



General Council News April 2016

Tuesday 19 April 2016
Ph: 1300 736 692

On the evening of Monday 11 April, General Council gathered with devotions, and shared pastoral concerns and joys.

New General Secretary

General Council welcomed Rev David de Kock as the new general secretary of the Uniting Church WA (UCWA). David took up the role on 2 March and was formally inducted on Friday 8 April at Applecross St Stephens Uniting Church. In his first report to General Council, David outlined the work he has been involved with so far with different agencies, committees and congregations of the UCWA, and his priorities for 2016, including building strategies and a budget process for the UCWA, and strengthening relationships with the schools and agencies.

Deputy General Secretary

A position statement for the new role of Deputy General Secretary, prepared by Bob Seiner, was approved by General Council. The Deputy General Secretary will be responsible to the General Secretary, Rev David de Kock, with responsibility for: congregation and community engagement and support; faith formation and faith sharing; education, training and leadership development; and be responsible for Synod matters relating to worship, witness and service. The General Secretary will now begin a process of seeking the best candidate to fill this important role.

Congress Presbytery

Rev Dr Chris Budden, interim national co-ordinator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), has advised that the National Congress consultation has determined that the creation of a Congress Presbytery in WA should be postponed until matters raised in the Consultation Report on the WA Region are dealt with.

Review of the responsibilities of the Standing Committee and General Council

General Council noted the Review of the Responsibilities of the Standing Committee and General Council. In February, General Council appointed a Task Team to conduct the review, following the approval of the proposed new WA Presbytery which would affect the role of General Council and Standing Committee. General Council and Standing Committee agreed to, by consensus, to move towards a revised structure, which creates a Standing Committee for Synod as well as one for each Presbytery, and which will see the end of General Council. This follows existing Uniting Church regulations and will require some redefinition of commissions.

Nominating Committee

The General Council approved the nominations of Tanya Trevisan and Dan Minchin as members of the Methodist Ladies' College Council, and noted the resignation of Danielle Flint, David Cielak, Kelly Alchin and Prof Tania Broadley from the Penrhos College Council. General Council also approved the nominations of Rev Craig Collas and Chris Walker as members of the Good Samaritan Industries Board, Rev Ivan Clark to the Covenanting Commission, David Gray as the chairperson of the Social Justice Board, and Rev Dennis Corowa and Vince Ross to the Beananging Kwuurt Institute Board.

Visions for 2020

It was agreed that General Council would provide the Visions Statement for 2020 to the Moderatorial Nominating Committee. The next Moderator-elect will lead the UCWA into the year 2020, and the committee has outlined their vision for the years ahead for whoever should fill this role. This includes looking towards resurrection and new life for the church, clearer relationships between mono-cultural congregations with a greater participation of leadership, a focus on reaching people with the Gospel, community engagement, discipleship and hospitality.

Moderatorial Nominating Committee

The Moderatorial Nominating Committee comprises: Rev Ken Williams, convener, Steve Higgins, Fiona Bentley, Jan Alvin Gunawan, Rev Lorraine Stokes, Margaret Martin and Rev Alan Jeffrey.

A call for nominations for the next Moderator-elect will be sent out by the General Secretary on 18 April.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Robert Watson, chair of the Uniting Church WA Synod Royal Commission Task Group, and Rev David de Kock, general secretary of the UCWA, updated General Council on the National Framework for Interim Redress Measures.

Resources Board

The UCWA Property Trust, in consultation with the Resources Board, has developed a bequest policy and brochure, detailing opportunities for congregations and individuals to leave a bequest to the UCWA and/or its agencies. It was agreed that a Bequest Sunday would be included in the UC

WA calendar.

Reviewing theological education in WA

A task team of General Council, together with the

Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL), is conducting a review of theological education in WA. Meetings have been held with the Principal of the Perth Theological Hall and the Board of the Perth College of Divinity at Murdoch University. Reports under several headings have been submitted to General Council. The aim is to ensure affordable, professional and helpful theological education for both candidates for ministry and lay leaders. It was agreed to include this as a discussion point at the May meeting of the Uniting Church Presbytery of WA.

Reports Received

In line with its regular reporting arrangements, General Council also received reports from the Resources Board, Social Justice Board, Nominating Committee, Beanangng Kwuurt Institute (BKI), UnitingCare Forum, Pastoral Relations and Placements Commission, Candidates for Ministries Commission, Ministerial Benefits Committee, Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, the General Secretary and the Moderator.



Congregations

- **Alpha in the City** will be taking place each Tuesday from 26 April–28 June, 12.30–1.30pm, at Uniting Church in the City, Trinity Perth. Do you want to learn more about the Christian faith? Join in for a free talk, discussion and lunch. RSVP to alpha@ucic.org.au or call Anneliis at 6103 4222.
- **Uniting Church in the City, Ross Memorial West Perth** is holding a monthly series of free concerts, on Wednesdays from 12noon–1.15pm. The next concert will be held on 4 May with Jennifer Currenti, flautist, and Caroline Badnall on piano, followed by Linda Barcan, mezzo soprano, with Marilyn Phillips on piano, on 1 June. For more info email Maureen at maurn@aapt.net.au.
- **The Captivating Classics Concert** will include popular and exquisite classical music and song, followed by afternoon tea. It will be held on Sunday 1 May, 3.00pm, at Uniting Church in the City, Ross Memorial West Perth. Featuring Emma Pettermeride, soprano, Matthew Kidd, clarinet, and Iwona Staniszewska, piano. Cost is \$20 adults, children are free. For more info call 6103 4222 or email admin@ucic.org.au. To book, visit www.trybooking.com/LBMJ.
- **Uniting Church in the City, Trinity Perth** will be holding a Sea Pictures Service; a special service to honour those who have been lost at sea, featuring an arrangement of Elgar's *Sea Pictures*, Lux et Veritas, Camerata 1685, conducted by Jangoo Chapkhana. It will be held on Sunday 19 June, 10.00am. For more info call 6103 4222 or email admin@ucic.org.au.

Presbytery & Synod of WA

- **The 5th Anniversary Celebration of the Marhaba Multicultural Community Centre** will be held on Saturday 23 April, 6.00pm, at the Uniting Church in the City Hall, level 1 Queens Building, William St, Perth. This event will be a coming together to celebrate the unity and diversity of all God's people. For more info contact Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho on 0459 145 977 or email emanuel.audisho@wa.uca.org.au.
- **The Pentecost Multicultural Celebration** will be held on Pentecost Sunday 15 May, 5.00pm, at Nedlands Uniting

Church. Come and experience Pentecost worship with music and prayer in different languages and cultures. For more info contact Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho on 0459 145 977 or email emanuel.audisho@wa.uca.org.au.

- **Safe Church Training** – for clergy, church leaders, church members and those involved in community services – will be held on Saturday 28 May, 9.30am–3.30pm at Kalamunda Uniting Church. Cost is \$20, includes lunch and morning tea. RSVP by 20 May to Cindy Gorton on 9260 9800 or email cindy.gorton@wa.uca.org.au.
- **Content from the Uniting Church WA Monthly Information Pack** is now available to view and download from the Uniting Church WA website. For more info visit <http://unitingchurchwa.org.au/blog/category/news/monthly-mail/>.

Ecumenical & International

- **This Mother's Day** you can help a mother-to-be in Pakistan to give birth safely and help ensure that she is well enough to care for her new baby, by purchasing a Gift for Peace, from Act for Peace. Place your order by 5.00pm Thursday 28 April to ensure your gift arrives in time for Mother's Day. To order your gift card visit www.actforpeace.org.au/gifts or call 1800 025 101.
- **Scripture Union WA's Fine Edge Theatre** is currently recruiting volunteer performers for their high school play. They are looking for Christians who are keen to engage with children through theatre. Expressions of interest should be made to Michael Nield, Fine Edge co-ordinator, 9371 9100 or bookings@suwa.org.au.

Community

- **Celebrate International Permaculture Day** at Perth City Farm on Saturday 30 April, 9.00am–1.00pm. Come and share produce, stories and exchange ideas over plates of wholesome food. There'll also be free workshops and a shared lunch. For more info visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/534079860093314/>.
- **A Refugee Welcome Day**, sponsored by the City of Joondalup and the City of Wanneroo, will be held on Saturday 30 April, 2.00–5.00pm, at the Carine Regional Open Space, cnr Beach Rd and Davillia Rd, Carine. Immerse yourself in cultural stalls, activities

and performances to welcome the many men, women and children from refugee backgrounds who now call Australia home. For more info call 9205 8555.

- **The Our Stories – Our Way: Indigenous Oral History Symposium**, is a coming together of community members and researchers to explore new methodologies for recording Indigenous oral histories. It will be held on Thursday 5 May at the State Library, Alexander Building. For more info email m.johnston@curtin.edu.au or RSVP at <http://ourstories.doattend.com/>.

Jobs: Paid and Volunteer (unitingchurchwa.org.au/jobs)

The Pastoral Relations and Placements Commission (PR&PC) webpage is available to view all vacant placements, by-laws, ministry changes and pastoral and placement updates. Visit <http://unitingchurchwa.org.au/pastoral-relations-and-placements-commission>.

- **The Uniting Church WA** is seeking a Deputy General Secretary. As part of the leadership team, the successful applicant will work with the General Secretary and General Manager (Resources) to ensure that the core areas of worship, witness and service support the ministry, mission and planning directions of the whole church. A Position Statement can be obtained from Monica at monica.pettersen@wa.uca.org.au. Applications close Sunday 15 May. For more info visit <http://unitingchurchwa.org.au/services/giving-back/employment-paid-and-volunteer/>.
- **Applications are invited** for Expressions of Interest from a minister of the Word to fill a vacant placement at Lighthouse Geraldton. Lighthouse Uniting Church is a multigenerational and multicultural congregation. It has a strong emphasis on building relations within and beyond the church with service in mission, discipleship, children and family ministry and small groups for all ages. Applications close 31 May. For further info, or for sending your applications, contact Rev John Barendrecht, on 9260 9804 or at john.barendrecht@wa.uca.org.au.
- **St Stephen's Uniting Church, Wodonga, Victoria**, is seeking a minister of the Word or a deacon to offer vision, pastoral oversight and leadership to work with and enable dedicated and enthusiastic lay people to grow worship, study groups, discipleship, service and spiritual gifts. To enquire or request a copy of the congregational profile contact Adrienne Dyll on afdyll@bigpond.com or call 0408 975 882. Applications close 30 April.
- **UnitingCare Queensland** is inviting applications for the role of Director of Mission. Ministers of the Word, Deacons and those in other specified ministries within the Uniting Church are encouraged to apply. Applications close 27 May. For more info visit http://ucaql.com.au/th_event/director-of-mission-unitingcare-queensland/.

Ministry Resourcing Centre

The Ministry Resourcing Centre is located in the Uniting Church Centre, 85–89 Edward Street, Perth and is open Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 5.00pm. Contact Margaret Johnston on 9260 9800 or email resource@wa.uca.org.au.

The Basis of Union: a commentary, by J Davis McCaughey, introduced and edited by Andrew Dutney. This document was first published in 1971 and has been re-published this year. Originally addressed to the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian readers who were being asked to make up their minds about church union, it has now been recognised that there are still many people from these traditions in Australia today who are still trying to decide whether or not to become part of the Uniting Church in Australia. **\$7.95**

Manifesto For Renewal: new edition – fully revised and expanded by Andrew Dutney. First published in 1986, it has been the standard text on the origins and interpretation of the Basis of Union for a generation. It has been revised and expanded for a new generation. **\$24.75**

Spent Matches: igniting the signal fire for the spiritually dissatisfied by Roy Moran. "Fire up your church" is the call by the author to bring energy to the Christian mission and a solution to the problem of dwindling membership and lacklustre faith. **\$22.99**

Wearing God: clothing, laughter, fire and other overlooked ways of meeting God, by Lauren F Winner. Metaphors for God, such as clothing, beekeeper, a loaf of bread, a cypress tree, are all found in the Bible. The richness of these biblical depictions help us to consider our friendship with God, and our sense of ourselves which changes and deepens if we pray to a God who is as close to us as our clothing. **\$34.99 Hardback**

Journey in the Wilderness: new life for mainline churches, by Gil Rendle. The wilderness can be either an exile from privilege or a call to mission and service. Which do you choose to make it? Recommended by Rev David Kriel, mission planner for the Uniting Church WA. **\$27.25**

The Day the Crayons Quit, by Drew Daywalt, pictures by Oliver Jeffers. The crayons have left their box and have written letters of protest to their user, Duncan, who must come up with a solution to the problem. This book was used at KCO 2016 to engage with the theme 'Call' and to illustrate God's mission to use our gifts in the best possible way and to value each and every one of us. **\$14.99**

All items plus postage.

Prayer Calendar

For the week commencing Sunday 24 April: The Lay Preachers' Association, Multicultural Ministry Commission, PNEUMA, Uniting Church Adult Fellowship and the Uniting Church Mission Fellowship. Pray also for the Synod of South Australia.

For the week commencing Sunday 1 May: The Chairperson of Presbytery, Rev Steve Francis, and his chaplain, Rev Alan Jeffrey and General Secretary, Rev David de Kock. Please also pray for the Church Polity Reference Committee.

Calendar of Events

For more information on these events visit www.unitingchurchwa.org.au

Day/Date	Time	Details
Saturday 23 April	6.00pm	Marhaba Multicultural Community Centre 5th Anniversary at Uniting Church in the City Hall.
Saturday 23 April		Gi Games at Warwick Stadium.
Saturday 23–Monday 25 April		Godly Play WA Core Training at St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, Darlington.
Tuesday 26–Wednesday 27 April	5.00–9.00pm	Godly Play Enrichment training at St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, Darlington.
Tuesday 26 April	12.30–1.30pm	Alpha in the City at Uniting Church in the City, Trinity Perth.
Thursday 28 April–Sunday 1 May		UnitingWomen 'Sharing Stories of Hope' Conference in Adelaide.
Friday 29 April–Sunday 1 May		Wellspring Community Retreat in Bindoon.
Sunday 1 May	3.00pm	Captivating Classics Concert at Uniting Church in the City, Ross Memorial West Perth.
Wednesday 4 May	12noon–1.15pm	Lunchtime concert with Jennifer Currenti, flautist, and Caroline Bednall on piano at Uniting Church in the City, Ross Memorial West Perth.
Saturday 7 May	11.00am–2.00pm	Labyrinth Open Day at Margaret River Uniting Church.
Monday 9 May–Sunday 15 May		Council of Churches WA Pilgrimage.
Wednesday 11 May		June edition of Revive contribution deadline.
Wednesday 9 March		April Revive contribution deadline.
Thursday 12–Sunday 15 May		Walk to Emmaus (Men).
Sunday 14 May		WA Presbytery (to be renamed) meeting at the Billabong Community Centre, Canning Vale.

If you are planning an event that you think would be of interest to other people in the Uniting Church community, let us know so we can put it in our calendar. We would also encourage you to contact us during your planning so you can check what other people are doing to avoid diary conflicts.