



Record of Service – Rev Susan Jane McDonald

Jane was born in the small Deeside town of Connah's Quay in North Wales in 1954. In 1966 the family emigrated to South Australia settling a year later in Henley Beach. Jane attended Henley High School before gaining employment in the Lands Department - Mapping Branch, where she qualified as a cartographer. At nineteen, Jane made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, while attending the Henley Church of Christ. Two years later Jane became involved with youth ministry through the Churches of Christ, meeting her future husband, Ian, while attending an Easter camp. Marrying just before the Christmas of 1976, they continued to serve on the Churches of Christ Youth Committee helping to arrange large, bi-monthly gatherings, fundraising events and for Jane, illustrating the monthly magazine for young people. Between 1980 and 1984 they became parents to three children, who have eventually made them grandparents four times over.

In 1983, the family moved to Minlaton on Yorke Peninsula, where Ian worked as a physiotherapist with the Community Health Service, while Jane took care of two, then three children. Initially, the family attended the local Baptist Church, where Jane served a short term as secretary of the congregation. As the children grew, they walked across Main Street to attend youth group activities in the Uniting Church. It was then that Ian and Jane decided they needed to be where their kids were being nurtured in the Christian faith, becoming members of Minlaton Uniting Church in 1994. Soon after, Jane was invited to serve as an Elder, and both she and Ian accepted the challenge of lay preaching across the sweep of congregations in Southern Yorke Peninsula. The call to further ministry had been tugging at Jane since their move to Minlaton, so she undertook a Period of Discernment with the help of Rev. Sue Ellis. Jane was already engaged in lay preaching studies when she applied to the then Wakefield Presbytery to be considered as a candidate for ordained ministry. It was on the weekend of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Uniting Church that Jane was awarded her Lay Preacher Accreditation and accepted as a candidate by the presbytery.

With Ian's enthusiastic support, Jane began to study for her Bachelor of Theology, while waiting to see if the Synod would accept an "old girl" as a candidate for Minister of the Word. This happened in 2003, and the family relocated to Adelaide for Jane to be able to complete her studies full-time. Having always wanted to go to university, Jane relished her time 'at college' and the friendships made with other students and with teachers, most of whom were around the same age. During her time as a student, some significant changes took place in the Uniting Church in South Australia, including the move to one Presbytery & Synod and the establishment of Networks.

In 2006, Jane began her first placement in Yankalilla with the five congregations of South West Fleurieu. It was something of a challenge to be the first female minister in this placement, but with the continuing enthusiastic support of Ian, Jane worked prayerfully and carefully to establish a healthy ministry among the people in her care. On completing her studies, Jane was ordained in 2008. She completed her first placement in June, 2011, and moved with Ian to Kimba. There she served the community and just one Uniting Church congregation for almost six years, moving to Ardrossan in October 2016, where she has been ministering with four congregations for four years. Although Jane has been in ordained ministry for not

quite 15 years, taking into account her many years in lay ministry, Jane considers it a privilege to have served God through the Churches of Christ, Baptist and Uniting Church in a wide variety of ways – especially on the three peninsulas of Fleurieu, Eyre and Yorke.

Jane and Ian will carry many special memories of their years in ministry into their retirement. They are not quite sure what God has in store for them in the years to come, but one thing they are looking forward to is polishing their grand-parenting skills. During their years in ordained ministry, Jane and Ian have counted it a privilege to serve rural congregations in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In all situations, they have known and shared these two truths: you can't out-give God; and in the words of Psalm 32:8, "The Lord will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; he will counsel you and watch over you."

Thank you to all who have shared this journey with us and made it such truly memorable experience.

And to God be the glory, now and always.