



## SYNOD 2023 REPORT

### UNITING CHURCH ADULT FELLOWSHIP (UCAF)

#### MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Helen McMillan
General Secretary	Dr Rev Andrew Williams
Vice Chair/Newslink Editor	Gill Muir
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert Nicholls
National Corresponding Member	Marcial Nicholls (to Oct, 2022)
Corresponding Member	Kay Lockley
Member	Margaret Knight
Member	Lyn Donald
Mission Fellowship Representative	Anne Steed

#### REPORT

##### **A Christian Community for Everyone**

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship seeks to make contact with the many groups within our Congregations in the Synod of WA. Groups are encouraged to send their stories, news, and photos so that we can share these in our Newslink magazine with the Church and the wider community.

##### **WA State Committee Members**

My thanks is extended to the members of the Committee for their work during this last 12 months. 2023 continued to be difficult for some members dealing with personal and health issues.

Soon after our Annual Fellowship Day in October 2022 we received the unexpected news of the death of Marcia Nicholls following an admission to hospital. Marcia joined the Committee in 2017 and was our Corresponding Member with the National Committee and other States. She was also a WA member of the National Committee. Our prayers were with her husband Bob our Secretary/ Treasurer at this sad time. Marcia's presence has been greatly missed by members of our Committee.

### **Fellowship Day 2022**

The Annual Fellowship Day was held at Maylands/Mt. Lawley Uniting Church on Friday 21 October 2022. Following morning tea we were welcomed by Rev Kim Frances, our Moderator Susy Thomas, and the General Secretary of the WA Synod Rev Dr Andrew Williams who was our Guest Speaker. Andrew shared with us his vision for the future linked with the message from Luke Chapter 8: 9 -14.

Our Moderator presented the Certificates of Appreciation to those able to be present who were celebrating their 80th birthday in 2022.

The 2 Gwendas (Gwenda Uren and Gwenda Chambers accompanying) brought us a musical item- a John Denver song 'Perhaps Love'.

At the conclusion of the program we moved to the court yard where we shared lunch and a time of fellowship.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Following lunch the AGM was held chaired by Rev Andrew Williams with reports from members of the Committee who have specific roles. Elections were held, with all members of the committee being prepared to continue in their roles for the next year.

We invite and would welcome new members to the Committee. Our monthly meetings are held at Noranda Uniting Church on 3rd Friday of the month at 10 AM.

### **Newslink Magazine**

Gill Muir our editor and Amanda Badenhorst (Presbytery Administrator) worked together to produce 4 editions a year with each Congregation receiving one copy and those registering and making a donation receive their individual copy/ copies.

Our Committee has appreciated the generous support received from the Synod staff throughout the year. However 2023 has brought changes at the Synod and these have also affected the production of Newslink. Amanda informed us she was moving to live in Queensland and would not be able to continue compiling Newslink. Gill was also dealing

with some personal issues. It was decided in light of the uncertainty we would reduce the number of editions to three.

Following an appeal through 'News and Notes' for someone who might assist with Newslink we were delighted to receive an offer from Andria Garvey (former Synod staff member). Andrea has put her creative talents to work and you would have received a copy in the August Synod mail out.

### **Celebrating the Milestones of our Seniors**

A special event which is part of our Annual Fellowship Day is celebrating with those who have reached their 80th birthday with our Moderator presenting them with a certificate. In 2022 we received 23 names from 12 Fellowships and Congregations in both the city and country. The Committee is always delighted when these folk are able to attend and we can meet them.

Kay Lockley prepares and sends cards to those who celebrate their 90th Birthday. So far in 2023 we have only received 6 names of those who have reached this birthday.

If there is a member of your Fellowship or Congregation reaching 100, please send the details to the Synod to enable our Moderator to send greetings.

We would like to acknowledge the gifts these people have shared with the Church over many years and we need the assistance of Fellowships and Congregations. Details are listed in each edition of Newslink.

### **National UCAF Committee**

The Committee continues ' Travelling a new road' Isaiah 43:18-19 with bi-monthly on line meetings.

There have been some changes in representatives from various States with Vic/Tas. and WA currently only having one person.

Currently we are awaiting names of students who have applied for a Joan Stott Bursary given the criteria has been broadened to people under 50 years of age rather than the previous 35 years. The Committee was very grateful that Joan Stott graciously agreed to a change.

The Chairperson has been visiting the various State UCAF groups. Margaret visited South Australia in May, New South Wales/Aust. Capital Territory in August, and Western Australia in October

In the past the National Committee has been responsible for arranging a Celebration Gathering and a Consultation meeting during their 3 year term. The current Committee has agreed to have one National Gathering incorporating the functions of both these meetings and the face to face meeting of the Committee. This has required reviewing some of our Working Procedures to accommodate changes.

The National Gathering is planned for 22 to 27 of January 2024 at Nunyara , Belair, South Australia.

### **Mission Fellowship**

Anne Steed informs our Committee of the work of the stamp group and the money raised to support the work of Frontier Services in WA. Kay Lockley reports to Synod.

### **Australian Church Women (ACW)**

Gill Muir is the Vice President of the WA unit of this ecumenical organisation. Since 2021 ACW has been dealing with changes in the way the group operates with some States no longer involved. The Winifred Kiek Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a woman studying to take up leadership in the Church. News of the award is shared at the annual Fellowship Day held on 11 August 2023. World Community Day will be held on 20 October 2023 when groups bring their offerings for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

ACW have an interesting Website featuring a Month of Prayers prior to Fellowship Day. Devotions based around the Plant of the Month and Pause for Thought are very interesting and thoughtful.

### **National Council of Women**

Very few meeting notifications and information has been received in the last 12 months.

UCAF gives thanks to God for His unfailing love, and seek His guidance as we travel into the future.

*Helen McMillan, Chair*

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