



23rd June 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 meetings

The recent Presbytery meeting on Saturday 28th May was held at the new Manningham worship centre. The Chairperson was pleased to be able to chair a face-to-face meeting for the first time since her installation, and it was encouraging to see a good attendance, with about 75 people present. The sad aspect to this is that we currently have 158 members of Presbytery, so we are still seeing an attendance of less than 50%. In addition, we have quite a few congregations who have not appointed a presbytery representative, including some who do not have a Minister in placement. This means that those congregations are not able to have their views represented or to share in the communal and wider life of the Church. If a representative is not appointed, perhaps the role could be seen as part of the responsibilities of the Church Council Chairperson.

Important decisions made at the meeting include:

- Recognition that James Tang is approaching the end of his formation for ministry period and is now ready for ordination once he completes any remaining requirements, and is given and accepts a placement.
- Extensions of the placements of Rev Tony Lai at Melbourne Gospel Hall and Rev Deacon Natalie Dixon-Monu in her presbytery placement at Boroondara Community Outreach.
- Amalgamation of the Healesville and Yarra Glen congregations.
- Closure of the Doncaster Loving Church congregation.
- Recognition that the combined role of Secretary and Presbytery Minister Administration needs to be a full-time position.

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

Church Council Secretaries are asked to include presbytery membership as an agenda item at the next Church Council meeting, and to note that this is a responsibility of each congregation to ensure that it has appointed a representative.

We look forward to the next meeting, which will be held using Zoom on Wednesday 13th July. Following the pattern of using these meetings to address a particular issue, the topic will be “The Church at Mission”, and we look forward to being led in this discussion by our Presbytery Minister Congregations, Rev Dr Sunny Chen. Some people had a very small foretaste during Sunny’s “Lectionary through a Greek” session this week, so know that it will be both interesting and insightful. (If you would like to join these sessions, please contact Sunny using the email address on the first page of this newsletter.)

The venue for the August meeting, on Saturday 27th August, will be Greensborough. More details will be provided closer to the meeting.

Annual Reports

By now most congregations will have held their annual congregational meetings to receive reports from last year, and to consider financial reports and budgets. However, we are still waiting for many to send the reports to the Presbytery. If you are a Church Council Secretary, please ensure that you forward your reports to the Presbytery Secretary as soon as possible.

Synod meeting

The 2022 meeting of the Synod takes place in just over a week, and it is encouraging to note that Yarra Yarra Presbytery has been able to appoint a full quota of members. Please include prayers for the Synod and the incoming Moderator, Rev David Fotheringham, in your services over the next couple of weeks.

Meeting Together

A major item at the last presbytery meeting was the launch of the new resource “Meeting Together”, published by the Synod after much work by the Presbytery eLM Ministers. Each congregation has received two copies of the booklet, and we hope that these have by now been shared with all members of Church Councils. A downloadable version is available on the Synod web site at <https://victas.uca.org.au/ministry-mission/elm/presbytery-elm-ministers/>.

LISTENING FOR SOPHIA

Sophia's Spring is an eco-feminist faith community and congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia in Yarra Yarra Presbytery. You can find information about them at <https://sophias-spring.ucavictas.org.au/>.

Sophia's Spring meets 4 pm on the third Sunday of each month. You are invited to join their circle for a series of Afternoon Gatherings to seek greater understandings of Sophia. Participate in liturgy, savour supper and good conversation. Enquiries or requests for a Zoom link may be made by email to sophias-spring@ceres.org.au or by phone to Christina Rowntree – Ministry Coordinator on 0403 197 352.

SHARE SUNDAY 2022

This year the focus of the Share Sunday resources is hospitality - around the theme of 'God's kind of hospitality'. The 2022 resources include:

- A sample service outline, including a liturgy, reflection and suggested hymns
- A PowerPoint presentation
- Stories of people supported by the Church's commitment to serve those on the margins.

The resources are available to download from the Uniting Vic.Tas. website at: <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/congregations/download-share-sunday-resources-form/>.

Enquiries: Rev John Clarke, Director of Mission, Uniting VicTas, at john.clarke@vt.uniting.org or on 0427 994 972.

*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.