



## Mission Resourcing

*“Collaborating together in Christ’s renewal of the Church and Creation”.*

At the beginning of 2020, the Mission Resourcing Team made plans, developed programs and prepared events, ready for the year ahead. This came to a sudden halt in March this year as a small virus, so tiny that it is invisible to the eye, was to change the world. In such a time, it has to be said that the Mission Resourcing team has to be congratulated for their capacity and resilience as they have focussed on their mandate to resource and support Presbyteries, Congregations and Faith communities to carry out the mission of God in new ways, as well as looking and listening to what is up ahead.

Despite the challenges of lockdown, the Team remained active and outward focused, continuing to engage with the wider church – initially with providing on-line resources followed up with providing support for congregations as they experimented with new and innovative ways to be church.

With the lifting of restrictions, the Team has met the challenge to re-emerge into new life by recognizing what is available to them to offer Presbyteries, Congregations and Ministry Agents in response to their needs. Integral to all this is that fruitful relationships are formed throughout all sectors of the church.

The members of the Mission Resourcing team are:

Rev Dr Paul Goh	CALD, Multicultural & Justice Officer
Tarlee Leondaris	Covenanting & International Mission Officer
Sam Chan	Second Generation Development Worker
Janet Woodward	Uniting Church Fellowships & Mission Support Secretary
Melissa Neumann	Intergenerational Discipleship Developer – Children & Families
Tim Littleford	Intergenerational Discipleship Developer – Youth & Young Adults
Stephanie Van Rossen	Intern Year Coordinator
Bev Freeman	PA and Administrative Assistant



## 1. Leadership & Planning

Over the past year, two clear areas have begun to emerge for the future. Both of these were mentioned in the Horizons strategy at the 2019 Synod meeting: resourcing mission planning and developing leaders and teams.

### 1.1 Mission Planning

With inauguration of the new presbyteries, there has been a great deal to do in putting in place structures, processes and committees. Even those who are charged specifically with pastoral oversight of numbers of congregations have found themselves to be stretched. As a result, I have now been approached to assist with mission planning with five different congregations without having offered the service. It has been great to work with those to help them find the purpose and mission that God has in store for their congregation and community. So far, I have completed that process with two. Two others are ongoing and one is just beginning. The congregations have covered all three presbyteries and have seemed to enjoy the process.

I plan to write and launch a resource for training and process to assist presbyteries in ways that I have found helpful and offer some workshops in 2021 to share perspectives and wisdom from others as well.

### 1.2 Leading Teams

The Leading Teams project has now completed its second cohort and Mission Resourcing will be one way that it can be accessed to help improve relationships, processes and effectiveness of teams and committees across the Synod. Committees, Councils, Ministry Teams and Boards will be able request one of the trained facilitators (all members of this Synod) and they will be available to work with them. It has already been used in various ways with different ministries of the Synod as well as in the Mission Planning process to develop capacity and effectiveness in working into their mission.

### 1.3 Looking Ahead

In 2021, working with a new Synod Strategic Plan, Mission Resourcing will be working towards the above mission with three strategies:

- Finding new ways to be the church: helping congregations develop and regenerate through attempting something new; and developing new forms of faith communities that meet the needs of our times.
- Reaching the regions: taking the resources out to rural regions so that they can find what they may be needing without the expense of coming to the city.
- Life-long faith formation: emphasizing the need for congregations and individuals to not just know Jesus, but to walk in faith in the footsteps of Christ.

The coming year will see us sowing into those things to help the church meet its future.

## 2. Intergenerational Ministry

The Intergen Team focuses on intergenerational discipleship particularly for children, youth, young adults and their families. By “intergenerational discipleship” we simply mean people from different generations, engaging together to follow Jesus in everyday life.

We help churches and leaders develop discipleship, intergenerationally and with age-specific ministries, so that they can encourage young people as followers of Jesus. The Intergen Team offers to:

- support and network leaders in intergenerational ministry;
- resource churches in the formation of young people ;
- coach leaders and coach congregations in intergenerational ministry, and;
- develop tools that empower young people and their families in the mission of God.

Clearly it has been a tough year to do this but the team continues to pivot and create to meet the challenges and serve congregations in discipleship of the young people.

## 2.1 Youth and Young Adult Ministry – Tim Littleford

Since, Oct 2019 Tim has worked together with the Youth Development Team: Ella Schwarz (Westbourne Park), Nina Luscombe (The Corner), Nathan Pullman (Parafield Gardens), Jordan Partridge (Beyond Limits/Hope Valley), Matt Peters (Seeds), John Igros (Jolo – Broadview) & Nathan Whillas (Unity Hill). Tim, with the team has been actively developing, mentoring, encouraging and empowering young leaders. Some of the key work areas and achievements for Tim and the team are:

- developed a strategic intent for youth and young adult ministry development;
- cultivating community in the team, finding best practice in discipleship in young people & creating youth ministry hubs;
- reviews of Youth Pastors and Youth Ministries as requested;
- pastoring, serving and training leaders by building networks and running training and equipping for youth ministry youth leaders and congregational leaders, including contributing to the Intergen blog;
- intentional Investment Mentoring of young people for future leadership;
- supporting and networking one-off collaborative Youth worship nights with congregations;
- COVID Youth and Leaders support (which has taken much time as youth ministries struggled to emerge post-COVID), including launching the COVID Intergen Grants with Melissa Neumann



As Tim and the team move forward from the 2020 COVID era, some of the priorities will be:

- Ted talk style Discipleship Breakfasts for Young Adults starting out in the workplace or in Uni;
- resourcing rural regions with a South East Schools Ministry trip and an interdenominational leadership development retreat on the Eyre Peninsula in March next year with Churches of Christ;
- exploring ways to help local church communities to become more resilient and shape resilient disciples;
- building relationships with youth and young adult leaders, and congregational leaders ministering with youth and young adults in their pews, across the church, networking them, resourcing them, praying for and encouraging them; and
- providing more seminars and opportunities to develop their ministry with Youth and Young Adults.

The following are the hopes we have for the future of the Synod of South Australia:

- Lowering the turnover rate in Youth Ministry Leadership
- Adequate support structures around young adults in church leadership
- The church, from Synod to each congregation, would do everything within their power, to pray, work, structure and sacrifice so that the church retains and grows the next generation of young people
- More young people would be empowered to lead meaningfully before they have “earned” it.
- Articulate a theology of Work that doesn’t elevate vocational ministry at the expense of all other work.
- That our youth ministries would be renown for the way they disciple their young people for a life of love for Jesus and service in the Mission of God.

## 2.2 Children & Family Ministry – Melissa Neumann

This year has primarily been about writing and producing resources for children and family and intergenerational ministries and enabling opportunities for leaders to network. As the Intergenerational Discipleship Developer – Children & Families, Melissa Neumann has lived into the Mission Resourcing vision by collaborating with a variety of people, from within SA, across Australia and ecumenically. She has also collaborated with local children and family ministry leaders, to encourage and resource ministries that grow disciples of all ages as life-long followers of Christ, including connecting missionally into their communities.

Having returned from maternity leave just before the 2019 annual Synod meeting, Melissa joined in with the preparations for KCO 2020 along with moving offices to the Brooklyn Park campus. At the start of 2020, Melissa hosted, in the Pirie St Synod office, the annual Messy Church Australia Roundtable, a gathering of key leaders encouraging the promotion and resourcing of Messy Church across Australia and denominations. Disappointingly, KCO 2020 was cancelled due to COVID19 and the lockdowns meant moving to working from home for several months.

### 2.2.1 Creating Resources

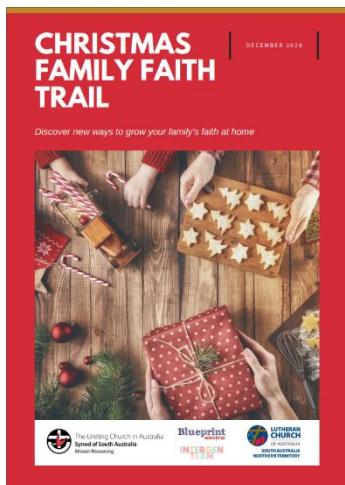
During the time in lockdown resources were written primarily to equip families for faith formation in the home, most of which can be found on our website here: <https://sa.uca.org.au/intergen/family-resources/>

- **KCO small group materials** were adapted for use in homes.
- **Easter Family Faith Trail** was produced in partnership with Blueprint Ministries of the Lutheran Church SA/NT with stations that used locations and items from around the home to explore the Easter story through Bible reading, conversation, crafts, activities and prayers.
- **Ideas for celebrating Easter at home** activities guide. Chris Barnett (Synod of Victoria and Tasmania) to offer a resource for ministry leaders to encourage discipleship across households, called **Connecting Families, Nurturing Faith**.

**In the middle of the year the Intergen Team blog was launched**, aimed at leaders in ministry with children, families, youth and young adults to encourage following Jesus in everyday life. The blog hopes to develop intergenerational discipleship and build leadership capacity, as well as sharing stories and resources: [intergenteam.ucasa.org.au](http://intergenteam.ucasa.org.au)

In the second half of the year, Melissa co-wrote and produced resources for use in worship services and homes, including:

## Engage Together: Intergenerational Worship Ideas for Aug-Sept Year A (co-written with Chris Barnett)



- **Acknowledging National ATSI Children's Day** (co-written in collaboration with Tarlee Leondaris, Covenanting Officer)
- **Engage Together: Advent 2020** (co-written with Chris Barnett)
- **Christmas Family Faith Trail** (co-written and produced in partnership with Blueprint Ministries of the Lutheran Church SA/NT).

These resources can be found on the Intergen website:

<https://sa.uca.org.au/intergen/>

Many thanks to our Synod's Engagement Team for their assistance throughout the year with design and website publishing support for many of these resources.

### 2.2.2 Networking Leaders

A key focus of 2020 was connecting with leaders through 1-1 phone calls and responding to particular requests in local congregations for advice and resourcing, such as running a music outreach pre-school ministry, working with children with special needs, supporting a Messy Church with a change of leadership and reviewing a church's children's ministry programs and structures.

Melissa has also co-hosted and supported networking opportunities for local leaders through:

- three national Uniting Church zoom calls for Children and Family Ministry key leaders,
- a national UCA Intergenerate conference participants follow up zoom call,
- three Messy Church leaders in SA zoom calls,
- a Zoom gathering of Godly Play storytellers in SA, and
- coordinating five Children and Family Ministry conversations that were hosted by the Children's Ministry Network SA (a collaboration of denominational and organisational children & family ministry leaders) on various topics, including ministry in COVID, intergenerational ministry, a leaders retreat and resources.

### 2.2.3 What's Next?

Usually, the end of a year means preparations behind the scenes have begun for the following year's KCO. Unfortunately due to changing requirements around COVID-19, there will be no KCO in 2021. We understand the disappointment children and leaders may have about this decision. We have encouraged congregations to consider hosting a local discipleship event for children and to make contact with Melissa for any assistance. The Intergen Team are also hoping to launch, early in 2021, a library of intergenerational ministry resources, primarily made up of items used at KCO for churches to borrow.

As we are not planning for KCO 2021 we have some time to take stock of where things are at, including costs, attendance and volunteer numbers, and most importantly to consider how we can best meet the discipleship needs of young people across our Synod. If you would like to contribute to conversations to assist with shaping children and family ministry Synod events into the future, including reviewing KCO, please contact Mark Schultz or Melissa Neumann.

Final projects for 2020 include resetting the Intergen Team's vision, values and key directions, and the Intergen Team will also have processed the "COVID – Intergenerational Ministry Grants" for projects that encourage discipleship and outreach ministries with young people.

Looking to 2021, there are training conferences already planned:

- *Refresh the Mess: Messy Church National Conference* held online on Feb 20, (Melissa is chairing the planning team supported by Evangeline McAllan, Events Coordinator – Logistics and Administration).
- *Amplify: a children's, youth and family ministry training day* on Sat 6 March in state based regional hubs, co-hosted by the Children's Ministry Network SA.
- *Leaders 2 Go*, a conference for children and family ministry key leaders will be held in October, in state based regional hubs, co-hosted by the Children's Ministry Network SA with overall conference organisation by a national, ecumenical team, including Melissa and David Buxton (Coro UC).

Resourcing will continue with a particular focus for 2021 on covenanting, and celebrating Book Week and Children's Week along with continuing the Engage Together – intergenerational worship resources and the seasonal Family Faith Trail resources. Additionally, conversations and planning with Uniting College are underway for developing a higher education course for intergenerational ministry to be run in 2021 with the possibility of also exploring age-specific ministry training courses to also be co-run with the College. We are also preparing to start a book club to engage and encourage leaders to grow in their passion and expertise in intergenerational ministry.

One of the key ways that Melissa was resourcing congregations in 2020 was working with individual congregations to develop their capacity and effectiveness in intergenerational ministry. As one person, Melissa herself is limited in her capacity to do this. Therefore, Melissa is looking to form a Children and Family Ministry State Development team to engage with building relationships with children and family ministry leaders, training for new leaders and those in the role for longer. Melissa is also offering to assist Presbyteries for whole of life discipleship, flowing from intergenerational perspectives and principles.

The Intergen Team are here to serve leaders in intergenerational and age-specific ministries. Intergenerational ministry is about encouraging life-long discipleship, genuine relationships and systematic empowerment. If your church is open to a conversation about renewing discipleship for all ages then the Intergen Team would love to hear from you.

## 2.3 Intern Year - Stephanie Van Rossen

Steph has been in the role of Intern Year Coordinator for a little over four months, taking the role over from Mike Wardrop who finished in March. In that time she has researched, written and implemented a curriculum for the 2020 Intern Year Cohort. The central foci have been resourcing and equipping students to understand and live out their individual callings of discipleship, ministry and mission.

The structure of Intern Year has involved alternating between on-campus learning in a range of relevant areas, including; scripture, leadership, mission, ministry and discipleship and off-campus experiences. These have included meeting together with leaders and ministers who have been able to share their testimonies, offering wisdom and guidance from their experiences in leadership and ministry from a wide range of contexts. Some of these have included a walking tour of Salisbury with Rev. Nick Patselis & Danica Patselis

(Salisbury Uniting), hearing from other Young Adults who serve and lead in their context and leaders of large organisations, such as Nigel Knowles (Encounter Youth).

We were fortunate to have a missional experience this year to Victor Harbor. Although COVID-19 meant we were unable to travel interstate or overseas, this was still an



impacting and valuable experience for the Interns. This allowed for students to learn how God is at work in other spaces and change their perception of a place they knew well. Many of the principles we explore in mission were relevant in this experience, including culturally sensitive mission, exposing the attitude of “tourists;” the impact of this on places and people and learning the needs of an area and how we can support this. Steph arranged for students to experience several church services, engaging with ministers and leaders, immersing in the culture, nature and history of the region to provide a well-rounded missional experience. Like our Intern Year ‘excursions,’ they were able to hear testimonies and receive wisdom people in differing ministry roles, including Brendan Noolan (Beyond Limits) and Rev. Naomi Duke (Goolwa Uniting).

Steph has enjoyed working alongside the members of the Mission Resourcing team and with greater closeness, the Intergen Team. This has involved work on the Intergen Team vision, discussions around Intergen course development for Higher Education and contributing to the Intergen Blog. We are so grateful to Jessie Sanders for filling the role during the period between Mike’s finish and Steph’s start in the role.

Currently, Steph is in the process of reviewing the programme in order to plan and implement for 2021. She has been working in collaboration with the UCLT Events and Marketing team to create cohesive marketing and course materials for 2021 and coordinate a suitable end of year celebration for the Intern Year cohort of 2020. She aims to grow the numbers for this valuable opportunity for young leaders and is keen to talk to congregations and individuals who are interested.

### 2.3.1 Plans for 2021

Looking ahead, Steph’s plans involve hoping to have more students enrol in Intern Year in 2021 with the commitment to dive deep in discipleship. She is working to continue to develop and build the course to support the genuine vision and mission to ‘grow the disciple and bless the church.’ In an ideal, COVID-free world, plans would involve interstate and overseas missional experiences for Intern Year students.

Steph looks forward to continuing to work alongside the Intergen Team and Mission Resourcing, being part of a team which supports and equips each other in our roles and ministry; and to continue to build relationships with this team and the wider church to resource and equip the raising up and discipleship of young adults and young leaders.

## 2.4 UCA Adult Fellowship & Mission Support – Janet Woodward

Fellowship & Mission Support's theme for 2020 was the "The earth is the Lord's" and our Project was Environmental Action. They started 2020 with many plans both on State and National Level. They held a couple of meetings in before moving to Zoom meetings which allowed them to continue to do small things.

Sadly, many plans were cancelled due to COVID 19: National Celebration, Regional Celebrations and Frontier Services Speaking engagements. These were very much missed, as they connect country and local congregations in sharing the work of mission overseas and nationally and also building relationships in fellowship. The biggest fundraiser for the year the Red Dove Café at the Adelaide Royal Show was also cancelled. Not to be discouraged, this turned some fellowships to past methods of thinking in how to support the ministries that have been supported in the past. These being mainly chaplains in Mental Health, Disability, and prisons.

Their annual Packing Day was also cancelled halting distributions to the remote areas of Northern Australia. Some other small packing was sent to the APY Lands and Davenport Mission and through the Bush Chaplain and his amazing network. Still Fellowships & Mission Support (FAMS) are working towards 2021.

As churches began to open again and meetings restarted, Janet and other volunteers were able to attend various meetings and encourage them in how they can continue to serve in new ways and to see what the future may hold. Numbers varied but they allowed Janet to share more about mission through fellowship.

From late September was a busy time with sharing the Frontier Services Story, a Regional Gathering for attendees to hear more about spiritual responsibility for the earth. The Co-Presidents', Rev Brian & Jill Polkinghorne, shared on this theme at speaking engagements.

FAMS celebrated 30 years of missional partnership with the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK) and our overseas mission work in the last 50 years through the Congregational Church, Uniting Church, Presbyterian Church and Methodist Churches on the 11th October 2020. Unfortunately, the final gathering for 2020, the Annual Thanksgiving Day in November, has been cancelled due to COVID.

Janet Woodward is looking forward to road trips and gatherings as Fellowships & Mission Support continue to support the local church and the God's mission across the state, nationally and internationally in 2021.



## 3. Transforming Mission

### 3.1 CALD & Social Justice – Paul Goh

#### Mandated roles of Justice & CALD Multicultural and Cross-Cultural (CMC) Officer

Since August 2018, Paul Goh has been working in the position of Justice & CALD Multicultural and Cross-Cultural (CMC) Officer within the Mission Resourcing team, and in particular the Transforming Mission Team, along with the Covenanting and International Mission Officer. Two mandated roles are to:

- Support Congregations and Presbyteries to engage in the work of social justice; including solidarity with Australia's First Peoples, concern for the environment, advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers, issues of power, equality and safety, and the appropriate use of resources.
- Support Congregations and Presbyteries to flourish as multicultural Christian communities. This work includes assisting with inter-cultural partnerships across the life of the church, raising the awareness of the church with regard to multicultural and cross-cultural ministry, enabling new expressions of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) congregations to arise within the UCA in SA, enabling and supporting congregations in integrating people of multiple cultures, and engaging with issues concerning the place and status of refugees, asylum seekers, and new arrivals within the church.

### 3.1.1 Transforming Justice

In consultation with the Public Theology and Mission sub-committee and the Moderator, we continue to work towards raising the profile of social and ecological justice in the life, service and public witness of the Church for a world reconciled and renewed. Being Synod Justice Officer, Paul has been continuing to work on addressing injustice as we are called to commit anew to be a prophetic and practical Christian community embodying God's transforming and renewing love in public in the following key areas.

#### **Justice for Refugees & People Seeking Asylum**

Following up on the Resolution made at the Synod meeting in June 2019, the Synod Refugee Advocacy Group was established to advocate, support and enhance the work of the Uniting Church in South Australia in strengthening support for refugees and asylum seekers in the South Australian community and in detention centres in South Australia. The key task of the Group is to resource congregations, Presbyteries and Synod as each engages in advocacy, care and community engagement pertaining to asylum seekers and refugees.

Some of the activities of the group were:

- Working with the Moderator, Mr Bronte Wilson, advocating to the Prime Minister for asylum seekers, refugees, and other temporary migrants made increasingly vulnerable by the pandemic;
- Partnering with the Refugee Council of Australia and others for the *#NobodyLeftBehind* campaign and the online 2020 Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees;
- Synod Refugee Advocacy Group hosted a Synod Refugee Week Online Event in June 2020 online;
- Produced and promoted four Refugee Advocacy Guides including two Letter-writing Guides through UC e-News and the Presbytery meetings for the use of individuals and congregations;
- forming a response to the impending homelessness crisis of people in community detention being transitioned to the Final Departure Bridging Visas, Paul has been coordinating with the Moderator, Synod Refugee Advocacy Group, Welcoming Australia, the Morialta Trust and interested congregations; and
- Keeping the Synod informed of the plight of refugees in South Australia and nationally.

The Synod Refugee Advocacy Group is meeting online and exploring more collaborations in support work.

## Resourcing on Creation Care and Climate Justice

In collaboration with the Environmental Action Group (EAG) within UCA SA, the Uniting Church Fellowship and Mission Support and Vic/Tas Synod Justice team, we are raising awareness and resourcing in our Christian responsibility for Creation Care and Climate Justice with the following partnerships and projects.

- Developing a strategy for inclusion in the Synod Strategic Plan: That the Synod resolves to incorporate into its redrafting of the Strategic Plan consideration of our responsibility for Creation Care through theological reflection, education and action. The group has revamped its Mission Statement and its next five-year-Directions' document.
- Formally reconnecting the EAG with Synod through the Public Theology and Mission Subcommittee of the Mission & Leadership Development Board
- Conducting a survey with congregations to learn how the EAG might be able to better resource Presbyteries and congregations.
- In consultation with the Moderator and the Assembly President, drafting a Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Submission has been published on the committee webpage at the following link:  
[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/COVID-19/COVID19/Submissions;](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/COVID-19/COVID19/Submissions;)  
 Paul's reflection article on a "Spirituality for the Whole Creation" has been published in *Together* May 2020 edition (shortened version) and the Assembly website, <https://uniting.church/a-spirituality-for-the-whole-creation/>
- Promoted and joined online Climate Action events as well as joining a virtual conference of the Festival of Homiletics with the theme of "Preaching a New Earth: Climate and Creation" from 18 to 22 May 2020.
- In collaboration with the Uniting Church Fellowship and Mission Support (UCFAMS) and the EAG, Paul has assisted in producing media presentations, based on Biblical principles, to engage our churches in learning from the COVID-19 Crisis regarding our response to care of God's creation in action.
- Promoted and resourced on the 2020 Season of Creation with the 2020 Season of Creation Ecumenical Celebration Guide.
- With Vic/Tas Synod, and others in the UCA, produced resource for congregations on climate justice, giving priority to existing Uniting Church resources and other ecumenical resources.
- Working with the Moderator and EAG to assemble Creation Care Advent resources addressing God's call for Creation Care and ecological conversion so that we must not waste the COVID-19 crisis.

## Resourcing on Justice-related Sundays and Educational Events

Rev Dr Paul Goh has assisted and promoted these events in a range of ways including the following:

- Producing an online 2020 *Breaking the Silence Sunday* Worship Guide with Pilgrim Uniting Church.
- Promoted *Refugee and Migrant Sunday* providing Worship Resources written by Rev Anne Hewitt, South Australian Council of Churches, then preaching on it on the day at Payneham Rd Uniting Church.
- In response to the global *Black Lives Matter* movement, Paul has curated and produced learning opportunities via Webinars to equip



ministry leaders and churches in addressing issues of racial justice and reconciliation in their contexts in partnership with other Justice/Intercultural advocates.

## Plans for 2021

For the year of 2021, Paul will be implementing the new Synod Strategic Plan in areas of justice and continuing coordinating and collaborating with key groups, *Refugee Advocacy Group* and the *Environment Action Group* to advocate for the vulnerable and for the renewing of all creation. In order to further Synod's profile of social and ecological justice, Paul aims to extend UCA SA's Justice Advocacy Supporter group to more than 100 people. In collaboration with the Synod Engagement team, we hope to launch a new Synod Justice e-Newsletter, which will include campaign updates and social justice actions supporters can take.

### 3.1.2 CALD Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Ministry

Being a Multicultural Church and becoming an Intercultural Church is a missional challenge and opportunity in an increasingly multicultural Australian society, and it needs to be intentionally pursued by equipping people of God with cultural intelligence, humility and building capacity for intercultural leadership. Some of the encouraging news and highlights to celebrate in CALD ministry in 2020 are as follows:

- The Fijian Fellowship Group of Vermont UC successfully hosted UCA's Fijian National Conference, 6-10 February, 2020 in Adelaide. More than 300 Fijian members of the UCA across Australia, including a number of non-Fijian leaders from different Councils of the Church attended. At the Closing Combined Communion Service, Taitusi Lasa, Elder of the Fijian Fellowship of Vermont UC, was commissioned as their new Vakatawa (Pastor) following Siti Rogoimuri. We were glad to support them, granting \$5,000 through the Highbury Street Fund.
- Service for Amalgamation of Adelaide Korean UC and Heaven Springs UC was conducted on 23rd February by the Generate Presbytery in a thanksgiving and celebrative spirit.
- As 2020 marks 35 years since the 4th National Assembly declared the Uniting Church in Australia is 'a multicultural church', the Multicultural Ministry Centre of Mission Resourcing promoted One Great Sunday of Sharing and provided congregations and faith communities with its Worship Resources and an online worship service in collaboration with Pilgrim Uniting Church, which was streamed on our Synod Facebook page on Sunday, 19th July. The worship video featured members, ministers, and congregations from a diverse range of cultures in the South Australian congregations.
- Assisting the South Sudanese congregation to successfully complete the changing from "voluntary" Pastor Position into a "stipended" position for Mr Kon Gak with the Wimala Presbytery through the Uniting Foundation Fund.
- On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, Paul attended a consultation meeting with Burundian faith community leaders at Elizabeth Grove UC at the request of Wimala Presbytery. Paul assisted them in their understanding of



UCA's multicultural policies and processes for becoming a Faith Community in the UCA. The faith community has since chosen to become part of the UCA, resourced by Paul in the process.

- Pastor Cyrus Kung, Second Generation CALD leader, was ordained as the Minister of the Word at the Presbytery of Southern SA and the CityView Uniting Church in November 2020.

### **Supporting CALD ministers/congregations/faith communities during COVID-19**

Paul Goh spent much of his time this year focussing on supporting CALD Ministers, Pastors and Councils in dealing the impact of the virus on their worshipping communities. Some of the efforts made included:

- creating a virtual platform on a Facebook group page with the name of "CALD & Intercultural Ministry UCA SA" to connect and support each other and share information/stories/resources for coping with COVID-19 and developing CALD and intercultural ministries;
- providing CALD leaders/ministers with one-on-one pastoral care and encouragement via phone-calls/Zoom meetings/SNS etc.
- sharing practical ideas with the three Presbyteries and their congregations on ways we can support our CALD congregations/faith communities and love our immigrant neighbours.
- Paul has been putting together a list of CALD Faith Communities worshipping on UCA Property and will use it for planning a one-day workshop with an Assembly resource, *Living Together as God's People in this Place*. Over 20 CALD groups are on the list, and this will be updated.

### **Intercultural Leadership Formation & Education**

In early 2020, two Intercultural Events were held on 5th and 10th of February with Rev Swee Ann Koh, Vic/Tas Synod Intercultural Community Development Officer, and Rev Charissa Suli, Assembly Resourcing Unit, for UCA SA and the wider SA Christian communities: Lunch Conversation on Grace and Race (+Racism) and a Mini-Workshop on Intercultural Discipleship & Bible Study. About 50 from UCA and non-UCA attended the two events, and both presentations were well received. Unfortunately, such opportunities were limited due to COVID-19. However, Paul still found ways to continue educating and forming the Synod's cultural intelligence.

As a guest presenter, Paul attended a 'Working with Diverse People' class for Cert IV students and two Leadership Formation Day sessions for Candidates and Pastors at UCLT, sharing his aspirations for and experiences in UCA's intercultural ministry, and presenting about intercultural leadership and intercultural competence in relation to cultural intelligence and cultural humility discussions.

Paul presented his CALD works to members of the Formation Education & Discipleship (FED) Sub-Committee at their October meeting in 2020. One of the issues that Paul raised is: How do we inspire the Church (including Candidates/POD) to reflect on and embody the Assembly statements: *We are a Multicultural Church* (1985), *A Church for All God's People* (2006), and *One Body, Many Members* (2012), and use them in Formation, Education and Discipleship?

Paul has curated and compiled five workshop resources for congregations and Presbyteries in their CALD and intercultural leadership training including *Building Bridges: Cross Cultural Relations*; *Living Together as God's People*; *Growing Together: Intercultural Discipleship & Learning*; *From Stranger to Friend: Intercultural Hospitality*; *Christian Witness in a multi-cultural/multi-faith world*.

He has promoted various Intercultural learning opportunities via Webinars sharing information and encouraging participation in Intercultural Ministry Webinars hosted by our ecumenical partners such as the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning (FILL) of The Canadian Council of Churches as well as our own UCA Assembly: As a “Theological Listener” Paul participated in the Assembly Resourcing Unit & Being Multicultural Church Circle co-hosted [Webinar on COVID-19 & Contextual Leadership](#) along with four CALD leaders in September 2020. <https://uniting.church/webinar-leadership-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>; Vic/Tas Synod Intercultural Leadership Development Unit-hosted online workshops for Inclusive Worship - enabling cultural gifts, which explored an intercultural worship for ministers and worship leaders at congregations.

### **CALD Engagement in the Synod/Assembly Strategic Planning**

Along with Bridget Ransome, Executive Officer Engagement, Paul hosted a roundtable gathering with CALD leaders to obtain their input on the Synod Strategic Plan conversation. Paul also attended two Assembly/Synod/Presbytery Intercultural Staff gatherings via Zoom conferences and discussed a new Assembly Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and its Inter-cultural direction (Learn from, and enable diverse cultural groups within the church to flourish together) and implemental actions (Engage National Conferences; Develop A Vision for Intercultural Ministry; Collate and Publicise Language Resources; Support Engagement of Congress with National Conferences).

### **Work in Progress – “Mapping” the CALD Research Project**

Since the PTM endorsed Mission Resourcing’s CALD research project, *Mapping Intercultural Neighbourhoods in SA: CALD-Intercultural Ministry Survey 2020-2021*, Sam Chan, and Paul Goh (Principal Researcher), have undertaken this work since September 2020, joined by Dr Mauro Meruzzi, Postgraduate Coordinator of UCLT, three graduate student research fellows supported by the Highbury Street Fund and two voluntary persons. Rev Dr Dean Eland and Dr Margaret Cargill have joined in advisory capacities. The key purpose of the project is to identify the strengths, challenges, and opportunities for moving forward in the journey of becoming a multicultural and intercultural church. Through an empirical and qualitative method, this project aims to gather data that may inform Synod’s overall intercultural strategy for the next several years, including the extent of intercultural awareness, intercultural activities in the congregations and specific ideas/best practices to share with congregations. Paul introduced the significance of this Project in his article titled [“A Letter from Matthew the Evangelist: Toward Intercultural Transformation,”](#) which was featured on October/November edition of New Times. They are meeting bi-weekly for research seminars and aiming at completing and publishing their final report, with recommendations, by July 2021.

### **Plans for 2021**

1. Drawing on a cultural audit on CALD Faith Communities worshipping on UCA Property, we plan to host a one-day workshop for congregations/Church Councils that (explore) share their premises with non-UCA CALD faith groups using an Assembly resource, *Living Together as God’s People in this Place.*
2. For building intercultural leadership capacity, we will continue participating in the formation programs at UCLT, collaborating with faculty at UCLT and the formation panel in developing courses/contextual field placements where intercultural theology and ministry practice can be learned as part of faith formation and continuing education.

3. For the Synod Placement Committee and Presbytery PRC & POD, we will be fostering/resourcing on intercultural mentoring, ministry supervision and cross-cultural placements for both Anglo and CALD Candidates/Pastors/Ministers.
4. For resourcing Lay leaders/Candidates/Pastors/Ministers, we will continue working on creating Digital Learning Platforms including Webinars, Blog websites and intentional intercultural digital communities.

### **3.2 2nd Generational Ministry – Sam Chan**

In spite of the inherent challenges presented by 2020, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen ministry made some great progress. Two new ministries have started, both were built on years of work beforehand:

- Australia's National Christian 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen network
- Adelaide's local 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen leaders network

These two ministries are to build a 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen specific space and connect leaders despite 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen ministry having been around for as long as the migrant church. There have been plenty of First Generation migrant spaces for years, but a specific 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen space has not been formed until now. There were many challenges to overcome. Now that there is an initial start it is exciting to see where joining together in ministry will take us. The networks are small and the people in them were hard to find. They were the people standing on the front line of 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen ministry alone. Now we stand together. Sam has provided personal mentoring and support to the people beyond the network.

There has also been interest in 2<sup>nd</sup> Gens from some intergenerational networks: AIR – Australian Intergenerational Roundtable (intergenerational ministry) and Leaders to Go – an ecumenical national children's network. It has been exciting that these networks are opening to hearing but also challenging as the conversation and understanding around diversity can be hard.

Sam has continued the long journey of many conversations and meeting with people to continue the larger multiculturalism conversation. It continues at different rates as people and ministries are in different places.

#### **Program writing**

Sam has been developing two programs in 2020: Multicultural church – dealing with differences, and Parenting between cultures for 2<sup>nd</sup> Gens soon to be raising 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen children.

There are a number of great programs out there. These are challenging topics to cover often leaving gaps that represent some quite crucial areas. Sam wrote some material covering some of the gaps that the other programs other don't cover. A few groups have been interested and Sam has run through the material with them, which they have found very helpful. He hopes to continue helping CALD congregations across South Australia to work through the resources and consult on ways of becoming far more connected, focussing on learning about the differences between cultures, rather than just searching for the much smaller common ground.

#### **Staffing**

In November 2020, Sam has now become a permanent member of the Mission Resourcing staff team as the Second Generation Development Worker, helping to support discipleship and assist leadership development

of 2nd Gens in South Australia. The team celebrates this permanent role, the first of its kind in Australian churches. We look forward to much more ministry with Sam into the future.



### **3.3 Covenanting Officer – Tarlee Leondaris**

#### **3.3.1 Introduction**

The Covenanting Officer works within the Mission Resourcing team and in particular the Transforming Mission Team. The function of the Covenanting Officer is to support Congregations to engage in the Covenant between the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). Encouraging congregations to engage in the positive influences of reconciliation between First and Second Peoples. The Covenanting & International Mission Officer is responsible to the Team Leader of Mission Resourcing.

#### **3.3.2 Key Goals**

Tarlee Leondaris commenced as the Covenanting Officer on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The Covenanting Officer's main goals for the reporting period included the following.

- Getting to know key personnel within UAICC and the Covenanting Committee.
- Learning the key priorities of covenanting from UAICC and Covenanting Committee personnel.
- Resourcing Uniting Church congregations to engage in covenanting.
- Exploring developing a Reconciliation Action Plan.

#### **3.3.3 Opportunities and Challenges**

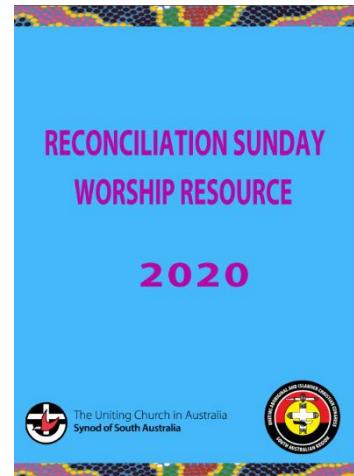
The uniqueness of much of the reporting period created various challenges; however, there were numerous learning opportunities. In the early stages of the reporting period, multiple Uniting Church networks highlighted their interest in participating in walking on country experiences in regional communities. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic these proved difficult to plan and facilitate. Instead, the Covenanting Officer took the opportunity to connect directly with Uniting Church Congregations and networks. Tarlee found an effective way of engaging congregations in Covenanting in sharing her personal story as an Aboriginal woman and a daughter to her mother, a member of the Stolen Generation. Along with providing education about issues of equality and equity that have affect many First Peoples. Opportunities to

connect personally with Uniting Church members proved important to the Covenanting ministry within the Synod.

### 3.3.4 Key Covenanting Activities

Key covenanting activities of the Covenanting Officer for the reporting period included the following.

- Secretary duties to the Covenanting Committee, including working on projects to inform the church and assist Aboriginal people requiring kidney care
- Assisting the Synod to advocate with the Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) in writing submissions to the relevant tiers of government regarding:
  - the Inquiry into National Radioactive Waste Management Amendment (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020.
  - the Aboriginal Housing Inquiry.
- Writing resources for:
  - Reconciliation Sunday
  - Synod Meeting Worship Committee
  - National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day.
  - Congregational services
- Training in developing Reconciliation Action Plans and Covenanting Action Plans by attending a RAP workshop.
- Writing numerous articles about covenanting for New Times, UC e-News and Together Magazine.
- Joining multiple Community Connections programs representing covenanting within the Synod of South Australia.
- Presenting to Intern Year students regarding covenanting.
- Facilitating attendance of Uniting Church personnel at community led events for the Apology Day Breakfast, Uluru Statement from the Heart workshop and National Reconciliation Week Breakfast.
- Attending UAICC Regional Council Meeting.



## Priorities for 2021

Mission Resourcing has developed three new priorities for 2021. They are new ways of being church, reaching regions and lifelong discipleship. The following is the Covenanting Officer's response to the priorities.

### 1. Ways of doing church

- Support congregations to connect with UAICC and learn about First Peoples perspectives on Christianity, spirituality and ways of doing church.
- Resource congregations to incorporate covenanting and cultural education into their services.

### 2. Reaching Regions

- Commitment to connecting with congregations in regional areas. Learning respective needs for covenanting and resourcing regional congregations according to these needs.
- Greater online resourcing and updating the Covenanting website to ensure resources are further reaching.

### **3. Life Long Discipleship**

- Educating congregations to listen to the voices First Peoples and develop covenanting activities accordingly.
- Encourage congregations to connect with First Peoples organisations and networks in their local area.
- Develop cross-denominational relationships with other churches committed to reconciliation between First and Second Peoples.
- Continue to develop relationships with First Peoples organisations outside of the Uniting Church.

### **3.4 International Mission Officer – Tarlee Leondaris**

#### **Introduction**

In a year where there was little if any travel, it was fortunate that our international links were able to continue as we found new ways of being present with one another.

#### **3.4.1 Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK)**

2020 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partnership with PROK in Iksan. We corresponded in various ways but perhaps the most notable event was the shared commemoration service over the Korean Independence Day. Tarlee Leondaris facilitated a service linked over Facebook with both partners taking roles in the service. It was a moving time to see some friends online and share in worship together. The anniversary was also celebrated by Uniting Church Fellowship & Mission Support. (See report above.)

#### **3.4.2 United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)**

Times in the Philippines are constantly tough due to the impact on the environment of excessive mining and government oppression, however COVID-19 has given them additional license to control the people. During the year, Tarlee has remained in touch and worked together with Rev. Berlin Guerrero from Victoria & Tasmania Synod. For the most part, in the past year, we have continued to give pastoral support and connected with the Filipino National Conference, praying together for a resolution to the current political and environmental situation.

Both of these partnerships have been supported by support groups chaired by Rev. Lawrie Linggood (PROK – recently taking over from Rev. Naomi Duke for whom we thank God for her amazing service over a number of years), and, until recently, Rev. Christa Megaw (UCCP). We are keen to continue to support the partnerships and further develop them into the future. If you are interested in supporting either partnership we would love to hear from you.

As we come to the end of the year, we look forward to not only supporting our current partnerships but also supporting the partnerships that many congregations have with churches overseas. Tarlee is keen to support those partnerships and to understand where she may help. This project will begin in 2021.

## **4. Mission Centres**

Several years ago, the Mission Centres were set up by the Mission Resourcing Network as Centres of Excellence in given fields of Ministry.

## 4.1 Centre for Music Liturgy and the Arts

"...It might feel dark, it might feel lonely and you'll wonder why you're here.

You'll be overcome with darkness and a sense of hopelessness

but it won't matter if you keep the core connected to the oneness...

When you reach out, I am here hell or high water...

this cord is unbreakable"

*Lyrics from Ablaze by Alanis Morisette*

With a certain level of irony, the Centre's year began with a planning day for 2020. It was a wonderful time with ministers and lay leaders, diving into the year of Matthew and getting a handle of the shape of the year ahead in worship, personally and pastorally. So much of the year has been reframed, reshaped, re-planned, cancelled and rescheduled. This has been true for all of us, in every aspect of our life and living. The year we had in our minds is nothing like the year we experienced. In one sense much of the planning from that day suddenly became irrelevant. And yet, somehow at the outset of this crazy year it connected us to "the oneness", to God, to our deep and abiding faith. Here in middle of this unknown, anxiety producing time, the Spirit whispers comfort, the assurance of God's presence, hope is born and new life is nurtured. What a wondrous thing it is to be grounded faith; to be connected in time and space to the faithful who have gone before us and the faithful who will follow.

In 2020 The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts turned 10. Although celebrations have been delayed until next year, still it was a time to be thankful for all that the last 10 years have held. The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts seeks to encourage and develop music and arts that support the depth and breadth of worship and community life in the church; to find avenues for encounter with God that are transformational of us and with us, for the world. This has been true in 2020, even if it has been through unexpected and unanticipated ways.

Our primary areas of focus are:

1. **Education** developing a range of courses, key conferences and workshops
2. **Resources** supporting communities through the development of new worship resources
3. **Creative Ministries** opening opportunities for people to express their creative gifts and skills

Ministries this year have included:

**2020 Planning Day** – The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts shared a day of retreat, planning and friendship with ministers and lay leaders, reflecting on the book of Matthew, looking at calendars and planners, discussing possibilities for the year ahead.

- **Painting Workshops** – Led by Karan Hudson who is a gifted artist and teacher. Three workshops included one for an adult and child together, another focussed on landscapes and the third on playing with pastels.
- **In Times of Isolation** worship resources prepared in response to COVID-19, particularly



for worshipping online or at home, were offered over 5 months, providing 51 resources. These ranged from prayers to complete services and included poems, art and reflections.

- **Communion Workshop** led by John Hughes and Sean Gilbert explored the theology of communion and the variety of ways we encounter God through this sacrament.
- **Worship That Connects** – a series of three online workshops exploring worship during COVID-19 and planning a COVID-safe Advent and Christmas season.
- **Preaching Series: Preaching Contextually in Complex Times** – preachers gathered across 4 weeks to consider how we preach in the current context (including responding to Climate Change, Black Lives Matter and COVID-19), join in conversation together and to prepare for the sermon ahead.



- **Synod Art Project** – working with the Synod staff the Centre is partnering to create an art exhibition with a focus on the strategic plan and expressing theology creatively.
- **Called by God – The UCA President's Conference** has been rescheduled for 2021. The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts is preparing meaningful worship for the conference and participated in sharing a UCA-wide worship resource, including online worship that was shared on the original scheduled date.

- **Synod Worship** – together with the Moderator, the Centre is working with a team to lead worship for the 2020 Synod gathering (in February 2021).
- **MinIM and Subtle Bricks Theatre Company** – the creative ministries continue to provide wonderful ways for people to engage and explore faith through the arts. MinIM went online and navigated live music rehearsals to remain connected during lockdown and created beautiful recordings in isolation and when it was safe to re-gather.



The other significant development in the ministries of the Centre is the work of the Publications Team. A new songbook is being prepared with wonderful contributions from Australian and New Zealand songwriters. In the process of preparing the book for publication, the Centre has decided to create an imprint for published materials. This is an exciting development as we seek avenues for sharing creative worship resources. We look forward to launching this early 2021 and celebrating the giftedness of the songwriters.

The Centre has offered many different pilgrimages and working within the current context, is working on a local Kaurna pilgrimage and creative retreats in Adelaide for 2021.

Flexibility, adaptability, faithfulness and deep breathing have been important as plans were changed and reworked all throughout the year. We are grateful for the extraordinarily generous network of leaders, administrators and creative people who make these ministries possible. The Centre relies on volunteers and

the generous support through tax deductible donations, as well as grants, which are gratefully received and put to good use.

We pray God's continued guidance as we seek to live faithfully, sharing in community and equipping God's church for meaningful worship and enabling expressions of faith through the arts. We look forward to throwing a great party to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts in 2021.

In faith and with hope,

**Jenni Hughes with Neryl McCallum, Anne Hall & the CMLA community**

The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts      [www.cmla.org.au](http://www.cmla.org.au)

## 4.2 Effective Living Centre

2020 has been a year of two parts – the year we planned for, and the year we have actually experienced!

### 4.2.1 2020 – The Plan

The Effective Living Centre (ELC) held a well-attended Planning Day in November 2019. New strategies were developed to serve a broader section of the community and expand the 'Friends of ELC' programme to generate wider engagement and income. It was also agreed that the ELC theme for 2020 would mirror the Christ Church resolution to support the first nations' Uluru statement from the heart.

### 4.2.2 2020 – The Reality

However, this planning was challenged greatly when in March it became necessary to cancel all ELC events for the foreseeable future due to Covid. This decision impacted every aspect of ELC's functioning and priorities – from the immediate practical matters of notifying all stakeholders and refunding previously purchased tickets through to learning how to meet virtually, support the Office Administrator remotely and reorganise the workload now that volunteers could no longer come to the office. Then there was the rapid learning and development curve associated with creating or increasing the online presence of ELC and each Task Group, creating Facebook pages, a YouTube channel and updating the website.

The other pressing matter for the Management Committee was the immediate loss of all income for the foreseeable future, while the fixed financial commitments continued. Without the encouragement and care of the Christ Church church council, as well as its financial support, ELC would have found moving into the future very difficult.

### TASK GROUPS / EVENTS

During the time face to face meetings weren't possible the focus was on identifying virtual opportunities to nurture and grow connections with our communities and encouraging Task Groups to continue in this regard.

#### Sacred and Creative

The Sacred and Creative Task Group focused on their online presence during the time they were unable to meet in person. They are now back on deck and exploring use of the new Healing Garden for outdoor guided contemplation sessions once a month on a Saturday morning. Poets Corner used the time they were unable

to meet face to face to call for contributions toward a new Anthology. This has now been published and launched on 26 October.

### **Social Issues: Justice and Equity**

The task group commenced the year planning to focus on waste, water and Indigenous matters, and their first event in February 'Nuclear Waste in SA – What do we know?' was well attended. Following the cancellation of face to face events the Task Group decided their focus for the remainder of the year would be forming and resourcing a group to focus on The Uluru Statement from the Heart. This group initially comprised members of the ELC and Christ Church communities, but now also includes membership from the local community. Social Issues also has an upcoming event in December as a fundraiser for supporting Adelaide Asylum Seekers through Circle of Friends. This is a large undertaking to help support the fundraising of significant money to support local families.

### **Progressive Christianity Network**

PC Net were halfway through the March Seminary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age sessions when face to face events were cancelled. They were unable to complete the March series but adapted quickly to the new environment and were able to make all sessions of the May seminary available online. The online format, and possibly the fact many people were confined to their homes, resulted in a significantly increased audience – both in number and in geographic spread. Feedback on the online sessions was very positive with strong encouragement to continue to make the sessions available in this format, even if alongside the face to face format. Accordingly, in August, PC Net trialled providing the Seminary sessions face to face, but also filming them for uploading to the website and YouTube channel.

PC Net are keen to continue to nurture and grow their online presence and to this end are seeking funding to enable ELC to purchase a video camera. 2021 is the 20th Anniversary of PC Net and they are keen to ensure this is appropriately celebrated, possibly with a dinner and other events.

### **Environmental Action Group**

During 2020 the Environmental Action Group has focused on developing and finalizing a new 5-year action plan and revamping their website to make it more accessible and user-friendly. The EAG has also been proactive in drafting a letter to the Prime Minister looking at a post COVID-19 recovery and sought the Moderator's support. They are also progressing a large tree planting project, preparing to update the Just Earth app, as well as developing a new factsheet on gas. While the EAG have gained several new members since the last annual report, they remain keen to further grow and diversify their membership and ensure younger people and each Presbytery are represented.

### **Wilks Oration**

Given the intended focus for the year, the Wilks Oration was thrilled to secure Stan Grant (ABC International Affairs Analyst, political journalist, author and Wiradjuri man) as a speaker for 2020 and booked a large venue for the event. However, it became apparent by mid-year that with face to face events cancelled for the time being and no clarity as to if or when large gatherings may again be permitted, or interstate travel would resume, it was not realistic to hold such a large-scale event this year. Regretfully it was agreed to postpone

the 2020 Wilks Oration with Stan Grant until 2021. Negotiation is continuing with Stan Grant to identify a suitable date in 2021.

## FUTURE

The ELC has a bright future ahead, notwithstanding the unforeseen challenges of 2020 and the continuing need for financial growth and support. We are currently undergoing a review of our vision, structure, management format and membership as we step into the future, looking for a strong future twenty years to build on our twenty years past. We continue to share our commitment with Christ Church congregation to being an inclusive community, committed to the transforming of the world in the spirit of peace, justice and love for all people.

## LINKS TO ELC ONLINE PRESENCE

### Websites

Effective Living Centre website – <https://effectiveliving.ucasa.org.au/>  
 Environmental Action Group – <https://www.environmentalaction.org.au/>  
 PC Net – <https://pcnetsa.org/>

### Facebook

Effective Living Centre – <https://www.facebook.com/effectiveliving.org>  
 Sacred and Creative – <https://www.facebook.com/sacredandcreative>  
 Social Issues: Justice and Equity – <https://www.facebook.com/socialissuesjusticeandequity>  
 Progressive Christianity Network – <https://www.facebook.com/pcnetsa>  
 Environmental Action Group – <https://www.facebook.com/environmentalactiongroupsa>

### YouTube

Effective Living Centre You Tube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSLpEVmm1nlfVh9jiaTiWDq>  
 Seminary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age YouTube playlist  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDwerLAF32NC4HsSUZQfwIz4swNfyyg5y>  
 Just Earth App  
 Apple – <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/just-earth/id1451886485>  
 Google – [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app.earthapp&hl=en\\_US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app.earthapp&hl=en_US)

<b>Michaela Tiller</b>	<i>Chairperson, Effective Living Centre</i>
<b>Sarah Williamson</b>	<i>Minister, Christ Church Wayville and ELC</i>

## 4.3 Stillpoint Spirituality Centre

Stillpoint's vision is to resources people in the Contemplative Christian Tradition as a path for deepening their union with and openness to God.

Stillpoint invites and encourages both groups and individuals to take 'time out' to pray, refresh, renew and discover more of the 'life in all its fullness' that Jesus offers. Stillpoint Spirituality includes Stillpoint Faith Community, which offers a regular contemplative worship experience.

As a part of the Mission and Leadership Development mission centre we at Stillpoint believe that engagement in mission brings with it the need to be deeply grounded in God, to take time to reflect on and learn from experience, to exercise discernment, and to listen deeply for the invitations of the Spirit. Stillpoint offers retreats, an annual program of events and opportunities, as well as leadership, resources and prayer support.

### 4.3.1 2020 the Year that Almost Was

As with all things this year, Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on the operations of Stillpoint. The uncertainty of times meant that regular fortnightly face-to-face services were suspended for several months as were regular meetings of the board as we considered our plan of action in these unprecedented times..

The other significant casualty was the proposed Mid-Winter weekend retreat at Nunyara which had to be cancelled because of border closures and social distancing restrictions. Joan Wright Howie was coming from Victoria to be key note speaker with an emphasis on Spiritual Direction. We have been able to arrange with Nunyara a corresponding date for 2021 in which to hold the retreat but we are also looking at format options for a one-day retreat rather than a full weekend.

### 4.3.2 Website

One of the good things to come from Covid-19 was the forced improvement of the Stillpoint Website and on-line connections. A working group was set up and the Synod's Congregational Website was commissioned to prepare a full pre-set website for Stillpoint.

Through the Facebook page, fortnightly newsletters and online services have served the Faith Community well whilst face-to-face services were unavailable. As with many virtually gathered communities, there has been an increase in numbers visiting the on-line presence of Stillpoint.

In August Stillpoint has recommenced the services of its Faith Community also continues to post their services on line.

### 4.3.3 Membership

With sadness, we saw the retirement for the Board of Di Shearer. Di has been a long and faithful member of the Board for several years and has always kept the ministry of Spiritual Direction foremost in our deliberations. Di's ministry in Spiritual Direction has been well recognised and her absence from the Board will be missed. It is envisaged that someone with a similar Spiritual Direction ministry will be approached to replace Di, to continue that focus for Stillpoint.

On a positive note, we welcome Jan Wiseman to the Board. Jan has had a valued association with Stillpoint over many years in varying capacities, so her membership of the Board is a natural progression.

#### **4.3.4 Spirituality of Aging Project**

The biggest success of the year has been through the Spirituality of Aging project, led by Elizabeth Vreugdenhil.

The project commenced in late 2018 led by Dr Lyn Bray and involved assisting those who are ageing to tell their own history and through it, see more positively their own story. This led to the release of a book (*Stories of the Soul*) and a workshop that Elizabeth has facilitated in communities, assisting living centres and church groups. The feedback has been extremely positive and the demand is very high. Elizabeth herself is not as strong as she once was. Therefore we have started to develop a model for the work that will make it sustainable into the future.

#### **4.3.5 Networks**

Prior to lockdown and ill health of the co-ordinator Marion Bowes-Johnston, North Eastern Spirituality Network was gaining momentum with a full calendar of events for 2020. Whilst some events early in the year came to pass, many didn't but we were all shocked to hear of Marion' ill health and slow recovery.

While we look forward to this network continuing its work in 2021 we also envisage more Spirituality networks, urban and rural, being initiated organically.

Being an unfunded Ministry Centre, finance is always a concern and with this year's cancellations of services, key events and fund raising opportunities, 2020 income has been negligible. A renegotiation of our Memorandum of Understanding with host, Christ Church, Wayville has been beneficial in cutting some of our overheads however, our financial position remains a concern. A Uniting Foundation grant to fill an Administrative role has been deferred along the UCA Synod SA guidelines of not recruiting new staff for the time being.

We remain hopeful that this interruption to the journey of Stillpoint is just that, an interruption – an opportunity to reflect on where God is leading us and how we can continue to serve in his mission.

#### **Finally....**

If you have made it this far into the report, thank you for the time that you have taken. While the report might have been shorter, I felt the need for the readers of this document to hear the voices of the people involved, the struggle, the accomplishment and the thankfulness to God that we can be part of God's own mission. As we launch into 2021, the path is still murky, but we are confident, just as the Spirit has guided us to put our hands to the right tasks at the right time, so we will once again be ready for the road ahead.

#### **Rev Mark Schultz**

*Team Leader – Mission Resourcing*