



## Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

### Committee Members

<i>Chairperson</i>	Helen McMillan
<i>General Secretary Ex Officio</i>	Rev David de Kock
<i>Vice Chairperson</i>	Gillian Muir
<i>Secretary</i>	Aladina Foster
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert (Bob) Nichols
<i>Newslink Editor</i>	Aladina Foster
<i>Corresponding Member</i>	Marcia Nichols
<i>Greeting Coordinator</i>	Kay Lockley
<i>Member</i>	Rev Ray Foster
<i>Member</i>	Rev Lorna Atkins
<i>Member</i>	Margaret Knight
<i>Member</i>	Lynette (Lyn) Donald
<i>Member</i>	Kerry Dunn
<i>Member</i>	Anne Steed

This year, 2020 has been like no other. So many people and communities have experienced drought, devastating bushfires, floods, and then the pandemic.

### **Fellowship Day and Annual General Meeting**

In 2019 our Fellowship Day was hosted by the folk at Swan View Uniting Church. After a delicious morning-tea we shared a time of worship and prayer. Our Moderator, Rev Steve Francis, was able to join us bringing greetings from the Synod and presenting certificates to those celebrating their 80th birthday in 2019. Rev Alison Gilchrist was our Guest Speaker, challenging us on reaching out to our community and the future of our Church.

We were delighted to welcome members from 3 groups from among our Congregations. Kalamunda Creative Endeavour (art group); Glen Forrest Computer group; and Swan View Community Garden, which we were able to visit. They shared with us the activities of their group; and during lunch we were able to meet, see displays, visit Bicton Stamp group (proceeds from sales support Frontier Services Chaplaincy in WA) and the trading table. Following lunch we held our AGM chaired by Rev Ray Foster. All members of the Committee were willing to continue in 2020. Reports were received from Committee members with particular responsibilities, as well as groups with whom UCAF are affiliated members. Thanks was expressed to the Committee, Fellowship groups and individuals who have sent donations to support the work of UCAF WA, and also to our auditor, Mr Neil Warne.

Our monthly Committee meetings concluded in November 2019. Our first meeting for 2020 was in February when we were preparing for a busy year, including a visit from the National Chairperson. Then COVID-19 restriction came into force in March when most activities were cancelled. At our July meeting the decision was made not to hold Fellowship Day and the visit of the National Chairperson, who was to be our Guest Speaker was deferred.

We will still acknowledge those celebrating their 80th birthday. Certificates will be sent to Congregations for presentation.

The AGM will be held at our meeting in the Synod Centre on the first Friday in October, to which people are invited to attend. During the meeting we will share a time with the National Chairperson via zoom.



### **Newslink**

Four editions of Newslink are distributed during the year. Our Editor, Aladina Foster works very hard to make the content interesting, and encourages the Committee and Fellowship groups to share stories and photographs. Each Congregation receives one copy to share with their members. Groups and individuals who have registered are sent a copy. We appreciate the support of the Synod and staff in the preparation and printing of each edition of Newslink.

### **Joan Stott Bursary**

The UC National Committee established the bursary to honour the contribution of Joan to both UCAF and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. The bursary is awarded to students under 35 years of age who are studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church.

Good News!! The UCAF WA Committee is delighted Reuben Edmonds has submitted an application to be considered for a bursary. Reuben is currently studying in Victoria. The Committee has received Reuben's application, met and interviewed him via zoom, and forwarded his application to the National Committee with very positive support from his referees and the committee. A decision will be made in October and communicated to all applicants. If successful the bursary will assist Reuben in the 2021 academic year.

### **National UCAF Committee**

South Australia is the current National Committee. The National Celebration was to be held at West Beach, S.A. in May 2020; it was cancelled. An alternate time and place has been arranged for February 2021 in an Adelaide hotel with both the Consultation (business meeting) and Celebration being held consecutively. The new Working Procedures will be inaugurated and representatives from each State who will form the National Committee will be elected at the Consultation. Copies of the National Committee devotional book 'Your Word Lights the Way'; based on the lectionary Gospel readings from Pentecost 2018 - 2021 are still available. Money raised from sales will support Frontier Services ministries and scholarships through Uniting World for Theological training for women in the Pacific nations.

### **Mission Fellowship**

Anne Steed is the representative from Mission Fellowship on the UCAF Committee. The group which is very small met in February and like many others has not met since in 2020. Members were very sad to hear of the death of Joy Kay, a long-time member and diligent worker in many UC groups including Mission Fellowship. The stamp group which was meeting at Bicton UC has also not met regularly this year. At this time the future of the Fellowships uncertain given changes in member's situations

### **Australian Church Women**

Gill Muir continues as the President of this ecumenical group. The WA Unit had the task of preparing the Fellowship Day service for use across Australia in 2020. As a result of the restrictions related to COVID-19 the WA and National Executive worked together to put the service on line. The web site is [www.acw.org.au](http://www.acw.org.au) During July there will be daily reflections on the website prepared by the National Executive and the WA Unit; the Service will be available from 31 July until the end of the year. There will also be a report on the Winifred Kiek scholar, Hetty Widowaty from Bali, and a message from the National President. The WA Unit is hoping it will be possible to hold the World Community Day services in October.

### **National Council of Women WA**

UCAF is an affiliated member of this organisation which has members from a variety of community groups both religious and secular who are concerned for the welfare of women, children, and families.

The WA group has only met once this year. A National Conference was planned to take place in Adelaide in May which was cancelled. A rescheduled date was organised for mid-October; at the time of writing this report there is still uncertainty whether it will proceed. At this time we join with the Australian Church Women and pray for each other, our communities, leaders, health workers, and all impacted by the virus. Psalm 121 assures us that our help and protection comes from the Lord.

**Helen McMillan**  
**Chairperson**  
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