

Membership

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(i)

Assembly ex-officio

Ms Colleen Geyer
Rev Sharon Hollis

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(ii) and By-law Q2.1.3

Synod ex-officio

Ministers

Rev David Baker
Rev Heather den Houting
Rev Andrew Gunton
Rev Bruce Moore
Rev Louisa Yu

Lay Members

Mr Nigel Alexander
Mr Geoff Batkin
Mr Peter Cranna
Mr Nigel Fairbairn
Dr Paul Jones
Mr Scott McDonald
Mr Jon Moriarty
Ms Sharina Walmbay

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(iii) & (iv) and By-law Q2.1.2

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Ministers

Rev Craig Batty
Rev Harlee Cooper
Rev Garry Jennings
Rev Emma Nicholls
Rev Russell Reynoldson
Rev Karen Ross
Rev Glen Schweitzer
Rev Dave Thomas
Rev Jan Whyte
Rev Dr Peter Woodward

Lay Members

Miss Holly Barnes
Mr Robert Bennett
Mr Jason Brown
Ms Amy Cliff
Mrs Annette Coupland
Mrs Philippa Ferrant-Smith Pip
Dr Joshua Harbort
Dr Marilyn Healy
Ms Liz John
Ms Ella John
Miss Che Kim Rin
Mrs Jo Reynoldson
Ms Mandy Smith
Ms Gemma Ward

Presbytery of Carpentaria

Ministers

Rev Christy Allen
Rev Barry Cox
Rev Michelle Cullen
Rev John Dansie
Rev Garry Hardingham
Rev Christine Herman
Rev Shane Kammermann
Rev Johnson Makoti
Rev Malia Ma'U
Rev Wendy McHugh
Rev Viliami Mila
Rev Craig Mischewski
Rev Roberta Stanley
Rev John Tai
Rev Young-Hun Weon

Lay Members

Ms Nadia Abraham
Ms Saraima Aisack
Dr Gewa Au
Mr Netani Bolatolu
Mrs Sheree Budgen
Mr Michael Chapman
Mrs Florence Charger
Mr Roy Chevathen
Mr Joe Eka
Mr John Fifita
Mrs Dinah John
Mrs Ena Koongotema
Mrs Margaret Mabo
Mr Ian Ness
Mr Ueli Siaoosi Otumuli
Mrs Akosita Otumuli
Mrs Kathryn Reid
Mr Tau William
Ms Maia William
Mr Perry Yunkaporta

Presbytery of Central Queensland

Ministers

Rev Scott Ballment
Rev Andrew Gillies
Rev Ann Hewson
Rev Paula Hukehuke
Rev Donna Muston
Rev Dr Julia Pitman
Rev Greg Rankin
Rev Suzy Sitton
Rev WayneMcHugh

Lay Members

Ms Laura Brown
Mr Stan Comollatti
Mrs ElizabethSawers
Mrs Sheri Holland
Mrs Andrea Nicholson
Mr Ron Tyler

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Ministers

Rev Craig Allan
Rev Stuart Bosch
Rev David Ellis
Rev Delma Lovell
Rev Maile Molitika
Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan
Rev Tanya Richards
Rev Nigel Rogers
Rev Keren Seto
Rev Willem Smit

Lay Members

Mrs Aurilea Augustine
Miss Joan Burke
Mrs Naomi Cavalli
Mrs Narelle Cramb
Mrs Louise Crittenden
Mr Ian Dart
Mr Steven Fincham
Mr James Hall
Mr Graham Huth
Mrs Haidee Lea
Mrs Sue Mulcahy
Mr Allan Mulcahy
Dr DongWoo Oh
Mrs Wendy O'Hara
Ms Rona Joy Sandilands
Mr Phillip Smith
Mrs Patricia Walker

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Ministers

Rev Heather Allison
Rev Dr Peter Armstrong
Rev Kath Behan
Rev Dr Rebecca Bell
Rev Dr Somporn Branjerdporn
Rev Matt Cave
Rev Monique Coughlin
Rev John Cox
Rev Dr Helen Dick
Rev Rod Fisher
Rev Leonie Gaffel
Rev Tim Griggs
Rev Jason Grimsey
Rev Linda Hanson
Rev Dr Peter Hobson
Rev Brian Hoole
Rev Karama Ioapo
Rev Graham Keech
Rev Fa Matangi
Rev Dr Adam McIntosh
Rev Josie Neuendorff
Rev David Nix
Rev Janet Staines
Rev Tevita 'Unga Takai
Rev Stanley Tuilovoni

Lay Members

Dr Ian Airey
Mr Gary Bray
Dr Janet Buchbach
Mr Dominic Chan
Mr Adrian Demack
Ms Jude Emmer
Mr Joshua Fogarty
Ms Tabitha Gulley
Mr Malcolm Hamill
Ms Rachel Hanson
Ms Emma Holmes
Ms Marie Howard
Mr Peter Jenkins
Mr Ernest Jilg
Ms Bernadette Ling
Ms Rina Manuelli
Ms Sam McDonell
Rev Tim McMenemy
Ms Martina Miksch
Mrs Melanie Minichiello
Mr Brent Mitchell
Mrs Cathy Moore
Mr Russell Morgan
Ms Margaret Nieth
Mrs Elaine Rae
Mr Brian Reith
Mrs Jillian Ross
Ms Jessie Sanders
Mr Dempsey Malcolm Scanlan
Mr Alex Stark
Mrs Danielle Sullivan
Ms Moana (Ana) Teulilo-Schaaf
Mrs Vickie Wallis
Mr Trent Wheeley
Ms Merryl Wilson
Mr Eric Woodrow
Mrs Judith Yarrow

Presbytery of South Moreton

Ministers

Rev Sione Afu
Rev Craig Blackburn
Rev Lyn Burden
Rev David Busch
Rev Jenny Busch
Rev Je Cheol Cook
Rev Dr David Ferguson
Rev Brad Foote
Rev Jim Haak
Rev Michael Hands
Rev Noah Kim
Rev Julie Lawton-Gallard

Lay Members

Mr Dylan Ball
Mr Neil Ballment
Ms Wendy Campbell
Mr Jayden Van Dyken
Mr Stephen Espinet
Mr Robert Gilliland
Mrs Jennifer Guyatt
Mrs Cathy Hartwig
Mr Robert (Bob) Imhoff



Rev Esteban Lievano
Rev Dr Peter Lockhart
Rev Adam Low
Rev Iris Marais
Rev Aaron Moad
Rev Dan Skippen
Rev Beatriz Skippen
Rev Peter Smale
Rev Catherine Solomon
Rev Faye Talatonu
Rev Dr Debra Tedman
Rev Dr Tim Winslade

Ms Kym Korbe
Mr Peter Kunst
Ms Betty Lievano
Mrs Kemerli Lievano
Mr Richard Linton
Mrs Clare Low
Mr Brett Lush
Ms Kate Mahon
Ms Liz Mahon
Mr Aaron Moore
Mr Bill O'Neill
Dr Daniel Pampuch
Mrs Michelle Richardson
Ms Stephanie Wade
Mrs Alexandra Williams
Mr Scott Wrigley

Presbytery of The Downs

Ministers

Rev Robert Callow
Rev Kate Fraser
Rev Willie Liebenberg
Rev Ansie Liebenberg
Rev Yvonne McRostie
Rev Dylan Miegel
Rev Jenny Potter
Rev Kaye Ronalds
Rev Dona Spencer
Rev Adam Tipple

Lay Members

Mrs Annie Baker
Mrs Sharon Baker
Ms Jennifer Feldmeier
Mr Gordon Gillmore
Mr Les Johnson
Miss Allison Kahler
Mrs 'Alisi Manu
Mrs Jenny Noble
Mrs Cynthia Taafe
Mrs Daphne Webster
Mr Ian Williams

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(v) and By-law Q2.1.4

UnitingCare Board

Mr Craig Barke
Ms Natalie Smith

Finance, Investment and Property Board

Mr Andrew McBryde
Ms Kate Hands

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(vi) and By-law Q2.1.5

Candidates

Mr Lorne Anderson

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(vii), 3.3.7(c) and 3.3.7(d) and By-law Q2.1.6

Co-options

Ms Amanda Hegarty
Rev Ian Smallbone
Ms Sono Weatherall

Resolutions

The Constitution of the Synod

- 23.01 The Induction of Rev. Bruce Moore as Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod was held Friday, 20 October 2023 commencing at 7.00pm at Albert St Uniting Church, 319 Albert Street, Brisbane City. At the Alexandra Park Conference Centre Auditorium, Mari Street, Alexandra Headlands, at 11.00am on Saturday, 21 October 2023, The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod met in session. The Synod was duly constituted by the Moderator, Rev Bruce Moore, under the authority given by the Constitution and Regulations of The Uniting Church in Australia.

Recognition of traditional custodians of the land

- 23.02 The Synod acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the 37th Synod met, the Yuggera, Turrbal and Gabi Gabi people, and gave thanks for their stewardship.

Procedural proposals

- 23.03 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Notes the appointment by the Synod Standing Committee of members of the Business Committee and the authorisation by Synod Standing Committee to the Moderator, Moderator Elect and General Secretary to make further appointments to the Business Committee:
 - Rev Andrew Gunton (Moderator)
 - Rev Heather den Houting (General Secretary)
 - Rev Bruce Moore (Moderator Elect)
 - Ms Kellie Broderick (Executive Officer Corporate)
 - Rev Brian Hoole
 - (b) Notes the further appointments made pursuant to (a):
 - Mr Steve Drinkall
 - Rev Fa Matangi
 - Ms Kym Korbe
 - Rev Linda Hanson
 - Rev Doug Foster
 - Mr Adrian Demack
 - (c) Appoints Rev Brian Hoole as Convenor of the Business Committee.
 - (d) Authorises the Committee to co-opt other persons as necessary for specific business.
- 23.04 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Appoints Rev Doug Foster as Convenor of the Facilitation Committee and authorises the Convenor to co-opt members for that Committee; and
 - (b) Appoints Rev Linda Hanson as Small Group Co-ordinator (Yarning Circle Co-ordinator)
- 23.05 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Mrs Kellie Broderick as Minute Secretary.
- 23.06 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Rev Scott Ballment and Rev Glen Schweitzer as Convenors of the Ballot Committee and authorises the Conveners to co-opt members as necessary.

- 23.07 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Rev Roberta Stanley, Mr Mal Hamill and Rev Beatriz Skippen as Pastoral Coordinators.
- 23.08 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod adopts the Roll of the Synod subject to the Roll only containing the names of those members who register on site or register online by 12noon Saturday, 21 October 2023.
- 23.09 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Determines that unless otherwise agreed, the hours of session for the Synod shall be:

Friday, 20 October	7.00pm – 8.30pm
Saturday, 21 October	11.00am – 12.30pm 2.00pm – 6.00pm 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Sunday, 22 October	8.30am – 12.30pm 2.00pm – 6.00pm 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Monday, 23 October	8.30am – 12.30pm 2.00pm – 6.00pm 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Tuesday, 24 October	8.30am – 12.30pm
 - (b) Adopts the timetable and order of business as determined daily by the Business Committee unless the Synod specifically determines otherwise.
- 23.10 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod determines that the Bar of the House be defined as the numbered tables in the auditorium, unless numbered tables are not present, in which case the Bar of the House be defined as the auditorium.
- 23.11 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Adopts the use of the procedures of *A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church (2015)*.
 - (b) Determines that when considering the procedural proposal “Determining the need for a decision now” (5.16.6 and 6.10), “leave of the council” be a simple majority
 - (c) Determines that members asking questions for clarification and questions of reports, speak for no more than one minute

23.12 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:

- (a) Endorses the decision of the Business Committee that nominations to Synod governing bodies closed on Friday, 22 September 2023.
- (b) Determines that the ballots will be held as determined by the Business Committee.
- (c) Determines that ballots for Synod governing bodies be conducted electronically by secret ballot, and any proceedings in formal majority.
- (d) When it comes to a decision, any ballot taken as part of formal procedures shall be conducted electronically by secret ballot.
- (e) Determines that, unless otherwise determined, appointments to membership of various Synod governing bodies will be based on a simple majority and nominees must receive at least 50% of the votes to be elected.
- (f) Determines that a ballot for a proposal for the appointment of the General Secretary will be conducted by secret ballot with the proposal requiring not less than 65% support of ballots received for such a proposal to pass.
- (g) Authorises the Synod Standing Committee to perform the functions of Regulation 3.3.8(a)(iii)(5) and Regulation 3.3.9 as required to meet the Synod membership requirements for the meeting of the 17th Assembly, as advised by Assembly from time to time, including but not limited to appointing vacant positions and youth members as required.

23.13 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod endorses the decision of the Business Committee that General Proposals were to be submitted by 4.00 pm on Monday 21 August 2023.

23.14 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:

- (a) Endorses the decision of the Business Committee that Yarning Circles will perform the function and meet the requirements of small groups as referred to in the manual for Meetings.
- (b) For the purposes of the 37th Synod, the small group leader/facilitator of the Yarning Circle is named the Wayfinder. This reflects their task as assisting in discerning a way forward, creating a safe space for speaking, building Christian community as members share the life they have in Christ.

- 23.15 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receive the written reports contained at R00 – R15:
- R00 Moderator’s report
 - R01 Synod Standing Committee
 - R02 The General Secretary
 - R03 Finance, Investment and Property Board
 - R04 Board for Christian Formation
 - R05 Uniting Education Schools and Colleges
 - R06 UnitingCare Queensland
 - R07 Wesley Mission Queensland
 - R08 Synod Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements
 - R09 Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane
 - R10 Presbytery of Carpentaria
 - R11 Presbytery of Central Queensland
 - R12 Presbytery of Mary Burnett
 - R13 Presbytery of Moreton Rivers
 - R14 Presbytery of South Moreton
 - R15 Presbytery of The Downs
- 23.16 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod authorises the General Secretary to convey greetings on behalf of the Synod to other Synods within The Uniting Church in Australia.
- 23.17 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod authorises the Moderator to convey a greeting to the State and Federal Governments
- 23.18 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod authorises Rev Bruce Moore (Moderator), Rev Heather den Houting (General Secretary) and Rev Brian Hoole (Business Committee Convenor) to confirm the Minutes of the 37th Synod.
- 23.19 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod adopts the Memorial Minutes as presented concerning ministers who have died since the 36th Synod and notes the ministers who have retired permanently and receives a minute of appreciation for each (see Appendix 4).
- 23.20 That any business not dealt with on the floor of the synod, will be referred to the Synod Standing Committee pursuant to regulation 3.7.4.1(d and e):
- (1) The SSC is empowered:
 - (a) to act on behalf of the Synod between ordinary meetings of the Synod in relation to all matters that are the responsibility of the Synod, except such as the Synod may determine; (clause 36 of the Constitution; regulation 3.7.4.1(d)); and
 - (b) to deal with matters referred to it by the Synod; (regulation 3.7.4.1(e)); and
 - (c) to exercise the powers, and fulfil the responsibilities, as provided for in the Synod By-laws.
 - (2) In exercising its powers and fulfilling its responsibilities, the SSC must have regard to the following guiding principles:
 - (a) focusing on the strategic and policy issues of the Church;
 - (b) engaging in competence-building activities for its members;
 - (c) efficiency and timeliness in approvals and decision-making.
- 23.21 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod determines members who had not registered by close of business 6.00pm on Saturday, 21 October 2023 were deemed to be not included in the Roll of Synod and therefore ineligible to vote.

Association of visitors

23.22 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod associates the following people with the Synod:

- (a) For the purpose of the bible studies:
 - Katie Isles
- (b) For the purpose of the Plenty report:
 - Mr Steve Drinkall
- (c) For the Act2 presentation:
 - Mr Andrew Johnson
- (d) For the purpose of the Norman and Mary Millar Lecture:
 - Dr Stanley Grant
 - Aunty Kym Henderson
- (e) For the purpose of the report of the UnitingCare Board:
 - Craig Wildermuth, Sue McKean, Suzanne Marlow and Ruth McKechnie

Appendices

- 23.23 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod note the ministerial changes as contained in Appendix 1 – Ministerial Changes
- 23.24 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod note the Governing body member changes since the 36th Synod as contained in Appendix 2.
- 23.25 It was **NOTED** that the Synod receive the Minutes of Appreciation as contained in Appendix 3.

38th Synod dates

- 23.26 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod determines that:
- (a) the 38th Synod will be held from 16 May to 20 May 2025 at Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands.
 - (b) the Synod Standing Committee be given authority to vary the dates and the venue of the 38th Synod if necessary.

Synod Standing Committee meetings

- 23.27 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod determines that:
- (a) the meeting dates of the Synod Standing Committee shall be:
 - 2 November 2023
 - 8 February 2024
 - 4 April 2024
 - 6 June 2024
 - 1 August 2024
 - 3 October 2024
 - 5 December 2024
 - 6 March 2025
 - 7 December 2023
 - 7 March 2024
 - 9 May 2024
 - 4 July 2024
 - 5 September 2024
 - 7 November 2024
 - 6 February 2025
 - 3 April 2025
 - (b) authority be given to the Moderator and General Secretary to vary the dates and times of the Synod Standing Committee meetings if necessary.

Spirit of Synod award

- 23.28 It was **NOTED** that the Synod congratulates Rev Suzy Sittton who has been awarded the Spirit of Synod Award for her inspiring leadership of the church as contained in Appendix 5.

Moderator's Community Service Medal

- 23.29 It was **NOTED** that the Synod congratulates the recipients of the Moderator's Community Service Medal as contained in Appendix 6.

General proposals

General Proposal 1: Remove requirement for membership to the church as mandatory requirement for appointment to Synod Governing Body

- 23.30 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
1. Amend Queensland Synod By-Law Q2.7.8 (1) (f) to:
The eligibility requirements for appointment to a Synod governing body are that a person appointed must:
 - (i) where the person is appointed as the Chairperson, the person must be an active member of the Uniting Church with an endorsement by congregation/minister
 - (ii) for positions other than the Chairperson, the person is either a member of the Uniting Church, or a non-Uniting Church member who demonstrates commitment to the mission of the church and an ability to reflect the faith and values of the church.
 2. direct the Synod Standing Committee to amend charters and governing documents to ensure a balance of majority must be held by church members.

General Proposal 2: Act2 Realignment

- 23.31 It was **AGREED** that a decision was not required at this meeting on this General Proposal and consequently the proposal lapsed and no further action was to be taken.

Proposal: Act 2 Realignment - Requests that the UCA Assembly reprioritise the work of Act2 to focus firstly on engaging the church in exploring and renewing our understanding of the faith and purpose of the church, before continuing conversation pertaining to structure and governance.

General Proposal 3: Adjustment of the work unit principle (wellbeing of ministers)

- 23.32 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
1. Affirms the need for ministry agents to have adequate time off for rest, refreshment and attending to family and personal needs.
 2. Requests the Moderator to write a pastoral letter to all Ministry Agents, Church Councils, Presbyteries, Schools and Agencies expressing the heart of the 37th Synod for renewal, highlighting the vital importance of wellbeing and holistic care in the sustainability and flourishing of our mission and ministry agents. With the intent to encourage conversation between the ministry agents, church council, oversight bodies and Presbyteries about expectations, opportunities and practices of personal renewal.
 3. Requests the SSC to resource a whole of church conversation about ministry working hours and conditions, the best ways to ensure appropriate recognition and provision for time off, and resources to assist ministry agents in achieving a work-life balance, with a report and any recommendations to come to the 38th Synod.

General Proposal 4: Instruction to the Synod Standing Committee regarding governance reform

- 23.33 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
1. Instructs the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) to do all things necessary to allow the separate incorporation of any body of the church when requested to do by that body on the following conditions:
 - (a) That there be no financial detriment to the Synod as a result;
 - (b) That the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.) remains the sole member of any incorporated body;
 - (c) That the SSC is satisfied that:
 - i. the capacity for relationship between the work of the incorporated body and the life and witness of the wider church
 - ii. the mission and purpose of the Uniting Church in Australia, and are maintained and enhanced as a result of incorporation.
 2. In light of the commentary contained in the Fit for Purpose – Governance Review paper; a model Trust Deed be developed by the Synod to guide the implementation of any move to incorporation; and
 3. Directs the Synod Office to develop and improve any existing program designed to induct, train, and improve the skills of any person in a governance role across the Synod.

General Proposal 5: General Secretary Nominated Candidate

- 23.34 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- a) Under Regulation 3.6.3.3 appoint the nominated candidate as Secretary of the Synod.
 - b) That pursuant to Queensland Synod Bylaw 2.4.1(3)(a), such appointment be for a period of five years from the 37th Synod.
 - c) confirms that this proposal be determined by secret ballot with the proposal requiring not less than 65 per cent support of ballots received for the proposal to pass.

General Proposal 6: Funding for Public Hospital Chaplaincy

- 23.35 Arising from the floor of synod on Tuesday, 24 October 2023 with the proposer Adam Tipple and the seconder Samantha McDonnell. The initial proposal was discerned, with some amendments made. These amendments were then further amended and it was clear that neither consensus nor agreement would be reached. The Moderator adjourned the discussion and deferred this matter to the SSC. The deferred version of the GP for consideration was:

[Second Amendment – not resolved] General Proposal 6

That the Synod

- a) believes the continuation of public hospital chaplaincy is a matter of significant missional importance.
- b) directs the General Secretary to explore a range of options to continue a missional presence in hospital chaplaincy, including an engagement plan with Qld Health and ecumenical partners around funding alternatives. This plan is to be presented to the Synod Standing Committee in March 2024.

Ballots

23.36 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects Rev Adam McIntosh, as Secretary of the Queensland Synod for 5 years from the 37th Synod.

23.37 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to the Board for Christian Formation:

Member	Rev Rod Fisher	3 years, until 39th Synod
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23.38 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.):

Chairperson	Mr Alan Hanson	18 months, until 38th Synod
Members	Mr Alan Hanson	18 months, until 38th Synod
	Dr Geoff Ericksson	18 months, until 38th Synod
	Mr Peter Campbell	18 months, until 38th Synod
	Mrs Sarah Brunt	18 months, until 38th Synod
	Mr Hayden Jett	18 months, until 38th Synod
Secretary	Mr Peter Cranna	18 months, until 38th Synod

The Moderator (Rev Bruce Moore) and the General Secretary (current - Rev Heather Den Houting; elect - Rev Dr Adam McIntosh) are ex-officio members of The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.) as prescribed by s13(1)(a) of the *Uniting Church in Australia Act 1977*.

It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to Finance, Investment and Property Board:

Chairperson	Mr Alan Hanson	18 months, until 38th Synod
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23.39 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to the Synod Standing Committee:

Members	Rev Linda Hanson	3 years, until 39th Synod
	Mr Gary Adsett	3 years, until 39th Synod

23.40 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to attend the 17th Assembly:

Ms. Annie Baker	Mr. Neil Ballment
Rev. Linda Hanson	Mr. Scott Mc Donald
Rev. Garry Jennings	Mr. Geoff Batkin
Rev. Yvonne McRostie	Mr. Dempsey Scanlan
Rev. Donna Muston	
Rev. Viliami Mila	
Rev. Beatriz Skippen	
Rev. Dave Thomas	
Rev. David MacGregor	

Courtesies extended

- 23.41 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod places on record its sincere appreciation of:
- the coordinators and the contributors of the Synod Worship Celebrations and those that brought the Bible Studies
 - the Business Committee Convenor, members of the Business Committee and the 37th Synod Project Manager
 - the Facilitation, Yarning Circles, Ballot Convenors and members of their respective teams
 - the staff of the Synod office
 - the Moderator's Chaplains and the Pastoral Coordinators
 - the Coordinators of the Celebration of Ministries
 - all staff of the Alexandra Park Conference Centre for support in preparation and hosting of the Synod
 - to CPC Productions, IT and AV teams, Events and back of house team, including Sunshine Coast Coffee Roastery
 - the Moderator, Rev Bruce Moore and the General Secretary, Rev Heather den Houting, for their leadership of the Synod meeting
 - the past Moderator, Rev Andrew Gunton
 - the members of Synod for their time, dedication and discernment
 - God, our Father, Son and the Holy Spirit as we met to his glory.

Close

The 37th Synod was closed with closing worship led by the Moderator.

Confirmation of minutes

The 37th Synod Minutes were confirmed by the Moderator, General Secretary and the Business Committee Convenor (as per minute 23.18) on 5 February 2024.



Moderator



General Secretary



Business Committee Convenor

Appendix 1

Ministerial changes

1. Received by ordination - Ministry of the Word

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Rev Rebecca Bell

Presbytery of South Moreton

Rev Malia Ma'u

Rev Emma Nicholls

Presbytery of Central Queensland

Rev Donna Muston

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Rev Garry Jennings

2. Deaths – Ministers of the Word

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Rev Ian Kerr

Rev Peter Taubner

Rev Ronald Elvery

Rev Arthur Lane

Rev Ian (Wally) Thomson

Presbytery of Carpentaria

Rev Graham Brown

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Rev George Barnes

Rev Raymond Thompson

Rev Clive George

Rev Edward (Ted) Hutton

Presbytery of South Moreton

Rev Iris Reedman

Rev Dr Walter (Wally) Stratford

Rev Garth Filmer

Rev Sydney (Syd) Abrahams

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Rev Phillip Hulme

Rev Keith Ewin

Presbytery of The Downs

Rev Lorna Skilton

3. Retirements

Presbytery of South Moreton

Rev Mary (Janie) French
Rev Ronald (Ron) French
Rev Saimoni Davui

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Rev Murray Fysh
Rev Dr Wendi Sargeant
Rev Pamela (Pam) Batson
Rev Dr Helen Dick
Rev Julie Mackay-Rankin

Presbytery of Carpentaria

Rev Dennis Corowa

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Rev Nigel Damant
Rev Ross Mackay

Presbytery of Central Queensland

Rev Jennifer (Jenny) Coombes
Rev Peter Aay
Rev Allan Smith

4. Ministers / deacons / youth workers – received from other Synods

Rev Raymond McIlwraith
Rev Josefa Mar
Rev Willian (Bill) Fischer
Rev Iva Fischer
Rev Warwick Cadenhead
Rev Dr David Ferguson

5. Ministers received from other denominations

Rev Fritz Venzke

6. Ministers received by readmission

Nil

7. Ministers whose recognition has been withdrawn

Bruce Lauder
Hedley Fihaki
Andrew Ross
Harold Strong
Phil Anderson
David Graham

8. Ministers who resigned from the Uniting Church in Australia

David Graham
Harold Strong
Phil Anderson

Appendix 2

Governing body member changes since the 36th Synod (as at 20 September 2023 – updated on 17 October 2023)

Audit and Risk Committee

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 June 2022 to 5 May 2025:

Dr. Marilyn Healy (Member)

Appointed for a two-year term from 5 May 2023 to 5 May 2025:

Pip (Philippa) Ferrant-Smith (Member)

Reappointed (Chair) for a three-year term from 24 October 2023 to 23 October 2026:

Mr Ralph Michael Collins (Chair)

Concluding term effective 23 October 2023:

Mr Geoff (Geoffrey Russell) Batkin

Board for Christian Formation

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 February 2023 to 1 February 2026:

Mr. Gary Adsett (Chair)

Appointed for a three-year term from 5 May 2023 to 5 May 2026:

Mrs. Sharon Terese Baker (Member)

Rev Dr Linda Leigh Hamill (Member)

Appointed for a two-year term from 15 May 2022 to 15 May 2025:

Mrs Jilian Ross (Member)

Concluded term effective 31 December 2022:

Mr Andrew (Garry) Jennings (Member)

Concluding term effective 20 October 2023:

Mr Grant Erickson (Member)

Rev Andrew Gunton (Member)

Rev Gwendolyn (Gwen) Fisher (Member)

Concluding term effective 19 December 2023:

Mrs Elizabeth John (Member)

Concluding term effective 31 December 2023:

Rev Heather den Houting (Member)

Calvary Christian College Council

Appointed for a three-year term from 15 December 2022 to 14 December 2025:

Mr Andrew Ballantyne (Member)

Ms Helen Moore (Member)

Mr Rufus Ghandi (Member)

Cromwell College Board

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 October 2022 to 6 October 2025:

Ms Judy Young (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 14 July 2022 to 13 July 2025:

Mr Johannes Solymosis (Member)

Resigned effective May 2023:

Dr Joe Goodall (Chair)

Emmanuel College Council

Appointed for a one-year term from 7 March 2023 to 6 March 2024:

Mr Stephen Howell (Chair)

Finance, Investment and Property Board

Appointed for a three-year term from 21 December 2022 to 30 November 2025:

Ms Kate Hands (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 17 May 2022 to 16 May 2025:

Mr Hayden Jett (Member)

Concluding term effective 20 October 2023:

Mr Geoffrey Batkin (Chair)

Concluding term effective 23 October 2023:

Dr Geoffery Ericksson (Member)

Concluding term effective 31 December 2023:

Rev Heather den Houting (Member)

Grace College Council

Appointed for a three-year term from 14 July 2022 to 13 July 2025:

Rev Dona Spencer (Member)

Concluded term effective 31 December 2022:

Rev Dr Anita Monro (Member)

Resigned effective 19 January 2023:

Ms Kylie Sessa (Member)

Resigned effective 14 February 2023:

Rev Dona Spencer (Member)

John Flynn College Council

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 September 2022 to 8 September 2025:

Dr Naomi Gardiner (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 15 September 2022 to 14 September 2025:

Rev Christy Allen (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 October 2022 to 6 October 2025:

Rev Wendy McHugh (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 March 2023 to 8 March 2026:

Dr Toni Weller (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 11 May 2023 to 10 May 2026:

Mr Joseph (Hilary) Kavanagh (Member)

Mr William Tweddell (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 July 2023 to 6 July 2026:

Ms Leisa Lance (Member)

Resigned effective 8 September 2022:

Mr Graham Huth (Member)

Resigned effective 8 August 2022:

Mrs Heather Humphries (Chair)

King's College Council

Nil appointments / conclusions

The Lakes College Board

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 April 2022 to 8 April 2025:

Ms Kym Korbe (Member)

Rev Kathryn Behan (Member)

Appointed for a two-year term from 6 October 2022 to 1 April 2024:

Ms Jessica Lipsett (Chair)

Resigned effective 7 September 2022:

Mr Gary Adsett (Chair)

Resigned effective 1 November 2022:

Mrs Sue Poole (Member)

Resigned effective 7 June 2023:

Mrs Melva Hobson (Member)

Moreton Bay College & Moreton Bay Boys' College Boards

Appointed for a three-year term from 12 May 2022 to 11 May 2025:

Mr Nigel Fairbairn (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025:

Mr Reg Gulley (Member)

Appointed for a casual term from 18 August 2022 to 30 June 2023:

Mrs Kirsty Elliott (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026:

Mrs Kirsty Elliott (Member)

Mrs Adele Nisbet (Member)

Mrs Adele Ramsay (Member)

Resigned effective 11 May 2022:

Mr Neil Ballment (Member)

Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group

Appointed for a two-year term from 7 July 2022 to 6 July 2024:

Rev Leva Pat (Member)

General Secretary's delegate to 16 December 2025:

Mr Grant Weaver (Member)

Concluded term effective 5 April 2023:

Rev Unga (Tevita 'Unga Fuaatonga) Takai (Member)

Concluded term effective 31 December 2022:

Rev Heather den Houting

Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) Board

Appointed for a three-year term from 14 June 2023 to 13 June 2026:

Ms Bethwyn Todd (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 13 April 2023 to 12 April 2026:

Ms Margaret Berry (Member)

Concluded 5 July 2023:

Mr Peter Barker (Chair)

Remuneration and Nomination Committee

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2022 to 6 June 2025:

Mr Dale Ham (Member)

Rev Bruce Moore (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2026:

Mr Steve Eltis (Member)

Concluding term effective 19 October 2023:

Ms Bronwyn Clarkson (Member)

Concluding term effective 31 December 2023:

Rev Heather den Houting (Member)

Uniting Education Schools and Colleges

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 May 2022 to 6 May 2025:

Ms Jessica Lipsett (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 8 July 2022 to 7 July 2025:

Mr Gary Lynch (Chair from 1 December 2022)

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 October 2022 to 6 October 2025:

Mr Richard Leo (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 28 November 2022 to 27 November 2025:

Ms Tracey Johnson (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 December 2022 to 1 December 2025:

Mrs Margaret Goody (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 April 2023 to 6 April 2026:

Mr Nigel Fairbairn (Chair)

Appointed for a three-year term from 3 March 2023 to 2 March 2026:

Mr Matthew Rollason (Member)

Appointed for a one-year term from 5 May 2023 to 4 May 2024:

Rev Linda Hanson (Member)

Concluded term effective of 30 November 2022:

Mrs Noela Lister (Chair)

Resigned effective 21 February 2023:

Mr Gary Lynch (Chair)

Resigned effective May 2022:

Mr Neill Ballment (Member)

Resigned effective 31 August 2022:

Mr Greg Adsett (Member)

Resigned effective 9 November 2022:

Ms Jessica Lipsett (Member)

Scots PGC College Council

Appointed for a three-year term 12 May 2022 to 11 May 2025:

Mr David Thomson (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 August 2022 to 8 August 2025:

Mrs Florence Kearney (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 15 June 2023 to 14 June 2026:

Ms Georgia Kiss (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 23 September 2023 to 22 September 2026:

Mr Jon Grayson (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025:

Mr Martin Webb (Chair)

Resignation effective 30 March 2023:

Mr Jason Sprott (Member)

Concluding term effective 8 December 2023:

Dr Robert Burgess (Member)

Concluded term effective 1 January 2023:

Ms Annette Doherty (Member)

Synod Chaplaincy Commission (in abeyance)

Synod Committee for Counselling

Appointed for a three-year term 2 March 2023 to 2 March 2026:

Rev Scott Ballment (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term 29 March 2023 to 5 July 2026:

Rev Douglas Foster (Member)

Concluded term effective 4 March 2023:

Mrs Wendy Hoskin (Member)

Rev Harlee Cooper (Member)

Synod Committee for Discipline

Concluded term effective 4 June 2023:

Rev Heather Allison (Member)

Ms Sue Crittall (Member)

Mr Ian Park (Member)

Rev Lynette Burden (Member)

Rev Janice Whyte (Member)

Dr Rev Paul Walton (Member)

Rev Keren Seto (Member)

Re-appointed for a three-year term 5 June 2023 to 4 June 2026

Rev Keren Seto (Member)

Rev Janice Whyte (Member)

Rev Lynette (Lyn) Burden (Member)

Mr Ian Park (Member)

Rev Heather Allison (Member)

Synod Reception of Ministers Committee

Concluded term effective 22 July 2022:

Rev Yvonne McRostie (Member)

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member)

Concluded term effective 13 October 2023:

Rev Andrew Gunton (Member)

Concluding term effective 31 December 2023:

Rev Heather den Houting (Member)

Concluded term effective 30 June 2023

Rev Nigel Rogers

Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaint Committee - Advisors

Appointed for a three-year term 7 September 2023 to 6 September 2026:

Rev Ian Wilson

Rev Raymond Nutley

Rev Robert Callow

Mrs Margaret Niethe

Rev Russell Reynoldson

UnitingCare Qld Board

Appointed for a three-year term 30 January 2023 to 31 January 2026:

Mr John Wakefield

Appointed for a three-year term 27 February 2023 to 28 February 2026:

Ms Alison Quinn

Appointed for a three-year term 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026:

Mr Nigel Alexander (Chair)

Concluded term effective 31 March 2023:

Mr Chris Townsend

Concluded term effective 3 October 2023:

Rev Andrew Gunton

Concluded term effective 30 October 2023:

Rev Heather den Houting

Concluded term effective 31 March 2024:

Ms Cheryl Herbert

Concluded term effective 31 August 2024:

Mr Jim Demack

Concluded term effective 31 March 2025:

Ms Andrea Staines

Ms Natalie Smith

Ms Susan Rix

Concluded term effective 30 September 2025:

Dr Mellissa Naidoo

Concluded term effective 31 December 2025:

Ms Justine Cain

The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.)

Appointed for a three-year term from 15 May 2022 to 14 May 2025:

Mr Geoffrey Batkin (Chair)
Dr Geoffery Ericksson (Member)
Mr Reg Gulley (Member)
Mr Peter Cranna (Member)
Mr Hayden Jett (Member)

Concluded term effective 20 October 2023:

Mr Geoffrey Batkin (Chair)

Concluded term effective 13 October 2023:

Rev Andrew Gunton (Member)

Concluding term effective 31 December 2023:

Rev Heather den Houting (Member)

Wesley Mission Queensland Board

Concluded term effective 12 September 2022:

Mr David Edwards

Concluded term effective 31 December 2022:

Mr Paul Newman
Mr Cornelius (Con) Graves
Ms Elaine Unkles

Concluded term effective 8 May 2023:

Dr Ian Airey

Concluded term effective 25 May 2023:

Mr Robert Packer

Concluded term effective 30 June 2024:

Ms Elaine Rae
Mr Christopher Grover
Dr Sherree Halliwell
Ms Elizabeth Baker
Dr Daniel Pampuch
Lee Poole
Dr Jessa Rogers
Mr David Rose
Mr Mark Townsend
Dr Nancy Spencer
Rev Peter Hobson
Rev Andrew Gunton
Rev Heather den Houting

37th Synod Business Committee

Committee established comprising:

Moderator

General Secretary

Executive Officer Corporate

Rev Brian Hoole

Any additional members as agreed and appointed by the Moderator, Moderator-Elect and General Secretary

Appendix 3

Minutes of appreciation

Mr Geoff Batkin OAM

Geoff has served as the chair of the Finance Investment and Property Board and chair of The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.) for the last 3 years.

Geoff brought an extensive knowledge and love of the Church (in its many expressions – leadership of Wesley Mission Queensland, congregational life and serving on various boards) into the role.

The responsibilities of the Finance Investment and Property Board and The Property Trust are broad. Geoff has led these 2 Boards with purpose, dedication, a stewardship focus and a 'what's best for the mission of the church' attitude. He has an enquiring mind and ensured that all proposals were considered rigorously.

2 highlights of Geoff's tenure as chair were:

- The transfer in of the Uniting Early Learning (UEL) services from all across the Church to be under the direct management and control of The Property Trust (the Approver Provider). Geoff helped establish the UEL subcommittee – the new governance body that focusses on this important enterprise – and Geoff was very active in understanding how the services performed and how they impacted their communities. He loves a good story (or 3!)
- The finalisation of the Finance Investment and Property Board strategy for the next 5 years – with a Vision of:
 - In five years' time (end FY28), we have an integrated financial management, investment and property strategy yielding increasing surpluses to invest in mission.
 - This picks up the mixture of sustainability and mission – matters important to Geoff.

Thankyou Geoff for your leadership, both of the FIP Board and of The Property Trust. We look forward to seeing you use your gifts in other areas of service as blessings to others.

Rev Heather den Houting

Rev Heather den Houting was inducted into the role of General Secretary of the Queensland Synod in June 2016. Heather brought with her a breadth of work and ministry experience spanning her time as a lawyer and social justice advocate through to her time in a local congregation and as Director of Mission for Blue Care. Heather's passion and dedication to pursuing a robust and compassionate approach to helping the church fulfil its missional responsibilities was the legacy she brought with her into the General Secretary role, and which has not wavered since.

Heather has served through a time of significant challenge and change in the life of the Queensland Synod. It has been a period requiring extraordinary change management and leadership from the General Secretary in response to vastly unexpected internal and external events. As such it is recognised broadly that Heather has been the absolute right leader at the right time for the Qld Synod. Without a doubt Heather has been a transformational leader, facing complex challenges and barriers with tenacity and grit, while at the same time holding to a deep and abiding hope in the church's capacity, through the grace of God, to live up to its calling.

Heather's character has been tested and strengthened through her time as General Secretary. Where people have seen a barrier, Heather has seen a challenge to overcome. Where people have said 'no', Heather has sought to find ways to bring them on the journey. Where people have said, 'why?', Heather has said, 'why not!' Through it all, Heather's kindness and compassion has created an environment in which people have felt valued,

respected and appreciated. Heather's humour has lightened the atmosphere of tense situations, but also reminded us of the importance of perspective and resilience.

Heather's deep sense of personal faith is expressed openly in the midst of complex organisational issues, and her steadfast encouragement and mentoring support for leaders in key positions of responsibility has created an environment in which faith and professionalism work hand in hand. Office of the Synod staff particularly are supported and empowered as their strengths and contributions are acknowledged and encouraged to flourish. And Heather has led by example in such a way as to create the space for laughter and relief, through such antics as her uncanny ability to sing 'happy birthday' to the tune of specifically random pop song requests, that will be forever cherished among Synod Office staff!

As an executive organisational leader, Heather's ability to cast a vision boldly and see what takes hold, reflects a dogged determination to remind the church of God's vision for the restoration of all Creation. Her ability to analyse complex situations and identify innovative solutions and anticipate future opportunities reflects her sharp intellect, setting a high standard for critical thinking and strategic decision-making. And her commitment to good governance and ethical leadership ensures the highest standards of professionalism. As does her playful approach to announcing new ideas, that both terrorises and inspires in equal measure. Such relentless determination has necessarily required Heather to hold the tension of differing opinions and interests with resolve, daring those around her to convince her of a different way to go. While for many this may be confronting, it has in fact served to push people to think through their arguments with robust accountability and thoughtfulness. At the same time, however, Heather has also shown a willingness to listen and learn and has been savvy enough to know when it is time for additional expertise to be brought in, or when to step into operational matters herself to lead by example. Through it all, Heather has displayed an exceptional integrity as the driver behind her approach to leadership.

Heather has also brought a high level of accountability and transparency to the decision-making, ethical standards and work of the Synod and Office of the Synod. While some have found Heather's language around risk challenging, she has helped the church to identify that risk management is not about '*not* having faith' but about ensuring that strategic intent and energy are not imperilled by a failure to identify and address the risks to the mission of the church. Thus, Heather has also not been afraid to challenge the way things have been done in order to find more sustainable and authentic ways for the church to engage with integrity and accountability within the world. Heather's clear and purposeful understanding of what needs to be addressed, together with her deep calling and commitment to always acting in the best interests of the church, has meant that she hasn't shied away from facing the uncomfortable, surfacing what may be festering, and making the tough and unpopular decisions. And though this has come many times at a significant personal cost, Heather has remained constant.

Over the past seven years of Heather's term as General Secretary, she has instigated, managed, overseen and participated in numerous complex and transformational initiatives and responsibilities on behalf of the Queensland Synod. Her tenacity and energy levels are nationally renowned, and this credibility has ultimately positioned the Queensland Synod as a leader across the Assembly. It is appropriate to acknowledge the significance of these events and tasks, that have served to position the Synod well to face the uncertain future with veracity and courage:

- The review of Synod Office operations leading to an overhaul of all working teams and functions, changing the focus from internal to external, making the Synod Office more resilient and ready to tackle the next season of the church
- Participation in and response to the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sex Abuse, leading to the Implementation of an Interim Redress Scheme, and improved Safe Ministry Framework and resources
- Participation in and response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of People with Disability
- Resourcing of Synod Standing Committee on Synod directions, risk and governance, in consultation with Presbytery leadership and subject matter experts

- Review, partial closure and subsequent sale of Shalom Christian College
- Strengthening the oversight of schools and residential colleges within the mission of the church, leading to the development of Uniting Education
- Contributing to the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly through leadership of the Uniting Women conference, Regulations review, Uniting Leaders programs, Assembly Standing Committee participation, Synod collaboration on cost saving measures, and stepping in as General Secretary for the Northern Synod
- Providing executive leadership and wisdom to the ongoing development of Wontulp bi Buya (the Ecumenical Indigenous training college in Cairns), and Frontier Services
- Matured the Synod's audit and risk capacity
- Championed the 'Better Together' change in the culture and values within the Office of the Synod teams
- Driven the Synod's strategic planning process, Project Plenty, including an extensive whole of Synod consultation and implementation project management process
- Led the development of an increased funding base through the establishment of the Business Development Unit
- Championed leadership development resourcing through the Graduate Certificate Program and Plentiful Mentoring Leadership Programs for leaders across all Synod entities
- Resourced the Board for Christian Formation (BCF) and Trinity College Queensland through significant change
- Led the Synod through the Covid pandemic and all the implications, impacts, and new ways of working
- Led the establishment of Uniting Early Learning, the transition of early learning services from various church entities and responded to the requisite compliance and legal challenges

The Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia pays tribute to, and give thanks for, the work and ministry of Rev Heather den Houting as General Secretary. We hear and embrace the words you have offered in your final General Secretary report:

"I am surer than ever that the way of Jesus offers something unique, something vital in this time. We are called to love, not fear. We are called to follow Jesus, to heal and help the communities that we are part of, to be careful and wise stewards, to keep those in our care safe and well, and to continue in our identity as uniting, to prioritise our life together. As we move forward in a time when change is inevitable, we have opportunities to break free from constraints of expectation, habit, and pattern to celebrate and utilise both ancient and fresh ways to love our neighbours, serve God and proclaim the gospel."

Heather, as you continue in your ministry calling, know that you have served the church well, and may you hear these words deep in your soul, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'

Rev Gwendolyn Fisher

With much gratitude, we acknowledge the nine years that Gwen Fisher has served on the Board for Christian Formation.

Gwen's contribution has been remarkable. It is characterised by an unwavering commitment and dedication to appropriately equipping people within the Church for mission and ministry, with people called into ordained ministry being a particular passion.

Gwen's wealth of experience and insight in developing individuals for a wide range of ministries, combined with her passion for nurturing the next generation of church leaders, has left an indelible mark. Her pastoral heart has ensured that those in formation receive the support they need, and her courage to question established norms and commitment to collegiate decision-making have been invaluable.

Gwen regularly provided leadership in the development and implementation of Board strategy. This included stepping into the role of Board Chairperson for 10 months and serving on many Boards and sub-committees.

Gwen's leadership is characterised by championing the Board's mission and vision, addressing challenging matters, providing a wise voice, sticking to her principles, identifying alternative (and what turned out to be the correct) actions, meticulous attention to detail and a rigorous commitment to the Uniting Church's Basis of Union. The outcome has been meaningful and high-quality Christian formation programs that have helped people within the Church lead a life of purpose and spiritual growth modelled on the life of Jesus.

In addition to her professional contributions to various tasks and sub-committees, Gwen's profound knowledge of church regulations and bylaws has facilitated constructive navigation within the councils of the church. Her unwavering determination to uphold excellence and her ability to address complex issues with diligence and focus have made her a cornerstone of the Board.

Gwen's legacy is one of passion, commitment, and a profound impact on the formation and development of individuals for ministry within the Church. Her dedication to upholding the highest standards of excellence and her warm, positive outlook have left an enduring mark on the Board, ensuring its continued commitment to fulfilling its Mission and Vision.

Rev Andrew Gunton

Rev Andrew Gunton was inducted into the role of Moderator in October 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic. The chaos and complexity of this season in the life of the church and the world significantly shaped the environment in which Andrew was called to provide spiritual leadership to the synod. And it can be said that in God's unfailing wisdom, Andrew with his deeply thoughtful, compassionate and servant leadership style, has been very much the right person to lead the synod through this time.

Andrew brought with him to the Moderator role, a long history of broad experience across the church from congregation ministry to presbytery and synod leadership to community engagement and advocacy. Thus, Andrew's approach to being Moderator, as witnessed in all his interactions and storytelling, can be characterised by his insistence on God's faithfulness to God's people in all times and places, his commitment to being a good neighbour and protecting the most vulnerable, his unwavering heart for building others up, his humility and pastoral heart, and his passion for sharing the stories of the church and community widely.

In a season of such uncertainty and change, as the spiritual leader of the synod, Andrew has risen to the occasion bringing a vision of hope grounded in compassion. Andrew is so evidently humble and down to earth that one might not see his strength of character, until the moment it is called for. When it is called for he can step into the midst of struggle with a remarkable capacity to refocus people's hearts and minds away from conflict and fear, towards hope, to be both gracious and to draw a clear line of what is and is not acceptable, to be kind, honourable and wise. Andrew has listened and counselled with humility, compassion and respect, always seeking to understand people regardless of their cultural background, age, sexuality, faith or religion. In this way, Andrew has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to engage in a healthy way in issues of conflict, not distorting his own behaviours in response to difficult situations, and understanding the limits of his own capacity, bringing along a team and additional expertise when needed.

As a spokesperson for the church, Andrew has grown a wisdom, maturity and gravitas that is well received and respected both within and beyond the church. Andrew has been 'fearless' when engaging with the conflicted parts of the Church. He has engaged, understanding his role and its limits, and bearing witness to something greater than himself. Andrew has stepped into spaces where others have not, listening to the word of God on how the church should move forward, pro-actively choosing to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities emerging. Andrew has sought to act with integrity at every turn, holding the line where necessary, taking on feedback, adjusting approaches, and not assuming he is right because of the position.

As the 'Covid Moderator', Andrew was thrust into an environment where he had to learn very quickly, becoming a senior leader with the ability to examine, understand and adapt to diverse situations and audiences with speed. From the most remote congregations to the board room of UnitingCare Qld to chairing the Synod Standing Committee to speaking with journalists and politicians, Andrew has been able to relate sincerely to others, giving him the ability to challenge appropriately, offer care and a listening ear, or encourage and

promote new ways of being. His attentiveness to each context and person has never been compromised, and in fact has contributed to the insight and inspiration into the life of the church that has enabled better decision-making to occur. Precisely because of the chaos of the past 3 years, Andrew's insistence on continually reflecting on the experience of the Church in light of our faith, has meant that the core business of the church as being a missional people has remained front and centre.

Notwithstanding the impact of the Covid pandemic on the Moderatorial work of the past 3 years, Andrew's contribution to the life and mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, Qld Synod, has been vast, as witnessed in the following significant initiatives and events for which Andrew's leadership has been foundational:

- Championing a particular passion for social justice and advocacy, through some of the most collaborative, cross-agency and cross-synod submissions and policy statements to the wider community, including submissions to government consultations on policy and legislation around youth justice reform, voluntary assisted dying, social and affordable housing, anti-discrimination, decision making for vulnerable adults, and the Raise the Age campaign.
- Representing the synod in multiple public forums and roundtables with government and community stakeholders and being sought out to speak on social issues in the media and the wider community.
- Championing a deep heart and commitment to the synod's engagement with First Nations Peoples, specifically encouraging the self-determining reshaping of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress shape in Qld through 2 key gatherings in North Qld instrumental in the UAICC re-imagining its own future; and creating an environment in which conversations around the Voice to Parliament and the Uniting for the Voice campaign can be furthered.
- Facilitating the combined Presbytery-Synod Interface gatherings of presbytery ministers in a spirit of pastoral care, co-operation and unity, hearing stories and seeking to understand the issues of the church and helping to find solutions together.
- Rejuvenating and re-imagining the work of the ecumenical and inter-faith working groups of the synod in order to explore broader and sustainable ways to champion what is DNA for the Uniting Church
- Representing the synod through championing, challenging and investing in the work of Qld Churches Together, Heads of Churches, and the Qld Community Alliance to engage in deeper and sustainable community engagement that aligns with the calling of the church.
- Attending Easter Madness gatherings as a 'cheerleader of young people', listening intentionally, understanding and encouraging young people that their voice is valued in the church. This has been appreciated and respected by the young people of the synod, that the Moderator took the time to come out to be with them and pray for them.
- Travelling widely across the synod, visiting local congregations and communities across Qld for anniversaries, Moderator medal presentations, unveiling and launching new initiatives in presbyteries and bringing stories back to share widely.
- Hosting 2 Moderator's Convocations for ministry agents, highlighting the theological and missional approaches to the synod's policy on Voluntary Assisted Dying, as well as the need for a stronger and healthier approach by ministers to their mental health and wellbeing.
- Continuing the church's commitment to supporting survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, by holding the space of apology with the unveiling of the Memorial Gardens outside the Synod Office. Andrew showed his willingness to stand in solidarity with those in pain at this event.
- And at great personal cost, it must be recognised that Andrew has faced and managed, with great compassion and integrity, a number of public expressions of conflict emerging from internal and external disgruntled people, impacting on the public perception of the synod.

Andrew, on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia, Qld Synod, we pay tribute to and give thanks for your leadership, wisdom, humility and compassion, as you have carried the mantle of Moderator. Thank you for your dedication to showing us, in your words, "the ways in which the church continues, sometimes in the face of



adversity, to promote the gospel imperative to go out into all the world to show the love of Christ through word, deed and action.” As you have reminded us in one of your final reflections:

“Are we prepared to be confronted on our journey through life? Are we listening to the risen Christ and how he might call us in new directions, new possibilities in order to best use our gifts and abilities and, in doing so, serve Christ and serve the world. I pray that you will be open to the one who travels with you throughout your whole life, continually calling us to follow him.”

Andrew, as you continue in your ministry calling, know that you have served the church well, and may you hear these words deep in your soul, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’

Mrs Noela Lister

Noela Lister retired from the Schools and Residential Colleges Commission (SRCC) in December 2022 after serving there for 10 years, including as Chair from May 2019. In addition, Noela gave service to two Uniting Church schools - Calvary Christian College (2016 - 2019) and Shalom Christian College (2017 - 2018).

Noela’s breadth of experience in schools has been invaluable. Her commitment to Christian education – and young people more generally – has always been evident. Noela’s desire to intentionally grow disciples for Christ has been foremost in her mind. Her insight and wisdom have been appreciated and were instrumental during 2018 when the SRCC had oversight of the Shalom Christian College prior to its sale.

Noela has also served for considerable periods on the Synod Selection Panel, the Safe Church Network and the Lifeline Board in Cairns, before relocating to the Gold Coast.

Noela has seen many changes including 3 Chairs of SRCC and 5 Executive Officers. She has always enjoyed an excellent relationship with her fellow Commissioners and remains positively engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, both internal and external to the Church.

Since 2003, Noela has been a member of the Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, including as member and Chair of the Church Council and member and current Chair of the Mudgeeraba Uniting Church Op Shop Committee. She displays a collegiate and inclusive manner in her interactions with others and offers an independent opinion, supported by an openness to discussion.

Noela asks questions – a wonderful skill to have. She asks those questions others are wondering about but are just not asking. Noela asks probing questions and affirming questions and everyone benefits from these questions and their answers. She actively engages in debate, is constructive in her feedback and accepts the consensus decision.

Noela’s sense of humour and positive attitude were a welcome addition to any meeting. Her attendance at meetings always brought a smile – especially when she was accompanied by John! Noela is a great networker and knows just the right person to ask in any situation. Her passion for the Uniting Church and its members, along with her dedication to the boards she serves, is a fine legacy to leave.

Noela was respected and loved within the Schools and Colleges Commission and her servant leadership will be missed. We wish her well as she uses her gifts and talents in other areas of her retirement.

Appendix 4

Ministerial Retirements and Memorial Minutes

Minutes of Appreciation (Retirement)

- NOTES the advice of **Rev Peter Aay** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 June 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Peter Aay.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Pamela Batson** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Pamela Batson.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Jennifer Coombes** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 March 2023 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Jennifer Coombes.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Dennis Corowa** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1 (d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Dennis Corowa.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Nigel Damant** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 May 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Nigel Damant.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Saimoni Davui** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 June 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Saimoni Davui.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Dr Helen Dick** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 17 April 2023 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Dr Helen Dick.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Mary French** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Mary French.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Ronald French** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Ronald French.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Murray Fysh** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 May 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Murray Fysh.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Ross Mackay** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 July 2023 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Ross Mackay.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Julie Mackay-Rankin** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 June 2023 under Regulation 2.6.1 (d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Julie Mackay-Rankin.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Dr Wendi Sargeant** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 June 2023 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Dr Wendi Sargeant.
- NOTES the advice of **Rev Allan Smith** to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 September 2022 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1); receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Allan Smith.

Rev Peter Aay



The Presbytery of Central Queensland places on record its appreciation to Rev Peter Aay for more than 32 years' service in ordained ministry.

Peter Aay was ordained at Oakey in 1983 after responding to the call of God to commit his life to full time Christian ministry. In this placement he served the Darling Downs townships of Oakey, Jondaryan, Acland, Goombungee and Peranga until 1984 followed by placement in the Noosa Hinterland at Cooroy, Pomona, Cooran, Kin Kin and Eumundi from 1984 to 1989. Ministry and life skills prepared Peter well for the role of Director of Lifeline, Maryborough-Hervey Bay, which he filled from 1989 to 1997.

Moving on from Lifeline and believing his call was not to the prime South-East corner of the State, Peter and Gwenda accepted placement in Chinchilla from 1998 to 2000. In Peter's words, it was towards the end of the third year in Chinchilla, that he "received 'the hand of the Moderator'" on his shoulder, with the request that he accept placement in Central West Uniting Churches. Peter responded positively to the request, obviously answering the Moderator's prayer and resulting in a placement covering Barcaldine, Blackall, Alpha, Aramac and Jericho from 2001 to 2009.

As much as country ministry suited Peter, Peter also suited country ministry as revealed through his ability to communicate with and minister to people in this environment on a level which they have found pleasing and deeply meaningful. His effectiveness developed bi-lateral, life-long respect with peoples of these communities. Peter said he'd heard that the way for a minister to become known in a smaller town was to conduct a few funeral services early in the placement or for the minister's family to have a baby. Well, within two months of moving to Barcaldine, Peter fulfilled both criteria: Jayden was born in the local hospital and Peter had conducted seven funerals. What a way for a minister to cement his presence!

In his ninth year of ministry in this western settlement, Peter accepted a call to the clustered congregations of Northside Mackay and Seaforth. Commencing in Mackay in January 2010, Peter has ministered in this area through to his retirement. Peter has always given of himself in a most generous manner, expending well beyond the usual hours, in fulfilling his ministerial responsibilities and opportunities.

Congregations and those peripheral to the immediate worshipping life of the church have developed a love and healthy respect for Peter. Members of those families who are not regular worshippers but recipients of ministry through grief, turmoil or need have found Peter's ministry to be inspired and comforting in their lowest points of life.

In recognising Peter's service to church and God, we wish also to place on record the contribution of his family. Peter's wife Gwenda, daughters Rinalda and Yolanda and son Jayden have been enthusiastic contributors through their skills and God-given gifts. Their musical abilities, in particular, as well as their skills at puppetry and mime, have enhanced worship in congregations where Peter has ministered. They have become well known as a family that worships and contributes together.

There is no doubt that Peter's family has been a great encouragement to him in ministry. The sacrifices required within a ministerial family are many and so, through this minute, we also extend our love and appreciation of their willingness to support husband and father in this way.

The Presbytery of Central Queensland recognises, with great appreciation, 32 years of ordained ministry by Rev Peter Aay and thanks the Lord God Almighty for His call upon Peter's life.

We therefore rise in expression of appreciation, acknowledging your ministry and wishing you, Rev Peter Aay, a wonderful and long retirement.

The Presbytery thanks Bob Arnold from the Northside Mackay Seaforth congregation for presenting this Minute of

Appreciation for Rev. Peter Aay to our 2015 meeting. Since his retirement, Peter has been a faithful servant, returning to ministry as the BlueCare Chaplain at Homefield in Mackay.

An extract from Rev. Peter Aay's contribution to Journey on the importance of chaplains. They are everywhere – in the armed forces, at schoolies week, in prisons, hospitals, schools, aged care, universities, industry, the Australian Outback, police force and in sport!

Who are 'they'? They are the many paid or volunteer chaplains, women and men of all ages, providing emotional and spiritual care to people of all walks of life. They also often offer practical support in many and varied ways. Most of these chaplaincy services are provided by churches and spring from their call to share God's love with others in practical, caring ways.

Rev Pamela (Pam) Batson – Deacon



Pam was born into a Christian family and has been involved in the life of the church all her life. In the mid 1970's Pam attended NCYC and on their return trip the leader asked the group this question *You have had this experience, what are you going to do about it?* Pam believed that God was calling her to work with children and six months later Pam began working as a teacher aide with Endeavour.

A couple of years later Pam believed that she was to apply to study as a Special Ed teacher, believing that it was a stepping-stone to something else later but not knowing what. After teaching for 3 years, she began to think about some form of ministry and during a Bible Study was challenged to leave teaching and apply to study at Bible College of South Australia which she found as good grounding for later theological study.

Following two years study, Pam returned to Gladstone Queensland where she taught for four years while being involved in the local Parish as an elder. Following four years of teaching, Pam offered to volunteer full time in the local Parish for twelve months, later the congregation employed Pam as a Parish Assistant Minister where Pam continued to be involved lay ministry for three years. It was during this time that Pam was challenged to consider full time ordained ministry. After much discussion, reflection and being challenged by God through a Scripture Passage, Pam candidated for the Renewed Diaconate. Following her period of study within the Brisbane College of Theology, and a time of Supply Ministry with the Clermont, Cappella congregations, Pam's first Placement was with Centres for Retirement Living – Sunshine Coast and Maleny (now Bluecare) where ministry involved pastoral care, leading of worship and training of staff. She found that her experience and training as a Special Ed teacher helped her with ministering with people who live with dementia. Pam was in her first Placement for 11 years.

Pam's second Ministry Placement was a call to Coolum Beach and Bli Bli congregations and she was involved in ministry with both those congregations for five years until the decision was made that these two congregations would each have their own ministry agent. Pam continued to minister with the Coolum Beach Congregation for another five and half years. During her time in Coolum Beach Pam was very involved with the Combine Churches and together the local churches supported Chaplaincy at the local High School providing breakfast and food for local families who were having difficulty. The Combined Churches raised money for Western Queensland during the drought and forwarded the monies to a couple of different communities for the money for be spent in the area. They also set up a Spirit of Christmas where the local churches collected gifts for people who were struggling so they were able to choose a gift for each member of their family for Christmas.

Pam's third Placement was as a chaplain with Wesley Mission Queensland where her focus was pastoral care of residents, family and staff, and leading worship. With the onset of COVID it became challenging to find creative ways of pastorally caring for the residents, family and staff from a distance and also providing regular worship for them. Like many places worship was done online. Pam was involved in ministry with Wesley Mission Queensland for five years prior to retirement.

Over the years, Pam has also been involved within the wider church, being a member of the Mary Burnett Pastoral Relations Committee, Queensland Placements Committee and the Assembly Liturgy Commission. Throughout her ministry Pam has said that it was her deep sense of God's call to ministry that has enabled her through both the good times and the more difficult ones. Pam retired from active ministry after taking long service leave on the 18th of April 2023.

In retirement Pam is looking forward to being able to have time to read, reflect, spend time with family and friends, doing jigsaws and is hoping to do some travel in the future. Pam says, "I am very grateful for God's faithfulness and provision throughout my life."

Rev Jennifer (Jenny) Coombes



Jenny Coombes came into our presbytery with considerable teaching, chaplaincy and pastoral leadership within the Mary Burnett Presbytery. Ordained at Murgon on the 18th January 2014, her first ministerial placement was in this very congregation here at Longreach, commencing on the 1st February with her induction service on 14th February 2014.

Jenny, along with husband Peter, are a formidable team, and we will miss not only her quick thought processes, and quick wit, her attention to detail, and administrative skills but the example of living day to day the message of God and Christ Jesus.

Those talents have been well and truly utilised with the busyness of congregation life here in the central west; her association with people, guiding church council members with their responsibilities and extending further into the community with her work on Longreach Churches Together as President. This busyness continues into her association with people, guiding and supporting any new projects, or ideas. A favourite part of

Jenny's work is, of course, when she can flex her teaching muscle with Religious Instruction at schools.

Consumed by the need to help struggling drought-affected people and support them through the impact of a very long drought, she invested so much energy, first as operations officer and then as treasurer into ensuring vouchers were distributed and food and help was available to all who needed it.

Ephesians 4 : 28 reads that there is the joy of helping someone in need with the product of your own hands. God is working through Jenny's hands.

How busy Jenny's hands always are. Craft, while she is at meetings (how many shawls have we seen come to life at presbytery?), in the car, (not while driving), and at home she always has something new to show. In the garden and at local street stalls, the result of Jenny's busy hands is evident.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Go with our blessings, a tinge of sadness, and enjoy the excitement and challenges of your retirement.

Rev Dennis Corowa



Born in the northern New South Wales sugar cane town of Murwillumbah, Dennis moved to Mackay as a pre-schooler with his mother and stepfather. After his schooling he completed a painting and decorating apprenticeship and gravitated to the region's fast-growing mining industry, working in industrial coating before returning to his original trade.

In 1989 he began ministry among Indigenous people in Townsville. He worked with the legacy of Rev Charles Harris. Rev Charles Harris was a leader who saw the absolute necessity for Aboriginal and Islander Christians to be self-determining. Charles had the unique ability to bring Aboriginal and Islander people together.

A 5-day gathering at Crystal Creek in August 1982 was a visionary gathering, looking beyond what was to what might be. The development of an Australian theology relating to Aboriginal issues, challenging Churches to take action on these issues and developing a Christian commitment to the struggle of the First Peoples of Australia.

The following year from 22-26 August 1983 at Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island, Northern Territory, a National Conference inaugurated the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress within the UCA.

Dennis was involved with UAICC from 1985 and has provided significant leadership both across Queensland through Calvary Presbytery and nationally. He has certainly followed in the footsteps of Charles Harris. In January 2015 Dennis was elected as the National UAICC Chairperson after a year as interim Chairperson.

He is a father and grandfather who has co-authored two books on Indigenous theology and is one of the authors of Rainbow Spirit Theology. He has a vision for First Peoples to claim their strength and dignity, and life in all its fullness, and to struggle against all that stops people claiming that life.

Dennis was one of the indigenous leaders who was involved in the establishment of Shalom Christian College and Shalom Elders Village. He and Rev Shayne Blackman worked together to make that vision a reality. In that process Dennis was always careful to affirm aboriginal self-determination but he always recognised the vital importance of working together with the wider church which was not always affirmed by others. Dennis and Shayne would from time to time see things differently.

Dennis is a pastor who cares for his people and helps them towards fulfilling their goals. His long involvement in school and prison ministry has meant that many people when they were older or when they were released would seek him out at Restoration Inn both to say thanks and also when they found themselves in difficulties. His long and continuous role as minister at Restoration Inn has meant that he has been there for many Townsville indigenous families as they have shared the joys and sorrows of marriages, births, and deaths.

Dennis' family has been very important to him. His dear wife Roslyn died of cancer in the year 2000. Dennis of course continued to raise his 4 children from then and to support them in their life's decisions as well as being a loving grandfather when grandchildren came on the scene.

Dennis has always enjoyed a game of golf so now that he is retiring, his handicap is sure to come down.

*Carpentaria Presbytery
November 2022*

Rev Nigel Damant

After four years of theological study at Trinity college Auchenflower Nigel was ordained in the late 90's.

Nigel's first placement was to the Beaudesert Parish, as it was then called. This placement looked after five preaching centres: Beaudesert, Canungra, Rathdowney, Barney View, Lamington.

There were also two services, one at Wongburra, and the other at Star Gardens nursing homes.

Nigel recalls being very appreciative of a group of lay preachers to share the load and he stayed there for 4 years. It was a great time of learning the ropes with different congregation styles.

Nigel was then called to Buderim church and had a happy 9 years there. He remembers being able to visit Mooloolaba beach for lunch and coffee. He was fortunate to be called to Buderim when the church had just completed major reconstruction. Buderim had a very strong management team that helped to direct the church. There were two services on a Sunday morning. The two services mingled over a joint morning tea. The new sound system was barely adequate and so Nigel remembers secretly placing two new larger speakers on the walls this helped immensely.

Nigel was then called to the Redland Bay / Victoria Point churches, which were 5 minutes apart by car. While not being too sure why this was so he was told that originally one was Presbyterian the other Methodist that struggled to form together under the new Uniting Church of 1977. Whatever the case, both Churches did have their own identities, elders and church councils. Both churches enjoyed their independence but did get together for special services.

After a few years Nigel was called to Hospital Chaplaincy working in the PA Hospital for several years. Then, moving to Townsville, Nigel looked after the multi-denominational chaplaincy team and had some success in forming the team and for it to be positively recognized by the hospital management.

After 5 years of working at Townsville hospital Nigel accepted a call to be a chaplain at the Wesley Hospital. Nigel has worked at the Wesley for three and a half years and has greatly enjoyed working there with a great team of Chaplains.

Nigel retires at 67 years of age. He had wanted to work until his seventies but his body has called time to that. Nigel fondly remembers the ups and downs of ministry and can praise God for his ordained ministry.

Rev Saimoni Davui



Saimoni Vuata Binbun Davui was born on 13 December 1952 in Rakiraki in western Fiji. His great grandfather had been a missionary to Fiji from Tonga. Saimoni committed his life to Christ aged 15 and undertook studies at Delaira Bible School in the province of Ba, and Davuilevu Theological College in Suva, where he graduated with a Diploma in Theology in 1976.

From 1977-83, Saimoni served congregations in Nassau, Lautoka and Waya, and was ordained by the Methodist Church of Fiji on 1 August 1978. While superintendent minister at Coronation Church, Lautoka, he hosted the 1982 Methodist Conference. In 1984, Saimoni was sent by the Methodist Church of Fiji to serve in Australia. He moved to Sydney where he studied at the United Theological College for four years while serving in cross-cultural ministry with Pacific Island immigrants.

In 1988, he became the minister at Mornington Island, beginning a 28-year involvement in ministry among First Peoples. On Mornington, he supported the movement to homeland of the Kaiadilt people, one of the people groups on Mornington who originally came from Bentnick, Sweer and Allen Islands, known as the South Wellesleys, in the Gulf of Carpentaria. In 1994, the Kaiadilt were granted native title rights to these traditional lands and seas by the Federal Court. Saimoni also wrote a book, *Parenting in Aboriginal Communities*, published by Nungalinga College in 1991.

In 1994-97, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress appointed Saimoni as community worker and minister at Rockhampton. Here he helped establish the Bidgerdii Community Health Service, now a major Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled primary health care service for Rockhampton and Central Queensland.

Saimoni returned to Mornington Island for six months in 1997, before moving to St Barnabas Uniting Church at Napranum, where he served for 18 years. Among his achievements was working with the traditional owners to secure the Western Cape Communities Co-Existence Agreement, an Indigenous land use agreement between 11 traditional owner groups and the mining company, Rio Tinto. In 1999, he was part of a small ministry group which led a Christian revival on Mornington Island. He also received the first Moderator's Medal with the late Rev. Irinale Tadulala.

Ministry with Congress continued with his move to Zillmere in 2016, where he served for four years until he began long-term, part-time supply at Brisbane Fijian Uniting Church, Annerley, from February 2020 until his retirement on 30 June 2022.

Saimoni married Taranaivini Duri on 18 December 1976, and with a Diploma in Community Development she made her own significant contribution to the communities where they served. They had five children. In 2016, when Cyclone Winston devastated part of western Fiji, including the Davui family home, Saimoni and Taranaivini organised the collection and shipping of emergency supplies from across Queensland, and Taranaivini flew to Fiji to supervise their distribution.

Throughout his ministry, Saimoni was valued as a preacher, pastor, counsellor and community advocate. The Synod gives thanks for the compassionate, faithful and sacrificial ministry of Rev. Saimoni Davui and prays God's blessings and rest in retirement in Weipa.

Rev Helen Dick



Helen was born in Sunderland, UK, on 1 September 1953. She was baptised into the Anglican Church in St. Paul's Jarrow and when the family moved south to Essex attended All Saints Church in Hutton where she loved learning about God in Sunday School. Confirmation classes were the next step in learning more about it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Throughout her childhood Helen's family spent the summer holidays in Scotland and attended Worship services and Sunday School at Lonmay Presbyterian Church in Aberdeenshire. However, in her teens Helen drifted away from the church and faith.

She travelled to New Zealand early in 1973 anticipating starting University studies on her return. However, during this time in New Zealand Helen met and married Neville Dick and in 1977 they settled in rural Central Otago and subsequently had two children, Jenni and Chris. Helen became deeply involved in local community groups including co-ordinating the work of the local branch of World Vision and in that organisation saw the power of prayer, and experienced Christians at work to meet the needs of the hungry. In this environment God became real to her again and she became a member of the local Presbyterian Church. Helen's faith and desire to serve God grew as she participated in the work of the church in local mission and in leading worship of the Christian faith, she began some part-time theological studies with Otago University.

In 1990 Helen responded to a sense of God's call to ordained ministry and in 1991 was accepted as Ministry ordinand within the PCANZ'S Community Based Ministry Training path. Although, like all ordination journeys, the training presented many challenges she relished the learning and the opportunity to reflect on academic literature while actively engaged in the work and mission of the PCANZ, serving for a term as the Moderator of the Central Otago Presbytery. In 1995 she was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Cromwell Presbyterian Church where she had renewed her faith and continued to learn and grow and be challenged as she served Christ in parish ministry.

In 1999, Helen, Neville and their son Chris moved to Sydney to take up some work opportunities for Neville and Helen found work with Mission Australia's Counselling Services. This unit offered a range of telephone counselling support, as well as face to face counselling for refugees. Helen returned to her Anglican roots during this time, becoming a member of the Bondi Beach Anglican Church.

However, in 2003, funding for the Telephone counselling services dried up and there were family needs which brought Helen and Neville back to New Zealand, this time to Christchurch. Here, Helen combined a half time placement at St. Columba's Presbyterian church in Shirley with part-time administration work for the University of Canterbury.

Nevertheless, following the death of Neville's mother, the pull back to Australia became too strong to resist and in 2006, they returned, this time settling on Queensland's Gold Coast. Here, much to her surprise Helen found the opportunity to serve the UCA in BlueCare chaplaincy and quickly found it to be the

most meaningful and challenging ministry in her career, relishing the opportunity to learn more about what it means to form worship and pastoral care for people with dementia and to offer support and hope to families and staff in the midst of frailty suffering and dying. In 2008 Helen entered Masters study in Ageing and Pastoral Studies with CSU, graduating in 2011.

In 2012, shortly after being accepted into the University of Queensland's PhD programme, Helen accepted a call to serve as Director of Mission for UnitingCare Health, where she learnt about governance and the world of acute medicine in the inspiring work of the UCH hospitals. A particular joy in this role was a two-week trip twice a year to the Solomon Islands, with a team of UCH nurses who were offering their expertise and experience to the Helena Goldie Hospital in Munda.

At that time UCQ were immersed in the challenge of amalgamating the governance of the three service arms – Community Services (including Lifeline), Blue Care, and UCH. As that process reached its resolution, and needing to devote some significant time to completing work on her PhD, Helen resigned from that placement and accepted a call to serve as UCA chaplain to the Gold Coast Hospitals. As well as the immediate reduction in commuting time, Helen relished the opportunity to return to ministry in a pastoral care situation, and to contribute to the work of South Moreton Presbytery, serving on PRC and very briefly as Presbytery Chair, until the terminal illness of her mother in Scotland made it impossible to meet the demands of that role.

Following her mother's death Helen did some adjunct teaching firstly for Charles Sturt University and then for Robina New Life College, and later at Trinity College Queensland. Thus, in 2021 when she and Neville decided to move north of Brisbane to be closer to children and grandchildren, she was delighted to accept a call to be part-time Student Chaplain to the College and loved working in a context of learning and commitment to best serving the mission of God. She also served in short term supply as Hospital Chaplain at RBWH, the PA Hospital and Wesley Mission and for 3 months in 2022 as Acting Ministry Agent Co-ordinator for the QLD Synod.

In April 2023, approaching her 70th birthday, Helen retired from her placement as Student Chaplain at Trinity College Queensland (only to return in June to the supply role of acting Dean of Formation).

Personal Reflection

I am extraordinarily grateful to God for all that ministry has brought me, both the blessings and its challenges. I have had the privilege of working with and for people of all ages in an enormous variety of contexts, and to explore new and rewarding role. Chaplaincy, in particular, has allowed me to see the work of God in people's lives and to grow in faith and understanding of the love of our Trinitarian God.

I thank God for the many people who have supported me on the way. I particularly want to thank my husband Neville and my children for their patience and forbearance as their lives were so often disrupted by the impact of my call.

Rev Mary (Janie) French



After an active 'unpaid vicar's' life as a minister's wife, Janie answered the long considered call to specified ministry and was ordained as a Minister of the Word in January 2010.

Following training and formation at United Theological College (NSW), her first placement was in Lakemba where she served for close to 6 years.

City ministry gave way to a different calling altogether with a move to Banora Point (far north coast NSW – part of the South Moreton Presbytery here in Queensland). Where Lakemba had opened rich and colourful experiences in multicultural ministry, BPUC opened new chapters of a long held ministry passion in mission. With the congregation there, Janie spearheaded Mainly

Music and Messy Church and saw new generations of the community touched by the Gospel.

In late 2019, it was time for a move again, this time to St David's UC at Coopers Plains. As everyone's ministry story went, COVID impacted the plans for spreading out into the community there as much as was hoped, instead enabling new skills (with tech help from Ron), that made on-line worship work well.

Janie retired at the end of December 2022 and began a new raft of experiences as a part-time supply minister.

Janie's reflections

It wasn't that I didn't know women in ministry. I just grappled theologically with MY call as a woman to ordination. The call was undeniable, but I spent many seasons of my life interpreting it. Perhaps it was a call *with* Ron, but just as his wife. A help-meet role. That brought opportunities for youth and children's ministry, ministry to families and Bible Studies. A stint doing evangelism in the Promise Room at the Pavilion of Promise (Expo 88) stirred the call again. And then in Ron's placement in Camden Country NSW, I was recognised as part of the (paid) team as the pastor for discipleship and development, spearheading ministries that both served the congregation and drew non-churched people.

It was a reminder of a story from Acts 10 that clarified the direction God had for me. Why have you tried so diligently to call unclean what I have called clean? God hadn't extended a call just to block it because of my gender.

My call hadn't gone away. And the journey has taken me both closer to God and to a life that has been richer than ever I imagined.

Rev Ronald (Ron) French



Ron French grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney and had little to do with the Church, except that his favourite subject of the week was Friday morning, when an elderly couple came to the school to teach 'Scripture'.

He did not know at the time that he had a god mother (an aunt) who prayed for him regularly. His first adventure to Church was a few years later when Dad brought down the hammer. "You're too cheeky! Next week it's Sunday School for you!"

He managed to wangle out of going where his sisters went, and instead went with his grandmother to a church closer to her.

renewal

It was an Anglican Church and the first Sunday he liked it. Move ahead a few years when Ron went on a WEC Boys Camp and there invited Jesus into his life

A year or so later God came calling with an unusual offer. "Radio, journalism, ministry", He said. These are the plans I have for you if you are interested.

He was and within weeks of leaving school in 1963 he landed a job in radio. Fourteen years later, while still in radio, he began working as a journalist. And although Ron had applied to go into the ministry a number of times he was always knocked back, so he assumed that wasn't going to happen.

Then an unusual thing happened. It was a time when the likes of Amy Grant and Michael W Smith and David Meece and others were beginning to record Christian music and the manager of the radio station Ron was working at, invited him to step aside from journalism and go back to programming and include this new Christian music in the station's Top 40 format. And that's what happened until both the station manager and Ron were fired. At that point Ron, recently married, was now attending a Uniting Church and the minister of that church, when hearing about his sacking said, "Well, now you can go into the ministry!"

Seven years later, after completing one year at Albert Street as a student minister, Ron began six years as the minister at Crows Nest Uniting Church. From there Ron moved back down the hill to Lowood and Rosewood Uniting Churches. He went back to Sydney in 2000 and served at Camden and Camden Country, and then at Menai-Illawong, whilst also serving as chaplain to The Sutherland Hospital, before returning in 2013 to the Queensland Synod, where he served in supply at Burleigh Heads, Southport, St Andrews Private Hospital, and Beenleigh, before being invited to go into placement at Kingscliff in the NSW Synod.

In 2019 Ron returned to Queensland and served in supply at Banora Point, Ashmore and then Broadwater Road Uniting Churches until he concluded that supply and retired at the end of January 2023.

During the time of Covid he used his skills as a journalist and writer to minister to folk through blogs.

"I have been fortunate in being able to use skills learnt in my previous occupations to bless the folk I serve.

I have to say serving as a minister with God allowing me to bless, encourage and lead folk closer to Him, has been the highlight.

Of special importance was early in my time at Crows Nest when I discovered how to listen as God spoke. Everywhere I have been I have been able to draw people closer to Him, and for that I am chuffed."

Rev Ross Mackay



Ross has been involved in ministry all his adult life. As the president of MYF, Sunday school teacher, children's/youth leader and lay preacher. He often says he has held every position in a congregation except for being on the flower and morning tea roster, although he has changed the flowers and served morning tea! He has served on presbytery for over 35 years holding the positions of both PRC and MRC committee member, MRC chair, Presbytery Treasurer and Presbytery Chair.

During this time he worked in the family business where his ethical Christian values were on display to all.

In the wider church he has been a member and led Street Vans out of Wecker Road COC and held most positions in Gideons, leaving as area manager for 5 camps to become a minister.

Early in his walk with God at Sunnybank, the gifts of prophecy, teaching and administration were discerned, and he smiles as he says, "Unfortunately, I am asked to do administration mostly".

His call came long before he accepted it, leaving the family business in 2004 to start studying towards ministry. Shortly after starting as a student at Trinity College, he candidated as a Community Minister on his journey to ordination. Shortly after being accepted as a Community Minister, he candidated for ordained ministry. This required two periods of discernment. Being able to transition from community minister to ordained ministry and a candidate, he was in two streams simultaneously. He is one of a few ministers who can say they resigned their candidature as he continued from community minister into ordained ministry.

His community minister placement turned to an ordained ministry placement at Yeronga. After 10 years he moved to Victoria Point, then Sherwood and Ipswich. Completing the Intentional Interim Ministry course and using the skills as an IIM minister reduced the time in the latter placements which were both successful and stressful on he and his family. Currently, as Ross seeks to leave active ministry, he is supplying at Bulimba and is on staff as treasurer and property officer at Bremer Brisbane Presbytery. Ross' life mission has been, "in the strength of Christ, to serve without seeking to be served, to challenge the wrongful use of power, to right the wrong and to empower the powerless." He has no intention of stopping.

As he takes this step, he thanks his wife of nearly 50 years and family, without whose support none of the above would have been possible. Their care, love and wisdom have been his guide and his rock.

Rev Julie Mackay-Rankin



Julie was born on 23 November 1953 at Wellington Point, the youngest of four children. She attended Cleveland Primary and State High Schools, matriculating in 1970. She then attended teacher training for a time at Mt Gravatt Teachers College before travelling to the United Kingdom in 1973 where she lived for two years. During this time she met her first husband Kerrin, a native of Birmingham. In 1974 she returned to Australia and then back to the UK in August 1976. Before that time she felt a strong sense of call to Christian ministry. In October 1976 she and Kerrin were married in Birmingham whilst living in London.

In London they were involved with the Chelsea Methodist Church in Kings Road where Julie taught Sunday School.

In the latter part of 1977 Kerrin was accepted as a candidate for the ministry of the Methodist Church and in September of that year they moved into The Queens College at Birmingham, a joint Anglican and Methodist institution. Throughout this period and beyond it, Julie's own sense of call to ministry remained strong and continued to shape her life. At Queens she engaged fully in the life of the Queens community, both socially and liturgically, and undertook, as well, some theological study as part of her seeking to live out that sense of call. From 1978 to 1979 she was engaged in lay chaplaincy at the Birmingham University Hospital and this was pivotal in shaping the direction of her own ministry. In 1980 their first son Mason was born – sadly, he died in 2009 during training with the 2nd Commando Regiment for what would have been his third tour of Afghanistan – and his birth was followed back in Australia later by that of his siblings Katie (1980), Jared (1983) and Remie (1985).

In mid-1980 she returned to Brisbane with Kerrin and Mason, with Katie well on the way herself, after Kerrin had transferred his candidacy to the Uniting Church. For the remainder of that year they moved into a student pastorate at Deception Bay-Bribie Island-Caboolture. At the beginning of 1981 they moved to Brisbane where Kerrin commenced his time at Trinity College – where Julie's own sense of call remained clear – and a field placement at Merthyr Road Uniting Church under Rev Tom Scarlett. At the beginning of 1982 the family moved to ministry on the Tablelands and Kerrin was ordained in September of that year. Julie began her own ministry in the parish, working particularly with the youth group. This placement was followed by St Paul's Uniting Church, Mackay from 1985 to 1990, at Alderley-Ashgrove Uniting Church from 1990 to 1996, and then Oxley Uniting Church from 1996 to 2003.

Following the end of the marriage in 2003 she committed herself to studies in pastoral care and chaplaincy, working as a chaplain at a number of hospitals, including Prince Charles, Canossa Private and the Princess Alexandra. From 2007 to 2009 she worked as the admin officer with the L'Arche Community in Brisbane.

Towards the end of this period she suffered the tragic death of her beloved son Mason. She was also accepted at this time as a Pastor by the Synod Pastor Panel and at the beginning of 2010 began a placement with the Pastoral Care team at the Wesley Hospital. In April 2010 she and David became engaged. They were then married in September 2013 when he returned from his time with the Methodist Church in the UK. They chose to be known within the Church as Julie and David Mackay-Rankin. At the Wesley she served in Palliative Care and then Women's Health before becoming Manager of the Pastoral Care team in 2016.

In 2017 she finally decided to offer herself for ordination training and was accepted as a candidate in September of that year. She commenced study at Trinity in 2017, alongside her full-time work at the Wesley and, having completed her formation studies, was accepted for ordination to the Ministry of the Word and was ordained on 23 November – her birthday – 2019. She concluded her placement at the Wesley at the end of October 2020 and then took up a call to the role of Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team Leader, from November of that year, at Wesley Mission Queensland. She left this role on 30 June 2023 and moved into retirement. A good and faithful servant of her Lord, this is a service which remains a lifetime one.

Rev Dr Wendi Sargeant



Wendi Sargeant was born in Brisbane and grew up in The Gap, Kingaroy and Wellington, New Zealand. She is married to Rev Murray Fysh. Wendi started her working life as a primary school teacher in Caboolture, Proston, Torquay and Inala.

Wendi is a member of the Order of St Stephen where she served in children's ministry and resourcing campsites. This led to service in the Youth and Children's Ministry Unit (YACMU) as the Synod Children's Consultant. She was ordained in 1998 and ministered in the congregations of Albany Creek, Geebung/Wavell Heights, North Lakes and West End.

Having co-written the first Child Safe Church program for YACMU, (as a Brisbane College of Theology assignment), Wendi later worked as the Qld Synod's Child Safe Church Officer, whilst studying for her PhD in Practical Theology at The University of Queensland. Wendi has been part of numerous ecclesial committees and boards including the Assembly Standing Committee, Presbytery and Synod Standing Committees, School Boards, and the National Roman Catholic and Uniting Church Dialogue.

Wendi also provided ministry at Grace College, UQ as acting Principal, and in South Moreton Presbytery as Children's and Families Worker. Wendi enjoyed teaching Prep-Year 10 Religious Education whilst serving at The Lakes College as School Chaplain for six years, whilst also working as the Minister of North Lakes UC. She continued to Trinity College Qld where she lectured in Practical Theology – Apologetics and Evangelism, and Dean of Formation and Dispersed Learning for four years, as well as acting Principal for a further 18 months. Here, her thesis was published and has been used as a college text.

Following a forced redundancy from TCQ, Wendi served in West End UC and then for five years as Hospital Chaplain/Pastoral Care Coordinator at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, after studying Clinical and Pastoral Education (CPE). During COVID, Wendi wrote the Qld Synod's Volunteers CARE training/mentoring course for pastoral care in multiple contexts including congregations. She retired in mid-2023. Wendi is currently Academic Dean and Senior Lecturer in Practical Theology – Mission and Ministry at St Francis Theological College, Brisbane.

Rev Allan Smith



Rev Allan David Smith was ordained on the 16th December 1996, the vows for which he took very seriously.

Allan loves theology and is a student of the theology of worship, completing his Licentiate in Theology from the Australian College of Theology. He considers the theology of worship and the sacraments the primary function of the church. Allan places very high value in the use of Scripture in worship, preaching and ministry in general. Good biblical exegesis is a particular passion of his and the importance of members understanding the scriptures through worship, ministry and personal and corporate study is a high priority. He loves the format of the "traditional"

liturgy because it contains all the essential elements of worship in a logical way: Gather, Hear the Word, Respond, and Bless.

Committed to a model of the church and worship style that was constant, change was a word he chose not to use unless he had to. Conservative theologically, *Uniting in Worship* was his foundation.

Allan has a passion for learning and finds no greater joy than in encouraging others to facilitate that passion in themselves—particularly where it relates to their own spiritual walk. Seeing others grow in faith is a tremendously rewarding experience for him.

Allan is faithful, committed, solid, and responsive to expressed needs and although seemingly very serious, his sense of humour appeared more regularly than expected. Closer working relationships during his time on the Central Queensland Pastoral Relations Committee allowed us to experience Allan's sense of humour.

Allan's first placement was in the Wandoan/Taroom area from January 1996 to December 1999. Then, whilst in his second placement in Hervey Bay from January 2000 to December 2006, he connected with Rev. Brian Gilbert not realising then that they would forge a strong bond in the future. Fostering a strong team ministry there with Clive George, the congregation appreciated their productive working relationship.

Moving again to Dalby from January 2007 to December 2011, and then on to his final placement in Gladstone from January 2012 until his retirement in 2022, Allan continued to encourage his members to grow in their faith. Newly inducted Presbytery Minister Rev. Brian Gilbert attended a Joint Nominating Committee meeting at Gladstone who were meeting with Allan. A successful outcome was achieved, and he was called, and he came.

Allan was very supportive of the Tannum Sands congregation and assisted the congregation there when they were without a minister.

A much longer placement, a little over ten years, from where Allan and Dottie retired to Hervey Bay on the 30th September 2022. They now enjoy their retirement on the beautiful Fraser Coast from where they can visit their daughters and grandchildren, whose company they will enjoy with delight and contentment as they watch them grow.

To Him be all glory, honour, majesty and praise. Amen.
This consistently was Allan's final blessing each Sunday.

Memorial Minutes

It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod adopts the memorial minutes as presented concerning ministers who have died since the 36th Synod:

- Rev Sydney (Syd) Abrahams
- Rev George Barnes
- Rev Graham Brown
- Rev Ronald Elvery
- Rev Keith Ewin
- Rev Garth Filmer
- Rev Clive George
- Rev Phillip Hulme
- Rev Edward (Ted) Hutton
- Rev Ian Kerr
- Rev Arthur Lane
- Rev Iris Reedman
- Rev Lorna Skilton
- Rev Dr Walter (Wally) Stratford
- Rev Peter Taubner
- Rev Ian (Wally) Thomson
- Rev Raymond Thompson

Rev Sydney (Syd) Abrahams

11 May 1927 – 18 August 2023



Syd was born in Brisbane into humble beginnings in 1927. His father was a wood-cutter, selling wood for home use in the north-western suburbs of Brisbane. He attended school at Bunyaville and Newmarket Primary Schools, then the Industrial High School for one year to age 14. After school he worked as a telegram boy, a cinema projectionist and a bicycle salesman. It happened that he sold a bicycle to his Presbyterian minister's sister, Evelyn Pordage, which began a relationship that resulted in their marriage in 1949, when Syd was 21.

The Presbyterian minister, Rev. Walter Pordage, had sown a seed in giving Syd the idea that he may enter the Christian ministry in time to come.

Syd and Evelyn lived in Gympie in 1949, where their first child Greg, was born. Syd worked in a radio outlet during this time. In 1950, they moved to Bundaberg, where Syd worked for 4BU in the copy room. Here he became a Local Preacher, then entered the Methodist ministry as a Home Missionary. He was stationed at Harrisville, south of Ipswich, from 1952 for two years, where he served the dairy families of the district.

In 1954, Syd and Evelyn were transferred to Barcaldine in the central west. Here their second child, Jocelyn, was born. Syd would be away four or five days at a time, visiting people who lived on sheep properties. In 1958, Syd and Evelyn were transferred to Mackay, where Syd served a community of sugar-cane farmers. Here their third child, Glenys, was born. Having been a Home Missionary for seven years, Syd was ordained in February 1959.

In 1962, Syd and Evelyn were transferred to Brisbane. The Camp Hill and Carina churches were to be Syd's primary responsibility, but with his superintendent minister hospitalized with tuberculosis, Syd became responsible for Coorparoo and Thompson Estate churches as well, with the assistance of some supernumeraries. This was an exceptionally busy time for Syd, and his family saw little of him.

In 1966, Syd and Evelyn were transferred to Coolangatta, where Syd had responsibility for three churches in the circuit. Syd was getting exhausted now, complaining of being 'burnt out' before the term was commonly used. He felt the structure of the Church hierarchy was going to be difficult to live with for the rest of his days, so in 1968, at age 41, he was fortunate to find secular employment with the Lismore City Council as manager of their new cemetery and crematorium complex. He stayed in this role for 10 years, being well-received by his Council employers, and served on many Council committees, notably the Flood Relief Funds Distribution committee. He continued to preach in the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches prior to church union.

In 1977, Syd and Evelyn relocated to Kingaroy, where Syd was manager of St Aubyn's Hospital. Within a few years, clergy who were 'without pastoral charge' were urged to return to active ministry. In 1985, Syd and Evelyn were posted to Chinchilla, where Syd renewed his clergy responsibilities, and was given the nickname of 'The Boundary Rider'. Again, they were well received, staying until 1992, and acquiring a reputation for speaking up in support for drought-affected farming communities.

In 1992, Syd and Evelyn were almost ready to retire at age 64. But they eagerly accepted a request from Lifeline to provide counselling support to drought-affected grazing families in the central west, and returned to Barcaldine and Alpha Shires for that purpose. They continued this work for two years.

Syd and Evelyn then travelled to do a locum in Alice Springs. Syd was captivated by the sites of the 'red centre'. There were other locums too, in Warwick, Cunnamulla and Gladstone, as well as at St Andrews Uniting Church in Brisbane City, where Syd and Evelyn worshipped when they were in Brisbane.

Once Syd 'properly retired' to the Logan area south of Brisbane, he had time to pursue some personal interests. He became proficient in the world of ham radio, had a regular broadcast of light classical music on FM 101 in Logan, and became an active member of the Bustard Head Lighthouse Association. Evelyn pursued her interests in lawn bowls and gardening. And, of course, they could spend more time with children and grandchildren.

Syd and Evelyn remained active members of St Andrews Uniting Church, until Syd developed mobility problems after a fall when he fractured his hip. By this time, they were living in Nandeebie retirement village in the Redlands, but Syd could no longer travel the distance into the city. They transferred their membership to the Cleveland Uniting Church. It wasn't long before another fall created even more mobility problems, so at the age of 92, Syd and Evelyn moved into residential aged care at Regis Wynnum together. There Evelyn passed away in October 2022 at the age of 95.

Syd then transferred to live at Anglicare's E.M. Tooth Memorial Home at Lota in February 2023, and he passed away there in August 2023, at the age of 96. His daughters were with him at the time of his passing.

Syd is remembered as friendly, down-to-earth, generous and servant-hearted, with a particular affinity for serving people in rural and remote areas. The Uniting Church celebrates and gives thanks for the rich life and dedicated ministry of Rev. Sydney Owen Abrahams.

Rev George Barnes

30 December 1939 – 23 September 2022



George Norman Barnes was the only child born to Violet and George Barnes Snr. He was born on a bitterly cold winter's day on 30 December 1939 in Rouyn Noranda, a mining town north of Toronto, Quebec, Canada. The family emigrated to Australia 10 months later when his father was offered an opportunity to take his mining company operations abroad. The Barnes family found themselves in Brunswick Heads (northern NSW) where George spent his early years.

He attended high school in Mullumbimby and his senior year in Armidale. During his high school years, George participated in the Australian Cadets Corp.

In 1958, George attended the University of Queensland (UQ) following in his father's engineering footsteps. This led him to working in mines at Mt Morgan, Mt Isa, Broken Hill South and the John Darling Colliery near Swansea (near Newcastle). During his time as an engineering student, George began to take a passionate interest in the Presbyterian Church and attended St Lucia Presbyterian Church where he also taught Sunday School. It was in Ministry that George found his true calling and in 1962 he began his theological studies at Emmanuel College (UQ). As a student minister, George accumulated important ministry experience in a variety of settings and places all over Brisbane, Thursday Island and Gordonvale. During his final appointment as student home missionary at Virginia-Northgate-Banyo George took notice of a lovely young brunette who would play the organ during the evening services. Her name was Kay Kopittke and they married on 13th day of January 1968 in Virginia Presbyterian Church!

George was Ordained at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Millmerran in February of 1968 and for a man who struggled through his theological studies, Rev George Barnes' ministry life was extensive. It is highlighted by his many rural and city congregational placements, chaplaincy positions and involvement with agencies such as Boy's Brigade and Meals on Wheels.

During their three and a half years in Millmerran their eldest child Stephen was born. The church moved George to Toowoomba where their other two sons, David, and Tim, were born. It was during his four years in Toowoomba that George also took on Chaplaincy roles in the local hospitals and nursing homes, thus beginning his long-time commitment to chaplaincy ministry. The setting up of a Clinical Pastoral Education Program saw George contribute much to the development of other Chaplains.

From Toowoomba, George's next placement was St David's Presbyterian Church Ashgrove from 1975 for a period of ten years during which Ashgrove George moved with his parish into the Uniting Church at Union. From 1976 for eight years, in addition to his parish duties, he was Chaplain to most Brisbane Hospitals. In 1983, George served as state chaplain for the Boys Brigade where he also undertook training to become an Officer as his boys were also involved in the Boys Brigade at the time.

renewal

While George's Chaplaincy ministry began in Toowoomba in 1971, the latter years of his ministry life were spent in various Chaplaincy positions in and around Brisbane, working for Wesley Mission Brisbane, and many of the Brisbane Hospitals both public and private, with his last full-time placement being OPD Chaplain to Greenslopes Private Hospital from 1996 until December 2006. Also, during this time up until 1984, George served on the Inaugural Committee of the Herston and District Meals on Wheels after which he was elected honorary life member. George retired permanently on the grounds of age on 31st January 2013 after serving in a couple of part time chaplaincy roles.

George enjoyed watching cricket and was a member of the Queensland Cricketer's Club. His other interests included photography, being a handyman like his father, model trains and travel. The latter included attending conferences to New Zealand, Hong Kong and Toronto, as George was always keen on developing his gifts and skills. George was proud of his Canadian heritage, taking great pleasure in researching his Canadian roots on their several visits to Toronto.

In 2001 the first of four grandchildren were born: Stacey, Elijah, Josie and Craig and George was super proud of their achievements and supported them by attending many school and musical events over the years. The Church was George's *other* family and his ministry spanned over 50 years – a celebration to which was held at Trinity Grove Wilston in 2018.

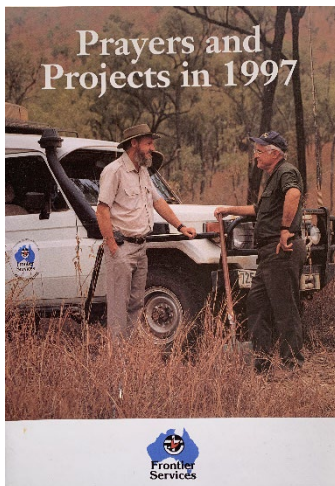
In his latter years, George struggled with mobility but despite this, he still attended church services, family gatherings and various events as able. In April of 2022, George enjoyed a last family holiday with the whole extended family. A memory the family will hold dear forever. George passed away on 23rd September 2022 at the age of 83 and a memorial service was held at Brookfield Uniting Church on Tuesday 11 October 2022.

George always sought to point others to the central reality of ministry. As St Paul said to the Christians at Corinth:

"...we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and not to us..." (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Rev Graham Brown

21 August 1950 – 21 July 2022



The Presbytery of North Queensland (now Carpentaria Presbytery) and Frontier Services have been blessed by the ministry of Reverend Graham Brown in Weipa and the Cape York Patrol.

He had previously served in the Presbytery, ministering in both the Tully and the Torres Parishes. After a time in the south, Graham returned in 1996 to take up his Weipa-based appointment.

Graham gave strong leadership and direction to both the Parish and the Patrol and so much more. His incisive thinking skills were of considerable benefit to the Presbytery and the wider church as he had the capacity to be aware of community needs, to develop an overall picture, and to express this in terms of future strategies. Graham fostered a sense of unity and community in the congregation at Weipa (which brought together people from approximately six denominations). In the Patrol,

Graham exercised a work of reconciliation, particularly in the Coen area.

Isolation can present many difficulties and stresses. Graham's love of computers and his expertise in this area allowed him to "survive", maintaining his contact with the "outer world", especially in the wet season. He was very generous with these skills, sharing them with many in the Presbytery. His overseas trips also provided him with personal renewal and added a dimension to his ministry.

Graham's practical skills were excellent and he shared these with the congregations and the Patrol. He painted the inside of a manse, so there would be a freshness about the dwelling for the new ministry in the following year, which would be provided by the Anglican Church. He was careful to prepare the congregation in Weipa for different approaches to worship because of the ecumenical partnership. The congregation was called St. Luke's Co-operative Parish. Whether he was riding his bike around the paths of Weipa or driving his four wheel drive in the vast patrol of the Cape, Graham was gracious, flexible and had a competent "presence" for our Lord in the isolation of that special part of the planet.

Graham also spent some time in ministry in NSW, Tasmania and the Northern Synod and retired to Tasmania. Graham leaves behind five children, 10 grandchildren, family, friends and many, many people throughout Australia strengthened by his ministry.

Rev Ronald Wilfred Elvery, L. Th.

29 January 1927 - 1 November 2022



The Reverend Ronald (Ron) Wilfred Elvery grew up in a strongly committed Christian family and as a young person he was involved in the rich variety of church activities in the Methodist Church.

His sense of call to ministry was significantly influenced by the ministries of Rev. H.M. Wheller and Rev Ivan Alcorn. He commenced ministry as a Methodist Home Missionary at 20 years of age, and served in the Ashgrove Circuit, 1947-48, in Blackall-Alpha-Jericho Circuit. 1948-49, and a further year in Blackall, having been accepted as a Candidate at the ministry by the 1949 Annual Methodist Conference.

In 1950 Ron entered the Theological Hall within Kings College which proved to be a time of significant spiritual formation and growth, both humbling and inspirational in biblical exegesis and the preaching class. He was ordained on 2 March, 1953 at the Annual Methodist Conference as one of a group of fourteen ordinands. His first appointment as an ordained minister was to the Emerald Circuit.

On 27 June, 1953, Ron married Eunice Hospital in the Archer Street Methodist Church in Rockhampton. Ron's ministry was wonderfully enhanced by his marriage to Eunice, and by their three children, Alison, Andrew and Bronwyn. Eunice, as was typical of marriage partners in those days, served in many capacities in support of Ron's ministry: including teacher and leader in the Methodist Rays and Girls' Comradeship, Church School Superintendent in the primary department of 120 members at Chermide. Her musical training equipped her to conduct choral groups. Her leadership roles in women's organisations included three years as secretary to the Australian Federation of Methodist Women and ten years as President of the Women's Auxiliary to Home Missions.

In 1956 the family moved to the Toowoomba Circuit, based on Raff Street where he served for six years. This period witnessed the beginnings of the establishment of a new circuit at Rangeville. In 1962 the Methodist Stationing Committee appointed Ron to the newly constituted circuit at Chermide where he served for four years. An All-Age Church School was begun which built up to an enrolment of over 500 with a teaching staff of over 100. During this time Ron became the President of the Christian Endeavour Union in Queensland. In the Methodist

Conference he was secretary to the Local Preachers' Committee and secretary of the committee responsible for the guidance and examination of candidates for the ministry.

In 1966 Ron and family moved to the Nambour Circuit, where from 1967-71 Ron was Chairperson of the Methodist Synod District of North Coast. His next move was to Enoggera in 1972 and he served there for three years, and then the Methodist Conference appointed him as Director of the Department of Mission and the General Superintendent of Home Missions.

This was period leading up to the inauguration of the Uniting Church and Ron played a significant role in shaping

the structures of the “new” church as he worked closely with Rev J Calder Allan (Presbyterian) and Rev K John Richardson (Congregational). He was a member of the Joint Planning Committee and became its co-ordinator. This group was charged with the responsibility of ensuring that there was no hiatus at the point of Church Union, and that the ministry and mission of the Uniting Church, called into one body from three denominational sources and traditions, would function with a minimum of stress and misunderstanding. Ron reflected upon this period in these words. “It was all new territory and along with others one often felt stretched to the boundaries of spiritual, intellectual and physical capacity. But they were exciting days, and one was aware of the support of each for others and the confidence that God was guiding this part of his Church in this way.

With the inauguration of The Uniting Church in Australia on 22 June, 1977, Ron was designated as the Director of the Division of Home Mission within the Department of Parish Services. Ron also served as Superintendent of the Department which brought together several other divisions including World Mission, Christian Education, Women’s Services and the Hospital Chaplaincy Commission. Finding cohesion for the department was an adventure in discovery and understanding, and was fraught with some creative tension calling for patience and grace. Ron valued the support of many and particularly from Brenda Burnett and Des Wall. In 1984 with a restructuring of Synod Departments Ron was appointed as Director of the newly constituted Department for Mission and Parish Services. Ron’s involvement in the councils of the church naturally included involvement in the Assembly, including the Commission for National Mission and Frontier Services. At the 1984 Synod Ron was given particular recognition for his selfless and sensitive service through ten years of change and challenge. During those years Ron also served as Moderator being inducted at the Third Synod in October 1979.

From 1985 until retirement during 1991, Ron was privileged to serve in the way that he particularly valued as minister in the Parish of Southport. The northern end of the Gold Coast was a burgeoning metropolis, and for the minister of the parish the exercise preaching, pastoral and administrative skills in ministry was “normal” practice. In 1991 after major surgery Ron and Eunice retired to a quieter pace, but nonetheless with active church involvement, in Middle Park.

Sadly, in 1999 their marriage of 46 years ended with Eunice’s health problems bringing her earthly life to its conclusion. Ron moved into supported retirement living in 2009. His death on 1 November 2022 has taken him to his eternal reward.

Those who knew Ron spoke of him as a quiet and sensitive man with a pastor’s heart, compassionate, with inner strength, a patient and perceptive listener. He was unhurried in his responses, choosing to analyse all aspects of a crisis or opportunity before speaking with authority and conviction. He did not shrink from painful situations and showed grace and wisdom in seeking peaceful and just solutions without compromise of principle. Single-minded in his obedience to God’s call to ministry he was steadfast, compassionate and faithful to this vocation.

To God be the glory.

Rev Keith Ewin OAM

21 July 1931 – 29 July 2023



Rev Keith Robertson Ewin was born in the bush hospital at Tottenham, NSW. With his twin brother, Angus, he was delivered by the first of Rev John Flynn’s ‘Flying Doctors’, Dr K. St Vincent Welch. They were later joined by another brother, Gordon, and all three became Presbyterian Ministers serving in the inland of Australia influenced by Rev John Flynn’s preaching one Sunday as he came to visit their local church at Condobolin where one of his early ‘border nurses,’ Mrs Aleida Carey, was their Sunday School teacher. Their parents and especially Keith’s grandmother, provided for them great examples of faith.

After leaving school in 1946, Keith worked for many years as a wheat and wool grower, managing farms in central NSW. He married Marjorie Hunter in 1953 and they had six children. In 1962, Keith felt a strong call to ministry while in his sheep paddock. Despite Marjorie’s death from cancer, Keith pursued ministry training as a widower

with 6 dependent children under 15 years. His first parish was Woodenbong, then Engadine where he was ordained in 1969 and in 1970, he fulfilled his dream of serving in the AIM at Katherine, NT where he was also a Padre for Tindall RAAF base. Between then and 1995, Keith served in the parishes of Croydon Park, where he was also a Police chaplain; Haberfield, and Milton/Ulladulla. Keith was awarded an OAM in 1983 for his work in Haberfield establishing the Ella Centre and L'Arche NSW where one of his sons is still a member. He had three unsuccessful marriages, overcame alcoholism, and finally met a soulmate and partner in widow, Elaine Weeks, whom he married in 1995. They enjoyed 25 years of happy marriage travelling around Australia and overseas to every continent, including their honeymoon in Antarctica. They finally settled 20 years ago to retirement in Beerwah where Keith continued to preach regularly with an engaging conversational style. He looked after the small congregation in Peachester for some years. He loved to serve Holy Communion and lead small group studies until the Covid shutdown and his health deteriorating in the final year. He was a dedicated worshipper each week, encouraging the congregation by his strong voice, practical pastoral skills and firm faith. Keith died on 29th July 2023.

Keith was a very caring pastor, deeply interested in theology and in study. He completed graduate diplomas in Criminology and Pastoral ministry while a chaplain at Croydon Park and taught part-time at UTC in Parramatta. His interest in Progressive Theology, particularly the writings of Marcus Borg and the Jesus Seminar, later merged into fascination with Quantum and Particle theories of Physics and the relationship between science and religion. The members of his book reading study group at Beerwah really appreciated his scholarship and willingness to challenge old philosophical ideas of early fundamentalist theology. His diverse cultural experiences in NT and in rural and urban ministry as well as his travels, broadened his mind and heart and his mantra was that we remember God is LOVE and loves all people.

Rev Garth Filmer

16 May 1931 – 16 June 2023



Garth Laureston Filmer was born in Brisbane, the second of Duncan and Bertha Filmer's two sons. His father, Duncan, was a home missionary, serving at Mt Tamborine Presbyterian Church from 1957-61 before being ordained, and this began a long association of the Filmer family with that church which continues today. Duncan and Bertha walked the length and breadth of Tamborine Mountain for regular pastoral visits and conducting services, and Duncan was affectionately called the Bishop of Tamborine. Duncan was well-read in English history (his library featured significant classics) and he enjoyed stamp collecting – the early years of Ivor and Garth were enlightened by “doing stamps” with Dad on Sunday afternoons.

Garth was ordained in 1957, and with his wife, Pat and their family he took up first appointment as superintendent of the Presbyterian mission at Mapoon, on the way spending six months at the Aurukun mission. This was a baptism of fire for the new minister: their time there (1958-63) was during a period of immense upheaval, controversy and tension between the Presbyterian Church of Australia and its Australian Board of Missions, the Qld Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs and its controversial director, Mr Patrick Killoran, and indigenous families at Mapoon. This led to the ultimate destruction of the mission and the forced relocation of all its residents after the Filmers left. Garth and Pat developed close connections with several of the indigenous families which continued well after the closure, and their children were also given Tjungundji language names.

Garth was minister at Stanthorpe Presbyterian Church when votes on forming the Uniting Church in Australia were taking place. Early in the 1970s, as in most Charges, there was little interest in 'Church Union', but the second vote led to all but three of the eight preaching places going to the Uniting Church in 1977. Garth then ministered at Burleigh Heads Uniting Church

Garth and Pat had six children: Alison, Catherine, Meredith, Ewan, Roderick, and Jennifer.

Garth returned to Tamborine Mountain in 1989 in retirement with his wife, Pat, and continued an active

association with the local Presbyterian Church until his passing on 16 June 2023.

The Qld Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia records its thanks to God for the faithful ministry of Rev. Garth Filmer.

Regrettably, other information about Garth's ministry was unable to be sourced.

Rev Clive George 20 December 1938 -



Rev Clive Thomas George was born in Rockhampton, being the youngest of four children born to Tom and Ivy George. Clive was a stellar student who attended primary and secondary school in Rockhampton. He was awarded the Thallon Medal for his Junior High results and went on to be school prefect and the lead in his high school musicals. Whilst at school Clive was also a Captain in the Cadets and attained the Queen's Scout Badge.

Clive attended Christian Endeavour later becoming a leader himself. As a teenager in 1956 he was asked to preach at a service led by the Methodist Order of Knights in North Rockhampton. Using a copy of the J.B. Phillips version of the New Testament lent to him by their Deaconess he undertook this challenge and in return had a profound conversion experience through the reading of God's word in a language he could more readily understand. From then on Clive's life was a biblical witness so that others also could experience the love, joy, and grace of God. While Clive felt a call into teaching, ministry, however, always remained a large part of his life.

In 1957 Clive attended Teacher's college in Brisbane and at the end of that year, Clive received a posting to North Rockhampton High School where he taught for the next three years. Lifelong friendships were made at Teacher's College, including one with a fellow student, Margaret Shelton originally from Murgon. Margaret and Clive were married on 7th January 1961 and began their married life in Toowoomba where Clive taught at Mt Lofty High School for nearly a decade. During their time in Toowoomba their eldest three children were born: Philip, Cameron, and Russell (deceased as a baby). Christopher was born in Mt Isa where Clive was Deputy Principal and daughter Fiona was born in Caloundra after they moved to another Deputy Principal posting.

Clive served over many years as Principal in locations such as Roma, West End, Maroochydore before becoming Acting Inspector of Secondary Schools in the Sunshine Coast District. In every town and city they were posted to, the George family were involved in leadership at their local church and became members of the local Choral societies. In 1993 aged 55, Clive resigned from Education and in 1994 became a full-time theological student at Trinity College in Brisbane for the next three years. His only full time Ministry placement was to Hervey Bay Uniting Church in the Mary Burnett Presbytery which he held for seven years. During this time, Clive conscientiously and faithfully ministered to his people, regularly making pastoral visits to those in hospital or at home. Clive was able to merge his two vocations, when appointed as Chaplain to the local school where he conducted significant courses with the students. His involvement with BlueCare in Hervey Bay came at a difficult time of regionalization and here Clive played a pivotal pastoral role in helping to heal the hurts of those who suffered during this period of massive change.

During his years in the Mary Burnett Presbytery, Clive was an active member within the life of the presbytery serving on the Pastoral Relations Committee among other committees set up for various purposes.

Clive's ministry was enriched by his wife Margaret, who also made a valuable contribution to the life of the church as she faithfully partnered with Clive and his ministry, during both his years teaching and in placement. At the age of 65, Clive and Margaret retired to Scarborough and became members of Redcliffe Uniting Church. Here Clive became a Minister in Association and preached extensively both at Redcliffe Uniting, and as Chaplain in the local BlueCare Aged Care homes and even had a four-month stint at the Capricorn Coast Uniting Church. Clive ran

leadership and pastoral training with various Redcliffe denominations and even created 'Evergreen' group for local retired ministers and for a few years likewise ran the Moreton Rivers Presbytery retired minister's gatherings.

Retirement for Clive and Margaret also centered around developing musical skills such as the mouth organ and the arrival of grandchildren, babysitting and family gatherings. Travel took them to many different places both locally and abroad by air, boat and self-drive holidays, often combining these trips to explore Clive's Irish, Scottish and English heritage. All the time Clive diligently documented these occasions with his camera. In 2012, they moved into an Azure Blue Independent Living unit in Redcliffe and by 2015 Clive's memory issues were noticeably increasing. In 2018 after a serious illness and a diagnosis of Dementia, Clive moved into the BlueCare Nazarene facility at Rothwell.

Clive was able to recognize family when they visited and was loved and cared for by staff in the Dementia Unit for the next five years until his death on 25th February 2023. Clive's favourite verse was from Paul's letter to the Ephesians 2:8-9 "By Grace you have been saved by faith, and this is not of your own doing: it is the gift of God – not the result of works so that no one can boast."

Rev Phillip Hulme

1946 – 10 January 2023



Phillip Hulme was, in his own words, a flawed but blessed man. At an early age, Phillip was diagnosed with serious kidney disease which would be his thorn in his side his whole life. And yet, despite the constant spectre of premature death, Phillip constantly beat the odds and served God with passion and prayerful devotion.

Ordained in Sydney in 1993, Phillips' first placement was on the Atherton Tablelands where he was charged with combining two former parishes into one. It was a time of unease and grief as the seven preaching places made ministry almost impossible for one minister to handle alone. Despite the pain of congregational closures and amalgamations across small communities with varying cultures and history, Phillip envisioned a combined parish that would provide robust mission and witness into the future. His love of the people, despite the hurt he encountered, led Phillip to engage in solid prayer for the people and the circumstances now placed upon them. Phillip's great gift was his powerful and compassionate preaching along with his ability to empower people into lay ministry and to prayerfully support them in their own faith journeys.

In 1997, Phillip accepted a call to Mooloolaba Uniting Church where again he provided the congregation with strong challenging preaching. As a result of this the church grew rapidly in numbers and was full. He had a vision for the growing church, as the current building was not big enough so discussion about redevelopment or relocation took place and some members of the congregation enthusiastically shared this vision. During this time, Phillip again encouraged people to develop their gifts. Two particular examples are those of Nigel Rogers and Jim Cochrane. Nigel was encouraged with his ministry gifts and has continued his vocation in ministry.

Unfortunately a heart attack and then a falling out with the Presbytery led Phillip to leave ministry and concentrate on a number of years in private business, while offering his gifts to numerous pulpits across the Sunshine Coast.

Phillip retired on 31st July 2007. During the following years Phillip was simultaneously diagnosed with throat, bowel and kidney cancer. After numerous operations, against the advice of his doctors, he refused all chemotherapy and radiation therapy and was completely healed. Phillip used his experience to write a book, "Cancer defeated" in order to both share his own journey as well as to encourage others in their own. Phillip ran numerous cancer health conferences and support groups where he taught the keys to self healing. Phillip's unwavering devotion to God's healing presence upheld him even in the darkest days of his suffering.

In 2014, one of his former lay people from the Atherton congregation whom Phillip had originally encouraged, Garry Hardingham, became Presbytery Minister of North Queensland. Garry invited Phillip to come to North

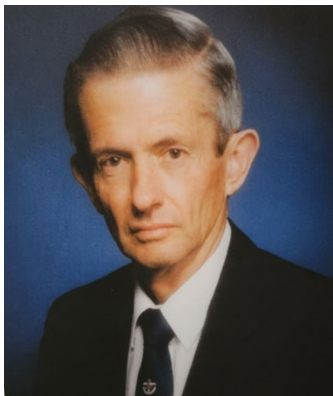
Queensland and again exercise his gifts of ministry. This he did in various locations such as Bowen, Mount Louisa and a particularly significant ministry in Wulguru, where, while establishing the Holistic Cancer Help Centre (HCHC) in the church hall, Phillip encouraged another lay person, Bruce McCarthy, to offer himself for ministry in the church. In every case, Phillip's powerful preaching and his pastoral care and visitation resulted in growth both numerically and spiritually in these places.

Phillip had a wisdom and clarity of ministry that attracted people to him. His ability to identify and promote gifts within lay people. While his long marriage to Margaret and his sons, Daniel and Matthew, were always strong anchors to which he clung, Phillip's greatest love was God. Phillip could be irreverent and even frustrating. He was a lover of good wine, stimulating theological discussion, fine food and a good coffee. But his heart was always for the people he encountered around him. While his ministry never took the path Phillip had originally envisioned, the church is richer for his tenacity of spirit, his skill as a preacher and his powerful presence wherever he exercised God's call on his life.

Phillip passed away on the 10th January 2023, aged 77.

Rev Edward (Ted) Hutton

17 December 1936 – 26 June 2022



Rev Edward James (Ted) Hutton was born the eldest of three sons to Vic and Maisie Hutton. His early life centered around South Brisbane where he was educated (Coorparoo State School) and went to church (Coorparoo Methodist Church). It could be said that Ted's ministry began here when he started teaching Sunday School in his early teens, later becoming the administrator of the Coorparoo Methodist Sunday School which, at the time, had over 400 students and 40 teachers!

Ted attended Brisbane State High and left school after his 'Junior' year when he worked for a short stint at the South British Insurance Company before moving to the Commonwealth Bank where he worked for the next 5 years. It was during this time that Ted fostered a lifelong interest in finance and administration.

Throughout the 1950's Ted was involved as a teacher and leader at camps held at the then Margate Youth Centre. The late Rev Joseph Tainton was instrumental in encouraging Ted, and a number of other young men, to candidate for the Methodist ministry. After six months of special training with Rev Tainton, they were now ready to 'superintend' a Methodist Circuit. Ted was received as a candidate for ministry in 1957 and his first probationary position was in Cairns under Rev Tom Scarlett. He attended King's College (University of Queensland) from 1958-1960 with vacation appointments at Kingaroy, Enoggera, and a supply term at Toowong for 6 months in his final year. Ted's placement straight out of college was to the Dawson Valley Home Mission Station in Theodore.

Ted met Shirley Burkitt in 1955 when she moved from Townsville to Brisbane for Teachers' College. They married on 1st January 1962 at the West End Methodist Church Townsville. Ted and Shirley then moved to Kingaroy, living at Kumbia for the next four years. Shirley was Ted's partner in ministry from the beginning, bringing her considerable skills and musical talents to their ministry together. Their two daughters, Rhonda and Sherrill were born in Kingaroy before the family moved to Maryborough for 2 years, followed by Charters Towers for the next five.

For a term of eight years, Ted served in the church at Fassifern and led the church through Union at this time. A placement at Sandgate from 1981-86 saw Ted involved with both the congregational and aged care work of the Parish. During his next placement at Moorooka, Ted helped the congregations of Gainsborough St and Knox join together and brought a Taiwanese congregation into the Uniting Church. Ted's last placement (from 1996-2001) was as congregation minister and Chaplain of the Wesley Mission Aged Care facility at Chermide.

During his ministry, Ted was a valued member and advisor for many Synod and Presbytery committees, including

Synod minutes secretary (for nearly 20 years) and Chair of the Synod Arrangements Committee. Ted served as member and as director of many Synod financial and property bodies in all their iterations up until his retirement from ministry in 2001.

After 'retirement' Ted and Shirley moved to Strathpine where they continued to be involved in the Church. He accepted relieving supply roles at different Churches when Ministers were away or where placement vacancies existed. He continued to conduct weddings and funerals until very late in his life. Ted and Shirley moved to the Blue Care Village at Lawnton as Shirley's health deteriorated.

Shirley died in January 2015 at the Pinewoods Nursing Home in Lawnton. Ted had continued to nurse her until he could no longer provide the specialized nursing care. Whilst living at the Village he led services, organised and conducted funerals and had the role of Chaplain until ill health meant he could no longer continue. Ted was the Moreton Rivers Presbytery's source of all knowledge and great helper in disseminating information to the retired minister's community. Ted's contribution to the life of the Presbytery continued until the end. He blessed many through his unwavering commitment to his Saviour and God and by his preaching and pastoral care reaching people across a range of ages and circumstances.

Ted received a diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer early 2022 and went to join his 'Father' in the early hours of Sunday June 26, 2022. Ted's daughters had to 'convince him' that he needed to go into hospital as he was showing signs of needing palliative medical care. He had attended the Bald Hills Uniting Church regularly on a Sunday, only missing the odd day when he felt unwell. Ted and Shirley were cremated and are buried at the Pinaroo Cemetery. Ted was a 'Minister of God', praying until the end with Rhonda, Sherrill and Sherrill's husband Scott. He leaves behind his daughters Rhonda and Sherrill, grandchildren Alexis & Mitchell and great grandchildren Ryan and Charlotte.

Rev Ian Ferguson Kerr (B.A. B.D. M.A.)

11 May 1936 – 21 April 2022



Gracious Father,
We the people of this Synod give you praise and thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Ian Ferguson Kerr.

You called him from an early age to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments and Pastoral Care in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and he responded with his whole being. Your Spirit endowed him with the gifts and graces for this work.

From 1956 Ian had several appointments as a Lay Pastor at Mt. Gravatt, Maryborough and Babinda while preparing for admission to the Theological Hall at Emmanuel College in Brisbane. While at "the Hall" he served as student pastor at Stafford/Everton Park from 1960-1963.

During those years he, together with his wife Pam, experienced an increasing sense of Call to missionary work in India. On completion of his studies and being "licensed to preach the Gospel" according to Presbyterian practice at that time, Ian and Pam were appointed by the Presbyterian board of Missions to serve with the Church of South India in the Madras Diocese after initial training at All Saints College in Sydney.

Ian was ordained in the Church of South India on 26th April 1964 by Bishop Chellapa, the first Indian bishop to be appointed to St. George's Cathedral in Madras. This was at the request of the Church of South India as it believed this would provide him with significant identification with India.

MINISTRY IN INDIA

Ian has written a book: *There's a Track Winding Back*, in which he reflects on many of his experiences as pastor to village communities; some of which had no church building, and communion was set out on an upturned woven

rice sieve in the village street with the congregation gathered around. He comments that one such service was among the most awe-inspiring he has experienced. In 1966 he was appointed as Coordinator of the diocese drought relief programme. He found himself appalled at the grinding poverty of so many millions and these images were seared into his consciousness.

He comments "the Church of South India had set my feet on the path towards a richer spiritual life ... a life which needed careful and disciplined attention every day".

ST. ANDREW'S BUNDABERG

Upon their return to Queensland for family reasons, Ian spent much of 1967 on deputation work for the Mission Board. Though disappointed at the apathy he experienced, out of that work came a call to St. Andrew's Bundaberg. Ian was inducted by the Presbytery of Maryborough on 8th November 1967 and pioneered with Rev. Duncan Harrison the concept of collegiate ministry.

Rev Arthur Lane

2 September 1934 – 6 May 2023



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Arthur's early Christian nurture took place in the Methodist Church in Western Australia. He was heavily involved in the Christian Endeavour movement which at that time was very strong in that State. His first experience of leading worship was at the age of 16. After study he was awarded his Lay Preacher's Certificate at age 22.

Sensing a call from God to the work of the ministry he enjoyed several temporary appointments as a Home missionary the first of which was to the Donnybrook Circuit. Following acceptance as a candidate, he was appointed to Denmark as a probationer. There being no Theological Training College in Perth at that time candidates were sent for training to various other capital cities.

Arthur was sent at the beginning of 1959 to King's College in Brisbane. The three year course enabled him to develop his considerable existing skills in the study of theology together with practical training in preaching and pastoral ministry. Arthur made the most of these years by enrolling at Queensland University in an Arts degree (majoring in theology and biblical studies) alongside his work at Kings.

He attended worship regularly at St. Lucia Church where he met Miss Annette Crellin, a high school teacher who conducted the youth Choir. Annette and Arthur married in December 1961 in the King's College chapel. Arthur was still regarded as a candidate of the Western Australian Church, so together they set out for Perth and Arthur was ordained to the ministry of the Word, Sacraments and Pastoral care by the Methodist Conference there on 17th October 1962.

Over the next 9 years he served in 3 Circuits in W.A. namely:

- Bridgetown from 1962-65
- Kellerberrin 1966 - during which he required sick leave and moved to Perth where he worked casually for the Department of Christian Education during his recovery; (Illness was to dog his ministry from time to time.)
- Maylands from 1968-69 which was part of the Mt. Lawley circuit.

Arthur's ministry was noted for its sound biblical preaching and teaching and his diligent and caring pastoral work. These were gratefully and joyfully accepted by those who received them. He also possessed a fine mind and his exposition of scripture showed careful and diligent study. The ability to express his thoughts clearly in both spoken and written English led to a very effective ministry.

QUEENSLAND

At Arthur's request he was transferred to the Queensland Conference at the end of 1969. So he, together with Annette and their 4 children, made the big move. BUNDABERG 1970-1974 was Arthur's first appointment. This was a huge circuit with many preaching places. Bundaberg congregation had set up a Blue Nursing Service and an Aged

Care Nursing Home. As well as his preaching, teaching and pastoral ministry, Arthur was heavily involved in these and also supervised the many lay people teaching Religious Education in the numerous state schools.

HOME HILL 1975-1978 came next and here of course Arthur was responsible for setting up the structures and processes of the Uniting Church and leading the people in a smooth transition. Combined activities with Ayr included the Burdekin Blue Nursing Service. Youth work included the development of Vacation Bible Schools to primary school children as well as much travel to schools for R.E.

In 1979 he accepted a call to the parish of CHINCHILLA. This parish came from an entirely Methodist background as the Presbyterians decided to stay out of the Union. Here again the parish had many preaching places; and in addition Arthur's responsibilities included supervising the work at Wondoan and Taroom at least 100 kilometres away to the North and Tara to the South. He established the Blue Nursing service in and around the town itself and acted as Chaplain in the ecumenical Order of St. Luke-a fellowship encouraging prayer for healing. This took him to visit various places around southern Queensland.

1985 saw him called to SOUTHPORT. Here he excelled in relating to the unchurched through the experimental Parish Family centre where hundreds came weekly for leisure activities. Arthur involved himself in community activities such as Rotary, Apex, Alcoholics Anonymous and Adult Literacy, believing that as a minister of the Gospel, he could present Christ and his church to the community.

STANLEY RIVERS 1987-1995 was his last Placement before retirement on the grounds of health. It included the towns of Kilcoy, Woodford, Peachester and Mt. Mee requiring much travel to smaller places. As always, Arthur retained his strong commitment to sound biblical preaching and the spiritual growth his people through his own close walk with Christ.

RETIREMENT did not see the last of a ministry covering 33years post ordination and several years prior as a Home Missionary; for as his health improved he completed a course in Hospital Chaplaincy and served as a volunteer chaplain to the Mater Hospital in Brisbane for 9 years. He and Annette settled in the family home at St.Lucia and joined the Indooroopilly congregation where for a number of years he wrote a devotional reflection on the lectionary readings for the weekly newsletter.

"Arthur was a thinker and a scholar." confessed one of his children. He furnished his mind with a wide range of reading as well as deep theological and biblical studies. He was disciplined and orderly in his life and work.

He had a fine sense of humour-quirky and with a tinge of cynicism. It was not always evident on first meeting him - often presented with a "dead pan" face. He was a storyteller whether in theatrical performance or in bedtime stories to his children coupled with changes of voice for various characters. He was fine musician in both choral and instrumental works playing the tenor horn in various bands.

With Annette their home provided a stable base for their four children, Peter, Margaret, David and Alison, who in turn brought much joy to their parents. Arthur's ministry owed much to Annette with her warm outgoing personality and to her loving pastoral work among the people to whom Arthur ministered with grace and dignity.

The Church gives thanks to God and to Arthur and Annette, his faithful servants, for the love, joy, peace and hope they have brought to so many of the people of God.

Rev Iris Reedman

13 December 1942 – 15 June 2022



Iris was born in Bundaberg and her faith journey began from that day (or even before) because she always knew that God loved her. Iris' family was always involved in their local church initially at the Barolin Street Methodist Church and later at the newly established Walkervale Methodist Church. Iris attended Sunday School, Christian Endeavour, Rays and Comrades, and youth group, taking leadership roles in each from time to time. During her late teens Iris also became a credited Local Preacher.

After graduating from high school in 1958, Iris attended the Kelvin Grove Teachers' College and resided at Raymont Lodge, Auchenflower. Following her graduation in 1960 as a primary school teacher, Iris was appointed to the Walkervale State School and later Sharon State School outside Bundaberg.

Teaching was always dear to Iris' heart but finally she heeded God's call and offered herself for full-time service as a Deaconess in the Methodist Church. In 1969 she entered the Methodist Training College at Kangaroo Point where it was a privilege to be guided by the Rev Cyril Alcorn. Formal training was for two years during which time Iris gained practical experience in circuit life by working part-time within the Logan and East Ipswich Methodist Churches. Weekends of Witness up and down Queensland were always times of inspiration and growth.

Following graduation, Iris was appointed as Deaconess and second ministry agent to the Fassifern Cooperative Parish, Boonah which comprised Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregations churches stretching from Peak Crossing in the north to Carney's Creek in the south. While in this parish Iris completed her probationary period and was ordained as a Deaconess on 22 October in the Albert Street Methodist Church during the annual conference.

In 1974 (during the flood), Iris eventually arrived at Innisfail as second agent to the Tully-Innisfail Methodist Circuit which stretched from Cardwell to Innisfail and Mission Beach. This was an exciting but challenging time leading up to church union. The Methodist church building was closed in June 1976 and combined services were held in St Andrew's Presbyterian church. With the formation of The Uniting Church in Australia on the 22 June 1977, Iris became the sole ministry agent in St Andrew's Uniting Parish.

In 1979, Synod appointed Iris as second agent to the Stanthorpe Uniting Church where she spent two very happy years in ministry from Dalveen to Wallangarra. Time was running out for Deaconesses to do a bridging course of further study to qualify as a Minister of the Word so Iris returned to Brisbane to attend Trinity College.

Following completion of these studies, Iris was appointed in 1982 to the Kingaroy Uniting Church as second agent initially and then as sole ministry agent. On the 31 July 1982 in the Kingaroy Uniting Church, Iris was ordained as a Minister of the Word by the Presbytery of Mary Burnett. Being her first placement Iris was permitted to stay only for three years but God continued to unfold his plan for her life. In 1985 Iris applied and was accepted as the first full-time chaplain to Moreton Bay College, Brisbane, where she remained for 10 years. This was an exciting time in the life of the college as it relocated from Bay Terrace, Wynnum to Wondall Road, Manly West and grew in numbers from 300 girls to over 1000.

In 1995, Iris accepted a call to Stephens Uniting Church, Yeronga, as the second ministry agent and as sole agent from 1997. During this time the very challenging question of property needed to be addressed. After much prayer, pain and perseverance, Cracknell Road property became home for Stephens Fijian congregation; St Giles, Yeerongpilly, was sold, and the Yeronga site was redeveloped. Stephens Ministry Centre was officially opened and dedicated on 3 June 2001.

The final phase of Iris' working life began in January 2003 when she accepted a call to chaplaincy at the Princess Alexandra and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospitals (RBWH). For seven years, Iris split her time between the two. In 2010 her placement changed and she became the full-time chaplain at RBWH and the Children's hospital until her retirement on 31 December 2018.

Beyond her normal pastoral responsibilities, Iris served on various committees in the several Presbyteries in which she was placed and has mentored others with empathy and understanding. During almost 50 unbroken years of ordained ministry, Iris served the church with humility and faithfulness, using her wide experience and highly developed skills in teaching, preaching, pastoral care and music to the glory of God.

Reverend Iris Reedman passed away on June 15, 2022. She was 79 years old.

Rev Lorna Skilton

21 March 1943 – 10 June 2023



Lorna was born to Noreen and Herb Matthew. Noreen was a bookkeeper and Herb a clerk who was serving in the Bougainville Campaign against the Japanese army.

After the war, the family moved to a house in Coorparoo which was their home for many years. Lorna's brothers, Ian and Noel, were born and the family became a close suburban family. Lorna always spoke well of her parents and only criticised her brothers for teasing. Lorna was a quiet child who spent much time reading. She attended Coorparoo State School and was part of the inaugural class at Cavendish Road High.

During her high school years, Lorna became a member of the Presbyterian Church which became the touchstone of her life. From leadership roles in the local congregation, Lorna became secretary of the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia

which led over 10,000 Queensland youth.

She studied to become a teacher and taught at the Manly West State School. During this time, she felt a call to ministry and set out to Rolland House in Melbourne in order to become a deaconess. After graduating from the three-year course, Lorna served as Deaconess in the congregations at Mt Gravatt, Brisbane and St Stephens, Toowoomba. At this time Lorna married Ron Skilton and they began a 54-year journey together. They met when they were leaders at a children's camp at Alexandra Park (on the Sunshine Coast). Lorna discovered a photo taken at a youth camp a few years earlier where she was able to name every one of the 154 participants except one. Ron had not made a great first impression!

Two beautiful babies, Kelly and Lindsay, were born and the family was formed.

Life settled into a regular pattern for the next 12 years. The family moved to Cambooya to give the kids a country-style upbringing on a bigger block. Lorna never milked a cow, chopped a block of wood or mowed a blade of grass, but she studied hard, completing a Bachelor of Education and a Graduate Diploma in Special Education! She was an outstanding teacher giving 13 years to the Cambooya State School. Her abilities were recognised and she was made Principal of Vale View State School.

Lorna maintained strong connections with the church by leading the local congregation and being a representative to Presbytery. She experienced a further call to ministry. Because of all her hard work she was made a Minister of the Word.

Lorna was a minister of the Eastern Downs Parish. She was offered the opportunity to be hospital chaplain for the Presbytery of the Downs. It was in this position that she found her true vocation and was able to use her considerable pastoral, organising and teaching skills. With Lyn Cash and

John Mahoney, a model for the delivery of care in a secular setting was developed. It was supported by a training program and both became best-practice across Australia.

During this time, the family grew bigger when Andrew married Kelly and Yukiko married Lindsay. Later the births of Chloe and Maya gave Lorna immense pleasure being a grandma.

After her retirement, Lorna continued to serve as a mentor and she wrote about feminist theology and social justice matters where she became a strong advocate. Unfortunately, Lorna's health has been a determining factor in her life. She had a number of chronic conditions such as diabetes and a huge scoliosis. Four years ago, her health deteriorated rapidly and she needed full time care.

Lorna was highly intelligent and compassionate. She was a loved mother, grandmother and wife. She will be greatly missed but is now at peace with her God.

Rev Dr Walter Stratford

1932 – 20 May 2023



Reverend Dr Walter Blair Stratford, or Wally as he was universally known (to his family he was always Walt or Walter) was born in Port Pirie, South Australia in 1932.

The son of an Air Force serviceman, Reverend Stratford grew up in Adelaide and Melbourne, the second of three children.

Many of his years growing up were spent during World War II, with a young reverend-to-be collecting papers and donating pewter cups from his family to the school to support the war effort, receiving merit badges in return. In 1948, Reverend Stratford began an apprenticeship as a fitter at the BHP aluminium smelter in Port Pirie. During this time, he was involved in the Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Fellowship Association (PFA), attending youth camps and teaching at Sunday School.

In 1954, Reverend Stratford finished his apprenticeship, married his love Mary and after jobs with the State Electricity Commission in Mt Beauty and the railways in Port Augusta, realised in 1956 his vocation in life was not in diesel automotive maintenance, but elsewhere. So, he headed to Aurukin in Far North Queensland to work as a Technical Assistant Missionary.

After North Queensland, Reverend Stratford was a Home Missionary in Gawler, South Australia; in Meredith, Victoria; and a student minister in Melbourne. Studying ministry at Melbourne's Ormond College, Reverend Stratford was ordained to the ministry in December 1963 at Scots Church, Adelaide and commissioned as a missionary in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu). Now with a young family, a new adventure emerged as they lived on the island of Tanna in the shadow of the constantly rumbling sometimes erupting Mt Yasur volcano.

Returning to Australia in 1966, Reverend Stratford worked in the Latrobe Valley, the Dandenong and as the Christian Education Officer for North Queensland in Townsville. During his time at the Church in Dandenong from 1975 to 1983, Reverend Stratford experienced the historic process of Union which saw the Methodist Church and the majority of the Presbyterian Church join to form the Uniting Church.

In 1983, Reverend Stratford came to Brisbane where he was Executive Secretary for the Queensland Ecumenical Council. This role included being on staff for the Australian Council of Churches and state representative for World Christian Action, with the Christmas Bowl Appeal as the major fundraiser. He also travelled to West Africa and Indonesia.

A change in position in 1989 saw Reverend Stratford move to the Wesley Hospital as Chaplain, where he spent most of this time working in the Oncology Ward. Here he wrote his thoughts and reflections of his experiences and the people he met which he published in various books.

During 1995 he was granted a scholarship to read for four weeks at St Deiniol's Library in Hawarden, Wales. After he retired from the Wesley Hospital and at the sprightly age of 70 years, another adventure awaited with Reverend Stratford and Mary accepting a one year appointment at the Methodist Church in the Sydenham area, south of London.

renewal

A conscientious scholar, throughout the years Reverend Stratford completed a Diploma of Religious Education, a Bachelor of Arts from Monash University, and a Masters of Literary Studies from the University of Queensland. On his return from England, he completed a Master of Theology at the Brisbane College of Theology. An avid writer of books and poems, Reverend Stratford authored *Journey to Somewhere*, *A Long Time to Wait*, *Why are you here Elijah?* and *The Art of Interfaith Spiritual Care*. In 1995 he also wrote *to Live Each Day* which is a collection of stories from people with cancer.

After 45 years of service, Reverend Stratford wrote in his retirement minute about the importance of knowing yourself, your skills and gifts, and making this a lifetime task. A compassionate and generous man in all his actions, Reverend Stratford passed away on 20 May 2023. He was 90 years old.

Rev Peter Taubner

21 January 1958 - 18 October 2022



Peter's involvement in the Church began in the Toowong Methodist Circuit, which then became part of the Toowong Uniting Church Parish. Peter did the whole gamut from being a Sunday School student, moving to SS teacher, then Youth Group member and Leader. He was confirmed only a few weeks after the Uniting Church came into being in 1977. Peter was prompted to consider entering the Youth + Education Assistant Course. In order to prepare for this, he did a year of service under the Order of St Stephen with the UCA Department of Christian Education.

The Y.E.A. Course was an apprenticeship style process with weekly study at Alcorn College at Kangaroo Point, in Brisbane, and a part-time work component. During the 3 year course he was linked in 1980-81 to the Fassifern (Boonah area) Parish and in 1982, the Coffs' Harbour (NSW) Parish. On Graduation, he was appointed to Ipswich Central Parish Mission as Youth Worker. Other places Peter worked as a Youth

Worker were Holland Park, The Gap ; Mudgeeraba (Gold Coast hinterland); Stanley River (Kilcoy area); Caboolture; and Beenleigh (between Brisbane and the Gold Coast). He also did a stint of Youth Worker Supply in Maryborough over a two month period.

After having worked as a Youth Worker in the Uniting Church for over 20 years, Peter candidated as a Minister of the Word, from the congregation of Beenleigh. After a little over three years of further study at Trinity Theological College, in Auchenflower in Brisbane, and some Supply Ministry and Field Work in the congregations of Kalbar + Peak Crossing, Peter was Ordained as a Minister of the Word in July 2007.

He was then Inducted as a Ministry Intern, into the congregations of the Dawson and Callide Valleys later that same month.

In mid-2009, Peter's ministry responsibilities in the Callide Valley, centred around Biloela, ceased and he became involved full-time with the Dawson Valley cluster of congregations, based in Moura, and with responsibilities in Theodore, Banana + Baralaba.

In October 2010, Peter was 'called' to the Isis Congregations in the Mary Burnett Presbytery, which focused on the townships of Childers, Biggenden and Woodgate. For the last six months of 2015, Peter's time in Isis was reduced and, as a pilot program, he was seconded as a Resource Minister helping out the Central Burnett UC congregations of Gayndah, Mundubbera + Eidsvold.

Early 2016, saw Peter relocate to the Rosewood-Haigslea congregations, also with a link to Walloon. In March 2019, his time in the Rosewood cluster was reduced by 50%, and Peter commenced a Presbytery placement at Trinity UC, Ipswich, where he was an integral part of assisting the Ipswich churches towards amalgamation as one congregation.

After being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor in mid 2021, Peter retired early on medical grounds. Peter died on 18th October 2022.

Rev Ian (Wally) Thomson

d. 1 February 2023



Gracious Father,

We the people of this Synod give you praise and thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Rev Ian “Wally” Thomson.

Early life

Born from a cattle station to Doris and William Thomson, Wally was the 4th of 4 boys. The Station was 80km from Cloncurry and encompassed approximately 1million acres. His early years were formed by stockmen who invested their time in his development and fostered a love of the land. Homeschooled until attending Brisbane Boys College as a boarder from age 13, Wally thrived at BBC becoming School captain in 1951 and an avid sportsman involved in boxing, swimming, and captaining the rowing and rugby teams.

A call to ministry: Wally left school with an interest in discerning a call to Ministry. On the advice of his mentor Rev Dr Fred McKay (then of the Royal Flying Doctors Service), Wally took a year to reflect and returned from working in the stockyard to study a Bachelor’s degree in psychology to then pivot to theology at Emmanuel College in 1956.

Ordained as a Minister in 1959, Wally began his service to the church as Interim superintendent at Weipa Mission in Cape York before becoming a Padre for Kennedy Patrol of Australian Inland Mission where he married Faith and continued to minister in this way until he was 33.

Serving the church: From 1966 to 1970 Wally and Faith served from Katherine as the Chaplain for the then Presbyterian church before moving to a chaplaincy position at Scots College in Adelaide.

Wally was in Adelaide for 30 years working at Scots College as well as Westminster School and Pulteney Grammar School, combining English, history and religious education with “Outward Bound” bush experiences like camping and fishing for children who’d only experienced city life in Adelaide. Wally also served in interim placements with Plympton Park, Unley and Mitcham congregations. Last 10 years were spent helping the needy in hospitals until Faith suffered a heart attack in the late 1990s and passed away in 2001.

Later life: In his late 60s Wally reconnected with a family friend, Sheila who had lost her husband in 1999 and their courtship led to marriage in June 2002. The last 20 years of his life were spent volunteering as chaplain at the Wesley Hospital and the Royal Brisbane Hospital and retirement, gardening and greatly enjoyed spending his retirement with Sheila.

Rev Raymond Thompson

29 October 1937 – 21 December 2022



Raymond Lionel Thompson was born in East London, South Africa to parents Daniel and Irene Thompson. The best part of his early life was spent with his parents and younger two sisters in East London where Raymond (Ray) enjoyed playing cricket, rugby union and tennis and honed his natural talent for music by learning the piano and E flat Tuba. His love for music became an important part of his life. Raymond's family were all very much involved with the local Presbyterian Church, and this is where he attended Sunday School, Christian Endeavour, confirmation classes and Youth Fellowship. A time that Ray reflected helped to shape his forty years of ministry!

Though Ray initially pondered studying medicine and participating in the Cape Town University jazz scene after he left school, he ended up working in a copper mine in Zambia as there was not the finances to support three children in tertiary studies. During his time in Zambia, Ray formed the first church youth group in the mining town of Nkana and preached for the first time at the grand age of 18 in front of three retired ministers and an entire mission station staff! In 1958 in response to God's calling Ray commenced training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa and Rhodes University, Grahamstown. During this time, Ray met Beryl Thorp and they were married on 16th December 1961 in the St George's Presbyterian Church, East London, South Africa. Ray was ordained on 23rd February 1963 and served four appointments in South Africa: Newcastle, Cape Town, Vereeniging and Durban. It was during this time that daughters Sandra and Leigh-Ann were born.

A chance encounter with Rev John Pender from Melbourne Australia led Ray to take up an invitation to become the 'Christian Education Enabler' in Shepparton, Victoria. This placement meant working with five methodist and presbyterian churches in the year approaching church union. Due to an unexpected retirement of one of the local ministers, Ray was appointed to the joint charge of Mooroopna, Undera and Ardmona in January 1977.

In 1982, Ray accepted a call to the Queensland Synod, becoming the Consultant for Evangelism and Discipleship and in 1984 was one of six Australians to conduct New World Missions in Detroit, White Bear Lake and Chicago. In 1986 Ray was appointed as Moderator-Elect and during his first year at Saint Andrew's church in the city was inducted as Moderator – the term he completed whilst being in full time placement. Ray was an integral part of Brisbane's Expo and Bicentennial events during his term as Moderator and he remained at Saint Andrews until 1994 when he accepted a call to Emmanuel parish Enoggera commencing in January 1995.

Ray's time at Enoggera came at a critical point – the amalgamation of three churches into becoming one Emmanuel Uniting Church in November 1996. His vision, leadership and wisdom were among the greatest contributing factors to the positive way the churches were able to combine, and his caring and sensitive support was much appreciated. Ray retired on the grounds of age on 31st October 2002.

It was the gifted quality of Ray's preaching that will remain part of his legacy. His sermons were scriptural, relevant, challenging and Holy Spirit inspired and well received by people of all ages. He lived out his vision to empower God's people to use their God given gifts in ministry both within the church and in their everyday lives. Ray and Beryl spent many years being homestay parents for students and he was always ready to lend support and encouragement to his colleagues and many remember him as a teacher, mentor, protector and most of all – a good friend.

Beryl was a great support to Ray throughout his Ministry, working alongside him using her gifts of hospitality and music. Ray remained committed to his family and especially cared for Beryl (suffering from dementia) for as long as he possibly could before she went into care. A covid infection left Ray in a weakened state and he too, was admitted into the same facility at North Lakes. Ray passed away on the morning of 21st December 2022 and his memorial service was held at Emmanuel Uniting Church, Enoggera on 20th January 2023. He is survived by his wife

renewal

Beryl and daughters Sandra and LeighAnn and son in law Craig.

Ray touched many people's lives in many different ways and we remember all that Ray gave of himself to so many people.

"What you do for yourself dies with you when you leave this world. What you do for others, lives on forever."
(Ken Robinson)

Appendix 5

Spirit of Synod Award – Winner: Rev Suzy Sitton

Rev. Suzy Sitton took up a placement in Proserpine Whitsunday at a pivotal time in their journey. They still had a condemned building for a church and a community of faith wondering what the future held.

Suzy journeyed with them to understand that discipleship and growing the faith of those faithful people was at the heart of what they were doing.

Bible Studies, fellowship teas, community connecting activities helped breathe hope and life into the faith community and wider community who wondered what was flowing to happen to the damaged Church building.

Suzy helped the congregations to navigate the process of demolition and engage with the wider community in honouring what had been. This included a Facebook page to help share memories, photos, stories of the church and its contribution to the town. Suzy worked with Community leaders to transform what was seen as a loss to a hope for a new future. This transformed both the church community and wider community to see hope and possibility.

Suzy with the congregation engaged with community groups, council, and other interested bodies to envisage a building that was fit for purpose and engaged the needs of the town.

From this a **Brick by Brick campaign** was launched to engage community and church alike in supporting the building to take shape. This was met with enthusiasm and saw over was asked for donated, including services and expertise.

On top of this, worship, multigenerational activities have taken place in the Garden (Sight of the old Church building) engaging community in life together. Suzy has shown dedication, tenacity, innovation and heart well above her role as Minister. The humility with which Suzy has gone about this, attributing success the team speaks loudly about the sort of person she is.

Suzy's ministry exemplifies the spirit that disciples, transforming the life of communities together making them fit for purpose.

Appendix 6

Moderator's Community Service Medal Recipients

- *Since 1999, the Queensland Synod of The Uniting Church has recognised the work of volunteers through the Moderator's Community Service Medal.*
- *Medals are presented to individuals who have contributed in an outstanding way to the Uniting Church's mission in community services.*
- *Nominees must: be a past or present volunteer; have exhibited outstanding service over several years; be involved in community service work other than congregational work.*
- *The Queensland Synod works with UnitingCare Queensland to administer this award*

Helen Beech

- Helen has been the leader of our Balance Builder's program for over 20 years
- As a physiotherapist she established an exercise group for 10 women but this grew exponentially over the 20+ years to around 50 women.
- Helen has untiringly, enthusiastically, professionally, humbly and voluntarily dedicated every Friday morning for the last 20+ years to putting a spotlight on women's physical, mental and spiritual health into older age.
- Aside from this ministry program, Helen has volunteered her time across the life of the church including catering for events, leading worship, serving on church council among many other areas. In January 2023, Helen was awarded an Australia Day Achievement Award through the Brisbane Lord Mayors Australia Day Awards for her contribution to Balance Builders.

Sharon Kirk

- Sharon has been and is a facilitator of Grief & Loss of a Loved One and Grief Loss & Dementia Groups for more than 7 years. These groups are designed to assist people who are struggling on their grief journeys. This can be through the death of a loved one, or support for Carers of people with Dementia, who are struggling with the grief that that journey brings.
- Sharon facilitates groups of grieving people in a calm and compassionate and thoughtful manner. She allows participants to say what they need to, encourages those who are reluctant to share, and this in turn helps participants to feel heard and understood.
- Sharon also conducts the Grief & Loss Facilitator Training in the same manner – in a calm, compassionate and encouraging manner, allowing trainees to feel valued in their endeavour to learn how to facilitate Grief & Loss groups.
- Sharon believes that this Grief & Loss Ministry that we provide to folk in our various communities is really important work, and because of that belief she has willingly travelled to many parts of the state, conducting training and mentoring new Facilitators, in her voluntary capacity.

Kathleen Murphy

- For 20 years, Kath has been attending the Blue Care Respite Centre at Mt. Gravatt centre on almost every Wednesday.
- She is the longest serving member of this centre and they are so grateful to have her with them
- Kath is involved in following activities:
 - Bus host for client transport
 - Social support activities such as playing cards and scrabble

- Assisting clients with stretching and walking exercises
- Supporting clients in mind challenging activities and craft room activities
- Assisting with meals delivery
- She is someone that clients can trust and can help ease feelings of isolation
- She is someone that the centre can trust and rely on, who requires minimal supervision

Adrian Paterson

- St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital (SAWMH) has a long history of cardiac care and innovation. On average, Cardiac Ward 2F, will see 400 open-heart surgery patients per year. Every Wednesday for the past eight years, SAWMH Volunteer Adrian has been providing heart surgery patients a helping hand through our Patient 4 Patient Program.
- The program offers patients undergoing cardiac surgery, support and companionship from a volunteer with lived experience.
- Inspired by his own journey, Adrian joined the volunteer team after spending more than two months in hospital in 2014.
- During his rehabilitation as an outpatient, Adrian heard about the opportunity to become a hospital volunteer. One year later, he found his perfect match supporting other cardiac patients at SAWMH. On a weekly basis, Adrian would visit 10-15 patients per shift.
- The UnitingCare Fundraising team were so inspired with Adrian's story and ongoing commitment to volunteering, they are featuring him in their upcoming Donor Care Newsletter.

Lesley Rouse

- Lesley pours her heart into sewing one-of-a-kind items for those in need. With every stitch, she weaves care, compassion, and wisdom into her creations. These unique heartfelt items serve as more than just physical objects—they become symbols of comfort and support.
- Through her selfless efforts, she not only provides tangible help but also spreads the intangible gifts of empathy and understanding, making a lasting impact on the lives she touches.
- Lesley joined the Buderim Private Hospital Auxiliary in July 2017. Since then she has become a very valued member of the Team, both with her secretarial skills, ability to coordinate with others, including Hospital Staff, Connections on Buderim and Members of the Auxiliary.
- Her skills and love of sewing of the Teddy Buddy Bears, Fidget Mats, and Maternity Baby Packages have enhanced patient and children's wellbeing who have been admitted to the Hospital, particularly for those who are anxious, and/or fearful of procedures required.
- She will tell you, it's a team effort. However, without Lesley the involvement within the Hospital would not be the same, nor the warmth and inclusion felt by Auxiliary Members.

Margaret Taylor

- Margaret loves to help others and put their needs before her own.
- She'll be the voice of those who can't; hands and feet to deliver food and support to our local community.
- She has been acknowledged in the local Burdekin Shire for the much volunteering she has done for the community. Being someone who offers support and hope for those who are lonely and directs them to God's love through her service is so wonderful.
- Over 50 years of dedicated service - meals on wheels, cakes stalls, youth supporter, chappy's helper, church volunteers
- Margaret never talks about herself and is always a go to person and helps others - that is her joy.

Kathryn Warner

- Kath has a heart for people and serves humbly, without making a fuss. She does what is needed

where and when it is needed. She treats people with dignity through her love and compassion.

- Kath has been a member of Nobby Uniting Church since relocating to five years ago. Here she is an elder; a worship leader; is the current Parish Chairman; was previously the Secretary of the Parish; she is a member of the Presbytery of the Downs; on Presbytery Standing Committee; and a member of Synod.
- Kath is also a volunteer offering pastoral care and leading a monthly service for residents at BlueCare Toowoomba; she is also a co-facilitator of the Grief and Loss Course and Grief, Loss and Dementia Course.
- Kath volunteers at Meals on Wheels delivering meals in Toowoomba; Winter Homeless Shelter; Kids Games – small group leader; NuMylo Age Care Facility – leading monthly hymn singing; volunteers at the Sr Kenny Museum; Toowoomba Base Hospital Museum and Oral History Group fundraising event volunteer; singing in Helen Earley Ensemble Community Choir; and Empire Theatre volunteer; she has recently retired for her job at Southern Cross Allora and has continued on as a volunteer pastoral carer.
- Kath has been married to John for 42 years, has two children and two grandchildren. She has achieved all her volunteering, whilst raising a family and alongside her almost 34 year vocation as a nurse at Clifton Hospital, St Vincent's Toowoomba; Children's Ward at Toowoomba Base Hospital and Southern Cross Care Allora. She has not yet reached retirement age but has retired so that she can fit more into her life.

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