As a church community, God calls us to “Go and make disciples.” Part of this challenge is for us to go out into our communities to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in as many relevant ways as we can.

This means that we’re called to be “there when it counts” … for the person struggling with the pressures and difficulties of life … for the individual looking for meaningful relationships … for the Year 12 student worried about exams and the future … for the refugee in Baxter Detention Centre ….

This annual report illustrates just some of the ways that we connect with our community. It also shows how the $1.2 million donated by church members to the Mission and Service Fund is used for ministry.

Our hope is that the stories and images in this report will encourage us to pray for the wider church to which we all belong.

While this report demonstrates some of the exciting things God is doing in our Church – our hope is that it will inspire every one of us in our own faith journey and also challenge every local congregation to discover the new ways that God is calling them to reach out to people in their local communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace

Graham Humphris
Moderator

Stuart Cameron
General Secretary
Leading our church

Young people aren’t our “leaders of tomorrow” – they’re leading the church now.

Two of the ten people on the Two Wells Uniting Church’s council are under 25. Nineteen year old Eleisha and 21 year old Sarah bring a youthful vigour to the council meetings.

“Their involvement isn’t tokenistic,” says their minister, Allen Cameron. “They are very committed in their faith and to the future ministry of the church. They put forward ideas and ask questions that those of us who’ve been around for longer wouldn’t ever think of.”

Together with David and Tim from Mallala, the young women are going to the 2004 Synod meeting.

Eleisha thinks it will be good to experience the wider church and share some thoughts of her own.

Her willingness to be involved in the church as a youth leader, elder and Synod member is summed up in one sentence.

“I want to be there for others - just like those who have inspired and looked after me in my Christian walk.”

Volunteers "cook up a storm" at the Red Dove Café at the Royal Adelaide Show. The Café raised $30,000 for mission projects in 2003.

Tee Jay gives KUCA Camp Out the thumbs up. He’s pictured with Graham, Matthew and Ashley – all from Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church.

Kath Smart has served Uniting Church Adult Fellowships as a volunteer typist for their Together Magazine for 20 years.
Community

God can and does change lives. God can and does change lives. God can and does change lives. God can and does change lives.

Congregations & Presbyteries

There are 351 congregations and seven presbyteries within South Australia.

Highlights of 2003-04

- Around 23,000 people worship in our congregations around the State.
- A national rural ministry conference was hosted by the Coorong Presbytery and SA Rural Ministry Unit in 2003.
- $56,000 in grants-in-aid was donated to four congregations who were facing financial challenges in 2003. Three congregations will receive a total of $31,000 in 2004.

Have coffee machine ... will travel!

Each Friday, Mike Annells sets up a café in the Year 12 Common Room at Golden Grove High School.

Mike is Chaplain at the school and Youth and Young Adults Pastor at Pedare Uniting Church.

The church has underwritten the purchase of the commercial coffee machine as part of their commitment to ministry with young people.

Mike’s office is on the outskirts of the school. He believes it makes more sense to be where the students are.

“Year 12 can be a stressful time. We provide a place where people can chill out before re-focusing on their studies.

“We might talk about school or music .... many a godly conversation has sparked up over coffee.”

Mike is supported by a team of volunteers from Pedare Uniting Church, Greenwith Salvation Army and the Victory Christian Centre.

And things are certainly looking up at Pedare Uniting Church. Worship attendance has increased by 60% in the past 18 months with 300-350 people regularly attending.

Trevor Backler, member of the ministry team at Kingston, Robe and Reedy Creek.

Anne Wills and Rev Peter Whittington at the opening of the Computer Centre which operates as part of the Wednesday at Enfield Program.

Church members from across Kangaroo Island celebrate worship at American River.
Inspired to ‘thrive’

Challenging … Inspiring … Invigorating … Risky. These were just some of the words used to describe Thomas Bandy’s presentation to 430 Church leaders at the Thriving Church leadership conference in July 2004.

The Mission Resourcing Network (MRN) was instrumental in organising Tom’s visit to Australia. More than 1,000 people participated in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Adelaide.

“Tom helped us to focus on establishing a vital mission, creating healthy congregations, and planning for growth,” explains Ian Price, Mission Network Leader. “He encouraged us to see the many opportunities that lie before the church to engage in ministry with the community.”

More than 30 ministers have signed up for a one-year continuing education program that is related to this conference.

Both of these initiatives are part of the MRN’s mandate to help the church embrace the necessary change that will enable us to minister effectively in the next decade. To find out more about the MRN visit www.missionresourcing.net.au

The Litchfield family from Adelaide have spent the past 2.5 years in Northern Thailand. In late 2004, they continue their ministry in Bangkok.

Aberfoyle Uniting Church is a Centre for Evangelism. Children’s programs are just one of the many ways the congregation reaches out to the local community.

The 2004 Lenten Appeal raised over $40,000. Funds raised will help a number of projects including establishing a weaving workshop in the Porn Niran Village near Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand which will assist in generating funds to send local children to school. Photo: David Clayton.

Mission Resourcing Network

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

Highlights of 2003-04

- More than 50 people were involved in short term exposure trips and work parties to places like Tonga, Thailand, India, Vanuatu and the Philippines.
- The SA Synod has a two-way relationship with our four partner churches. During the year, we hosted guests from Papua New Guinea and West Papua. We also supported local mission workers serving overseas including Rachel and Scott Litchfield and Kate and Adam Tretheway.
- The inaugural Mission Expo, held as part of the 2003 Synod, attracted over 300 people.
- The network includes ten MRN Centres - many of these are based in local congregations.
- Leadership Development continues to be a priority. A dozen ministers participated in an educational exposure trip visiting dynamic regional churches in Queensland and Victoria.
The Uniting Church is committed to working in partnership with Indigenous people through the UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress). David Wright and Ken Sumner live out that commitment every day.

David is the Mobile Aboriginal Patrol Minister, based in Port Augusta. With the financial support of Frontier Services, he is responsible for ministry with Aboriginal people from the Flinders Ranges to Marree and Oodnadatta. This is no mean feat, given that his “church” is spread a distance equivalent to travelling from Adelaide to Melbourne.

“I feel a deep sense of privilege and humbleness in being able to be in ministry with people of great spirituality and immense faith,” says David.

Meanwhile, Ken Sumner has been focusing on another part of the State. As Development and Outreach Officer, Ken is nurturing the Congress’ ministry in the South East particularly in towns such as Kingston and Mt. Gambier.

“Congress ministry is all about empowering and encouraging Aboriginal people,” says Ken.

The Congress took a key part in a rally protesting about the disbanding of ATSIC.
Putting her passion into action

Twenty-two year old Miriam Schultz is bursting with enthusiasm. She’s just completed Youth Ministry Foundations and is now taking part in the Youth Ministry Project run by Parkin-Wesley College.

“This has been a great opportunity to put my passion into action,” says Miriam.

“We are part of the changing church. As potential leaders the course helps us to seek out what God wants us to be.

“It’s been helpful to share my ideas as well as learn from other people.”

The youth ministry project involves working alongside a mentor. Miriam is working with the youth minister at her home church at Port Adelaide.

“I’ve learned about the values of networking and building community as a basis for ministry. As a result of that, I’ve been part of starting a small group at my church. I’ve learned that its okay to start small … and think big.”

To find out more about youth ministry courses contact Matthew Carratt, Youth Project Officer at the College on 8416 8432.
An anchor in a storm

Chaplain Sharonne Price describes her role as being “an anchor or safe harbour for people in a storm.”

Sharonne is Chaplain at the Flinders Private and Memorial Hospitals which are part of the ACHA Health Group. She supports patients, their families, and hospital staff.

“People in our care need to know that they are valued and that there is hope and meaning despite life’s difficulties.”

“Spiritual needs are really important in the healing process. All of us find that our values and thinking get really scrambled in times of crisis. It is important that people have access to support and understanding as they begin to make sense of what is happening to them.”

Sharonne is one of 31 chaplains serving in full or part-time paid positions associated with the UnitingCare Commission. There are around another one hundred people serving as assistant chaplains or volunteer visitors around the State.
Wider Church

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

Highlights of 2003-04

• **Coolamon College**, the Uniting Church's national agency for theological education by distance mode, relocated to Adelaide in January 2004.

• 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.

• **The Assembly** (the national council of the Uniting Church in Australia) continued to support a variety of national initiatives including People in Mission (based in South Australia), Frontier Services and Uniting Overseas Aid.

Called to serve God in ‘retirement’

We all have grand plans for our retirement. So did Jan and Jeff Hudson. But they had their plans turned upside down when, after 10 years in retirement, God called them to Thailand.

The couple from the Tusmore Memorial congregation are serving in an 18-month placement with our partner church – the Church of Christ in Thailand. They are working alongside local Thai teachers in Chiang Rai.

“My hope is to be obedient to God, to be able to adapt to a new culture and to work alongside the people in Thailand,” said Jan at their commissioning service.

The Uniting Church’s **People in Mission** program provides an opportunity for people of all ages to serve in placements with partner churches in the Asia-Pacific region. There are a variety of short-term and long-term opportunities available, as well as short term exposure trips and work parties. To find out more contact Sandy Boyce on 8236 4240 or email sandy@sa.uca.org.au.

Pictured above: Jan and Jeff Hudson were inspired by Micah 6:8 … *The Lord has told us what is good: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.*

**Rev Dr Samuel Kobia**, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, visits the Baxter Detention Centre.

**Emma Hutchinson**, a member of the Rosefield congregation, used her skills as an occupational therapist while serving as a volunteer in Romania from July to December 2003.

**Dean Drayton**, Assembly President, with Lee Levett-Olsen, Principal, Coolamon College. Lee is holding an Aboriginal coolamon presented to him during his induction service.

Through weekly offerings, church members contribute directly to the wider mission and ministry of the Uniting Church. Many of the stories shared in this Annual Report are only possible because your congregation gives to the Mission and Service Fund. The Mission and Service Fund is exactly what its name suggests - a fund that supports the mission and service activities of the Uniting Church. Your generosity has touched the lives of thousands of South Australians. Thank you.

How much do we spend?

In 2003, the Uniting Church (Synod of SA) had a budget of $5.62 million. This amount does not include the expenditure of individual congregations or church agencies (such as aged care providers, missions and schools). Our income comes from three main sources:

- Contributions from Congregations ($1.2 million) – donations from congregations to the Mission and Service Fund in 2003 represent 23% of SA Synod income.
- Income from investments and grants ($2.46 million) – the Synod generates income from investments accumulated over the years through good stewardship; from bequests; and from rental returns from buildings at 33 and 212 Pirie Street and 164 Fullarton Road. The Synod's Insurance Agency and Investment Fund, also make annual donations.
- Income raised by Synod ministry centres ($1.58 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).

Where does the money go?

All councils of the Uniting Church receive grants from the Mission and Service Fund, including Assembly, Synod Ministry Centres, Presbyteries and Congregations.

The income and expenditure chart is a numerical summary of the church's activities in 2003. The real story is not about numbers – it is about lives changed …. communities transformed … and a church that is there when it counts.

Highlights of 2003-04

- Called to Care equips church councils to provide a safe environment for mission and ministry while managing risks and responsibilities. This Duty of Care resource kit was launched this year.
- Epworth building, former home of the SA Synod, was sold with proceeds invested to provide on-going income to the Mission and Service Fund and Uniting Foundation.
- Regular Electronic Giving (REG) is attracting a growing number of users. Over 480 people in 51 congregations give their weekly offering electronically.
- A new Synod grants committee was established to oversee the distribution of funding in 2004: $60,000 grant in aid, $586,000 gift funding and $625,000 from the Uniting Foundation.
- The Uniting Church Insurance Agency and the Uniting Church Investment Fund continue to financially support the Mission and Service Fund.
- The Uniting Foundation was launched in April 2004, with a start up capital of $3.8 million. The foundation will provide funding for leadership and property development.
## INCOME 2003

### Mission and Service Fund
- contributions from congregations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide North West</td>
<td>266,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyre</td>
<td>58,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleurieu</td>
<td>360,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frome</td>
<td>63,557</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Lofty</td>
<td>300,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Coorong</td>
<td>85,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakefield</td>
<td>91,884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income from other sources

- Epworth Building: 200,000
- Investments, donations, etc: 908,412
- Parkin Mission: 560,000
- Camps and Conference Centres: 3,406
- Uniting Church Insurance Agency: 300,000
- Uniting Church Investment Fund: 491,000
- Other: 74,776

### Income raised by Synod ministry centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Centre</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Resourcing Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Resourcing Network Centres</td>
<td>2,312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Ministries Commission</td>
<td>707,691</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources Board</td>
<td>323,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat (Including Events &amp; Ministers Support)</td>
<td>137,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications and Public Relations</td>
<td>102,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>UnitingCare Commission</td>
<td>138,275</td>
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<td>Uniting Aboriginal &amp; Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)</td>
<td>99,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Employment Strategy</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total income**

5,342,212

## EXPENDITURE 2003

### Presbyteries and congregations

462,005

### Synod ministry centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Centre</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Educational Ministries Commission</td>
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<td>Resources Board</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>UnitingCare Commission</td>
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<td>Uniting Aboriginal &amp; Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)</td>
<td>297,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Employment Strategy</td>
<td>63,046</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditure**

5,624,710

**Operating Deficit for the year**

(282,498)

This financial report is a summary of the results for the 2003 calendar year. If you would like to receive the detailed audited reports, or any further information please phone Jo Watts on (08) 8236 4260.
Uniting Church ... there when it counts

Uniting Church Synod of South Australia 2003-04 Annual Report

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

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