

CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

Link



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UCA Queensland Synod Corona-virus Update

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

Presbytery Office

Please remember that MONDAYS are Garry & Christy's day off.

Marie Dewar- **New Hours 8.30am-1.30pm**
Thursdays OFF

Robyn is on leave 7th July- 25th July

Pastoral Notes Celebrations & Prayer Points

Please Pray For:

1. Garry & Teresa Hardingham for wisdom, discernment, Godly solutions to difficult issues & safety as he travels around our Presbytery.
2. Christy & Peter Allen & family, for wisdom, discernment, Godly solutions to difficult issues & safety as she travels around our Presbytery.

Presbytery Youth Camp Northern Madness 24-27th September 2021



Friday 23rd July- Sunday 8th July

GOLD 4 MADNESS

**Your small change
can help change
the life of a young person**



Every little bit helps

During the OLYMPICS

Friday 23rd July - Sunday 8th August

Put some **GOLD** coin or **SMALL CHANGE** aside

**BRING IT EACH SUNDAY TO ADD TO
THE PRESBYTERY YOUTH FUND**

From Craig

Thanks for the reflection Gary, I very much appreciated it.

The us/them, black/white, right/wrong dichotomy is described by some as dualistic thinking and this thinking is generally the basis for judgement and it's corresponding condemnations.

The alternative is the unitive thinking that we find in Christ, seeking insight, uncovering facts and applying grace. This thinking elevates the will toward relationship and seeks the commonality of our humanity. Unitive thinking is the thinking of the mature. To be unitive takes great courage, courage to know I don't have all the answers and I probably won't have all the answers. Courage to believe I could be wrong and at times wrong headed. And courage to be humble, to trust people and to trust God, in spite of our gut feelings. The basis for unitive thinking is kindness, the type of kindness that exists just because one chooses to be kind and in no way premised on whether the other deserves kindness or is likely to reciprocate in like manner. Unitive thinking really is the only response that can genuinely be called christian.

Craig Mischewski

St Lukes Weipa/Mapoon Community

Christy's Thoughts

On one of my trips recently, I was looking at the sky and watching the clouds. I was paying attention to the road as well in case you were wondering! Since my childhood I have looked at clouds to see what shapes I could find. I did this with my dad on long trips and have continued to do so ever since. It is amazing the shapes that you can find including animals, letters, and shapes. I saw a unicorn once much to my daughter's delight!

On this particular trip, however, there was no one cloud to look at, there was a mass of clouds. The sky was becoming darker, and it was obviously building up to something and a while later I drove through rain.

As I watched the clouds roll in, I couldn't help but compare the scene before me to the way we often consider life. There are times when there is no clear way out, it is just daunting as we make our way towards trouble. There can seem to be no break, no way out of what we must face before we can get to the other side.

How often have you felt lost or even overwhelmed but what seemed to be inevitable? Like a sky getting darker by the minute, you know what is coming but can do nothing to stop what will occur. What of the times when a storm comes in so quick you are not prepared and the damaged suffered is so extensive you are not sure you will recover?

These are the seasons of life. Some are like fluffy clouds that promise joy and laughter, and others are hard and unyielding in their path. But as I was watching the gathering clouds, and waited for the storm that would follow, I saw a brief glimpse of blue sky. It was fleeting but it was there. And in that moment God reminded me yet again of the constant presence he has in my life.

There is no storm we can not weather, no trouble we cannot overcome, no pain that cannot be soothed by the balm that is God's love for us. I know I say it a lot, but I hold it to be the most important message God has ever given me... I am not alone! I am not cast out because of my arrogance or stupidity, I am loved and forgiven. No matter what happens, God always greets me with love and listens to me as I seek forgiveness or direction when I have lost my way.

The clouds may be building, the sky may be filled with thunder and lightning, but God is with us. Whatever is on your plate this week, hold fast to that which is true... God is always with us.

Blessings,
Christy

Synod News & info

From the General Secretary

Review of chaplaincy ministry

Over the past 12 months, the Synod has been on a journey of listening, discerning and refining to envision the future of chaplaincy.

Through this prayerful process there was an overwhelming sense of opportunity and a desire, not just to maintain the status quo (impressive as it is with over 430 individuals serving in full-time, part-time or volunteer capacities in a variety of sectors across the state) but to expand.

The aim over the next five years is that every chaplain or volunteer that wears the Uniting Church in Queensland badge is appropriately trained and resourced for their role. This is part of the church's effort to foster a renewed discipleship culture through modelling, educating, training and equipping. There will also be a revised governance structure to make the ministry of chaplaincy fit-for-purpose. The biggest change is that the Chaplaincy Commission will no longer be involved in the oversight of chaplaincy placements and processes and the day-to-day management of chaplains. Rather, moving forward the Chaplaincy Commission will focus on providing access to credentialed professional development training for everyone, setting standards and overseeing the implementation of the strategy. All operational activities related to chaplaincy will be managed and governed by the employing bodies.

Further updates regarding this exciting development in chaplaincy ministry will be provided in the coming months. Contact: generalsecretary@ucaqld.com.au

Moderator Reflection Covenant

When I think of covenant, I often think of the vows that a couple makes on their wedding day. In the marriage service, the couple enters into a covenant with God and with each other. They make promises to each other and to God to live together in love, honouring each other and being faithful to each other just as God first demonstrates love to them.

Over the weekend I attended the 16th Assembly online and was reminded of the powerful statement of love that we see portrayed in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. This love that we are called to share with each other comes from God, a covenant love that comes to each of us through Christ's sacrifice of love on the cross.

The love of God calls us to live together in patience, kindness, never envious or boasting or arrogant or rude. A love that does not insist on its own way and rejoices in the truth, a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things. This is the covenant that we are called to live out with all people, to live together in peace, speaking to each other in love and holding each other accountable in that love.

If we are to truly be God's covenant people then we need to demonstrate those markers of love in the way we speak, act and live our lives, in every circumstance.

I pray that as God's family we will continue to put this covenant of love into action and continue to show this covenantal love to all.

Rev Andrew Gunton,
Moderator, Queensland Synod

Covenanting



“The time has come for the next generation to become prosperous shoots on the vine.”

In the video below, attendees at the recent gathering of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) hosted by the Moderator shared how First Peoples can contribute to the growth and development of the Uniting Church. <https://vimeo.com/571126696>

What Covenanting means to me is

When I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour I entered into an "Eternal Agreement of the Heart" with my creator God. A spiritual link formed with God calling me as a disciple of Christ to be love to the world. As I wrestle each day with my humanity, the spirit of God reminds me of the agreement we forged over 36 years ago and brings me back to my commitment to be love to all whom I encounter.

Nicole Gregory
Principal, The Lakes College

Presbytery and congregation news

Part-time Asylum Seeker and Refugee Hub Coordinator

Indooroopilly Uniting Church's (IUC) Asylum Seeker and Refugee Support Hub are seeking a part-time paid coordinator to join the team which operates on Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

The position will coordinate the work of volunteers supporting people on their journeys seeking protection. The work includes form filling and connection to other support agencies providing associated services. This unique hub is a place of welcome, hospitality and social engagement.

If you wish to find out more about this position, please contact Malcolm Dunning, IUC Hub Manager by [email](#) or mobile 0413 346 671.

Other news

Principles for Child Safe organisations

The Uniting Church in Australia has developed ten principles to demonstrate a child safe organisation that keeps children and vulnerable people safe.

Principle: Families and communities are [informed](#) and involved in promoting child safety. The Uniting Church acknowledges that families have the primary responsibility for the upbringing of their children. Strong family, community and cultural connections create protective factors which can impact a child's vulnerability to abuse.

Principle: Physical and online environments promote safety. The Uniting Church acknowledges that physical environments and [online behaviour](#) can impact the safety of children. We will take steps to mitigate risk as much as possible. We make online [behavioural expectations](#) of our people very clear. We make space for all people to [voice concerns](#) about the safety of children. All of the resources are available in the [Safe Ministry document library](#).

New training schedule for Safe Ministry Lay Training

New reporting laws started on 5 July 2021 which target behaviour that ignores or hides the sexual abuse of children pursuant to the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020. The new training schedule for Safe Ministry Lay Training to be implemented 2022-2023.

In response to these new reporting laws, the [training schedule](#) for all lay training has been amended to include training modules that provide strategies:

- to increase online safety; and
- to reduce opportunities for grooming and sexual abuse.

The new training schedule is available and should be implemented over the next one to two years. Most of the changes relate to leadership roles, church councils and lay preacher roles.

For more information contact [Lynde Davy](#).

New reporting laws and updated documents for all ministry agents

New reporting laws started on 5 July 2021 which target behaviour that ignores or hides the sexual abuse of children pursuant to the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020.

The Statement of Commitment for Ministry Agents and the mandatory reporting process for ministry agents have been updated to include the new reporting laws, along with many of the Safe Ministry documents and resources.

All ministry agents resources are located in the Ministry Agent section of the [Safe Ministry document library](#).



7 Days of Prayer and Solidarity, UnitingWorld

All the Seven Days of Solidarity resources are [here online](#) if people want to check them out. There is a booklet that is downloadable and can be ordered for free too (it is just harder to change the order, if needed).

Agency and service provider news



Raymont Residential College - Open Day

Students thinking of studying in Brisbane next year are invited to the [Raymont Residential College](#) Open Day this Sunday 25 July 2021 from 9am to 3pm.

Raymont is only 4km from Brisbane City and has easy access to Queensland University of Technology (QUT), The University of Queensland (UQ), Griffith University's South Bank campus, The Australian Catholic University (ACU) and TAFE Queensland's South Bank campus.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the Raymont Open Day, please call 07 3377 9903 or email stay@raymont.com.au.