

First Third Committee

<i>Convenor</i>	David Beards
<i>Deputy General Secretary</i>	Rev Dr Ian Tozer
<i>Staff Officer</i>	Janine McDonald
<i>Members elected by Presbytery</i>	Rev Hollis Wilson Rev Luke Williams Margaret Johnston Jordan Gibbs
<i>Co-opted member</i>	David Gardner

Growing & Sharing Our Faith

I National Christian Youth Convention (NCYC), Yurora

NCYC has been a program of the Uniting Church in Australia with partner churches and friends since 1955. NCYC is a Multicultural Christian Youth festival of word, arts and celebration and is open to young people aged 16 – 25.

Yurora was held in January 2017, near Sydney, New South Wales (NSW). Western Australia (WA) topped its recent year's attendance with a 40 strong group attending.

Rev Brenton Prigge and Janine McDonald led a short pre-tour and post-tour for many of those attending from WA.

First Third proudly sponsored delegates by reimbursing their registration fee.

2 KCO 2017

The annual Kids' Camp Out was held over the weekend of 17–19 March 2017. Once again KCO was attended by 10 groups and received very positive feedback.

One of the advantages of the structure of KCO is its flexibility in adapting to the size of the camp and the numbers of the participants. KCO offers the opportunity for groups to return to their congregations and replicate the weekend for a local church camp.

A goal for 2018 is increasing adult participation in the Saturday night festivities, rather than the default adult position of 'viewing from the sidelines'.

The KCO organising committee included two recent graduate Junior Leaders being mentored to committee positions. The enthusiasm and passion of the committee in its entirety, for KCO and the younger members of the church, contributed extensively to the success of this event.

3 Godly Play

Godly Play is an especially effective methodology for Faith Formation because of the way it takes children seriously and values their spirituality.

WA's annual Perth based Godly Play Core training was held 22 – 24 April, 2017. An additional Core Training event was hosted by St Augustine's Uniting Church in Bunbury, 28 – 30 April.

First Third ministry continues to support the training events.

Community Engagement

4 Busselton Campsite Opening and Commissioning Service

The Uniting Church Family Campsite commissioning service led by the Moderator was held 10 December 2016 and was attended by approximately 100 guests.

In 2017, bookings from schools, agencies and congregation groups will be the focus.

The Easter break was fully booked with three congregations eager to enjoy the facility.

First Third ministry has contributed an amount of new sporting equipment which will be stored and available for use by groups at the campsite.

Education & Leadership

5 Messy Church

Rev Greg Ross is a Regional Co-ordinator for Messy Church in WA and a member of the National Messy Church Team, supporting and guiding the development of Messy Church across Australia.

In February/March 2017 with the assistance of First Third ministry, Greg attended the New Zealand National Messy Church conference and the Australian National Messy Church Round Table.

Greg reports that a common theme emerging from both New Zealand and Australian gatherings was the need for Messy Church congregations to be recognised in a creative way that allows these Fresh Expressions of Church to flourish in new ways with the strong support of their denominations.

There is also a strong desire for Messy Church support to be seen as part of the 'whole mission of the church' and not only part of the Youth & Children's ministry because Messy Churches are based on being deliberately intergenerational in every part of their life and work.

Greg contributed a chapter to the new BRF Messy Church book, 'Being Messy Being Church' and he has confirmed that he will be writing a Southern Hemisphere block of material for the Get Messy Magazine, used around the world by a majority of 3,600 Messy Churches. Both publications are available from the Uniting Church Ministry Resourcing Centre or online through MediaCom.

Communication

With continued significant uncertainty for First Third ministry in the early months of 2017, Rev Brenton Prigge's role has been confirmed as a full-time Presbytery placement 'at least until 30 November 2017'.

Furthermore, Janine McDonald continues in her current role until a new model for First Third ministry is determined.

This new model of First Third ministry will be presented to the November 2017 Presbytery meeting.

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