



MARCH 2022 ISSUE 5

PRESBYTERY OF THE RIVERINA

Discipleship and Education Committee

Removing the stops and roadblocks to learning. Like a roundabout, D&E strives to allow for the continuous journey forward in your faith through engagement and learning.



UCA Riverina Presbytery Season of Discernment

The leadership of the Presbytery is calling for as many people as possible to engage in a season of discernment to prayerfully imagine, discuss and make decisions about the future of the Presbytery.

Please share this information with other people in your church.

In December 2021, the Presbytery agreed to the MOTION: That Riverina Presbytery affirm this Mission and Ministry statement and for the presbytery to move into further conversation. We also agreed to the MOTION: That Presbytery continue the conversation with Saltbush/Synod re the position of Saltbush Multi Regional Minister.

Following this, the Standing Committee established a working group to plan further conversations about the future of the Presbytery. This working group has determined a way forward that comprises a "Season of Discernment" during the coming months. It is important that the outcome of this season is arrived at and agreed to by the Presbytery as a whole, not just a handful of people. (Please see the Riverina Website <https://riverina.unitingchurch.org.au/> for an outline of the Mission and Ministry Plan). In order to do this an initial timetable has been set for people to participate in the discernment process as follows.

Day 1 - Imagining: 26th March meeting via zoom.

Morning - Conversations in break-out rooms about what we can celebrate; what we need to keep; what we need to let go of.

Lunch Break

Afternoon - Small groups to discuss possible future direction from morning session. (These groups to continue discussions at their own pace until next gathering.)

Day 2 - Discussion: 14th May meeting via zoom

Morning - Small groups to share their future model

Lunch Break

Afternoon - Discuss shared responses and develop optional plans

Day 3 - Decision: 21st May - Presbytery meeting.

Present outcomes for decision for continued development.

RSVP intention to attend – 19th March 2022 – to Presbytery Secretary.

jackies@nswact.uca.org.au

Zoom details and further information will be distributed to those who RSVP.



2022

RIVERINA PRESBYTERY
RETREAT

ON BEING
THE CHURCH

Then
- and Now

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

A FOCUS ON LUKE 10

Retreat Leader - Rev Bill Loader

5pm May 2nd -

1.30pm May 5th

St Clements

Retreat & Conference Centre

Kalangan Rd, Galong, NSW

For a registration form or more
information please contact Lorraine on
ph 0427 204 051

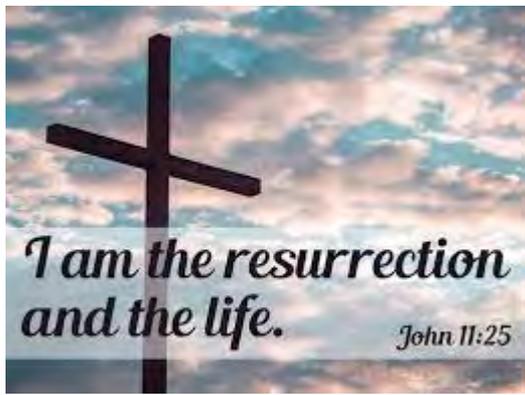
Registrations Close 22nd April



Have you completed
your Lay Preacher or
Lay Presider training
but are still waiting for
recognition from
Synod?

If this is you, please contact Jenny Whitlock on
ph 0429 818 657 or email
jandbw@bigpond.net.au
and she will follow this up for you.





Rituals of Easter remind us that God does not abandon us, and through God's love, darkness in our lives shall pass and all life shall be renewed.

Whatever challenges humanity may face, the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus brings hope to all peoples. Jesus gives us an example of patient endurance and faithfulness in suffering. Suffering is something we all encounter. It is not something that anyone likes, but sometimes we cope with it better

than at other times.

As we move in uncertain times around the world, may we remain faithful to the God of Love who created us in his image, and who calls us to love one another, especially in times of suffering.



Easter Prayer

Live Resurrection Now

We live resurrection by lives that demonstrate joy and hope.

We live resurrection by transcending the ordinary moment into something extraordinary.

We live resurrection by offering forgiveness leading to possible reconciliation.

We live resurrection by not giving into fear.

We live resurrection by breaking the shackles of cowardice.

We live resurrection by going the extra distance.

We live resurrection by seeing opportunities rather than difficulties.

We live resurrection when we undertake random as well as deliberate acts of kindness.

We live resurrection when we seek creative solutions to problems.

We live resurrection when we don't resort to violence in thought, word and deed, but change through dialogue.

We live resurrection when we are not afraid of death and see life beyond the grave.

Amen

A Prayer for Ukraine (Archbishops of Canterbury & York)

God of peace and justice,

We pray for the people of Ukraine.

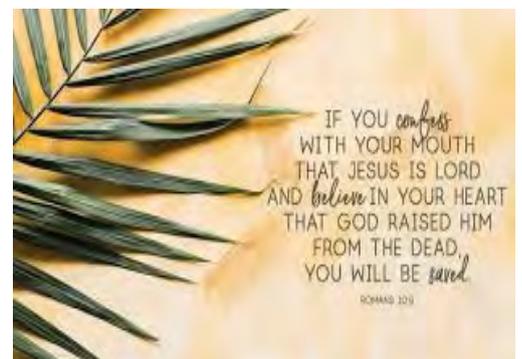
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who are in fear,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk,
and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.





UNITING MISSION AND EDUCATION

Vital Leadership Courses



2022

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	WHO	WHERE
FEB	Thurs evenings from 10 Feb (5 weeks)	Exploring Mission (<i>new course</i>)	MA/CE	Online (Zoom)
	Thurs 17 – Fri 18	Ethical Ministry Foundations	JD	Centre for Ministry
	Tues 22	Ethical Ministry New Facilitator Training	JD	Online (Zoom)
	Tues 22	Ethical Ministry Refresher	JD	Online (Zoom)
MAR	Sat 5 & 12 (9am-1pm)	Living Our Values	MA	Online (Zoom)
	Wednesday evenings from 9 March (8 weeks)	Exploring the Old Testament	MA	Online (Zoom)
	Thurs 24 – Fri 25	Phase 3 of Ministry/Ministry of Pastor Retreat	JD	TBC
	Sat 26	Healthy Churches Expo	GP	Centre for Ministry
APR	Sat 9 & 23 (9am-1pm)	Leading Worship in the UCA	MA	Online (Zoom)
MAY	Tues evenings 10, 17, 31; Sat 21 (full day)	Understanding the Sacraments	MA	Online (Zoom) Centre for Ministry (full day)
	Thurs 12	Ethical Ministry Refresher	JD	Zoom
	Thurs evenings from 26 May (8 weeks)	Exploring Theology	MA	Online (Zoom)
	Sun 29 – Wed 1 June	Women in Ministry Retreat	JD	TBC
JUN	Thurs 16 – Fri 17 (1-5pm)	Living Our Values	MA	Centre for Ministry and Online (Zoom)
JULY	Tues evenings from 5 July (8 weeks)	Exploring the New Testament	MA	Centre for Ministry and Online (Zoom)
	Fri 29- Sun 31	Out of the Box Mission Conference	CE	Centre for Ministry
AUG	Sat 6 & 13 (9am-1pm)	Leading Worship in the UCA	MA	Online (Zoom)
	Wed 3, 10, 17, 24	Mentoring for Ministry Development	JD	Online (Zoom)
	Thurs 11	Ethical Ministry Refresher	JD	Centre for Ministry
	Tues evenings from 30 Aug (8 weeks)	Proclaiming Jesus Christ	MA	Centre for Ministry and Online (Zoom)
SEPT	Sat 10 & 17 (9am-1pm)	Living Our Values	MA	Online (Zoom)
	Thurs 15 – Fri 16	Ethical Ministry Foundations	JD	Centre for Ministry
OCT	Tues 18 – Wed 19	Understanding the Sacraments	MA	Centre for Ministry
	Thurs 27	Ethical Ministry Facilitator Update	JD	Online (Zoom)
NOV	Tues 1 – Thurs 3	Introduction to Presiding at Weddings	MA	Centre for Ministry
	Mon evenings 7, 14, 21	Leading Worship in the UCA	MA	Online (Zoom)
	Wed 9 – Fri 11	Introduction to Presiding at Funerals	MA	Centre for Ministry
	Wed 16	Ethical Ministry Refresher	JD	Online (Zoom)
	Thurs 24 – Fri 25 (1-5pm)	Living Our Values	MA	Centre for Ministry

MA: MATTHEW ANSLOW JD: JOANNA DRAYTON CE: CAMERON ECCLESTON GP: GLEN POWELL



ETHICAL MINISTRY
Joanna Drayton
joannad@nswact.uca.org.au

**LAY PREACHERS, LAY PRESIDERS,
AND LIVING OUR FAITH COURSES**
Matthew Anslow
MatthewA@nswact.uca.org.au

ume.nswact.uca.org.au

Please note: Dates are subject to change. Check the UME Events website for updates.



Safe Church 2022 Update

The Safe Church Unit remains concerned about Covid19 and transmission at face to face workshops. This is especially concerning for our older members. NSW Health continues to highlight that an indoor event should not be for a prolonged period of time and people over 65 or who are immunocompromised are at a greater risk. The workshops require six hours to complete so safety and wellbeing is a priority.

At the moment, there are no face to face workshops planned for the next few months and no online module available from the Uniting Church that is suitable for NSW Synod.

Keep an eye on this website for face to face workshops in other denominations <https://www.ncca.org.au/scp/scp-upcoming-events?start=0>

In the future, the Safe Church Unit is hoping to offer a 3-year cycle of workshops. These will be planned in a rotation between key towns/locations in each presbytery across the Synod.

The Safe Church Unit is developing a team of trainers who will deliver the training in presbyteries across the Synod.

If you need to do Safe Church training now, try to do one with the Anglican or Baptist church via their online courses. Both are NCCA (National Council of Churches Australia) Safe Church Program accredited courses.

Note that if you do complete a Safe Church course with another church, please make sure you advise your Church Council and the Synod Safe Church Unit so it can be recorded within the Uniting Church Register.

In the meantime, ...

For INDIVIDUALS: If online access to the Anglican or Baptist training is too difficult, and your training needs renewing now, you will need to contact the Synod Safe Church Unit. For example, you may be an SRE Teacher, and your accreditation has lapsed. Contact the Safe Church Unit and Tara Curlewis will make a decision on a case by case basis. In some situations, a decision is made to briefly extend accreditation.

For CHURCH COUNCILS: If you have a Church Council member who is not up to date with their Safe Church training, the Synod is not going to come down hard on you. However, note your Church Council is not getting a 'let-off' either. The responsibilities you have as Church Councillors are serious responsibilities. Church Councils need to strive to have all Church Council members trained. However, the Safe Church Unit recognises that this is a 'journey towards compliance' we are all walking along, and it may take time until we get there. In the meantime, contact the Synod's Safe Church Unit and let them know what you CAN do towards being a Safe Church. For example, have most of the other Church Council members done the training and are up to date? If you have children present in your church, have you appointed a Safe Church Contact Person? These things will indicate to the Safe Church Unit that whilst not everything is in order, you have some things in place and are on the journey towards being a Safe Church.

Synod's Safe Church Unit: safechurch@nswact.uca.org.au 02 8267 4351

Synod Safe Church Unit, Uniting Church in Australia, PO Box A2178, Sydney South NSW 1235



LAY LEADER SUPPORT

The D& E Committee is keen to hear from the dedicated band of Lay Leaders who lead worship services across our Presbytery. Please reach out and let us know if there is anything we can do to support you. We are happy to look into providing specific training, learning or worship resources but would rather hear from you about what is needed. Please make contact with our Chairperson or Secretary to help us help you.

Training in Information Technology

Would you like to know more about computer technology? Would you like to be able use this technology in worship services to a greater extent? Are you not quite sure what you can and cannot do without breaking copyright laws?

Some Presbytery wide training is being organised to help you raise your skill levels in this important area. This is being led by Rev. Keith Robinson, who used to work in the field of information technology before he was called to ministry in 2006. He has continued to update his skills since then and would like to offer some help to anyone who is interested in learning more. A Date for training is currently being planned but as yet has not been set. It will probably involve more than one training session as some training will be quite basic and other training will be more advanced.

So far, the following topics are being included:

- How to download videos from the Internet (eg YouTube)
- PowerPoint tips and tricks
- How to add videos and audio files to a PowerPoint presentation.
- An overview of current copyright laws regarding things downloaded from the Internet.

The training will take the form of a mix of simple 'how to' guides, pre-recorded videos, Zoom sessions, phone consultation and perhaps, some in person training. If you don't use Zoom, we will use one of the other methods to communicate with you.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Keith using the contact details below, and let him know what you would like included in the training. If you feel you can contribute to the training of others in some way or the other, please don't hesitate to let Keith know.

Contact:

Rev. Keith Robinson

0401 699 580

keithr@nswact.uca.org.au



GRIEF AND LOSS COURSE

Grief
and
Loss

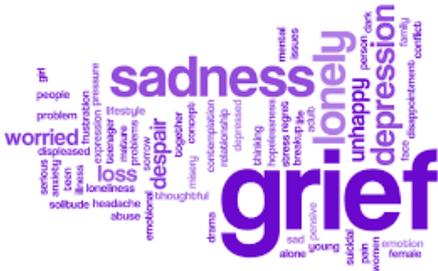


Big or small, sudden or expected, loss is a part of our every day lives. Over the past 2 years we have become increasingly aware of the tremendous impact of grief in our lives as we have dealt with lockdowns, restrictions, the inability to spend time with friends and family on important days, and massive changes to our church and community life etc.

The Grief & Loss course allows us to reflect on the losses we've experienced (throughout our lives), to share our struggle, to make sense of it all, to access resources to help us with the journey, and to learn valuable strategies for processing and working through our grief in helpful ways.

Join Yvonne Ghavalis & Lorraine Hoffmann for a 5 week healing journey via Zoom from Monday 9th May at 11am and/or 7pm depending on interest.

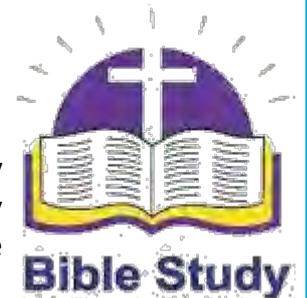
This is a Presbytery-wide initiative and all are welcome to attend. Contact Lorraine Hoffman (0427 204 051) with any questions or to **register your interest by 24th April.**



ATTENTION!

PRESBYTERY LIBRARY UPDATE

The Presbytery library has a large section of over 30 different Bible Studies, many with multiple copies. If congregations are unable to run a service themselves they may like to consider holding a Bible Study during their worship time. Please contact Lorraine for a list of titles and more information.



If you have resources you would like to donate to the Presbytery Library i.e. books, teaching resources or special event items—small communion sets, tablecloths, or themed resources please contact Lorraine Hoffman on 0269206233 or 0427204051 or email lahoffman@bigpond.com



PRESBYTERY WEBSITE

New resources available for service leaders and lay Preachers. For all the latest on upcoming events check often to keep up to date. <https://riverina.unitingchurch.org.au/>

D & E CONTACT INFO

D & E Chairperson: Lorraine Hoffmann Ph: 0427 204 051 Email: lahoffman@bigpond.com

D&E Secretary: Jenny Whitlock Ph: 0429 818 657 Email: jandbw@bigpond.net.au