



Welcome to Seeds

and the June edition, the season of Makuru here in Nyungar country: the season of fertility.

As I write this, it is the week of Sorry Day (May 26th). At Assembly 6-9th May, the President of the Uniting Church, Rev Sharon Hollis led us in a recommitment to the covenant with First Peoples and invited us to sign the document as a show of solidarity with indigenous peoples and nations across Australia. We encourage all congregations to have a regular acknowledgement of country at the commencement of worship services. We rejoiced in the Ordination of Rev Mitchell Garlett as Minister of the Word on 1st May.

Assembly is engaged in significant work on a strategic plan for the Uniting Church for the next 25 years and approved further work on issues raised during consultation processes across the church under the heading of Act 2.

While we are on Assembly matters, I should also report that the Assembly review of Perth Theological Hall conducted in November 2021 is now complete and recommendations and responses have been sent back to the Standards for Ministry Committee.

Over the last year, we have been engaged as CEDAL, together with Murdoch University and Wollaston in ongoing conversations regarding the future of the theological library and we hope to be able to update you on this matter soon. It is our priority to keep the library together and continue to have access to all the books for the UCA. We are also negotiating for an ecumenical committee to be formed so that we can resume the International Scholar program with Wollaston and the Catholic Church, so watch this space for 2023.

I am excited to announce that the Pilgrimage to Israel is now scheduled for 1-14th February, 2023 and we are in the process of confirming those people who previously sought to be part of the tour (40) and would still like to proceed and seeking those who would like to be included in this venture.

Back to more immediate matters:

Looking ahead I draw to your attention the first **Basis of Union** day (3rd June). Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

Australian Colonial History and Culture (27-29th July) will be a course suited to those particularly from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background or seeking AOM and introduces not only some history of our colonial history but also seeks to introduce topics such as feminism in Australia, and contemporary youth culture, and some anthropological understanding of indigenous history. Geof Lilburne and I have now run this program twice previously and attendees have found it very helpful as an introduction to our cultural identities.

School of Ministry is themed “Salt” and we have Sally Douglas, author of “The Church as Salt” 2021 as our guest speaker (27- 30th June).

Terrence Corkin will be joining us (preferably in person but at least via Zoom) for training in **congregational dynamics and church polity** towards the end of the year on 14-16th November.

We look to the future of our church with hope. We aspire to bring the church into the 21st century with creativity and a contemporary mission focus. We pray for God to raise up leaders for the future of our church.

We aim to encourage, engage and empower as we work together.



Your Servant in Christ’s service,

Rev Dr Anne Wright
Director of Education and Formation,
Presbytery of WA.

Seeds Update

You may notice that this edition of Seeds looks slightly different. In the last month we had an “aha!” moment about how we can manage several different aspects of our email list. Our current approach, which is currently on trial, should help us to keep our list up to date from the central mailing list (so those who currently receive Seeds only need to change their details in one place). At the same time, it means we can send to people who are interested in receiving Seeds but do not have an official role in the church. Additionally, we will be able to restore some of the functionality that we had with our previous system.

As always, your feedback will be appreciated, so feel free to [drop us a line](#).

Contents

Calendar

Resources

Pray without Ceasing: A Life of Prayer by Geoffrey Lilburne

Reflective Being, Being Reflective

Upcoming Events

Basis of Union Day 1

Sacraments Refresher

Contemporary Understandings of Christ

School of Ministry: Salt

Australian Colonial History and Culture: Our Stories

Ongoing Training

ACD Certificate IV & Diploma

Theology Bites

Uniting Learning

Subscribe/Unsubscribe

Calendar

June 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	31	1	2	3 Basis of Union Day 1	4 Lay President's Refresher Day Wagin	5
6	7	8	9	10 Mission Shaped Ministry	11 Understanding Christ II	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 School of Ministry	28	29	30	1	2	3
				Notes	Contributions to SEEDS are due on the 19th of the month. Seeds is emailed on the last Tuesday of each month.	

July 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29	30	1	2	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Australian History and Culture				
				Notes	Contributions to SEEDS are due on the 19th of the month. Seeds is emailed on the last Tuesday of each month.	

Key

Blue - events targeted towards lay people

Pink - events targeted towards ministry agents

Purple - events for all members of the church

While these are broad designations, you are welcome to ask if a particular event would be suitable for you. Please contact the event organiser directly.



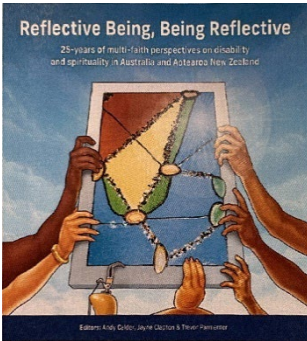
Resources

Pray without Ceasing: A Life of Prayer by Geoffrey Lilburne

This book was written as a follow up to my earlier work, **Joy Interrupted: A Memoir of Depression and Prayer**, which featured in the discussion of “**Faith the Mental Health**” on the “God Forbid” program with James Carlton, broadcast on the ABC on Sunday May 9 this year. Readers of that book commented that they would like to hear more about the prayer component of my life. **Pray Without Ceasing: A Life of Prayer** is my response to those requests. It details my rather unremarkable but sustained life experience of prayer and picks up on the discussion of depression and the Holy Spirit, the “dark night of the soul” and other topics. I relate the progression of prayer in

my life to the writings of Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross. The book rises to my definition of prayer and concludes with a short treasury of prayers that have been significant for me, during my life of teaching and ministry. Both books are available from Coventry Books in Melbourne ([click on link for the order form.](#)).

Reflective Being, Being Reflective



Twenty-five years ago, the first Australian & New Zealand conference on multi-faith perspectives on spirituality and disability was taking place. A quarter century of the conference should have been a significant celebration but for the intervention of COVID. In its place we have the publication of *Reflective being, being reflective*, a book exploring the movement in disability and spirituality over this time and looking into the future as we explore our faith perspectives in an increasingly secular society.

The book launch will take place on 14th June at 12pm (Perth time). Attendance via zoom is available. From this date hard copy books can be purchased from [CTM](#)

[Resourcing](#) or as an [eBook](#).

Upcoming Events

Basis of Union Day 1

Date: Friday 3rd June, 9.30am-4.00pm

Location: South Perth

Cost: \$20

Learning about the Basis of Union is more than simply learning about a document. Rather, we learn about what makes us the Uniting Church. In the first of this two-day training, we will explore how our heritage of pre-union churches has shaped us. We will look at our relationships with other cultures, in particular the importance of our relationship with Congress.

Later in the day we will look at ministry and mission. We will discuss the various lay and ordained ministries in the church and how they fit together. We will also reflect on the role of the different councils of the church and how they work to support us to be the church in our time and place. Finally, we will explore what an “informed faith” means and how this equips us for our ministry for the world.

The second day of this training will be scheduled for later in the year.

This course is essential for anyone training for a specified ministry. It is highly recommended for members of church councils, especially if there is no minister in placement. However, anyone who is interested in learning more about the Uniting Church will benefit from attending.

To register your attendance, please [email CEDAL](#).

Sacraments Refresher

Date: Saturday 4th June, 9.30am-4.00pm

Location: Wagin Uniting Church

Cost: \$20 or \$10 on Zoom

Sacraments are an important part of how we are the Church in our time and place. Throughout Church history, these sacraments have been important signs of God’s grace to our world. For many of us, our celebration of the sacraments has been an important part of our spirituality. In order to enable congregations without ordained ministry to participate in the Sacraments, the Assembly allows Presbyteries to authorise lay people to preside at Baptism and Holy Communion.



Whether or not we are aware of it, the liturgy and practice of sacraments is steeped in both the history and the theology of our church. It is also shaped by our personal and congregational understanding and experience of the sacraments. Bringing these elements into dialogue is important in being able to preside at a Uniting Church service of Baptism or Holy Communion. It enables us to reinterpret the liturgy in ways that speaks to our community within the bounds of what is a requirement.

The theme to our refresher training in 2022 is exploring:

What makes a moment sacred?

It's a question that needs to be asked. What is the difference between experiencing a sacrament, such as Holy Communion, as opposed to sharing a snack? Is it simply having the right words or the right set of hands or is there something deeper than this?

Sacraments, in the Protestant tradition, are instituted by Jesus in our Gospels. However, they provide a powerful connection to God in a tangible way. When we speak of the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, we are neither speaking of a literal presence or simply a memorial meal. In the sacrament of Holy Communion, we encounter the risen Christ in a unique way. Similarly in the sacrament of Baptism we are enacting the truth of God's grace. In both cases we are leading people through an experience of the sacred in a way that connects to all our senses.

This workshop is essential for any Lay Presiders whose three years of authorisation are near completion. If Church Councils wish to request that additional people be authorised as a Lay Presider, this training is an essential component of their preparation. Others are welcome to attend if they are interested.

The Wagin training day was organised at the request of the congregations in the area and we are happy to come to you on request. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to host a future training as we are planning further workshops later in the year.

Contemporary Understandings of Christ

Date: Saturday 11th June, 9.00am-4.00pm

Location: Uniting Church Centre

Cost: \$20 or \$10 via Zoom



This workshop builds on our earlier one exploring how the early church understood Christ (and why it still matters today). In this second workshop on the theme of how we understand Christ, we will look at how contemporary ideas and learning have given us new insights that speak to the church today. How can we talk authentically about Christ in ways that values the insights of groups who have traditionally been devalued in the conversation – for example women's voices, other cultural perspectives, and the experience of disability? We will also explore what it means to engage in "contextual" theology, how it works and its limits.

We are fortunate that part of this workshop will be facilitated by Rev Dr Katalina Williams who brings her insights as a Tongan theologian to challenge us to reflect on how our cultures have shaped how we understand who Christ is for us today.

You do not need to have attended the first workshop to attend this one. For those who wish to catch up on the previous workshop, the materials are available on request via Uniting Learning.

You can [download the flyer](#) about this workshop. If you would like to join us, you can register via [Eventbrite](#) or [email us](#) directly.

School of Ministry: Salt

Dates: 27th to 30th June

Location: Mt Pleasant Uniting Church

Cost: \$250 (or \$100 via Zoom)

In our age of constant change the church continues to explore how it is to be church in a world very different to the factors that shaped its current forms. At this year's School of Ministry Rev Dr Sally Douglas, our keynote speaker, will be addressing the idea of the church as SALT, speaking from her research which contributed to her recent book 'The Church as SALT'. Sally takes the challenge Jesus gave all of us, to be the salt of the world, in fresh understandings and application. Workshops will help us to further explore and consider how we might work out being salt for the church of today.

Sally is an ordained UCA minister who works as a scholar pastor; she is in a placement with the Richmond congregation (Melbourne) and is an adjunct faculty member of Pilgrim Theological College



Australian Colonial History and Culture: Our Stories

Dates: 27-29th July, 9am to 4pm each day.

Location:

Cost: \$100 for 3 days (grant applications may be made).



What is our story? What is Australian culture?

Australian colonial history is a story about waves of migration from around the world...

Australian Colonial History and Culture: Our Stories is a three-day intensive program designed to introduce themes in contemporary Australian society and their origins in our colonial past. Topics explored include early colonization and occupation, dispossession of indigenous people together with some anthropological discoveries, the roles of women and rise of feminism, contemporary youth culture and cultural arts in various media: art, films, poetry, stories and music. We discuss social mores, manners, communal values and why ANZAC day is important to us. We even have a session on questions which we are afraid to ask!



We discuss our awkward relationship with religion and spirituality as a shy hope in the heart, and survey colonial church history leading to the formation of the Uniting church. We look to the future implications for ministry in this context.

Who can come?

This course is part of the program for all candidates for ministry and those seeking admission as a minister of the Uniting Church. Lay leaders and those seeking to increase their understanding of Australian culture are welcome to register as well. Please [email us](#) to register or for further information.

Ongoing Training

ACD Certificate IV & Diploma

The Adelaide College of Divinity has announced they will be ceasing as a Registered Training Organisation as of the end of this year. This means they are accepting no new enrolments into the Certificate IV or Diploma of Christian Theology & Ministry.

You are still able to access the course and units via the CEDAL workshops each term and supplemented with learning via Uniting Learning.

Please contact [Elaine Ledgerwood](#) if you wish to know more about these changes.

Theology Bites

Theology Bites is designed as a brief introduction to theological studies. In units that take approximately 9 hours to complete, you will have a supported taster course into theology. It is designed for those who are simply curious, want to explore theology without ongoing commitment, or for local preachers who would like to develop their skills. You are welcome to complete individual units if you prefer.

Please note, the materials for this course are still being developed and not all units are currently available online.

Currently available units include:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christology (how we understand Christ)
- Themes in theology
- Church history (currently being written)

There are no assessments for Theology Bites.

For further information or to be enrolled online, please [contact Elaine](#).

Uniting Learning

An as yet unnamed course in theology is available on Uniting Learning and is the equivalent to the ACD Diploma. This course is designed for Lay Preachers and Pastors but is available for anyone who wishes to take their theological learning further than the introduction offered in Theology Bites. Assessments are option if the course is NOT being used for accreditation as a Lay Preacher.

All learning materials are supported by the workshops each term and can be accessed independently if preferred.

If you would like further information or to access the learning materials, please [contact Elaine](#).

Subscribe/Unsubscribe

With the change to how we are sending Seeds, there is no longer an unsubscribe button. There was previously a problem where the newsletter would be sent onwards and an individual receiving a forwarded email would accidentally unsubscribe their whole congregation.

We send this publication to every congregation and every ministry agent in placement. Other people can choose to unsubscribe by sending us an [email](#).

For those who receive this email second-hand and would like to be added to our mailing list, you are also welcome to [drop us a line](#).