



Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Presbytery of Yarra Yarra

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

17th September 2021

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

As usual, the newsletter contains a number of items which may be of interest to your congregations. Please identify other items relevant to your community, and promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.

Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month. It is helpful if you can provide text, rather than copies of fliers which need to be transcribed and summarised. Please include contact information for those seeking more information.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Essential Safety Measures

We thank all those congregations who were represented at the meeting when the responsibilities of congregations under the Government's new Essential Safety Measures program and requirements were explained. We are preparing additional material to be circulated shortly.

Seventeen congregations were not represented at the meeting, and so it will be important that someone from each of them is "brought up to speed". Can I ask that each Church Council Secretary check if someone from their Church Council was at the meeting and, if not, to contact Rob Nosko at rob.nosko@victas.uca.org.au to ensure that the necessary information is being understood.

Synod Climate Action Task Force

In February 2021 the Synod meeting resolved to request congregations to inform their presbyteries of actions they may be taking to address climate change. Now the Synod's Climate Action Task Force has commended the "Five Leaf Eco-Awards" survey as a mechanism to gather information. Details of this programme can be found at <https://fiveleafecoawards.org>. If you do complete the survey, we invite you to send a copy to the Presbytery and to the Synod coordinator Timothy Molineux in the Synod Justice Office at Timothy.Molineux@victas.uca.org.au. Timothy can also provide additional information about the Synod resolution; he can also be contacted at tel 0428 930 719.

Chairperson	Lisa Carey	03 9857 1006	lisa.carey@pyy.victas.uca.org.au
Presbytery Ministers	Liz McMillan	03 9857 1002	liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au
	Sunny Chen	03 9857 1001	pyy.pmc@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

We would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who would be willing to act as a coordinator for Yarra Yarra Presbytery in this area. If this is a passion of yours, please contact the Presbytery Secretary.

Money for Mission Programme

As congregations realise the potential benefits which can arise from converting unused property to an investment in the Synod Money for Mission Fund, we are seeing increased momentum and take-up of the opportunities offered. The early adopters of the programme are now seeing the planning coming to finalisation. If your Church Council would like to explore whether this programme would provide benefits for your congregation, please contact Rob Nosko to initiate a discussion.

Online worship

Thank you to those additional congregations, including Surrey Hills, Healesville, Richmond and Ashburton, who have provided details of their online worship arrangements. We know that many people across the whole Synod are appreciative of the efforts of those dedicated teams who are preparing services week by week. Remember that the Synod maintains a full list of those that are known, and this is published on the Synod web site at <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/weekly-worship/>.

If your congregation is not on this list, please advise Nigel Hanscamp in order to have the Synod site updated.

Elections and Appointments

At the November Presbytery meeting elections will be held for committees, Chairpersons of committees and other designated positions, and a call for nominations will be circulated shortly. Every congregation is encouraged to consider whether there are people whose talents can be used for the benefit of the wider Church, and also to think of who might be well-suited through their skills and abilities to serve on each of the Presbytery committees. Experience in recent years has been that it is difficult even to achieve the numbers of nominations required to fill some committees, so a thoughtful response is encouraged. The Call for Nominations will be sent to all members of Presbytery and to Church Council Secretaries shortly.

Covenanting Working Group

One of the decisions taken at the August Presbytery meeting was to establish a Covenanting Working Group within the Yarra Yarra Presbytery in order to develop our understanding of and the relationship between

Australia's First and Second Peoples. If you have an interest in this area and would like to be involved, please contact the Chairperson, Lisa Carey (details on page 1).

Supply Ministry

From time to time congregations require a Supply Minister to support them during a time when there is not a Minister in placement, or when a Minister is on an extended period of leave for any reason. Supply Ministry is not intended to be a method to appoint a Minister to an ongoing position, and so the Presbytery only approves requests for three months at a time. This ensures that the Pastoral Relations Committee is aware of the needs of a congregation, and is able to look at both immediate and long-term needs.

Approval of the Presbytery is required before the commencement of any period of supply (including renewals). A form to be used by Church Councils is on the Presbytery web site, and should be completed and forwarded to the Secretary of the Pastoral Relations Committee at least a month before the planned commencement date. Please ensure that you use the form at <http://yarrayarrapresbytery.unitingchurch.org.au/resources-and-documentation/> as this has been updated recently.

We would also welcome updates from retired Ministers or other Ministers who may be able to provide supply ministry for short (or longer) periods. Please contact our Presbytery Minister Ministry, Rev Liz McMillan if you would like to discuss opportunities.

Annual Reports and Survey Responses

Much as I don't like ending this Newsletter with reminders, I do need to note that there are still about 20 congregations who have not submitted annual reports for 2020. If your congregation is one of these, we would appreciate receiving your report before the end of September.

*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.