

New Times



The United Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

August - September 2022 • Issue 48 / No 4



Synod '22

Contents

Features

The Spirit of harmony and ecumenical community at the closing of NAIDOC Week 2022 4

Synod '22 Update.....5-13

Farewell Rev Felicity Amery 14

Red Dove Café and Food for the Soul Art exhibition 15

Connecting with Ancestors Retreat 16-17

Vermont Uniting Church –
Transitioning to a new beginning 18

Happy 100th Audrey 19

Thank you Sandala 19

Regular pages

Note from the Editor 2

Message from the Acting Moderator 3

Classifieds 29-31

Cover details:

Worship table Synod '22 Meeting

Editor: Bridget Ransome

Advertising: Engagement Team

Design: Henry Nguyen

Print: Graphic Print Group

For editorial enquiries:

Phone: (08) 8236 4249

Email: engagement@sa.uca.org.au

Mail: The Editor, New Times

GPO Box 2145

Adelaide SA 5001

For advertising bookings:

Phone: (08) 8236 4249

Email: engagement@sa.uca.org.au

Print circulation: 7,000



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

Synod of South Australia
Level 2, 212 Pirie St, Adelaide
Phone: (08) 8236 4200
Fax: (08) 8236 4201
Country callers: 1300 766 956



sa.uca.org.au

From the Editor

The main feature in this issue of 'New Times' is all about the recent Synod meeting which was held in Hahndorf in June. This is a very important meeting for the church, held annually to discuss and make decisions on the future of the Uniting Church going forward.

Organising and bringing together over 250 people for two full days presents many logistical challenges, and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those very much 'behind the scenes' Synod staff who worked tirelessly to make the experience for members as seamless as possible.

To Kate Sutherland, our events officer extraordinaire, who handled the liaison between the Synod and the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre with professionalism and flair and was on hand to troubleshoot any issues or concerns. Your calm approach to everything, where nothing was too much trouble was so appreciated.

To the wonderful Secretariat team: Silvana Marveggio (PA to the Moderator and Acting Moderator); Chris Jaensch (Reception/Administration Assistant); Gill Morel (PA to the Acting General Secretary) and to Ann Cotton (PA/Administrative Officer for UnitingCare) for your organisational abilities, and for the multifarious tasks that you managed, before, during and after the meeting, often with great humour and despite the pressure!

To the members of my own team in the Engagement Ministry Centre: Alex Gatley and Henry Nguyen (Graphic & Digital Designers) for your daily creativity with design and communications, and leading up to the Synod meeting, including your calm approach to all things photography during the meeting. Especially when I would often ask 'Can you do etc. etc.' – and I would then fill in the gap and you would always respond in the positive!

And to Malcolm Wilson (Acting Associate General Secretary) for stepping into the breach at short notice, and working so closely with us all to deliver the business of the Synod meeting.

To all of you I acknowledge a great team.

Bridget Ransome
Executive Officer Engagement

Restoration ...



As the members of Synod 22 were encouraged to look out upon the Peramangk hills through the full-length glass windows of the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre in Hahndorf, many people commented on the beauty of the vista and the sense of healing peace the scenery invoked.

In his welcome to country, Peramangk elder, Ivan Copley reminded the gathering of the first migrant Prussian settlers who were saved from starvation by the food given by local women. The Prussians faced anxious times, as their weakened members died from hunger and exposure. Their devotion to daily prayer and praise had given them the strength to endure the treacherous sea voyage to Adelaide, the long trek into the Peramangk hills and their resolve to face their first harsh winter, living in tree trunk hollows and tents. Did these new arrivals joyfully recognise the salvation they prayed for in the kindness of the Peramangk women? The journey to self-sufficiency from their European gardens and small livestock herds took two-three anxious years.



Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.' Psalm 51:12.

Society has also been on a treacherous journey these past two-three years with the world COVID-19 pandemic. These continue to be anxious times for us. Dr Archibald Hart, who visited our Synod some years ago to talk about stress says in his book 'The Anxiety Cure' that 'Anxiety is a disease of stress.' He talked about the damaging effect of constant adrenalin produced in response to stress, on our capacity to be restored from anxiety. Too much adrenalin over long periods of time can lead to many anxiety-related illnesses like depression and panic attacks and can affect our coping abilities, creating stressors on valued relationships. Perhaps you have noticed heightened anxiety in your own life at work or at home or just in the public arena.

Things that help restore our well-being from stressors can include being in nature, which can be as simple as a walk in a park or down the farm track or lifting your eyes to the hills across the plains. When the world stopped during the 2020 lockdowns, our stressed creation quickly showed signs of restoration.

We desperately need restoration too for our well-being and for our communities.

St Paul claims we need joy, encouragement, unity and peace for restoration. Aren't these the fruit from reduced stress? Consider the restoration needed for your own life - what helps you? Can you think of ways to be a restorer of others?

'Finally brothers and sisters rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you.' (2 Corinthians 13:11)

Sue Ellis
Acting Moderator

Rev Sue Ellis is Acting Moderator for the Synod of South Australia at the present, as the Moderator, Mr Bronte Wilson is currently on leave.



The Spirit of harmony and ecumenical community at the closing of NAIDOC Week 2022

by Meredith Edwards and Marelle Harisun

Pilgrim Uniting Church was honoured, once again, to host the annual NAIDOC Week ecumenical service on Sunday 10th July.

First Nations and non-Indigenous members of all Adelaide's major Christian denominations filled the pews of the church. The diversity of backgrounds and faith was matched by the wide age-range with all singing well-known hymns such as 'How Great Thou Art' with the church organ at full throttle and were entertained by well-known Port Augusta dance troupe – *Dusty Feet Mob*.

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC, CBE, DSG established the annual event and recommended that it be held at Pilgrim Uniting Church in the heart of the city. A hard-working band of religious and community leaders, led by Pastor Don Hayward, ensured that the ecumenical service was well-attended.

The combined congregation heard stories and messages that reinforced the 2022 NAIDOC Week theme, 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' Underpinning the call to advocate

for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples and the acknowledgement that there is still much that needs to be done to attend to the well-being and aspirations of First Nations people. At the conclusion of the service, all were invited to share the meal catered for by a Pacific and Torres Strait Islander group.

Hosting of such an important event is in line with Pilgrim Church's Covenanting plan. In March of 2022, a Symposium on the Uluru Statement from the Heart was held and guest presenters included Rev Dr Denise Champion, Rev Dr Chris Budden and Covenanting and International Mission Officer Tarlee Leondaris.

Pilgrim Church is currently planning to extend beyond ecumenical work towards the implementation of Voice, Treaty and Truth with a multi-faith approach to raising awareness of the social justice issues underpinning the call for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.



Synod '22 Update

Synod '22 was held on the 24th and 25th June at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre in Hahndorf. This was an important coming together of Synod members to re-connect, and to also make important decisions for the Uniting Church in South Australia and its future direction.

The main room of the Convention Centre offered floor to ceiling windows which overlooked a gentle undulating valley of green, featuring a small lake and it was a tranquil setting and a welcome time to step away from daily life.

The meeting commenced with a Welcome to Country delivered by Ivan Copley. Ivan acknowledged the coming together on the traditional land of the Peramangk people of the Adelaide Hills.

He spoke of the first settlers in the region being of Prussian ancestry and how Prussian women befriended the Peramangk women who taught them how to survive in the landscape.

The relationship between Aboriginal women and non-Aboriginal women became a close one as they worked together for their mutual survival.

Ivan commented on the view from the expansive windows towards the Mt Lofty Ranges noting that they continue to be an inspiration for some of the oldest cultural stories that currently exist in Adelaide.





Moderator Elect Nomination

The ballot for the confirmation of the Moderator Elect affirmed Rev Peter Morel as the next Moderator Elect.

Peter thanked the meeting for the opportunity to present and also for being able to be a part of this with nominee Rev Linda Driver. He added that they both had worked together over many years and that the discernment process had been very inspiring and touching and that he had found that this was a profound call for him.

Peter said that he took on the call with an attitude of surrender to God's guidance, reaffirming that it is through us all that we hear God's call to the voice of the church.

He spoke of his congregational and chaplaincy ministries and his engagement with local and international mission institutes; his time spent in the Eyre Peninsula and Balhannah and that he grew up in rural Western Australia.

As Moderator Elect, Peter expressed his desire to strengthen relationships with rural congregations. He is currently in his 14th year of chaplaincy at St Andrew's Hospital where he finds that he has a wonderful opportunity to engage with a diverse population. He is also aware of the suffering in our community but that there is also joy and celebration.

Peter added that chaplaincy has changed him in that it has expanded and broadened his experience of how God is working in the

world. He is able to embody the Gospel, called to work at all levels in the hospital community and affirming the worth and value of each and every role in the community.

As Moderator, Peter said that he would be able to offer pastoral support across the Synod; to deepen the relationship with Congress; and to spend the time needed to be in relationship with all. He has also been involved with many committees and councils of the church and has the skills to lead and to be a person of hope grounded in the church.

Peter offers himself to the ministry of Moderator with passion and commitment being seriously joyful and joyfully serious - and present.

Worship

Members were asked to continue to contemplate the beautiful view from the windows of the conference room during worship times throughout the two days and to connect with and acknowledge the presence of God with all in attendance.

Many times during the Synod meeting members sang the song Yanakanai.

Yankakanai – come

Wimilangha ikapala – we will sit together in the gathering

Arrawatanha – Most high

Ngarpalangha ikandha – is present here.

(Denise Champion and Jennifer Hughes, Used with permission.)

Translation from Adnyamathanha to English.

During the Litany, members were asked to write their prayers on strips of coloured paper on their tables. They were then asked to staple the strips into circles and to link them together.



In Memoriam

The meeting acknowledged the following Ministers that have passed away since the meeting of the Synod in February 2021:

Rev Neeltje Elisabeth van Dyk

Rev William Robert Maitland Dow

Rev Douglas Walter (Bill) Hancock

Philip Eugene Houston (Lay Pastor)

Rev Dr Ian Ross McKenzie Parsons

Rev William Thomas Rothwell

Rev Bryan Malcolm Young.

Assembly Report

Rev Sharon Hollis, National Assembly President and Colleen Geyer, National Assembly General Secretary co-presented an Assembly Report and confirmed that it was a privilege for them to be in attendance at the Synod of South Australia meeting.

Highlights from the recently re-convened Assembly Meeting were presented including:

- Act1
- Climate Change
- Congress
- Aged Care Advocacy
- Education and Formation

- Gender based violence 'Thursdays in Black' campaign / Development of family and domestic violence resources
- National Insurance Program
- Resources for special times within the Uniting Church
- Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday.

Overall emphasis was placed on the work that needs to be done to challenge, renew and strengthen the faith of the Uniting Church in Australia.



Proposals

The business of the meeting discussed and debated a number of proposals and decisions were made. Further information about the proposals is available on the Synod website at this link: <https://sa.uca.org.au/about-us/synod-meetings>

Highlights included:

Presbytery Restructure Review

It was noted that it was difficult to report on the impact of the presbytery restructure without taking into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as presbyteries have looked for new ways of doing mission as well as continuing to embrace some of the old ways.

As community life continued to be lived on screens the grief of this period was acknowledged, understanding that the Body of Christ still went out in word and deed in all presbyteries.

The proposals to affirm the people of God in presbyteries were heart-felt. Mission Resourcing received increased support as churches sought new ways of operating.

It was noted that there are different pathways to presbytery formation and different responses to this but there are certain things in common with all presbyteries:

- Lack of Uniting Church knowledge
- Leadership shortfalls
- Leadership meetings
- Property reports and their consequences
- CRM and privacy concerns
- Funding of Mission Resourcing
- Workload and shared responsibilities.



Strategy and Planning Mission and Property

This working group and its report emanated from the February 2021 meeting of the Synod of SA, the Chair of the Resources Board, Rev Rob Stoner and the General Secretary, Rev Felicity Amery when they presented a property report 'God's Church and its Buildings - Are they Fit for Mission?' The two tasks of the current working group are:

- To develop a future focussed strategy and to determine the number and geographic locations of buildings to house vibrant missional communities.
- What is it to be vibrant and missional with regard our properties?



UAICC Report

Ken Sumner provided the UAICC Report advising that this has been another year of change with Congress in SA. Highlights have been the development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Presbyteries; the Standing Committee approving Congress having the Powers of a Presbytery; the employment of the Theologian in Residence at Yarthu Apinithi; and the approval of the church building plans for Oodnadatta.

Ken particularly gave thanks to the work of staff within the UAICC.



A Reflection

By Tim Littleford

At the meeting, Tim spoke of the explorer Lewis (Lewis and Clark) in America and his canoeing journey of exploration. When Lewis reached a point where he struck the Rocky Mountains he could not canoe over this mountain, so he had to consider how to continue? The Uniting Church has been canoeing for many years and we have shaped our churches around rivers and it appears we have now reached the mountains.

We are in the middle of what Mark Sayers calls a 'grey zone.' A space between a passing era and a new era forming. Lewis experienced the end of a river era and the mountain era was ahead. Do we give up or do we change and adapt so we can move forward?

We are facing many challenges in the church including denominational decline and we cannot face these challenges in the same way as we have in the past. We are facing a moment where something needs to change: an adapt or die moment.

To not adapt, to not even try to climb these mountains, we will seal our fate as a denomination in South Australia. The reality is that we should be challenged and we should seek amongst this grey zone, to see the future with hope.

Should we the people in this church be more comfortable with endings? Why are conversations about change so difficult for us? Why do we seem to miss so many God opportunities? What stops us taking God's invitation to change?

Anxiety tends to promote the status quo. But we can choose to take small actions, to overcome our paralysis. We need to become a non-anxious presence.

How do we learn to climb mountains in this moment? The Bible says 'do not be afraid,' and we cannot be afraid if we are in the presence of God - and we are then with God in a non-anxious presence.

Seeking the non-anxious presence of God brings us to prayer. We pray on our knees, and allow God to show us the way. No matter what others are doing - you have the call to pray.

“
What stops us taking
God's invitation to
change?”

Synod Standing Committee

During the Synod meeting the following people were affirmed as members of the Synod Standing Committee for the next year:

Mr Jacob Blackwell

Mr Scott Davis

Rev Andrew Robertson

Rev Dianne Bury

Mr Bruce Ind

Mr Andrew Telfer

Mr David Buxton

Mrs Elizabeth Iussa

Rev Nathan Whillas.

Rev Dr Benji Callen

Rev Christa Megaw

Mrs Leanne Davis

Rev Ann Phillips

The Uniting Church sincerely thanks the committee members for their willingness to contribute their gifts and skills to serve the church.

Synod '22



[Return to Contents](#)





International Mission Update

By Tarlee Leondaris

The recommencement of international travel is encouraging for the Synod's international partnerships.

Recently there has been frequent dialogue between the Synod of South Australia and the Iksan Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). In preparation for the June Synod meeting, Rev Dr Sung Tai Choi from the PROK Iksan Presbytery sent warm greetings through a video message.

Rev Dr Sung Tai Choi expressed regret that it had been difficult to meet due to the pandemic, yet he was hopeful that with God's grace we can expect to meet again soon. In doing so he invited personnel from the Synod of South Australia to attend the Iksan Presbytery meeting in November 2022. Rev Dr Sung Tai Choi expressed hope this could be an opportunity to have a belated 30th anniversary celebration for the partnership.

Beverley Tredrea of Morialta Uniting Church has been involved in the partnership since its inception and Beverley explained that in 1989 the Mount Lofty Presbytery was one of three chosen by Assembly to pilot a scheme to develop overseas partnerships. The planning brief included:

- Develop closer relationships with partner churches in world mission
- Model effective ways of relating to partner churches for parishes and presbyteries.

Beverley shared that South Korea was selected for a partnership request as there was a Korean Congregation in the Mount Lofty Presbytery that met at Parkside Uniting Church.



The Mount Lofty Presbytery representatives prepared forms setting out partnership agreements and sent these to the Korean Methodist Church as well as the PROK. A response was received from the PROK West Chunbuk Presbytery (later Kunsan and Iksan Presbyteries) that they would like to accept the invitation for partnership.

In February 1991 the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed. Rev Cho Hee Sup (Moderator) and Rev Sung Wha Park (Director of Overseas Mission) signed the MOU for the Korean Presbytery and Rev Brian Ball signed on behalf of the Mount Lofty Presbytery. In 2006 the partnership was formally adopted by the Synod of South Australia.

In his recent video message Rev Dr Sung Tai Choi reminded us that the partnership has shared missional stories and learned valuable lessons in ministry and mission. Including journeying together where PROK visited Congress and heard their history; and in turn Uniting Church personnel explored historical Korean landmarks and participated in advocating for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Rev Dr Sung Tai Choi affirmed that our partnership transcends borders, cultures and languages for the Kingdom of God.

The Synod of South Australia's PROK Partnership Group has accepted the invitation to attend the Iksan Presbytery meeting. Along with celebrating the 30th anniversary of the partnership there will be renewal of the partnership's MOU.

Being a Multicultural Church

At the 2022 meeting, the South Australian Synod also resolved to acknowledge the 16th Assembly resolution – 'Moving forward in Being a Multicultural Church,' including adopting the 3rd Sunday in July as an 'Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday'.

This decision acknowledges and celebrates the commitment of the Uniting Church in being a multicultural Church and creates an opportunity for congregations and faith communities to connect and

build relationships with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in their neighbourhoods.

The Synod Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Officer, Rev Dr Paul Goh, has put together a two-page worship resource for congregations.

This resource is available from the Synod website at this link: <https://sa.uca.org.au/cald/cald-events-and-resources>



Celebration of Ministries

A Celebration of Ministries service will be held at Adelaide West Uniting Church this August. This service celebrates the ministry of those that have retired since the last Synod meeting and those who are celebrating special anniversaries of ordination. This service will be offered both in person and live-streamed online.

For more information

Phone (08) 8236 4200 or email synod@sa.uca.org.au

Visit sa.uca.org.au/about-us/synod-meetings

Adelaide West Uniting Church

 312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park SA 5032

 Sunday 21st August 2022 at 2:00pm

Farewell Rev Felicity Amery



It is with deep regret and sorrow that the Uniting Church recently announced that Rev Felicity Amery has completed her placement in the position of General Secretary of the Synod of South Australia.

When Felicity first commenced her role, it was a time of considerable structural change as the church was moving from one presbytery to three presbyteries.

She carried out her role with considerable creative flair including the development of a significant art project that helped to inform the direction of the church's strategic plan; the 'Shaping the Future' strategic plan campaign; and the unique Strategic Priorities 'wheel' concept and action plans that continue to be embraced by congregations.

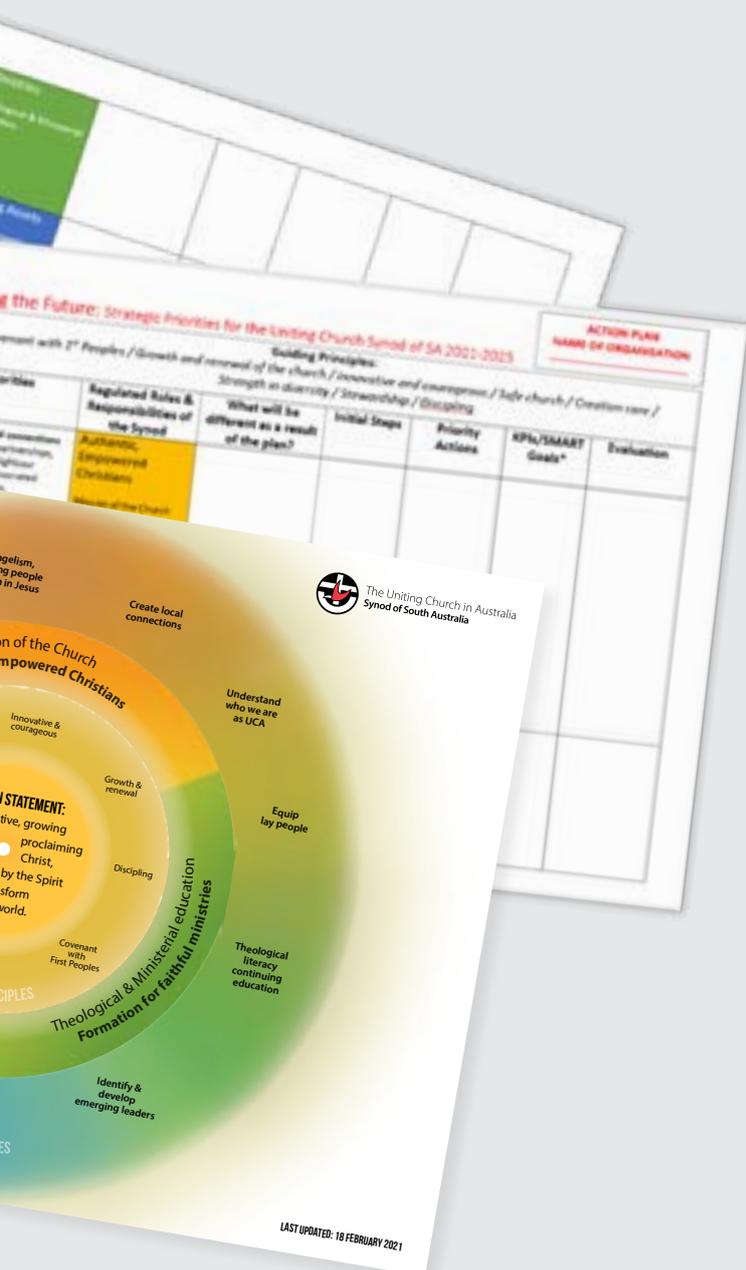
Felicity was also actively involved in working with and alongside Congress; she represented the South Australian Synod on the national stage; and was passionate about connecting in with rural congregations on a regular basis.

'On behalf of the National United Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), I wish to express our deep love and appreciation to Felicity Amery. Thank you, Felicity, for your faithful and loyal support of Congress. Your wisdom and positive advice in all matters relating to the life of Congress will be sorely missed, especially in South Australia.

Felicity's commitment to the Covenant is without question and from the National UAICC perspective we look forward to on-going and fruitful relationships with both Felicity and Howard Amery,' said Mark Kickett, National President (UAICC).

The Uniting Church is grateful to Felicity for her contribution during her time as General Secretary and acknowledges that she remains a Minister in good standing in the church. When she first came to her role she experienced a personal call to do so and it was a confirmation of the church's call, and this has not changed.

We ask that you pray for Felicity, her family, the Synod and the church at this time.





Red Dove Café and Food for the Soul Art exhibition

Royal Adelaide Show 2022



SALA



RED DOVE
café
eat . drink . share

The Royal Adelaide Show is always a popular event and the Red Dove Café has been a long standing tradition at the show, with volunteers from Uniting Church congregations and schools and agencies, working from 6.30 am to 8.30 pm each day to provide good food and a place of Christian hospitality for show patrons.

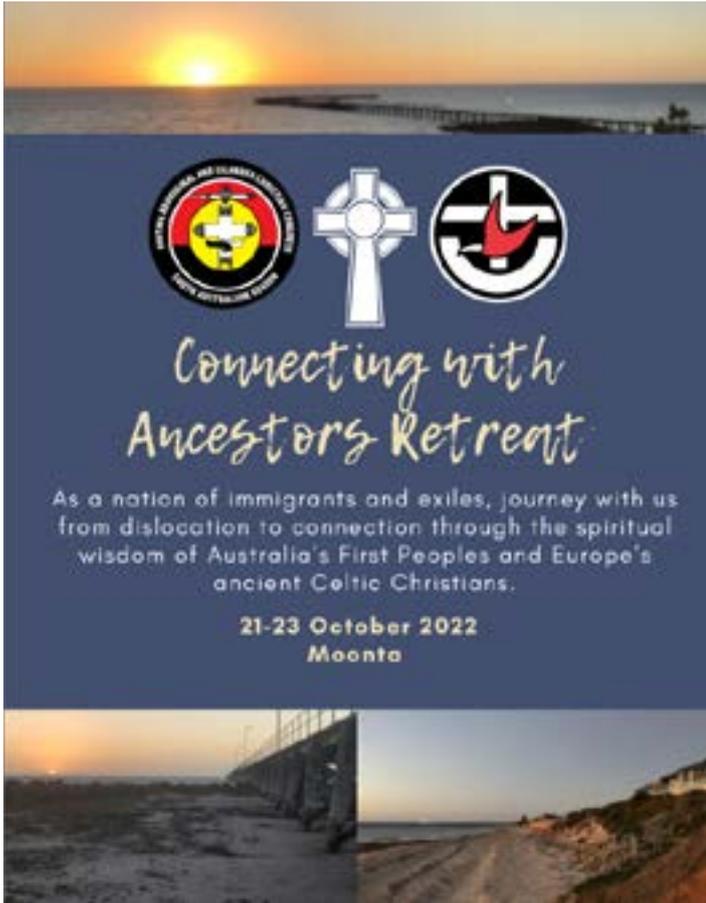
The relocation of the café from the sideshow area to the horses in action and cattle area in the south eastern corner has given the café a fresh clientele focus. We still have regular patrons from the sideshows and those wandering through rural exhibits, and now we have got to know the horse folk and farmers too!

The café committee is led by Rev Ruthmary Bond, who has a proven café history with youth, church planting and café internships. Our connection with Uniting Church schools assists service programs of those schools, which is part of our Uniting Church mission.

This year, in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of SALA, Uniting Church Fellowship and Mission Support (UCFAMS) is bringing an art poster display that captures the hope and resilience we can gain from our rural communities. Food for the Soul (an art theme also picked up by a well-known SA supermarket chain for SALA) art exhibition will be a conversation starter for café patrons as they engage with the posters while enjoying coffee, meals, scones, jam and cream or yummy jelly cakes!

Look for us at the show. Plan a meal with us. Like our Facebook page and share it. Funds raised by the Red Dove Café support chaplaincy in mental health, prisons, disability, Frontier Services, SAPOL as well as Congress and Uniting Care organisations.

Rev Sue Ellis
President, UCFAMS



How does your experience of faith relate to the spirituality of your ancestors?

This is a question that is often posed to Aboriginal Christians. The Uniting College for Leadership and Theology (Yarthu-Apinthi) is blessed to have Theologian in Residence Rev Dr Aunty Denise Champion working towards providing some answers.

It is inevitable that these will differ depending upon how we interpret and experience spirituality and our sense of connection to our ancestral roots.

In her time as Theologian in Residence Aunty Denise has advocated that this is an important question for all people. Through Covenanting, she and a group of Uniting Church ministry leaders are exploring parallels between Celtic and Aboriginal spiritualities. In particular, drawing upon the experience of displacement, migration and how connecting with 'what was' can enrich 'what is' now.

From this exploration the group's desire is to encourage others to explore their own spiritual heritage through the Connecting with Ancestors Retreat. **The retreat will be held from 21st – 23rd October 2022 in Moonta.** During the retreat you will experience a weekend of listening to stories of our ancestors, and connecting with our own heritage through dialogue between the spirituality of First Nations people and that of the ancient Celts.

Come and join us to enjoy the beautiful Moonta landscape and history with plenty of time for walking, writing and reflecting.

FAQs about the Connecting with Ancestors Retreat

What is the cost?

The cost for registration is \$80 per person. This fee includes access to the retreat's activities, a Retreat reflection booklet and some meals.

Does the registration fee include accommodation?

No. Participants will be required to source and fund their own accommodation. A suggested list of accommodation venues is available at this link: <https://sa.uca.org.au/covenanting/covenanting-events>

Where can I register?

Register your attendance at <https://sa.uca.org.au/covenanting/covenanting-events>



Connecting with Ancestors Retreat

Connecting with Ancestors Retreat Draft Program

Friday 21st October 2022

7.00pm Welcome to Country - Yanakanai song

7.30pm Storytelling

8.30pm Quiet guided reflection time

9.00pm Blessing.

Saturday 22nd October 2022

9.00 am Dadirri video and invitation to deep listening and silence

9.20am Quiet reflective time

9.45am Displacement

10.30am Morning Tea (provided)

11.00am Introduction to Celtic Christianity

11.10am A Celtic Prayer

11.30am Introduction to Cornish Theology and Personal Piety

11.45am Stories and Prayers of Celtic Christians

12.30pm Lunch (provided)

7.30pm Campfire and stories under the stars

8.30pm Evening reflection time

Sunday 23rd October 2022

6.00am Sunrise gathering

7.30am Breakfast (provided at Moonta Church Hall)

9.00am Yanakanai and morning quiet reflection time

9.20am Guided Reflection on (a) scripture (b) ancestor stories

9.40am Invitations and responses

10.00am Concluding thoughts and prayers

11.00am Worship at Moonta Mines Church and Holy Communion
containing elements of Celtic and First Nations spiritualities.



Vermont Uniting Church – Transitioning to a new beginning

By Trevor Tilley

In 1948 the then Methodist Conference purchased land along Cross Road where the church stands today. The Vermont Methodist Church opened in 1950 using a small hall and the current church building was opened in 1965.

In 1976 the late Rev Allan Hatcher and wife Margaret returned to Australia following 21 years as missionaries in Fiji. On their return Rev Allan took up a part time placement at the Vermont Methodist Church.

With the formation of the Uniting Church in 1977 and Rev Allan's family having a strong connection with the Fijian people living in Australia a close cultural bond was formed. Vermont's congregation has shared many years of Christian fellowship with the Fijian community. Over these years shared services in English have taken place and twice a month services have been held in the Fijian language.

Over the last 5-10 years the congregation at Vermont has been ageing and declining in numbers to the point where in mid 2021 it was very evident that



the Vermont UC would not be able to maintain sustainability. Presbytery were then requested to commence the process of closing the church at the end of 2022.

In October 2021 the Vermont Church Council held an open meeting with

members of the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Uniting Church and interested members. This meeting was attended by a strong representation from the Fijian Community. The Fijians expressed a desire to maintain the continuance of the Vermont UC as their place of worship.

In January 2022 it was very clear that a proposed plan to incorporate the Fijians into the Vermont Congregation was a feasible outcome whereby the Fijians would be accepted into membership of the Vermont UC by way of baptism, confirmation or confession of faith. This allows the continuing use and maintaining of the Vermont church premises and manse.

A 'Transition Service' from the Vermont Uniting Church to the new Vermont Uniting Fijian Congregation will be held on Sunday 20th November at 3.00pm.

Enquiries should be directed to Jenni on 0409 698 754.

Happy 100th Audrey!

Audrey Scrimgeour celebrated her 100th birthday with her family on 11th July. Audrey and her husband, the late Rev R J (Bert) Scrimgeour, both had strong connections with the Presbyterian Church in South Australia from their Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia days youth/young adults group of the church in the 1930s. Their last parish before retirement was at Tusmore Presbyterian/Tusmore Park Uniting Church from 1968-1980. They co-operated closely in the writing of the history of the South Australian Presbyterian Church, 'Some Scots Were Here' (1986). Audrey now lives at Eldercare, The Lodge in King William Road, Wayville.



A thank you sandala!

The local Uniting Church Minister at The Corner Uniting Church, Rev Mark Hewitt is moving on and his congregation surprised him with this thank you sandala. Thanks also to the creativity of the artist Sue Norman.



IVAN BUTLER
Family Funeral Directors

8261 8211

All hours

www.ivanbutlerfunerals.com.au
enquiries@ivanbutlerfunerals.com.au

26 OG Road Klemzig SA 5087



Geoff Lewis
General Manager



Lincoln College is a welcoming home to university students in Adelaide and offers so much more than a place to stay

Book a tour to see for yourself
Applications for 2023 now open

Find your place.

www.lincoln.edu.au

08 8290 6000



Placements News

Placements finalised as at 25th July 2022

Rev Janice MWhinney to Adare UC from 1 November 2022

Justin Gutteridge (MOP) to Salisbury UC from 1 August 2022

Craig Bossie as Advisor Faith Engagement/ Principal Chaplain, Correctional Services (0.8) from 1 August 2022

Nola Gibbons (MOP) to Noarlunga UC (0.8) from 1 August 2022

Rev Mark Hewitt to Pilgrim UC from 1 October 2022

Rev John Hughes to Pilgrim UC from 1 October 2022

Vacant placements

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

PROFILES AVAILABLE

Generate Presbytery

Balhannah UC (0.6)

Naracoorte UC

Presbytery of Southern SA

Glengowrie UC (0.5) (Vacant 2023)

Wimala Presbytery

Clayton Wesley UC

Croydon Park UC (0.3)

Lefevre UC (0.4)

Para Vista (0.3)

Scots Church

Western Link (0.5)

Placements Across Two Presbyteries

Yorke Peninsula Regional Mission Minister - Full Time

Yorke Peninsula Regional Pastoral Minister x 2 Full or part time)

Expressions of interest to pgardner@sa.uca.org.au

PROFILES NOT YET AVAILABLE

Generate Presbytery

Clare UC

Wimala Presbytery

Berri UC / Barmera UC

Brougham Place UC

Port Augusta UAICC

Woodville UC

Presbytery of Southern SA

Unley UC (0.3)

Placements Across Two Presbyteries

County Jervois (Generate and Wimala)

For more information about placements, please visit sa.uca.org.au

BRS Basket Range Sandstone



Basket Range sandstone has been used extensively throughout South Australia for over 100 years and our quarry in the Adelaide Hills continues to produce a wide range of traditional finishes, in both solid block and veneer cladding.

Whether you require sandstone to restore your church to its' former glory, or would just like to build an addition to match your house or garden, please give us a call on (08) 8390 3420.



Email: sales@basketrangesandstone.com.au
 Website: www.basketrangesandstone.com.au

AUDIO VISUAL SPECIALIST

Church - School - Board Room - Retail Display - Hospitality

- ▶ Hearing Assistance Systems
- ▶ Live Streaming/Video Cameras
- ▶ Public Address Systems
- ▶ Projection Screens
- ▶ Stage Lighting
- ▶ Multimedia/Interactive Projection
- ▶ LCD Interactive Displays
- ▶ AV Equipment
- ▶ Portable PA

SALES | INSTALLATION | SERVICE | HIRE



Greg Hallam 0411 550 417

U2/650 North East Rd, Holden Hill
 08 8369 1964

tec@tecsa.com.au
www.tecsa.com.au

SPECIALISTS IN COMMERCIAL AUDIOVISUAL SOLUTIONS



- Sales – Design – Installation – Service – Support
- PA & Sound Reinforcement Systems
- Projection & Large Screen TV Systems
- Induction Loop & Hearing Assistance Systems
- Sanctuary, Stage & House Lighting Systems
- Camera & Live Streaming Systems

Keith Ellison 0401 535 279

keith.e@avintegration.com.au

www.avintegration.com.au

avintegration

8297 8888
 8 Croydon Rd, KESWICK

CLASSIFIED

MORIALTA CHARITABLE TRUST FUND

Morialta Charitable Trust Fund has been supporting disadvantaged children, young people and their families in South Australia through its annual program of distributions for 40 years. To enable the Fund to continue this support through community organisations in South Australia, Morialta Charitable Trust Fund seeks donations from the public. Donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible and can be forwarded to the Morialta Charitable Trust Fund at **PO Box 92, Crafers SA 5152.**



Send your letters to:
engagement@sa.uca.org.au
 or GPO Box 2145,
 Adelaide 5001

Deadline for the October/November 2022 edition:

Friday, 9th September 2022

ISSN 0726-2612

New Times is the voice of Uniting Church in SA. Published bi-monthly, February through November, *New Times* represents the breadth, diversity and vision of Uniting Church members in South Australia. Articles and advertising do not necessarily reflect the views of the *New Times* Editorial team.

Interest rates are on the rise

By Paul Barnett and Peter Hartley

After several years and with interest rates the lowest they have been for many decades, all of a sudden the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has been increasing its official cash rates to stem the tide of increasing inflation.

High inflation means that the price of goods and services increases, so many consumers may not have the financial capacity to purchase as many goods and services as they used to, and they may need to make decisions to prioritise spending. This is especially true for people on a fixed income.

When the RBA increase official interest rates, it creates a domino effect on interest rates generally, as lenders increase their rates, and deposit rates follow to a lesser extent and sometimes only after a lag time. The RBA's goal is to reduce the demand for goods, so prices decrease. However what is currently happening with floods in the eastern states, the war in Ukraine and the on-going COVID-19 virus, is that inflation is being caused by supply issues. This means not as many goods and services are produced as previously, or as quickly, so that existing demand is met by less availability.

Hopefully over time supply chains and agriculture will once again be able to produce more goods and services for the economy.

The increase in interest rates may not be all good news for investors, as the increase earned on savings is being eroded to a degree by increased inflation in real terms.

How do the RBA's actions stop inflation?

As interest rates are raised it leads to a slowdown in the economy. This is because increases in interest rates produce rises in mortgage payments, increased rent and an associated decrease in spending. As the economy slows, inflation will subside. When this occurs, interest rates will either stop rising or perhaps even go down a little. After that inflation is lower and economic activity recovers.

We can't accurately forecast how long this process will take as there are several variables that could influence the speed, including COVID-19, the Ukraine war and natural disasters. Nonetheless, eventually the economy will move through this cycle.

We hope you are coping okay during these difficult and uncertain times. Please also look out for others who may not be doing as well. God's nature can be reflected through your care and thoughtfulness.

About the author:

Peter Hartley is the new Business Manager at UC Invest working with Paul Barnett, Funds Manager and the team. Peter is a Chartered Accountant with an MBA and his bachelor degree included a major in economics.



Education with Uniting Church Schools



Annesley Junior School

HERITAGE | VALUES | INNOVATION

28 Rose Terrace
Wayville 5034
08 8422 2288

www.annesley.sa.edu.au



PEDARE

An R-12 Anglican and
Uniting Church School

20-30 Suney Farm Drive
Golden Grove 5125
08 8280 1700

www.pedarecc.sa.edu.au



Pilgrim School

Campus Drive
Aberfoyle Park 5159
08 8270 3033

www.pilgrim.sa.edu.au



**PRINCE
ALFRED
COLLEGE**

PO Box 571
Kent Town 5071
08 8334 1200

www.pac.sa.edu.au



**SCOTCH
COLLEGE
ADELAIDE**

Carruth Road
Torrens Park 5062
08 8274 4333

www.scotch.sa.edu.au



**SEYMOUR
COLLEGE**

546 Portrush Road
Glen Osmond 5064
08 8303 9000

www.seymour.sa.edu.au



**Westminster
School**

Allison Ave
Marion 5043
08 8276 0276

www.westminster.sa.edu.au

Our seven independent schools provide education for around 6,000 students in South Australia from Early Learning to Year 12. They offer a variety of learning environments, and a world-class standard of excellence in facilities and academic standards.

While these schools respect the faith diversity of all students, the story, values and practices of the Christian faith are expressed with integrity in order to nurture young lives for sound learning, faith, compassion and responsible service.

3.15%

for 12 months term deposit (minimum \$1,000)



1300 274 151



ucinvest.com.au

Uniting Church SA Investment Fund Ltd ACN 620 095 472 AFSL 501022 (the Fund) is a public company, limited by guarantee and registered under the Corporations Act 2001. The Fund exists for the charitable purpose of advancing religion by supporting the mission of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Fund holds an Australian Financial Services licence (AFSL) number 501022 authorising it to deal in, and provide general financial product advice in relation to, securities (which include debentures) and non-cash payment products. It also operates under an instrument made by ASIC the effect of which is to exempt it from the requirement to comply with Parts 6D.2 and 6D.3 of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to offers to issue debentures (ASIC Corporations (Charitable Investment Fundraising) Instrument 2016/813). Our Charitable Investment Fundraising Identification Statement provides more information and explains how investment funds are used to support the charitable purposes of the Fund. Our AFSL licence does not authorise us to provide personal advice. Before acquiring any product or service of UC Invest you should read our Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and consider the appropriateness of the product or service having regard to your particular objectives, financial situation and needs. The Fund is not prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. Therefore, an investor in the Fund will not receive the benefit of the financial claims scheme or depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959. Investments in the Fund are intended to be a means for investors to support the charitable purposes of the Fund. The Fund is required by law to advise investors that investments in it are only intended to attract investors whose primary purpose for making their investment is to support the charitable purposes of the Fund, that investors may be unable to get some or all of their money back when they expect or at all, that investments are not subject to the usual protections for investors under the Corporations Act 2001 or regulation by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), and that the investment is not comparable to investments with banks, finance companies or fund managers.

UC Invest
Securing your future

Synod '22



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia