



# Bulletin – June 2017

Encouraging each other in ministry and mission,  
sharing resources, providing mutual support.

## Network News

### A Time of Inspiration

#### Reflections from the Urban Mission Network Gathering 25 May

Dean Eland

##### Being good neighbours in our local communities

Sixty members of Urban Mission Network congregations met at Bridgewater UC on 25 May; from the start, we quickly became engaged with our heads, hearts, and spirit. We were introduced to the Godly Play method: being ready, encountering the story, wondering, responding and then the generous feast!

Well known South Australian musician Leigh Newton introduced the gathering to a number of new songs. At times we felt we were “singing with the angels,” then the mood changed with the deep sound of a Good Friday song based on an African traditional melody, “What have we done?”

Representatives of several congregations shared stories about their commitment to become good neighbours in their local communities. Stories included many surprising elements when simple and straight forward acts of hospitality and generosity led to creative encounters and new insights.

The story of the green shed at Victor Harbor and the electrical repairs service being offered by retired volunteers. The impact and engagement with the wider community at Sandy Creek through their bush chapel. The intergenerational experiences developing at Bridgewater through the support offered to young families and teenagers through music. The importance of social support experienced through the Op shop and community garden at Prospect Rd, working together with The



Experience Café. The “hands across the sea” singing group making a passionate statement of acceptance of refugees and new arrivals. Enfield’s story about what worked and what didn’t over the years and the spontaneous weekly group, “Stevos” that emerged by offering support to those who have become socially isolated. Pilgrim members shared the story of their weekly Sunday night teas for the city’s homeless community, and the growing ministry through regular art exhibitions and weekday lunch concerts.

Blackwood distributed information about their Sunday 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm Occasional Series, “The life and thought of people of Spirit.” Members were reminded of the Q & A session being held as part of the National UC History Conference at Pilgrim on Saturday night at 7.45 10 June. The topic: “The Church in the Public Square.”

These stories became an invitation to others to join in this year’s local public theology program. This series has set out to assist and resource congregations learn from their shared experiences, what it means to join with God in love for the world.

At the gathering, several references were made to the steps that lead to new insights and the way congregation vision statements were embodied in practical actions and events.

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Resource papers were shared and a recommendation to study a recent publication by Alan Roxburgh, *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in our Time* (2015). Alan's website can be found at [www.themissionalnetwork.com](http://www.themissionalnetwork.com) "We are a people of hope-in-action learning to participate with what God is doing in the local. TMN cultivates safe spaces, robust resources and processes to re-orient our Christian communities for the sake of the Gospel and the transformation of God's world."

The next major event in the local public theology series will be the visit of Professor Linda Woodhead from the UK. Linda will lead a workshop for congregation leaders on Saturday 16 September and will be the guest speaker at Pilgrim's annual symposium on Monday night 18 September. For further information about this series contact Rev Dr Dean Eland.



Leigh Newton generously shared original music with the Urban Mission Network congregations. LicenSing and CCLI are the licence holders for Leigh's work; please be sure to record use of his songs if your church has a licence with any of these holders, and be sure to include credit and copyright information.

Leigh has also offered two songs for possible use for upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary services. These have been sent as separate attachments with this bulletin.

## Welcome Pastor Dianne Holden (Rosefield), and Rev Alex Rodgers (Kent Town)

### Dianne Holden

Greetings friends and colleagues in the UMN!

My name is Dianne Holden, and I recently commenced as a 0.5 Pastor at Rosefield Uniting Church, so I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself.

I am currently a Candidate for Minister of the Word, having completed and Bachelor of Ministry at Tabor, a Diploma of Ministry at Adelaide College of Divinity and being close to completing my Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies from Flinders University.

I am married to David, a Palliative Care Consultant, and together we have two teenagers – Lachlan (18) and Kristen (16). Our "third child" is Alfie, a four-year-old spoodle.

Adelaide West Uniting Church was "home" for close on 25 years; it was here I was encouraged to participate in a wide range of ministry experiences including worship leading and coordination, preaching, running a network of small groups and church governance. I worked for several years as a school chaplain at Flinders Park Primary School and have also had experience in chaplaincy in hospital and aged-care settings. In recent years I have had the joy of supply ministry at both Ascot Community Uniting and The Corner – wonderful learning experiences for me. All of these experiences and



the encouragement of key people contributed to me (finally) pursuing the call to ministry.

I have been at Rosefield since the beginning of May. Although not yet ordained, this is a placement. My key responsibilities, aside from contributing to worship and preaching, are focused on the 0-30s essentially. This includes looking at worship/service options, supporting families, youth, and young adults and finding ways to connect groups like Playgroup, Mainly Music and the Netball Club to the broader life of the church.

I am excited about the possibilities and look forward to being a part of the Urban Mission Network.  
Blessings

### Alex Rodgers

Born in Ancient times in Caledonia, and brought up in the tenement slums of Glasgow, I was educated to solve problems and disputes with my fists and any other implement that would make my viewpoint be taken more seriously in any argument!

At age 14, I moved to Elizabeth, attended Elizabeth high School, and started going to Elizabeth Grove Methodist Church youth group where the girls were particularly attractive and the



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Minister, Rev Jeff Drake was particularly accepting. He also made sense about church stuff, and, along with a number of other ministers, encouraged me to go back to school and take the work seriously.

I did this and graduated with a BA from Adelaide University. I also married one of the girls from the Grove youth group, who is still the centre point of my life, and the best GP in Australia.

In 1977, I became an ordinand and went

to Melbourne to study at the United Faculty of Theology where I gained a Bachelor of Theology. I have ministered in Melbourne and Adelaide in school, hospital and aged-care chaplaincy. I have also ministered in congregations across the social spectrum – but I would describe myself as a progressive in theology.

I have a graduate DipEd from Adelaide University and a Master of Arts from Uni. SA.

I look forward to my time at Wesley Kent Town and any involvement in the network I can offer.

## Network Dates

### Making Decisions Together

*Workshop for Church Council members, leaders and committee members*

with Rev Terence Corkin

**22 July 9.00 for 9.30 am – 12.30 pm**

**Christ Church Uniting**  
26 King William Road, Wayville

Have you wondered how other churches govern themselves, make decisions and coexist, and asked, “Where can I gain information to assist in my role as a Church Council member, leader, committee member?”

The Urban Mission Network and the Community Outreach Network have invited the Rev Terence Corkin (former Uniting Church Assembly General Secretary) to present and lead a workshop on making decisions together.

Terrance will draw on his highly practical book *The Church Guide for Making Decisions Together*, and share his vast experience in church decision-making at the local, Presbytery, Assembly and international level.

**Bookings** are essential to Susan Burt @ [susan@urbannetwork.org.au](mailto:susan@urbannetwork.org.au); phone: 0412552703

### August Gathering

**Thursday 24 August 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm**

#### Modbury Uniting Church

576 Montague Road, Modbury



*the latest initiative of the Urban Mission Network will be introduced*

#### *The Creative Ageing and Spirituality Centre*

Spirituality and Ageing is an emerging field as persons in later life unlock giftedness, find avenues to contribute wisdom, find resources for meaning, review and explore faith formation and spirituality that is applicable to their life journeys, and focus on enriching their remaining years.

**Ken Burt**, a volunteer coordinator will present international trends on what is known as Sageing – emerging movements and initiatives in later life – and the potential of the centre.

**Rev Dr Elizabeth Vreugdenhil**, Education and Resource Consultant will present proposed courses and resources.

The session will include intentional table conversations.

**Donation** to cover the cost of the meal.

**RSVP** on, or preferably before, Thursday 17 August to [susan@urbannetwork.org.au](mailto:susan@urbannetwork.org.au). Please advise of any dietary needs.



## Transforming Worship

Sean Gilbert,  
Lecturer in Ministry Practice, UCLT

The last National Uniting Church conference on worship took place twenty years ago! That is a remarkable statistic given the defining place of worship in the church's life, yet perhaps indicative of the vast differences and (let's be honest) tensions felt within its communal practice.

Early in 2016 the Assembly Working Group on Worship, now based in Adelaide, prioritised a national conference as both a practical and creative expression of its charter. *Transforming Worship* (see, [www.transformingworship.com.au](http://www.transformingworship.com.au)) readily became its theme, as did enthusiastic agreement about inviting Professor Ruth Duck and Dr Stephen Burns to be the conference's keynote speakers.

*Transforming Worship* can obviously be heard in one or two ways. Primarily, our hope is that the conference will reaffirm the renewing gift of God's presence that makes worship what it is; *the* ongoing point of transformation in our lives. In other words, it is not simply worship's planning, style or delivery that changes us; rather it is the beauty of God's holiness that gets under our skin if we so allow it to. Stephen Burns makes this point very well:

*"Worship that I experience as transformative is something I glimpse. Now and again, something breathtaking happens, and I live from it as long as I can: Maybe a song gives me words that say just what I want to say to God; maybe I recognise that the preacher lives the good news she is talking about; maybe I'm moved because that person's voice cracks when he speaks of peace; someone trembles as they*

*come for communion; tears come as we pray. And I'm glad I'm there, and I'm open to change and I'm seeking my own transformation."*

Secondly, *Transforming Worship* is a highly creative, even artistic act in close relation to God. It seeks to flow with the Spirit into the 'nooks and crannies' of our lives, resonating deeply with often ambiguous or hidden realities. Therefore, worship practices can ill afford to be stuck in set patterns or tamed by jaded, faded forms. The conference will, therefore, set aside generous amounts of time to worship's *crafting*, through the composition of song, prayer, preaching, storytelling and much, much more.

When asked recently if worship needed an artistic sensibility in both preparation and delivery, Ruth Duck replied,

*"Every aspect of worship has an artistic dimension—how we move (or don't move), the shape and symbols of our worship places, the use of words in preaching and liturgy, the rhythm and flow of a service, congregational song, and many other dimensions."*

So, on behalf of the organising committee, I hope you will come for three and half days of *imagining, crafting* and *leading*. More than just another 'talking heads' or a 'how to' event, *Transforming Worship* will hopefully take us into fertile places of faith exploration and renewed practice for the sake of the whole Church's life of prayer and witness.