



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

Issue 80
April 2024

Revive

a fresh perspective on faith, church and life



New Ministry Journeys
ordination and beyond

**Raising our tribal voices
for justice**

a personal reflection by
Rev Dr Cathie Lambert

History of Covenanting
30th anniversary of the Covenant

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Moderator

From the Moderator

What is God like?

When trying to create a picture of a person, we often describe them. Descriptions of witnesses are used to produce identikit photos to create an image. Descriptions of witnesses also tell us about the nature of persons.

How would we do that with God?

John 1 says while no-one has ever seen God, the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, has made God known. Hebrews 1 speaks of God making contact with humans in many ways; however, the ultimate expression of God is the Son, Jesus Christ, who 'perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God's nature'. (*The Message, Eugene Petersen*)

John V. Taylor uses 1 John 1: 5 to inspire his description: God is Christ-like and in God is no unChristlikeness at all. This is one summation of what the witnesses knew of Jesus.

During Lent and Easter, the Church calls us to remember Jesus' ministry and invites (or invites us again) to encounter Jesus and the significance of his death and resurrection.

The Gospels reveal the ways Jesus mirrored God and embodied and reveal the fullness of God's love for all people. "Come to me." The passion story describes Jesus's way of being in the face of murderous opposition and complete and dejected abandonment. "Not my will, your will be done," Jesus prayed, and "forgive them, for they know not what they do."

We are called to remember that God is Christ-like and in God is no unChristlikeness at all.

How then shall we live? How may we make God known?

Paul gave a description in Romans 12: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with



Rev Dr Ian Tozer
 Moderator, Uniting Church WA

those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

If we live as the children of the Christlike God, we will reflect God's love in our living. May it be so!

Rev Dr Ian Tozer
 Moderator, Uniting Church WA



Being with Jesus
in Ministry



Welcome to a fresh Revive magazine for 2024. I hope your Easter season has been a time filled with hope, blessings and joy.

In this edition we're sharing an insight into ministry life in the Uniting Church as we catch up with four of our most recently ordained ministers - Rev Reuben Edmonds and Rev Samuel Annan who are both Ministers of the Word, and Rev Dr Elaine Ledgerwood and Rev Ana Lea'aetoa who are Deacons. I'm thankful they were able to take time out of their busy placements to share some of their story with us.



There's also an opportunity to find out more about the work of our Uniting Church WA schools and agencies. We hear the story of NorthWay Uniting Church who have been developing an initiative of engagement with Uniting WA's Tranby Engagement Hub that has touched the hearts of the congregation. It's wonderful to discover new ways congregations are connecting with the communities around them and I look forward to continuing to share these stories with our readers.

In July 2024 the Uniting Church will mark a 30-year anniversary milestone since the Covenant relationship was formed between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) on 10 July 1994 at the 7th Assembly. In this Revive there is an article looking back at some of the key moments leading up to this formal Covenant, how it was acknowledged at the Annual Synod of WA of the same year, and the ongoing Covenanting journey in the church as we continue to walk together as First and Second peoples.

At the 16th Assembly of the UCA in 2022 there was an historic 'Renewal of the Covenant', reaffirming that the relationship between UCA and UAICC was at the heart of the Uniting Church in Australia. As I reflect on the journey of the Covenant, I am finding inspiration in the words of Rev Mark Kickett, Chair of UAICC, who in response to the renewal of the Covenant said,

"Today we remind ourselves of the renewing and healing that can only begin kneeling at the cross of Christ. The Covenant that we so readily entered into must once again shine into our hearts as a beacon of hope, renewal, healing and justice and thus we begin a new journey of hope full of the promise of a God who reconciles and renews."

Grace and peace,

Wendy Hendry, Editor

5 minutes with... Marissa Krajcar

Marissa is the Archive Coordinator for the Uniting Church WA and leads a wonderful team of volunteers who help document and sort the volumes of church history sent into the Archives for safekeeping, enabling the rich history of our church to be preserved.



Marissa Krajcar

What led you to a career in Archives?

A life-long love of history, especially Western Australian history. I had completed a History Degree and had been a History teacher for nearly 10 years and then had time away to spend with my family. During that time a dear family friend casually mentioned that she had seen an Archivist position advertised and thought I might be interested! That conversation set off a life changing series of events, which led me to completing a year of full-time study during the Covid lockdowns for a Post Graduate Diploma in Records Management and Archives, and then to the Uniting Church, where the previous Honorary Archivist, Sheena Hesse was retiring after 18 years! I am forever grateful to my friend, as being an Archivist turned out to be a perfect fit for me and an incredibly rewarding and fascinating career.

What has been one of the more surprising discoveries in your time in the UCWA Archives so far?

That people overall, are unsure about what it is Archivists do. I have had some hilarious responses when asked what it is that I do. One lady replied, oh you're a night chemist?! In fact, being an

Archivist has elements of Indiana Jones adventure when I'm out of office on a quest for a missing document, or in a church building miles from anywhere searching through cupboards covered in spiderwebs and dust. But often it is quiet research in the Battye Library or the practical work of sifting through boxes and boxes of papers and then preparing them for safe keeping for generations to come.

I'm sure you've had a glimpse into some interesting slices of history. If you could travel back in time where would you like to go and what would you like to see?

One time and place that really fascinates me is Menzies, Western Australia in the late 1890's, and around the turn of the century. Social History, the ordinary day-to-day life of people in a time and place interests me. When I visited Menzies in 2000 while following up some family history research, it was hot, dusty, quiet, and isolated. I tried to imagine what it was like in the 1890's when it was a bustling gold mining town with thousands of people going about their day-to-day activities. I would love to see that.

What's your favourite book or movie – and why?

Both have inspired my love of travel. My favourite book from childhood was Anne of Green Gables, so much so that I insisted my family visit Prince Edward Island in Nova Scotia, off the Canadian east coast in 2016. It was just as I had hoped, breathtaking in its scenery.

My favourite film will always be The Sound of Music. It has it all - singing, costumes, drama, and alpine mountains! In 2022, my family visited Austria and thoroughly enjoyed visiting all the sites from the movie and singing along on the bus tour! I also enjoy reading maps and will happily read through an atlas or map book pondering my next adventure, both close to home and further afield. The Chart and Map Shop in Fremantle has a fabulous collection to inspire you.

What's one thing you couldn't live without?

Aside from dear family and friends, it would have to be a pen and a notebook. Oh and a cup of tea, and coffee for the mornings. More than one thing, but all essential.

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be?

I think dinner with Edith Cowan would be an interesting experience. She certainly was a powerhouse of energy and accomplished so much in a time that wouldn't have made her successes easily achieved. Very inspiring and fascinating to share a meal made in the 1800's in Western Australia!



'Raising our Tribal Voices for Justice'

A Personal Reflection on attending the School of Indigenous Studies Conference

Photo by Chris Kapa.

Rev Dr Cathie Lambert

Challenged, inspired, disturbed, seen, silent – these are words I would use to describe my time at the inaugural conference of the School of Indigenous Studies of the University of Divinity in Melbourne from 5 to 8 February this year. I was invited to attend the conference as a listener from the spiritual direction communities connected with the University of Divinity. The program directors from Wellspring and Heart of Life in Melbourne along with myself, from the Dayspring Community, gathered with indigenous and non-indigenous people from around Australia and beyond. The four days were full of a wide variety of presentations from elders, young people, practitioners, academics, men and women. I do not have the space to share all the insights gleaned from the four days but will share a few select reflections that impacted me and how I view my ministry.

Challenged

A challenging aspect of the conference was the reminder that there is not one homogenous voice of indigenous people in this country. There was a wide range of theological views presented throughout the conference and many moments where people contradicted each other or outwardly disagreed. Listening with respect to all speakers often left me feeling conflicted or confused.

Another aspect of this challenge was the gathering of people from across the country. This, of course, meant that there were different stories, contrasting experiences and unique understandings of ways to move forward. I tried to listen for the common threads while not losing the impact of each individual's message.

Inspired

Although I had gone to this conference to listen deeply, I was reminded of the importance of also engaging in critical thinking when hearing different perspectives. In my experience, the most robust theological discussions occur when good relationships have been developed. I can often be afraid to express different views if I am not sure how this will be received. I was inspired by this experience to build closer relationships with people who think differently to me to create safe spaces where we learn from our differing ideas.

One of the privileges of this journey was the opportunity to connect with Professor Anne Pattel-Gray. Aunty Anne met with the three of us before the conference to hear of our hopes in attending. After the conference she met with us again to hear our responses, answer any questions and plan for future

possibilities. As we had developed this relationship over some time, I felt comfortable sharing some of my discomfort and wonderings with Aunty Anne. She knew by this time that my intention was to listen and learn from her and the conversation was deeply profound.

Disturbed

It is confronting to be faced with your own inadequacies or shortcomings at the best of times. Hearing again the stories of our First Peoples with all their trauma, pain and suffering was difficult. Faced with the truth of this nation's past, many feelings arose. I felt shame that my own English heritage had caused so much suffering to the oldest living culture on this earth. I felt anger at some of the complacency and ignorance experienced by indigenous people. I felt destabilised by some of the suggestions for how we move forward.

I do not shy away from disturbance and discomfort. For me, these have been the spaces of growth and learning. At this conference, however, I felt I needed to be discerning about the disturbance. What was making me feel uncomfortable? The only way I could answer this question was to be very self-aware. How was I feeling in my body? Where was the discomfort rising from? Was this a discomfort I needed to hold on to or could I let it go for now?

Seen

A significant part of the conference for me was my participation in an Inner Deep Listening Workshop followed by the morning meditation times. These were led by Aunty Sherry Balcombe. I spend a lot of time in nature and silence as part of my own spiritual practice and felt a resonance with the way Aunty Sherry led these times. I was particularly moved by Aunty Sherry's description of when she flies home to her Country in Cairns. Aunty Sherry was generous enough to talk further with me about her connection to land on her own Country, but also on Naarm (Melbourne) where she has lived most of her life.

I shared my own story with Aunty Sherry of emigrating from England as a child. I told her of my own experiences of connecting with my homeland when I had travelled to Suffolk. Sherry, in her listening, affirmed my experience, welcomed me to this Country and helped me better understand how I connect to this land so far away from where I was born. This conversation had a deep impact on my own sense of place.

Silent

Although I spoke with many participants at the conference during meal breaks, I spent a large portion of the time in silence. I was there to listen deeply and could not



Photo by Chris Kapa.

do this if I was constantly trying to develop my next question or comment. This was challenging as it was adopting a different posture to other conferences I have attended.

On the last day, church leaders were given the opportunity to respond to what they had heard. That day I happened to be sitting next to Rev Sharon Hollis, President of the Uniting Church. We spoke about the difficult task that was ahead of her and I was in that moment thankful for my ability to be silent. When Sharon spoke I was proud to be part of a church that approached difficult issues with humility and strength. At the end of her response, Sharon asked all members of the Uniting Church to stand. I may have been silent but I was called to action. I left the conference with the question, "What is mine to do now?"



Rev Mark Kickett and Prof. Stan Grant. Photo by Chris Kapa, Shared with thanks by the University of Divinity, School of Indigenous Studies.



Rev Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams. Photo by Chris Kapa, Shared by the University of Divinity, School of Indigenous Studies.



NorthWay Uniting Church

Supporting the Tranby Engagement Hub

Volunteers at the Tranby Engagement Hub. Photo supplied by Uniting WA.

Wendy Hendry

Over the last year the NorthWay Uniting Church congregation has been developing a partnership with Uniting WA's Tranby Engagement Hub ('the Hub') supporting their work with people experiencing homelessness. The congregation is providing financial and material support members of the congregation have undertaken training to serve as volunteers on rosters at the Hub. Mark Hackling, Chair of the Northway Uniting Church Council says, "This initiative has touched the hearts of everyone in our congregation."

Helen Nish coordinates NorthWay's partnership with the Tranby Engagement Hub and spoke to me about the story of the congregation's involvement with the Hub and what it means to them to have this opportunity to provide practical help to those in need.

In recent years members of the congregation had growing concerns about the homelessness situation in and around Joondalup. Helen recalls feeling as though God lay this situation on her heart, as she was feeling troubled for some time about seeing homeless people in places where she hadn't

seen them before, in and around her community. Initially her first response was to try to provide food for them from the church kitchen in a mobile operation. However, upon investigating the idea further as a church council, they realised there were a lot of regulations and protocols to meet

for the City of Joondalup regarding health standards when producing food from the church kitchen.

Uniting WA's Tranby Engagement Hub, which is Perth's only 365-a-day crisis centre for people experiencing homelessness, has seen a 60% increase in demand between 2022 and 2023.

After meeting with the Mission and Service Team to discuss possible solutions, they decided to invite Annette Boyle, who at the time was the Manager of Community Engagement with Uniting WA, to come to NorthWay and meet with them, which she did in March 2023. Annette spoke to them about the Tranby Engagement Hub in the city run by Uniting WA and of the need for volunteers, as their numbers had dropped significantly since the Covid19 pandemic. From that meeting they decided to develop a plan of support for the Hub through volunteering, and through a variety of donations. The two Uniting WA CEO's Jen Park and Micheal Chester, along with Annette came to a church service one Sunday morning in July to speak to the whole congregation further about Uniting WA's mission and ministry which helped the congregation understand the services required to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Following the decision of the church council to support this direction for the congregation, about 15 people from the church signed up for the induction process. The induction involved an online training course and an in-person training experience. Along with the group from the church, one of the volunteers who works in the corporate space encouraged his workers to be involved in volunteering for the Hub too as part of their community service.

Some people, many of whom are retired, volunteer in regular weekly shifts, while others who have work commitments will regularly volunteer on the weekends. In addition to volunteering, the Mission and Service Team have organised a variety of fundraising activities such as morning teas, raising \$1200 for tea, coffee and sugar needs at the Hub. They also have people in the community involved in a Caring Hands group at the church who knit beanies and blankets to donate. As the need arises the church has also purchased sleeping bags, toiletries, socks etc, along with collecting pre-owned towels in good condition.

Through the time the partnership has been running there continues to be around 15 volunteers involved from the congregation taking regular shifts at the Hub. They are aware that the need for volunteers

is great and continuing. As winter approaches they plan to run another drive for sleeping bags and blankets, as well as other winter items.

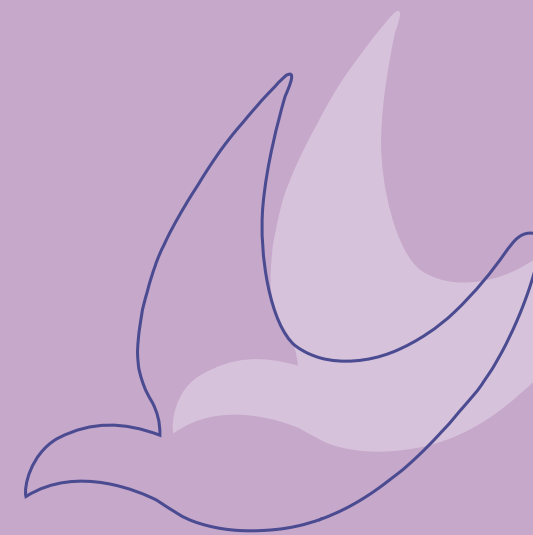
When asked about the positive outcomes so far for the NorthWay congregation, Helen feels the church as a whole has valued the part they are able to play in reaching out to the most vulnerable in the community. She says:

"Sonny Rajamoney, our Minister, often challenges us on putting our faith into action and actually living out the Gospel, for 'faith without works' is meaningless. The demographic of our church is that most people are retired and yet there are people in their 80's even who volunteer in person which speaks for itself in terms of our commitment to doing God's work where we can. It is not always easy to see such vulnerability but the good that comes from doing this work - 'seeing' these people as they need to be seen and valued - is what makes it so rewarding."

Thank you to Helen and Mark and the congregation at NorthWay Uniting Church for sharing this aspect of your ministry with us. If you would like to know more about the work of Uniting WA, and ways of supporting the Tranby Engagement Hub go to unitingwa.org.au/get-involved/volunteer/



Volunteers at the Tranby Engagement Hub. Photo supplied by Uniting WA.





Wellbeing for the sacred earth

Rev Ken Devereux

“It is time for us to emphasise that now and always the church exists not for its own sake but for the sake of the world and of a new humanity in Christ. This is unmistakably affirmed in John 1”, said Rev Gregor Henderson some years ago as he was installed as the national President of the Uniting Church in Australia at the 11th Assembly in 2006.

His words reminding the Assembly of these timeless truths still ring true to me in this Easter season 2024. Gregor went on to say, “John’s prologue proclaims that the whole of creation came into being through God’s Word. It is God’s world, not ours, and God’s incarnate Word came for the whole world. This is what compels Christians to engage

with the world. We are not called to live apart from the world; we are called to join God in God’s world. God is already there, working for peace and love - but thwarted by people who do not recognise God in their lives and in their world.”

Over the past 18 months it has been a privilege for me to meet a smorgasbord of people who are

similarly committed to caring for the wellbeing for the sacred earth. Many of them are Christians, but others are affiliated with other spiritual traditions – Baha’i, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Quakers and more.

Just as Noah brought together a diverse collection of creatures on the ark, we have found our

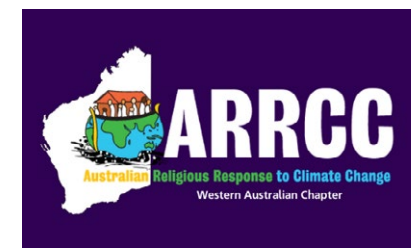
connection through a contemporary ‘ark’ (ARRCC). This is the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, and I have primarily been involved with ARRCC(WA) – the Western Australian Chapter.

Last September a *MultiFaith Forum on Climate Change* was held in Bentley. Over 50 people from diverse backgrounds came together for a very intense, lively, and interesting series of presentations. Professor Peter Newman and Dr Richard Yin were keynote speakers among other passionate presenters from different spiritual traditions. There was a common enthusiasm for exploring issues related to climate change that grew out of spiritual perspectives on the sacredness of the earth and the expectation that humans shared a deep responsibility for taking care of the planet to ensure a safer environment for all people around

the world. Additionally, there was a long-term responsibility to future generations – of human beings and all other creatures.

If you didn’t participate in UnitingWorld’s ‘Lent Event’ this year, valuable resources for reflection about ‘Creating a climate of change’ can still be found on the UnitingWorld website - lentevent.com.au

There are some challenging questions about environmental priorities facing Western Australians this year. To help our preparedness to respond, people may be interested to join in the Climate Conference ‘Faith in a Better Future’ which Uniting Climate Action Network (NSW-ACT Synod) is holding on 11 May 2024. We can join online, though note the 7.00am start for WA. Register on the website www.unitingclimate.org – it’s free. This looks to be a great



opportunity to connect with others involved in this subject.

A Global Week of Action headed ‘Faiths4ClimateJustice’ is being planned with GreenFaith, an international partner, and ARRCC. International disruptions have led to this being postponed from May until 14 to 24 September. Find out more about how you can get involved on the ARRCC website www.arrcc.org.au/weekofaction

As ‘Easter People’ let’s translate our faith in the risen Christ into visible action towards the protection and renewal of the whole planet earth.

Rev Ken Devereux is a retired Uniting Church Minister and Vice-President of ARRCC(WA).





Working families: the new face of homelessness

Uniting WA

A concerning trend is emerging in WA; homelessness is on the rise among working families. Many mums and dads who had previously been able to get by are finding that their pay checks are no longer enough to make ends meet.

"If it weren't for the HEART team, we might be still sleeping in the car." Andrew*, Father supported by HEART. Many people in this situation don't know where to turn, or they hesitate to seek help. For many, the stigma of seeking support is too much to bear.

This is where the Homeless Engagement Assessment Response Team (HEART), a

multiagency partnership, comes in. Every day, HEART team members head out into the streets, parks, reserves and beaches of Perth to connect with people who are sleeping rough. The HEART social outreach service provides immediate support and connects people with the services they need.

When Uniting WA HEART Support Worker, William, found Andrew and his 7-year-old son sleeping in their hot car during summer, they had been homeless for months. Their rental had been sold and they could not afford to rent anywhere else.

William initially organised food vouchers, temporary accommodation and medical care for Andrew and his son, before working with Andrew to figure out his finances, so he and

his son were able to move out of their car and into a new rental in time for Christmas.



William, Uniting WA HEART Support Worker.



Juniper grants wish for couple's vow renewal

Hannah Campbell

As Carol Belien ascended down the aisle, beaming from ear to ear and glowing in her beautiful white dress, her husband of 53 years Ken Belein couldn't hold back his tears.

Like a scene plucked straight out of a Hallmark movie, emotions ran high as the couple read out their vows to one another, surrounded by their nearest and dearest.

The couple's fairytale moment had been a long-held wish of Ken's since he was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia.

In a bid to reaffirm his love for Carol, Ken staged another proposal to his wife where he asked her to renew their vows.

The couple met through friends more than 53 years ago and wed in an intimate ceremony at the city registry office, followed by celebrations in Kings Park.

Ken, 75, has been a resident at Juniper Carramar Residential Aged Care Home in Morley since October 2021. Carol, 70, joined him at the home several months later in March 2022.

For the vow renewal ceremony, Juniper staff banded together to turn the couple's dream into a reality.

From planning and setting up the event to sourcing the decorations, the result was more than the couple could have asked for.

Ken and Carol's daughter Trish was immensely grateful to the Juniper Carramar staff to create a magical event.

"It was our dad's wish to renew his wedding vows to our mum and we put a lot of effort into this to help make it happen," Trish said.

"He suffers from schizophrenia and dementia, so it was something he really wanted to do while he is still (cognitively) able to."

"Juniper organised everything, they have been fantastic and gone above and beyond."

Juniper Pastoral Care Coordinator Benny John was honoured to host the vow renewal ceremony, having built a good rapport with the couple during his time at Juniper Carramar.

"When Ken asked me if I could renew their vows, I was so surprised and happy," he said.

"It's my first vow renewal and I feel very privileged to be asked to do this for such a beautiful couple."

Asked what their favourite quality was about one another, neither



Ken nor Carol hesitated in their reply.

"My favourite thing about Carol is her eyes," Ken gleamed.

"My favourite thing about Len is his smile, and the way he would always stick up for me, no matter what," Carol said, to which Ken added: "It's my way of expressing how I feel about Carol – in the past, future and present."

After a tearful but beautiful ceremony, the couple celebrated with guests during a sit-down two-course lunch designed and prepared by Juniper's in-house chefs.

"We are very thankful to Juniper for helping to make our mum and dad's wish come true," Trish said.



History of Covenanting

Signing of the Covenant 1994. Photo from Uniting Church in Australia, Assembly archives.

Rev Dr Alison Longworth

Although the Covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) began in 1994 with the Covenanting agreement at the 7th UCA Assembly, the history could begin earlier with a study of Aboriginal missions, or the struggle for land rights at Noonkanbah Station, or involvement at the Swan Brewery protests. As space is limited, I will begin in 1982, with the approach to the Bicentennial of British settlement in Australia.

In 1982 the Uniting Church Assembly resolved in the 'Bicentennial Celebrations' resolution at the 3rd Assembly the UCA would only celebrate the Bicentennial if "sufficient progress has been made towards the just claims of the Aboriginal people for land rights, freedom to rebuild their society, and financial compensation." The UAICC was formally recognised by the 4th UCA Assembly in 1985, however that year the Assembly went back on its earlier decision and encouraged all members of the church to celebrate the bicentennial even though acknowledging no progress had been made on land

rights. Congress members and their supporters were deeply disappointed. Rev Charles Harris, President of the (UAICC) called for a protest march across Australia.

A small contingent from Western Australia joined the groundswell of marchers in Sydney on 26 January 1988, demonstrating that First Nations people had survived two hundred years of dispossession and injustice. What began as a protest became the 'March Across Australia for Justice, Freedom and Hope'.

Following the success of the March, the UAICC offered the gift of the Covenant relationship to the

Uniting Church in 1988, and it was accepted with acclamation. In his *Manifesto* Harris called Congress and Uniting Church members to reconciliation, as together we faced the unresolved issues of injustice that separate us. The church moves slowly, and it was another six years before the Covenant was formally signed at the 7th UCA Assembly meeting in July 1994.

Marilyn Garlett, a Ballardong Noongar woman and I, a Wadjella woman, were present at the 1994 Annual Synod of WA. We were invited to read the dialogue *Two Journeys* by Anne Annear during

the Synod communion service. The service had a focus on the Covenant and was led by the Moderator Lilian Hadley and Rev Sealin Garlett, husband of Marilyn. The dialogue is found in the book 'Committed to change: Covenanting in the Uniting Church in Australia' by Delphine Delphin-Stanford and John Brown. It depicted a conversation between a First Nations woman whose people had suffered dispossession since British colonization and an Anglo-Saxon woman who had enjoyed a life of privilege since her colonial ancestors arrived in the colony. Marilyn had the last word, declaring there was a long way to go before justice is achieved for her people. The dialogue concluded with us facing each other in an uncomfortable silence. Later people remarked about the awkward ending, suggesting we might have hugged or at least joined hands as a sign of the Covenant relationship.

Was there an element of truth-telling in that awkward ending to the dialogue that foreshadowed the history of Covenanting on Nyungar country in Western Australia? Thirty years have passed since the formation of the Covenant. There have been positive times of sharing and learning together. On the other hand, there have also been occasions when the Synod has had to apologise to Congress for its failures.

Eleven-year-old Mitchell Garlett, of Whadjuk Nyungar heritage, and son of Marilyn and Sealin Garlett, attended the WA Synod in October 1994 as a member of the Children's Synod. At that time Mitchell believed the Covenant was important because it would encourage sharing, partnership and reconciliation between First and Second Nation people. (*Western Impact* November 1994).

In April 2023 Mitchell continued to live out his commitment to the Covenant. UAICC WA Regional Congress Chair Rev Robert Jetta, Rev Mitchell Garlett and Auntie

Jennifer Turner were interviewed about their support for the Voice to Parliament Referendum and these interviews were published on the UCA Assembly website. They were expressing their solidarity with the National and Regional Congress, Assembly Standing Committee and every Synod in support of the Voice.

The result of the referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament held on 14 October 2023 showed that all six states of the Commonwealth plus the Northern Territory rejected the proposal. In the aftermath of the referendum Congress and Wadjella members of the Uniting Church WA Covenanting Commission expressed their deep disappointment at the outcome.

Marilyn said in 1994, there is still a long way to go before justice is achieved for her people. In 2024 there is still a long way to go on this Covenanting journey. May we continue to listen to one another, engage in truth-telling and work for justice within the church and the Australian community.



When asked about the 30th Anniversary of the Covenant, Rev Robert Jetta, Chairperson of the UAICC WA Regional Committee and co-chair of the Covenanting Commission said:

"It's been good working with the Covenanting Commission over the years, and being a part of the Uniting Church for the last 30 years. We look forward to keeping the strong relationship going that we have and to continue to work together in the future to make it better."



Rev Dr Alison Longworth at the 15th Synod of WA. Photo first published in *Western Impact*, November 1994.



Marilyn Garlett with Shonae at the 15th Synod of WA. Photo first published in *Western Impact*, November 1994.



The Covenant Painting

This painting was presented by Pastor Bill Hollingsworth, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) Chairperson to Dr Jill Tabart, President Assembly Uniting Church in Australia, on the occasion of the Covenanting agreement at the 7th UCA Assembly meeting in Sydney, 10th July 1994.

This painting tells a sacred Creation story of the Wgaglk sisters and speaks particularly of the alliance of four Clan Nations and their responsibilities for the land and waters of their yirralka (estates). The painting also depicts the sacred ground where ceremonies

take place and in particular the Wukindi ceremony, to restore relationship when blood is spilt and bring reconciliation.

The painting is in itself an initiation for UCA members to stand with their members of the UAICC in their struggle for justice.

New Ministry Journeys - Ordination and Beyond



Between September 2023 and February 2024 four new ministers were ordained in the Uniting Church WA, two Ministers of the Word and two Deacons. These four ministers have now also been inducted into their new placements, with three in congregational ministry, and one in hospital chaplaincy. Revive invited each of them to share an insight into their journey to ordination, challenges and achievements along the way, and what life in their various placements involves. Thanks to Reuben, Elaine, Samuel and Ana for sharing their stories with us!

REV REUBEN EDMONDS

Reuben was ordained as a Minister of the Word on 30 September 2023 and has been in placement at All Saints Floreat Uniting Church since October of the same year.

Can you describe what your journey to ordination was like?

I began my Period of Discernment (POD) at the beginning of 2016 and spent several years discerning if ordained ministry was right for me. Was I called? I found this question challenging and I asked a lot of ministers how they would describe call. Some suggested when ordination was the only option, that was God calling you. Others suggested if you had the gifts and skills that was good enough. Ultimately, I relied on the discernment of the church. The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) and my selection panel had confidence I was called and so I trusted them and took the plunge into becoming a minister.

During my formation I was very fortunate to study in Melbourne. Despite the difficulties of Covid, I really enjoyed my studies and learnt a great deal from some of the UCA's best theologians. It was particularly exciting to learn about the UCA, the Basis of Union, and most of my systematic theology, from Rev Assoc. Prof. Geoff Thompson.

How did it feel on your ordination day?

It was a bit of a whirlwind. Many years of work, practice, and planning had led up to this day. One of my fondest memories was having my niece spontaneously join me as I processed out at the end of the service. It was really special.



What's a typical day in the life of your current placement?

Very few days could be described as typical. While you might have the best laid plans, they are often interrupted by the ebbs and flows of ministry. Some days I am planning and writing worship, some days I am visiting parishioners in hospital, many days I have committee meetings, and every day I get to witness God at work in our church and our community.

What has surprised you so far about ministry?

During formation, a wise minister said that his biggest challenge was finding something worth saying each week. I didn't really appreciate his comment at the time. Preaching was something I enjoyed, especially as a former teacher. But he couldn't have been more right. One of the surprisingly difficult parts has

been finding a message you feel confident is faithful, contextual, and brings life to the community. Some weeks I feel really confident and others I am less sure. But often those I feel least confident in will speak to a parishioner in ways I couldn't have predicted. In the end I prepare the best sermon I can and leave the rest to God.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

Our congregation is undertaking mission planning this year. I am looking forward to journeying with this group of faithful people as they explore what the new paths look like for mission in this church and in our community.

Do you have any hobbies or special talents?

Who has time for hobbies!? My talent might be singing, I really

enjoy it. I hope to join a choir this year, then I will have a hobby to answer this question with!

What's your favourite quote or expression?

It's the Ethiopian Eunuch from Acts 8 - my favourite call narrative from the Bible. Philip meets him by the road and after some discussion the Eunuch asks:

"Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptised?"

Ultimately the answer is nothing and Philip baptises the eunuch. I just love this message that all are loved and welcomed into God's kingdom. Hopefully we can continue as a church to try and reflect that radical inclusivity.

into their community. This can include reflecting on the biblical story relating to connecting to the wider world, exploring what other congregations are already doing, trying a few new offerings for ourselves, or looking at what the needs are in our community.

What has surprised you so far about ministry?

Having been in a range of different ministries for approximately 14 years, nothing really surprises me anymore. Expecting the unexpected is my standard operating procedure and I enjoy the new challenges the unexpected bring.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

If there's one thing that I've learnt with all the Covid changes, it's just to enjoy what each day brings, as

well as seizing the opportunities when they arise. So at the moment I'm looking forward to two things next week, both of which will be on a trip to Sydney. Firstly, I will be completing the coursework for the intentional interim ministry training. It's a course to which I committed because I felt it would be helpful in the Claremont congregation, coming after a very long-term minister. It's been a great course so far and is very diaconal in that it helps develop the skills in leading congregations at a time of significant change.

The other is that I will be climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge. I have wanted to do this ever since I started going regularly to Sydney for meetings, but never had the time and the money at the same time. I nearly didn't book for this trip, due to some unplanned expenses, but I decided that I didn't

know when I would be back in Sydney again, so I will just do the climb anyway. It's been a long time coming.

Do you have any hobbies or special talents you'd like to share with our readers?

Many people probably already know about my music hobby and enjoying doggy company. I enjoy trying new challenges, whether it's learning a new topic, or trying a different craft. My special talent is better summed up as getting other people to use their art and craft skills, and then encouraging them to be let loose around the congregation.

What's your favourite quote or expression?

Expect the unexpected.

REV DR ELAINE LEDGERWOOD

Elaine was ordained as a Deacon on 29 October 2023, having been in placement in a supply role at St Aidan's Uniting Church, Claremont since November 2022. Previously Elaine was a Pastor at Rowethorpe Juniper, Presbytery Minister: Education and Training for the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL) as well as a chaplain for Juniper aged care.

Can you describe what your journey to ordination was like?

My journey in one word: long. It's been an interesting journey taking many paths that I would not have chosen myself. There were times where, while I had never given up on my strong sense of calling to being a Deacon, I was responding to the calling by being a Deacon in everything but name. My journey reminds me of an episode of Dr Who, where the doctor says to the Tardis "you didn't take me where I wanted to go" and she replies "no, but I always took you to where you needed to be."

How did it feel on your ordination day?

The day itself was a bit of a whirlwind and with hindsight, I'm rather glad I took a few weeks of leave beforehand so I could prepare mentally, spiritually, and practically. Having previously been commissioned as a pastor, which includes the laying on of hands, I assumed it would all feel similar. However, at that point in the ordination service, it felt completely different. I don't think anything could prepare me for what I can only describe as an incredible weight that I experienced at that



moment. It's a moment I will never forget.

What's a typical day in the life of your current placement?

On a typical day I am reflecting, praying, leading, supporting, and/or facilitating the congregation in their movement towards finding new connections and new outreach

REV SAMUEL ANNAN

Samuel was ordained as a Minister of the Word on 24 November 2023 at Wesley Uniting Church in the City. Samuel accepted a call to the Rockingham Uniting Church and is currently a minister journeying alongside this congregation.

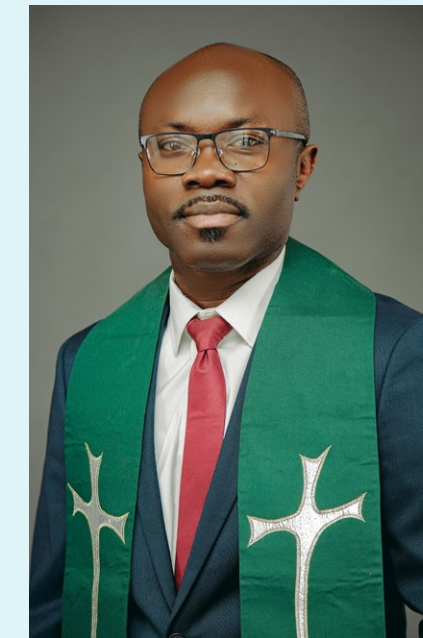
Can you describe what your journey to ordination was like?

I have been married to Rachel since 2004, and God has blessed us with two children, Emelia, 17yrs and Samuel, Jnr, 12yrs. My family has been an important part of my journey, praying together and discerning God's direction in every decision we felt God was leading us to.

As a young boy, God's call to Abraham in Genesis 12 to move to a land where God wants him to go has been my theological point of reference. I felt called into the ordained ministry in Ghana, where I was involved in mission, discipleships and evangelism ministry, leading congregations

and planting churches. I became a pastor in the Methodist Church (accredited local preacher), taught as a teacher and completed a degree in Psychology in Ghana. I journeyed alongside many congregations as their leader and served many Christian organisations in Ghana since 1992.

In 2012, my family and I felt the call to a ministry overseas. I came to Australia in 2014 without my wife and children to pursue theological education. As a Methodist, I was looking for a Methodist Church to be part of, and in the process of searching, I felt connected and called into the Uniting Church. I joined the Wesley Uniting Church and was accepted as a full member



in May 2015. The call into ordained ministry as a Minister of the Word has been my passion. However, due to my visa conditions at the time, I was not accepted into the Uniting Church to begin my journey to the ministry. Notwithstanding, I served the church by volunteering and serving as an elder.

In Ecclesiastes 3, there is time for everything; assured me that God is on the journey with us, and if it is God's own, the right time will come when God will provide for me and also for my family. In 2016, I was sponsored by a company to work with them as a chef, and they agreed to sponsor my family to join me in Western Australia in 2017. I worked for this company for over four years and got my permanent residence visa. As the call into ministry as Minister of the Word was my passion and prayer, after getting my visa I went to see one retired minister who led me through the process and consequently I was accepted to begin my period of discernment in early 2020. Whilst in my POD, I did a Diploma in Theology and Ministry with Adelaide College of Divinity and completed my POD on 1 August, 2020. I was accepted as a candidate for ministry in October 2020, and in early 2021, I resigned from my work as a chef to pursue my theological education and formation journey.

During my formation, I undertook academic theological studies

at Vose/Morling College and completed my Bachelor of Theology degree in early 2023. Whilst in formation I completed field placements in South Perth and Billabong Uniting Churches and had the opportunity to lead and worship with many Uniting Churches within WA. On 18 March 2023, the Presbytery of WA voted to affirm my call as a Minister of the Word. On 24 November 2023, I was ordained at the Wesley Uniting Church in the City. I have accepted a call into Rockingham Uniting Church and am currently a minister journeying alongside this congregation.

How did it feel on your ordination Day?

I felt blessed and affirmed, but deep down within my heart, I felt a divine presence during the service, confirming that God is on this journey with me.

What's a typical day in the life of your current placement?

Pastoral visitations, planning worship for my congregation and two aged care facilities in our

neighbourhood, Bible studies meetings, weekly prayers.

What has surprised you so far about ministry?

The congregation profile does not always represent the true picture of their community. Moreover, I have come to realise the uniqueness of each congregation.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

I am looking forward to prayer and community discernment to build a community of God's people who would be missional-minded and welcoming.

Do you have any hobbies or special talents?

Spending time with family, walking, singing, and reading.

What's your favourite quote or expression?

Romans 8:1: "Therefore, there is no condemnation for all those who are in Christ Jesus."

Acknowledgment of the sacrifice of time and effort to make this journey, with dedication to my university theological studies, training with the church, fulfilling my duties as a mother and a wife of a minister was the main challenge for me, as our children were quite young, and time was so precious. Thankfully, I have a very supportive husband who loves and supports me dearly and we work as a great team caring for our children and for each other. A significant moment for me is the day that I said yes to the call. After period of discernment, I attended my interview and received the news that I was successful to become a Candidate, I knew in my mind there was no going back now.

How did it feel on your ordination Day?

I felt it was a blessing to finally get to that day. It was special to receive the support and love from my extended family, friends, loved ones, and the wider church and particularly special to see my children singing on the day. For me, it was a time to reflect on the sacredness of the call into ministry and the meaning of ordained ministry.

What's a typical day in the life of your current placement?

In my work at King Edward Memorial Hospital a typical day involves seeing women admitted with pregnancy difficulties and loss of their baby to discuss their options of whether they want to take their baby's ashes home, or to inter the ashes in our memorial garden at KEMH. A typical day also involves providing pastoral and emotional support to our staff, patients encountering neo-natal and perinatal loss as well as supporting their families as they face their loss and grief. One of the hardest moments

for me, is when parents come to pick up their baby's ashes. As they leave the hospital I often sit in my office and watch out the window to all the people on the street, knowing that passersby don't realise the sadness of this time for them.

In my work with Royal Perth Hospital and Bentley Health Service, a typical day involves relentless visits to the Intensive Care Unit, as people reach their end-of-life journey. I witness the overflowing grief of a family not wanting to part with their loved ones, but who are going to say their final goodbye. Also, I sit with patients and staff who are facing challenges, feeling lonely or isolated or having less family support. Some patients talk about end of life and want to ask existential questions such as "what does life after death look like?"

What has surprised you so far about ministry?

What has been surprising to me in my ministry, is the hope that people are seeking in life. So much grief and sadness can drown people and hope feels nowhere to be found. In the hospital there are so many people walking in and out, and many situations don't have a good outcome. I love the opportunity to support every person I come across, even if I do not say anything but to give a listening ear and being present in their desperate moment.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

In these early years of my ministry, I love observing and learning from experienced people, keen to listen and develop skills for ministry. I personally look forward to furthering my skills and my practice in areas that will help me support people better. I am currently undertaking further studies around Counselling/Psychotherapy and Mental Health. I believe this study will equip me to serve and support others appropriately and in a meaningful way.

Do you have any hobbies or special talents?

I love travel with my family, craft, watching documentaries and reading about historical events and places.

What's your favourite quote or expression?

"Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people." Mother Teresa

REV ANA LEA'AETOA

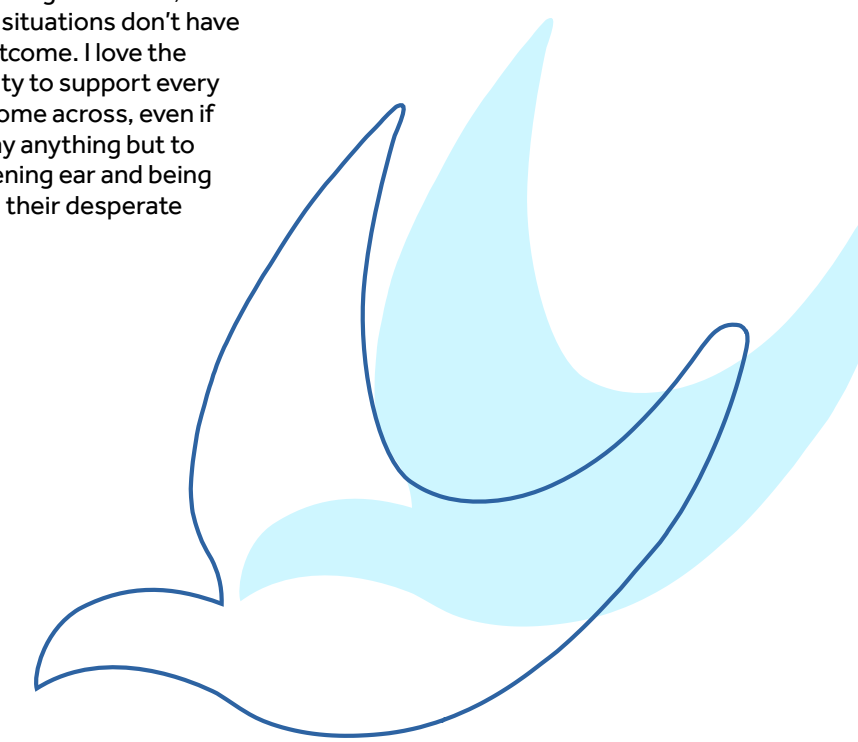
Ana was ordained as a Deacon on 20 January 2024 at All Saints Floreat Uniting Church and has been in her current placement at Chaplain on the Pastoral Care Team at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) for over a year now. Additionally, Ana also serves as a Chaplain at Royal Perth Hospital and Bentley Health Service.

Can you describe what your journey to ordination was like?

I am married to my husband Sione Lea'aetoa who is also a Minister with Uniting Church. We are of Tongan descent and have been

blessed with three children, two girls, Silesa 16, Susana 14 and our son Lemoto Joshua 11.

My journey to ordination was not an easy one, there were lots of reflective moments.





Reviving Charitable Reuse: A path to environmental responsibility

Good Sammy Enterprises

In the ever-growing battle against waste, Good Sammy Enterprises has emerged as a beacon of hope in the charitable reuse sector. With the appointment of a part-time Resource Recovery Coordinator in mid-2022, Good Sammy took a proactive step towards reducing landfill waste by finding innovative uses for non-saleable household goods. This move not only demonstrates their commitment to environmental stewardship but also sets a precedent for other organisations to follow.

The statistics speak volumes about Good Sammy's impact. Despite facing challenges with 23% of household donations deemed non-saleable, the organisation has managed to increase recycling by 4%, effectively reducing the amount of donations destined for landfill. Moreover, their strategic approach has resulted in cost savings of \$45,000 in waste and recycling contracts, further emphasising the economic viability of sustainable practices.

Buoyed by their initial success, Good Sammy has continued

to invest in resource recovery initiatives. The addition of a Circular Economy Coordinator underscores their commitment to exploring new avenues for employment creation and strategic partnerships. Initiatives such as value adding to electrical items, onsite ragging of heavily worn clothing and investigating textile recycling options highlight their dedication to maximising the value of donated items while minimising environmental impact.

Complementing the resource recovery initiative is the drive to achieve Net Zero emissions. By extending the life of household goods and promoting second-hand consumption Good Sammy reduces consumer demand for new products and the inherent raw materials, energy, water and carbon emissions in those new items. If the environmental benefit of this was recognised through formal reuse offsets there would be a greater incentive for organisations to reuse rather than buy new. That would help Good Sammy, and other reuse organisations, to continue to deliver their mission.

As we stand on the precipice of a climate crisis exacerbated by rampant consumerism, the importance of organisations like

Good Sammy cannot be overstated. By championing the cause of charitable reuse and advocating for environmental responsibility, they serve as a shining example of how businesses can align profit with purpose.

In the face of mounting environmental challenges, it is imperative that we rally behind initiatives that prioritise resource recovery and sustainability. Good Sammy's journey towards net zero serves as a testament to the transformative power of collective action. As consumers, stakeholders, and global citizens, we must heed the call to support organisations that pave the way towards a greener, more sustainable future.



A prayer for World Environment Day

Rev Gordon Scantlebury

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June. This year the theme is 'accelerating land restoration, drought resilience & desertification'.

This prayer is offered by Rev Gordon Scantlebury for your worship or personal prayer time leading up to World Environment Day, or at a time that suits your congregation.

Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel; for the LORD has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land. Swearing, lying, and murder, and stealing and adultery break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. (Hosea 4: 1-3)

Let us pray:

Lord, our God,

Our human brokenness overflows into land, sea and sky.

Forgive us, O God.

Restore and heal us, we pray.

Our urban sprawl clears more bush land;

Our insatiable appetites mine and trawl, clear-fell and pollute, kill and destroy.

Forgive us, O God.

Restore and heal us, we pray.

And in all this we feel trapped.

Our modern human lifestyle has become an enemy to the planet we are part of.

And it seems almost impossible to turn things around.

Forgive us, O God.

Restore and heal us, we pray.

(silence)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

^{6b}For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;

(Isaiah 35: 1,2,6,7)

We give thanks to you, O God,

That life is resilient and resurrection is always possible.

We give thanks:

for people replanting the lost places

Creating forest, bush and habitat.

For people saving animals from extinction

And re-introducing species back into their environments.

For those working for new ways in agriculture

To nurture the soil and the waters, and not poison them.

For community action in recycling and sustainable living.

For new technologies in renewable and sustainable energy.

For political leaders and others who value humanity and the life of this world

Above economies of greed and endless growth.

And we give you thanks for people of many faiths

Coming together in hope, prayer and yearning for a world that is good.

O Lord, may the deserts indeed blossom once more with new life

And may your resurrection arrive within and without,

In Jesus' name.

Amen.



RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN.



Wesley's Mooritj Mob perform at Mooritj By Moonlight, 2023. Photo by: EyeCandy

Walking Together

Ross Barron, Head of Wesley College

To borrow some words from the NAIDOC website: "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists."

Our Mooritj Mob program has offered the opportunity of a world-class education to more than 150 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Who knows what doors they will open, what firsts they will achieve? In 2020 we created our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

which outlined specific steps we would take to ensure that continual progress was embedded in all aspects of Wesley life. Our RAP focuses outward to a whole of school approach to Reconciliation action.

Nationally, the RAP community has grown to 3000 organisations with a formal commitment to reconciliation and we're proud to be part of the reconciliation movement.

Chair of Wesley's RAP Advisory Panel, Peta Wise, says: "The plan develops year on year, but the results are clear. We have increased the amount of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tutors at the College; we've introduced community events such as Mooritj Mob By Moonlight; our Indigenous

students are cultural leaders in the College and their voice is deeply valued in enacting our RAP Actions; we engage in truth telling; yarning circles, our Early Years Classrooms have embedded developmentally appropriate Noongar Language."

That's not even close to the full list of what we're doing. Nor, is the end of the journey in sight. But it hopefully gives an indication of the effort being made.

Mrs Wise continues: "It is our hope that our Reconciliation Action Plan will play a significant part in the healing process, promoting optimism of a time when equality and equity are actively fostered between non-Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our community and when reconciliation is a lived reality and not simply an idea."

"You can't be what you can't see" the main message at MLC's International Women's Day 2024 event

Rebekah Jones

On Friday 8 March 2024, Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) on campus for the first time.

The event included a networking breakfast followed by a panel discussion to explore the 2024 IWD theme, *Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress.*

The panel was comprised of five past MLC students who are leaders in their respective fields: Evangeline Athanasiou (moderator), Emma Garlett, Dr Katharine Giles, Nicolle Jenkins and Kate Kirwin.

2024 WA Young Australian of the Year Kate Kirwin said the reason she agreed to join the MLC panel discussion was to inspire the future generation of changemakers.

"International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect, but it's also about how we push forward. How do we translate that momentum into change?" Ms Kirwin asked.

"For me, it's about accelerating the next generation of change. But change doesn't just happen. We need to speak up, be brave and take the opportunities presented. Action is more important than words."

MLC Principal Rebecca Clarke echoed this sentiment and said the MLC community were blessed with role models – both male and female – who are showing our young people how to influence for impact.

"International Women's Day enables us to acknowledge all who have played a role in advancing the opportunities for women as we pursue gender parity across the world," Ms Clarke said.



Emma Garlett, Evangeline Athanasiou, Rebecca Clarke, Nicolle Jenkins, Kate Kirwin and Dr Katharine Giles [L-R] standing together after the MLC IWD Panel Discussion.

"I feel a great sense of responsibility leading MLC, aspiring that each girl always feels that she can achieve anything regardless of her gender. And I truly believe that here at MLC, she feels that way."

To find out how MLC celebrates the work of women on IWD and every other day, visit their website: www.mlc.wa.edu.au/uniquely-mlc/an-all-girls-school/

Slowing Down to Go Further

Paul Whitfield, Chaplain - Penrhos College

When I first arrived at Penrhos College I was invited to visit the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) working group. Our school is blessed to have strong connections with Aboriginal communities through our boarding house and many Aboriginal students. At the working group, these students were vulnerable enough to share their stories and experiences and took the lead in formulating our school's commitments for its first action plan. I'm often tempted to set deadlines and ambitious goals, our students had the wisdom to take time to bring the community along with them.

Reconciliation is a process. As a school we're committed to reconciliation and it's amazing to see the impact our student leaders are having. When our Reconciliation Captain shared her experiences as an Aboriginal person with the Junior School, Junior School students immediately responded and started a Junior School Reconciliation Committee. Like me, they wanted immediate change and to set ambitious goals and are learning to take things slow.

The hurts of the past are not forgotten by those who continue to experience their effects. When Aboriginal students talk about their families and what they have been



Penrhos College's Ngala Maya students share their culture at the 2023 NAIDOC Week whole school assembly. Photo by Abbie Hunt.

through it helps us as a school to not forget. Please pray for the Penrhos community, that we might listen well to our Aboriginal students as they teach us to go slow in order to achieve lasting change.

From the Archives... Protecting records from the Digital Dark Age

Fordigraph Machine donated by Rev Don Pederick in 2015.

Wendy Hendry

Have you heard of the term 'Digital Dark Age'?

New technology is wonderful and allows us to easily record information as never before such as photographs on our phones, and sharing on social media, but as we have all witnessed in our recent history, technology changes over time and items become obsolete. Phones break, portable storage cards can be damaged or misplaced, and data can be lost forever if not backed up or even printed in hard copy.

Society is currently living in a period being referred to as the 'Digital Dark Age' meaning that in the future, generations will find a lack of records from this time period due to digital records being lost or inaccessible on obsolete technology. This is an issue that can affect us personally for maintaining records of our own family history as well as in the

context of recording our Uniting Church story over the years.

The National Archives of Australia say:

"Digital records are subject to three potential forms of obsolescence:

1. The physical carrier of the record becomes obsolete [...]
2. The hardware needed to access the record becomes obsolete [...]
3. The software needed to access the record becomes obsolete."

(Read more on the National Archives of Australia website - www.naa.gov.au/information-management/storing-and-preserving-information/preserving-information/obsolescence)

Archive Coordinator Marissa Krajcar would like to remind readers that as time passes any records that we have, including photographs on old cd's or computer hard drives, can become impossible to use or view. It's important that these images and documents are regularly backed



up and migrated over to a system that will last, so that they are not lost forever.

Out of the Uniting Church WA Archive there are two interesting examples of obsolete technology.

This first is a spirit duplicator called a Fordigraph Machine. This machine was commonly used by churches to produce their congregational handouts and newsletters.

The second is a Phillips reel to reel tape recorder.

Both items were donated by Rev Don Pederick in 2015.

Eula's connection to Frontier Services will live on forever

Eula, her younger brother, and father Patrol Padre Bruce.

Frontier Services has been part of Eula's life for as long as she can remember. She is heartened to know that her deep connection with the bush and the people living on the land can continue into the future, thanks to a gift she has left in her Will.

"Leaving a bequest to Frontier Services feels like a way to pay it forward for the huge role it has played in my life and my family's. It's also a way to keep the connection after I'm gone," says Eula.

Eula's parents Bruce and Jean met in Alice Springs, and after marrying, were very involved in the work of the John Flynn Memorial Church.

The family's relationship with the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), now Frontier Services, only grew stronger from there.

"Fred McKay influenced Dad's decision to become a minister, and we all lived in Western Australia while he trained and worked as a home missionary," shares Eula. "Dad's work and Mum's involvement meant I really grew up with AIM and Frontier Services built into our family."

As a young adult, Eula qualified as an Early Childhood Educator in Sydney but felt the strong calling of

the bush. She successfully applied to join AIM in their preschool at Halls Creek in WA to work with First Nations communities.

"I wasn't aware that at the same time, Dad also had a calling to become a Patrol Padre, now called Bush Chaplain," she adds. "He ended up going back to Alice Springs as I was leaving for Halls Creek."

To Eula, the family's lifelong connection with the church and Frontier Services is an ever-present adventure for all of them. Proudly she adds, "Red dirt is in my blood."

Eula emphasises that the true value of Frontier Services is often in the things that go unseen.

"A listening ear, a good yarn, makes such a difference to people living in the bush, and it's really important we continue to provide that sense of connection."

When asked what she'd say to anyone considering leaving a Gift in their Will to Frontier Services, her answer was simple and immediate:

"You shouldn't underestimate the power of your generosity. Your gift, big or small, can create ripples that change the lives of people living in the bush. It's a way to continue making a difference long after you're gone."



Eula's father Patrol Padre Bruce with Rev Fred McKay at John Flynn's grave.



Eula and her mother Jean having a cuppa on Tanami Track.

Many generous people choose to give to Frontier Services through a Gift in their Will. It's a powerful way to ensure that people in the bush never have to struggle alone.

If you're interested in finding out more about how you can leave a lasting legacy, contact Anne Jones on (02) 8270 1341.

Inspired by Eula's story? Create your Will online for free today: frontierservices.org/bequest

Holding a posture of prayer

Rev Cyrus Kung

As we move further into 2024, I am reminded that life can get busy real fast. Our calendars can fill up, our priorities get stretched and it may be tempting to reassign those lofty new year's resolutions to be lofty goals for the coming year instead. The ebbs and flow of the church calendar can also share similar sentiments. As the year rolls on we have services to run, bible studies to join, reports to write and an ongoing list of things we must do. These are all real challenges and real tasks that need to be attended to, however for those who have been around the church for a while we also know that this is not the primary reason why we tirelessly engage in all we do.

Having a posture of prayer has been an important part of the Act2 Project as we have been listening to those from across the country. This posture of prayer reminds us that amid all our busyness and efforts that we belong to the people of God and that we are still on the way to our promised end. It is in this posture, that we find strength in continuing to address our daily needs but also to take time to celebrate, honor and grieve all that God is doing in our midst, both in the past and in the present.

Holding a posture of prayer in all that we do is an ongoing and lifelong journey. It is not just reserved for times of change, high stress and busyness. However, it is in these times that we may need that posture the most, so that we may be attentive to God in all things and the leading of the Holy Spirit for all things to come. Prayer can be recognised in all sorts of shapes and sizes, whatever that shape and size might be for you in this season, we hope it is something that you may attend to.



UNITING IN PRAYER 2024

19 May - 22 June

5 Ways To Connect



Resources Now Available: act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024

Why not take some time out to pray today?

About Uniting in Prayer 2024

The Act2 Project has moved into the third and final phase, Recommendations for Action. From December 2023 the Project has been working through hundreds of responses from across the Uniting Church and developing recommendations for the 17th Assembly in July 2024.

Uniting in Prayer is a time to pray and reflect on our past and present as the Uniting Church and what God might have in store for our future. All who call the Uniting Church home are invited to join together in thanksgiving and hope to pray and seek the leading of the Spirit for the years ahead.

This year we will be drawing on the upcoming Assembly theme, "Threads of Love, Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries" as a catalyst for reflection. You can read more about the theme on the Assembly website - uniting.church/on-the-road-to-the-17th-assembly/

During these days of prayer we will join together to pray and reflect on our past and present as the Uniting Church. Seeking to acknowledge and honour our shared humanity in God our creator, and act upon our shared call to shape a world that mirrors the love and unity Christ has for us all.

Rev Cyrus Kung is currently the Act2 Administration and Engagement Officer.

Nan's 100th Birthday

Malcolm Shoosmith

Tucked away in the Andean slopes of Ecuador, lies the 'Valley of Longevity'. The valley has a reputation for being home to one of the highest concentrations of exceptionally old people, including numerous centenarians and a number of residents apparently reaching 140 years.

Bama county, in southern China has been famed for centuries for its residents' unusual longevity, it now has 81 centenarians.

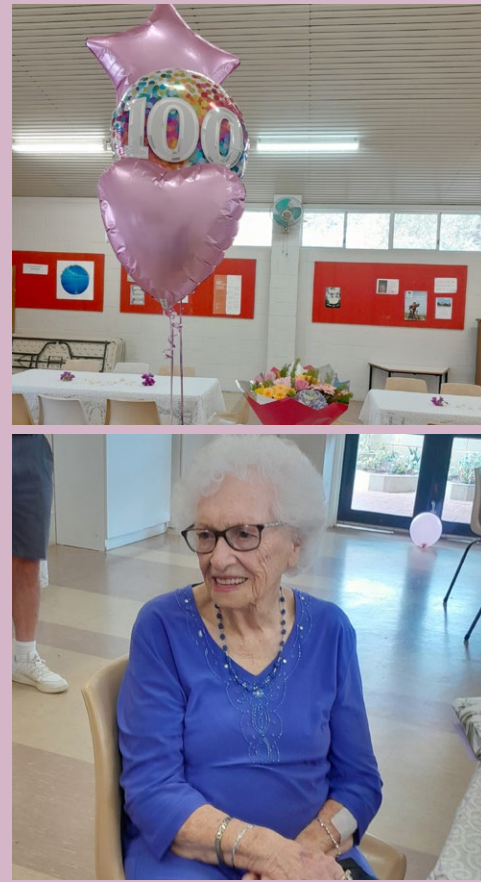
And we often speak about the mythical Tibetan valley of Shangri-La, where people are almost immortal, living hundreds of years beyond the normal lifespan and only very slowly aging in appearance.

Perth has its own place of longevity in the Kardinya Uniting Church.

Recently we celebrated the 100th birthday of the first of two centenarians this year. Nan Huxtable celebrated the milestone on 22 February. Our next 100th we look forward to is Phyllis Rees on 15 May.

Of the remaining 38 actively attending members eight are in their 90's this year, 11 are in their 80's, 14 in their 70's, while the remaining 'kids' are in their 60's and the 'baby' is 63.

We all live trusting the Lord's promises of His continued love and concern for the elderly. New Living Translation of Isaiah 46:4 tells us of God's promise "I will be your God throughout your lifetime – until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you."



Swan View Community Carols

Winsome Richards

Swan View Uniting Church has a congregation like many other churches – being comprised mostly of elderly men and women with an occasional visiting grandchild.

One way in which we have attempted to interact with young people has been to become involved with the local primary school through a couple of carefully supervised programmes to initiate dialogue between older people and students who may benefit from such contact.

One such activity was to encourage the school to join a partnership to plan and hold a 'Carols by Candlelight' evening in the local park prior to Christmas 2023.

Friday evening, 15 December 2023 saw the revitalising of the Swan View Community Christmas Carols.

The Swan View Uniting Church, together with the Swan View Salvation Army and the Swan View Community Association, applied for

and received a partial grant from the Shire of Mundaring towards this event.

The groups met in early 2023 and along with some of the Swan View Primary School students and their Principal and the Girls Friendly Society we began the process of bringing this to fruition.

A balmy evening saw approximately 250 adults and children seated on the ground at Brown Park in Swan View being led by the Salvation Army Morley Brigade Band singing along from printed song sheets to Christmas carols and Christmas songs.

The evening was led by the Rev Alison Gilchrist and supported by Major Naava Brooks of the Salvos. Naava told the story of Jesus birth with participation from the different age groups of those in attendance making the appropriate noises of the various animals and characters in the story. Lots of laughter ensued.



The delight for the children was when Santa arrived accompanied by three elf helpers to distribute the gifts that were kindly donated by a City of Swan Council member.

Although few in number, and aged, we the Swan View Uniting Church members are all young at heart and looking forward to helping to organise 2024's Christmas carols with the addition of a local choir to lead with the singing for Christmas 2024.

Trek for Timor returns for 2024

The Uniting Church WA International Partnerships and development Commission (IPDC) are once again planning their annual fundraising event, Trek for Timor on Sunday 19 May 2024.

Treks are the Commission's regular way of raising funds to support the Mobile Health Clinic run by our Uniting Church partners in East Timor, Fundaçoun Lafaek Diak (FLD – the Good Crocodile Foundation). The mobile clinic goes out to remote communities twice a week from its base in Triloca (out of Baucau). The roads are rough tracks in many places which can be very hard on the vehicle. Funds from the Trek for Timor and other regular donors to the partnership support

the driver's salary and maintenance on the vehicle.

Last year the two Trek for Timor events that were held, a South West and a Perth Trek, raised almost half of the Uniting Church's annual partnership commitment for the continuing support of the Fundaçoun Lafaek Diak Mobile Medical Clinic and the health education program.

The 2024 Perth Trek for Timor will start at Mount Pleasant Uniting Church and incorporate the bridges river walk around the Mount Henry and Canning Bridges, taking in the views of the Canning River, and then ending with afternoon tea generously provided by volunteers from the St Martin's Foothills Uniting Church. This family friendly and accessible walk will be a great way to spend a



walk | fundraise | donate
Trek for Timor 2024

Sunday 19 May @ 1pm

trybooking.com/CPJFD



Sunday afternoon. However if you are unable to attend there is also the option to gift a donation to support the project via the event registration site.

www.trybooking.com/CPJFD



UNITING CHURCH WA Busselton Campsite

The Uniting Church WA campsite is located at 140 Caves Rd, Siesta Park, Busselton. With the adjacent dazzling waters of Geographe Bay and surrounding picturesque countryside, our campsite is an ideal location for school groups, youth camps and ministry retreats.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Hire bookings can only be accepted for members of the Uniting Church including employees, schools and agencies.

BOOKING OPTIONS

The campsite offers 21 powered sites and 7 unpowered sites.

There are two booking options available:

Weekdays: Monday to Friday.

Weekends: Friday to Monday.

BOOK ONLINE

To find out more and book online go to our website via the QR code or go to - unitingchurchwa.org.au/congregation-hub/congregation-resources/campsite/

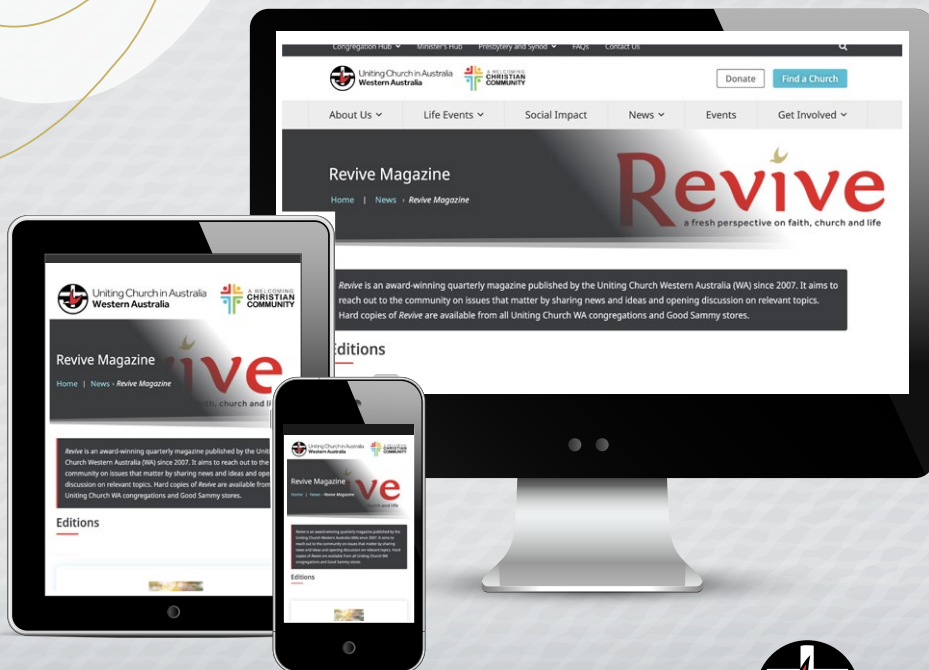
For group bookings email property@wa.uca.org.au



unitingchurchwa.org.au
(08) 9260 9800
property@wa.uca.org.au

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unitingchurchwa.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

EDUCATION WITH Uniting Church Schools

Our seven independent schools provide education for over 8,000 students from Pre Kindergarten* to Year 12. They offer a variety of learning environments, from some of the oldest and best-known independent schools in WA to the more recently established colleges in new suburbs on the edge of the Perth metropolitan area. While these schools respect the faith diversity of all students, the story, values and practices of the Christian faith are expressed with integrity in order to nurture young lives for sound learning, faith, compassion and responsible service.



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356 Stirling Hwy
Claremont WA 6010
T 08 9384 4000
mlc.wa.edu.au



Penrhos College
6 Morrison St
Como WA 6152
T 08 9368 9500
penrhos.wa.edu.au



Presbyterian Ladies' College
14 McNeil St
Peppermint Grove
WA 6011
T 08 9424 6444
plc.wa.edu.au



Scotch College
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Swanbourne WA 6010
T 08 9383 6800
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St Stephen's School
Campuses in
Duncraig and Carramar
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ststephens.wa.edu.au



Tranby College
90 Arpenteur Dr
Baldivis WA 6171
T 08 9524 2424
tranby.wa.edu.au



Wesley College
Corner of Coode St
and Angelo St
South Perth WA 6151
T 08 9368 8000
wesley.wa.edu.au

* Not all schools offer Pre Kindergarten.