

The Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) met on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

The following information has been prepared for the use of members of Presbytery and distribution to congregations within the Georges River Presbytery.

## STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING 13th MAY 2021

We welcomed back our Chairperson, Richard Hanna, after leave for medical reasons and thanked Rev Simon Lee for stepping in as Acting Chairperson of Presbytery while Richard was out of action.

## PRESBYTERY ELECTIONS ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY

The Presbytery would like to congratulate all those elected and commissioned to Presbytery who will commence their terms from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021:

Chairperson:	Rev Simon Lee
Deputy Chairperson:	Mr Malcolm Tangi
PRC Committee:	Rev Il-Woong Kim, Rev Young Dae Lee, Ms Helen (Eun Jung) Lee, Ms Alisi Siakimotu, Rev Alex Thomas
Property Committee:	Rev Hawea Jackson, Ms Joanna Matagi.

The Presbytery would also like to acknowledge and thank all members of the previous committees for their contributions.

Standing Committee will meet early June to elect those who will fill the vacant positions of Secretary, two members of Standing Committee, two members of PRC Committee and three members for Property Committee.

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE APRIL 2021

At present the PRC is assisting 3 Churches to call a Minister or Ministry Agent - the process mentioned in the last update. Representatives from PRC assist by attending meetings of the congregation and then convene the meetings with the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) and the prospective Minister(s).

At other times, the PRC rep may attend Church Council meetings to give support to a congregation. Building relationships and trust is a big part of assisting Ministers and Congregations.

The Lay Preachers List has been updated and Mr Barry Cupitt of Miranda has been appointed as Convenor of the Lay Preacher's Committee. We thank Barry for his ongoing work in this area. There is an accreditation available for those interested in becoming an Accredited Lay Preacher. Please contact the office for more information.

Mrs Christine Gordon and Rev Michael Barnes have been appointed to the GRP Candidates Committee. We thank them for their time and dedication to the formation of new ministers which is so important to the Uniting church and the future of God's mission.

## **PRESBYTERY PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE APRIL 2021**

Some of the activities that the property committee has been involved with: -

- Clearing out the office at 2/ 598-602 Forest Rd Penshurst is complete. The remaining furniture is a Desk with separate return, three upholstered chairs and two coffee tables are available for a small donation. Contact the Presbytery Office to arrange an inspection.
- Recent heavy rains have caused roof leaks at the house at 2a Yeran St Sylvania. Quotes are being obtained.
- Considerable work is required to the South Hurstville church, including repairing roof leaks. Quotes are being sought.
- The sale of two church properties at Penshurst and Riverwood are well advanced and we expect the proceeds received from the sales will meet the target stated in the "Stage 1 Road Map for Mission in Georges River Presbytery utilising Property under its Stewardship".
- The former Presbytery office at Penshurst will be rented.
- The NSW government program to convert twin fluorescent lights to LED's is underway. Beverly Hills hall lights have been upgraded and the Mortdale church and hall upgrade is partially complete. The upgrades will reduce electricity consumption and costs. The cost is \$33 per site. Contact the Presbytery office for further information for your congregation.
- Renovating the house at 1 Winter Place Oatley is almost finished.

## **MISSION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 2021**

The committee shared the updates of mission planning with congregations, discussed the missional aspirations of the new budget, particularly plans to establish new youth and fresh expression ministries at strategic areas of Presbyteries.

The two main Presbytery gatherings for the next two months are confirmed:

- Multicultural Worship Celebration marking the anniversary of the Uniting Church will take place at Bankstown UC on Saturday 26th June, 5 pm. This special worship service will reaffirm and celebrate our unique identity as an intercultural, cross-cultural, and

intergenerational church. We encourage members to register and participate on this special occasion.

- 'New Growth' Mission Day is confirmed to take place at Jannali Uniting Church on Saturday 31st of July, 2 pm-4.30 pm. This Mission Day looks to explore new ways of engaging in mission, growing our congregations in ways that include the impact in local communities, discipleship, numbers, etc.

### **PRESBYTERY YOUTH: LIVING STREAMS IN CHRIST (LSiC)**

The LSiC Working Group are working hard to achieve their goals in promoting and growing the youth and young adult ministry in the Presbytery. They have taken on the role of organizing and promoting the Presbytery Multicultural worship event. They have youth gatherings planned for the next few months:

- Youth event: Youth Sports Day, 10th July 2021. The venue is yet to be confirmed. Presbytery is asked to attend and support especially helping with catering and serving.
- Technology, communication, and social media: synergy between/with the GRP website and social media platforms.
- Training and mini workshops on topics of interest relating to youth and young adults. One of the interesting topics is Climate Change.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

1 <sup>st</sup> June	Pastoral Relation Committee Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Property Committee Meeting
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Standing Committee Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Mission & Strategy Committee Meeting
19 <sup>th</sup> June	100 <sup>th</sup> Greenacre Uniting Church Anniversary
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Multicultural Day

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Greenacre Uniting Church**

2 Mimosa Rd, Greenacre NSW 2190, Australia

Time: 10 am

RSVP by 4<sup>th</sup> June - contact: Helen Kim at [ejhelen@gmail.com](mailto:ejhelen@gmail.com)

### **SAVE THE DATE**

31 <sup>st</sup> July	"New Growth" at Jannali Uniting Church
20 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Minister Retreat at Heartz Park Bowral

## GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

Some members of Presbytery joined Shane Slade (member from Engadine UC), who is one of the key organizers of the Global Climate Strike on Friday 21st May, which started with a worship service at the Pitt Street Uniting Church. We are very proud of Shane's work in this space it is also an integral part of our concern as Presbytery. Ministry and mission are not just about people and congregations, it includes the whole created order. We are, in effect, in solidarity with our Pacific neighbors who bear the full force of climate change effects.



## NETWORKING AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

As with the Aboriginal Kurrunulla Centre, we are also reaching out and building relationships with organizations around us to serve our local communities. One such organization is the Advance Diversity Services (formerly known as Migrant Resource Centre). They are one of our neighbors across the road on The Avenue, Hurstville. The Presbytery staff had an informal meeting with ADS sharing common ways of serving the community, especially those who are disadvantaged. ADS is a non-profit organization whose role is to build community, bring cultures together, and promotes justice, equality, and respect. They provide a range of community, aged care, family, disability, and settlement services to enhance the health, wellbeing, and community connections of individuals and families in St George, the Sutherland Shire, and inner Sydney. They already have a connection with some of our congregations and members like The Storehouse at Kogarah, Rockdale UC, and Ruth Fyfe is their Chairperson of the Board.





To facilitate, support and empower  
congregations in the mission of Jesus

GRP MISSION & PRESBYTERY GATHERING

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
**Georges River**  
PRESENTS

AN EVENING TO CELEBRATE THE  
**UNITING CHURCH  
ANNIVERSARY  
AND OUR  
MULTICULTURAL  
IDENTITY**

UNITING IN CHRIST, TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN  
**SATURDAY, 26 JUNE 2021**  
BANKSTOWN UNITING CHURCH  
5PM  
RSVP BY 12 JUNE 2021  
REGISTER TICKETS AT  
[HTTPS://GRPUCAEVENT.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU](https://grpucaevent.eventbrite.com.au)

[georgesriver.uca.org.au](http://georgesriver.uca.org.au)

18 The Avenue, Hurstville NSW 2220 | 02 9579 4682 | [admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au)

A Presbytery in the  
Synod of NSW and the ACT





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## ETHICAL MINISTRY REFRESHERS

Please note the next Ethical Ministry refreshers and let me know if you plan to attend one:

Saturday 5th June 10am-12pm by Zoom

Tuesday 15th June 6.30 - 8.30pm by Zoom

Please contact Rev Nancy Brawn (0412 829 667) or email to [nrbrawn@optus.com.au](mailto:nrbrawn@optus.com.au)

## UPCOMING LAY MINISTRY COURSES

### Exploring Theology

Wednesdays 6:00–8:30pm, June 9 – July 21

In-person (Centre for Ministry) and Zoom hybrid

### Leading Worship in the UCA

3 July, 9am-4pm

Centre for Ministry

Info and registration: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/living-our-faith-leading-worship-july/>

### Proclaiming Jesus Christ

Saturdays 9:30–11:30am, 10 July – 21 August

Zoom

### Sacraments Training

9:00am-4:30pm

July 17–18 (Tuggeranong Uniting) and Sept 11–12 (Goulburn Uniting)

### Leading Worship in the UCA

9:00am-4:30pm, Saturday Sept 25

Canberra (Venue TBC)







21-25 June 2021

United Theological College

THL255

# Ministry and Mission with Children and Families

## INFORMATION AND ENROLMENT

**Email:** [studenta@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:studenta@nswact.uca.org.au)

**Phone:** (02) 8838 8900



**REV KAREN  
MITCHELL-LAMBERT**

leads the Pulse Team.  
Pulse is a whole-of-  
church movement  
that recognises the  
importance of emerging  
generations within the  
life of the church.



**United  
Theological  
College**



PULSE's mid-year YouLEAD+ retreat is fast approaching, and it's a great way for 18-35's to learn more about helping others to share their faith and developing your leadership skills.

Register today!

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/.../pulse-you-lead-retreat.../>



UME.NSWACT.UCA.ORG.AU

## Pulse | You Lead+ Retreat - Integrating Leadership with Experience

Our usual YouLEAD training weekend will be happening in August for All your young leaders.  
Promo still comes.

This year we will also be having our High School Camp in the September School Holidays and the HSC lockin for those wanting a fun way to study for the HSC.



To facilitate, support and empower  
congregations in the mission of Jesus



**SEPTEMBER CAMP IS COMING!**

20-23 September | Grades 7-11

- Worship God
- Make new friends
- Have heaps of fun
- Learn how to be more like Jesus

[Contact the PULSE team for more info](#)



**HSC LOCK-IN 2021 is go!**

Helping Year 12 students to get some quality study time, tutorial classes, practice exams & prep done for the HSC, living in a supportive, Christ-centred community. Supported by High School and Tertiary chaplaincy.

[Contact the PULSE team for more info](#)



## THOUGHTS by Mary Pearson

We have come to the long season of Pentecost. In some ways it seems strange that this is just one season of the Church's year because we know that the Spirit has been present since the very beginning of everything, "hovering over the waters" in the darkness before the writer of Genesis describes the start of Creation, which continues always. The Spirit in Hebrew is named as "ruach", the breath of God. It is breath that brings and sustains life. At the beginning of John's gospel, we hear about the Word that spoke creation into being, the Word that is then identified with the person of Jesus who embodied it. He is the Word that brought life and light into the darkness of existence. We can see in these roles that intimately weave into the Trinity: Creator, Son and Spirit. This all calls us back to the core of our own being, as we see that the source and heart of all life comes from beyond us but is a gift of grace and truth to which we are all connected, to one another and to all creation. We are bound together in relationship.

These are concepts that we do not need to try and rationalize. Rather they can open us up to wonder. When we can let go of thinking we need to control everything and broaden our outlook, we see things that we often miss. We also glimpse that there is far more going on around us than we think. The intricacy of creation is way beyond our understanding. David Attenborough and others bring us images that astound us. The scientists interpret the workings of the world in ways that indicate how much there is still to learn and how extraordinary the world is. Thinking about the role we play in our small lives calls for humility and openness to wonder, to discerning how we can be part of the Spirit's ongoing work. Fortunately, we are all given glimpses of how God works happens in and around us – those things we may name a coincidence, but are they? How about the times when you suddenly feel you need to phone someone you have not been in touch with for a while and you do, only to hear them tell you they had just been hoping, praying that you would get in touch? What about the times when you have been wondering what to do, when things feel blocked, and then something unforeseen happens and everything falls into place? How about the many stories of someone who, for instance, did not have enough money to pay the rent or an overdue bill and then are unexpectedly given a gift of just the right amount. There are countless such stories, yet we so easily become overwhelmed in our lives by what seems like impossibility because we are trying to drive things in our own way. Of course, there are not always solutions like this. The Spirit is not at our beck and call – it blows where it wills, yet it moves in and around us always with a breath of love that breaks through our misunderstandings and draws us together if we are open to it and to each other.

The celebration of the day of Pentecost may have past, but the work of the Spirit, in the love of Christ continues. Here is a Pentecost poem from Malcolm Guite, a poem for everyday:

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

**We encourage Presbytery Members and Congregations  
to circulate this Update in electronic format**