

UPDATE



The Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) met on the 8th June 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 8TH JUNE 2021

Standing Committee met on the 8th June and received reports from PRC, Property Committee and verbal reports from the Treasurer and the Presbytery Chairperson. The Committee requested that the Mission and Strategy Committee make recommendations to the Standing Committee from time to time regarding the status of congregations. Standing Committee appointed the following:

Presbytery Secretary	Rev Gaby Kobrossi
PRC member	Richard Hanna

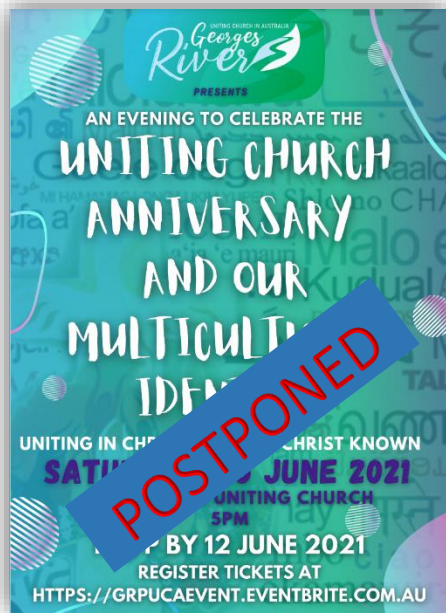
Standing Committee requested Mr Richard Hanna to continue his role on the JNC for the Pastoral Relations Minister, Expert Task Group and Jannawi Joint Working Party, after his role as Chair ceases. It was noted that the following Presbytery Committees have vacancies:

Standing Committee	3 positions
Property Committee	3 positions

The meeting approved the authorization of grant applications for NSW State Government Community Building Partnership 2021 for Bankstown City UC (War memorial refurbishment) and Kogarah UC (Storehouse).



MISSION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE



Multicultural Event Postponed

The Presbytery Multicultural Event marking the anniversary of the Uniting Church planned for tomorrow (26th June, 5pm) at Bankstown UC is now postponed due to a new outbreak of Corona cases around Sydney. The postponement will ensure safety, but it will also give us more time to promote and encourage all of our congregations to participate in the celebration.

We acknowledge the Presbytery Youth Working Group for the hard work done in organising and promoting the event. For further update, contact Suzanna Havea (shavea@hotmail.com) or Rev Dr Matagi J Vilitama (matagiv@nswact.UCA.org.au).



“Out of the Box” Missional Conference, 31st July 2021

In place of the ‘New Growth’ Presbytery Mission Day planned for the 31st of July 2021, congregation representatives and interested members are requested to attend the “Out of the Box” Missional Conference taking place at the Centre for Ministry (16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta) on 23rd -25th July 2021.

The fees are \$90 per person for three days (includes lunches and two dinners) and \$50 if you are only attending Saturday. Presbytery and the local congregations will support interested members. Contact the Mission and Leadership Presbytery Minister for further information.

What does it mean to be a missional church?

OUT OF THE BOX

Facilitated by UME Mission Enablement Team



Missional Conference | 23-25 July 2021
Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta
Some sessions will be available by Zoom, check the program for details

The Out of the Box Missional Conference is about exploring what it means to be a missional Church in an ever changing world. This is a fantastic weekend for anyone who wants to explore how to engage their wider community in Mission.



Prof Dr Sathianathan Clarke



Rev Dr Karina Kreminski



Rev Dr Michael Frost



To find out more, **scan** the QR code or call: **02 8838 8946**



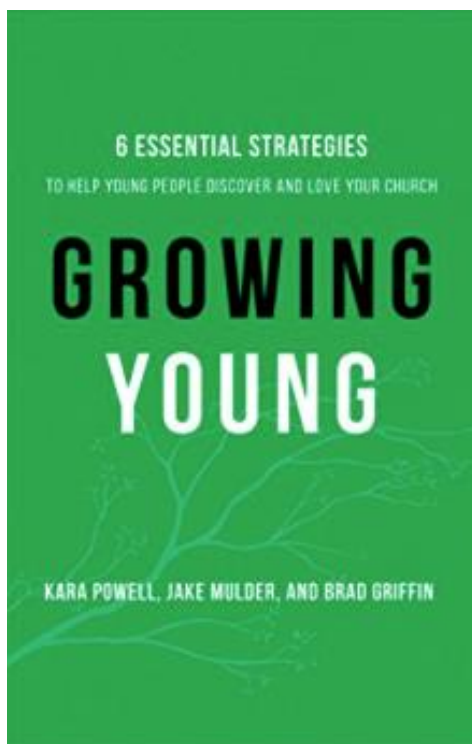
“New Growth” / Growing Young Mission Day, 18th September.

The main push for our congregations to grow, ties in with learning new ways of doing mission. We cannot continue with past methods that has produced very little impact. Learnings from opportunities like “Out of the Box” Missional Conference will hopefully help our congregations with ‘new growth.’

As reflected in the GRP-MVSP, investing in new ministries with the young people is imperative. In partnering with UME through Pulse, our Presbytery looks to begin a long term “Growing Young” training program with all of our congregations. We look to introduce this program in September. The final program for the Mission Day will be featured in the next couple of ‘Updates’ newsletters.

In the meantime, Ministers, Church Council members and congregants are encouraged to purchase and read the book “Growing Young” by Kara Powell, et al.

Standing committee highly recommends Georges River Presbytery congregations to buy and read the “Growing Young” book.



Unleashing the Passion of Young People in Your Church Is Possible!

Churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. Based on ground-breaking research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations, *Growing Young* provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. It profiles innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing--spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with both research and practical ideas, *Growing Young* shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the *whole* church.



Greenacre UC Centennial Celebrations

On Saturday 19th June 2021, the Greenacre UC celebrated its 100th anniversary. What joyous occasion attended by current and former members and their families, members from neighboring Uniting Churches as well as members from across the Presbytery who were a part of Greenacre church's story.





The worship service was led by our Presbytery Chairperson Richard Hanna, sermon delivered by the NSW-ACT Synod Moderator Rev Simon Hansford, Ministers from Bankstown, Punchbowl and Lakemba Uniting Churches offered prayers, and supported by the local members. It was followed by a feast and Pacific Island entertainment.

We thank the Presbytery Committees and staff for the support over the years. Special thanks to Rev Gaby Kobrossi for his assistance in the renovation work in preparation for the celebrations.

The spirit and the aspirations of the original members are still alive, and the legacy will live on in the small but intimate intercultural Greenacre community. To God be the glory.



PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE JUNE 2021

It has been a time of change for PRC as past members are farewelled and new members are welcomed in the July meeting.

A Special vote of Thanks for Beryl Tyler on her retirement from GRP PRC- was moved by Ruth Fyfe and supported by Richard Hanna, Meleane Siuhengalu, Rev Matangi Vilitama and Rev 'Oto Faiva and approved by all present.

Beryl Tyler has served in many roles in Georges River Presbytery over a long period of time. In the past she has given dedicated service as Presbytery Chairperson, Chairperson of Pastoral Relations Committee and most recently as Pastoral Relations Committee Secretary. Over many years she has also led countless Life & Witness Consultations, Vital Ministry Consultations, Joint Nominating Committees and participated in many various working groups. Her contribution has been invaluable to those she has helped, mentored, and advised. Beryl has a wealth of knowledge of UCA regulations and the history of decisions of both the UCA and GRP. We will miss her guidance, her strength of faith, her attention to detail and her ever present pastoral care that is evident in all her emails, letters, e-cards, and phone calls. God bless you Beryl.

Great appreciation is given to **Rev Nancy Brawn** for her contribution to PRC and Presbytery over many years in many roles. Her work in the Ethical Ministry Committee as convenor and as trainer has been appreciated by Ministers from all over Sydney as well as GRP. Her quiet wisdom has been very valuable to PRC.

Great appreciation is also given to **Richard Hanna** for his contribution to PRC during his time as Presbytery Chairperson. We are pleased to report he has been reappointed to PRC by Standing Committee to continue the work in 2021-22.

Supply Presbytery Minister, Rev Mary Pearson will complete her supply 30th June and is not available for renewing as she has travel plans in place. Her work for GRP and her contribution to PRC has been greatly appreciated. We look forward to benefitting from her pastoral gifts at the ministers' retreat in September.



Congregations

Carlton Ramsgate	Rev Dr Hawea Jackson's supply ministry has been extended to December 2021.
Engadine	is appointing an Admin Officer position to support their mission in the church and community.
New Beginnings (Cronulla)	will have a Vital Ministry consultation soon led by Rev Alex Thomas & Rev Junmo Koo.
Grace Christian Church (Padstow Panania)	has commenced a Placement Profile.
Greenacre	100 th Anniversary Celebration 19 th June 2021. The Moderator, Rev Simon Hansford.
Kogarah	Conversation continuing confidently with 1 minister.
Rockdale	Placement Profile under discussion for future approval by PRC
Mission planning	is underway or completed in most of the GRP congregations.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE JUNE 2021

Mission Vision and Strategic Plan

Sale of Properties

- Sales are progressing.

Beverly Hills

BH Church

Update on works

- Tree trimming in progress
- Rubbish removal is in progress.

Blakehurst

Church

- There are two new hirers of the church.

House at Ercildoune Avenue Beverly Park

- The lease expired on 12th June and the tenants have moved out
- Property to be inspected and maintenance to be completed in preparation for use by a minister as a manse.

Presbytery Manse at Winter Place, Oatley

- Carpets have been laid and blinds have been installed
- Garden clean-up has been booked
- The future use by a minister is to be determined. A six-month lease is being considered as a stop gap.

Presbytery Office at Penshurst

- Real estate agents to be contacted to determine the rental potential.

South Hurstville Church and Hall

- The rusted hall roof has been inspected and a quote will be available soon to replace the roof.
- Rusted sections of gutters on the church and main hall are to be replaced and gutters and roof valleys need to be cleared of leaves to minimise water damage.

Sylvania

General

- Safety report requested to inspect the concrete wall on the neighbour's property next to the old hall. The concrete retaining wall has been undermined.
- Timber weather boards need to be replaced on the old hall that have rotted due to poor drainage.

Manse 2a Yeran St.

- Roof inspection shows major damage to the roof tiles and clip-lock roof due to salt spray - the tiles are crumbling causing the roof to leak and the steel roof is rusty.
- Quote for \$17,000 has been received to replace the roof a second quote is underway.





Registration send email to: Admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au by 30th June 2021.

UPCOMING LAY MINISTRY COURSES 2021

Courses	Details
Exploring Theology	Wednesdays, 6:00-8:30 pm 9 th June – 21 st July In person (Centre for Ministry) and Zoom Hybrid
Leading Worship in the UCA	Saturday, 3 rd July 2021 Centre for Ministry Info & registration: https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/living-our-faith-leading-worship-july/
Proclaiming Jesus Christ	Saturdays, 9:30 – 11:30 am 10 th July – 21 st August Zoom
Sacraments Training	17 th – 18 th July (Tuggeranong Uniting) 9:00am – 4:30 pm 11 th -12 th September (Goulburn Uniting) 9:00am – 4:30 pm
Leading Worship in the UCA	25 th September 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Canberra (Venue TBC)





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](#)

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.

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

georgesriver.uca.org.au

18 The Avenue, Hurstville NSW 2220 | 02 9579 4682 | admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au

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THOUGHTS By Rev Mary Pearson

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Sometimes it feels as though life cycles around through highs and lows and that, in these times, there is little stability. We are back into watching for daily news about Covid 19 infections, wondering if they are getting closer to where we are, worried about how our plans might be affected. It is hard to live like this and to know that we can't just hide our eyes and close our ears because we have to act responsibly. That means we can't pretend nothing is happening. At the same time, we don't want to have to take too much on board. There was an old hymn that is rarely heard nowadays that said, "Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?" Changing the image, we hope that our house is firmly built on rock and not on the shifting sands. We might then also think of the hymn "Christ is made the sure foundation". Sometimes having a melody as well as words in our heads connects with a different part of our brains and into our emotions. That is partly why being able to part of worship is important when we feel vulnerable.

Of course, our church services are about worship, about giving "worth" to God as God is due. It draws us into a space where we know that we can come, with all our stresses and silent concerns, and be held in something that enfolds us, that is so much more than we can conjure up for ourselves. Our worship reminds us that God is God, not just "something" we think of as being a more powerful version of ourselves. God's presence is timeless. We return to ancient Scriptures and read of people's interactions with God in their times and cultures. We learn of how the Church grew out of the transformed lives of those whom Jesus called to follow him and to live in his way. We know we carry this unbroken thread into our times and we are learning, always, how that thread indeed anchors us securely. Mark's gospel has given us accounts of the terrified disciples in the storm-tossed boat while Jesus slept on a cushion. They couldn't fathom how he could do that, and for them, at that time, his sleeping presence wasn't enough. They had to wake him up so they could feel safe. He calmed not just the storm, but them, and they landed safely. As their journey with him brought them to Jerusalem, to powerful fear and horror, to death and then to resurrection, they learned that Jesus had never been unaware of what they were going through. He brought them through to peace, the peace that would carry them ahead as they faced innumerable challenges.

This is the peace we hold out to one another in our worship, the peace that is beyond our understanding, just as many of the challenges we face are beyond our understanding. We may be tempted to fight against the difficulties, the changes that are brought before us, the adaptations we need to make. We may feel we are losing so much of what has been important to our lives. But we are also lead to see how those things are not as important as being able to lovingly reach out to one another, in real physical presence or remotely, and, together, to focus on the things that offer us real peace, a safe harbour in the storm, where we may offer God our worship and praise.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love*



IMPORTANT DATES

26 th June	Multicultural Day (POSTPONED)
1 st July	Property Committee Meeting
6 th July	Pastoral Relation Committee Meeting
8 th July	Mission & Strategy Committee Meeting
13 th July	Standing Committee Meeting
23-25 th July	Out of the Box Missional Conference

BIG BOOK SALE



POSTPONED

Saturday 26th June

**West Bexley Uniting Church,
80A St. Georges Road, Bexley,
NSW, 2207**

Time: 8.00 am to 2.00 pm

Coffee and Tea available

georgesriver.uca.org.au

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