



The Uniting Church in Australia
Presbytery of The Downs

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Issue 1

5 August 2021

Hello and welcome to our new revised Newsletter that will share the news from across the Presbytery with you and your congregations. You have received this because you are the Presbytery Representative for your congregation or a Ministry Agent within the Presbytery of The Downs. Please pass this information onto your congregation and share with the Presbytery any prayer points, events or news from your congregation. We would love to share these via this newsletter or on our Facebook Group Page ([UCA Presbytery of The Downs](#)). Please email any news to Susan at admin@downspresbytery.org.au

So let's share some news!

Firstly - a huge thank you to **Lifeworks Uniting Church** for hosting the Presbytery meeting in July, in particular David, Ros, Sue and Tracey and for their generous hospitality and the Lifeworks Music Team and Rev John Case for leading worship on the Sunday morning. Members of Presbytery were incredible blessed to be a part of your space.

The theme of the Presbytery was **RESHAPE**, our bible study was led by Rev Kath Behan from the Synod Mission Engagement Team (MET) who explored Jeremiah 18. Kath lead us through the reading revealing three helpful steps for us to remember as we continue our journey of reshaping the Presbytery - spiritual deep breath; discomfort; and curiosity.

News from the Presbytery July Meeting

Conclusion of Placement for Rev Willie Liebenberg. A Conclusion Service at PGC Scots College was held on 13th June as Rev Willie accepted a call at Central Downs Uniting Church and was inducted into the Pittsworth and Millmerran congregations on the 10th July 2021.

Crows Nest District Uniting Church (CNDUC)– Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM)– we prayed for the Crows Nest leaders and Rev Rob Callow as they begin this 18 month journey on 1st August, 2021. Rev Rob will be inducted into this placement on Sunday 22nd August 2021 at 9:30am during the Sunday morning worship at Crows Nest Uniting Church. Presbytery members are invited to attend.

On the Move – Rev Adam Tipple will conclude his placement at Dalby Jandowae/Warra Uniting Church at the end of September and has accepted a call to Lifeworks Uniting Church beginning the 1st October 2021. Please pray for the Dalby Jandowae/Warra congregations as they search for a new minister and for Rev Adam and Lifeworks Uniting as they begin this new journey together.

Know God | Connect | Do It! | Work Together

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Admin Support – Susan is our new Presbytery Admin support person in the Presbytery Office. She is in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (9am – 2pm) each week. You can phone her on 07 4638 9989 or email her at admin@downspresbytery.org.au

Review of the Leichhardt Patrol – the Presbytery has agreed to engage the Synod Mission Engagement Team (MET) and the Business Development Unit (BDU) to support the Presbytery wide consultation. Over the next 6 months Rev David Graham is ministering in the communities of the Surat Basin while the review takes place and are grateful and blessed by your prayers and financial support for this ministry.

Safe Ministry with Children (SMC) Lay Co-Ordinator – we are excited to have Mrs Annette Curnow (from Lifeworks Uniting Church) on board to resource and train lay members of your congregation for SMC. Annette is your go to person who can help you understand the requirements of your congregation leaders. Her number is 0438 521 502 or email her on strathleigh@gmail.com

Dwelling in Love News from the 16th Assembly – The 16th National UCA Assembly has, like all other events in the world, had to adapt to COVID19 restrictions and has met online and is hoping to reconvene face to face in 2022 on the Sunshine Coast. For the find out more from what happened online at this meeting [here](#).

Website – the Presbytery Website is currently being revised and not available. We look forward to sharing a new fresh look page soon. If you have suggestions for the site please let Susan know via email.

Dates and Events coming up around the Presbytery

- **10th August** - Pastoral Relations Committee
- **14th August Saturday** – **Wilsonton School Chaplaincy Fundraising Variety Concert** \$10 for Adults and \$3 for Children followed by a luscious afternoon tea and you will be entertained by Barber Shop Quartet, Bush Poets, Toowoombells, Piper, Sing-a-long and more. 1:30pm @ Wilsonton Uniting Church, Crn Tor and North St Wilsonton. For more information call 0488 775 859.
- **21st August** Presbytery Standing Committee at St Stephens Uniting Church Hall, an opportunity for Presbytery Members to connect in with Business Development Unit (BDU) on that day, more information to come soon.
- **22nd August 9:30am** - Induction of Rev Rob Callow as Intentional Interim Minister at Crows Nest Uniting Church.
- **4th September 1:30pm – 3:30pm Sacraments Workshop** – a workshop to support and encourage the ministry of lay people who have permission to preside at the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. Middle Ridge Uniting Church, 264 Stenner Street, Middle Ridge. For more information about this workshop call Yvonne on 0427 962 781 or register [here](#)
- **7th to 10th September** – **2021 Ministry Agents Retreat** at the Sunshine Coast

- 10th to 13th September – 2021 **National Lay Preachers Conference** – “Lay Preaching Unleashed” which was to be held at the Sunshine Coast is now (due to COVID19 restrictions) being held online at the much-reduced cost of \$20. Here is the link to book in for the conference: <https://ucaqld.com.au/national-lay-preachers-2021>
- **25th September** Saturday – 9:30 – 3:30pm **Church Council Training Day** at Highfields Uniting Church, 55 Highfields Street, Highfields. Workshops will include: Minute taking and record keeping; Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC); Risk and Compliance – Property, Workplace Health and Safety, Safe Ministry with Children; Finance; Zero and UCare. Call or email Susan to book in or you can register [here](#).
- 5th to 7th November 2021 – Next Presbytery Meeting – **Oakey and Districts Uniting Church**
- 26th to 28th November – **National Interfaith Conference** – Interfaith Insights into the Global Pandemic. More information to come soon.
- 25th to 27th February 2022 – **Presbytery Meeting** – St George Uniting Church

We are always working to make our processes more efficient and user-friendly. To help make the next meeting together valuable could you please return this online survey here [Feedforward](#) or please fill in the attached survey and send it back to admin@downspresbytery.org.au

Prayer Points

- For our COVID19 Advisors as they continue to serve in congregations to protect and keep the community safe.
- For the congregations, agencies, hospitals, schools and communities in which we serve to bring hope and a message of God's love.
- For the rural and remote areas of our Presbytery that they may be resourced and ministered to effectively.
- For the members of Presbytery who have served in roles and those who are beginning or continuing to serve.
- For Lay Preachers across the Presbytery that they are resourced well to serve you.
- For our Moderator Rev Andrew Gunton and all staff who serve in the Synod office.
- Rev Sharon Hollis, President of the UCA National Assembly and Rev Charissa Suli President-Elect.

Your Presbytery Team

Presbytery Minister: Rev Yvonne McRostie P: 0427 962 781 E: pm@downspresbytery.org.au

Office Administrator: Mrs Susan Popple P: 07 4638 9989 E: admin@downspresbytery.org.au

Standing Committee

- ❖ Chairperson of Presbytery – Rev Adam Tipple chair@downspresbytery.org.au
- ❖ Secretary of Presbytery – Miss Allison Kahler secretary@downspresbytery.org.au
- ❖ Presbytery Treasurer – Ps Jenny Noble treasurer@downspresbytery.org.au
- ❖ Property Office – Mr Mal Hamill property@downspresbytery.org.au
- ❖ Standing Committee Members: Rev Marius Kruger, Mrs Kath Warner, Mrs Sharon Baker
- ❖ Presbytery Minister – Rev Yvonne McRostie pm@downspresbytery.org.au

Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)

- ❖ Chairperson of PRC – Rev Dr Linda Hamill prcchair@downspresbytery.org.au
- ❖ Secretary of PRC - Rev Yvonne McRostie pm@downspresbytery.org.au
- ❖ Pastoral Relations Committee Members – Mr Mal Hamill, Ps Jenny Noble, Rev Kate Fraser, Mr Cliff Forrester and Mr David Prestridge.
- ❖ Lay Preachers Co-Ordinator – Mr Stan Klan greattrains@bigpond.com
- ❖ Period of Discernment (POD) Co-Ordinator – Rev Jenny Potter jennifer.potter@health.qld.gov.au
- ❖ Safe Ministry with Children Lay (SMC) Co-Ordinator – Mrs Annette Curnow strathleigh@gmail.com
- ❖ Continuing Education for Ministers (CEM) Co-Ordinator – Rev Dr Linda Hamill