

Mission Resourcing Report

1. Introduction

Mission Resourcing has undergone significant transformation between Synods. These changes were in response to the significant review which established a new Mission Framework guiding Mission Resourcing's work (available [here](#)). The most significant change was to place six 0.5 FTE Mission Activators to serve the church in this ministry centre. At the last Synod, Rev Jennifer Hughes was inducted as Mission Resourcing Executive Officer, and five of the Mission Activators were inducted or commissioned to their roles, with the sixth Mission Activator being inducted in early 2025. Melissa Neumann, Rev Dr Paul Goh, Rev Tim Littleford continued with Mission Resourcing, though in new roles as Mission Activators. Rev Cyrus Kung, Rev Nick Patselis and Rev Scott Litchfield joined the team as Mission Activators. In 2024, Mia Cartledge, followed by Charlotte Vawser in 2025, served in Administration. Janet Woodward continues to be the Administrator for UCFAMS. Rev Dr Paul Goh serves in a full time capacity, adding a particular intercultural lens to his ministry to the role of Mission Activator.

This team have adapted to a new way of equipping the church through Mission Resourcing. The new model is collaborative across areas of Covenanting, Faith Vitality and Formation, Congregational Renewal, Local Community Mission and Evangelism, and Intercultural Capacity. This has invited a mindset shift, placing Gospel Joy at the centre of all we do, and seeking to find ways of weaving these ministries together by how they are lived out in equipping the church.

The team have spent time learning and adapting, testing new ideas and building relationships with one another and across the church. The Mission Resourcing team seek to serve the Synod through avenues of:

- **Catalytic Experiences**
opportunities that spark new experiences of faith and deeper engagement with God.
- **Leadership and Discipleship Opportunities**
intentional engagements that grow, stretch, challenge, teach and shape leaders, congregations and the church.
- **Connections, Committee Work and Mission Centres**
equipping and connecting through the extended Mission Resourcing ministries, gathering together people to lead in particular areas and connecting with the work of the wider church.
- **Resources**
providing helpful material to leaders and congregations that shape and enrich ministry.

In an effort to express this new model of ministry at work, this report is a collaborative effort from the whole team. The report is gathered under the four avenues of resourcing. Different people have written each section, each bringing their unique voice, passion, ministry and gifts. The extended Mission Resourcing team includes Mission Centres who have also lent their voice to the report as noted.

It is a joy to share in ministry together, collaborating, listening for the guidance of the spirit, sharing in courageous advocacy, building healthy relationships and being part of a creative culture. As you read this report, we pray that you may sense the soaking presence of Gospel Joy as lives are changed, discipleship deepened, minds, hearts and hands stretched, and people served. We are grateful to serve God and the Synod and pray God's ongoing guidance upon the many ministries shared in this report.

2. Catalytic Experiences

Opportunities that spark new experiences of faith and deeper engagement with God

2.1 Red Dove Immersions

In 2025 we ran Red Dove Missional immersions for the first time. We offered a full day program to guide reflection on participants experiences of being at “the show”. Each person offered a volunteer shift in the café. This was bookended with an introduction and time of general observations in the morning, and the day finished with a second time of reflection and debriefing. The Missional immersion days offer a chance for participants to “wander and wonder” at what they are seeing, hearing, smelling and experiencing at the show. They then practice missional reflection on their observations as a group. These skills are an essential foundation for community engagement, faith sharing, and ministry in our churches and faith communities.

2.2 Partnership with Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)

The Synod continues to build on our strong partnership with the Iksan Presbytery of the PROK in South Korea. This connection of over 30 years has settled into an annual cycle of visits and cultural sharing. In 2024, immediately after Synod, a group of 11 young adults from South Australia, together with the Moderator and group leaders, shared the transformational experience of visiting the partner church. 2025 saw the return visit of a group of 12 youth and three leaders from Iksan to SA. The Korean Partnership team of our Synod facilitated this time offering generous hospitality and a warm welcome to an energetic bunch of young people. 2026 sees a group from our Synod travel to South Korea. We anticipate renewing the partnership agreement at some stage in 2026 to continue this valuable international relationship of mutual learning and sharing.

2.3 Adnyamathanha Pilgrimage

Under the wide skies of Ikara (Flinders Ranges), twenty people recently gathered for the inaugural Adnyamathanha Pilgrimage on Country, led by Rev Dr Aunty Denise Champion and the Adnyamathanha Aunties. Drawing together UCA members from six congregations, church leaders, and people from a diversity of faith backgrounds and theologies, it was a Pilgrimage that exceeded expectations.

From the outset, story was at the centre. As the Aunties shared from their culture, knowledge, and lived experience, participants listened deeply — around meals, on walks, and in quiet reflection. Community formed warmly and naturally. Laughter, shared meals, prayer, and moments of unexpected connection shaped the days. As one participant reflected, “It felt like we were truly one community by the time we left.”

The theme of Stop, Listen, Learn guided the journey, inviting everyone to step out of the busyness of life and make space for something slower and more sacred. Many found these words stayed with them, shaping how they noticed God in creation, in story, and in the stillness of being on Country.

By the final day, participants spoke of a richer understanding of covenanting and First Nations stories, and a new openness to Country and connection. Another shared, “I came home with a deeper understanding, and a heart more open to the journey of covenanting.”

This was a first Pilgrimage — and a powerful beginning. The relationships formed will ripple back into congregations, communities, and the ongoing journey of walking together.

2.4 SYC 2024, SYC 2025, and SYC Worship Night 2026

The State Youth Conference (SYC) is the Synod’s flagship evangelistic and discipleship event for young people in Years 7–12, driven by the Youth Development Team’s twin priorities of raising the discipleship bar and cultivating unity across youth ministries. SYC 2024 gathered 271 teenagers and leaders at Seeds Uniting Church around the theme of love — centring the cruciform love of Christ — with approximately a dozen young people making first-time decisions to follow Jesus, and multiple reporting hearing the voice of God or sensing the Holy Spirit’s presence for the first time. SYC 2025 saw 228 participants at Hope Valley Church, with an intentional focus on the practical “how” of discipleship in everyday contexts like school and sport. At SYC 2025, 69% of leaders were aged 25 or under — a striking indicator of the event’s investment in a young leadership cohort. Both events drew cross-presbytery participation from Generate, Wimala, and PoSSA, strengthening community connections and fostering a sense among young people of belonging to something larger than their local church. The conferences model a collaborative missiology, relying on partnership with local congregations and their youth ministries rather than Synod delivery alone. In 2026, a deliberate decision was made to host a SYC Worship Night at Seeds Uniting Church in lieu of a full conference, creating space for the Emerging Leaders Retreat and allowing time to build momentum for a full SYC return in May 2027.

2.5 Youth Pastors' Retreat

The annual Youth Pastors' Retreat is one of the most high-yield investments Mission Resourcing makes in the future of the church. Running since 2023, under themes such as Zeal (2024) and Shalom (2025), the retreat gathers youth leaders for spiritual formation, community building, and practical ministry equipping. It directly advances faith vitality and formation by creating immersive space for key youth leaders to deepen their own walk with God through spiritual disciplines including silence, solitude, prayer, worship, and sabbath practice — recognising that sustainable ministry flows from a leader's own spiritual health. Practically, participants return to their ministry contexts equipped with tools for preaching, team leadership, and community exegesis — including the street exegesis practised in Victor Harbour, which invites leaders to read their local community missionally and attentively. The retreat consistently surfaces vocational callings, with participants entering Periods of Discernment and exploring ordained ministry pathways, contributing directly to leadership development across the Synod.

2.6 Emerging Leaders Retreat

In 2026, the Youth Pastors' Retreat was broadened and rebranded as the Emerging Leaders Retreat, reflecting a deliberate expansion of its scope beyond youth ministry to include emerging leaders from across congregational life. Under the theme Re/Kindle — drawn from 2 Timothy 1:6-7 — 57 emerging leaders from 25 congregations across South Australia gathered for a weekend of keynote teaching, practical workshops, testimony, and extended times of silence and reflection. Rev Michael Hands, Lead Minister of Newlife Family of Churches, led three keynote sessions exploring what it means to fan the flame of leadership, discover God's call, and pursue God's presence above all else. His teaching challenged participants to understand what steals and what fans the flame of their calling. The retreat challenged participants to pursue God's presence as the foundation of sustainable leadership, and supported congregational renewal by sending leaders home with renewed vision and practical competencies for their ministry contexts. Deep relational connections were formed across congregational and geographical boundaries, strengthening community connections across the Synod.

2.7 Renew Synod Resourcing Day

Mission Resourcing worked with the Secretariat, Engagement and many other ministry teams across the Synod to bring to life *Renew*. This was a response to the request of the Synod to bring together members from across the Synod for a resourcing event between Synods. *Renew* equipped congregational leaders across South Australia with practical tools, theological frameworks, and peer connection to support local renewal journeys. The event was held across Friday 17 and Saturday 18 October at Adelaide West Uniting Church and Yarthu-Apinthi, welcoming more than 260 people from across the state — a remarkable demonstration of hunger for renewal across SA congregations. The Synod of NSW & ACT's Mission, Growth and Innovation Team joined as special guests, delivering three keynote lectures, guiding attendees through workshops and small group sessions, and sharing the benefit of their experience with the Mission Resourcing Team. The day built faith vitality and formation by grounding renewal conversations in scripture and Spirit-led discernment, and strengthened community connections by bringing together leaders from across the Synod who often worked in geographic or missional isolation.

3. Leadership and Discipleship Opportunities

intentional engagements that grow, stretch, challenge, teach and shape leaders, congregations and the church

3.1 Awaken Adelaide Learning Plenaries & Cohorts

Awaken Adelaide Learning Plenaries, featuring local, interstate, and international speakers, have provided theological reflection and practical encouragement for ministry agents and congregational leaders. These gatherings strengthen intercultural capacity and missional imagination by helping participants discern God's activity within their neighbourhoods and form new relationships with multicultural communities.

Awaken Adelaide Cohorts Two (2025) and Three (2026) continue to equip ministry agents and congregational leaders across cultures and presbyteries through a six-month learning journey focused on intercultural leadership, local community engagement, and congregational renewal. Through practices such as Dwelling in the Word, neighbourhood listening, and communal discernment, participants deepen their understanding of joining God's mission in their local contexts. The program encourages congregations to develop relationships within their communities, explore new expressions of witness and service, and cultivate a culture of prayerful discernment and missional experimentation.

Rev Prof Wonyoung Sohn, visiting from Korea, contributed to the Awaken Adelaide Plenary in late April 2026, bringing an international perspective on intercultural and interfaith engagement and missional renewal.

3.2 Weaving Lives Together

Weaving Lives Together conference day in August 2025 drew over 70 people together from across the SA Synod and from churches in other denominations. This was the first conference of its type run by the Community Connections Collective and Mission Resourcing. Karina Kreminski was our key resource person, alongside numerous local community practitioners. Participants left feeling like they had been with "their people" for the day as we considered God's calling to connect with local community and imagined a renewed church following the ways of Jesus in our place.

3.3 Amplify Conference 2025

This national conference for leaders and volunteers is facilitated in local hubs around Australia. Here in SA, the Children's Ministry Network coordinated 4 ecumenical hubs in August 2025. This included a hub at Yarthu-Apinthi supported by Mission Resourcing staff with attendees from 10 different churches across 3 denominations attending. There was also a hub at Rostrevor Baptist that a team from Burnside City UC attended and a hub held at and hosted by Unity Hill Port Lincoln.

We received very positive feedback about attendees engaging with one another to share and learn together, engaging with content through keynotes and workshops on topics that equip and encourage

leaders in the discipleship and faith formation of young people, including leadership and resourcing specific to different age groups, being intergenerational, understanding Indigenous culture, using AI in ministry, understanding cultural identity and more.

In 2026, we are planning to host one ecumenical Adelaide hub (venue tbc) to create more opportunities for networking and resourcing on August 29 and the Unity Hill Port Lincoln hub will be held on August 15.

3.4 40th Anniversary National Consultation: Being a Multicultural Church

Mission Resourcing hosted an Adelaide hub at Yarthu-Apinthi for the national theological consultation marking the 40th anniversary of the Uniting Church's declaration 'We are a Multicultural Church.' The gathering brought together leaders from across Australia for theological reflection on the church's continuing journey of being a multicultural church towards intercultural transformation. Through dialogue and shared learning, the consultation strengthened our identity and mission in an increasingly multicultural South Australia while renewing the church's commitment to intercultural discipleship and reconciliation. Mission Activator Rev Dr Paul Goh contributed as one of the keynote speakers. The June 2025 national consultation drew over 100 participants with strong cross-synod engagement, marking a significant milestone in the national conversation on intercultural church life. It also served as the setting for Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday 2025, incorporating multilingual liturgies and worship guides developed in collaboration with the Assembly Resourcing Unit, the Being a Multicultural Church Circle, and the Communication team.

3.5 Leaders to Go 2025

Melissa Neumann co-facilitated the planning team and attended the biennial *Leaders to Go* conference for key leaders of children and family ministries held at The Tops Conference Centre, south of Sydney in September 2025. At this residential, four day conference leaders explored the Converge research into faith formation for young people and had opportunities to attend workshops or engage with resources around mission and community connections for ministries with children and families.

In exciting news, the 2027 Leaders to go conference will be held in SA at the Nunyara Conference Centre, Belair.

3.6 Converge Oceania Conference

In November 2024, the "Your Story" research project by Converge Oceania was launched at conferences around Australia, including one held at Burnside City UC facilitated by an ecumenical team that included Melissa Neumann. This research continues to be engaged with by ministry leaders and school around Australia in shaping decisions about priorities and foci for ministry with young people. This research is highly recommended for any church engaging with young people and their faith formation. For more, including to access the full report, please visit: <https://www.convergeoceania.com/yourstory>

3.7 Messy Meet-ups and Messy Church Resourcing

Every year the Messy Church SA team, including Melissa Neumann (Mission Resourcing, UCASA), Jeanette Mann (Lutheran Church, Synod of SA/NT) and Gail Edwards (Burra UC), host quarterly online catch ups for Messy Church leaders to share what's happening in their Messy Churches, the highlights, difficulties, ideas and resources they're using, along with opportunities to hear about national and global Messy Church resources. We also encourage one another and pray for each other. These catch ups often include conversations and resourcing about faith formation, growing disciples of all ages, evangelism and community engagement.

In Winter 2025, we facilitated two Messy Meet-ups, one in Nurioopta and one in Victor Harbor, where we focused on one of the core values of Messy Church – being all-ages. We had almost 40 leaders, from 7 different Messy Churches, across 3 denominations attend across both venues.

This year, across the weekend of September 19-20, members of the National Messy Church team will be in Adelaide to lead experiential workshops around starting a Messy Church and exploring Messy Church ministries.

3.8 World Christianity Conference & Oceania Theology and Ministry Collective Workshop

In March 2025, Mission Activator Rev Dr Paul Goh attended the World Christianity Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary (10–14 March), engaging with international scholarship on world Christianity, intercultural theology, and missional ecclesiology. Paul presented Mission Resourcing's 2021 CALD and Intercultural Ministry Survey, framing the findings within global immigration trends and transnational Christian mission. The visit included preaching and speaking engagements at three churches in New Jersey, Boston, and Toronto, extending the Synod's intercultural witness to an international audience.

Paul also contributed to the Oceania Theology and Ministry Collective (OTMC) workshop at United Theological College (August 2025), contributing to a collaborative book project titled 'Theological Resources from Oceania for World Christianity.' This aligns directly with Mission Resourcing's commitment to developing contextual theological resources for our Synod and beyond.

4. Connections, Committee Work and Mission Centres

Equipping and connecting through the extended Mission Resourcing ministries, gathering together people to lead in particular areas and connecting with the work of the wider church

4.1 Covenanting Committee

The Covenanting Committee is the place where members of the Synod sit with members of Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) to listen, build relationship, and live in covenant together.

The Covenanting Committee has continued to meet. The Committee has spent time lamenting the outcome of the Voice referendum, supporting the opening of the UAICC church in Oodnadatta, yarning together and listening to Congress. Time has been dedicated to celebrating the ministry of Aunty Rev Dr Aunty Denise, supporting the Adnyamathanha Pilgrimage, hearing about Yarta Wandatha and Kungan Kaldowinyeri (Units of study with UCLT), and preparing resources for the wider church in living out the covenant with UAICC. Importantly, a significant time is spent in relationship together. The Committee is seeking ways to offer avenues of Second Peoples engagement with First Peoples that do not over-burden UAICC and provide opportunities for allyship that enhance the ministries of Congress.

At the time of writing, the Covenanting Committee is seeking affirmation from the Synod Standing Committee to review the terms of reference for the Committee. This is to seek ways to release the Committee from the boundaries created by the existing requirements.

<https://unitingcollege.edu.au/yarta-wandatha-kungan-kaldowinyeri/>

4.2 Uniting Church Fellowship and Mission Support

In 2025, the Uniting Church Fellowship and Mission Support Committee asked for a review of its work as it struggled to add new members. Following the review it was decided to close the Committee and restructure within Mission Resourcing. This process has been started and an Interim committee has been put in place. In February 2026, the UCFAMS Committee met for the last time and gave thanks for the support for mission and the committee for the work they had done. This was a great time of celebration, and thanksgiving for those who were retiring and those moving into the new structure. All our areas of our mission and ministry are still going ahead with much joy.

4.3 Intercultural Ministry – CALD Action Plan 2022-2025

This reporting period marks the conclusion of the Synod Action Plan for Becoming a CALD and Intercultural Church 2022–2025. A comprehensive report was presented to the Mission and Leadership Development Board in October 2025, summarising achievements and recommending a pathway to the next phase of intercultural ministry.

4.3.1 Key Achievements

- Annual observance and resourcing of Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday (INS), including multilingual liturgies and worship guides developed across three consecutive years.
- Establishment of a vibrant virtual network — CALD & Intercultural Ministry UCA SA — with over 120 members for peer support and resource sharing.
- Recognition and support for emerging CALD faith communities and congregations: South Sudanese, Burundian, Congolese, Zimbabwean, Korean, and Fijian communities.

- Review and update of the Minister Leadership Profile and Congregation Placement Profile to integrate intercultural competencies.
- Launch of the SA Christian Forum for Intercultural Leadership and formation of an African Leaders' Network.
- Development of the Intercultural Congregation Pilot Project — Awaken Adelaide (2023–present) — engaging both Anglo and CALD congregations.
- Appointment of Rev Cyrus Kung as Mission Activator, opening new opportunities for second-generation CALD ministry.

4.3.2 Strategic Outlook: 2026–2030

Mission Resourcing has been reviewing the completed action plan and develop a proposal for the next Synod CALD Action Plan (2026–2030), aligned with the new Synod Mission Framework and the proposed vision for a Uniting Decade of Intercultural Transformation. Through consultation with focus congregations, presbyteries, and CALD leaders — including those involved in second-generation ministry — a final proposal will be presented to Synod 2026 in June.

4.4 Youth Development Team

The Youth Development Team (YDT) is the collaborative engine that drives youth-focused mission across the SA Synod, operating with a clear dual mandate: raising the bar of discipleship in youth ministry and cultivating unity and community between youth groups and their leaders. The YDT is made up of youth leaders from across the Synod — not appointed by quota or presbytery representation but drawn together by shared passion and complementary gifts — which gives the team a genuinely grassroots, practitioner-led character. This structure means the team's work is grounded in the reality of youth ministry as it actually exists in South Australia, including the challenges of small youth groups, leader turnover, and under-resourcing. Through SYC, the Youth Pastors Retreat, and other training and connection opportunities, the YDT contributes directly to faith vitality and formation, evangelism, congregational renewal, and community connections across the Synod's youth landscape. The team has demonstrated a commitment to collaboration with local congregations, recognising that Synod cannot — and should not — do this work alone.

4.5 Justice, Mission and Theology & National Justice Network

Resourcing in the Public Theology and Mission (PTM) and Justice, Mission and Theology (JMT) Subcommittees and the JMT Management Team of the Mission and Leadership Development Board has sustained the Synod's engagement with issues of justice, advocacy, and public theology across this reporting period. The Management Team met regularly through 2025 and into 2026, with meetings on 4 February and 4 March 2026 focusing on election resource deployment, justice advocacy campaigns, and emerging issue monitoring.

4.5.1 Justice Watch — Ongoing Issue Monitoring

The JMT Subcommittee continued its practice of Justice Watch, with members offering focused three-minute briefings on current justice concerns. Issues addressed during this period included:

- Algal Bloom and environmental justice in South Australian waterways.
- Kairos Palestine — theological and advocacy dimensions of the Palestinian situation.
- Turning Point Australia — concerns regarding Christian nationalism, political polarisation, and the intersection of faith and conservative politics.
- Racism — drawing on Mark Waters' engagement with John Perkins' 'With Justice for All' and post-referendum reflections on First Nations justice.
- Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence — engagement with the Royal Commission report 'With Courage: South Australia's Vision Beyond Violence' (August 2025), which made 136 recommendations, several with direct relevance to faith-based organisations.

4.5.2 End the Waiting Campaign

Through JMT networks, the Synod supported the national End the Waiting advocacy campaign, calling for justice for refugees and people seeking asylum. The campaign was initiated by the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (an activity of the National Council of Churches, of which the Uniting Church is a member) and Common Grace, an ecumenical network, inviting church leaders at all levels to sign an open letter advocating for an end to prolonged waiting for refugees and asylum seekers — many of whom had been in limbo for over a decade, particularly those disadvantaged by the 'fast track system.' With the JMT Management Team's endorsement, the Moderator signed the advocacy letter to the Prime Minister and Immigration Minister on behalf of the Synod of South Australia, followed by Synod-wide promotion of the campaign.

4.5.3 Loneliness — Theological and Practical Response

The JMT Subcommittee engaged in sustained theological reflection on loneliness as a justice and pastoral concern, drawing on the Loneliness by Numbers report from Uniting Communities (August 2025). A dedicated sub-group, convened by Bart Bruehler and including Jenny Esots and Richard Telfer, has been formed to progress a Synod response encompassing theological reflection, congregational practice, and community connection initiatives.

4.5.4 Creation Care and Climate Action

Mission Resourcing has worked alongside the Environmental Action Group (EAG) as it supports Synod's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2040. Through education, events, and practical guidance, the group equips congregations to care for creation and engage in climate action as a faithful expression of Christian discipleship and public witness. The JMT Subcommittee continued to monitor the Algal Bloom environmental crisis as a local justice concern connected to Synod's creation care commitments.

4.6 Environmental Action Group

Besides the on-going role of lobbying for better outcomes on behalf of nature and our precious environment, the EAG has two main projects currently on the go.

These are:

1. Supporting work to facilitate the Uniting Church in SA to achieve net zero carbon emissions across all its activities by the year 2040
2. In memory of the Rev Dr. Brian Phillips and in partnership with Uniting College establishing a scholarship program open to young people to help them engage in study and work on earth care and environmental renewal as an expression of their Christian faith

4.6.1 Uniting Church Net Zero Project

There have been some major changes to the Net Zero by 2040 project as a consequence of commitments by the National Assembly. The National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia has committed the whole church towards the target of net-zero emissions by 2040.

The UCA will be subject to mandatory National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) legislation as a registered controlling corporation. This applies to all Synods. To comply with this requirement the whole church must adopt a standard approach to the monitoring and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. The UCA has nominated the Queensland Synod to establish a national approach on behalf of all Synods of the UCA. We are now supporting the Queensland Synod to achieve this task and our own work in this area has been paused until national guidelines are produced.

Commitment throughout the church to the principles of the guiding document 'Renewal of the Whole of Creation' is a great start. The next step is to engage our people to implement the steps we all need to take.

4.6.2 Continuation of an Environmental Movement in the Uniting Church

Many of us in the EAG and the church as a whole are concerned about renewal of the environmental movement and the continued engagement of young people in these issues which are of prime importance to our future.

To this end the EAG has initiated a project in partnership with Uniting College to establish a public fund in memory of the late Brian Phillips, to financially support young people enabling them to realise their dreams and ambitions in respect of engaging in activities directed towards environmental renewal, following the example of Brian: to be faith centred, science based and for love of the earth and its wondrous creation.

With the aid of funding support from the Glenburnie Program the EAG in concert with Uniting College is now in the process of establishing a temporary position of Research Officer to research and define specific opportunities whereby young people can be attracted and supported to engage in this work.

David Shepherd, Environmental Action Group Convenor

4.7 Partnership with United Church of Christ in the Philippines

Our partnerships with the North Luzon and Middle Luzon Jurisdictions of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) have lost connection and vigour over recent years. In 2025 a small group gathered a few times to reflect on the past and wonder about what a revitalised partnership with the UCCP might look like. We have had a long and deep connection with UCCP North Luzon for over 3 decades and about 13 years with the Middle Luzon Jurisdiction. We didn't want to just go back to "how things were", nor did we want to "promise something we can't actually do". So, we have been praying and wondering about where God is leading us. The next step is for two key leaders from our Synod to visit the Philippines to attend the UCCP national meetings in May 2026. Further collaborations and visits in the coming years will consolidate the shape of this renewed relationship. Partnership with the UCCP offers us deep learning opportunities and draws us into solidarity with a people facing social injustice and community breakdown, with a people who live with a sense of hope in God's love for the world.

4.8 Ethical Investment Working Group

Please see the Resources Ministry Centre report.

4.9 Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts

The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts is a state-wide ministry centre of Mission Resourcing and part of the work of the Synod through Mission and Leadership Development.

The primary areas of focus are:

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

The completed projects for which we are thankful in 2025 are:

Journalling with Paint and Poetry workshops with Karan Hudson and Paul Turley held at Bridgewater UC in January – this had 13 painting participants and 9 poetry participants.

The Corner UC in July – this was a smaller group, but the learning and camaraderie were fabulous.

The release of the **Walk as One Individual Songs** with excellent local recordings produced by Leigh Newton and featuring a group of CMLA volunteer singers. These have been selling across Australia. Special thanks to Geoff Hurst for video production.

MiniM Choir held a concert at Rosefield UC on 2 November to a full house. The program was entitled "**Music That's Good for the Soul**".

MiniM again shared their beautiful music as part of **Bridgewater Arts Christmas Concert** alongside Leigh Newton and Robin and Dorothy Mann.

Subtle Bricks Theatre Company continued their creative ministries by presenting in various churches. Subtle Bricks was formally closed in November 2025 and a new drama ministry Seasonal Sketches was born which will continue on a seasonal basis.

Looking forward: In September 2026, 11 pilgrims from across the church in SA are travelling to become part of the community at Iona in Scotland where they will participate in the **Sound and Vision Creativity Week**. This will be an exciting opportunity to grow in faith, creativity and a passion for God's justice and mission in the world. There will be opportunities to hear from participants after their return.

Whilst this experience is primarily self-funded by participants, CMLA has been fortunate in obtaining a small grant from Red Dove Café which will be distributed amongst participants, thus reducing individual costs. We are very grateful for this support from Red Dove Café.

Other events are planned for later in 2026 – an **Art Workshop with Karan Hudson** and a **Songwriting and Creative Expression workshop** amongst other things.

As CMLA considers what the future looks like, there have been some changes in membership of the Board with the resignation of Rev Linda Driver and the addition of Revs Geoff Hurst and Peter McDonald in recent months. We are very grateful for Linda's leadership, wisdom, creativity and pastoral heart during her time as Board Chair and we are excited to see what new energy and inspiration both Geoff and Peter bring to the team.

Belinda Smith, Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts Administrative Assistant

4.10 Effective Living Centre

The Effective Living Centre – going strong since 1998 – completed another successful year of programs and events in 2025. Highlights included another full year of our monthly Progressive Christianity Forums; Poets Corner continuing strongly with five well-subscribed events featuring leading South Australian poets; Wilks Oration in July with Carolyn and Fuzz Kitto (combined with PC Forum); our annual fundraiser concert in conjunction with Trinity Sessions supporting the charity Kickstart for Kids; and the biennial Polkinghorne Oration in October in conjunction with UCFAMS featuring Rev Tim Costello. To read about our activities in more detail go to our [Newsletter](#) page.

In September 2025, we were devastated by the loss of our long-running secretary, Margaret Calder. Margaret was a driving force of the ELC from the early days, leading our Social Issues and Wilks Oration task groups, working tirelessly, inspiring so many of us. Vale, Margie, you are irreplaceable.

For details of our 2026 program, go to [2026 ELC Program](#). In the first half of 2026 we hosted four sessions of Progressive Christianity Forum, two Poets Corner events, the special event, Hope & Aspiration, with Bruce Whyatt from the charity Being the Dream, and our 2026 Wilks Oration with Peter Stanley, which will be broadcast on ABC RN Big Ideas later this year.

Thank you to all our supporters: ELC is the ongoing community engagement project of Christ Church congregation and a recognized Mission Centre of SA Uniting Church Synod, now in its 29th year – and we aim to keep serving the community for a few more years yet!

Fergus McGinley, Chair of Effective Living Centre Management Committee

5. Resources

providing helpful material to leaders and congregations that shape and enrich ministry

5.1 Worship Resources – Words for Worship and Liturgy, Learning and (Purposeful) Life

In 2025, the Synod legally acquired the worship resources of Words for Worship and Liturgy, Learning and (Purposeful) Life (L3). Words for Worship and L3 offer high quality worship resources that support congregations to offer weekly worship. The resources lighten the load and offer starting points for weekly planning and for significant Sundays in the year.

These resources were created by MediaCom Education Inc. and have successfully resourced the church for many years. With the closure of MediaCom in 2024, the Synod was passionate about ensuring these significant resources continue to be offered to support the worshipping life of communities.

Susan Burt, with a lifetime of experience in Christian Education and worship resources, supported the process of transitioning these publications to the Synod. Susan has been outstanding in her ability to work with writers and ensure that these resources go from strength to strength. We are grateful to Susan for offering her gifts and skills, wisdom, creativity, passion and love to Words for Worship and L3. Susan has guided the transition process and ensured the ongoing life of these excellent publications. Susan will be concluding in this role and looks forward to retiring. A new Publications Coordinator will undertake the role from the middle of the year. We look forward to all that this new part of the life of Mission Resourcing holds through supporting the worshipping life of communities.

5.2 Harmony Day, Anti-Racism, Worship and Formation Resources

Mission Resourcing prepared and shared a range of resources to support congregational worship, formation, and public engagement across the reporting period. These include:

- Reconciliation Sunday worship materials supporting the Synod's commitment to covenanting with First Peoples.
- Harmony Week and International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD) 2025, 2026 resources, including a PowerPoint for Synod liturgy collating materials from local and Assembly sources, distributed via UC eNews.
- Anti-racism study resources developed in consultation with JMT Management Team.
- Justice advocacy guides designed to help congregations engage faithfully with issues affecting their communities.
- Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday resources, including multilingual liturgies developed in collaboration with the Assembly Resourcing Unit.

5.3 2026 SA State Election Resource Pack

A key initiative of this period has been the development and distribution of the 2026 South Australian State Election Resource Pack for Congregations. The Resource Pack equips congregations to engage thoughtfully and prayerfully with public policy and the common good ahead of the March 2026 state election. The Moderator and General Secretary serve as signatories, and the pack was distributed broadly through UC eNews.

Following the election, the JMT Management Team committed to revisiting the resource framework, exploring how the election themes might be reframed as ongoing reflections of the church's justice commitments — moving from electoral advocacy to sustained congregational witness.

6. Conclusion

The Mission Resourcing team is grateful for the ongoing presence of God in the midst of the team, calling us and the church to renewal, advocacy, relationship, reconciliation and deepening of faith. Mission Resourcing seeks to nurture a church that is spiritually alive, interculturally attentive, and missionally engaged — supporting congregations to participate more fully in God's reconciling mission within their local communities and the wider Australian society. At the heart of it all is Gospel Joy – an invitation and response to participate in God's work in the world, not as a burden but with delight, curiosity, humility, love and compassion. We offer this report prayerfully and invite all the Synod to join in prayer for the ministries reflected within it.

Mission Resourcing Team

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May 10, 2026



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia