

Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia
Lay Preachers' Committee

Chairperson / Secretary
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To Accredited Lay Preachers and Candidates for Lay Preacher in South Australia

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus.

In this first Lay Preachers' newsletter for 2020 you will find information about:

- Special anniversaries for Lay Preachers
- Lay Preachers' Sunday
- Support for rural congregations
- Resources for worship and preaching
- Subsidies for the purchase of worship and preaching resources.

Special anniversaries

We are delighted to recognise several people who reach significant anniversaries in their work as Lay Preachers this year:

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated the anniversaries of these people at the Synod Celebration of Ministries service:

Mrs Rosemary Hunt	40 years
Mrs Nola Pearce	40
Mr Peter Shackelford	40
Dr Neil McIntosh	50
Mr Don Bubner	60
Mrs Heather Maynard	60
Mr Don Richardson	60
Dr David Taplin	60
Miss Shirley Heaysman	70
Mr Milton Hender	70

And now I am delighted to advise that these people are reaching significant anniversaries this year:

Ron Tiller	40
Rosalie Smith	50
Keith Maynard	60
Jeanette Staehr	60
Enid Wurfel	60
Howard Ramsay	70

We also have three other people marking 30, 40 and 61 years respectively.

We thank God for the faithful service over so many years of these servants of God and the church.

Lay Preachers' Sunday

Our Synod recognises the first Sunday in August as Lay Preacher Sunday in SA. The Lay Preachers' Committee has prepared some notes for preaching and worship for the day: a copy is attached to this newsletter. It is also on the UCA Synod website. We encourage all people in the Uniting Church to mark this occasion, either on the date set aside or on a nearby date appropriate for the congregation.

National Conference

The next month after that, September (10th to 13th to be precise) is the National Conference of Lay Preachers 2020: from Friday lunchtime to Monday lunchtime at *Alexandra Headlands Conference Centre* on the Sunshine Coast.

The conference is being organised in conjunction with the Synod of Queensland and Trinity College, Queensland's theological college.

The theme is **Lay Preaching Unleashed** and the conference is expected to include sessions on topics including:

- Indigenous matters
- multicultural
- rural
- theological and biblical understanding
- contemporary worship
- music
- children's ministry.

The program includes a mix of plenary and small-group sessions, worship and resourcing times, and time for rest, recreation and making new friends.

So – put the date in your diary, and plan to be there. A strong South Australian contingent would be wonderful to see. And apart from that, conferences such as this are always fabulous times of friendship, community, learning, and developing new skills.

There's a note below about subsidies for the purchase of resources. Do remember that the subsidy applies to events like this National Conference too.

Presbyteries

You will know that Presbyteries have been re-established as part of the administration and pastoral care of the Uniting Church Synod of SA. The formalities around approving Lay Preacher Candidacy, Accreditation and Commissioning continue to be managed by Synod, through Lay Preachers' Committee. The Presbyteries and the Synod are substantially agreed about how this will all work, and the process will begin soon of writing it all up in clear language!! From your point of view, though, things will continue as they have been for several years now.

Reminders

Support for rural congregations

A reminder that your Lay Preachers' Committee has a programme in place of support for rural congregations who particularly seek assistance with their worship and preaching. It's a small-scale undertaking, but important for those congregations who are assisted by it, and they welcome any support you can offer:

Millicent	Gloria Garret (secretary) 8733 2340 PO Box 696, Millicent 5280 is the church postal address.	
Southern Flinders	(Booleroo Centre and nearby) Merilyn McKay 8667 2440	rbmckay@active8.net.au
Tumby Bay	Gladys Fleming 8688 2436	gladysf@ozemail.com.au

Tantanoola Sue Lines
 Geranium Margaret and David Smith 8577 2216
 Southern Yorke Peninsula Valmai Crosby

islines1@bigpond.com
david@malleetech.com
valmaicr@bigpond.com

If your congregation – whether it's rural or urban – would like to be added to this list, please let me know. I can also provide a list of Lay Preachers who live within the vicinity of your church.
 On a slightly smaller scale (only slightly), if you are willing to travel some distance from home to lead worship (including whether you are able to travel on a Saturday and stay overnight), could you let me know, so that I can add your name to that list of available people.

Resources for worship and preaching

Just a reminder that MediaCom Education is a supplier, to the Uniting Church nationally, of resources to assist with preaching and leading worship. They publish catalogues at regular intervals – these catalogues can be accessed, for those with internet access, by typing the name MediaCom into the search box. Otherwise ring 1800 811 311.

Their resources for worship and preaching include:

- Will Willimon's *Pulpit Resource* and *Lectionary Sermon Resource*,
- The *Abingdon Preaching Annual* and *Worship Annual*, and
- Prayer resources.
- There are resources specifically for Lent and Easter, and
- Magazine subscriptions such as *Upper Room*, *Sojourners*, *Get MESSY*, and *Words for Worship*.
- *The Lay Leaders' Liturgy Resource*: an SA production available by on-line subscription.

Subsidies for the purchase of preaching and worship resources

Accredited Lay Preachers and Candidates in training are entitled to receive support for **purchases of worship and preaching resources**, and for attendance at accredited courses of study (ACD, Uniting College & similar).

For resources, the reimbursement is 50% of the cost, to a limit of \$100 per year.

The subsidy extends to attendance at conferences conducted by the Uniting Church or its agencies – the National Conference, for example!! – and is in addition to the books / resources subsidy.

To obtain your reimbursement, contact Mr Peter Whiting at 32 St Nicholas Ave, Port Willunga 5173 or peter.whiting5@bigpond.com or on 8556 5757. Please be aware that as of a few months ago it is no longer possible to make payment by cheque: you will need to provide Peter with the details to enable a bank account transfer of your subsidy. If this causes you difficulty, by all means ring Peter and something will be worked out.

Again I wish to thank you for your commitment and dedication to the work of Lay Preacher, and for the work you do for God through the Church and this ministry. It is an enormous privilege to take up this Call to serve the people of God.

Grace and peace.

Max Howland
 Convener, Lay Preachers' Committee