



NEWS AND NOTES

INCORPORATING **SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS**

Tuesday 23 April 2019

On the evening of Monday 8 April 2019, Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met and began with devotions, including time to share joys and concerns.

Access to Embargoed Funds Process

At its meeting on 11 February, SSC agreed by consensus that two members of Presbytery Standing Committee and two members of the Resources Commission meet and develop a flow chart of the decision making process for access to Embargoed Funds to be presented to this meeting.

On Friday 8 March, two members of the Resources Commission, General Manager (Resources), Robert Locke and Senior Property Consultant, Richard Patterson met with the Presbytery of Western Australia chairperson-elect, Bob Hunt with input from Strategy and Mission Planning Committee (SMPC) chair, Rev Greg Ross.

A flowchart regarding property matters outlining the responsible body and stages in the decision making process was produced and agreed.

SSC agreed by consensus to adopt the flowchart as presented with one modification that the prerequisites refer to the Presbytery Rule for SMPC in the 'relevant documents' column.

Buildings Audit

Following the collapse of part of a congregation's ceiling in the worship space on Christmas Day 2018, and the closure of the buildings, SSC agreed by consensus at its meeting on Monday 11 February, that an urgent audit of all potentially effected ceilings designed and built in a similar era be undertaken.

An interim report was circulated by email to SSC members within one month and a full report was presented to this meeting.

Given the seriousness and urgency of this matter, this proposal and documents were discussed at length.

SSC resolved by consensus to endorse the establishment of the Property Review Task Group (PRTG) to advise the Synod of Western Australia Secretary, Rev David de Kock, the Property Officer, Robert Locke and SSC (unless delegated) with regard to decisions which need to be taken in respect of ceiling degradation, structural and cosmetic building maintenance, and safety compliance.

SSC resolved by consensus to delegate responsibility for such decisions to the Synod Property Board, but retain the right of review. Deputy General Secretary, Rev Mark Illingworth was appointed as Project Manager.

SSC resolved by consensus to appoint interim members to the PRTG until June and General Secretary, Rev David de Kock will engage with the Presbytery of Western Australia regarding Presbytery appointments to the PRTG.

The PRTG will report to each SSC meeting, copied to Presbytery Standing Committee, until December 2020.

Refinement of the PRTG Terms of Reference will be circulated to SSC members before the next SSC meeting on Monday, 10 June.

Moderatorial Nominating Committee

The purpose of the Moderatorial Nominating Committee (MNC) is to seek nominations of people who can provide leadership as Moderator and to present these to the Synod meeting. The Moderator-Elect for the triennium 2020 to 2023 will be elected at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia to be held from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 September 2019.

Robert Watson, co-chair of the MNC gave a progress report and advised SSC that the closing date for nominations is Friday 28 June.

UCA Redress Limited

The Uniting Church has joined the National Redress Scheme established by the Australian Government in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. UCA Redress Limited, is a single, national entity created to manage redress applications across the six Synods and national Assembly of the Uniting Church. Each of the Synods and the Assembly are governing members of UCA Redress Limited.

SSC resolved by consensus to amend some delegations to the General Secretary, who is its Member Representative.

Presbytery of Western Australia funds

At the Presbytery of Western Australia meeting held on Saturday 9 February 2019, Presbytery resolved by consensus to request the Synod to approve the introduction of the Presbytery's new principle that, in future, any year end Presbytery of Western Australia funds surplus to the Presbytery's Consolidated Budget be retained by the Presbytery, in a Trust Fund, earmarked for future use of the Presbytery, with effect from 1 January 2019.

SSC resolved by consensus that it could not approve the proposal as presented from the Presbytery to retain surplus funds from the Presbytery Consolidated Budget.

The Synod Standing Committee endorsed the continuation of conversations between the Presbytery Treasurer, Marilyn Price and Chief Financial Officer, Michael Patchell to clarify the proposal and sought a recommendation to the SSC following those conversations

New Remote Area Ministry – Goldfields Patrol Placement

SSC resolved by consensus to approve the position description and budget for a full-time Goldfields Patrol Remote Area Minister. SSC resolved by consensus to request the Placements Committee to declare a vacant placement and to establish a Joint Nominating Committee (JNC).

The intention is that the position will be located in Kalgoorlie and undertake a patrol along State Route 49 to Leonora and State Route 94 to Esperance. Position funding will be substantially provided by Frontier Services.

Nominating Committee

SSC approved the co-option of Barry Honey to the Resources Commission.

SSC approved the re-election of Lynne Woolfenden as Chairperson, Dr Kyle Hoath and Steve Kempin as members of Tranby College Council; David Granville as Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and effective 1 May, Melanie Kiely as CEO to the Board of Good Samaritan Industries; Cate Begbie as incoming Principal to Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC); Diane Smith-Gander as a member of Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) Council; and effective 1 June, Kate Wilson as chair of Trinity Residential College and Conference Centre Council.

SSC acknowledged the resignation of Steve Higgins from the Council for Mission; Dr John Gountas from Tranby College Council; and John Knowles as Chief Executive Officer of Good Samaritan Industries.

Revive

The final edition of *Revive* in its current form was published on Sunday 7 April. SSC agreed by consensus to approve the continuation of a hard copy *Revive* publication, as an outreach of the Uniting Church WA with the aim of providing a fresh perspective on faith, church and life to the wider Western Australian community.

SSC acknowledged that an internal audit relating to the distribution of *Revive* is ongoing and a further report will be presented to the next SSC meeting to be held on Monday 10 June. Uniting Church articles will continue to be published at revivemagazine.org.au.

Council for Mission

SSC agreed that \$1,000,000 be available to the Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021 initiative for 2019. Funds will be made available from the Foundation Trust once projects are approved by the Council for Mission. Although no funding for Mission Projects was sought from the Council for Mission in 2018, a number of projects have been and still are under development.

Church Law

Upon request by the Juniper Board and recommendation of the Church Law Committee, SSC agreed by consensus to changes to the Juniper Constitution to provide the Board of Juniper with the flexibility it requires in relation to the appointment and removal of the auditor, as well as improve the quality of the content of the Constitution and Juniper's governance practices.

Upon request of the Resources Commission and recommendation of the Church Law Committee, SSC agreed by consensus to minor amendments to By-Law S2.8 Uniting Church Resources Commission.

Upon recommendation of the Church Law Committee, SSC agreed by consensus to minor amendments to By-Laws being reformatted for consistency, renumbered as required, naming clause amended to "referred to as", Annual Synod Meeting replaced with each ordinary meeting, and General Council replaced with Synod Standing Committee.

Reports Received

In line with its regular reporting arrangements, Synod Standing Committee also received reports from: Moderator, Rev Steve Francis; General Secretary, Rev David de Kock; General Manager (Resources), Robert Locke; Chief Financial Officer, Michael Patchell; Resources Commission and Ministerial Benefits Committee.

Congregations

The Women's Weekend Away will be a spiritually enriching weekend as Rev Dr Emma Matthews explores how our life stories interweave with our faith stories, and how to create wonderful patterns of wisdom and wonder at God's grace and hope in everyday situations. It will be held from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 June at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre, Middle Swan, \$175 all inclusive. Call Fiona on 0407 771 416 or email southperthwwa@gmail.com for registration brochures or more information.

The Trek for Timor will take place on Sunday 19 May, beginning at Kalamunda Uniting Church. Funds raised will support Lafaek Diak's Mobile Doctor Clinic, providing life-saving community based health services to remote communities otherwise unable to urgent access medical care. Take part in the walk or sponsor a friend and help raise money for this great cause. Visit facebook.com/events/763425834015541/ for more.

Presbytery of Western Australia

Lego Masters, the hit UK TV show, will be hitting Australian screens soon. This provides a great opportunity to connect with families in our wider communities through faith based Lego clubs. A range of resources are already available online – many being free. The Uniting Church WA Thrive Mission Unit has plenty of information to share, and is available to help congregations think about how they could make use of these resources. To find out more, contact Rev Alison Gilchrist, Presbytery Minister Mission for the Uniting Church WA, at alison.gilchrist@wa.uca.org.au.

Synod of Western Australia

Uniting Church members along with ecumenical friends, community groups and individuals gathered at St George's Cathedral Perth on Sunday 14 April to walk for justice for refugees and asylum seekers. View pictures from the event on the Uniting Church WA's Justice and Mission Facebook page at facebook.com/SocialJusticeUCWA/.

Visit bit.ly/2ZrINVI to read more from the Uniting Church in Australia.

UnitingCare and Congregational Community Services

UnitingCare Australia welcomes the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

UnitingCare Australia works to support the most vulnerable people living in Australia. This is the time to hear the lived experience of those with a disability and to explore the changes that are needed to promote best practice and transform society.

Read more by visiting unitingcare.org.au/media-publications/media-releases.

From the National Church

UnitingWorld has launched an appeal to help communities in the Asia Pacific region to be disaster ready. Your donation will help vulnerable communities build resilience to disasters, equip and train disaster response staff and volunteers, build better homes, prepare shelters and evacuation plans and increase the capacity of our partners to provide emergency support and pastoral care.

Donating before a disaster doesn't just save lives – it saves significant amounts of money. Every \$1 invested into disaster preparation can save as much as \$15 in the aftermath of a tragedy.

Visit unitingworld.org.au/ready for more info and to donate.

In the lead-up to the Federal Election on 18 May, the Uniting Church in Australia has released their statement, Our Vision for a Just Australia. This statement expresses our hope for Australia as a just, compassionate and inclusive nation. Visit uniting.church/visionstatement2019/ for more.

Ecumenical and International

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Join the global wave of prayer, calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost, Thursday 30 May to Sunday 9 June, for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Visit thykingdomcome.global for more info and to register.

Artists are invited to submit an entry to the 2020 Mandorla Art Award.

The Mandorla Art Award for contemporary religious art is Australia's most significant thematic Christian art prize and now ranks amongst major Australian art awards, in both artistic excellence and prize value.

The Mandorla Art Award employs a thematic Christian inspiration that changes with each exhibition. These inspirations are defined by quotations from the Bible and all participating artists are requested to interpret these in their own way. In 2020, artists will be provided with the challenge to visualise the text from the Prophet Micah.

Entries close 26 February 2020. Visit mandorlaart.com for more info.

Community

The University of WA Choral Society and Fremantle Symphony Orchestra join forces under the direction of conductor Kristin Bowtell to perform Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem. It is a message of hope, consolation and compassion.

The concert will be held on Saturday 11 May, 2.30pm, at Winthrop Hall, UWA. Tickets \$50 standard, \$45 concession and \$25 student. To book, visit ticketswa.com/event/brahms-requiem.

Jobs: Paid and Volunteer

The Ministry Vacancies webpage is available to view all vacant placements, by-laws, ministry changes and pastoral and placement updates. Visit bit.ly/2QAjSNI.

Moderator 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Uniting Church WA, in September this year, will elect a person to succeed the Rev Steve Francis as Moderator from September 2020. A nominating committee is asking members of the church to prayerfully consider, then nominate, any person who might strongly exercise this role.

Nominations close on 28 June. For queries or to receive an information package email Maureen Bourke at maureen.bourke@wa.uca.org.au.

Rainbow Friendship Group event: Volunteers needed

Rainbow Friendship Groups will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary at Maylands Mount Lawley Uniting Church on Wednesday 5 June. This initiative grew out of congregations wanting to provide a safe place, free of judgement, on a level playing field, for people coping with mental illness. It also provides for those who are socially isolated and lonely.

Celebrating a significant milestone requires additional helping hands, UnitingCare West are asking members of Uniting Church congregations to consider volunteering at this event. Volunteers are needed from 10.30am to 2.30pm on the day.

For more information contact Larissa Muir on 0407 212 045 or at rainbow@unitingcarewest.org.au.

Mt Hawthorn St Peter and Emmaus Church: Ordained leadership

Mt Hawthorn St Peter and Emmaus Church is seeking ordained leadership. The congregation operates under the terms of a covenant of co-operation between the Uniting Church Presbytery of WA and the Anglican Church of Australia, Diocese of Perth. The congregation seeks a suitably ordained person (Parish Priest or Minister of the Word) to lead the parish in the next stage of its life and mission.

Visit bit.ly/2XE8yPn for more info or email amanda.badenhorst@wa.uca.org.au.

Prayer Calendar

For the week commencing Sunday 28 April: PNEUMA, Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, Uniting Church Mission Fellowship and Covenanting Commission. Please also pray for the Synod of South Australia and the National Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths

For the week commencing Sunday 5 May: Candidates for the Ministries Committee, Congregational Community Services Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee. Please also pray for the Church Polity Reference Committee.

For the week commencing Sunday 12 May: Presbytery of Western Australia Chairperson Elect, Bob Hunt and the Presbytery Standing Committee.

Please check the calendar for your church, committee or network and email newsandnotes@wa.uca.org.au with any specific prayer requests.



The Ministry Resourcing Centre has a new look and shares the same space as the new meeting room at the Uniting Church Centre, 85-89 Edward Street, Perth. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Telephone and email orders are welcome and books will be posted out to you for the postal charge only. Please call (08) 9260 9800; email resource@wa.uca.org.au

Songs of Grace: Supplement to Together in Song, by The Australian Hymn Book Company. Continuing on from Together in Song the first hymn number in the supplement is 784 and the last 837. It comprises a full harmony edition, with completely revised indexes which incorporate those from *Together in Song*, with the additional 53 new songs. To help with reproductions, a CD of lyrics is available. Please ensure your copyright licences, and permissions are current. **\$45.00**

A Wee Worship Book, fifth incarnation, by Wild Goose Resource Group. The image on the cover of this little book says it all: an egg box of unusual shape, containing five free range eggs of different sizes. The worship material contained in it has been passed through the minds and lips of people in various parts of the world and is intended to increase the store of liturgical resources available to lay and ordained people. "Not a prescription to be followed, but a tapestry for God in which all are continually engaged". **\$29.95**

The Artist's Rule: A twelve-week journey, nurturing your creative soul with monastic wisdom, by Christine Valters Paintner. This book offers an invitation for readers to discover and develop their own creative gifts in a spirit of prayer and reflection. Covering a twelve week course, insights and practices of Benedictine spirituality are drawn upon to explore the interplay between contemplation and creativity. **\$34.95**

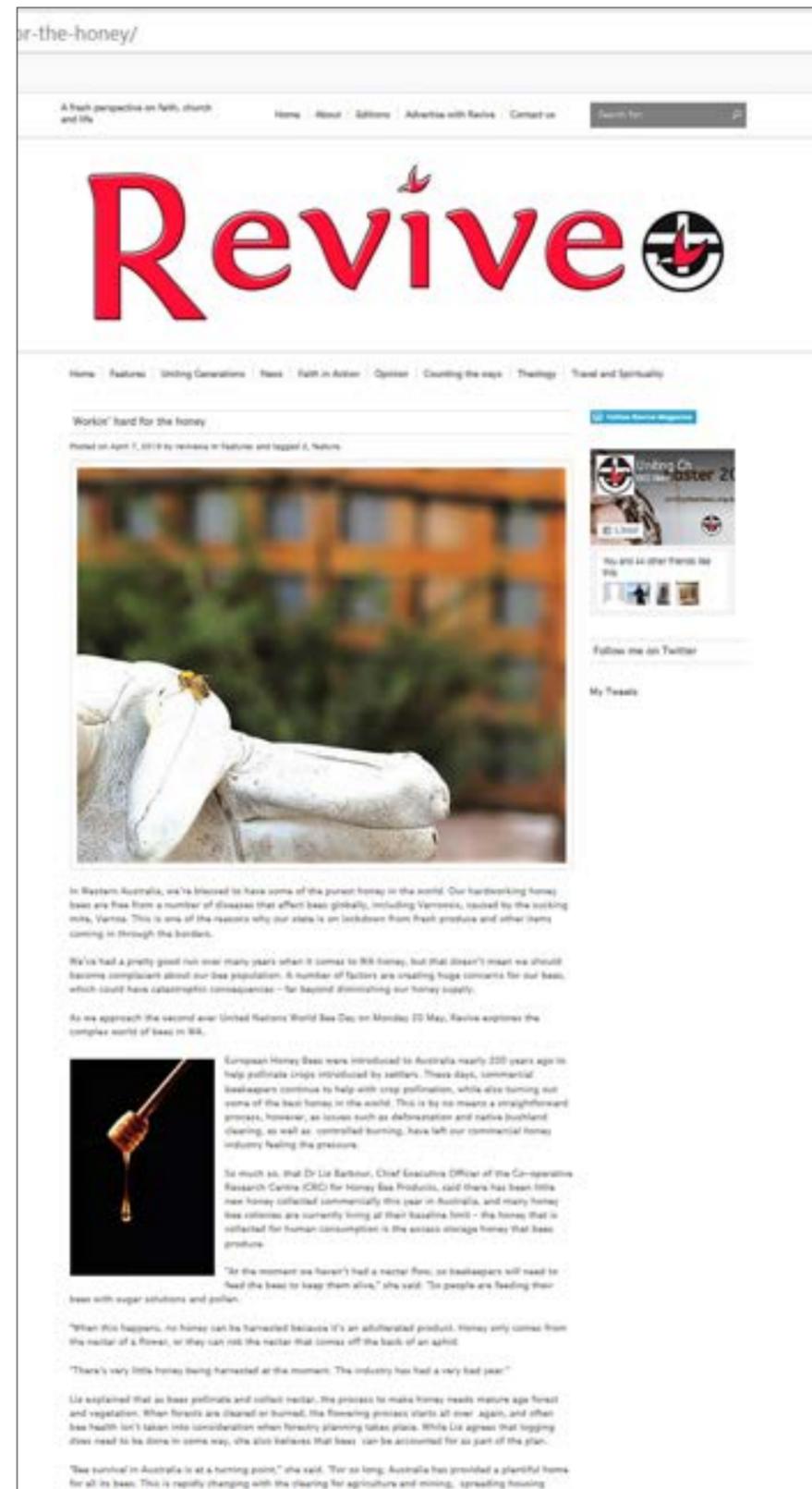
Not Just a One Night Stand: Ministry with the homeless, by John Flowers and Karen Vannoy. A journey of the authors: co-pastors of Travis Park United Methodist Church, and their church members, in their ministry with the homeless demonstrates that in making Christ Lord and by looking for Christ in the margins we can discover the gifts and graces of those living in the margins and how much can be learned from them. **\$22.45**

A Pilgrim People, 40 Years On: The proceedings of the inaugural Uniting Church National History Society Conference June 9 – 12 2017. Taking the long view is necessary for the church to function effectively in the present; lack of corporate memory makes decision making a whim of the moment. History can deepen our understanding of the present; remind us of problematic past situations, and wise decisions. Knowing our history encourages questioning, imagining, challenging, and offers essential moments of hope. Our historians are the memory whisperers, keeping the memory of the dream alive. **\$15.00**

All plus postage and packing if not picked up in person.



Find out more about the Strategic Plan here unitingchurchwa.org.au/about-us/strategic-plan.



Keep up-to-date with Uniting Church happenings at Revive Magazine online by visting revivemagazine.org.au



Calendar of Events

For more information on these events visit unitingchurchwa.org.au/media-events/events

Day/Date	Time	Details
Saturday 27 April		Mission Shaped Ministry Course Semester 1.
Saturday 27 April		Emerging Youth Games at Warwick Stadium.
Monday 29 April		May Hands and Feet contribution deadline.
Thursday 2–Saturday 5 May		Men’s Walk to Emmaus at Advent Park, Maida Vale.
Friday 3 May		Ethical Ministry Workshop.
Friday 3 May	9.30– 11.00am	Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Meeting at the Uniting Church Centre.
Saturday 4 May	8.00am– 12noon	Chaplaincy Market at Pinjarra Uniting Church.
Monday 6–Tuesday 7 May		John Bell Australian Tour at Hills Anglicans, St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church, Darlington.
Sunday 12 May	4.00– 6.00pm	Messy Church at Trinity North Uniting Church, Greenwood Worship Centre.
Monday 13 May	7.00pm	Lay Preacher and Pastor Gathering – Focus on Pastoral Care and Church Leadership at Victoria Park and Districts Star Street Uniting Church.
Tuesday 14 May		Presbytery Standing Committee.
Friday 17 May	9.00am– 12noon	Safe Church Refresher Workshop at Maylands Mt Lawley Uniting Church.
Saturday 18 May		14th Annual Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia at St Stephen’s School, Duncraig.
Sunday 19 May		Trek for Timor beginning at Kalamunda Uniting Church.
Thursday 23– Sunday 26 May		Women’s Walk to Emmaus at Advent Park, Maida Vale.
Friday 24–Sunday 26 May		Mission Shaped Ministry Course, Semester 1.
Sunday 26 May		National Sorry Day.
Sunday 26 May		Perth Emmaus Community Gathering.

If you are planning an event that you think would be of interest to other people in the Uniting Church community, let us know so we can put it in our calendar. We would also encourage you to contact us during your planning so you can check what other people are doing to avoid diary conflicts.