



# Cluster News JUNE 2022

## Welcome to the June Cluster News.

As winter comes upon us once again, we are reminded of the rhythm of the seasons, each with its own charm and purpose. The days have been cold but how wonderful is a sunny spell. How wonderful is a warm bed, warm coat, warm soup, warm cuppa, warm friendships. How wonderful when we can share the comfort with those not experiencing such warmth. UCA Winter Share Appeal is one such opportunity. Mountview's Centre 81 is another. There are many ways to warm each other!

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**Here's another!!!**



**WHITEHORSE CLUSTER**

**TRIVIA**

**SUNDAY, JULY 10TH**  
BLACKBURN NORTH NUNAWADING UNITING CHURCH

PLEASE ARRIVE AT 3.30PM FOR A 4PM START

**4PM - 6PM**

SHARED MEAL TO FOLLOW, PLEASE BRING A PLATE.  
SOUP & BREAD PROVIDED

## Towards a Shared Future

At the recent Church Council meetings of all three congregations, a recommendation from the Whitehorse Regional Council was endorsed to continue with Ecclesia Leadership on the next stage of the journey of three congregations becoming one.

The next stage involves defining what a shared future may look like by developing a framework in which we can work together. That involves consultation and discussion across all aspects of our congregational life: how we carry out Pastoral Care; manage finance; study and learn together; manage property; communicate information and carry out administration.

The Mission & Justice Group has been working as a cluster group for the past year and is defining our mission in the ways we work together on mission activities.

After establishing our common goals and values, from July, teams of members from the three congregations will work on the task of developing a framework of how one congregation may operate.

We are moving forward towards the time when a proposal will be ready for the congregations to vote on the future by November.

If you would like more detailed information about the process or have questions, please contact your Regional Council representatives.

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## SYNOD 22.

***"ARISE, COME WITH ME"***

The Synod meets approximately every 18 months to receive reports, discern proposals, and discuss matters that concern the general oversight, direction and life of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.



**The 2022 Synod meeting will commence with an Opening Worship service at 7:30pm on Thursday June 30 at Wesley Church, Lonsdale Street Melbourne, when Moderator-elect David Fotheringham will be installed as our Moderator for the next three years.**

Everyone is welcome to attend the Opening Worship and Installation with supper served afterwards at the Synod offices next door. For those attending in person there is also the opportunity to book a tour of the Wesley Place Synod offices between 3pm – 5pm on Thursday 30 June.

The Synod meeting will then continue at Box Hill Town Hall from Friday, July 1 until Sunday, July 3, as an in-person gathering of members of the church nominated by all eight presbyteries. All members are welcome to attend as observers.

Mountview's Rob Jackson is the Team Leader for Synod Events AV, so is leading a tech crew to deliver both in-house AV and public livestream of all business sessions (all 3 days Friday 1 to Sunday 3). Our members can watch worships, daily bible studies, and or the meeting sessions via the 'Synod 2022' YouTube Channel, per this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZN\\_DH-IU6rmNOQUJWXhq9A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZN_DH-IU6rmNOQUJWXhq9A)

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**The Month of June has seen the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia. As with all anniversaries, it's a time to celebrate and to reflect on our beginnings and our Progress.

### Statement to the Nation:

#### Inaugural Assembly, June 1977

*\_\_People of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches have united. A new church has been born.*

*We, who are members of the first Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia address the people of Australia in this historic moment. The path to unity has been long and at times difficult, but we believe this unity is a sign of the reconciliation we seek for the whole human race.*

*We acknowledge with gratitude that the churches from which we have come have contributed in various ways to the life and development of this nation. A Christian responsibility to society has always been regarded as fundamental to the mission of the Church. In the Uniting Church our response to the Christian gospel will continue to involve us in social and national affairs.*

*We are conscious of our responsibilities within and beyond this country. We particularly acknowledge our responsibilities as one branch of the Christian church within the region of South-East Asia and the Pacific. In these contexts, we make certain affirmations at the time of our inauguration.*

*We affirm our eagerness to uphold basic Christian values and principles, such as the importance of every human being, the need for integrity in public life, the proclamation of truth and justice, the rights for each citizen to participate in decision-making in the community, religious liberty and personal dignity, and a concern for the welfare of the whole human race.*

*We pledge ourselves to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur. We will work for the eradication of poverty and racism within our society and beyond. We affirm the rights of all people to equal educational opportunities, adequate health care, freedom of speech, employment or dignity in unemployment if work is not available. We will oppose all forms of discrimination which infringe basic rights and freedoms.*

*We will challenge values which emphasise acquisitiveness and greed in disregard of the needs*

*of others and which encourage a higher standard of living for the privileged in the face of the daily widening gap between the rich and poor.*

*We are concerned with the basic human rights of future generations and will urge the wise use of energy, the protection of the environment and the replenishment of the earth's resources for their use and enjoyment.*

*Finally, we affirm that the first allegiance of Christians is God, under whose judgment the policies and actions of all nations must pass. We realise that sometimes this allegiance may bring us into conflict with the rulers of our day. But our Uniting Church, as an institution within the nation, must constantly stress the universal values which must find expression in national policies if humanity is to survive.*

*We pledge ourselves to hope and work for a nation whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone, but by concern for the welfare of all persons everywhere — the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth the One who gave His life for others.*

*In the spirit of His self-giving love, we seek to go forward.*

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## **On being Uniting. By Rev Peter**



This week we celebrated 45 years of the Uniting Church. I am a relatively new kid on the block to the Uniting Church having moved across in the early 2000's. I was in another denomination at the time of its birth. To me, all the preparations and excitement were viewed from a distance, hearing more from the conservative critics than the hopeful founders. I was therefore suspicious of the UCA and wondered about it maintaining its integrity as being Christian.

Coming from a conservative, evangelical tradition, my world view was quite black and white early on. Becoming a state school chaplain, representing the whole Christian church, opened my eyes and ears far more than could be imagined. I discovered how much I could learn from others and their traditions. I was blessed by the high churches, the Pentecostals and the progressives. Life and faith became full of vibrant colour.

My ministry became a lived ecumenical project. I worked alongside people with a wide range of views and faith stances. I learnt to respect and honour their perspective.

Over the years, I have heard many critiques of the Uniting Church, probably the most persistent being that it is “wishy washy”. Critics looked for strong stances on particular moral and theological views, usually seeking a stance that agreed with theirs. The Uniting Church was unwilling to go there.

In being called into ministry in the Uniting Church, I noticed several things.

Firstly, there is not one expression of what is “Uniting”. The church varies across the state but even more so across the nation. We have “conservatives” and “progressives” worshipping and working side by side.

Secondly, the members’ passion for their faith is undiminished. Yes, that may be “traditional” and “conservative” or “progressive” and “creative” – or any myriad of variations on these and other themes. But the people’s faith is passionate and they are keen to ensure it is given expression in their living.

Thirdly, and possibly the most distinctive characteristic of the Uniting Church, is the willingness of people to walk together. Differences are acknowledged but respect is shown. Room is given to allow each to walk their journey and be a blessing to those they meet. The church’s journey continues to be a lived ecumenical project. I disagree strongly with the critics of the Uniting Church. The church is not “wishy washy”. It stands for something profoundly needed in our community and world today.

We are a people who respect diversity. We seek to work alongside those who think and believe differently to ourselves. We see God’s Spirit working in many different people of different beliefs. We seek to express God’s desire for unity and compassion in this world. Graciousness is at the heart of being Uniting.

Do we always achieve these goals? No. We fail. But grace is at the heart of who we are. We are called to walk together in gentleness and love revealing in our words and actions the life of God’s living Spirit among us.

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## NEWS FROM "SAMMY" STAMP.

Every Thursday, the Stamp team is kept busy at Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton, where they process and sell the stamps received from many churches, interested supporters and businesses. Sales up until mid-June this year total \$28,346 and the latest grants have supported the MLG (Mission Liaison Group) and the Melton Counselling Services. There is always a demand for stamps from the buyers so please remember to save all your stamps – both Australian and overseas - and leave them in the box in your church's foyer. Unwanted stamp albums and post cards are also welcome. Remember ..... EVERY STAMP COUNTS!!



*Thank you,  
Jan Searle*

### "The Avowal"

As swimmers dare  
to lie to the sky,  
and water bears them,  
as hawks rest upon air  
and air sustains them;  
So would I learn to attain  
freefall, and float  
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,  
knowing no effort earns  
that all-surrounding grace.

*Denise Levertov*

## Preaching Plan. June, July

	<u>BNNUC</u>	<u>Forest Hill.</u>	<u>Mountview</u>
June 26	Robin Yang	Tina.	Peter
<b>July 3 Together @10 @ Forest Hill. Communion</b>			
July 10	Peter.	Robin Yang.	Tina
July 17.	Peter.	Robin Yang.	Tina
July 24.	Peter	Bob Laslett.	Tina
July 31.	Peter.	TBA	Tina

### Ministry Team.

Rev Peter Cannon  
Rev Tina Lyndon Ng  
Ministers on Call contact 0403 225 257

### Regional Council Representatives;

#### **Blackburn North/Nunawading UC**

Elaine Hewson 0425 709 089  
Anne Smith 9899 1932  
George Manuofetoa 0404 884 140

#### **Forest Hill UC**

Daryl Hawkey 0419 607 085  
Julie Hawkey 0488 460 875.  
Joy Williams 0402 491 013

#### **Mountview UC**

Rob Jackson. 0413 599 047  
Lynne Rosenthal. 0415 286 855  
David Rowe 0411 268 680

This Preaching Plan is subject to change. Presbytery has indicated that finding a new supply person is extremely unlikely, so further changes are possible. Ministry Student with our Cluster, Daniel Farnsworth may assist in leading worship as his evolving learning plan allows.

With Together Services, the Ministers may choose rostered people from any of the three churches for reading and prayers. If rostered people do not hear from a minister (*or from the Ministers' Assistant at BNN*) for a Together service, you may be required next time you're rostered for a Together service!

