



Record of Service – Rev Marty Rosenberg

Southern Yorke Peninsula - SYP (10 congregations)	2008 – 2011
Sunset Rock (Stirling)	2011 – 2018
Strathalbyn & Districts Churches (4 congregations)	2018 – 2020

Extra	Served on Church Disciplinary Committee
Responsibilities	Member of Synod Strategic Planning Group Chaplain in Disaster and Recovery Ministries Chaplain to Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (State & National)

Marty was a late starter, beginning his training for ministry at 50 years old, however, his experience prior to this has held him in good stead in meeting many situations that arose over his 12½ years in ministry. Prior to this he was a Social Worker (8 years), Federal Police Agent (16 years) and a small business owner (3 years).

Life for Marty began in Sydney in 1953 where he attended the local state primary and high schools at East Hills. His church and youth group were at a Lutheran Church in Yagoona, 20 minutes' drive away. One Sunday, in his final year of high school, during a regular Sunday service, a baby was being baptised. During the baptism he received a great sense of the grace that the baby was receiving, and he thought he would love to be a part of imparting that Grace that he was witnessing being bestowed on that baby. His first question of his pastor was, "Can you be a pastor and not have to preach?" So began the journey that led him to move to Adelaide the following year to begin studies at the then, Luther Seminary.

Marty struggled with the 3 languages (Greek, Hebrew and Latin) and finally left after 18 months to pursue a career in Social Work. He completed his training and worked in the Lutheran Church including for a group called Jacob's Ladder Christian Community over the next 8 years as a social worker.

Marty's understanding of scriptures has been heavily influenced by his Lutheran upbringing, however his practice of doing "church" was impacted by 6 years of living in an ecumenical Christian community called Jacob's Ladder during the 1970's in Adelaide. During this time he met his wife Naomi, had 2 of his 3 children among other young couples doing the same, while they reached out to those on the street, took some into their homes for nurturing, and created a church that was based around mission.

Marty joined the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in 1984 and that work took him and his family to Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide where Marty worked as a Detective on some quite significant cases.

After 16 years as a cop, with the children grown up, it was time for a change, so he and Naomi purchased a backpackers hostel in Darwin (Frogshollow) which they worked for the next 3 years. This is where Marty's calling to ministry was rekindled, at an Emmaus Walk in 2002, so the business was sold and they moved back to Adelaide to begin studies at Parkin Wesley College in 2003.

It was a delight for Marty during his ministry training to learn that his wife, Naomi, was also heading towards ordination although as a Deacon. PRC found them a placement where a joint ministry would work, and it did, so for 4 years of ministry on the Southern Yorke Peninsula (SYP), and for 3 years at Sunset Rock in Stirling, they worked together, complimenting each other's gifts to minister to those churches, and beyond.

Many say you should find your particular gifting and develop that. Marty's gifting has been as a generalist; he was not excellent in any one thing, but he was quite competent at most things. He has always been the hands-on, practical person who loves to ask the difficult questions that inevitably evoke really interesting discussion. He never claimed to be a theologian but enjoyed being able to view various issues from a vantage point of being outside the church. He often acted as 'angels-advocate,' so thrived in small groups where discussion was free flowing, and personal stories shared.

The highlights to Marty's ministry were the setting up of inter-church youth groups in both SYP and around Strathalbyn. The interaction and relationship building with the youth was completely organic and was a real blessing to Marty as he was able to share the Gospel with many unchurched, as well as churching young people. Both of these youth groups continued after he left.

The other highlights in Marty's ministry were when he was invited into various family's most precious and intimate times, namely in baptising their children, in preparing couples for marriage and then taking the wedding, and as comforter as death approached, as well as in taking those funerals. As minister and pastor, he felt extremely privileged to be asked to journey through these very private and personal times with those involved.

Marty now goes into retirement with an open mind as to how God wants to use him in the future, so no definitive plans have been made apart from caravanning around this great country (which he did with Naomi for 3 months up to October 2020) and spending more time with friends and their 3 children and 11 grandchildren. He waits to see how God's Spirit will lead him into this next chapter of his life.