

## Multi-Cultural and Cross Cultural Committee (MCCC)

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| <i>Chairperson</i>                              | Rev Nalin Perera         |
| <i>Moderator (ex officio)</i>                   | Rev Steve Francis        |
| <i>General Secretary (ex officio)</i>           | Rev David de Kock        |
| <i>Deputy General Secretary (ex officio)</i>    | Rev Dr Ian Tozer         |
| <i>Members</i>                                  | Kalo Fotu                |
|   | Rev David Park           |
|   | Rev Judy Sanderson       |
|   | Rev Ciptamartalu Sapangi |
|   | Traian Troaca            |
|   | Hanamoia Vaitogi         |
| <i>Multi-Cultural Ministry Consultant Staff</i> | Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho   |

### Introduction

Since the last meeting of Presbytery, the Multi-Cultural and Cross Cultural Committee has been actively at work, with many additional activities planned for the remainder of 2017.

The Uniting Church rejoices in diversity of races, cultures and languages, building on the 1985 Uniting Church Assembly's declaration, "*We are a multicultural church. We continue on our journey to fully realise what it means to be a multicultural church, living faith and life cross-culturally*". In the three decades since that affirmation, the multi-cultural and migrant congregations of the Uniting Church Western Australia have become a living testimony to that undertaking.

### I KEY CHALLENGES

The Committee has sought to strengthen existing multi-cultural and inter-cultural

programs and is grateful to the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL) for course opportunities provided in the 2017 Education Brochure specifically focussed on migrant congregations, such as "*Orientation to the Uniting Church*" and "*Sacraments Training*".

The Committee's aim is to promote relevant education, training, and leadership resources and programs, highlighting the importance of developing a culture of faith formation and faith sharing across the whole spectrum of the Uniting Church, especially as we prepare to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uniting Church coming into being.

The Committee's intention is to partner with CEDAL and the Director of Formation and Education to facilitate opportunities for those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, particularly focusing on

'Second Generation' leadership development for lay people, in addition to assisting potential ministerial candidates fulfil requirements for ordination.

A key challenge before the Committee is helping secure a permanent location for the MARHABA ("Coming Together") Multicultural Centre which at present does not have a regular place for meetings and special events.

### **Undertaken and Planned Future Events for 2017:**

- **21 January** - Ecumenical Multicultural Prayer Day for Peace that was held at Wesley Uniting Church, Fremantle;
- **5 March** - Exploring with the Assyrian and Arabic Church the processes involved in becoming recognised as a Uniting Church congregation;
- **12 March** - Recognition of the Fijian Fellowship by the Uniting Church Synod/Presbytery of WA;
- **1 April** - 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MARHABA Multicultural Community Centre - the Aketo Festival in addition to celebration of the Assyrian New Year, held at Wesley Uniting Church, Fremantle;
- **26-27 April** - Cross Cultural Relationships Intensive conducted by CEDAL;
- **5-7 May** - Indonesian National Conference, Perth
- **27-28 May** - Inter-Cultural Cool Burn 3 Family Camp at Hines Seaside Camp;
- **17-18 June** - Intercultural Conference and Workshop at Billabong Uniting Church, Canning Vale, with special

guest Rev Dr Apwee, Assembly Director of Multi-Cultural Ministry;

- **18 June** - Celebrating a Multi-Cultural Festival for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia;
- **8 July** - Training Day: "Developing a Disciplined Culture of Faith" at Billabong Uniting Church, Canning Vale;
- **12 August** - One Day Inter-Cultural Women's Seminar: "Women's Rights in Jesus Christ" at Uniting Church in the City Centre, Queens Building, Perth;
- **21 October** - One Great Multicultural Celebration Evening at Wesley Uniting Church Fremantle, Fremantle, 5.00-7.30pm;
- **25 November** - MARHABA Multicultural Community Centre Picnic Day at Woodman Point, Munster.

### **Future Vision**

- The Committee endeavours to continually encourage the embracing of a multi-cultural vision for the Uniting Church within the Presbytery and Synod of WA;
- Developing workshops aimed at promoting awareness of multi-cultural and cross-cultural communication and building bridges between different groups of people in the contemporary Australian society";

- ‘Second Gen’ Leaders is a vital part of the Committee’s strategic plan for 2018, seeking to establish a Synod-wide Next Generation CALD Leaders’ Network for young people 15-35 years under the name of: “Jesus Friends”;
- Establishing links with community groups and the multi-cultural leaders of other denominations, so as to promote ecumenical multi-cultural activities, in addition to encouraging dialogue, prayer, worship, mission and resource sharing.
- Working with the Presbytery and the Synod of WA in developing policies and processes for working with those from diverse cultural backgrounds who are interested in becoming part of the Uniting Church;
- Developing a stronger relationship with CEDAL and Director of Education and Formation in the promotion of a deeper cross-cultural awareness for CALD students, staff and clergy of emigrant congregations;
- Working with the Uniting Church Mission Planner so as to identify areas requiring a future cross-cultural mission plan.

## **Conclusion**

Diversity is a gift to be embraced by all, in keeping with the Uniting Church’s founding vision. It is important we continually encourage migrant congregations by assisting them in building

bridges and deeper relationships with the wider Uniting Church.

The Multi-Cultural Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the work of the Multi-Cultural and Cross-Cultural Consultant, Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho, for his visionary leadership, passion and tireless work in keeping alive the vision of a Uniting Church for **all** God’s people.

**Rev Nalin Perera**  
**Chairperson**  
**E: [nalinper@westnet.com.au](mailto:nalinper@westnet.com.au)**