



# Bulletin – May 2018

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

## News from the Network

### May Gathering

**Thursday 31 May 2018**

**6.00 for 6.15 pm start**

#### Christ Church Uniting

26 King William Road, Wayville

**Community connections:  
church in the public square  
exploring the (small “d”)  
diaconate ministry of the church**

**Facilitators:** Rev. Sandy Boyce, Pilgrim UC, and President, DIAKONIA World Federation; Rev. Christa Megaw, Bridgewater UC and Co-Vice President DIAKONIA Asia-Pacific Region; Rev. Wendy Prior, Mental Health Chaplain, Lyell McEwin Hospital

**Suggested donation** of \$10.00 to cover the cost of the meal – or whatever you can afford

**RSVP** on, or preferably before, Thursday 24 May to [susan@urbannetwork.org.au](mailto:susan@urbannetwork.org.au).

As catering will be a collaborative endeavour by traders on King William Road and Christ Church volunteers, it is important to RSVP on the date indicated.

Please advise of any dietary needs.

### Induction

**Reverend Geoff Tiller**

**Saturday, 19 May 2018**

**at 2.00 pm**

#### All Saints Uniting Church

364a Marion Road, North Plympton

Celebratory refreshments to follow

## Diaconal Ministry

*and the diakonia of the whole church*

“Through its diakonia, the church becomes a community encompassing within its life something of what it means for the whole creation to live under the coming reign of God and takes account of the creative Spirit of God at work in transforming activities in the wider community and within the church building up the faith community.”  
*(1991 & 1994 reports to the Assembly)*

The Uniting Church in Australia has been led into many areas of ministry which focus on the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized people. The UCA *Statement to the Nation* (1977) affirmed:

- 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.
- our pledge “to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur; to work for the eradication of poverty and racism within our society and beyond; to 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; and to oppose all forms of discrimination which infringe basic rights and freedoms.”
- our commitment “to 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.”
- our concern for “the basic human rights of future generations, and will urge the wise use of energy,

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the protection of the environment and the replenishment of the earth's resources for their use and enjoyment."

Similarly, the 1988 *Statement to the Nation*, prepared by the then President, Sir Ronald Wilson, for the Bicentennial Year:

- rejoiced "in the vision of a multicultural society where these peoples may live together in unity and diversity, maintaining different cultural traditions, yet forging a common destiny based on commitment to the ideals of equality of opportunity, tolerance, justice and compassion."
- expressed the commitment of the Uniting Church in Australia, that "in obedience to God, in concern for the integrity of our nation, and in co-operation with all citizens of goodwill, we Aboriginal and newer Australians have determined to stand together."

In so doing, "we are committed to working for justice and peace, calling for honesty and integrity, encouraging tolerance and compassion, challenging acquisitiveness and greed, opposing discrimination and prejudice, condemning violence and oppression and creating a loving and caring community. We deplore the divisions of humanity along racial, cultural, political, economic, sexual and religious lines. In obedience to God, we struggle against all systems and attitudes which set person against person, group against group, or nation against nation. We recognise a widening gap between the rich and the poor, not only within Australia but within the whole human community. We will strive to uphold the rightful claims of the poor on the resources of this nation and the world. We will seek to identify and challenge all social and political structures and all human attitudes which perpetuate and compound poverty. Recognising the vulnerability of the life and resources of creation, we will work to promote the responsible management, use and occupation of the earth by human societies. We will seek to identify and challenge all structures and attitudes which perpetuate and compound the destruction of creation."

Policies, public statements and resources over the 40 years of the Uniting Church in Australia, have led the church to take, at times, risky and prophetic positions on issues of social justice at home and abroad, arising from and informed by a confident faith in God, the example of Jesus Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Embodying a faithful response to this commitment is the work of the whole people of God. **The Ministry of Deacon** has a particular priority to encourage and inspire others to share in this commitment, and to equip and resource people for diaconal ministry, and to embody that ministry in practical and contextual ways. **The Ministry of Deacon** is

described as those who:

- hold up service as an inescapable response to the Gospel.
- encourage all God's people in their service of God inside and outside the church.
- are advocates for justice, sharing in the church's justice ministries, standing beside people who are disadvantaged or oppressed, encouraging others to work for justice and calling the church to costly action.
- are carers who offer support and encouragement, standing beside those who suffer, and encouraging others to use their caring gifts.
- are pioneers serving on the fringes in areas of life where social, economic and political changes are exposing new needs which are frequently remote from the experience of church-goers.
- are educators whose special task is to educate the church on justice issues and community needs.
- are enablers who encourage other people to recognise and use their gifts of service.
- are called to be prophets prepared to challenge injustice and offer alternatives.
- are bridge builders between the church and the community.

The ministry of Deacon in the UCA is understood primarily as:

- a link between congregations with issues and communities of needs beyond the congregation.
- a transforming influence on church and community.
- a catalyst for renewing the diakonia of the whole church – raising awareness in congregations and the wider church about issues of justice or people in need, and in many places leading other people to become involved in advocacy and service for the disadvantaged and marginalized groups of people.

**Supporting, encouraging and equipping others to use their gifts of caring and service** Deacons have a representative function which includes encouragement of the gifts of diakonia of all the members. Whatever the UCA says about the diakonia expressed in the Ministry of Deacon, it also says about the ministry of the whole people of God, for all are called to priestly and serving ministries by virtue of their membership in Christ (Ministry in the UCA, 1991).

**Prophetic ministry and public theology** "The diaconate will lead the church in identifying the causes of social inequality, injustice and division, and in facing those who perpetuate oppressive

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structures, while standing in solidarity with the disadvantaged'. (Ordination and Ministry in the UCA, 1994, para 104). The diaconate will contribute to public conversation on these issues, and in contributing to the social capital and 'common wealth' of the community.

**Supporting justice** The distinctive function of the deacon is to hold up service, and justice, as central to Christian ministry (Report of Task Group on Ministry to the 6th UCA Assembly, 1991)

**Worship** "The role of the Deacon in leadership of worship is to remind the congregation that worship and service are interwoven, that service without worship can easily become no different to secular social work. Thus Deacons have a liturgical role appropriate to their calling and ministry. In their preaching, Deacons have a particular opportunity to

reflect from a theologically disciplined perspective on the challenges of Christian witness and service to the world." (Report to the 6th UCA Assembly).

...mission involves "the whole church bringing the whole gospel to the whole world." There is no area of life that escapes the gospel.

...mission is, quite simply, the participation of Christians in the liberating mission of Jesus, wagering on a future that verifiable experience seems to belie. It is the good news of God's love, incarnated in the witness of a community, for the sake of the world.

David Bosch, *Transforming Mission*, p.519.

Rev (Deacon) Sandy Boyce is a Deacon in placement at Pilgrim Uniting Church and President of DIAKONIA World Federation.

## Creative Ageing and Spirituality

On Thursday, 12 April the sixties came alive on the lawns of Bonython Hall when the Urban Mission Network project *Creative Ageing and Spirituality* hosted the Seniors with Style celebration.

The event was sponsored by the Adelaide City Council as part of the Splash Adelaide lifestyle collaborations to enrich city life. The Council generously donated the marques, tables chairs, and synthetic grass to create a carnival space.

Sixties tribute band, "The Honey Bees," had the crowd of Baby Boomers (and older) and millennials, tapping their feet and singing along. Canton Rose modelled their designs with a creative catwalk jaunt. Information booths operated by COTA, Thriving with Age, ACH Exchange, U City, Uniting Communities, Resthaven and Aged Alternatives prompted lifestyle discussions.

An article in the previous Boomer section of the *Advertiser* encouraged people to come dressed in the style from the sixties and share how that period has influenced life now.

Copies of Ari Cohen's Books *Advanced Style* were donated by Dymocks for persons expressing their personal style from that period. (check out images from Ari Cohens



recent visit to Australia <https://bit.ly/2vbet4V>).

The feeling was joyful. Moderator, Uniting Church SA, Rev Sue Ellis encouraged the crowd to remember the joy and fun of our teenage years, and live out that joy now. While not quite a mini-Woodstock on North Tce, the Moderator noted how a diverse group created a fun sharing community.

*Creative Ageing and Spirituality* will host further events, and you are encouraged to check their evolving website [www.creativeageingsa.org.au](http://www.creativeageingsa.org.au) and Facebook <https://bit.ly/2HwASfN>. Ideas, articles and insights that encourage ageing well will be posted from around the world. Conversations that will lead to interesting, informative, and exciting collaborations are under way. The lyrics from two iconic songs of the sixties are perhaps just as applicable for us today.

"We all want to change the world  
You tell me that it's evolution  
Well, you know  
We all want to change the world."  
John Lennon and Paul McCartney

"People try to put us down  
(Talkin' 'bout My generation)  
Just because we get around  
(Talkin' 'bout my generation)"  
The Who

# News from Urban Mission Network member churches and agencies

Centre for  
Music, Liturgy & the Arts



A series based on Mark Pierson's book

*The Art of Curating Worship*

Discover what worship curation is all about, how it shapes us as worship leaders and open ourselves to re-create encounters with God

**Monday 7, Monday 14, Monday 28 May @ 7.00 pm**

**Clayton-Wesley Uniting Church**

280 Portrush Road, Beulah Park

Cost \$50.00 plus GST (includes all four sessions plus the book).

For more information email [admin@cmla.org.au](mailto:admin@cmla.org.au) or call the office 8267 2657



**PCNet SA**  
Progressive Christianity Network

## Book Launch

Norm Habel's controversial new volume

*Acknowledgement of the Land and Faith of Aboriginal Custodians After Following the Abraham Trail*

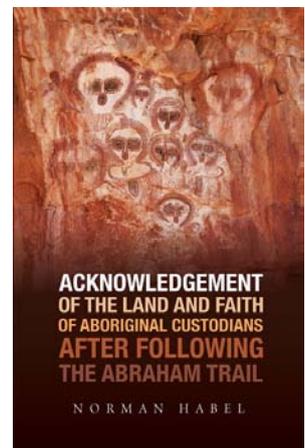
in connection with  
The Seminary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age session  
at the

**Effective Living Centre**

26 King William Road, Wayville

**Thursday 3 May, 7.00 pm**

Norm Habel's presentation on "Interpreting the Bible in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" will provide background for the book and the launch by Aboriginal Elder Ivan Copley OAM



For more information on Seminary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age go to <http://effectiveliving.ucasa.org.au/events/seminary-of-the-3rd-age/>



## Seeds of Hope in Troubled Times

Retreats and open conversations  
with Margaret Silf

**Nunyara Retreat 27 – 29 April**

**Nunyara Open Conversations 28 and 29 April**

**Sevenhill Retreat 30 April – 2 May**

Margaret Silf is a dynamic and engaging spiritual explorer, writer, speaker and retreat giver who engages with other pilgrims through her books, retreats and spiritual conversation. Margaret is a mother and grandmother who lives in Staffordshire, England and travels extensively to share her passion for making spirituality accessible to all. Margaret has a wide range of best-selling books including her most recent books, *Hidden Wings: Emerging from Troubled Times with New Hope and Deeper Wisdom* and *Born to Fly: a Handbook for Butterflies-In-Waiting*.

For more information and to register go to <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-JNCTVtI0KWNkhoxNhDJ6ECHPddS1K0Z/view>

## Art Exhibition The Art Gallery of South Australia

North Tce, Adelaide

**Friday, May 4**

### **2018 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Divided Worlds**

where our most significant contemporary  
Australian artists explore what it means to  
live in a divided world in 2018.

Meet outside the atrium shop at 5.45 pm for a  
one hour tour, which will begin at 6.00 pm  
followed by a drink and 30 minutes discussion  
in the courtyard of the gallery

**Cost:** Adult \$15, concession \$10,  
Friend of ELC \$8.00

Purchase tickets online at  
<https://www.trybooking.com/VEBQ> or  
phone the office for assistance: 8271 0329

## Wanted to borrow

I would like to read Jürgen Moltmann's  
autobiography, *A Broad Place* and wonder  
whether anyone has a copy I could borrow  
for a few weeks. Email [roy@uniting.com.au](mailto:roy@uniting.com.au),  
which actually has Alison Whish at the end of  
that address.

## Fire Drill

Rev. Alison Whish

When did your congregation last have a fire drill and  
practise evacuating the church buildings?  
Are there people designated who act as fire wardens  
for such an occasion?

On Sunday 18 March the Newland Memorial  
Uniting Church discovered that it takes about three  
minutes to get everyone out of the church, and for  
the designated warden to check the vestry, gallery,  
porches and choir vestry for people who might be  
stuck.

As many of our people walk with the help of sticks  
or walkers, this was a consideration for us when  
leaving the building as rapidly as possible. People  
using walkers were urged not to be polite and wait  
for all others to leave ahead of them, which is what  
often happens. We all assembled in the Emergency  
Assembly area behind the hall and completed the  
service in the hall.

The exercise taught us that we needed an  
effective means of raising the alarm. Learning from  
the drill, we have now purchased two pump-action  
air horn alarms – see [www.rsea.com.au](http://www.rsea.com.au) (\$11.95 +  
\$9.94 freight because we are in the country) or, for  
a pressure spray can equivalent, [www.ansco.com.au](http://www.ansco.com.au)  
who are located in Preston, Victoria. (\$21.60  
+ courier charges as a pressure pack cannot be  
posted)



Members of the Newland Memorial Uniting  
Church evacuate the building.

## News from the wider church

### Don't Just Survive: Thrive with Age

#### An Innovative Ministry Initiative of the Walkerville Uniting Church

Urban Mission Network members have a sense  
of mission in the wider community and share a  
conviction that we must engage with that wider  
community so that the Gospel may bring about both  
personal and social transformation.

Through the *Creative Ageing and Spirituality*  
initiative, opportunities to interact with other groups  
and churches within Synod have emerged. Rhonda  
Smedley, an active member of Walkerville Uniting  
Church, has created *Thrive with Age*.

50% of the population in the Walkerville area are  
50 years or older, and Rhonda, who has a successful  
background in community engagement and how a  
church can engage with local organisations, led  
a group to explore a series of seminars around  
positive ageing. The initial project was funded from  
the Resthaven Ageing and Wellness Grant. Further  
details are featured on page 17 of the April-May  
*New Times*.

While Walkerville is not a member of the UMN  
network, we are sharing information and connections,  
as well as continuing regular conversations on how  
we can share the Walkerville learnings and promote  
the programs within the UMN network. Go to  
[https://www.walkerville.unitingchurch.org.au/thrive-  
with-age](https://www.walkerville.unitingchurch.org.au/thrive-with-age) for information on these ageing and  
wellness programs.