



28th February 2022

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

Presbytery meeting – February 2022

A well-attended presbytery meeting was held on Saturday 26th February. Meeting on Zoom, we welcomed a number of new members, before a helpful and informative presentation by Mel Perkins, the Lay leadership Development Coordinator in the Synod Education and Formation for Leadership team. Mel introduced the Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders, and provided background and pointers for the way this needs to be used within our congregations. A copy of Mel's presentation slides is circulated with this newsletter, and we have also made a video of the presentation available on the presbytery YouTube channel. You can view the presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAEzzKDkpw4>. Zoom recordings are strictly limited in quality, but the material should be shared with your whole Church Council.

Because the material shared in the report from the Standing Committee is important for all congregations, including those who do not have a presbytery representative, the Standing Committee report updated slightly to reflect decisions made on Saturday) is also attached.

Essential Safety Measures

There are still many congregations who are still needing to take action regarding mandatory ESM requirements. All congregations must ensure that every property is assessed and compliant. Remember that if you need advice or assistance you can contact Rob Nosko on tel 0438 555 010 or at

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

rob.nosko@victas.uca.org.au. Note that Rob works with Yarra Yarra Presbytery on Thursdays and Fridays so please try to limit your contact to those days.

Synod Climate Action Task Force

We again encourage congregations to provide feedback on action being taken locally, and to complete the [Five Leaf Eco Awards](#) survey. Please advise the PYY contact person (Richard Hedding at richard.hedding@gmail.com) when this is done.

Congregational Appointments

Church Council Secretaries will shortly receive a request to complete the annual contact list update for the Presbytery. If you have already sent this to the Secretary for 2022, thank you. Please note that we are now required by the Synod to maintain records of everyone receiving remuneration in a congregation, so please include this information.

Synod 2022 Membership

A call for nominations for the 2022 Synod meeting, to be held from 30th June to 3rd July 2022, will be circulated shortly. It had been hoped that this would have been dealt with at this meeting, but that has not been possible. Membership will again be reduced as a result of the pandemic – that is, reduced 33% for Presbytery appointments. Yarra Yarra is entitled to 23 lay and 23 ordained members. Church Councils are asked to start thinking of who they might nominate as members.

Lay Ministry appointments

From time to time congregations wish to make lay appointments to positions that involve ministry tasks involving one or more of the following (see Regulation 2.2.2):

- teaching the beliefs and practices of the Church; and / or
- pastoral oversight of members and / or groups operating under the auspices of the Church; and / or
- leadership of worship in congregations or faith communities of the Church; and / or
- evangelism or service beyond a gathered congregation but which is exercised under the auspices of the Church.

The Presbytery has the option of designating the “ministry location” as appropriate for the ministry of Pastor, and this would then trigger an assessment of anyone appointed to the position for suitability to be

recognised as a Pastor.

The option of designating someone as a Pastor is often not practical for a short-term appointment. The process for assessing a position, then assessing the person and their core competencies, as a lengthy one, and takes, typically, some months. The positions under consideration here come up quickly, an appointment needs to be made quickly, and are usually over before the Presbytery PRC would have even started to look at the issues round designation of the position as a pastor position.

After working with the Synod People and Culture unit, a simplified process has been developed to assist congregations wishing to make such short-term and limited tenure appointments. Please contact the Secretary of the Pastoral relations Committee, Ruth Crawley at crawley@iprimus.com.au, for more information.

Coming induction: Manningham

The induction of Rev Swee Ann Koh will take place at the Manningham Uniting Church, 109 Wood Street, Templestowe, at 2:30 pm on Sunday 20th March. This event has been deferred a number of times so we are pleased that it can now take place in the new worship centre.

DISASTER-READINESS TRAINING

The Synod has advised plans to run a course on Disaster Readiness.

The current rains and floods in Qld and northern-NSW have taken people by surprise – with at least 7 people dead, more missing (at time of writing) due to the floods. In some areas, these are the worst conditions since the late 1890's. Here in Victoria and Tasmania too, we have seen many disasters over the last few years, besides the pandemic. Is your community prepared for disasters? Does your church community know what to do to prepare for a disaster, and to manage what can be a long road to recovery?

Come to our disaster-readiness training and learn how to minister in disaster affected communities. Attend this 2-part workshop online (21st & 28th March) or in person (21st May).

Register at: <https://victas.uca.org.au/event/ministering-in-disaster-affected-communities-online-course/> 21st & 28th March (Zoom) or

<https://victas.uca.org.au/event/ministering-in-disaster-affected-communities-fff-course/> 21st May 21 (in person)

For information, contact: Mel Perkins, Lay Leadership Development Coordinator, eLM, at mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au

**UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENT:
BOUNDARIES: THEOLOGY, CHURCH AND MINISTRY**

Rev Brian Howes AO, is a former Deputy Prime Minister and retired Uniting Church Minister. From 1957 to 1976 Brian was active in social and theological change in inner city ministry, and in the formation of the Fitzroy Ecumenical Centre of Urban Research and Action that worked on social justice for migrants and for affordable housing

Sunday 27th March 2022 at 2.00pm

Zoom meeting: register by email to: ken.barelli@bigpond.com Enquiries: mobile 0418 317 942

A LENTEN JOURNEY AT HIGHFIELD ROAD

The Drama of Lent will be presented through spoken word, music, art and poetry. A contemporary view of the significance of the Easter story.

Highfield Road Uniting Church Sunday 3rd April 7:30pm

Free admission, and donations welcomed

Corner of Highfield Road & Prospect Hill Road

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH STORY, AT MANNINGHAM

On 5th March Manningham Uniting Church will host Building Bridges Through Story, a **one-day** event that will feature opportunities to listen to stories from and interact with Muslim women from Benevolence Australia, indigenous people from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and those with various abilities from VALID, an independent disability advocacy organisation and other people with disabilities and parents.

There will be an **Art Exhibition**, displaying art works from our three storytelling groups.

More information can be found at buildingbridges.events and people can register [here](#) or by emailing buildingbridges@manninghamuc.org or phoning 9846 2012.

LENTEN RESOURCES AT "ILLUMINATING FAITH"

"Illuminating Faith" is a ministry to the church, auspiced by the Mark the Evangelist, North Melbourne congregation. Resources which might be of use to your congregation this Lent include [The Passion according to St Luke - A](#)

[Service Order](#), [A Tenebrae Service around St John's Passion](#) and [A Trisagion for Lent](#). Lenten Studies include [Studies on Isaiah's Servant Songs](#), [The Spirit in the Desert](#), [Called to Holiness](#) and [The Lord's Prayer - Prayer for those who can no longer pray](#). These and more resources are available at www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/illuminating-faith.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND FIRST PEOPLE, AT KOONUNG HEIGHTS

Rev. Garry Worete Deverell, a Trawlolway man and the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Fellow in Indigenous Studies at the University of Divinity, will be speaking at Koonung Heights Uniting Church, at 12.00 noon on Sunday 13th March 2022. The theme is Social Justice and First People. All welcome. BYO lunch.

BANYULE OFFERS CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

The Banyule SPE Centre is offering an extended CPE course between May and November 2022. This programme attempts to return CPE to the clinical context where it belongs. The natural home of spiritual and pastoral care is the temple, mosque, synagogue, and church. Over the past 50 years, Clinical Pastoral Education has abandoned these settings and moved itself to general and mental hospitals where spiritual and pastoral care are often extremely poorly funded and often seen as a voluntary service.

Applications close on 1st April. For more information, see <http://banyuleuc.org.au/connecting-with-community/cpe/>

A HISTORY OF LAY PREACHING IN VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

“Called to preach” is the readable story of the origins and development of lay preaching from the early settlement of Van Diemen’s Land to modern Victoria and Tasmania, describing events and people who helped shape lay preaching; with an historical review of the Lay Preachers’ Association from 1869.

In this book... We hear of adaptation to changing circumstances, of being responsive to the call of God and the needs of the community as they were perceived at the time. And along the way, we hear something of what we might learn, not just of other people and their stories from the past, but of where we’ve come from and what has formed us: of who we are and how we might move into the future.

For more information or to purchase a copy, contact Alastair Davison yy-lp@inet.net.au 0412653218 or Bruce Hill bshill@tpg.com.au (03) 9459 6112

MUSIC AND WORSHIP RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO A GOOD HOME

Because of the amalgamation of several churches to form Manningham Uniting Church the congregation has an excess of bibles (both RSV and NSV), hymn

books TiS, including large print) and Uniting in Worship that we would like to offer to any churches who would need them. For information, contact Ruth Hodges on tel 0431 315 160 or by email at ruth.hodges@manninghamuc.org.

*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.