

Record of Service – Rev Kaye Colliver



Born in 1956 the daughter of Brian and Daisy Whitford, I grew up on a dairy farm at Myponga. Sunday School, junior choir and S.S. anniversaries were all cherished parts of my childhood. I made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ when I was 13 and was nurtured through a Discussion Group/Bible Study and many camps through my teens. As secretary of our Methodist Youth Fellowship and as part of their Worship team, I was given the opportunity to preach my first sermon at Inman Valley when I was 14. In year 11 and 12, I took part in Port Elliott Scripture Union Beach Missions. This was a great training ground, encouraging outreach with many creative ideas like clowning and puppetry.

I went to Sturt CAE graduating with a DipT. I became a Junior Primary teacher at Mt Compass Area School. During this period, I had married Ian Colliver who was working on his parents' dairy farm at Hindmarsh Tiers. He had become the leader of the MYF group and we were both elected as elders for the Myponga congregation when the Uniting Church was established. His father's death six months before we married, meant a shift to Mt Compass then 12 months later a shift to Kimba where he worked on a wheat and beef cattle property while I taught. Two years later we shifted to Wirrulla and then Nunjirkompita for 3 years each where our three children were born. Ian was share-farming and I did relief teaching and paintings to help us get through some very lean years. Ian was elected elder and was one of the two worship leader/musicians at Wirrulla UC, while I often lead the Children's teaching ministry segment in Church.

In 1987 we shifted back to a dairy farm at Inman Valley. It was as I was driving to our new home, I felt that God was saying to me, "Going to Inman Valley has nothing to do with Jersey cows, it is about what I want to do in your life". What we thought was a great opportunity to own our own farm was cut short after three years when the Milk Company changed the payment system and we became unviable. But a series of God incidents had reinvigorated my call to involvement at church. We shifted to Cooke Plains and I was soon leading a women's study group, offering children's ministry and preaching in the four churches of the Lakes and Districts Parish. I had begun Lay Preacher Training by correspondence and Ian was again elected as an Elder and was often leading Worship. We took part as a family in two more SU Beach Missions at Victor Harbor and then leadership of Missions at Moonta Bay and Pt Hughes.

I was given an opportunity to do a GradDip. in Soc Sc (Health Counselling) at Uni SA and then I candidated and began my B.Th and DipPS part time, commuting from Cooke Plains. I did my Field Placement in the Murray Bridge Parish followed by CPE at Teen Challenge-MB. I went on to do some counselling work for Supported Accommodation. During my study time I felt that God was saying to me "the ministry you are training for doesn't yet exist". At the end of 11 years of part-time study I was waiting for a suitable placement. I worked part time for a couple of months in pastoral care at Westbourne Park. Then I had 5 months 0.7 supply ministry at Bridgewater/Mylor followed by 10 weeks, 2 days/ week at Aldersgate Aged Care where a shift in worship from Sunday to Wednesday grew the worshipping congregation from about 5 to over 25 each week.

Finally, I received a call to a 0.5 position with Croydon Park/Woodville Gardens Joint Congregations. I could finally be ordained. As I was still working at Aldersgate, the Congregations offered me the Bryan Avenue manse to stay in while I was in Adelaide for the short time before my Ordination. On my second night there, Ian called in and told me he wanted a divorce. My 27 year marriage was suddenly over, I was abandoned, devastated and in total shock and disbelief.

I was ordained 15 March 2003 and living on my own for the first time in my life and began ministry at Croydon Park, Woodville Gardens. I managed for a few months then had a major stress breakdown during which more than 130 individuals reached out and cared for me with God's love and care. The next year after I had gradually begun again in the congregations 0.25 at C P and 0.25 at W G, I also began 0.3 as UC Chaplain at Calvary Hospital North Adelaide for two years. I then began the 0.5 Westwood Outreach Worker role and with the Westwood Re-developers we created a Community Garden around the WG Church, connecting with at least five schools and many community groups. We ran several Multicultural Fairs and had a tent presence at many of the Westwood community events. The Op Shop was revamped and helped support the many refugees that had started attending. We began a Kid's Church program which connected with more than 150 Kids all from disadvantaged backgrounds, mostly Aboriginal children or African refugees, or children from broken homes. We worked with families from Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Congo, South Africa, Ghana and Iran and raised support for Children on Laine Refugee Camp in Guinea. We ran a Playgroup. For several years we had groups (shared with UAICC) of over 50 at KCO and groups of 30 at SAYCO. I baptized 17 at Largs Bay (10 in one day, the highpoint of my ministry). We had an Indian Congregation worshipping at WG on Saturday nights and 160 Children receiving Kumon tutoring in English and maths 2 x week. In 2011 CP and WG Congregations split and I stayed with the WG congregation 0.5 and worked 0.5 as an adult advocate/counsellor for STTARS.

I have had 36 Refugees, MSW Students from Madras Christian College in India and others in need from eight countries of the world, live with me over the years. Some of the Students from MCC went on to work with IJM, setting hundreds of people free from brothels or from bonded labour slavery, four have gone on into Ordained Ministry in different denominations and another two run small House Churches. I have now had seven trips to India catching up with and encouraging them in their work and attending weddings.

After 10 years in my first Placement, I did a few months of Supply Ministry at Prospect Road then an additional Supply ministry at Clearview which turned into a placement. The Eritrean Orthodox Congregation began to use the buildings on Saturday mornings and we went on to develop a deeper relationship with them that included at least 10 shared services of worship.

From 1 January 2017 I took up my final placement full time at Whyalla, dealing with same gender marriage issues, Covid 19 and a significant double bacterial infection after a minor surgery, that I am still recovering from. We had five years of great study groups, of Nursing Home visits to four different facilities, and developing email/hand delivered service resources for those who wished to stay connected but worship at home. I thank God for the many miracles and blessings I have seen and experienced in my 19 years of ordained ministry. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve God in this way.