

# CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

# Link



## Presbytery Office Postal Address

PO Box 201,  
Mission Beach 4852  
(07) 4068 8131

## Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Friday  
8.30am-4.30pm

## Executive Assistant

**Marie Dewar**  
(07) 4068 8131  
[office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

**Rev Garry Hardingham**  
0409 276 940  
[presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

**Rev Christy Allen**  
0418 184 834  
[presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## Collaborative Administration Officer

**Robyn Cooley**  
0429 195 506  
[admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## UCA Queensland Synod Coronavirus Update

For the latest COVID-19 updates and resources,  
visit the [Synod website](#).

## Pastoral Notes Celebrations & Prayer Points

### Please Pray For:

1. Garry & Teresa Hardingham for wisdom, discernment, easy solutions to difficult issues & safety as he travels around our Presbytery.
2. Christy & Peter Allen & family, for wisdom, discernment, easy solutions to difficult issues & safety as she travels around our Presbytery.
3. Robyn & Gavin Cooley
4. Synod meeting this weekend

### Monday Prayer:

Loving God, we lift up to you the women & men meeting for the 35<sup>th</sup> Synod; bless them with discernment, humility & faith as they do their work together.

(Rev David Baker)

Anyone can find  
the dirt in someone.  
Be the one who  
finds the GOLD.

Prov. 11:27

## Synod 23-25th October

Friday 1pm-6pm / Saturday 8:30am-6pm / Sunday 1pm-6pm



### Moderator's Induction

The Moderator's induction service **7pm-8:30pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020** and the 35th Synod will be available on the Queensland Synod website home page and Facebook. Most of the sessions will be available to view, if a session needs to be closed for member only access a hold slide will appear.

---

### Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting 20-22 Nov

Please start praying who your Presbytery Rep will be our Presbytery Meeting 20-22 Nov in Cairns registrations will be out soon.

Calvary Zone will meet 19<sup>th</sup> Nov before Presb.

More info soon.

---

### Wednesday 4 November

Good afternoon Church Leaders

**Hambledon House Community Centre invites you for a lunchtime meet a greet**

Hosted by: Noel Wason North Queensland Chaplain, Community Services

**When:** Wednesday 4 November commencing at 12.30pm

**Where:** Hambledon House Community Centre 177 Bruce Highway Edmonton

**RSVP:** By Thursday 29 October to [osmondm@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:osmondm@missionaustralia.com.au)

Please advise any special dietary requirements

Program Manager Margaret Osmond: [osmondm@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:osmondm@missionaustralia.com.au)

Hambledon House Community Centre, Mission Australia Phone: 40372874 the heart of the community

---

## Garry's Thoughts

Well, its Synod time again!!

Every eighteen months, there is a “gathering of the clans” as the soon to be ex-Moderator, David Baker likes to put it. But, what a different Synod this will be. For many across the state, the gathering of the clans will be replaced by the frustration of on-line, stay at home and square eyes from looking too long at a computer screen. So, maybe rather than the usual post Synod complaints about the bed or the food or the worship, there will be complaints about dodgy internet, poor sound, open microphones and sore eyes. Mind you, if you complain about the coffee, that's your own issue. For those choosing to gather in hubs, I hope our little conversation on Saturday has you prepared.

Either way, let's be engaged!

I feel that currently there is a lot of unrest around the Uniting Church. There are calls for the church to split into two distinct churches following the same gender marriage decision. There are calls for a non-geographic presbytery for congregations not happy with their current Presbytery's theological position and general unease about the shape and nature of the governance of the Uniting Church. Some are calling for a more hierarchical model, or at least are trying to shoehorn this model into our current inter-conciliatory model as expressed in the Basis of Union and often confusingly enacted in the regulations. Some are claiming that the model of our governance just isn't working.

So let me make a simple observation.

It was once asked what the main similarity between Christianity and Communism is.....Answer: neither have been tried properly. I think the problem with the Uniting Church and its governance goes back to the same old original sin; a longing to have power and control over our circumstances. This most insidious characteristic of human existence is the great spoiler of human endeavour and often the barrier we place between us and a God who wants us to further His Kingdom on earth as a loving community.

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, the Apostle Paul makes a plea to the Corinthian congregation to give generously to the poor people of the church in Jerusalem. He even cites the generosity of the Macedonians, who, despite their own poverty and hardship have given beyond their means to help out in the situation.

What is often missed in this passage about paying it forward are two vital things. Firstly, it shows the early foundation of the call for the church was to be unified, supporting each other. There is no doubt that the giving of money outside of the local congregation was a foundational part of understanding who we are as a whole people of God. In this way, “them”, the poor in Jerusalem are as close as “us”, those sitting next to us in our local church.

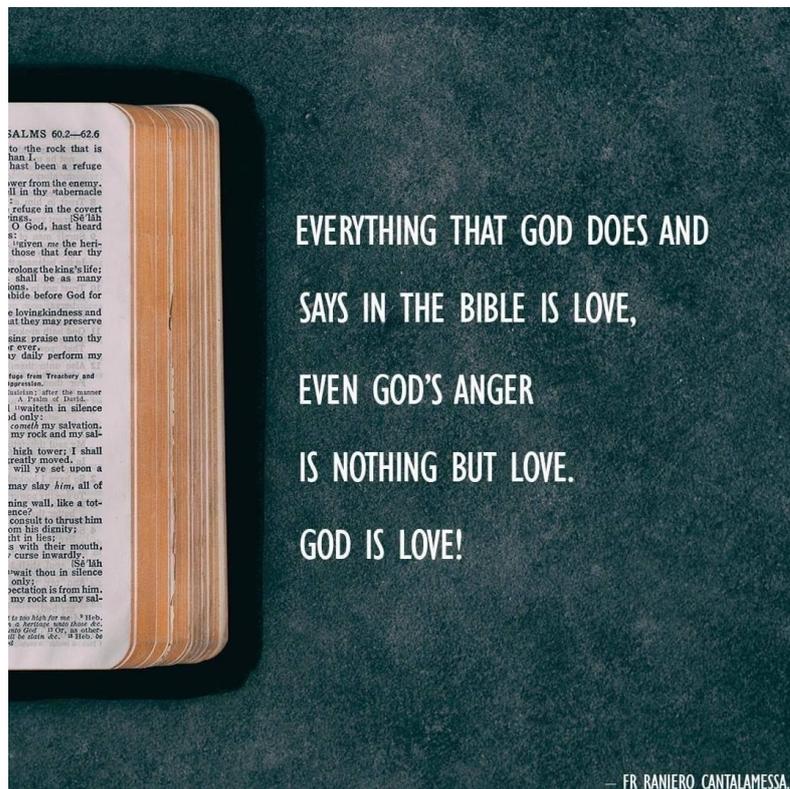
The second thing is that this a call for those who are primarily gentiles to give to a community who are primarily Jewish. And given all the argy-bargy about kosher food and circumcision and so on that fills the pages of Paul's letters, this is of great significance. There was still many who believed that in order to become a Christian you had to become Jew first. Its still pervades our thinking about the place of the Old Testament in the life of the New Testament church.

But, fundamentally, it reminds us that no matter what our differences, what our deep seated convictions are, what our personal feelings are, Christ's call to us is unity. We are called to work through our differences together. We don't beat each other up. Rather, in the spirit of generosity and self-abasement, we bless each other, and give what we can to raise each other up that we ourselves might be blessed.

This weekend, as the Synod meets, pray for our new Moderator, Rev Andrew Gunton, who God has called to personify this unity we are called to. Pray for every part of the church, even for those parts you believe have lost their way. Be generous in your desire to seek this very same unity and remember “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28.

Blessings

Garry



# Synod News & Info.

## ***Graduate Certificate in Professional Supervision (Pastoral/Clinical)***

(10706NAT – A Nationally Registered Training Course)

How to Apply

To register, please complete the application form online at <https://stmarks.edu.au>

A comprehensive brochure can also be downloaded from this site. **Application close 15 February 2021.**

[More Information](#)

For more information, contact Dale Keenan – Director, Spiritual Direction Formation, at St Francis College on (07) 3514 7429 or [dkeenan@ministryeducation.org.au](mailto:dkeenan@ministryeducation.org.au)

## **Vale Rev Milton Drake**

Rev Milton Drake came into the life of the Uniting Church from the Churches of Christ. He served as a lay leader in Nambour before being encouraged to be recognised as a Uniting Church minister.

He served as Presbytery Minister of The Downs Presbytery in the early 1990s and later as congregational minister at Kenmore, then as Chief Executive Officer of Lifeline Cairns. We remember the wonderful gifts of leadership, encouragement and foresight that he brought to ministry.

Milton passed away last weekend on the Sunshine Coast.

## **Christian religious instruction**

Christian RI (Religious Instruction) Queensland is seeking volunteers to assist with the filming of a recruitment campaign for next generation volunteers. They are looking to interview people who are both new to RI and those who are experienced.

If you are interested in sharing your story, please contact [Rev David Baker](#)

## ***Synod news***

### **Induction service of Rev Andrew Gunton**



You are invited to watch the livestream of the celebration and induction service of Rev Andrew Gunton as Moderator of the Queensland Synod.

The livestream will be available this Thursday 22 October 2020 from 6.45pm for a 7pm start on the [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

## 35th Synod livestream



Join us for the livestream of the 35th Synod in Session this Friday, Saturday and Sunday on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#). For a list of daily events and times, please view the [program](#). Follow our live updates on Facebook and join the conversation by using the hashtags: #GrowTogether, #GrowAbundantly and #GrowHopefully.

A written review of each day will also be available on [JourneyOnline](#).

## Project Plenty update

Our *Shared Life. Flourishing communities.* document from our work together as part of Project Plenty is being considered this week at the 35th Synod in Session.



You are invited to [read the document](#) and prayerfully consider where you can give life to the mission priorities and directions.

To find out more and add your voice to the conversation, email [projectplenty@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:projectplenty@ucaqld.com.au)

## **Agency and service provider news**

### **Volunteering with UnitingCare Queensland**

UnitingCare Queensland currently has a number of [volunteering opportunities](#). Roles include:

- Reception support at Blue Care residential aged care services in Carina and Sunnybank Hills. Greeting families, staff, contractors and other visitors coming to the facility.
- Youth mentor in family services to help disadvantaged young people in Logan by providing practical and emotional support.
- Court support worker to provide information, support and assistance to male respondents of domestic violence orders in the Redcliffe Magistrate's Court.

For more information, contact [Rev Linda Hanson](#).