

Building Healthy Church Communities



A Residency with Rev Joan Wright Howie

4 to 8 May 2026

We warmly invite members of Uniting Church congregations across Western Australia to participate in a series of workshops led by Rev. Joan Wright Howie — Uniting Church minister, spiritual director, supervisor, and PhD candidate.

Joan's research explores what spiritually informed care looks like in practice, and throughout this residency she brings these insights into conversation with the real experiences of church communities.

Dynamics of Conflict in Congregational Settings

📍 Mount Pleasant Uniting Church

📅 Monday 4 May | 4.00pm to 6.00pm | 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Cost: \$15 - Available online or in-person. Join one session or both.

📍 Session One: 4.00pm to 6.00pm - Understanding and Approaching Conflict

Conflict is a natural part of human interaction. It helps us stay safe, make decisions, and establish our identity, but it can also be disruptive within communities.

Session Two: 7.00pm to 9.00pm - Recognising and Resolving Conflict

Understanding the nature of conflict and selecting an appropriate response provides important tools for addressing difficult situations.

Providing Spiritually Informed Care

A day for chaplains, ministers, candidates, and lay people involved in pastoral care

📍 South Perth Uniting Church

📅 Wednesday 6 May | 10.00am to 3.00pm

Cost: \$25. In-person session

📍 Spiritual care is central to chaplaincy, pastoral ministry, and the everyday life of our congregations — but what does it look like in practice?

Rev Joan Wright Howie

Joan is a Uniting Church minister with 30 years of experience in congregational leadership, project development and educational settings. She is currently a PhD candidate exploring the attributes of spiritually informed care and developing a model of it. Joan has a private practice and has trained both supervisors and spiritual directors for many years. She lives with her husband, David, in Melbourne and has three independent children. Joan loves swimming in the ocean, gardening and going for long walks with friends.

Joan is a Uniting Church minister living in Melbourne.



Uniting Church in Australia
Uniting Centre for Education & Formation

Building Healthy Church Communities



A Residency with Rev Joan Wright Howie

4 to 8 May 2026

Being the Uniting Church: Exploring Spirituality and Religion

📍 **Baylife Uniting Church, Busselton**

📅 **Thursday 7 May | 1.00pm to 4.00pm**

Cost: \$15 In-person session

- 📌 As church congregations become smaller, an increasing number of people identify as spiritual but not religious. How can the Uniting Church community engage in meaningful conversations about spirituality and its connection with religion?
In this session, Joan will share insights from her research to help local communities reflect on what it means to be church and how we might shape a future where spirituality and religion inform one another.

Beyond the Nice Chat and Cup of Tea: Spiritually informed Pastoral Care

📍 **St Augustine Uniting Church, Bunbury**

📅 **Friday 8 May | 10.00am to 3.00pm**

Cost: \$25. In-person session

- 📌 As members of a church congregation, we recognise the importance of pastoral care. Keeping people connected, showing care, and responding to need are ways a community supports one another and the wider local area.
This workshop offers an opportunity to develop pastoral care skills and learn how to create a safe, reflective space where people can share what weighs on their hearts.

Members and leaders of Uniting Church congregations across Western Australia are warmly invited to participate in these sessions. Each workshop offers space for learning, reflection, and practical tools to support healthy church communities, pastoral care, and faithful engagement with the challenges of ministry today.



Information and Registration

For more information about these workshops and to register go to the UCEF Registration page -

<https://bit.ly/UCEFresidency26>

For enquiries contact Uniting Centre for Education and Formation - pa.education@wa.uca.org.au
or phone 08 9260 9800



Uniting Church in Australia
Uniting Centre for Education & Formation