) for a look at the fresh and vibrant site developed and managed by MRN Resource Person, Craig Mitchell.

Craig’s philosophy is to empower and equip others to contribute to the continually evolving MRN site.

Not only has he developed a site which key people can access and update, but he’s also encouraging wide participation through online forums and chat.

“This site is about the frontiers of mission, helping the whole church to tell stories, swap ideas, explore possibilities and to access tools and thinking. We aim to showcase what’s happening in SA, around Australia and provide links to overseas,” Craig said.

Features of the website include links to all of the MRN Mission Centres, an event calendar, online forums and discussion, as well as information and thought provoking articles on topics such as faith sharing, justice, leadership, youth ministry and worship.

Working in tandem with the website is the MRN’s Resource Centre housed in the Synod office. Anyone can visit to browse along shelves of books available for purchase. Christian resources can also be ordered through the internet or catalogues.
Congress congregation grows

ABOUT 120 PEOPLE now come to the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress service every Sunday evening at Port Augusta. The number’s often higher.

The Christian Congress congregation isn’t just a community that gets together every Sunday evening. It’s a community that shares each other’s lives.

“We live in a community,” Rev Hohaia Matthews said. “We’re always round each other. We’re part of each other’s lives.

“The manse is a central meeting place.

“This all fits in with traditional Indigenous values. On Sunday nights we get together in church for a service and a feed — a table fellowship. What happens on Sunday night is a continuation of all the community stuff that happens through the week.”

Hohaia said the way Congress works in Port Augusta is just another example of the Uniting Church’s flexibility. The congregation doesn’t have to call many meetings.

“We see each other so often over meals,” he said. “So we thrash things out round the meal table. We might talk something over several times in different houses. And then we find the decision is made. You could call it a radical new method of decision-making — one that requires a lot of meals!”

Congress ministry is enhanced through the covenantal relationship between the Uniting Church and its Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Thailand trip ignites passion for mission

TEN YOUNG South Australians journeyed to Thailand in December, strongly committed to a cross-cultural mission exposure trip — despite travel cautions in the wake of the Bali bombing and September 11.

The group was embarking on the fifth biennial Mission Ignition, a joint initiative of the SA Synod and the Church of Christ in Thailand, one of the Synod’s four significant overseas church partnerships.

During the four-week trip the group visited schools, orphanages for children with HIV/AIDS, a slum, a prison and was also hosted on home stays.

Active Malvern UC member Michelle Harris led the group, due to her previous experience teaching English for a year in Thailand.

“Thailand was quite a cultural shock for many in the group who hadn’t travelled before,” said Michelle.

“On the home stays we lived with local church households, which often involved sleeping on concrete or bamboo floors, washing with buckets of cold water and using squat toilets.

“Despite this, for most of the group, the trip has sparked a passion to work with disadvantaged people locally or overseas.

“They now realise it’s just ordinary people who do extraordinary work in mission, and they can do it too, if they are prepared to take a step out in faith,” Michelle said.

Life is improving for Nerolie Schrader, thanks to the Uniting Church’s Indigenous Employment Strategy and her own personal drive and determination.

Thirty-six-year-old Nerolie describes her upbringing and early years as “pretty negative”.

“I have a colourful past, and I wasn’t always that well behaved.”

While working as a kitchen hand at Wesley Uniting Mission’s Ashman Grove Aged Care facility, Nerolie heard about the IES.

When she was offered an opportunity to work as a personal carer on a 15 month IES traineeship, she jumped at the chance.

“I’ve got a soft spot for old people and love chatting with them.”

However, Nerolie says, it was a challenging time and she’s thankful for the vital support of IES Manager Ivan Copley.

“This all fits in with traditional Indigenous values.

“On Sunday nights we get together in church for a service and a feed — a table fellowship. What happens on Sunday night is a continuation of all the community stuff that happens through the week.”

Congress minister, Rev Hohaia Matthews, left, with the Salvation Army’s Captain David Wright, at Port Augusta. They often lead the Christian Congress services together.

IES puts life back on track

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Helping the bereaved

ST ANDREW’S Hospital is implementing a bereavement support and follow-up program. Chaplain, Rev Mark Dickens, said the loss of a loved one is one of the most significant losses that can be experienced.

“It isn’t something people can prepare themselves for, even when the loss is anticipated – in cases where death is inevitable and treatment is for comfort, not cure,” he said.

“No two people grieve in the same way. However, there are similarities of experience that can be shared.”

Mark said the bereavement support program will have two main components.

The first will focus on the individual – by way of follow-up phone calls and letters to family members of patients who have died in hospital. The program’s second component is corporate.

“It will include an invitation to attend a four week series entitled Connecting the Pieces: Life after Loss,” Mark said.

This will be conducted in August, with a two hour session each week.

Church groups unite behind Pancake Day to support community services

ON SHROVE TUESDAY, Uniting Church agencies, congregations, schools and other groups joined together for UnitingCare’s first national Pancake Day.

In South Australia 113 groups registered to cook and sell 52 pancakes.

More than $11,000 was raised from pancake sales to support the work of Uniting Church community services in this state.

Public awareness was also firmly focused on the church’s vital work caring for the homeless, addicted, unemployed, aged and disadvantaged.

Hackney Mission was one agency to benefit from this year’s Pancake Day proceeds.

Hackney Mission has been supporting people in crisis for more than 100 years through the provision of food, clothing and counselling services across the city, North Adelaide, the north eastern suburbs and Adelaide Hills.

Late last year the mission moved from a deteriorating former Methodist Church building in Hackney to Clayton-Wesley Uniting Church complex at Norwood.

“We’ve formed a co-location partnership with Clayton-Wesley Uniting Church which will be similar to the relationship between Maughan Church and Adelaide Central Mission,” the mission’s General Manager Kym Whittington said.

“With the change in circumstances, the mission is also considering a name change to something like UnitingCare Adelaide East.

“The gift of Pancake Day money is of enormous benefit to our service delivery and is greatly appreciated.”

500 reasons to celebrate

WHILE THE Uniting Church celebrated its 25th birthday in 2002, five Resthaven Mitcham residents had something much bigger to celebrate — a collective 500 years between them.

In October a very special birthday party was held at Resthaven Mitcham for four female residents who had recently turned 100 and one gentleman who became a centenarian on Christmas Eve.

The five say there’s no secret to their longevity, but suggest good genes, a healthy lifestyle, keeping busy and plain good luck are definitely contributing factors. Centenarian Ethel Richardson, who’s been living at Resthaven for the past 20 years, has always had strong links with the church.

Ethel’s engineer husband Harold was also a lay preacher for 50 years and they started attending a Methodist church in Croydon soon after marrying in 1926.

Last October a special party was held for Ethel and her 92 guests in the Croydon Park Uniting Church hall.

Statistics show more people are surviving beyond 100. Latrobe University research shows centenarians are possibly the fastest growing age group in Australia and numbers are set to double during the next 10 years. It’s estimated Australia had 2,589 centenarians last year.

Community Services Commission

The Uniting Church in SA supports a wide range of services including chaplaincy, health services, post-disaster care, aged care and welfare support. These services may be provided through Uniting Church agencies or congregations.

Through its agencies, the Uniting Church is the largest non-government provider of community services in Australia. UnitingCare is the collective name for the Uniting Church’s community service agencies.
Financial Report: Final 2002 result

IN 2002 the Uniting Church (Synod of SA) had a budget of $4.55 million. This does not include the expenditure of the 370 UC congregations in SA or church agencies such as aged care providers and missions. The Mission and Service Fund ended the year with a normal operating surplus of $36,000, but after some “one off” adjustments, the final surplus was $192,000.

Income

Our three main sources of income are:

- Contributions to the Mission and Service Fund from SA congregations. This amounted to $1.19 million in 2002 which represented 25% of SA Synod income. This support from weekly offerings is greatly appreciated and contributes directly to the wider mission and ministry of the Uniting Church in this state and beyond.
- Income from investments and grants. The Mission and Service Fund is reliant on income from a range of investments which amounted to $2.13 million in 2002 or 45% of the total. We receive income from investments accumulated over the years through good stewardship; from bequests (William Parkin and Rh White were major benefactors) and from rental returns from buildings at 33 and 212 Prie Street and 164 Fullarton Road.
- Income raised by Synod ministry centres which contribute towards their own costs. Receipts from these various sources amounted to $1.41 million or 30% of our income last year. For example Parkin-Wesley College generates income from course fees and grants and the Secretariat generates income from New Times advertising.

Expenditure

All councils of the Uniting Church receive grants from the Mission and Service Fund, including Assembly, Synod ministry centres, presbyteries and congregations, (particularly those struggling to meet ministry costs). However these figures and pie charts can at best only provide a numerical summary. The real stories—the impact of new mission activities, the nurturing of grass roots ministry and the lives transformed through Christ are contained on the other pages of this annual report.

This financial report is a summary only. Please contact the Synod office on 8227 0822 if you would like more information or detailed audited reports.

Many other Church assets also contribute funds for mission. Other income is generated through:

- Camps and conference centres
- Motor Vehicle Lease Scheme
- Church Loan Fund
- Gift Funding
- The Property Sales Proceeds policy.

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

Income and Expenditure

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<th>INCOME 2002</th>
<th>$</th>
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<td>Contributions from congregations</td>
<td>Adelaide North West</td>
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<td>Eyre</td>
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<td>Mount Lofty</td>
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<td>The Coorong</td>
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<td>Wakefield</td>
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<td>Income from investments</td>
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<td>Epworth Building</td>
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<td>Investments, donations, etc.</td>
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<td>Parkin Mission</td>
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<td>Income raised by Synod ministry centres</td>
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<td>Community Services Commission</td>
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<td>GAiCC</td>
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<td>Indigenous Employment Strategy</td>
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<td>1,417,542</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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EXPENDITURE 2002

| Assembly and ecumenical support | 439,200 |  |
| Synod ministry centres |  |
| Mission Resourcing Network | 464,053 |  |
| Educational Ministries Commission | 840,249 |  |
| Resources Board | 686,769 |  |
| Secretariat | 790,992 |  |
| Community Services Commission | 560,046 |  |
| GAiCC | 349,195 |  |
| Indigenous Employment Strategy | 61,904 | 2,671,708 |  |
| Presbyteries and congregations | 342,121 |  |
| Other | 106,027 | 4,559,056 |  |
| Normal operating surplus for the year | 36,704 |  |
| *Once off* investment income adjustments | 156,000 |  |
| Total surplus | 192,704 |  |

This financial report is a summary only. Please contact the Synod office on 8227 0822 if you would like more information or detailed audited reports.

Stories: Jill Freear and Nicholas Kerr.
Photography: Nicholas Kerr and Steve Davis.
Design: The Editorial Works.
Printer: Cadillac Printing.

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