

# Minutes of the 38th Synod

15th May 2025 to 19th May 2025

Celebration of Ministries	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 Albert Street Uniting Church, Brisbane
Synod in Session	16 <sup>th</sup> May to 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 Alex Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands

Appendix 1	Ministerial changes
Appendix 2	Governing body member changes since the 37 <sup>th</sup> Synod
Appendix 3	Minutes of Appreciation
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## The Constitution of the Synod

The Celebration of Ministries was held Thursday, 15 May 2025 commencing at 1.00pm at Albert St Uniting Church, 319 Albert Street, Brisbane City. At the Alexandra Park Conference Centre Auditorium, Mari Street, Alexandra Headlands, at 3.00pm on Friday, 16 May 2025, 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.

# Membership

*The following members were present in person as at 10.30am on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 when the roll was closed.*

## Regulation 3.3.7(a)(i)

*Assembly ex-officio*

Mr Andrew Johnson

Rev Charissa Suli

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

*Synod ex-officio*

### **Ministers**

Rev Bruce Moore  
Rev Dr Adam McIntosh  
Rev Linda Hanson  
Rev Aunty Roberta Stanley  
Rev Louisa Yu  
Rev Andrew Gunton

### **Lay Members**

Mr Jim Demack  
Mrs Elaine Rae  
Ms Jude Emmer  
Mr Allan Hanson  
Mr Peter Cranna  
Mr Nigel Fairbairn  
Dr Scott Downman  
Mr Scott McDonald  
Mr Jon Moriarty  
Ms Kym Korbe

## 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 Rodney Fisher  
Rev Mary Haire  
Rev Garry Jennings  
Rev Emma Nicholls  
Rev Russell Reynoldson  
Rev Karen Ross  
Rev David Savage  
Rev Glen Schweitzer  
Rev Matthew Smith  
Rev Dave Thomas  
Rev Charles Vesely  
Rev Jan Whyte  
Rev Dr Peter Woodward

#### **Lay Members**

Miss Holly Barnes  
Mr Greg Braithwaite  
Miss Emily Costin  
Mr Marius Daniels  
Mrs Leanne Duncan  
Mrs Philippa Ferrant-Smith  
Mr Eli Gearing  
Mr Mitch Guyatt  
Mr Scott Guyatt  
Dr Marilyn Healy  
Mr Faamanu Hytongue  
Mr Robert Imhoff  
Mrs Gayle Rankin  
Dr Mandy Smith  
Miss Aneeta Toilolo  
Mr Muavaefaatasi Toilolo  
Mr Eric Woodrow

**Presbytery of Carpentaria**

**Ministers**

Rev Christy Allen  
Rev Richard Cassady  
Rev Dennis Corowa  
Rev Michelle Cullen  
Rev Christine Herman  
Rev Esteban Lievano  
Rev Glenn Louttit  
Rev Malia Ma'u  
Rev Craig Mischewski  
Rev Tevita Niurua

**Lay Members**

Ms Nadia Abraham  
Dr Gewa Au  
Mr Netani Bolatolu  
Mr Roy Chevathen  
Mr Joe Eka  
Ms Vanessa Lancaster  
Miss Betty Lievano  
Miss Melisande Lievano  
Mr Solomon Lievano  
Mrs Kemerli Lievano  
Mr John Mackay  
Ms Loata Mawa  
Mr Rodney Minniecon  
Mr Benjamin Rainbow  
Mr John Tai  
Mrs Losana Tai  
Mr Bill Thomas  
Mrs Gwen Thomas  
Mr Noel Waterman  
Mr Tau William  
Ms Janice Wilson  
Mr Gi-Young Youn  
Miss Jane Yunkaporta

**Presbytery of Central Queensland**

**Ministers**

Rev Scott Ballment  
Rev Andrew Gillies  
Rev Wayne McHugh  
Rev Donna Muston  
Rev Jennifer Potter  
Rev Greg Rankin

**Lay Members**

Ms Laura Brown  
Mrs Sheri Holland  
Mrs Elizabeth Sawers  
Mr Siaosi Semaia  
Ms Simone Thomason  
Mr Ron Tyler

**Presbytery of Mary Burnett**

**Ministers**

Rev Phil Alcorn  
Rev Stuart Bosch  
Rev Jennifer Coombes  
Rev David Ellis  
Rev Delma Lovell  
Rev Sione Molitika  
Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan  
Rev Keren Seto  
Rev Willem Smit  
Rev James Stevenson

**Lay Members**

Miss Joan Burke  
Mr Peter Coombes  
Mr Ian Dart  
Mr Eamon Dunne  
Mr Steven Fincham  
Mr James Hall  
Mr Graham Huth  
Mr Ken Jones  
Mr Allan Mulcahy  
Mrs Sue Mulcahy  
Dr Dongwoo Oh  
Mrs Marian Parfitt  
Mrs Jo Rogers  
Ms Rona Sandilands  
Mr Phillip Smith  
Mrs Helen Staines  
Mrs Patricia Ann Walker  
Ms Adele Wallis  
Mr Clinton White

**Presbytery of Moreton Rivers**

**Ministers**

Rev Heather Allison  
Rev Dr Peter Armstrong  
Rev Annie Baker  
Rev Nathan Barton  
Rev Kath Behan  
Rev Dr Rebecca Bell  
Rev Lyn Burden  
Rev David Busch  
Rev Jenny Busch  
Rev Dominic Chan  
Rev Paul Clark  
Rev Mark Cornford  
Rev Monique Coughlin  
Rev Leonie Gaffel  
Rev Tim Griggs  
Rev Jason Grimsey  
Rev Cornelia Hoffman  
Rev Brian Hoole  
Rev Graham Keech  
Rev Alamoti Lavaki  
Rev Dr Peter Lockhart  
Rev Yvonne McRostie  
Rev Josie Neuendorff  
Rev Nigel Rogers  
Rev John Ruhle  
Rev Stanley Tuilovoni  
Rev Melanie Wheeley

**Lay Members**

Mrs Sharon Baker  
Mr Jason Brown  
Mr Jesse Caulfield  
Mr Namila Davui  
Mr Paul Fletcher  
Mr Joshua Fogarty  
Ms Colleen Geyer  
Mr Justin Greenway  
Mr Noah Griggs  
Ms Tabitha Gulley  
Mr Seth Hanson  
Ms Amanda Hegarty  
Mr Jeff Howard  
Mr Peter James  
Mr Peter Jenkins  
Miss Amelia Lavaki  
Mr Adam Legge  
Mrs Kirsty Levis  
Ms Bernadette Ling  
Mr John Loneragan  
Mrs Rhonda Mac Erlich  
Miss Amelia Macpherson  
Mrs Rose-maree Males  
Mrs Erin Mawhinney  
Mrs Sam McDonell  
Mrs Mel Minichiello  
Ms Fiona Patterson  
Mr Lachlan Pinkerton  
Mrs Jessica Pinkerton  
Mr Paul Pitman  
Mrs Sue Rienecker  
Mrs Jillian Ross  
Ms Jessie Sanders  
Dr Jamie Smith  
Dr Nancy Spencer  
Mrs Danielle Sullivan  
Ms Moana (Ana) Teulilo-schaaf  
Mr Fernando Da Silva Torres  
Mrs Nancy Vea  
Mrs Sono Weatherall  
Mr Trent Wheeley  
Mrs Glenda Whittred  
Miss Zoe Wildman  
Ms Merryl Wilson  
Mr Cliff Yarrow



### **Presbytery of South Moreton**

#### **Ministers**

Rev Craig Blackburn  
Rev Dr Somporn (Lek) Branjerdporn  
Rev Jock Dunbar  
Rev Dr David Ferguson  
Rev Brad Foote  
Rev Colin Gordon  
Rev Jacobus Haak  
Rev Michael Hands  
Rev Noah Kim  
Rev Julie Lawton-Gallard  
Rev Ralph Mayhew  
Rev Aaron Moad  
Rev Beatriz Skippen  
Rev Dan Skippen  
Rev Peter Smale  
Rev Catherine Solomon  
Rev Faye Talatonu  
Rev Dr Debra Tedman

#### **Lay Members**

Mr James Allen  
Mr Neil Ballment  
Miss Anna Couston  
Mrs Rolani Dreyer  
Mr Aaron Frost  
Mr Robert Gilliland  
Mrs Jennifer (Jenny) Guyatt  
Mrs Cathy Hartwig  
Mr David Jack  
Mr Moses Leth  
Mr Nuer Leth  
Miss Courtney Lush  
Mrs Liz Mahon  
Mr Aaron Moore  
Mrs Candace Moore  
Ms Rebekah Munn  
Dr Daniel Pampuch  
Ms Gaye Pitman  
Ms Michelle Richardson  
Mr Peter Richmond  
Mr Malcolm Scanlan  
Mr Ian Stanley  
Mr Alex Stark  
Miss Ingrid Ursula Taraivosa Bovitu  
Ms Eleni Tule  
Mr Jayden Van Dyken  
Mr Dennis Venner  
Ms Stephanie Wade  
Mr Scott Wrigley

### **Presbytery of The Downs**

#### **Ministers**

Rev John Case  
Rev Marius Kruger  
Rev Ansie Liebenberg  
Rev Willie Liebenberg  
Rev Dylan Miegel  
Rev Tanya Richards

#### **Lay Members**

Ms Naomi Bell  
Mrs Anni Cramb  
Mrs Karen Dunmill  
Ms Jennie Feldmeier  
Mr Paul Fuller  
Mr Gordon Gillmore  
Miss Allison Kahler  
Mrs Alisi Polavaa Manu  
Mrs Jenny Noble  
Mr Graham O'Sullivan  
Mrs Annette O'Sullivan  
Mrs Cynthia Taafe  
Mrs Kath Warner  
Mrs Daphne Webster OAM

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

### *UnitingCare Board*

Mr Jim Demack

Dr Natalie Smith (Visitor)

### *Finance, Investment and Property Board*

Mr Reg Gulley

Mr Allan Hanson

### *Board for Christian Formation*

Rev Dr Linda Hamill

Mr Gary Adsett

### *Australian Defence Force Chaplains*

Rev Kaye Ronalds

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

### *Candidates*

Ms Amy Yang

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

### *Co-options*

NIL

## Moderator' Chaplains

Rev Aunty Roberta Stanley

Rev Michael Hands

Rev Ian Smallbone (Visitor)

# Resolutions

## Recognition of traditional custodians of the land

- 25.01 The Synod acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the 38th Synod met, the Yuggera, Turrbal, Kabi Kabi and Gubbi Gubbi peoples, and gave thanks for their elders past and present, and their stewardship of the lands, waters and stories.

The Synod acknowledged the traditional owners including:

Aunty Helena Gulash  
Aunty Kim Harrison  
Uncle Tais Muckan  
Aunty Beverly Muckan  
Aunty Cecilia Combo  
Uncle Norman Bond

Uncle Rodney Minniecon (Congress Elder and Kabi Kabi man), his family, and Sharyn Malone (Kabi Kabi woman with ties to Cherbourg) welcomed the Synod to Country.

## Procedural Proposals

- 25.02 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 Bruce Moore (Moderator)
  - Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (General Secretary)
  - Rev Brian Hoole
  - Ms Kym Korbe (Executive Officer UAICC)
  - Ms Vanessa Van Der Rhede (Events Specialist)
  - Mr Simon Moore (Corporate Governance Specialist)
- (b) Notes the further appointments made pursuant to (a):
  - Mrs Sono Leone
  - Ms Gretzel Mandingiado (Senior Executive Assistant)
  - Rev David Busch
  - Mr Malcolm Scanlan
- (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.

- 25.03 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:

- (a) Appoints Rev David Busch as Convenor of the Facilitation Group and authorises the Convenor to co-opt members for that Group; and



- (b) Appoints Ms Kym Korbe and Rev Kath Behan as Yarning Circle Co-ordinators and authorises the Coordinators to co-opt members for that purpose.
- 25.04 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Mr Simon Moore as Minute Secretary.
- 25.05 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Rev Jenny Potter as Convenor of the Ballot Committee and authorises the Convener to co-opt members as necessary.
- 25.06 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Rev Heather Allison, Rev Dan Skippen, Rev James Stevenson and Ms Moana Teulilo-schaaf as Pastoral Coordinators.
- 25.07 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 by 10.30am (QLD Time) on Saturday, 17 May 2025.
- 25.08 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Determines that unless otherwise agreed, the hours of session for the Synod shall be:
- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Thursday, 15 May 2025 | 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm |
| Friday, 16 May 2025   | 9.00 am – 9.00 pm |
| Saturday, 17 May 2025 | 8.30am - 8.30 pm  |
| Sunday, 18 May 2025   | 8.30 am – 8.30 pm |
| Monday, 19 May 2025   | 8.30 am – 4.30 pm |
- (b) Adopts the timetable and order of business as determined daily by the Business Committee unless the Synod specifically determines otherwise.
- 25.09 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.
- 25.10 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 “leave of the council” be a simple majority. Note that this applies to the procedural proposal “Determining the need for a decision now” (5.6.16 and 6.10). Refer below for rationale.
- (c) Determines that members should introduce themselves the first time they speak from the floor of Synod in the order of a-c below and that subsequent introductions only require their name and Presbytery or other appointing body to the Synod. The initial introduction should include:
- Name
  - Presbytery or other appointing body to the Synod
  - Naming the traditional owners of the lands on which they live, if known
- (d) Determines that members asking questions from the floor of Synod, speak within the following bounds:
- Two (2) minutes or less during information
  - Three (3) minutes or less during deliberations
  - Two (2) minute or less during decisions.

25.11

It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:

- (a) Determines that the ballots will be held as determined by the Business Committee.
- (b) Determines that members must be present in person to cast their ballot. If the meeting is an online meeting, members must be present online to cast their ballot. Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- (c) Determines that ballots for Synod governing bodies be written ballots conducted by secret ballot, including by electronic means, and any proceedings in formal majority.
- (d) Determines that any ballot taken as part of formal procedures shall be conducted by secret ballot, including by electronic means.
- (e) Determines that a ballot for a proposal for the appointment of the Moderator elect will be conducted by secret preferential ballot. Where there is only one nomination for the Moderator elect role a secret ballot shall be conducted with the proposal requiring not less than 65% support of ballots received for the proposal to pass.

25.12

It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:

- (a) Endorses the nomination date as 11th April 2025.
- (b) Determines that the following positions will be available for nomination for election at the Synod:
  - i. One (1) position for the Chair of the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.). The person elected to that role will also be the Chair of the Finance Investment and Property (FIP) Board.
  - ii. One (1) position for the Secretary of the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.).
  - iii. Three (3) positions for members of the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.).
  - iv. Seven (7) positions for members of the Synod Standing Committee.
  - v. One (1) position for Chair of the Board of Christian Formation (BCF)
  - vi. Three (3) positions for members of the Board of Christian Formation (BCF)
  - vii. One (1) position as Moderator elect
- (c) Endorses that nominations received on or prior to the nomination date will be presented to Synod.
- (d) Determines that of the 7 positions available for election to the Synod Standing Committee, 4 positions shall be elected for two synodal terms (3 years), and 3 positions shall be elected for 1 synodal term (18 months).
  - i. The positions to be elected for 2 synodal terms shall be filled as a priority, except where:
    - a) A person is only eligible to serve for one synodal term due to existing service on the Synod Standing Committee.
    - b) A person has agreed or is only eligible to be elected for one synodal term.
    - c) The positions are only open to persons who meet eligibility requirements as follows:
      - 1. At least 50% of the persons declared elected to fill the required number of elected member positions at the Synod meeting must be female. (Queensland Synod By-law Q2.2.13(3))

2. Lay members shall be not fewer in number than the ministerial members (Regulation 3.7.4.1(b) and Queensland By-laws (Q2.2.3(d))
- (e) In addition to 1.10.2(d)(i), the following will be applied in determining the priority of the ballot for the Synod Standing Committee:
  - i. Members of Synod nominated for election to the Synod Standing Committee with the highest number of votes will be appointed in progressive order subject to their gender and lay/ordained status:
    - a) Two women who receive the first and second highest number of votes for women will be appointed to the 40<sup>th</sup> Synod. Both may be ordained.
    - b) Two women who receive the third and fourth highest number of votes for women will be appointed to the 39<sup>th</sup> Synod. Both may be ordained if the three ordained positions have not already been filled.
    - c) Two men who receive the first and second highest number of votes for men will be appointed to the 40<sup>th</sup> Synod. Both may be ordained if the three ordained positions have not already been filled.
    - d) One man who receives the third highest votes for men will be appointed to the 39<sup>th</sup> Synod. This position may be ordained if the three ordained positions have not already been filled.
  - ii. It is understood (a) through (d) above may result in a role not being filled or a person with higher votes not being elected to the Synod Standing Committee.

25.13

It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod determines the voting procedures for Synod Governing bodies, as follows:

- (a) Where the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of available positions, each candidate must receive an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast in favour to be elected to the position.
- (b) Where the number of candidates exceeds the number of available positions:
  - i. each member of the Synod shall have up to the same number of votes as the number of positions available.
  - ii. the voter shall be required to indicate “for”, “against” or “abstain” for the election of each candidate and the candidates receiving the highest number of “for” votes are elected in progressive order until all vacant positions are filled.
- (c) Where candidates receive an equal number of “for” votes they are allocated to the remaining positions available.
- (d) Where there are more candidates with equal “for” votes than available positions, the candidate to be elected to the position will be determined by lot. The method of determination by lot is at the discretion of the Balloting Convenor.
- (e) If there are insufficient candidates for available positions, a casual vacancy is created. The Moderator shall, according to Regulation 3.6.3.2 (e ), identify and appoint eligible candidates to any remaining positions, no later than two months after the close of the Synod.
- (f) If only one person is to be elected and more than one person is nominated:

- i. the election shall be by preferential ballot;
  - ii. if the ballot is undertaken by electronic means then the system chosen must allow for a preferential ballot and that items (c ) through (k) will be managed within the system and without manual intervention.
  - iii. each member of the Synod shall have the number of votes equal to the number of persons to be elected;
  - iv. each voter shall record a vote on the ballot paper by placing the number "1" opposite the name of the nominee for who it is desired to give the first preference vote and shall give contingent votes for all the remaining nominees by placing the numbers "2", "3", "4" and so on as the case may require opposite the names of such nominees so as to indicate by numerical sequence in the order of the voter's preferences for them;
  - v. upon the close of the ballot the scrutineers shall proceed to count the total number of first preference votes recorded for each nominee;
  - vi. that nominee who has received the largest number of first preference votes shall, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of votes, be elected;
  - vii. if no nominee has received an absolute majority of first preference votes, the scrutineers shall make a second count;
  - viii. on the second count the nominee who has received the fewest first preference votes shall be excluded and each ballot paper counted to that nominee shall be counted to the nominee next in the order of the voter's preference;
  - ix. if any nominee then has an absolute majority of votes that nominee shall be declared elected, but if no nominee then has an absolute majority of votes the process of excluding the nominee who has the fewest votes and counting each of the ballot papers to the continuing nominee next in the order of the voter's preference shall be repeated until one nominee has received an absolute majority of votes and such nominee shall then be declared elected;
  - x. if on any count two or more nominees have an equal number of votes and one of them has to be excluded that nominee amongst them who had the least number of votes at the end of the preceding count shall be excluded and if such nominees had an equal number of votes at all preceding counts the Returning Officer shall determine by lot which of them shall be excluded;
  - xi. a ballot paper shall be informal and rejected if the voter has failed to indicate the number of preference in respect of the name of any nominee.
- (g) An 'absolute majority of votes' means a greater number than one half of the whole number of votes which are cast.

25.14 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 38th 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, conducting business, and building Christian

community as members share the life they have in Christ.

- 25.15 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 10 March 2025.
- 25.16 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod receive the written reports contained at R00 – R16.
- 25.17 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.
- 25.18 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod authorises the Moderator to convey a greeting to the State and Federal Governments.
- 25.19 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod authorises Rev Bruce Moore (Moderator), Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (General Secretary) and Rev Brian Hoole (Business Committee Convenor) to confirm the Minutes of the 38th Synod.
- 25.20 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod adopts the Memorial Minutes as presented concerning ministers who have died since the 37th Synod and notes the ministers who have retired permanently and receives a minute of appreciation for each.
- 25.21 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod 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:
- i. 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
  - ii. to deal with matters referred to it by the Synod; (regulation 3.7.4.1(e)); and
  - iii. 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:
- i. focusing on the strategic and policy issues of the Church;
  - ii. engaging in competence-building activities for its members;
  - iii. efficiency and timeliness in approvals and decision-making.

## Association of Visitors

- 25.22 That the Synod associates the following people with the Synod:
- For the purpose of the Norman and Mary Millar Lecture:  
Rev Canon David Male
  - For the purpose of the report of the UnitingCare Board:  
Ms Natalie Smith, Mr Matthew Clark, Ms Suzanne Marlow, Ms Ruth McKechnie,  
Mr Jin Poh, Mr Greg Adsett and Ms Rebecca Bell
  - For the purposes of General Proposal 1:  
Ms Tracey McFarland
  - For the purposes of General Proposal 3:  
Ms Kylie Sessa
  - For the purposes of Renewal Conversation 3: The Future of Formation  
Mr Craig Bailey

## Appendices

- 25.23 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod note Appendices:
- Appendix 1 – Ministerial changes  
Appendix 2 – Governing body member changes since the 37<sup>th</sup> Synod  
Appendix 3 – Minutes of Appreciation  
Appendix 4 – Ministerial Retirements and Memorial Minutes  
Appendix 5 – Spirit of Synod Award – Winner  
Appendix 6 – Moderator’s Community Service Medal - Recipients

## 39<sup>th</sup> Synod dates

- 25.24 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod determines that:
- (a) the 39<sup>th</sup> Synod will be held from 23 October to 26 October 2026 at Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands.
- (b) the Synod Standing Committee be given authority to vary the dates and the venue of the 39<sup>th</sup> Synod if necessary.

## Synod Standing Committee meetings

- 25.25 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod determines that:
- (a) the meeting dates of the Synod Standing Committee shall be:
- |                  |                 |                  |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 5 June 2025      | 4 December 2025 | 2 July 2026      |
| 3 July 2025      | 5 February 2026 | 13 August 2026   |
| 31 July 2025     | 5 March 2026    | 3 September 2026 |
| 4 September 2025 | 2 April 2026    | 1 October 2026   |
| 2 October 2025   | 7 May 2026      |                  |
| 13 November 2025 | 4 June 2026     |                  |
- (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

- 25.26 It was **Noted** that the Synod congratulates Mrs Jessica Pinkerton 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

- 25.27 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: Renewal and Growth: Shared Ambition and Strategic Foundations

- 25.28 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:
1. Reaffirm the Shared Ambition, first outlined in Project Plenty and adopted at the 35th Synod, until 2028, at the 40th Synod:  
"One church active in every Queensland community, bearers of Christ's offer of life in all its fullness. Through our shared life we are committed to a flourishing future for church and community."
  2. Adopt the following five strategic foundations to align the Synod with the "Renewal and Growth" Strategy of the Synod Office:
    - a. Mission Renewal and Growth
    - b. Flourishing Presbyteries
    - c. Forming Leaders
    - d. Fit For Purpose Governance
    - e. Stewarding Resources
  3. Note that an annual report to the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) and a report to each Synod in Session shall be received on the progress of the Renewal & Growth Strategy until 2028.
  4. Note the final Plenty Report included as background to this Shared Ambition and Strategy proposal.

## General Proposal 2: Church Planting, Re-Planting & Revitalisation

25.29 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:

1. Adopt the Church Planting, Re-planting and Revitalisation strategy outlined at Appendix 1.
2. Request its boards, committees, and commissions to prioritise and consider resourcing and actions in support of the Strategy.
3. Request the General Secretary to prioritise operational planning and resourcing of the Synod office in support of the strategy; and
4. Request the General Secretary to collaborate with presbyteries to provide a joint update regarding this strategy to the 39th Synod.



## General Proposal 3: Resourcing Renewal and Growth

25.30 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:

1. Instructs the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) to do all things necessary to establish, in alignment with the guiding principles, a:
  - Property Proceeds of Sale Policy,
  - Church Renewal Fund, and
  - Covenant Ministry Fund.
2. Amends clauses 2 and 4 of the Mission Development Fund (amendments in **yellow**):

Clause 2 Current Reading:

### **2. Application of this policy**

2.1 This policy shall come into effect as at 15 May 2022 determined by the Synod.

2.2 This policy shall apply to all major sales of property (Reg. 4.1) held in the name of the Property Trust, where the responsible body is a Congregation, Presbytery, or the Synod.

2.3 Subject to the Regulations (Reg 4.8), the sum of the net proceeds from a property sale where the responsible body is a Congregation, Presbytery, or the Synod, shall be deposited into the MDF.

2.4 The sum of the net proceeds from a property sale shall be held in the MDF on behalf of the responsible body for a period of up to seven (7) years.

2.5 Interest may be paid and credited to the proceeds at an agreed rate not exceeding the maximum set by the Synod Property Board.

Clause 2 Proposed Reading:

### **2. Application of this policy**

2.1 This policy shall come into effect as at **19 May 2025** as determined by the Synod.

2.2 This policy shall apply to all **major** sales of property (**Reg. 4.8**) held in the name of the Property Trust, where the responsible body is a Congregation, Presbytery, or the Synod **office**.

2.3 Subject to the Regulations (Reg 4.8), **the law and the terms of any special trust**, the sum of the net proceeds from a property sale where the

responsible body is a Congregation, Presbytery, or the Synod office, shall be deposited into the MDF.

2.4 In relation to property held by the Property Trust on a charitable trust for the Church's general charitable purposes, the 38<sup>th</sup> Synod (May 2025) discerned that 10% of the net proceeds of property sales is to be credited to the capital balance of the Church Renewal Fund (specified fund) and 5% of the net proceeds of property sales is to be credited to the capital balance of the Covenant Ministry Fund (specified fund).

2.5 The 15% allocation to the two specified funds will not be charged if the 'sale' is a transfer of the status of Responsible Body from one Church entity to another Church entity, as legal title remains in the Property Trust.

2.6 The Synod Property Board has discretion to NOT charge the 15% allocation to the specified funds upon consideration of a timely application (which would normally be expected in the submission to sell the property)

2.7 The decision of the Synod Property Board is final regarding any application for not charging the allocation to the specified funds

2.8 If the Responsible Body chooses – a higher percentage of net proceeds can be allocated to either or both specified funds mentioned in clause 2.4 – noting that any further contribution will be credited to the capital balance of the funds. The Responsible Body must advise the FIP Board in writing of their decision to vary the standard 10%/5% allocation

2.9 The sum of the net proceeds from a property sale shall be held in the MDF on behalf of the responsible body for a period of up to seven (7) years.

2.10 Interest may be paid and credited to the proceeds at an agreed rate not exceeding the maximum set by the Synod Property Board.

Clause 4 Current Reading:

**4. Applying to use funds held in the MDF**

Any Congregation, Presbytery, or the Synod, may seek access to the fund

<p>for projects which are aligned with the missional priorities of the responsible body and all other relevant entity and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support or fund capital development and/or strategic innovation opportunities for the church; and/or</li> <li>Produce a financial return on investment and/or strategic mission benefit to the church.</li> </ol>
<p>Clause 4 Proposed Reading:</p> <p><b>4. Applying to use funds held in the MDF</b></p> <p>Any Congregation, Presbytery, or the Synod office, may seek access to the fund for projects which are aligned with the missional priorities of the responsible body and all other relevant entity and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support or fund capital development and/or strategic innovation opportunities for the church; and/or</li> <li>Produce a financial return on investment and/or strategic mission benefit to the church.</li> <li>Responsible Bodies can choose to transfer any or all of their MDF balance to either of the specified funds (Church Renewal Fund / Covenant Ministry Fund) upon providing a minute to the FIP Board. Responsible Bodies with existing MDF balances can do so noting that any balance transferred to a different specified fund is no longer tagged to that Responsible Body – it is available for distribution to any entity in the Queensland Synod that meets the criteria set out for distribution.</li> </ol>

## Ballots

### Moderator Elect Nomination

- 25.31 It was **Resolved by Consensus** that the Synod:
- Note the recommendation of the Moderatorial Candidature Task Group (MCTG) that Rev Bruce Moore be the sole candidate put to the members of the 38th Synod for the position of Moderator elect for a second term as Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland from the 39th Synod to the 41st Synod.
  - Note that if elected at the 38th Synod, Rev Bruce Moore will serve as Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland for a second term.
  - Note that a ballot for a second term as Moderator will be conducted by secret ballot with the proposal requiring not less than 65% support of ballots received for the proposal to pass.

### Moderator - Second Term

- 25.32 It was **Resolved by Ballot** that the Synod elect Rev Bruce Moore for a second term as Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland from the 39th Synod to the 41st Synod.

## Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.) and the Finance Investment and Property Board

25.33 It was **Resolved by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.):

Chairperson & member	Mr Alan Hanson	18 months, until 39th Synod
Member	Mr Reg Gulley	18 months, until 39th Synod
Secretary	Mr Peter Cranna	18 months, until 39th Synod

The Moderator (Rev Bruce Moore) and the General Secretary (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 39th Synod
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## Synod Standing Committee

25.34 It was **Resolved by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to the Synod Standing Committee:

Members	Rev Christy Allen	3 years, until 40th Synod
	Ms Tabitha Gulley	3 years, until 40th Synod
	Rev Glen Schweitzer	3 years, until 40th Synod
	Ms Philippa Ferrant-Smith	18 months, until 39th Synod
	Ms Stephanie Wade	18 months, until 39th Synod
	Mr Scott McDonald	18 months, until 39th Synod

The Moderator (Rev Bruce Moore) and the General Secretary (Rev Dr Adam McIntosh) are ex-officio members of Synod Standing Committee as prescribed by Regulation 3.7.4.1(a)(i) of *The Uniting Church In Australia Regulations*.

## Board for Christian Formation

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

Chairperson & member	Mr Gary Adsett	3 years, until 40th Synod
Members	Dr Jamie Smith	3 years, until 40th Synod
	Mr Trent Wheeley	3 years, until 40th Synod

## Courtesies Extended

25.36

### **Courtesies Extended**

That the Synod places on record its sincere appreciation of:

- Traditional Owners of Kabi Kabi and Gubbi Gubbi Country
- Elders of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
- Elders of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Regional Committee Queensland
- the President and General Secretary of the Assembly – Rev Charissa Suli and Mr Andrew Johnson
- the Moderator of the NSW / ACT Synod – Rev Mata Hiliau
- the Norman and Mary Millar Lecturer Rev Canon David Male
- Anglican Church Southern Queensland – Archbishop Jeremy Greaves
- Presbyterian Church of QLD – Rev Stuart Hoadley
- Greek Orthodox Church – His Grace Bishop Bartholemew of Brisbane
- the Park Tongan Choir and Band
- the Board Chairs, members and staff of UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Queensland
- the coordinators and the contributors of the Synod Worship Celebrations and those that brought the Bible Studies and Theological Reflections
- the Business Committee Convenor, members of the Business Committee and the 38th Synod Project Manager
- the Facilitation, Yarning Circles, and Ballot Convenors, and members of their respective teams
- the presenters of Proposals, Reports and Renewal Conversations and panel participants
- the 24/7 Prayer Convenor and prayer team
- the volunteers
- the staff of the Synod office
- the Moderator's Chaplains and the Pastoral Coordinators
- the Presbytery Ministers
- the Coordinators of the Celebration of Ministries
- all staff of the Alexandra Park Conference Centre for support in preparation and hosting of the Synod
- The Synod Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group
- to CPC Productions, IT and AV teams, Events and back of house team
- the Moderator, Rev Bruce Moore and the General Secretary, Rev Dr Adam McIntosh, for their leadership of the Synod meeting
- the members of Synod for their time, dedication and discernment.

## Close

The 38th Synod was closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 with closing worship led by the Moderator.

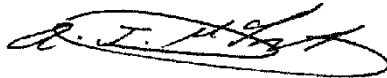
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## Confirmation of minutes

The 38th Synod Minutes were confirmed by the Moderator, General Secretary and the Business Committee Convenor (as per minute 25.19) on 19 September 2025.



Moderator



General Secretary



Business Committee Convenor

# Appendix 1

## Ministerial changes

### 1. Received by ordination - Ministers of the Word

#### **Presbytery of Moreton Rivers**

Rev Dominic Chan

#### **Presbytery of South Moreton**

Rev Levon Kardashian

Rev Michael Hands

### 2. Received by Ordination – Minister of Deacon

#### **Presbytery of The Downs**

Rev Anne Baker

### 3. Deaths – Ministers of the Word

#### **Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane**

Rev Dr Michelle Cook

Rev Dr Majorie Neil

#### **Presbytery of Carpentaria**

Rev Gordon Burley

#### **Presbytery of Central Queensland**

Rev Lynette Falkenhagen

#### **Presbytery of Moreton Rivers**

Rev Alaric (Gale) Hall

Rev Patricia Darby

Rev Cecil Geyer

Rev Michael Veary

#### **Presbytery of South Moreton**

Rev Robert (Bert) Adrain

Rev Dr William (Bill) Adams

Rev John Hooper

Rev George (Len) Forrest

#### **Presbytery of Mary Burnett**

Rev Kevin Bachler

Rev Mervyn Genrich

Rev Beverley Ham

Rev Douglas A Jones

Rev Allan Lanham

Rev Dr Alan Morrison

Rev Dr Noel Park

Rev Raymond Townsend

#### **Presbytery of The Downs**

Rev Dr Noel Kentish

Rev Arthur (Jim) McLean

**4. Retirements**

**Presbytery of South Moreton**

Rev Peter Elliott  
Rev Beth Nicholls

**Presbytery of Carpentaria**

Rev Barry Cox  
Rev Mark Dewar  
Rev Garry Hardingham  
Rev Myeong-Hee (Priscilla) Seo

**Presbytery of Central Queensland**

Rev Ann Hewson

**Presbytery Of Mary Burnett**

Rev Anna Ashby  
Rev Dr Anita Monro  
Rev Dr Pienaar Schalk

**Presbytery of The Downs**

Rev Dona Spencer

**Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane**

Rev Petrus (Peter) Blauw  
Rev Douglas Foster  
Rev Thomas Kerr  
Rev Kaye Ronalds

**5. Ministers / deacons / youth workers – received from other Synods**

Rev Duncan McDermott  
Rev Jean Mayer  
Rev Maumau Tuvailala Monu  
Rev Ronald Loom

**6. Ministers received from other denominations**

Rev Dr Je Cheol Cook  
Rev Dylan Miegel

**7. Ministers received by readmission**

Nil

**8. Ministers whose recognition has been withdrawn**

Murray Fysh  
Luke Smallwood  
Iris Marais  
Colin Munns

**9. Ministers who resigned from the Uniting Church in Australia**

Murray Fysh  
Luke Smallwood  
Iris Marais  
Colin Munns  
Matthew Cave



## Appendix 2

### Governing body member changes since the 37th Synod

*(as at 15 May 2025)*

### **Audit and Risk Committee**

Appointed for a five-year term from 1 November 2023 to 24 October 2028:

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member – Ex-officio)

Appointed for a three-year term from 24 October 2023 to 24 October 2026:

Mr Ralph Collins (Chair)

Appointment (Member) for a three-year term from 1 February 2024 to 1 February 2027

Mr Chris Townend (Member)

Concluding term effective 5 May 2025:

Dr Marilyn Healy (Member)

Mrs Pip (Philippa) Ferrant-Smith (Member)

Appointment for a three-year term from 23 October 2023 to 16 October 2026

Mr Allan Hanson (Member – Ex-officio)

### **Board for Christian Formation**

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

Rev Bruce Moore (Member – Ex-Officio)

Rev Rodney Fisher (Member)

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

Ms Nicole Gregory (Member)

Mr Grant Erickson (Member)

Appointed for a one-year term from 31 January 2024 to 21 December 2024:

Rev Dominic Chan (Member - Candidate Representative)

Appointed for a three-year term from 25 July 2024 to 25 July 2027:

Rev Linda Hanson (Member)

Appointed from 27 March 2025 to 31 December 2025

Mrs Amy Yang (Member - Candidate Representative)

Concluding term effective 15 May 2025:

Mrs Jillian Ross (Member)

Rev Dominic Chan (Member - Candidate Representative)

Resigned effective October 2024:

Ms Nicole Gregory (Member)

Resigned effective March 2025:

Dr Paul Jones (Member – Ex-Officio)

### **Calvary Christian College Council**

Appointed for a three-year term from 11 April 2024 to 10 April 2027:

Mr Kevin Yearbury (Chair)

Appointed for a three-year term from 22 October 2024 to 21 October 2027:

Mr Adam Barke (Member)

Mr Brandon Tanner (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 22 May 2024 to 21 May 2027:

Mr Craig William Schmidt (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 April 2021 to 14 December 2025:

Mrs Jasmine Florey (Member)

Appointed for a six-year term from 1 January 2024 to 1 January 2030:

Rev Adam Low (Member)

Resignation effective 21 May 2024

Mr Kevin Gordon (Member and Chair)

### **Cromwell College Board**

Appointed for a three-year term from 26 February 2025 to 25 February 2028:

Mr Jason Lee (Member)

### **Emmanuel College Council**

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2027:

Ms Emma Szczotko (Chair)

Mr Nicholas Young

Appointed for a three-year term from 11 April 2024 to 10 April 2027:

Mr Marc Orchard (Member)

Resignation effective February 2024:

Mr Stephen Howell (Member and Chair)

Mrs Julie Bennett (Member)

### **Finance, Investment and Property Board**

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 October 2023 to 23 October 2026:

Rev Bruce Moore (Member – Ex-officio)

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

Dr Geoff Ericksson (Member)

Appointed for an eighteen-month term from 26 October 2023 to 16 May 2025:

Mr Allan Hanson (Chair)

Appointed for a three-year term from 28 October 2023 to 27 October 2027:

Ms Samantha Storey (Member)

Mr Andrew McBryde (Member)

Appointed for a five-year term from 1 November 2023 to 24 October 2028:

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member – Ex-officio)

Appointed for a three-year term from 19 May 2025 to 18 May 2028:

Mr Michael Schaumburg (Member)

Re-Appointed for a three-year term from 25 February 2025 to 24 February 2028:

Mr Reg Gulley (Member)

Concluding term effective 22 February 2025

Mr Chris Townend (Member)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025

Mr Hayden Jett (Member)

Resigned effective 22 February 2025:

Ms Kate Hands (Member)

Resigned effective 18 May 2025:

Dr Geoffery Ericksson (Member)

### **Grace College Council**

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026:

Mr Nigel Fairbairn (Chair)

Appointed for a three-year term from 5 March 2024 to 14 February 2027:

Rev Beatriz Skippen (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 5 March 2024 to 8 November 2027:

Mr David Milligan (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 May 2024 to 8 May 2027:

Ms Trevena MacLeod (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 3 September 2024 to 2 September 2027:

Mr Neil Ballment (Member)

Resignation effective 16 November 2023:

Rev Karen Ross (Member)

### **John Flynn College Council**

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 July 2024 to 1 July 2027:

Mr Joseph Walker (Chair)

Resignation effective 22 July 2024:

Rev Christy Allen (Member)

Mr Bruce Mills (Member)

Resignation effective 17 September 2024:

Rev Wendy McHugh (Member)

### **King's College Council**

Appointed for a three-year term from 8 April 2025 to 7 April 2028:

Mr Nicholas Lord (Member)

Concluding term effective 2 September 2024

Ms Allison Warburton

## **The Lakes College Board**

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

Ms Lea Lingdon (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 8 August 2024 to 7 August 2027:

Mr Luke Ingles (Member)

Appointed for a one-year term from 9 April 2025 to 8 April 2026:

Rev Kathryn Behan (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 11 May 2024 to 10 May 2027:

Mr Kenneth Huxley (Member)

Mr Stephen Eltis

Appointed for a three-year term from 4 March 2025 to 3 March 2028:

Mr Aaron Webb (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2027:

Rev Dr Helen Dick (Chair)

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 April 2024 to 1 April 2027:

Ms Jessica Lipsett (Member)

Concluded term effective 1 April 2024:

Ms Jessica Lipsett (Member)

Concluded term effective 8 April 2025:

Ms Kathryn Behan (Member)

Resignation effective 5 June 2024:

Ms Kym Korbe (Member)

## **Mission Collaboration & Coordination Committee (MC3)**

*MC3 changes are from inception as MC3 is included here for the first time.*

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

Rev Andrew Gunton (Chair – Ex-officio)

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

Rev Heather Den Houting (Member)

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

Rev Bruce Moore (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Rev Christy Allen (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Rev David Busch (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Rev Mark Cornford (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Rev Glen Schweitzer (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Mr Graham Huth (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Mr James Smith (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Mrs Kellie Broderick (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Rev Wayne McHugh (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Rev Yvonne McRostie (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025:

Rev Dr Peter Armstrong (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 18 July 2023 to 17 July 2026:

Rev Nigel Rogers (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 October 2023 to 23 October 2026:

Rev Bruce Moore (Chair – Ex-officio)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2024 to 1 July 2027:

Rev Catherine Solomon (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2024 to 1 July 2027:

Rev Russell Reynoldson (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 August 2024 to 19 August 2027:

Mr Scott Guyatt (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 August 2024 to 20 August 2027:

Rev Linda Hanson (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 21 November 2024 to 21 November 2027:

Rev Dr Linda Hamill (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 26 November 2024 to 26 November 2027:

Ms Jenny Noble (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 10 January 2025 to 10 January 2028:

Rev Craig Mischewski (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 March 2025 to 20 March 2027:

Rev Marius Kruger (Member)

Concluded term effective 20 October 2023:

Rev Andrew Gunton (Chair – Ex-officio)

Concluded term effective 20 October 2023:

Rev Heather Den Houting (Member – Ex-officio)

Concluded term effective 20 October 2023:

Rev Bruce Moore (Member)

Resignation:

Rev Mark Cornford (Member)

Rev Glen Schweitzer (Member)

Mr James Smith (Member)

Mrs Kellie Broderick (Member)

Resignation effective 9 October 2023:

Rev David Busch (Member)

Resignation effective 4 September 2024:

Rev Marius Kruger (Member)

Resignation effective 21 November 2024:

Dr Paul Jones (Member)

Resignation effective 31 December 2024:

Rev Yvonne McRostie (Member)

Resignation effective 10 January 2025:

Rev Christy Allen (Member)

Resignation effective 20 March 2025:

Mrs Jenny Noble (Member)

### **Moreton Bay College & Moreton Bay Boys' College Boards**

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2027:

Mr Kristopher Isles (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 July 2024 to 1 July 2027:

Mr Peter Bickerton (Member)

Resignation effective 30 June 2024:

Ms Wendy Evans (Member)

Resignation effective 19 July 2024:

Mr Jason Titman (Member)

### **Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group**

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 June 2024 to 5 June 2027:

Ms Moana (Ana) Teulilo-Schaaf (Member)

Re-appointed for a three-year term from 6 June 2024 to 5 June 2027:

Rev Leva Pat (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 5 December 2024 to 5 December 2027:

Ms Amy Yang

Mr Jason Brown

Re-appointed for a three-year term from 3 February 2025 to 2 February 2028:

Mr Dempsey (Malcolm) Scanlan

### **Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) Board**

Appointed for a three-year term from 25 June 2024 to 26 June 2027:

Mr Stuart Christ (Member)

Resignation effective 24 October 2023:

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member)

Resignation effective 30 May 2024:

Ms Margaret Berry (Chair)

### Remuneration and Nomination Committee

Appointed for a three-year term from 23 October 2023 to 6 December 2026:

Rev Linda Hanson (Member – SSC Representative)

Appointed for a five-year term from 1 November 2023 to 24 October 2028:

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member – Ex-officio)

Re-appointed for a three-year term from 7 December 2023 to 6 December 2026:

Ms Bronwyn Clarkson (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 September 2024 to 5 September 2027:

Rev Christy Allen (Member – SSC Representative)

Re-appointed for a three-year term from 31 March 2025 to 31 March 2028:

Mr Scott McDonald (Chair)

Re-appointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2025 to 6 June 2028:

Mr Dale Ham (Chair)

Concluding term effective 1 November 2023:

Rev Bruce Moore (Member – SSC Representative)

Resigned effective 1 January 2024

Rev Linda Hanson (Member – SSC Representative)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025:

Rev Christy Allen (Member – SSC Representative)

### SCOTS PGC College Council

Appointed to 8 August 2025:

Mrs Florence Kearney (Acting Chair)

Appointed for a three-year term from 14 November 2024 to 13 November 2027:

Mr Alexander Horneman-Wren (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 4 February 2025 to 3 February 2028:

Mr Simon Armstrong (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term 12 May 2025 to 11 May 2028:

Mr David Thomson (Member)

Resigned effective 24 April 2025:

Ms Kelly Ostwald (Member)

Retired effective 9 May 2025

Mr Martin Webb (Chair)



## **Synod Committee for Counselling**

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 June 2024 to 5 July 2026:

Rev Doug Foster (Member and Chair)

Appointed for a term from 5 October 2023 to 5 October 2026:

Rev Karen Ross (Member)

Resignation effective 1 May 2024:

Rev Scott Ballment (Member and Chair)

## **Synod Committee for Discipline**

No changes

## **Synod Reception of Ministers Committee**

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 October 2023 to 20 October 2026:

Rev Bruce Moore (Chairperson)

Appointed for a five-year term from 5 July 2019 to 1 January 2028:

Dr Paul Jones (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 25 October 2024 to 25 October 2027:

Rev Linda Hanson (Member)

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

Rev Yvonne McRostie (Member)

Appointed for a one-year term from 3 March 2025 to 31 December 2025:

Dr Scott Downman

Resignation effective 21 November 2024:

Dr Paul Jones (Member)

## **Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaint Committee - Advisors**

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

Rev Ian Wilson (Advisor)

Rev Raymond Nutley (Advisor)

Rev Robert Callow (Advisor)

Rev Russell Reynoldson (Advisor)

Appointed on an ongoing basis from 6 June 2024:

Ms Lisa Fuchs (Advisor)

Co-opted for a three-year term from 8 August 2024:

Ms Kym Korbe (Member)

### Synod Standing Committee

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

Rev Bruce Moore (Chair – Ex-Officio)

Appointed for a five-year term from 1 November 2023 to 24 October 2028:

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member – Ex-officio)

Appointed to fill a casual vacancy from 21 November 2023 to 20 May 2025:

Rev Christy Allen (Member)

Appointed to fill a casual vacancy from 2 November 2023 to 20 May 2025:

Rev Adam Low (Member)

Mr Scott McDonald (Member)

Appointed from 16 November 2023 to 18 May 2025:

Ms Tabitha Gulley (Member – Co-opted)

Appointed from 16 November 2023 to 13 May 2025:

Mr Andrew McBryde (Member – Co-opted)

Appointed for a one-year term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025:

Ms Elanie Rae (Member – Ex-officio)

Appointed from 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2027:

Mr James (Jim) Demack (Member – Ex-officio)

Appointed to fill a casual vacancy from 3 September 2024 to 16 May 2025:

Ms Stephanie Wade (Member)

Resigned effective 1 January 2024

Rev Linda Hanson (Member)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025

Dr Marilyn Healy (Member)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025

Mr Andrew McBryde (Member)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025

Mr Scott McDonald (Member)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025

Rev Christy Allen (Member)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025

Rev Scott Ballment (Member)

Concluding term effective 18 May 2025

Rev Adam Low (Member)

### **UnitingCare Qld Board**

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 October 2023 to 23 October 2026:

Rev Bruce Moore (Member – Ex-officio)

Appointed for a five-year term 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2028:

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member – Ex-Officio)

Appointed for a three-year term 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027:

Ms Cheryl Herbert (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2027:

Mr James (Jim) Demack (Member)

Appointed from 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2027:

Mr James (Jim) Demack (Chair)

Re-appointed for a three-year term 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028:

Ms Susan Rix (Member)

Dr Natalie Smith (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028:

Mr Greg Adsett (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term 13 June 2025 to 12 June 2028:

Mr Brian Gillespie (Member)

Concluded term effective 31 March 2025:

Ms Andrea Staines

Resignation effective 30 June 2024:

Mr Nigel Alexander (Member)

### **The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.)**

Appointed for an eighteen-month term from 20 October 2023 to 18 May 2025:

Mr Allan Hanson (Chair)

Appointed from 24 October 2023 to 20 May 2025:

Mr Peter Cranna (Secretary)

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 October 2023 to 23 October 2026:

Rev Bruce Moore (Member – Ex-officio)

Appointed for a five-year term 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2028:

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member – Ex-Officio)

Appointed for an eighteen-month term from 20 October 2023 to 18 May 2025:

Ms Sara Brunt (Member)

Appointed for an eighteen-month term from 20 October 2023 to 18 May 2025:

Mr Peter Campbell (Member)

Concluded term effective 18 May 2025:

Mr Allan Hanson (Chair)

Concluded term effective 18 May 2025

Mr Peter Cranna (Secretary)

Concluded term effective 18 May 2025

Ms Sara Brunt (Member)

Mr Peter Campbell (Member)  
Mr Hayden Jett (Member)  
Resigned effective 18 May 2025:  
Dr Geoffery Ericksson (Member)

#### Uniting Education Schools and Colleges

Appointed for a three-year term from 3 March 2023 to 2 March 2026:  
Mr Matthew Rollason (Member)  
Appointed for a three-year term from 8 December 2023 to 7 December 2026:  
Mr Michael Harding (Member)  
Appointed from 10 April 2024:  
Mr Grant Weaver (Member – Ex-officio)  
Appointed for a three-year term from 9 May 2024 to 5 June 2027:  
Ms Kym Korbe (Member)  
Concluded term effective 4 May 2024  
Rev Linda Hanson (Member)  
Resignation effective 28 November 2023  
Mrs Margaret Goody (Member)  
Resignation effective April 2025  
Mr Michael Harding (Member)

#### Wesley Mission Queensland Board

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 October 2023 to 23 October 2026:  
Rev Bruce Moore (Member – Ex-officio)  
Appointed for a five-year term 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2028:  
Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (Member – Ex-Officio)  
Appointed for a one-year term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025:  
Mrs Elaine Rae (Member and Chair)  
Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027:  
Dr Daniel Pampuch (Member)  
Appointed for an eighteen-month term from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2025:  
Dr Daniel Pampuch (Deputy Chair)  
Appointed for a 2.5-year term from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2026:  
Mr Chris Grover (Member)  
Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027:  
Mr Lee Poole (Member)  
Appointed for a 2.5-year term from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2026:  
Ms Sheree Halliwell (Member)  
Appointed for a two-year term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026:  
Ms Elizabeth Baker (Member)  
Appointed for a two-year term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026:  
Mr Mark Townend (Member)

Appointed for a two-year term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026:

Mr David Rose (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027:

Ms Julia Strickland-Bellamy (Member)

Mr Peter James (Member)

Appointed for a two-year term from 28 May 2025 to 27 May 2027:

Ms Judy Young (Member)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028:

Ms Sonya Beyers (Member)

Appointed from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027:

Dr Daniel Pampuch (Chair)

Concluding term effective 30 June 2025:

Mrs Elaine Rae (Member and Chair)

Resignation effective 16 January 2024:

Dr Jessa Rogers (Member)

Resignation effective 1 July 2024:

Ms Sheree Halliwell (Member)

### **38th Synod Business Committee**

Committee established comprising:

Rev Brian Hoole (Business Committee Convenor)

Rev Bruce Moore (Moderator)

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (General Secretary)

Ms Kym Korbe (UAICC Executive Officer and Yarning Circle Convenor)

Mr Dempsey (Malcolm) Scanlan (CALD Representative)

Rev Kathryn Behan

Rev David Busch (Facilitation Team Convenor)

Gretzel Mandingiado (Senior Executive Assistant)

Vanessa Van Der Rhede (Synod Events Specialist)

Simon Moore (Corporate Governance Specialist)

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

## **Appendix 3**

### Minutes of Appreciation

## Minutes of Appreciation

Elaine Rae  
Craig Barke

## Elaine Rae

Elaine Rae has served as a valued member of the Wesley Mission Queensland Board since 2015.

During this time Elaine has seen the organisation through a number of seasons. Elaine has served as a Board member, Chairperson of the Governance Committee and as Chairperson of the Board. Elaine's term concludes on 30 June 2025.

As Chairperson of the Board from 2023, Elaine was instrumental in delicately leading the organisation through the intricate transformation from a Parish Mission to an Institution of the Church and an Incorporated Company Limited by Guarantee. Under Elaine's leadership this historical achievement signifies the growth and maturity of Wesley Mission Queensland into a fit for purpose large complex aged care and community services organisation in Southeast Queensland.

Elaine has always made herself available to visit resident groups and connect with customers, attend Wesley Charter staff days, connecting with staff, conducting site visits, and has ensured that she invested her time and efforts to see customers and clients receive the best care possible from the services we provide.

On behalf of Wesley Mission Queensland, we extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations to Elaine in recognition of her remarkable journey and the extraordinary contributions she has made.

Elaine, your unwavering strength, steadfast faith, and deep-rooted commitment have been a source of inspiration to all of us that have worked alongside you. Through every challenge and triumph, your dedication never wavered. You've led with integrity, upheld values with quiet determination, and remained firmly focused on meaningful outcomes for Wesley Mission Queensland and those we serve.

Your generosity of spirit has left a lasting imprint on the people you've touched along the way. You've cultivated a culture of excellence, compassion, and purpose, and in doing so, you've helped shape something truly enduring.

The legacy of your leadership and your commitment to making a difference to the most vulnerable and marginalised will continue to resonate long into the future. We thank you for your service and your impact.

Congratulations on your achievements Elaine, you have truly earned this moment of recognition and celebration.

Jude Emmer  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Wesley Mission Queensland**



## Craig Barke

That the Synod in Session places on record its appreciation for Craig Barke for his outstanding service to the Church through UnitingCare Queensland over 14 years. Craig joined the UnitingCare Queensland Board in July 2011 and was appointed Chair in March 2014. In these roles, Craig brought strategic insight, strong governance, and a deep understanding of the Church's mission in action through its institutions. Craig's commitment to the values and purpose of the organisation laid a strong foundation for his transition into the role of Chief Executive Officer in 2017.

Craig brought to the role a wealth of experience in leadership, governance, strategy and organisational transformation, alongside a deep commitment to the values and mission of the Uniting Church. A devoted member of the Church and a passionate advocate for the wellbeing of vulnerable people, including elderly people, patients, people with a disability and children and young people, Craig has served with integrity, wisdom, and compassion throughout his time as CEO.

Craig's unwavering dedication to employees, volunteers, and the individuals and families supported by UnitingCare Queensland has enabled the organisation to deliver high-quality care across health, aged care, disability, and community services. Through a period of significant change, he has ensured UnitingCare remained firmly focused on serving the most vulnerable with dignity and respect on behalf of the Church.

A key achievement of Craig's tenure has been the development of a bold 2030 Vision - an ambitious and unifying direction that has guided significant future-focussed transformation of the whole organisation. He established long-term business and capital planning frameworks to support this vision, ensuring UnitingCare is equipped to be a sustainable steward of the Church's mission for the next hundred years.

He also progressed the Transform program, aligning UnitingCare's diverse operations across hospitals and health, aged care, retirement living, family, disability, and community services into an integrated and cohesive enterprise. This has created an organisation that is aligned in purpose, collaborative in culture, and stronger in its impact.

Craig has overseen a significant digital transformation, positioning UnitingCare for a data-driven future where innovation enhances service delivery and strengthens outcomes. His foresight has built greater organisational agility and preparedness for the changing needs of the community.

Craig's time as CEO has coincided with some of the most complex and demanding external events in the organisation's history. He guided UnitingCare through three national Royal Commissions, into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Aged Care Quality and Safety and Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. In each case, Craig ensured that UnitingCare engaged with humility, transparency, and a deep sense of responsibility, prioritising the voices and experiences of the people we serve and committing to genuine improvement. Extensive structural and systemic changes have been a feature of Craig's tenure as in the aged care and disability sectors. He has navigated UnitingCare through complex regulatory change, funding pressures, and increasing community expectations, while maintaining a strong focus on quality, safety, and person-centred care.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented operational, ethical, and logistical challenges. Craig's steady and decisive direction ensured continuity of care and the protection of clients and staff across every part of the organisation while adapting rapidly to ever-changing health directives and societal impacts. In 2021, Craig led the organisation's response to a major cyber security incident. Under his guidance, UnitingCare responded with professionalism and urgency, safeguarding critical data and systems, rebuilding trust, and emerging with strengthened digital resilience. In the face of the current hospital funding crisis, he has worked tirelessly to chart a sustainable path forward for UnitingCare's hospitals, advocating at the highest levels for essential services, engaging in strategic partnerships, and securing resources to support ongoing delivery of compassionate care.

Craig played a vital role in the growth and stabilisation of Australian Regional and Remote Community Services (ARRCS), securing its position as the key provider for some of Australia's most remote and disadvantaged communities.

Craig's contributions, quiet generosity and support for Church and community extend beyond UnitingCare Queensland. His collaborative approach and active engagement with the national UnitingCare network, the Uniting Church community across Queensland, and wider sector initiatives have renewed relationships, helped to advance the mission of the Church and promote systemic improvement across community services. He has served on the Synod Standing Committee for 14 years, providing wisdom and guidance on operations, emerging issues and enabling us to operate as one Uniting Church. His commitment and focus on the Connect 100+ program has brought UnitingCare Queensland and local Church communities closer together.

The Synod expresses its sincere and heartfelt gratitude for Craig's outstanding contribution, faithful service, and enduring impact on the life of the Church and the communities we serve in Christ's name.

## **Appendix 4**

### Ministerial Retirement and Memorial Minutes

## Minutes of Appreciation (Retirement)

Rev Anna Ashby  
Rev Petrus (Peter) Blauw  
Rev Barry Cox  
Rev Mark Dewar  
Rev Peter Elliott  
Rev Douglas (Doug) Foster  
Rev Garry Hardingham  
Rev Ann Hewson  
Rev Tom Kerr  
Rev Beth Nicholls  
Rev Dr Anita Monro  
Rev Kaye Ronalds  
Rev Dr Pienaar Schalk  
Rev Myeong-Hee (Priscilla) Seo  
Rev Dona Spencer

## Rev Anna Ashby

Rev Anna Ashby believes her ministry life began in her early 20's when she was part of the Ipswich Salvation Army Corps. She was a voluntary chaplain for the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and also did chaplaincy at an aged care facility and visited the Ipswich Public Hospital for patients with special needs. She also visited at Loriston and Nowlanvil.

Anna attended a service at Glebe Rd UCA led by Rev Dr Norma Spear and decided she wanted to move to the UCA. Rev Dianne Bos and Rev Gerda Olafson suggested she might do chaplaincy work, so she applied and was accepted for training at Trinity College to become a Minister of the Word. Anna did lay preaching at various Ipswich congregations and at Fernvale. She was ordained at the Glebe Rd UCA and then appointed as a Chaplain to the Buderim Private Hospital (UCA) where she served for 10 years before retiring in 2025.

Anna commenced at the Buderim Private Hospital on March 1, 2015 for her 10-year chaplaincy placement as a Minister of the Word concluding with retirement on 28 February 2025. Her contribution has been wide and varied and one which the setting and people involved here are grateful for. Her compassionate engagement with patient's, their families and significant others left many with a sense of comfort and care as they face the various scenarios in their healthcare journey. Anna also went above and beyond many times with providing On Call assistance whilst in this role. She also contributed to the well-being and acknowledgement of staff and their efforts here at the hospital and will be missed by many. The Pastoral Care team and its volunteers also appreciated her collegiality and engagement with all who were contributing and will miss her in the setting. She is definitely a person where the well-known spiritual phrase applies. "Well done good and faithful servant".

Grace, esteem and respect from all to her, we wish her well in retirement.



## Rev Petrus (Peter) Blauw

Peter was accepted as a Minister of the Word candidate in 2004. He undertook his field placement at Glebe Road Uniting Church from mid 2005 to mid 2006. Following this he provided supply ministry in the Fassifern area until he graduated in mid 2007.

Peter was called to the West Moreton Cluster in September 2007, as an Intern Minister, and was ordained in 2008. The West Moreton Cluster included the congregations of Ipswich North, Walloon, Haigslea, Lowood, Fernvale and Rosewood.

The two Ministers in placement led the development of a cohesive group willing to support each other spiritually and financially. Lowood and Fernvale congregations started the process of coming together and building a new church at Fernvale. Rosewood developed the Goodwill Shop.

Peter served on the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Bremer Brisbane Presbytery and engaged wholeheartedly in local ecumenical ministry. Peter, and the Rosewood Anglican priest, with members from their congregations, travelled to Egypt and Israel during 2009 and walked in the paths of the Prophets and Jesus.

During his ministry in the West Moreton Cluster, Peter served on the Local Chaplaincy Committee, set up programs, and secured funding for, troubled youth in the Rosewood area. He was a community leader in assisting people recover from the devastating floods of 2011. Peter facilitated the engagement of counsellors and psychologists to support the local community.

In 2013, Peter and Rosemary were called to Mareeba Uniting Church in Far North Queensland. In addition to his congregational ministry, he was also called to serve as a BlueCare Chaplain on a part-time basis around the Atherton Tablelands.

While in Mareeba, Peter served as a leader and supporter of the local Scout Troop. He served as Chairperson of the Northern Zone and was a member of the Leadership Team of the North Queensland Presbytery.

In 2016, Peter accepted a placement with the Trinity Wilston Congregation, in Brisbane, and again served as a part-time Chaplain with BlueCare in the Caboolture/Redcliffe area. Following the closure of the Trinity Wilston Uniting Church, in 2019, Peter and Rosemary engaged in supply ministry with the Samford, and then, Arana Hills congregations.

In 2020, Peter was called to a full-time chaplaincy position with BlueCare in the Ipswich region. He provided spiritual care to the staff and residents of Nowlanvil (Ipswich), Glenwood (Lowood), Alkira (Toogoolawah), and later Brassall Village (Ipswich), as well as visiting community clients.

Peter officially retired on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Peter and Rosemary have served faithfully in ministry as a wonderful and complimentary partnership. The hallmarks of Peter's ministry have been visionary and inclusive leadership, and the genuine expression of compassionate care for all people.



## Rev Barry Cox

What can we really say about Barry Cox?

Barry has been one of those people who typify the Carpentaria Presbytery. Resilient, resourceful, humorous, forthright, insightful, passionate and funny. Barry has been an indomitable part of the North Queensland and Carpentaria Presbyteries ever since he told placements at his exit interview that he had to live within three hours of Brisbane... a flight from Weipa to Brisbane is just a smidge over three hours!!

Barry's placements in Weipa, Townsville Central, Townsville Hospital, Presbytery Minister Admin and back to the Townsville Hospital will never go unnoticed. Because Barry always understood what it means to be available to the whole church as part of his Ordination vows. Serving with diligence

on the Presbytery Property Committee and Leadership Teams for years helped immensely in forming and strengthening a culture of shared responsibility within the leadership of the Presbytery as well as across the wider Presbytery itself.

As pastoral carer for the Presbytery ordinand students, Barry was nothing, if not pragmatic. A typical phone call from Barry would go something like:

Barry: "How are you going?"  
Student: "Well, it's a bit tough at the moment."  
Barry: "But, you're still alive then?"  
Student: "Yes, but..."  
Barry: "Okay, I'll tell the Presbytery you're fine."  
CLICK

He would then report simply to the Presbytery that "Such and Such was fine"

The thing about Barry is that even if there seems on the surface to be a callous disregard, this was so far from the truth. For Barry, there is never any quick fix, any "I'm the Saviour" or "Just leave it to me." In his own powerful way, Barry created the spaces that allowed people to step up or even grow up in their ministry. Because Barry has a compassion that belies his "Don't tell me your problems" quip. And he is never afraid to speak up or stand up in the face of opposition to speak truth to power. In his ministry, Barry has stood up to Presbytery Ministers, Moderators, bullying Church Councils and Ministers and the occasional General Secretary. He never runs from a fight, but engages with a true Christ-heart that encourages others to take responsibility for their own actions. Sometimes this would make him less than popular with some. And whenever people walked away from an encounter with Barry scratching their head, wondering what on earth he is on about, all too often they would come to see the situation in a new light. For Barry, it's never been about popularity. It's always been about God.

Barry understands that the primary purpose for the church is to make disciples. And that all we do should be focused on that goal. He understood the complexity of church politics and would throw himself into the mix if the result would be a better church. And he had the insight and strength to evacuate the field of combat if that would bring the best result.

As a non property-expert who took on property, a non-administrator who took on administration and as a non-accountant who took on the treasury, Barry has been diligent and effective, particularly in the lead up to the formation of Carpentaria Presbytery.

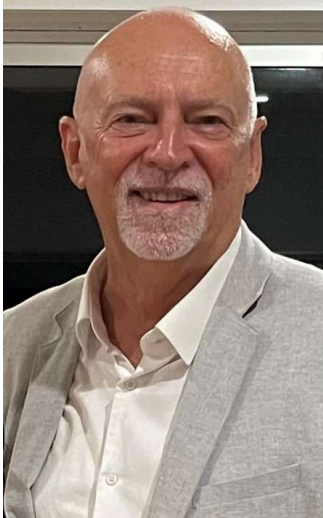
But, his years in congregational ministry and chaplaincy have also been a time where Barry has demonstrated his enormous gifts in pastoral care and listening. One phone call from a minister in a far-flung congregation to inform Barry of a hospital patient being transferred to Townsville was all it took to know that he would find them and be with them. A true and faithful companion on the road.

And after all, isn't it the companions on the road that make the journey worth travelling!

Barry, you have well and truly earned your rest. As long as Jenny will let you have some rest. There's always fans to clean, grass to mow, a pool to tend to and heavy objects up on high cupboards.

We also know you'll never stop working for the God you love and the church you have promised to serve. This journey is not over yet.





## Rev Mark Dewar

Mark has had a long association with Carpentaria Presbytery and under its former name North Queensland Presbytery. From Woodley College, St Andrew's Hughenden, Tully (twice), Aitkenvale, Mission Beach and Innisfail.

Mark's ministry had also included the Presbytery Leadership Team and Zone Chair. His ministry has been marked by a dedication par excellence to his congregations and the wider work of the Church. Mark has always shown up and put in his best effort and this has resulted in a highly respected and regarded ministry.

Mark is an attention to detail man who when he says he will do a job that job gets down, this is one of the reasons Mark is held with such trust across the Church, simply he is a trustworthy man.

Mark has a great respect for those in ministry, who value the work and mission of God with us, through the Holy Spirit and as such Mark has a commitment to creating space for the Spirit to work in his ministry and service. Anyone who has attended Mark's services will have experienced this openness and vulnerability to the presence of God and it has touched many lives.

It is more than fair to say that Mark is a team player and the person he plays best with is his beautiful wife Marie. Marie has served alongside Mark right from the beginning of his ministry and is in equal parts just as valued and appreciated as Mark.

Marie's investment into the presbytery and congregations in which they served goes above and beyond expectations and is highly regarded.

Mark and Marie are gifted with the social gene and are always up for a coffee, wine or whisky, they are generous with their time and brilliantly hospitable. Mark and Marie have carried a light of love in our midst and it has given hope to many people. You will be sorely missed.

Therefore it is with much honour that we offer this minute of appreciation and pray that your future will be blessed in every way and as the old Irish blessing goes:

*"May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine always warm your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand."*



## Rev Peter Elliott

Peter was accepted as a candidate for Minister of the Word in 1989 and after 5 years study at Griffith University and Trinity College attained a Bachelor of Theology and was ordained by the Presbytery of North Queensland on 1 December 1994.

His first placement was to the Isis Parish which included the congregations of Childers, Biggenden, Dallarnil, Woodgate, Coalstoun Lakes, Howard, Torbanlea, and Burrum Heads. During his four years in the Isis Parish, Peter served on the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Mary Burnett Presbytery and as Chairperson of the Presbytery. He also began a Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies which he completed in 2008.

Peter accepted a call to the Redlands Parish beginning in 1999, serving particularly with the Cleveland congregation. Following the disbanding of the Parish, Peter continued to serve for a total of thirteen years with the Cleveland Congregation. Peter then accepted a call to Broadwater Road Congregation in 2012 where he served for over four years. Then followed ministry in the Yeronga congregation in 2016 for four years. Peter began supply ministry with the Victoria Point congregation in 2020 which then became the Redlands congregation following an amalgamation with Redland Bay, Cleveland, Capalaba, and Wellington Point. Peter retired on June 30, 2024.

While serving in South Moreton Presbytery, Peter served for several years on the Pastoral Relations Committee, some of that time as Chair, and as Chairperson of the Presbytery of South Moreton.

Peter's great passions were for good, sound worship and Christ-centred preaching. His teaching gifts were also widely used in leading people in their discipleship of Jesus Christ. Peter's greatest delight was seeing people grow in their faith and discover and use their Spirit-given gifts in service.

Another of Peter's passions was ecumenism. Inspired by the Uniting Church's commitment to deeper unity with other churches, he endeavoured, throughout his ministry, to work with other Christian denominations in the furtherance of the kingdom.



## Rev Douglas (Doug) Foster

Doug was born in Rockhampton in 1958. He was schooled in the Gympie area, around Gunalda.

Doug commenced a Degree in Surveying at the then Qld Institute of Technology in 1976.

In the early 1980s, Doug was serving in the Surveyor-General's department in Mackay, and worshipping at Iona West, under the thoughtful leadership of Rev. Dr. Gereldine Wheeler. He gave leadership to the young adults of the Uniting Church in the Mackay area. There he met and married Barbara Miller, and two sons, Graeme and Lindsay were born in Mackay.

Doug candidate through the Central Queensland Presbytery in 1987 and commenced studies in 1988 Brisbane at the ecumenical Brisbane College of Theology, coinciding with the opening of World Expo.

Their third child, Claire, was born while Doug was a student at QCT.

Doug identifies a QCT sponsored visit to the World Council of Churches 7th Assembly in Canberra as a highlight of his time at QCT. This visit included attending a School of Ecumenical Theology, and the Visitors' Program to the Assembly.

After ordination in 1991, moved to Mareeba Parish early 1992 and served there for 5 years. 1992 was the 50th anniversary of significant WWII events, and Mareeba had been an important staging post. So it proved to be a great introduction to the community.

In 1996, Doug undertook an exchange with a Methodist Minister, Rev Roy Howard. The family lived in Camberley in the UK, where he served in High Cross Church, and Sandhurst Methodist Church. An amazing cultural experience.

Returning to Mareeba for the remainder of 1996, the family relocated down the road to the Northern Beaches area of Cairns, where he served as a church planter at Northern Beaches and Freshwater Uniting Churches. In order to precipitate a new church presence, he went to a part-time placement in 2000. It was great time of challenge, hope and renewal as the Church, with minimal resources, engaged actively with the local community and grew to support a full-time placement by 2007.

In 2002, Doug commenced as a part-time Police Chaplain, eventually looking after the greater Cairns area. He was successful in being placed into a full-time Police Chaplaincy position that was created in 2009. This covered the Far North of the State, and provided many opportunities to both support the Police, and also the community during some tragic events.

With both part-time and full-time, Doug served in that Chaplaincy position for 22 years.

Doug fulfilled his commitment to the wider church, by serving on various positions across the Presbytery and Synod, and continues in the role as Chair of the Synod Committee for Counselling.

A strong call to support the wider Synod came in 2023 when he and Barbara relocated to Brisbane to undertake the role as Ministry Agent Coordinator. In addition to providing Chaplaincy support to the Synod Office, the role consisted of supporting Uniting Church Chaplains across the State, and an administrative role helping revisit various policies and procedures around ministry within the Synod. Following the cessation of Public Hospital Chaplaincy support, it seemed an appropriate time to join Barbara in retirement.

# *renewal*

Doug and Barbara have returned to Cairns to once again connect with family.

Doug's ministry is remembered for innovation and exploration of new opportunities for the gospel, alongside a quiet purposefulness and calm pastoral presence. His long term placements as a Police Chaplain is testimony to his capacity to form quality professional and pastoral relationships.



## Rev Garry Hardingham

What can we say about the Rev. Garry Hardingham's ministry in the Uniting Church:

Carpentaria Presbytery/Presbytery of Calvary & North Queensland?

The region met the Rev Garry Hardingham in 2001, when he arrived in Mount Isa to take up his placement. Prior to this, some may have known him as he worked for Telecom in the Northern area. Now nearly 24 years later here we are saying farewell. So, what can we say about Garry's ministry?

He was Mr Fixit – he could, mend, adapt and build not only planes, but cars, websites, homes and remodel Presbyteries. He received a Special Achievement Award, from the Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, for the work he and the Nambour Uniting Church youth did rebuilding airstrips after the 2010 floods. He also received an Order of the Outback from the Burke Shire. In the time of Rev Barbera Bailey, the Presbytery had a long weekend bus trip to Mt Isa where we met the congregation and had a church service. Here we found Garry had the words of hymns scrolling down the screen whereas other churches changed sheets on Overhead Projectors. His time at Telecom produced many exciting developments in the Presbytery.

Maybe, he should be called Mr Networker, as he had been a member of so many organisations and committees and had knowledge of many more. He was Secretary of The International Rural Churches Association (IRCA), a committee member of Frontier Services, has been on numerous Synod and Assembly committees, not to mention a good number of years on Presbytery Leadership Team, the many Consultations and Placements he was involved in.

In 2015, when Justice Henry did the Welcome Address for the opening of the Law Year Church Service, he conveyed his sincere gratitude to Reverend Garry Hardingham for hosting the service. So, it seems, he always seems to know a person who knows a person and the benefit of that, was that Garry could always find someone to fit into our Presbytery.

Maybe, we should call him The Influencer. He gave tireless energy to keeping in-contact with so many people around Australia and the world. He spent many years criss-crossing North Queensland by four-wheel drive when based in Mt Isa. Then he moved to Cloncurry, and he began flying MJZ, The McKay Patrol Cessna. As a Presbytery Minister he went further afield to Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne etc by commercial airlines. Then somehow, he also had time to build his own plane, LDV Morgan Aeroworks Cougar which took him to Thursday Island, Mornington Island, Napranum etc. Yet, back in our Presbytery who hasn't had one of Garry's surprise visits on Sunday morning at church – a time to catch up and have a chit-chat. So many contacts, so many circles of influence.

Maybe, another title should be The Logician, as he was always reflecting on the old ways and strategically thinking about new patterns to take the Presbytery forward. Who can forget the daily devotional '40 Days of Fitness'. He also re-wrote the Constitution for IRCA, was instrumental in remodelling the Presbytery and if you had a drone and flew it over his house at 5am, there you would see Garry on his back deck contemplating, cogitating and deliberating on the next action for the Presbytery and Church. Hence, some of us who have worked with Garry, cringe when he turns up with a new idea, because we knew we would get the task to try and not only implement it but flatten out the kinks before it was put into action.

There is no denying that to be a Presbytery Minister, there are many elements required to ensure the smooth working of the Presbytery i.e. networking, influencing, contemplation and sometimes having to work in

restoration. The presbytery minister sometimes has to have compassion and a sensitivity while at the other end of the spectrum there needs to be hardness, a coolness and objective perspective to bring about change.

It must also be noted, that Teresa, Garry's wife has contributed more than any of the Presbytery will understand. She accompanied him on endless flights and drives, has been not only his companion and sounding board but shouldered the responsibility of keeping the family going when Garry was called so many times elsewhere on Church matters. We wish to formally acknowledge Teresa in Garry's ministry and mission and say thank you.

So, what one thing could we say that would sum up Garry's ministry in the Presbytery – he was a 'Change Agent'. The Presbytery has been remodelled from the Presbyteries of Calvary and North Queensland into the Presbytery of Carpentaria. It has been refocused on mission, reinvigorated to do the work Christ sets before it and re-energised through many of Garry's ideas and the many people he personally inspired who were called to serve.

In Matthew 25:14ff we have the story of the five bags of Gold. The master gives one person one bag, another two and another five. When the master returns, he rewards the ones who have used their talents and gifts to grow what was given to them. The master says *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"*

The story is about being invited into the mission of God and giving your all to grow the Kingdom. Hence, the work we do is not our work but God's. God gives us chances and we respond to the task. Garry over the years was given more and more responsibility and he responded by doing his best. From being called into God's work at Malanda, going through theological college, being placed at Mt Isa then Cloncurry, being called to be one of the Presbytery Ministers and then taking on the responsibility of working with Calvary Presbytery. Garry has done his best and we can ask no more of anyone.

It was interesting to note, that in the Scripture passage, there was a season for the completion of the task. The master went away and then returned. The servant was rewarded for multiplying the bags of gold. Yet the work kept on going and what the servant was able to do was to share in the master's happiness.

Well one door has closed as you finish as a Presbytery Minister and nevertheless another one will open as you retire. We all would like to congratulate you for being a faithful servant. Yet, as the Scriptures described, there is more to do - Christ continues to challenge us to share the Good News and be part of a community that needs change. Whether we are Ordained or Lay, employed or retired, God still uses us.

To quote, Garry himself:

*"Little realising that in the Presbytery, Synod and Assembly office your name is instantly placed into the "Fools we can use" file and you find yourself on Synod committees and Assembly agency support teams and Pastoral Relation Committees or being asked to single-handedly represent the Uniting Church at the next visit of the Pope."*

We are 'Fools' to be used for Christ. So may you, Garry and Teresa, be blessed in your retirement and continued work for Christ. May the Spirit continue to bless you, your family and whatever and wherever you may be led to next.

May the master's happiness continue to envelope you both. Amen.



## Rev Ann Hewson

On behalf of the Presbytery of Central Queensland, we give thanks to God for the work and ministry that Rev Ann has provided within our presbytery.

We are thankful for her pastoral care of patients and their families in the hospitals in Rockhampton, and her oversight of compliance matters that are required by the hospital, Ann's support for staff and administration.

Ann has not only provided resources, cards, newsletters, devotions, and chapel services for the hospital, but her ministry has extended into the presbytery providing worship services for the congregation of Capricorn Coast at both worship centres in Yeppoon and Emu Park as well as the Parish of Rockhampton South at worship centres in Rockhampton, Mt Morgan and

Bushley and North Rockhampton Uniting Church.

As a Deacon, Ann has ministered beyond the congregation and held for the church the model of service among those who suffer, and the centrality of service to Christ through Christian witness and mission. She has encouraged and equipped others as a period of discernment mentor.

Ann has spoken from the margins and built bridges between church and those to whom she has ministered. We, as Ann's colleagues in this presbytery are thankful for her ministry among us and we wish her and Michael well in their continuing ministry during retirement.

Grace and peace  
Rev Suzy Sitton





## Rev Tom Kerr

Tom was not raised in a Christian family and as a teenager he came to faith through the mission of a local church in his neighbourhood. He became involved in the church's ministry with young people and this commitment to positively shaping the lives of young people eventually led to fulltime ministry.

After completing his training to become a Primary Teacher he felt that this career was not exactly what he desired and went on to study youth ministry. In 1981, he graduated from the Youth and Education Diploma course at Alcorn College. During this training, he completed field placements at Beaudesert parish and at Wellers Hill Tarragindi congregation. After completing his study, he spent another year at Tarragindi before accepting a job at The

Gap Uniting Church where he served as the youth worker from 1983-1998. It was here that his ministry with youth and young adults flourished and his impact on the lives of many over these years is immeasurable.

Tom served as Regional Youth Worker with Aspley, Sandgate, Bald Hills and Bracken Ridge Uniting Churches from 1998 – 2001 before accepting a position with the Youth and Children's Ministry Unit (YACMU) as Early Adult Ministry Consultant which encompassed a role as 'TEA Party' alternate Faith Community leader at Toowong Uniting Church.

In 2009, Tom was ordained to the Ministry of Deacon which complemented his calling to serve God in ministry with young people and those at the margins of the church.

When YACMU closed, Tom took on two part time roles, one as Vocational Trainer with Scripture Union Qld/Australia 2010 – 2023 while also working as National Faith Development Consultant, (Youth and Young Adults) for the Assembly from 2010 – 2017.

Tom enjoyed his life beyond his vocation. He maintained a keen involvement in Jui Jitsu, was an instructor with a local P.C.Y.C. group for more than 20 years and completed his 2nd Dan Ju Jitsu Black Belt in 2008. Tom is a keen surfer, passionate artist and published author of several books. In retirement, he has created "Life Island" a resource for wellbeing and community building, led ministry retreats and continued support for school chaplains, counsellors and ministers with this new ministry tool.

To know Tom Kerr in ministry is to know a deeply thoughtful and kind-hearted man with a cheeky laugh and boundless sense of humour. He brings energy, life and fun to every gathering and positively changes the dynamic of each meeting in which he is involved. You just feel better with Tom in the room. His ministry has been an inspiration to his colleagues, particularly in youth ministry, over many decades. Whether it be the resources he wrote, the crazy games he invented, the training and coaching he provided, or the thoughtful leadership he nurtured, Tom's impact rippled throughout the life of the Uniting Church across the nation.

### Tom's reflection

My greatest thrill in ministry has been helping young people deepen their relationship with God. Whether the next step they take is as simple as deciding to try praying for the first time, through to making a commitment to serve God in full time ministry, it has been a great joy and privilege to be invited to share in their spiritual development.

Just as fulfilling has been the years spent equipping leaders and youth workers for roles in School Chaplaincy, church youth work and community Youth Work.



I am eternally grateful that God has given me so many wonderful opportunities to serve as a Youth Worker and as a Trainer of Youth Workers. I have been a Youth Worker with the Uniting Church in Australia for 38 years in local, regional, state and national levels of service. Overlapping the last era of service, I was also a Vocational Trainer helping youth workers and chaplains attain the Certificate 4 and Diploma of Youth Work with Scripture Union's Training Institute.

Forty-four years of ministry and mission to children, youth, families and young adults, and training those leaders and professionals who would support them, has been my life vocation.

For me, this has meant participating in youth ministry in various ways including developing systems to build bridges in to the life of the church through youth ministries, equipping others for ministry; resourcing ministry and mission at congregational, presbytery and synod levels; evaluating redesigning and strengthening the effectiveness of ministries at all levels, and some ministry with young adults and youth workers at the national level.

My ministry has often involved dreaming new dreams and creating new realities. It has included effective change management and ongoing support for projects once they have been established.

I am also ever so grateful to my wife, Anne; daughter Katelyn and son, Tim, for their support, encouragement and countless sacrifices that have enabled me to serve the church and the community across those decades, in my youth worker roles.



## Rev Dr Anita Monro

Rev. Dr Anita Monro was baptised as an infant in the Methodist Church by her grandfather, Rev. Samuel George Monro. In 1973, at an Easter Junior Christian Endeavour camp, she experienced a deep sense of the abiding parental love of God and made her commitment to follow Jesus. She was confirmed as a member of the Uniting Church in March 1978 at Wavell Heights Uniting Church.

At a YAF rally in December 1978 where candidates for ordained ministry spoke, Anita experienced a profound sense of call to ordained ministry; and from that point worked towards that goal. Mentoring by Rev. Dr Elizabeth Nolan during Anita's teenage and early adult years introduced her to worlds of biblical and theological scholarship that nurtured Anita's faith.

After completing high school, she took a year off study and worked for the Uniting Church Foundation & Investment Board of the Qld Synod. She then completed a Bachelor of Arts at The University of Queensland, majoring in Religious Studies, Sociology and English Communications. During the final year of her undergraduate degree, she candidated through the Presbytery of North Brisbane, entering Trinity Theological College in 1986 to undertake a Bachelor of Theology with a double major in Scripture through Brisbane College of Theology (BCT). She met her husband-to-be, Russell Morris, at Trinity.

In 1988, Anita completed her student placement year at West Toowoomba Parish, Presbytery of The Downs, supervised by Rev. Paul Moore. With Rev. Dr Paul Walton, she was ordained on 10 December 1988 in a joint service of the Presbyteries of North Brisbane and The Downs at St Stephen's Uniting Church in Toowoomba. Anita's exit placement was for 12 months to Home Hill Parish in the Presbytery of North Queensland while Home Hill and Ayr were moving to become the Burdekin Parish at the end of that year. Cyclone Aivu devastated the small town at Easter that year and the remainder of the year was spent re-building from the disaster.

On 25 November 1989, Anita and Russell were married at Clayfield Uniting Church on the site of the Woolloowin Methodist Church where her parents had been married 28 years previously. Russell and Anita entered a joint placement in Maryborough Parish from 1990 to 1992. In Maryborough, they served with colleagues from both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches who had all studied together at BCT. While at Maryborough, Anita completed an Honours degree in Religious Studies by distance education through Deakin University.

From 1993 to 1996, Anita took study leave to undertake her PhD through the Griffith University School of Theology, the postgraduate research arm of BCT. During that period, Russell was minister in placement at Stanthorpe Parish in the Presbytery of The Downs.

Her PhD studies were undertaken in philosophical theology under the supervision of Drs Elaine Wainwright RSM and Francie Oppel. Her thesis entitled "Subjecting Ambiguity: Towards a Feminist Poststructuralist Theological Methodology" included chapters addressing biblical interpretation, theological imagery for God, and Christian community development strategy.

While on study leave, Anita convened the Program Committee of the 'Women Clothed with the Sun,' the 3rd National Gathering of Women in The Uniting Church in Australia. Anita designed and coordinated the innovative program strategy which was subsequently included in her thesis. A significant, ground-breaking piece of her thesis also was presented to the Uniting Church's Assembly Task Group on Sexuality.

Towards the end of her study leave, Anita began editing and writing study materials for Coolamon College and undertook some supply ministry for Warwick Parish. When Russell was asked to become the General Secretary of Queensland Churches Together, Anita was offered a part-time placement with Coolamon College as

Educational Developer. Over the next 5 years, Anita filled a range of roles with Coolamon, including Dean of Postgraduate Studies involving the setting up of the Coolamon postgraduate program within Sydney College of Divinity (SCD). She became Acting Principal in 2002 and negotiated the transfer of Coolamon College from BCT and SCD to Adelaide College of Divinity. In 1999, Anita had provided supply ministry for Geebung Congregation in the Presbytery of Moreton Rivers; and for 2001, she served half-time as Director of Gospel & Gender, another agency of the UCA Assembly.

From 2003 to 2008, Anita was Lecturer in Liturgy and Theology at United Theological College in Sydney and Charles Sturt University School of Theology. In 2009, she was called to be minister of Armidale Congregation in the Presbytery of New England North West in the Synod of NSW & ACT.

In 2013, Anita returned to the Qld Synod to become Principal of Grace College at The University of Queensland for ten years. During Anita's tenure as Principal, she reformed the College's suite of policies, including mission and values statements, risk management and strategic development plans. Anita prepared beautiful inclusive liturgies for weekly Community Dinners at Grace as well as for all special College events such as the Welcome and Valedictory services for students. She initiated and hosted monthly ecumenical Women's Theology seminars for churches in Brisbane area and in 2015 and 2016, five-day residential Women's Theology Conferences which attracted international and interstate speakers and workshop leaders. Anglican, Catholic and Lutheran women pursuing ministry studies particularly appreciated her mentoring and leadership in feminist theology.

During this placement, despite some serious health issues, Anita undertook a Graduate Certificate in Business (Philanthropic and Not-for-Profit Studies) through Queensland University of Technology and became a Graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Anita successfully managed the Covid pandemic period for the College 2020-21, keeping the College open for interstate and international students especially, and providing emergency hospitality for other UQ students from other colleges to enable those colleges to continue to function. From 2021 to 2022, she facilitated a smooth transition from the college housing women only to being gender-inclusive, an innovation particularly appreciated by the UQ Senate. The 're-brand' and renovations allowed Grace College to become financially secure with a full complement of students again from 2023.

Anita moved into semi-retirement in 2023, undertaking some teaching in Religious Studies at the University of Queensland and Theology at St Francis Theological College (Anglican) as part of the University of Divinity. From late 2023 until December 2024, she also provided Supply ministry for her local congregation, Blackall Range, in the Presbytery of Mary Burnett.

Anita was a member of the Assembly's Liturgy Commission from 1994-1997 and the National Working Group on Worship from 2002-2010. She participated in the development of *Uniting in Worship 2* with a particular focus on advocating for the inclusion of lament and diverse imagery for God. Anita was a member of the Uniting Church delegation for the joint UCA-Anglican dialogue (1998-2001) which produced "For the Sake of the Gospel" addressing potential stages towards unity across the denominations. In 2012, she was nominated for President of the UCA Assembly.

She served on a range of other ecclesial and organisational committees including the establishment of the Dostana Board for fostering the relationship between the Uniting Church's Qld Synod and the Diocese of Amritsar in the Church of North India. In 2022, she represented Dostana at the Diocesan Synod and spoke at their annual Youth Conference.

Over the course of her scholarly career, Anita provided keynote addresses in various scholarly contexts including the 3rd Beverly Bellinger Memorial Lecture for the Synod of Victoria in 2001, and the 2009 Sydney conference of the international association, *Societas Liturgica*.

Anita's publications include a monograph from her doctoral thesis; 2 co-edited collections on Public Theology and worship in Australia; more than 20 scholarly articles across the disciplines of biblical interpretation, systematic theology, practical theology and feminist methodology; and numerous educational and liturgical resources.

Rev Dr Anita Monro has lived and modelled an educated, informed and practical faith for a complex and diverse contemporary world. As a creative innovator, her scholarly work and leadership has not always been welcomed or appreciated by some leaders of the church and yet she has remained committed to the God of overwhelming Grace and Love, fully revealed in the incarnate Christ, and made present continually by the power of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks to God for the faithful, diverse and creative ministry of Anita and wish her well in retirement.



## Rev Beth Nicolls

Right from high school Beth was encouraged to share her faith and creativity within the life of her home church in Yeppoon. After moving to Brisbane, boarding at Methodist Training College and Bible School where she met husband George, Beth completed the Lay Preachers Course while studying Fine Art at Queensland College of Art. These were faith forming years: living in a Christian community and participating in Weekends of Witness were significant.

After completing Art College, the principal of Alcorn College said “Beth, I think you’re called to be a youth minister”. For Beth a lot of things fell into place, and she applied and was accepted into the 3<sup>rd</sup> intake of YEA (Youth Education Assistants) course in 1978. Beth also married George that year and was appointed to Aspley Parish as Youth Worker.

As a Youth Worker and then Specified Minister of Youth Worker, Beth found her creative niche in children’s and youth ministry, not only doing craft, but in creative worship, Messy Church, Intergenerational and Pioneer ministry and helping others to imagine and implement different forms and styles of being church and creating spaces where God could be encountered and known. This included helping to establish a Community Centre at Flagstone, and for 9 years, 1985-1993 as the Synod’s craft consultant helping churches establish craft ministries. Beth’s passion for photography enabled the establishment of the Photography Club in the Redlands UC, and as a leadlight artist making and restoring windows in some of her placements.

A significant part of Beth’s ministry was in encouraging others. Her commitment to supporting and training leaders and helping the church: locally, Presbytery, Synod and Assembly wide - to engage in youth, children’s a family ministry, was a mark of her calling. When the church Assembly recognised Youth Work as a Specified Ministry in 1995, the Synod Youth Worker Training Committee was formed to oversee Youth Worker training in Queensland. Beth served on this committee including chair for many years, advocating for Youth Ministry, training, and mentoring students, until the last youth worker was commissioned in 2011. In 2008 the Assembly moved that those in Specified Ministry of Youth Worker could transitioned to MOW or MOD. Beth had prepared for the inevitable transition by completing a Master of Ministry 2005. She was ordained in 2008 as a MOW at Cleveland. Beth was very sad for the church when the Specified Ministry of Youth Worker training disappeared but continues to claim her speciality in Youth Children and Family Ministry even as a MOW.

Camping has also been a big part of Beth’s ministry: Presbytery, Synod and Congregation Youth and Children’s camps: Day Camp, Funfari, Easter Camp, Summer and Easter Madness, Youth Study camp, KUCA camps, Family Camp, Kids Camp Out, Discoveries Camp, Young Adults January Camp, yearly Young Adults Ski trips (YASKI) and taking young people to NCYC Nationals Christian Youth Conventions all over Australia, and on Go West mission trips to Western Queensland. All to help young people, children and families to know Jesus, to grow in faith and give a broader experience of church and to encourage other churches.

Beth with George served as a Youth Worker from 1978 (while a YEA student) at Aspley/Bald Hills/Albany Creek & Clayfield Hamilton Parish; and as a qualified Youth Worker 1981 at Stafford/Stafford North Parish; 1985-1993 DCE Craft Consultant Qld Synod; 1994 Specified Minister of Youth Worker (commissioned 1995) at Sandgate; Youth and Children’s Ministry Unit; 1997-2013 Redlands Parish and also as MOW (ordained 2008) at Cleveland, Victoria Pt, Trinity Wellington Pt and Thorneside Churches; 2013-2021 Project Officer Mission in South Moreton Presbytery; finishing her ministry back with a 3 year short-term placement at Redland UC with Trinity Wellington Point and Capalaba. Completing 46½ years of ministry.

Beth is forever grateful for her family, for husband George and daughters Claire and Emma. As a family they were involved in many aspects of ministry. George led youth groups, Bible Study groups and helped on camps and ministry. Claire and Emma were initiated into ministry through Craft Ministry, where right from babies they

would travel with Beth while she taught and helped groups all over Queensland. In Parish and congregational ministry, as Claire and Emma grew older, they were leaders for Youth Group, P1, music groups, camps, Go West and Easter Camp and Easter Madness, NCYC. Claire was a Day Camp director for many years. George worked at The University of Queensland for 35 years where Emma, Claire and Beth also attended to study. 'My family have been such a support and wonderful blessing – I do give thanks to God for them.'

## Reflection.

Early on at a College Retreat I was challenged by Ephesians 2:19 *'So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God'*. This became a guiding principle for my ministry. Not only was I accepted into this remarkable family, but I was called to encourage others to know the loving acceptance of God. I was blessed to be able to do that throughout my ministry, and especially with youth and children and with some wonderful leaders. It inspired my commitment *to do what it takes to help young people hang in there with the church until their faith kicked in*. This became my mantra, and with God's help and leading it gave me the confidence to try new things and to go to places I could not have imaged.

I can say as I retire, I have been richly blessed – and I would do it all again! God is good all the time – all the time God is good.

Beth Nicholls 2025



## Rev Kaye Ronalds

Kaye Ronalds was ordained in Rockhampton on the 9 March 1984 along with Dennis Harth and Bruce Johnson. All three were exit students taking up placements in the Presbytery of Central Queensland. Her husband, Owen, was an electrician and while in Rockhampton he gained his contractor's license,

Kaye had responsibility for two suburban congregations – Wandal and West Rockhampton plus two small country congregations – Bushley and Westwood. After three years (1984-1986) she took some leave to have a family and moved back to Brisbane.

Ellen was born in 1987 and Naomi was born in 1989. Around 1992, Kaye applied to become a part-time Chaplain in the Australian Army. She was the first woman appointed as a Chaplain in the Australian

Army. Rev Wendy Snook had been appointed as a Chaplain in the RAAF a couple of years earlier.

For two years, 1995-1996, Kaye worked at Kenmore State High School as the inaugural Chaplain.

After ten years away from ministry in a congregation Kaye was called to the Capricorn Coast congregations of Yeppoon and Emu Park.

Kaye continued to do part-time chaplaincy with the Army including Annual Camps with the Australian Army Cadets, three months serving on Lavarack Barracks in Townsville (Feb -May 2000) and a "yo-yo" deployment to the Solomon Islands spending one week per month from July 2005 – January 2006.

Twice, Kaye filled in when the Presbytery Minister was on long service leave and when there was a vacancy in that role.

In February 2006 Kaye took up the role of Presbytery Minister for Central Queensland – from Proserpine to Tannum Sands north - south, and west to Winton. That involved supporting ministry agents and congregations to be effective in mission in their communities. Organising consultations, seeking to match ministry agents with placements, chairing meetings and supporting lay leaders as many of them stepped up when there were long vacancies.

The Synod elected Kaye as the Moderator so Owen and Kaye moved back to Brisbane in order to prepare for the role in January 2011.

For a few months she was supply minister at Indooroopilly Uniting Church.

Inducted as Moderator in October 2011 serving until October 2014.

A new call into congregational ministry began with her Induction in January 2015 into Granite Belt congregations – Stanthorpe, The Summit and Severnlea. The Summit celebrated its Centenary in 2017 and the closed the Congregation a few months later. New initiatives in the Uniting Churches on the Granite Belt included the launch of the Blue Care Grief and Loss Support program in 2016 and the Retreat Walk which has become a regular feature of the long weekend in May. COVID made an impact in many ways but it did prompt the Sunday Worship on Stanthorpe Uniting Church facebook page.

Since coming to the Presbytery of The Downs, Kaye has served five years on the Scots PGC College Council 2015-2020.

In December 2019, Kaye was appointed as the Uniting Church member for the Religious Advisory Committee to the Service. This part-time role draws on Kaye's experience in governance, pastoral care and identifying suitable applicants for Chaplaincy in the Australian Defence Force.

At the end of May the Presbytery conducted a closure of placement service.

Kaye and Owen will move back to Brisbane and make space for supporting the family.





## Rev Dr Pienaar Schalk

As I reflect on our journey together, I count it an immense privilege to have known Rev Dr Schalk Pienaar as a colleague and friend for many years. Our connection began during our shared ministry in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, where Schalk served as the minister in placement at Northfield Methodist Church in Benoni— a place that holds deep significance for me as my home church and the spiritual home of my parents.

Schalk's remarkable ministry journey began in the South African Air Force, where he served as a navigator and lecturer in Aeronautics from 1973 to 1981. In 1982, he answered God's call to ministry, entering the Methodist Church, being ordained in 1988, and eventually transitioning to the Uniting Church in 2010. His career has been one of extraordinary breadth and depth, encompassing placements in seven churches, including a mega-church of 4,000 members, where he faithfully served as Senior Minister for 13 years.

Since coming to Australia, Schalk has dedicated 14 fruitful years to the Kawana Waters Uniting Church. He has brought exceptional skills in pastoral care, preaching, and small group ministry, always leading with wisdom and compassion. Schalk's academic accomplishments are a testament to his commitment to lifelong learning and theological reflection. He holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Marriage and Family Therapy (1998, University of Pretoria), an M.Th. in Pastoral Supervision (1993), and both Bachelor's and Honours degrees in Theology, alongside a foundational degree in Natural Sciences.

Amid all his professional achievements, Schalk's greatest joy and deepest blessing remain his marriage to Marlene, spanning 47 wonderful years. Together, they have raised three sons— Quinton, Robin, and Kelly— and now delight in their five grandchildren. Their home is a hub of love and laughter, with family dinners being a treasured tradition.

Retirement has brought Schalk opportunities to embrace life in new ways. His joy in Christ has deepened as he spends more time 'enjoying' God. As a pastor at heart, Schalk continues to serve faithfully, offering his gifts as a Minister-in-Association at Buderim Uniting Church. Alongside Marlene, he has established a small congregation in their retirement village and leads a monthly Bible fellowship.

Schalk's passion for learning and teaching remains undiminished. A recent reading project saw him exploring 100 philosophers from ancient to post-modern times—a venture that speaks to his intellectual curiosity and quest for understanding. His love for Biblical archaeology and history has led him and Marlene to guide 11 groups to Israel over the years—perhaps there is one more pilgrimage yet to come!

Schalk, your ministry and life have been a testament to faithful service, grace, and love for God's people. Your legacy is profound, and your contentment in serving the Gospel is an inspiration to us all. You are indeed abundantly blessed, and so are we, for having journeyed alongside you.

With deep gratitude and love, Rev Brian Nagel



## Rev Myeong-Hee (Priscilla) Seo

Myeong-Hee Seo and her husband Ji-Won Yu arrived in Townsville in early 2005 on visitor visas. They had come to explore the establishment of a Korean speaking church here. They were being sent from the Korean Methodist Church as missionaries which Myeong-Hee and Ji-Won believed was God's call to them. They have committed themselves 100% to this call over the last 20 years.

Myeong-Hee Seo had a basic level of English, but communication was still not very easy, especially when it came to filling in forms and applying for visas etc. As a Presbytery we were able to help her through these processes. In order to assist us non-Korean language speakers with her name, Myeong-Hee Seo took the name Priscilla. This was one indication of her large pastoral heart which is evident in all that she has done and continues to do.

Initially Priscilla and Ji-Won were commissioned as missionaries to Australia. She continued her studies while in Australia and was ordained as a minister in the Korean Methodist Church. In May 2020 she received the certificate to officially recognize her as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church. This was a special moment for Priscilla.

Priscilla and Ji-Won are people of prayer. Their early morning prayer times at Townsville Central church were very frequent. Prayer is the basis of their life and ministry and God has heard their fervent prayers for their work, church members, family, health and for the wider church and community. They took to heart Paul's injunction in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

Through persistent prayer and an unwavering faith Priscilla, with her husband's strong support have left an important legacy in Townsville and beyond. Below are listed some of those significant ministry achievements.

In March 2007, the Korean Faith Community was established at Townsville Central Uniting Church and that continues to flourish today under the leadership of the Deacons, elders and Pastor Gi-Young Youn who arrived in 2022. There continues to be an important partnership between Townsville Central and Korean Faith Community.

Priscilla saw the need to support seasonal workers in Bowen and established that work in July 2013. She had contacted her church in Korea and in due course Sung-Hee Choi (Deborah) came to assist the planning, then implementation of that pastoral work. Deborah arrived in September 2012 and stayed until she had to leave in May 2017 due to not being able to procure a second religious worker's visa. Under Priscilla's oversight, Deborah also connected with some Korean families in Mackay and held regular Bible Studies, fellowship meals and worship services cooperating with St Pauls Uniting Church in Mackay. Priscilla and Ji Won continued to travel to Bowen every Sunday afternoon during the picking season and also to Mackay after Deborah left.

As mentioned before, Priscilla and Ji Won arrived on a visitor's visa. They were able to help her procure 2 religious workers visa's (2 years each) before they applied for permanent residency. This was granted in 2010. In recent years both Priscilla and Ji Won became Australian Citizens.

In 2019, Priscilla, Ji-Won and their son Peter were significantly impacted by the flooding event in Townsville. They lost almost everything in their home in Idalia. With support from Presbytery and local congregations and their deep faith they overcame that setback and have continued to move forward with God.

Priscilla was able to be a pilgrim on an Emmaus Walk in North Queensland which was I believe a very special time for her. She also has a community and ecumenical heart which showed through her involvement with Stable on the Strand in Townsville, church fetes, ecumenical prayer meetings and the annual Walk of Witness.

Priscilla has not always enjoyed good health. She has travelled to Korea at times for treatment but also for special family times such as the marriage of her daughter and the birth of her grandchild.

It was with much excitement that Pastor Gi Young Youn was able to come to Townsville in 2022 to take over the leadership of the Korean Faith Community. Priscilla and Ji-Won could now relax but as was typical of this woman of prayer and faith, she then sought other ways to serve her God in chaplaincy and other roles. I am sure that she will continue to minister in retirement as God leads.

It can truly be said of Myeong-Hee in true Methodist tradition – Well done good and faithful servant.

We must also never forget the important support role played by Ji Won in the ministry. They are truly a team both in their married life and in ministry. Thank you, Ji Won for your servant heart.

May you both know God's rich blessings in the years to come.

*The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
And be gracious unto you  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
And give you Peace.*





## Rev Dona Spencer

Dona commenced her ministry at Southport Uniting Church in 2011, after a 30 year career in Secondary Art Teaching and community Art Work. She initially thought it was 'goodbye art, hello ministry' but was soon to be amazed and thrilled at how ministry and the arts work well together.

Her first ministry placement was for 7 years at Southport Uniting church, during which time Dona co-ordinated, along with a team of volunteers, the "Flourish Arts Festival" on the Broadwater Parklands and at Southport Uniting Church. "Flourish" aimed to take the church out into the community, and the arts into the community, celebrating in love and joy, the creativity of our Creator. She also ran a weekly "KidzArt" programme which drew together parents and children of different cultures and faith.

Following Southport, Dona's next placement was for four years at Kenmore Uniting church, where "ArtBurst" was born, an annual celebration and coming together of artists in the community which continues today. "Touchstones" has also continued - a weekly meditative and mutually encouraging space, where women can share and reflect, and make art together, for personal expression or for the expression of the church seasons in the sanctuary, or for exhibiting with Visionaries, the Christian Art group.

Dona's final placement took her to Maranoa, working as a Bush Chaplain for Frontier Services, Uniting Care Connect 100 and the local churches. Life in the outback was busy and varied and truly inspiring for Dona. A highlight of Dona's ministry there was the oversight of an 8 metre long mural for Wallumbilla State School, where each child's drawing was represented in an aerial view of the landscape, along with flora and fauna and significant land marks.

Dona is retiring to her house in Anstead, full of gratitude for the amazing journey with the Uniting Church, which began twenty years ago, when she answered a call to begin to study Theology at the Brisbane college of theology which became a call into Ministry. We thank God for your graciousness and love which has permeated Dona's journey and experiences.

## Memorial Minutes

Rev Dr William (Bill) Adams  
Rev Robert (Bert) Adrain  
Rev Kevin Bachler  
Rev Gordon Burley  
Rev Dr Michelle Cook  
Rev Patricia Darby  
Rev Lynnette Falkenhagen  
Rev George (Len) Forrest  
Rev Mervyn Genrich  
Rev Cecil Geyer  
Rev Alaric (Gale) Hall  
Rev Beverley Ham  
Rev John Hooper  
Rev Douglas A Jones  
Rev Dr Noel Kentish  
Rev Allan Lanham  
Rev Arthur (Jim) MacLean  
Rev Dr Alan Morrison  
Rev Dr Marjorie Neil  
Rev Dr Noel Park OAM  
Rev Raymond (Ray) Townsend  
Rev Michael Veary



## Rev Dr William (Bill) Adams

Rev Dr Bill Adams regarded the calling to ministry as a wonderful privilege. He saw this role to be perhaps the most rewarding and fulfilling of any that he could imagine. The obvious rewards lay in its central position in human relationships, placing the minister where he might share in the most basic and essential of all human interactions, with family, with friends, with colleagues, with those of similar conviction and with those of opposite opinions, with scholars and with humble folk, with old people and young, with the wider world.

Born on June 10, 1930 in Five Dock, Sydney to William Henry Adams and Edith Margaret (nee Duncan), Rev Dr Adams attended Sunday School at Five Dock Presbyterian and Five Dock Methodist Church. He completed his high school years at Fort Street Boys' High from 1943 to 1947, and in 1948 and 1949, Rev Dr Adams attended Sydney Teachers' College.

From 1950 to mid 1955, he taught Maths and Science at Dulwich Hill Central, while at night he studied for a Bachelor of Arts degree at Sydney University for which he graduated from in February 1954. During this time (January 9, 1954), he married Pat Sharp at Five Dock Methodist Church and they lived at West Meadowbank then at Chiswick.

His teaching career continued through 1955 and 1956 at Leichhardt Junior Tech where he taught English and Social Studies, as well as leading the youth group at the church. It was during this time he was appointed General Secretary of Methodist Christian Endeavour for NSW.

From October 1955 to April 1956, Rev Dr Adams candidated for Methodist Ministry and was a Methodist Probationer in North Parramatta (Rydalmere) and at Boolaroo. During this time, he completed his Bachelor of Divinity (outside of University of Sydney).

He was ordained at the Gordon Methodist Church during Conference, October 1959. For the next 14 years, Rev Dr Adams served in many roles including South Bathurst Methodist Church, the Central Methodist Mission Sydney and Hamilton Methodist Church.

From 1974-75, he was on the Board of Mission, Chatswood and served the Waverley Methodist Mission from 1976 for 12 years including at the Church in the Market Place at Bondi Junction in November 1976.

The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) was formed on June 22, 1977 and from 1983-87, Rev Dr Adams was Chairman of the Sydney Presbytery. He then moved to the Parramatta Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) from October 1987 to January 1994, and during this time was also Moderator of the NSW Synod of the UCA from 1989 to 1990.

Rev Dr Adams graduated with a Doctor of Ministry from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1990. With a move to Queensland in 1994, he served with Wesley Mission Brisbane, Albert St Church, for six years.

Retiring in 2000 in Brisbane, Rev Dr Adams moved into his own home with Pat for the first time. He and Pat had 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Bill loved wider life including sport, music and the outdoors. Bill and Pat loved to travel. Rev Dr Adams was grateful to minister in many different settings NSW and Queensland also including places around the world. He had the honour and the challenge of leading his church in a difficult time, but he found more support and encouragement than he ever imagined. He always sought to reach out to people in the community as well. Rev Dr Adams continued well after retirement, leading weekly services at his retirement village and in the nursing home where Pat had been a resident and died in 2020. He passed away on June 30, 2024.





## Rev Robert (Bert) Adrain

Bert Adrain was born on December 3, 1936 and arrived in Brisbane in 1950 from Belfast, Northern Ireland, with his parents, twin brother and four sisters. After attending Holland Park Primary School, Bert was employed at Chandlers Electrical Store, and then at MacRobertson's Chocolates, where he trained as a window dresser. His home congregation was Zillmere Methodist Church.

Bert was called up for National Service in 1955 and served two years with the Citizens Military Forces. He was also involved in the Methodist camping movement under the leadership of the late Rev Ivan Alcorn. It was during this period of his life that Bert experienced the call of God to ministry and struggled with this challenge for many months. Then God spoke to him in an unexpected and wonderful way – a vision in which Christ said to him, “You have been saying no to Ivan, but you can’t say no to me.” Bert said “Yes” to God and began to prepare himself for ministry by attending evening classes.

He was accepted for training as a home missionary in 1957 at the Methodist Home Mission Training College and was then appointed to the Biloela and Mitchell Home Mission Stations. During this time, Bert undertook further studies and candidated for the Methodist ministry in 1960, entering Kings Theological College for three years of study.

In January 1964, Bert was appointed to the Allora Clifton Methodist Circuit for two years, and in April he married Judith at the West End Methodist Church. While he was at Allora, Bert fulfilled his final studies and was ordained at the Methodist Conference in 1965. In 1966, Bert was appointed to Tara and in 1971 to Toowoomba. During his period on the Downs, he worked manually to support his ministry in rural circuits.

The ten years from 1976 were spent at Ayr in the Burdekin district of North Queensland. Here he saw the transition from Methodist to Uniting Church and was active in the growth of the Blue Nursing Service.

In 1986, Bert was appointed to Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast. While there he oversaw the development of a new building complex. Then it was back to North Queensland in June 1993, this time to Ingham for a further seven years. He was appointed Chairman of the Southern Zone of the Presbytery of North Queensland and served on the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Bert's ministry was very much a “people's ministry” with Judith his strong partner on this journey. His pastoral and practical care within a local congregation endeared him to many over the years. He retained a deep loyalty to the Church he served and is admired among his colleagues for his steadiness and faithfulness – a truly pastoral minister.

Bert and Judith retired to Oxenford where Bert continued his ministry as part-time supply for several years starting at Labrador then Coolangatta, Paradise Point, Burleigh Heads, Blue Care at Woodlands and finally at Nerang. When Nerang, Coomera and Pimpama became the combined congregation of Living Rivers, Bert together with Rev Reg Skippen regularly preached to support the three churches and provided voluntary pastoral care.

When Rev Colin Batt arrived at Nerang, Bert along with Judith continued to be active in supporting Nerang Uniting Church as their home church.

At the age of 87, Rev Adrain passed away on February 7, 2024.



## Rev Kevin Frederick Bachler

Kevin was born in Brisbane in October 1941, the only son of Frederick and Edna Bachler. Initially, the family settled in Morningside on Brisbane's south side and in 1951 they decided to give up the "old Queenslander" and move to a more compact home at Cannon Hill which was closer to his father's work at the Brisbane Abattoir. Kevin's early education took place at the Morningside and Cannon Hill Primary Schools. He attended The Brisbane State High School at West End where he completed his Senior. He took part in athletics and was a member of the Army Cadets and played the bugle in the Cadet Band.

Kevin's family was associated with the Balmoral Methodist Circuit and his early Christian formation took place first at the Morningside Church where he had been baptised and then at Cannon Hill. He has fond memories of attending Sunday School and youth activities and participating in Field Days. He was further nurtured by his membership of the Methodist Order of Knights and eventually became the leader of the group at Cannon Hill. He was also involved in District leadership of the Order.

Kevin has always been grateful for the encouragement and mentoring of ministers and lay people in the Balmoral Circuit who supported him and other young people by encouraging them to take up teaching and leadership roles. During the Leighton Ford Crusade in the late 1950's Kevin had a life changing experience which prompted him to think about preaching and further work in the Church. With the encouragement of Rev Roy Klein, he and some of his friends formed a "Preaching Band". Kevin began studying at the Methodist Training College at Kangaroo Point and became an accredited Lay Preacher in 1961. For a couple of years, with the encouragement of ministers and lay people, Kevin was challenged to consider the Ordained Ministry. After some struggles the call became clear and he candidated in 1963 and was accepted by the Methodist Conference to train for the Ordained Ministry.

Kevin left his work in the Queensland Education Department at the end of 1963 and to his great surprise the Conference, "in its wisdom", sent him as a Probationer to the North Rockhampton Circuit where he lived in the back of the Berserker St Church for 12 months. As this was Kevin's first time living out of Brisbane it was a huge learning curve for him. Fortunately, he had significant mentors like Rev Neville Ross and his family, the Rev Aubrey Baker together with the support of many lay people. Together they made the year a very special one of challenge, learning and growth that stood Kevin in good stead for future training and ministry.

Kevin continued his preparation at the Methodist Theological Hall at King's College within the University of Queensland from 1965 to 1969. These were not easy years to be training given all the change, flux and uncertainty happening in the Church across the world. Only three of the fifteen candidates in Kevin's year completed their training. Under the influence of many significant teachers Kevin was challenged to rethink his idea of ministry, to be open to change and to ponder upon what ministry might be like in the future given the church would probably dramatically change in his lifetime. Along with his Theological formation, Kevin began working on a BA and BEdSt degrees fulfilling his interest in education and teaching. A helpful part of his training was being allowed to work in practical situations during the long vacations. He worked for three months in each of the Coolangatta and Holland Park Circuits and at Lifeline Brisbane. Kevin also did Student Placements in the Annerley Circuit (1968) and Indooroopilly Circuit (1969). In 1968, while Kevin was still in college, his father died suddenly at work at the age of 61. This was a great blow to him and his mother and presented them with many challenges both at that time and later on. Kevin continued studying after leaving college and eventually obtained a BA (1977), BEdSt (1984), and a MEdSt (1990). He is a member of the Australian College of Educators and a Registered Teacher.

Kevin was Ordained by the Queensland Methodist Conference in October 1969 and was stationed in the Brisbane Valley Circuit. From 1977 he served the Uniting Church in the following Placements: Central Burnett,



Hervey Bay, The ScotsPGC College (Warwick) as Chaplain/Teacher, Gympie (supply), Stephens Yeronga, and The Wesley Hospital as Chaplain-Educator. In this role Kevin lectured in and facilitated the Ecumenical Hospital Ministry and Pastoral Care Course which came under the umbrella of Trinity Theological College. He stayed at the Wesley until retirement in 1977. Kevin's ministry has been a varied one covering country and city parishes and special situations. All provided him with opportunities and challenges for ministry.

The pastoral care Kevin offered in all the congregations in which he served was very much appreciated. His preaching was always challenging and sometimes controversial. He was always well prepared and challenged people to be open to new ideas and to rethink their Christian faith and service in the world.

In 2008, Kevin and Hazel moved into their home at Golden Beach and became involved with the Caloundra Uniting Church. Kevin was a pastoral leader with Hazel and served on various committees and church council. He loved going to the Men's Breakfasts, active over fifties (now called joy – Just Older Youth), Mainly Music, Messy Church, Explorers Group.

Kevin also took up supply ministry at various places around the Sunshine Coast and remained part of the Synod Chaplaincy Commission and the Multi-Faith Health Care Council, which he had been a member of since their inception. All of this proved to be challenging and kept the mind active. Kevin also took on some "JPs in the Community" work at the Caloundra Court House and Caloundra Library which he concluded in 2002.

Throughout his ministry since 1977, Kevin was ably supported by his wife Hazel (nee Hooper). Into their partnership in ministry, she brought talents in music; youth leadership – having been the State Superintendent of the Methodist Girls Comradeship in Queensland; and ministry with adults. She has worked closely with local Adult Fellowships, Presbytery Adult Fellowship Committees and has been a member of the Queensland Synod Committee for Adult Fellowships for a number of years having served three terms as its Treasurer.

One of her great loves was teaching Religious Education in schools which started when they were in Hervey Bay and continued at The ScotsPGC College in Warwick. For a number of years Hazel taught RE to Year Four's at Yeronga Primary School where her teaching and class management was appreciated by teachers and students.

Hazel's secretarial skills were also much appreciated and put to work in many situations. Prior to Kevin's retirement and their move to the Sunshine Coast, Hazel worked tirelessly for many years as the Office Secretary for the Yeronga Congregation. Wherever Kevin ministered Hazel's contribution, openness and friendliness were evidenced and appreciated.

The church gives thanks to God for the faithful ministry of Rev Kevin Bachler.

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT  
THANKS BE TO GOD



## Rev Gordon Burley

The Church is a changing and evolving animal that, at times, seeks new and innovative ways in which to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to an increasingly diverse and skeptical society. And often the way the church attempts to engage society involves short, flashy programs designed to inspire and to entertain. But, often these take off like a sky-rocket and then quickly fall away, to be replaced by the next and best.

But, there are certain individuals in the church who, through tenacity and prayer, find ways that do engage society and are able to speak into the longing of the world. Gordon has been such a person. His quiet demeanor and friendly smile covers a man who with wisdom and giftedness has used the technologies of the age to proclaim the message of the church, not with flash and drama, but with a gentleness that, in itself, mirrors the still small voice that God longs all the hear and to respond to.

From the 'Shepherd of the Outback' to voice over's and radio spots, Gordon has brought a plethora of insight and wisdom into the field of communicating God's central message. Many of his CD's and tapes are to be found in the collections of people, not only across North Queensland, but through-out Australia. And they have been appreciated and been a source of inspiration for many across all ages. Gordon has also demonstrated his God-given gift to communicate across not just distance, but racial and cultural divides as well. His experiences in overseas locations and, in particular, Papua New Guinea, have served him well as he has ministered to people of differing back-grounds by speaking the Gospel in a way that cuts through any human divides.

But, Gordon has been more than a skilled communicator. He has also been a gentle pastor and teacher. His laid-back style and easy manner have inspired people to also become preachers and teachers within the many placements that Gordon has undertaken in this Presbytery. He has demonstrated what a true gentle spirit can do when faced with the difficulties of life and the complexity of Church. His words are rarely spoken without deep reflection and are therefore often words of wise counsel.

Gordon has also been an inspiration to ministers and lay leaders in this Presbytery as well. He has walked beside, guided and encouraged a great number of people, not to be like him, but to hear God's call and to be the people God would want them to be. I am sure that, despite his failing health and subsequent retirement, Gordon, faithfully aided by Ainesa, will continue to inspire and guide many people in the years to come.

Gordon Dugdale Burley passed away peacefully on 13th August, 2023 aged 81 years. Beloved husband of Ainesa. Much loved father and father-in-law of Naomi and Christopher, Jonathan, and Adriel. Loving grandpa of Timothy and Georgia, Preston and Cheralle, Ainesa, Hannah and Zoe. Great-grandpa of Jehral, Jazzariah, Ava, Nephi and Jiriah.

We thank God for Gordon, for who he was and who God had called him to be and we are all richer from his ministry and service to the people of North Queensland.



## Rev Dr Michelle Cook

Rev Dr Michelle Cook was a beloved and highly respected minister in the Uniting Church in Australia, known for her deep faith, wisdom, and passionate commitment to justice and discipleship. Her early Christian formation took place at Indooroopilly Uniting Church in Queensland, where she was nurtured in faith and encouraged to explore her call to ministry.

Michelle's ministry took her to a range of diverse communities. She faithfully served in Weipa, the Frontier Services' Cape York Patrol, Mapoon, Yalga Binbi, the Presbytery of Tasmania, and Nungalinga College.

In April 2024, her dedication and leadership were recognised when she was elected as the Moderator-elect of the Northern Synod. Her untimely passing before she could take up this role is a profound loss to the Church and to all who valued her wisdom and vision. Throughout her ministry, she embodied the diaconal calling—serving those on the margins and putting the gospel into action in ways that were both practical and transformative.

Michelle's theological insight and leadership extended to the national level of the Uniting Church. She was a member of six Assemblies and served two terms on the Assembly Standing Committee. She contributed significantly to the development of Uniting in Worship 2 as part of the Working Group on Worship and convened the Assembly's Task Group on the practical outcomes of affirming First Peoples' sovereignty. She was a tireless advocate for the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and a passionate supporter of the Church's Covenant with First Nations peoples.

Her commitment to justice and reconciliation was reflected in her academic research. She was awarded a PhD in Practical Theology for her work exploring the Church's multicultural and covenanting commitments through the perspectives of young adults. She envisioned a Church deeply engaged in justice, listening, and shared learning, and she worked tirelessly to elevate the voices of others.

Michelle's life and ministry were marked by a profound integrity, good humour, and an unwavering commitment to Christ's mission. She was a mentor and friend to many, known for her wisdom, generosity, and the clarity with which she proclaimed the Gospel. Her presence enriched the communities she served, and her influence extended far beyond her official roles.

Michelle passed away on 2 November 2024 following a tragic accident. She is deeply mourned by her family—James, Zane, and Marda—her parents, Russell and Cheryl, her brothers Scott, Gavin and their families, and all who loved her. The Church gives thanks for her faithful service, the love and grace she shared, and the lasting impact of her ministry.



## Rev Patricia Darby

Patricia Alberta Linnette Darby was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1935 to parents Albert & Adele Savage at a small cottage hospital in Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. Pat attended Kangaroo Point Primary School and State Commercial High becoming a Prefect in her graduating year. During her school years, the family attended St Mary's Anglican Church and Pat was involved in their different clubs and activities. Pat lived in family home at Kangaroo Point until she married Wellsley Thomas Darby (*Jack*) at St Mary's on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1955.

After completing school, Pat worked in the economics department at the University of Queensland, and it was through square dancing socials that she met Jack. Pat and Jack had 3 boys: Ian, Keith & Craig. From 1968 – 1970 the family lived on Palm Island, moving there for Jack's work. After Palm Island a position opened up with the Darling Downs Regional Education office so the family moved to Toowoomba primarily for Ian to attend High School. In

1973, Patricia and Jack were asked if they would run the Tufnell Children's Home in Nundah – a position they held until the home closed some five years later.

While Jack remained with the Education Department until his retirement in 1993, Patricia worked under Rev Cecil Schloss (and others) in the Church's Division of Child and Family Welfare as co-ordinator of the woman's shelter and half-way homes. It was during this time that Pat felt called to ministry and undertook a Bachelor of Arts and Theology degree at University of Queensland and Trinity College Auchenflower. Patricia was ordained in 1992 at Albert Street Uniting Church and in 1993 became the minister at Toowoomba City Church followed by Wesley Uniting Church, Toowoomba. After Wesley Uniting closed, Pat moved to Middle Ridge Uniting and led worship there for five and a half years until her retirement in 2001.

Pat also served the church at Presbytery and Synod levels while faithfully leading the people of her parish. Outside of congregational commitments, Pat also worked as a Chaplain at the Westbrook Correctional Centre for Youth – their first female Chaplain. Pat was also involved in ecumenical activities, something that gave her great encouragement and hope. Jack was a constant support and assistant for Pat during her ministry years and together they enjoyed many trips overseas in their retirement years.

Pat felt ministry was both challenging and special. It enabled a freedom of vision and movement that gave added dimension to God's gift of faith being lived out. She said that, *"the Uniting Church from its Christ-centredness, [was] filled with an openness to listen, to hear and to act upon what the winds of change may be saying [but] recognised the richness of traditions and the hope that lies before it as part of God's whole church"*.



## Rev Lynnette Margaret Falkenhagen

During the service for her ordination in 2013, Lynnette shared the story of God's call upon her life to be a minister. The call came when she was a young woman and stayed with her over the years.

She had been involved in many things in the years between the initial call and her ordination as Minister of the Word.

At Presbytery meetings and during retreats, Lynnette would share her love of Guernsey cattle. She would become upset if we accidentally said Jersey cattle. Yet it was in talking with her that the care and enthusiasm that was evident in her love of dairy cattle was in some way the care that

she held for God's people. At times Lynnette was heard to say, "I hope that the people know that their pastor loves them."

Lynnette's years on the dairy farm gave her an appreciation of issues facing rural people and of the people themselves. She has an understanding of the pressures and long hours that people worked. This helped her relate to the sugar cane farmers of Sarina.

Lynnette particularly enjoyed the pastoral visitation aspect of her ministry. Pastoral care was given across the age groups. She shared stories about talking with young people and families as she prepared children for baptism. She visited clients in her role as BlueCare chaplain.

Lynnette began ministry in Sarina, when she was commissioned as a Lay Pastor on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006. The Uniting Church, had a scheme whereby a pastor could undertake a course of study which would lead to a transition to Minister of the Word. Lynnette proudly announced to the moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, in early 2013 that she had completed the requirements. The Presbytery began the process for her ordination.

In 2015, Lynnette was inducted into the Tannum Sands congregation. This was a joint placement with BlueCare. Wider work within the Presbytery of Central Queensland saw Lynnette participate within the Joint Nominating Committee for the Iona West congregation, in Mackay, as they undertook the process of discerning God's will for them in seeking and calling a minister. Lynnette faithfully involved herself in the process which went for a longer period of time than expected.

Lynnette involved herself in the Presbytery meetings and in the ministers' retreats.

Lynnette has been a dedicated team member on many Emmaus Walks as an assistant spiritual director and in other team roles. Lynnette's pastoral care skills were evident in her daily activities.

She was energetic when she spoke of reading the bible to and praying with residents at the Blue Care facilities and she took great joy in singing with them and to them.

Over the years, Lynnette had shown her love of God. She has shown her response to the call of God on her life despite the long time until the call eventuated.

The Presbytery of Central Queensland prays God's blessing for you Lynnette.  
Thanks be to God.

Rev. Arthur Tutin (Acting Presbytery Minister, Presbytery of Central Queensland.)





## Rev George (Len) Forrest

Len (with his twin sister Dawn) was born on September 25, 1937 and along with his brother and sisters was raised during the difficult days of World War II. His brother was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident at age 21 and this was a pivotal point in Len's life when, at the age of 15 he responded to the call of Christ at a Bellevue Youth Camp, at the New Years Eve 1952 Watchnight Service led by the late Rev Ivan Alcorn, and conducted in the then Southport Methodist Church.

He completed his studies for candidature for the Ministry and was accepted by the Methodist Conference in 1956 – at that time the youngest candidate ever received.

His year of probation was in the North Queensland town of Mossman which gave Len the thrill of “preaching the Word” and ministering with the people there. During this time, he signed the contract for the building of a new Methodist Church in Mossman.

Following this year, he entered Kings College to complete his four years study with the Methodist Theological Hall within the University of Queensland, providing him with great years of learning and preparation.

He married his long time sweetheart Betty at the Torwood Methodist Church in December 1960 and those who have met and known Betty as they have moved around the State, experienced her many talents and tireless contribution to the life and witness of the church.

During Len's appointment to the Cloncurry Circuit, with a first time experience with people of different cultures, their daughter Jennifer was born.

Len was ordained at the Albert Street Methodist Church in 1962 following which he was appointed to Longreach and Mackay. It was during this time that their two other children – Glenn and Judith were born. During Len's appointment at Mackay he shared ministry with Rev Rowley Barnes and became Associate Director for Blue Nursing Service, beginning a long association with Blue Nursing which extended throughout his whole ministry.

As a senior minister Len was called to Beenleigh, Cairns and St David's Coopers Plains. In the Surfers Paradise Parish he shared in a major re-development including the sale of the Clifford Street property, purchase of land at Robina, as well as guiding and giving spiritual support to the relocation of four congregations to become “One People in One Place with One Purpose in One Power” on the new Robina site.

In each of these places Len served in many capacities beyond Parish Minister including Director of Blue Nursing, Industrial Chaplain, Chair of Methodist Hospital Chaplaincy Commission, LifeLine Board of Management, Chair of Northern Zone Presbytery, Presbytery Pastoral Relations, and many other Boards and Committees.

In the last six years of ministry, Len served as the Blue Care Chaplain to the Southport/Surfers Paradise Centre. His compassion, pastoral care and counselling was appreciated by all who came in contact with him in this role at Blue Care.

After his retirement in 2003, Len and Betty bought a home in Parkinson on Brisbane southside and returned as congregation members at St Davids Uniting Church, Coopers Plains, where they continued to worship for the remainder of his life. He enjoyed being part of the Mens Maintenance group and ensuring the appropriate banners were hung in church for worship each Sunday.

In these retirement years, Len and Betty enjoyed travel in Australia and overseas but their most treasured days were spent with their children and their spouses, their beloved grandchildren and were so delighted to be able to see new great grandchildren.

In 2014, they moved into an Independent Living unit at Bethany Christian Care in Eight Mile Plains where they spent almost 10 years before challenging health issues saw Len and Betty move into Serviced Apartments then into High Care.

On the day before he died, when fading quickly and was told probably heading for Heaven, Len responded "Well I'll look forward to that".

Once reassured that his beloved Betty would be cared for, and his minister had come to pray with him, his beloved family surrounded him with prayer and love.

Rev Forrest passed August 15, 2024 at the age of 86 years.



## Rev Mervyn Genrich

Mervyn Genrich was born at Crows Nest, Qld on 16 January 1930, the son of Ed and Jo Genrich, a third-generation member of a strong Methodist family. A twin sister died in infancy and Merv has a younger sister, Marlene. He grew up on a dairy and grain farm, milking cows before and after school. His schooling was at the Crows Nest and Pechey primary schools, concluding with the state scholarship at age 12. By that time, he had completed his 'apprenticeship' ploughing with Clydesdales, having been entrusted with a team of four horses at the age of 11.

In his late teens, he moved to a dairy and cane farm at Nambour, where he cut and hauled cane in the pre-machine days. As well, he did contract ploughing and rotary hoeing on the steep hills around Nambour.

At Nambour, Merv was nurtured in strong Christian fellowship through the Order of Knights and Christian Endeavour, under the ministries of the Revs Ronald Howe and George Smith. A commitment at a combined crusade stirred a call – but to what? For a lack of education was a big barrier to any fulfilment of that call to something like an agricultural missionary. No doors seemed to be open.

A call to the ordained ministry came through an Overseas Mission deputationist preaching on Isaiah's call "Whom shall we send, who will go for us". This call to ministry was strongly confirmed at the first National Christian Youth Convention in Sydney in 1955. This call became Merv's continuing basis for ministry.

Merv was accepted by the Methodist Church for Home Mission training in April 1956, at the Home Missionaries Training Institution under the late Rev Donald Brumwell. He was immediately seconded to assist the late Rev A A Mills in the Darra Home Mission Station. He was thrown in at the deep end by Rev Mills. On the first Sunday, Merv found himself a Sunday School Superintendent for the first time and trebled the number of services he had ever conducted on his own. In the next week, R.E. classes of up to 70 children at the Oxley, Darra and Richlands schools were his introduction to that area of ministry.

In October 1956, Merv was sent to supply the Maranoa Mission at Roma. For the last three months of this appointment, he was the acting Master of the Students Hostel, with responsibility for 46 young people. In 1957-58, he was home missionary at Yeppoon and was accepted as a candidate for the ministry in 1958 and sent to Clermont. He came to King's College for 1959 and 1960 and although still officially in college, he supplied the patrol ministry at Cunnamulla during 1961.

In December 1961 Merv married Jean, a daughter of Bert and Amy Richards, in the Kingaroy Methodist Church. Jean came from a background deeply steeped in the things of the Faith, and of Christian service and brought her special gifts to the ministry which they would exercise together over the following years. They have three children – Noel, born in Bowen when Merv was in Brisbane for ordination; Leanne, born in Gympie and Russell in Brisbane.

Merv and Jean went to Bowen for two years, and Merv was ordained at the Conference of October 1963 in the Albert St Church. After ordination, their appointments were Imbil 1964-66, Balmoral 1967-72, Maryborough 1973-79, Pittsworth 1980-86 and Beaudesert 1986-91. In all of these appointments, Merv sought to express in his own way the call to ministry which had come years before. In the country appointments, he had a close empathy with those who made their living from the land, and in every appointment he sought to uphold his Master as the Saviour of the world.

Merv was one of four people who entered the ministry from Nambour in the space of two years. It was always a puzzle to him why several people far more talented and better equipped than he though he was, did not receive a similar call. But God had called him, he responded, and he did not regret it.



Merv retired to Caloundra in December 1991. Here he and Jean settled into the life of the Caloundra Parish. Merv continued support ministry, conducting services in neighbouring congregations and Holy Communion in local aged care facilities.

Merv and Jean were also able to return, 20 years later, to Balmoral Parish for a period of supply ministry.

A passion that developed from his farming roots was the cultivation of orchids. They joined the local orchid society and served in various committee positions. Merv was awarded life membership.

After a short illness, Jean passed away in 2008 which left a large hole in Merv's life. Merv remained in the house in Caloundra for another decade with regular community and family support. Failing eyesight and mobility led him to move to Brisbane to be closer to family for easier regular support. Merv settled into The Plains retirement village at Eight Mile Plains.

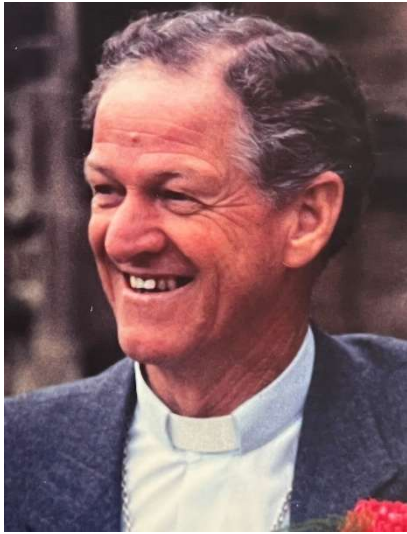
Merv joined the St David's Coopers Plains congregation and enjoyed the online services that began with the COVID-19 pandemic.

With advancing age and increasing health concerns Merv moved to residential aged care. At the end of April 2024 Merv contracted a respiratory infection that led to hospitalisation, and he passed away peacefully on 28 April.

Merv had a full life of farming, ministering to many people, family and orchid growing.

In an extract from his life story, Merv said:

"Now, as I put together the patchwork of my life experience, looking at it from the detached viewpoint of hindsight, the outstanding constant factor is the ever-present grace of God at work."



## Rev Cecil Geyer

Reverend Cecil Lawrence Geyer was born to Cecil and Violette Geyer of Tenterfield, New South Wales on 22nd February 1937, the youngest of 5 siblings. Cecil's father died, tragically, just three weeks before he was born so while he never knew his father, he was given his name in his memory.

The family moved to Wavell Heights, Brisbane in 1944 and he quickly became immersed in all kinds of sports: cricket, squash, tennis, table tennis, and golf. He was by all accounts a very accomplished and talented sportsman.

Cecil's love for God was learnt from his mother Violette and the whole family were fully involved in church life both in Tenterfield and in Brisbane. Church was a central part of his life and it was at a church social that he met his wife of 63 years, Noelene. They officially became

an item just before her 17th birthday and were married on the 28th January 1961.

Cecil and Noelene had four daughters: Tania, Karmel, Colleen, and Narelle. Family was precious to Cecil and he delighted in his children and grandchildren.

Prior to becoming a minister, Cecil served with the Citizens Military Force as part of his national service and also worked for eighteen years in the insurance industry both in Brisbane and in Hobart, Tasmania.

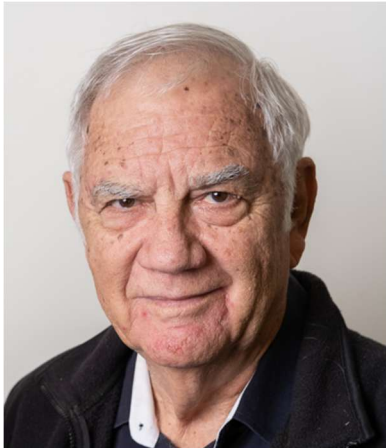
Always central to his heart was sharing God's Word and at nineteen he received his Local Preacher's Certificate. The call to ministry came and Cecil followed diligently, attending Theology at Kings College Queensland in 1976 and obtaining his Divinity Degree in 1979 from the University of Queensland. Rev Cecil Geyer was ordained on the 24th May 1977 and served in the following parishes:

1973 Wondai Circuit  
1974 Beenleigh Circuit  
1975 - 1979 Arana Hills  
1980 - 1984 Stanthorpe Parish  
1985 - 1986 Chermside Parish  
1987 - The Wesley Hospital  
1988 - 1992 Lord Street West United Reform Church (Southport, England)  
1992 - 1997 St John's United Reform Church (Harrow, England)  
1997 - 2001 Glamorgan Parish, Tasmania (VicTas Synod) Retired August 2001

This list doesn't include the many other congregations and services he took during his ministry, nor does it do justice to the lives Cecil touched over the years. He was said to be a scallywag and a story teller who had a knack for being comfortable talking and sharing the gospel with anyone he met – whether someone he knew well or not at all, you would be greeted with a smile.

Though Cecil's final years were tough, he was surrounded by the love of family and dear friends who journeyed this time with him. Cecil passed away on Friday 5th July 2024 and his funeral service was held at St Paul's Stafford Uniting Church on Tuesday 16th July 2024.

As an excerpt from his Eulogy, Cecil once wrote to the Tasmanian Synod the following words: *However, nothing comes close to my Lord who has allowed me to enjoy such beautiful experiences, and through all of this I have come to understand what He meant by "I have come that they might have life in all its fullness".*



## Rev Alaric (Gale) Hall

Rev Alaric **Gale** Hall was born during World War II on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1941 in Kilcoy, Queensland to William Alaric and Ellen Hall nee Carseldine. His father was away serving in Syria, so his birth made the newspapers as he was the first baby born to a soldier from the district. Gale spent his early years in Kilcoy with his siblings, Ellen, Neil, Noela and Heather. After the war, the family moved around several places in South-East Queensland before settling in Chermide, Brisbane.

Gale and his family were key members of the Chermide Methodist Church and as a young man, Gale was heavily involved in the Sunday School, Methodist Youth, Methodist camping ministry and athletics.

Gale was a key leader in the Secondary School camps, held at Southport on the Gold Coast during the 1960s. Gale attended five different primary schools and was a founding student at Kedron High School. He went on to study at Kelvin Grove Teachers' College and the University of Queensland teaching in both primary and secondary schools before answering the call to ministry. Gale also earned a Master of Education degree while in Townsville.

Gale served his Probationary year at Wynnum Methodist Church in 1965. From 1966-1969 Gale undertook a Bachelor of Divinity as a student at King's College, University of Queensland and was ordained in 1969. Gale celebrated his 50 years of Ordination in 2019 along with colleagues Bob, Noel, and Kevin at the Albany Creek UC where he was an active member supporting and mentoring others.

In 1968, Gale married Phyllis and after his Ordination they moved to Mackay, where children Liesl and Robert were born. In 1973, the Hall family moved to Papua New Guinea where Gale served as the Chaplain and lecturer at Gaulim Teachers College, near Rabaul. Gale's down to earth approach and personal interest was greatly appreciated by the students.

Upon returning to Australia in 1976, Gale served in the congregation of Aitkenvale, North Queensland and from 1982 in the Woodridge/Kingston parish, Logan City. During his time in Aitkenvale Gale chaired the Lifeline Board, led the congregation through Union and walked alongside the people of Aurukun during a conflict with the government over mining rights.

Gale held several significant Synod positions such as CEO of UCA's Child & Family Welfare Department from 1985 – 1993 and General Secretary for UCA Northern Synod in Darwin from 1993 to 2000. Gale will be remembered as having a strong pastoral ministry. In particular, it was his strategic thinking and strong support that was valued greatly by ministers and leaders across the Northern Synod, especially to the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. In the last placement before his retirement, Gale served as Director of Mission and Co-ordinating Chaplain of Blue Care. This position he pioneered and developed, itself being a major contribution to the work of that organisation.

From 1976 to 2001 Gale served as a part-time reserve chaplain with of the Defence Force Corps, one of only a handful to work across all three services: Army, Navy and Airforce. Gale's leadership skills were recognised by the Military and before retirement Gale served as Senior Chaplain and Staff Chaplain. For twelve years he was involved in pastoral care of Chaplains (full-time and part-time) and their families, recruitment and endorsement of Uniting Church Chaplains and Governance. He was Chairperson of the Defence Force Committee and was the UCA Representative on the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services.

Gale's Retirement Minute for the 26<sup>th</sup> Synod in 2007 reflected on his active ministry, his compassion for people, his no-nonsense approach and his dedication, loyalty, hard work devoted to his calling. In retirement, Gale was busy. He was the support minister for the Lay Ministry team and routinely preached on the roster at Kilcoy

Uniting, the church of his childhood. He also accepted supply placements at The Gap and Chermside Kedron Congregations and was on numerous organisations' boards and advisory committees. Gale continued his Defence Force work after retirement through his work as Padre to the Bray Park-Strathpine RSL and he was very active in Friendship Force International and his Probus club. He also volunteered routinely at the tuckshops at his grandsons' schools. In these ways he continued to minister to those inside and outside the church.

He passed away on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 just 18 days shy of his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. His Celebration and Remembrance Service was held at Chermside Kedron Community Church on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. He will be remembered as a caring and compassionate leader. His wisdom and understanding of what it meant to be called by God underpinned his ministry practice and his thoughtful consideration impacted many.



## Rev Beverley Ham

Reverend Beverley Ham died on the January 18, 2024

Beverley ['Bev'] Ham grew up with the Methodist church in Gympie. In 1960 Beverley trained as a Deaconess, two years later was ordained as a Minister. In 1971 with the United Church in Papua New Guinea Bev was a high school chaplain. In PNG Bev recorded that "understanding the world mission is about appreciating thinking about developing countries, their needs and the role of the church in the community".

Back in Australia Bev had various postings as a church minister and council chair in Beaudesert, and then in a mining community in Greenvale. "A hard hat posting!", Bev recalled. Bev helped to establish Lifeline's first telephone crisis counselling service at Ipswich in 1973, training counsellors. In the 1980s Bev's ministerial work included postings in Laidley, Biloela. In 1994 Bev worked in Longreach for 5 years. There she supported the running of the church parish and the rural and remote families located away from the town on cattle stations helping them as much as she could with so much energy.

Bev's career highlights include attendance as a delegate and speaker at world conferences; including Solomon Islands; Women's World Methodist Conference' in Nairobi, Kenya; Philippines; Derbyshire, England; United States.

In 2000 Beverley retired from full time ministry. In semi-retirement Bev had supply posts in Alice Springs, Northern Territory; Broome, Western Australia; Norfolk Island; Tocomwal, New South Wales; Port Macquarie, New South Wales. In 2010 – 2017, at 70 years of age Bev became a Cruise Chaplain with Holland America Cruise Ships working on cruise tours in Vancouver, Hawaii, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, Sydney, Alaska. Appointments on 14 different cruises included thinking in ecumenical relationships with Bev conducting Sunday church worship, bible study groups, conducting an Anzac Day Service, while on a cruise in Australia. Ministerial duties in retirement Bev conducted services and was often called upon right up until 2022. With a Chronology of Beverley Ham's ministry years and career highlights, you could say that she was a trailblazer in her working life and in her retirement from full time ministry.

### **Chronology of Beverley Ham's ministry years, career highlights and experiences.**

Bev had a reputation of being a trailblazer and troubleshooter. A woman ahead of her time. In Bev's 36 year ministry she was also sent to trouble spots, including Papua New Guinea.

1960- 1963 trained as a Deaconess in the Methodist Church.

1966 After a two-year probation, various appointments in circuits, Bev was ordained.

1971 World Mission. High School Chaplain with the United Church in Rabaul, PNG. Developed understanding of the World Mission, Bev said "is about appreciating thinking about developing countries, their needs, and the role of the church in the community".

1972 – 1974 Uniting Church Minister at Beaudesert, QLD

1973 Support for training of counsellors for establishing Lifeline crisis phone counselling in Ipswich, QLD.

1974 Mining Chaplain at Greenvale near Townsville Bev was 34 years old. A hard hat posting, Bev was asked to go to an experimental ministry, combining churches denominations to begin an ecumenical venture.

Synod involvement, Kawana, Sunshine Coast, QLD for 6 years

1976 West Moreton Presbytery, QLD one year as Secretary (when no one would take it on!) 1977 Delegate to the Inauguration of the Uniting Church, Ipswich, QLD.

1978 Student at Trinity Theological College, Auchenflower, QLD. 1979 Ordained as Minister of Word, Ipswich, QLD.

1980 – 1984 Minister at Laidley Uniting Church, QLD

1981 Delegate World Federation of Methodist Women at Honolulu, Hawaii. 1982 Minister at Laidley Uniting Church parish, QLD

1984 – 1988 Minister at Biloela Uniting Church parish, QLD; Boy Scouts Australia, Biloela Group Chaplain.

1986 Conducted worship and holy communion at the World Methodist Conference in Nairobi, Kenya 1987 Speaker a Women's conference Solomon Islands

1988 – 1992 Minister at Kawana Uniting Church parish, during this time Bev helped to Establish 'Beechwood' nursing home, independent units.

1992 Speaker at World Methodist conference; evangelism and the local church, Derbyshire, England 1994 – 2000 Uniting Church Parish Minister, Longreach

1995 Police Chaplain Longreach, Bev was 56.

1997 asked to preach at a funeral in Philippines.

1999 Pittsworth/Millmerran Parishes for 18 months it was a very tough and Bev was alone of support and the high expectations to resolve a 'Conflict Initiative Program'.

2000 retirement from full-time ministry.

2001 – 2006 Hostess with Cross Country Tours.

2007 – 2009 short parish supply posts in semi-retirement in Alice Springs, NT; Broome, Western Australia; Tocumwal, NSW; Port Macquarie, SW, and Norfolk Island.

2010 – 2017 at 70 years Bev became a Cruise Chaplain with Holland America Cruise Ships. Appointments on cruises including Vancouver, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Japan, Sydney, Alaska. Bev conducted church services, Anzac Day Service, bible study groups - thinking in ecumenical relationships.

2018-2022 called upon to conduct ministerial duties in retirement, Glasshouse Mountains, QLD.



## Rev John Hooper

Rev John Hooper was Ordained on October 17, 1960, and served as a Minister in both the Methodist and the Uniting Church traditions.

He faithfully ministered in congregations at Ashgrove, Caloundra, Suva, Fiji, Lautoka and Mackay. He also served as the Secretary for Methodist Overseas Missions.

Rev Hooper was the Director of the Division of World Mission and was also part of the Mission and Ministry at West End.

Words fail to fully recognise the global impact Rev Hooper has had on the lives he has touched through his life and ministry, as a faithful witness and servant as a minister of Christ's Gospel.

Rev Hooper passed away July 23, 2024.





## Rev Douglas Allan Jones

Doug was born at Lenswood, a community in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia on March 9th, 1929. He was the third in a family of four. His early religious life was moulded in the local Methodist church.

As a teenager he felt the call of God to become a preacher and enter full time ministry of some kind. His struggle against this call of God took some time and involved him in some life changing experiences.

He eventually submitted to that call and put it to the test by becoming a Home Missionary at the age of 21. After one year he returned to college and candidated for the ministry. After training, and marriage to Rita Young, from Yongala, they were sent to Kalangadoo in the Southeast of South Australia.

As was common in the Methodist system there were a number of placements in both rural and city churches. Of the 9 parishes in which he served in South Australia 7 of them he was able to restore to becoming viable. While in parish ministry (Semaphore Circuit) he was also the state chaplain for immigration and also an industrial chaplain at ICI Adelaide.

For two years he resigned from active ministry to recover from a breakdown from overwork. On recovery he was sent to Tumby Bay.

In 1973 while at Port Pirie he became the Chairman of the Methodist District and then the Frome Presbytery of the Uniting Church, which he fulfilled for five years, as well as being the chairman of a parish with three ministers and nine churches.

In 1982 he, and Rita, noticed an advert in the church paper for a Presbytery officer for North Queensland. He applied and was accepted. He held this position for over nine years during which time he was able to assist with the formation of the Calvary Presbytery, the opening of new areas of ministry, and bringing stability to the financial position in the area.

Feeling a need for a rest from that position he accepted an invitation to become the minister of the International Church in Tripoli, Libya. That was to be for five years, but for various reasons only lasted for two years, when he returned to Brisbane and was placed in the parish at Enoggera for two years.

After retirement he 'filled in' in a number of parishes as a supply minister including Norfolk Island. Doug and Rita moved to the retirement village at Allora Gardens Maroochydore in 1999.

In 2001 he lectured at the United Church theological college in Seghe, Solomon Islands for three months. He later was responsible for providing thousands of books for the college and the students there.

His interests were trying to understand what gave people meaning in life. This led to his study of other religions which included a study tour to India.

He encouraged people to take leadership positions in the church and trained numerous Lay Preachers and encouraged others to enter into a variety of full-time ministry positions. Through the careful resources of their income, Doug and Rita were able to travel to many parts of the world to study how other people lived.

Though not an academic, his interest was in practical administration and church growth.



His preaching and teaching within the congregation tried to relate the truths of the whole bible to the situation in which we now live. He liked to examine the basis for religious belief and practice and was critical of anything that did not stand the test of careful examination.

He has written numerous articles and studies on a variety of subjects. One particular field has been his study of Islam and its effect upon life. Retirement gave him the opportunity to do research into a variety of biblical subjects which he continued until his death.

He liked to keep his eye open for people who needed help in different ways. To the surprise of many he suffered from severe introspection which had an effect on his relationship with other people as well as his family. He was always interested in wanting to do something to keep active and after retirement he was active with Greening Australia for 20 years in their projects of restoring bush land. This was partly for exercise but also his belief that we all have a duty to repay to the community what we have received from it, as well as an expression of his belief that the world in which we live is God's world and needs to be cared for.

While being an advocate of church union, and wanting to bring Christian people together, he had some serious concerns about some trends within the church. Through all that he still remained faithful to the church into which God had called him.

His wife Rita passed away in July 2021 and he is survived by his two children, David and Neralie, four granddaughters and 5 great grandchildren. He moved to Townsville in December 2022 to enjoy NQ weather and be closer to some family. Doug was keen to remain active and walked daily and enjoyed exploring the neighbourhoods where he lived. After a short illness, Doug died very peacefully in Palliative Care at The Townsville University Hospital on the 1st December 2023.

We were very thankful for the weeks we had with him in hospital and had lots of conversations about his life, many stories and lots of laughs. At one point he said he hadn't laughed so much in a long time. He would often stop mid-sentence, wave his hand around for someone to hold while he had a little "weep" and then go back to where he left off. We often had to leave so he would stop talking.

Doug always enjoyed talking and supporting others.

If there had been a service, he would have liked the following to be sung:

### **The Te Deum.**

This was always sung at the opening of the Methodist conference.

### **O for a thousand tongues to sing.**

The conviction that in all life our goal is to proclaim the wonder of God's action.

### **Guide me thou great Redeemer.**

The journey of life has always been a journey with God.

Written by Rev James Stevenson



## Rev Dr Noel Kentish

### A remarkable origin

*Adapted from the tribute delivered by Rev Dr Noel Kentish's daughter, Fiona Clein and with kind assistance from Mrs Coral Kentish.*

Rev Dr Noel Kentish's story began in Darwin in 1935, as the son of Mrs Violet and Rev LN Kentish BA, BD [ref 'Saints of the Church'], and as a young boy, he lived on Goulburn Island, embracing a life that could only be described as a pioneer-like existence that fuelled his love of adventure, deepened his appreciation for nature, and nurtured his passion for simple living. His Father was remembered as being very kind by children from the island whom he and others assisted to escape during WWII.

Noel's early years were shaped by the love of his parents, but also by profound loss. At just seven years old, he faced a tragedy that would forever shape his story. His father was captured on 22 January 1943 by the Japanese military, who bombed the supply vessel Patricia Cam, plucked Len out of the water and carried him away in a float plane. He was executed soon after, but it was many years before his wife and family had confirmation of his death.

This loss became a defining chapter in Noel's story. One he later preserved with great care in his biographical book Eagle and Lamb. However, Noel's childhood was not solely marked by sorrow. It also was a testament to resilience and daring escapes.

After the bombing of Darwin in February 1942, his Father Len decided to send his wife, Violet, and their children Noel, Elaine and Claire back to South-East Queensland to the safety of Scarborough near Redcliffe. Noel would never see his father again. That moment shaped his instinct for survival and ignited his unbreakable spirit of adventure. Through it all, his remarkable Mother, Violet, held their family together, ensuring they not only endured but thrived, instilling in her children the values of resilience, problem-solving and perseverance.

### Academic success and ordination

Noel overcame struggles at school during his teens: proof that academic success doesn't always come easily. Noel persisted, and in the years to come, the boy who once struggled in class worked from the age of 18 throughout the 1950s as a primary school teacher, then successfully studied at King's College. His practicum prior to ordination was completed in Blackall in 1962.

Noel was ordained as a Methodist Minister in 1963 and went on to earn a Doctorate in Education in Columbia University in New York City in the late 1970s. His adventurous spirit remained a driving force throughout his life.

1963 was the year of two highly significant sacraments - as Noel was not only ordained, but also in August that year, married his deeply devoted lifelong partner, Coral Burville, who had trained as a Deaconess. Soon afterwards, Noel served as Chairman of two districts of the Free Wesleyan Church in Tonga in a two-year mission placement. During this time, their first child, Fiona, was born, followed by their son Greg, and in 1972, Trystan completed their young family.

### Service throughout the world

As a minister, Noel served continuously throughout Australia and overseas from the 1960s and in all the decades afterwards - even following retirement in 2000 - in a large number and variety of placements and supply ministry roles. Churches which benefitted from his service included Woolloowin, Clayfield, Red Hill, Charters Towers, Fisherman's Methodist Church New York, Yeppoon, Crookwell NSW, Jindalee, Kenmore, St Lucia and Indooroopilly. He was Founding Director of the Charters Towers Blue Nursing Service\*. [\*Blue Nursing commenced in Queensland in 1953, an enduring initiative of the Methodist Church in West End].

In New York, Noel demonstrated a quiet steadfast presence for people of all faiths, whether they were grieving a loss, celebrating a birth, or just seeking comfort, and was often their confidant. After returning to Australia from New York in 1979, Noel taught religious education at Somerville House in Brisbane [1980-1986]. In January 1987, he took up a post at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, where he taught comparative religion to students of nursing, medicine and paramedics, as well as English and humanities. He became a Head of Department and found joy in inspiring students and challenging them to think deeply. Noel became the Principal of St Columba's College in Nedlands, WA in 1992 and of course, served the church in Western Australia in the 1990s.

But his greatest role, and the one he cherished the most was being a family man.

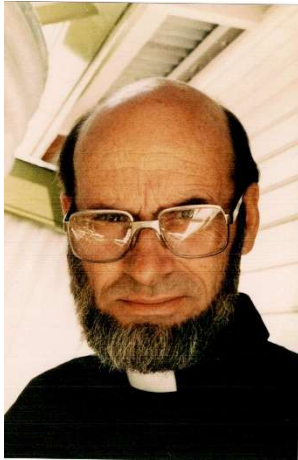
#### **Of home and hearth**

Through every chapter of his life, Noel had a steadfast partner by his side - Coral, her unwavering support - and her deep devotion allowed Noel to pursue his calling with confidence and purpose. She was the constant presence in a life filled with transitions. From the early years in distant postings to academic halls of Perth, Coral's dedication to Noel was boundless. She stood beside him as he followed his dreams, lifted him in moments of doubt and provided a foundation of love and stability for the family. Without Coral, Noel's journey would not have been the same. Their partnership was one of deep faith and enduring love; a testament to the power of devotion and sacrifice, in the name of family.

Noel's impact stretched far beyond his family to the classrooms, churches and communities. He served with unwavering dedication.

His daughter Fiona delivered wonderful words of affection and remembrance at his funeral at St Stephen's Uniting Church, Toowoomba on Monday 3rd March 2025. Fiona outlined that Noel lived a life of service, humility and kindness – "qualities that defined him as a husband, father, teacher, minister, lecturer and man." Fiona spoke on behalf of the family and described how the background and elements of his life defined his service to God through a life filled with adventure:

"Dad, you taught us that a life well-lived is one spent in the service of others. But also one in which we never lose our sense of wonder, you reminded us as Wordsworth wrote in *The Rainbow*, 'the child is father of the man'. You believe in... bringing the joy, curiosity, and simplicity of childhood into every stage of life; to see the world with fresh eyes, to marvel at its beauty; to embrace each moment with the same excitement as a child - this you showed us is the true essence of a meaningful life. We salute you, we thank you, and we will carry your legacy forward."



## Rev Allan Douglas Lanham

Allan's call to serve God was often expressed through his trade within the building industry. Born on 5th November 1932 in Nambour, he went from school into the building trade from 1946 to 1953.

Called to ministry Allan spent one year at the Methodist Home Mission Training College before completing two years (1955-1957) at Maranoa Mission being based at Mitchell. The next two years were spent at Kings College Brisbane.

From 1960 to 1966 Allan moved back into the building trade. He met and married Fay Evans and they have two boys. During this time Allan was employed by the Methodist Young People's Department and built Condy Park Youth Camp at Pialba.

In 1967 they moved to Mt. Morgan for five years, where once again Allan's building skills were put to good use, working to rebuild the historic Mt Morgan property and a home. The home was later sold to an Islander couple and this led to another project.

Moving to Cloncurry in 1971 Allan led a co-operative building scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with government funding. This self-help project gave ownership and self-esteem to these people as they designed and paid for their own homes.

Ordained at the age of 41 years Allan accepted a call to Methodist Redland Bay Parish serving from 1974 to the end of 1976. From there he was to be called to a significant ministry of 12 years at Sunnybank in 1977 with Union. Sunnybank Parish then worshipped in the old church opposite the Runcorn State School. During Allan's time it grew from 80 worshipers to nearly 500 and moved to a purpose build complex at Hellawell Road, Sunnybank Hills. A close link with the Blue Nursing Service saw adjoining land provided for the Carramar Nursing Hostel and Independent Living Units. Allan recalls a significant ministry with Deaconess Joycelyn Bailey prior to her sudden death. Outreach ministries of Sunnybank were Acacia Ridge, and Calamvale from which grew the congregation of Living Waters (Logan West) situated at Browns Plains.

Following his divorce and a painful time of loss and grief, Allan met and later married Norma in 1987. During his ministry at Sunnybank Allan had purchased land at Jimboomba and build a home. Allan was only at Goodna for 1 1/2 years when he had to take sick leave. An overseas trip and time for healing, and Allan accepted a call to Jimboomba Parish. The time in "God's Shed" was blessed time to recall and the negotiations for the purchase and removal of the Mitchelton Church to Jimboomba for restoration and worship where part of this time.

Allan retired from ministry at the end of 1997 moving to Toowoomba with Norma and worshipped at the Rangeville Uniting Church, often preaching and working in supply roles. After a time, Allan and Norma moved to Nambour, where he continued to preach until becoming full-time carer for Norma, until her passing. Allan was living in the Nambour Estia care home, where he would preach and provide pastoral care for the residents, he always welcomed new residents and was very much loved. Allan will be missed.



## Rev Jim MacLean

*Written by his daughter Karen Dunmill, a member of the Lay Ministry Team at the Goondiwindi Uniting Church.*

Our dad was formally known as Arthur James but was more commonly recognised as Rev. Jim MacLean. Dad was born in Bathurst in 1932 and was raised on the family farm at Cow Flat by his maternal grandparents.

Growing up, he attended the Cow Flat Methodist Church. His working life started as a guard on the NSW Railways, followed by time at a local produce firm. Dad commenced lay preaching at the South Bathurst Methodist Church before answering the call to fulltime ministry.

He married Joan in 1955, and they had three children- Peter, Karen and Ian.

Dad served as a Methodist and Uniting Church minister in the NSW Synod beginning in 1961 as a Home Missionary in Corrimal (near Wollongong) and then moved to Gulgong. After completing his Theological Studies in Sydney, Dad was ordained as a Methodist Minister in October 1968 at the Parramatta Methodist Church. During his studies and after his ordination, Dad also served in the following places- Tempe Park (Sydney) Arian Park, Griffith, Kyogle, Moree and the Mortdale Parish in Sydney. During our time in Griffith and Kyogle, I learned to play the piano and organ especially to play for Dad when he travelled to many smaller country churches. Dad also led many church bus trips around the eastern states of Australia including a combined family and church tour of New Zealand in the 1981/ 82 Christmas holidays. He celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination with a special service at the Cambooya Uniting Church in 2018.

A severe car accident in 1984 brought about Dad's early retirement from full time ministry. Dad and Mum then lived for several years in the mid north coastal area of NSW and travelled throughout the state for Dad to work as a short-term relief minister. They moved to Queensland in 2002 and settled in Toowoomba, where they were involved in the St Stephen's, Middle Ridge and Cambooya congregations. Dad was also the Chaplain of the Toowoomba Scouts Association for several years. After Mum passed away in 2014, Dad continued to attend church services in Cambooya and later in Toowoomba when he needed family or friends to drive him.

Dad's longest tenure spanned ten years at the Cambooya Uniting Church where, as a retired minister, he provided pastoral care and conducted regular worship services. Throughout his ministry, Dad preached in over 140 churches and was the officiating Minister at almost 300 weddings and numerous funerals. In 1983, Dad participated in a ministry exchange program, serving as the minister at St James United Church in Watertown, Canada, for three months. Dad and Mum continued to maintain contact with their Canadian church friends for many years afterwards. Prior to their car accident, Dad was also a very accomplished singer and enjoyed participating in many church choirs and musical presentations in both NSW and Watertown. Dad finally retired from preaching and ministry when he could no longer drive himself to church.

After a few weeks of ill health in early 2024, Dad moved into the Blue Care Nursing Home in Toowoomba. He was only there for a few days prior to his passing on the 13th of March. His memorial service was held in St Stephens church in Toowoomba on March 25th, 2024.

Today, the 15th of May 2025, is a special day for us as it would have been Dad's 93rd birthday.



# renewal



Dad at his 1968 Ordination with good friend and mentor, the late Rev Bruce Westbrook and with his Ordination group (Dad is on the far left)



Rev Jim and Joan MacLean in Kyogle 1970's



At a Scouts Founders Day service in Toowoomba



Celebrating 50 years of Ordination



The Cow Flat Methodist Church where Dad's church life began at Cambooya Uniting Church



## Rev Dr Alan Thomas Morrison

At the Synod meeting held in 1999, a minute of appreciation for Rev Dr Alan Morrison was received. That minute recorded Alan's sense of call to ministry in 1959 which was confirmed by the church, and consequently Alan was stationed as a probationer in Mackay Circuit Pioneer Valley.

In 1961 he began studies at King's College St Lucia, and during vacations ministered in Charters Towers and Nanango. Alan was appointed to Atherton Methodist Circuit in 1965 and was ordained that year. During the next five years he served in the Surfers Paradise and Brisbane Valley circuits. It was there that Alan renewed his acquaintance with Judy, and they were married in 1967.

Alan had been recognised as an excellent scholar, and in 1970, he and Judy moved to Durham in England for post graduate studies. He was awarded a Doctorate, and had the opportunity for part time lecturing,

as well as Chaplaincy at the university.

It was in England that Alan and Judy's son- Andrew- was born.

From England, it was to Papua New Guinea where he was to be the lecturer in Biblical Studies at Raronga Theological College from 1978 until 1982.

Returning to Australia, Alan was called to the Merthyr, Centenary, and Coolum parishes. In each, his wisdom and pastoral care were experienced, valued and appreciated by congregation members, and others in wider society.

Alan also served the wider church as a member of many Synod Committees and Commissions: Commission for Education and Communication; Chairman of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association; Education for Ministries Committee; Chairman of Synod Schools Commission; Synod Selection Committee; part time lecturer Brisbane College of Theology; Synod Discipline Committee.

The 1999 retirement minute affirmed that Alan and Judy served the Lord and His church with diligence, loyalty and faithfulness in the wide-ranging experiences of worship, witness and service. That minute affirmed that Alan fulfilled all that had been required of him with humility, honesty, integrity- and a disturbing sense of humour.

However- all that was more than twenty-five years ago, and Alan didn't stop! He has filled supply positions at Buderim, Maryborough, Glasshouse. He was a member of the Unity College Steering Committee, and has held other positions leading studies and providing pastoral care in congregations when required- even when it came at the personal cost of his own well-being.



In 2005 he was asked to lead a seminar in the Solomon Islands. Following that, he was then asked to offer his services to Sia'atoutai Theological College in Tonga. Thus, he and Judy were to spend significant time over the

# renewal

next 5 years teaching and supporting theological students and others in Tonga. During and following that time, together they also led Uniting World trips, and established connections between Unity College and Tonga.

Alan had a very rich and fruitful life - a life filled with great wisdom and compassion. He, with Judy, in word and in action, faithfully shared with others the Gospel story and the hope it holds. We give thanks for his commitment, for his wisdom, for his care- his life shared with us.





## Rev Dr Marjorie Neil

RN, SCM, BHlthSc (Nursing), BTh, MA, FRCNA, RCM

Although born in Victoria, Marjorie moved with her parents to Morningside in Brisbane while still young, attending Morningside State School and later Somerville House before shifting again to Toowoomba where she completed her secondary education. Always interested in people and how best to care for them, she initially trained as a Nurse at the Toowoomba General Hospital. It was while involved in that hands on care, she felt a strong call to Deaconess training within the Presbyterian Church. Following that call, she went back to Melbourne and became an accredited Deaconess while simultaneously continuing her nursing prowess being trained specifically as a midwife.

Her love and passion for nursing was married to her calling as a Deaconess in accepting an appointment to the Paton Memorial Hospital

Vila in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) as a nurse/deaconess in 1957 by the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions. Five years later she moved to Korea where she met the love of her life, Rev Des Neil, who himself was serving as a missionary. Their five children were born there. Marjorie was for five years the Executive Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society (Korea Branch) which enabled her to share her knowledge and love of Korea and its customs with foreigners who were on appointment to Korea. She with her five very young children moved to the UK in the early seventies to support Des in his further studies and while there, apart from being a devoted Mum, worked for the National Health Service at the Selly Oak Hospital as a midwife.

She returned to Australia in 1981 and commenced work as a nurse and midwife at the Mater Mothers' Hospital, while completing her degree in Health Science. In 1993 Marjorie decided to go back to full time ministry and was ordained as a MOW in that year. She served the Uniting Church along with her husband in the parishes of Maranoa and then in Central Downs (Pittsworth and Millmerran).

Marjorie was a lifelong learner, and became a passionate advocate for ethics in both the Health and Ministry sectors. Her MA was from the Australian Catholic University where she examined The Caring Ethic of Nursing within the Bioethical Framework presently used in Ethical Decision Making - a Grounded Theory Approach. Her subsequent PhD thesis was "Mapping the Ethical Journey of Experienced Nurses now practicing in rural and remote hospitals".

Notwithstanding her health journey, she will be remembered for her service over several years in a plethora of different committees and boards where her expertise as an Ethical thinker was greatly appreciated. She served as Chairperson of the Uniting Care Health Human Research Ethics Committee, a member of the Queensland Health Research Ethics Committee and the Synod Bioethics Committee, a member of St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital Board of Governors (1988 to 1997); St Andrews' Hospital Toowoomba, Board of Governors (1999 to 2003); Emmanuel College Council, (1995 to 2007); Queensland Health Ethics Advisory Committee (1995 to 2005); Convenor of Advisers for the Uniting Church in Queensland Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee; and the Commission for Education and Communication for the Uniting Church in Queensland, retiring officially in 2012.

Marjorie was also an Associate of the Sisters of Mercy and a member of the Mater Nursing and Midwifery Alumni.

Marjorie's years of service were not always easy and there were certainly significant challenges along the way. Nevertheless, she always took her ministry role seriously and gave of herself wholly and with great humility and a sense of God's presence and equipping to all she did. She spent her last days at the St Vincent Nursing Home at Corinda where she attended the monthly Uniting Church service often with a big smile and a 'thank-you' at the end.

*renewal*

Marjorie Neil, we honour you and thank you for saying 'yes' to Christ and His people. You were indeed 'salt and light' who brought Christ's love and hope to all to whom you ministered.

Shalom

Rev Dave Thomas



## Rev Dr Noel Roy Park OAM, BA, BEd St, MEd, MA Dip RE, JP

Noel was born in Brisbane and began work, following the completion of Junior Standard of Education, at the Goodna Mental Hospital. Throughout the formative years of his life, Noel was confronted with the plight of intellectually disabled people, many of whom today would not be in institutional care. This experience led to a burning drive to work for social justice. Noel was married Lyn Carter in Toowoomba at the Neil Street Methodist Church.

Noel and Lyn raised a family of 3 children, Debbie, Graeme, and Ian. They now rejoice in the presence of 7 grandchildren. Throughout the years of ministry, Noel and Lyn and their family have served the church in parish settlements as well as in ecumenical settings. Despite the variety of ministry challenges that have been faced, Noel has always been able to express his desire for social justice. In addition to being a Parish Minister Noel has also served as an Industrial Chaplain, Chaplain to a Psychiatric Hospital, Tertiary Lecturer in Psychology, Honorary Probation Officer and with the Victorian State Department of Social Welfare as Deputy Regional Director in Gippsland.

It was while Noel was working with the Victorian State Government, that he began working on and preparing a program that helped lead to the re-uniting of Aboriginal families. Many of the people who were re-united under this program were children who were a part of what we now know as “The Stolen Generation”. An extension of this work was made possible when Noel began work with Lifeline Darling Downs and South West Queensland. It was from this placement that Noel retired and it was also the place where he offered 20 years of strong leadership which at times placed him in conflict with Governments and the church.

Noel’s passion for social justice was broadened to include work with the needs of abused women and children, those marginalised by society, the lonely and the grieving, and rural families and their needs. During the 20 years of service with Lifeline, Noel gave 15 years of intensive work for and with rural people. This work was recognised as being significant and he was awarded with an OAM, a Rotary International Scholarship and nomination as an Australian of the Year. Noel not only gave himself to Lifeline but also busied himself in serving the Church through Congregational, Presbytery and Synod activities.

On many occasions Noel acted as Chairperson of the Presbytery of The Downs while continuing to work untiringly for Lifeline. Noel applied himself to improving his education and to his great credit, all his tertiary study was done as a mature aged student using part time and distance forms of study through recognised Australian Institutions. The study Noel did in philosophy linked with extensive debating competitions at local, state and interstate level enhanced the use of his analytical ability. Noel regrets that there is an apparent lack of philosophical studies and of logic among many students today. Mr Ian Macfarlane, in paying tribute to the work of Rev Noel Park said that Noel had the ability to grasp issues and to make an issue into an issue, presenting it in a way that people could understand. There is no doubt that this ability gave Noel the opportunity for great media exposure as he was able to speak on social issues with credibility.

Noel was, until his retirement, the Queensland’s Synod spokesperson on rural issues, as well as being the State Disaster Co-Ordinator for the church. For Noel, issues of Social Justice were never divorced from his belief in God. Noel believed in God who is One of us and not a remote God needing vehicles of communication but who used Jesus as “mediator” and through whom God and people are joined. In this joining the voices of the marginalised, the unjustly treated, and the “lepers” of our society are heard and ministered to through the love God, who shares their pain, shares with them.

Retirement was not part of Noel’s agenda when he was forced to leave Lifeline on the grounds of health. This impacted his ability to participate in ministry after retirement, he did volunteer as a JP for a number of years.

The church thanks God for the ministry of Rev Dr Noel Park performed in the name of Christ. Well done good and faithful servant.

#### **Personal Reflection from Noel on his retirement**

When I candidated for training as a Methodist minister I think my expectations of what this would mean were fairly simple, if not naive. However the 37 years since then have been anything but simple and I thank God for opportunities for involvements and experiences which I could never have anticipated. However, my primary reflections concern the people with whom we have worked. In each congregation and broader community there have been those who became our close friends and have been an important part of our lives.

Each congregation has also included some who were not seen as leaders and were rarely heard venturing an opinion but whose deep faith meant that when my faith was under pressure or some wise counsel was needed they were the ones to whom one could turn. I am deeply indebted to them.

Together with my wife Lyn and our three children I have had unique opportunities. The first Queensland Methodist to be Minister of a cooperating parish in Victoria where Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican Churches and the Churches of Christ jointly inducted me as their minister in the (then) new community of Churchill; the opportunity to establish a new program of support for Aboriginal families in Victoria; to be the only formal representative of the churches invited to be a member of both the Queensland Rural Summits and the National Rural Financial Summit and Synod spokesperson on Rural Issues for around 15 years; extensive involvement in the work of Community Recovery from disasters; twenty years involvement in Lifeline; periods as acting Chairperson of Presbytery and chaplaincies in Mental Health, Industry, Tertiary Education.

I can only thank God for the people of Parishes, Presbyteries and Boards who walked with us, supported and encouraged us. Ministry has not been simple as we have travelled a complex road. There was so much still to be done when the formal journey was forced to end for health reasons but one of the joys of ministry is in knowing that others will bring their own skills to those tasks and that, if the tasks were indeed Christ's work he will work his purpose out.

There are things I would have done differently and relationships I would have handled differently but I look back with thanks for the opportunities and for the real presence of God throughout my ministry. My ongoing prayer for the Uniting Church is that we will be more reticent in making pronouncements, despite some sections of our church seeking these, and become more concerned with hearing the voices of the marginalised, the unjustly treated and the "lepers" of our society and assist them to know the God who shares their pain and would love to share their joy.

Noel Park



## Rev Raymond (Ray) Townsend

The foundations for Raymond John Townsend's call to the ordained ministry within the Methodist and Uniting Churches have their roots in the post war community of Townsville in general and the Garbutt Methodist Church in particular.

Ray was born to Jack and Esther Townsend on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1941. Although he was baptized, he was raised in an essentially non-worshipping family. In those early years he had little or no contact with the church. He was basically an "outsider" or "fringe dweller".

This changed when a Mr and Mrs Brown who had a passion for ministry to young people, invited Ray to join the youth group at the church. Here he found a home and acceptance. The Browns had fulfilled the baptismal vows the church had made years before.

During his time in theological college, Ray encountered and embraced the Wesleyan and Reformed traditions as they related to baptism. With his understanding and own experience, Ray was very passionate about the baptism of all people, particularly infants and children. This has been a strong emphasis throughout his ministry.

In that same youth group Ray met Margaret Morris. Ray and Margaret were married in Townsville in December 1966. They would journey together faithfully for over fifty-eight years. It was Margaret who quietly encouraged and supported Ray during his three years in theological college and two years on probation.

While Ray was giving significant time to ministry in parishes and community settings, Margaret took the major role in raising their four children- Michelle, Peter, Adele and David. Ray was forever grateful that it was Margaret who managed the family finances.

Within the Garbutt Congregation Christ found Ray and here he confirmed the faith that had once been accepted for him in baptism. In this context the call to the ordained ministry began as Ray was given the opportunity to become a local preacher across several preaching places in the area. This call reached a significant milestone when he was ordained at the annual Methodist Conference in Brisbane in October in 1971. He retired in late 2005.

He served in the following parishes and congregations- Ashgrove (1969-1970), Yeppoon (1971-1974), Caloundra (1975-1979), Kingaroy (1980-1983), Rockhampton (1984-1989) and Blackall Range (1991-1998). In 1990, Ray was the Director of Lifeline Central Queensland and between 1999 and his retirement in 2005, he was chaplain to Sinnamon Village at Seventeen Miles Rocks.

That call to ministry at Garbutt was so strong that Ray, having not matriculated from high school determinedly set about conquering all obstacles so that ordination would become a reality. He did not find studying easy. He lived at Methodist Training College and Bible School for six years (1960-1965) where he studied part-time and worked part-time and achieved matriculation and accreditation as a lay preacher, both prerequisites for the ordinand course. After three years (1966-1968) in the Methodist Theological Hall at Kings College, Ray graduated and completed the necessary period on probation at Ashgrove, before his ordination took place in 1971.

Continuing education was important for Ray. A significant achievement was his being awarded a post-graduate Diploma in Religious Education by Griffith University in 1985.

His determination to succeed against the odds was reframed in the way he mentored and tutored several young people along their roads to future ministry.

All of the parish and congregational placements provided Ray with opportunities to make significant ministry connections with people outside congregational life. He loved ministering to and with "outsiders". The Blue

Nursing Service, (BlueCare), in Yeppoon, Caloundra, Kingaroy, and Maleny, Lifeline in Central Queensland, Hospital Chaplaincy in Kingaroy, Chaplaincy at Central Queensland University, involvement with the Christian Television Association and Christian Radio in Rockhampton, all provided Ray with extensive pastoral interactions with people outside the church. Rotary was also a significant ministry bridge to and through the communities in which he served. Ray was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship Rotary Award when he lived in Maleny.

Ray worked comfortably in parishes by himself. He was also a valued and respected team member in multi placement environments. Team unity was something he strove for at all times.

Ray died on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and his funeral service was held at the Caloundra Uniting Church on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. Friends gathered with his family after the service to celebrate his life at Moffat Beach with fish and chips, Ray's favourite.

The Queensland Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Raymond John Townsend and expresses its sympathy to Margaret, Michelle, Peter, Adele, David and their families.



## Rev Michael Veary

Rev Michael Veary was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1938 in Salisbury (now Harare). A boy to Leslie and Iris Veary and a brother to older brother Robin. Michael lived his early life in what was then known as Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) attending Blakiston Junior and Churchill High School. The family attended Trinity Methodist Church, where Michael was a Sunday School teacher, youth leader and lay preacher. It was here, as a teenager, that Michael committed his life to Jesus. Michael's ministry years can be characterised over three distinct time frames and continents.

### **England (1957 – 1962)**

Michael moved to England to train as a minister. He attended 2 years of biblical studies at Cliff College, Derbyshire before moving to Didsbury College, Bristol from 1959-1962 where he undertook Theological Studies for Ministry. As part of his ministry training, and with no family in the UK, Michael would often volunteer to preach at Sunday services in many of the local churches. Michael loved the outdoors and filling in for weekend preaching appointments allowed him to travel all around the UK. Michael met Doris, on one such local appointment, when he was the guest speaker at the Oldbury-on-Seven Sunday School anniversary. They were married three years later on the 16h June 1962 at Thornbury Methodist Church. Michael was ordained in 1962 and in December of that year they sailed to Cape Town.

### **Rhodesia (1963 – 1980)**

Michael was placed by the Methodist Presbytery to two Mission Stations outside of Salisbury. Being a minister here meant many things, an inspector & supervisor of school buildings, constructor of water tanks and electrician with the wiring houses with electricity connected to a diesel generator! Much of Michael's ministry at this time was during civil unrest and war. The two children, Karen (1964) and Andrew (1969) were born during this period. Michael taught Religious Education in several schools, started a Vestry Hour, ran services in the local mental hospital and became Chairman of the Area Council. In 1971 Michael accepted a call to the multi-congregation Gwelo Presbyterian church. During their ten years here, Michael was Moderator for two neighbouring parishes, set up youth groups, home fellowship groups as well as being an active member of Rotary. For eight years, during the time of civil unrest, Michael was made Chaplain to the Army, Air Force and Police, rising to the rank of Major before emigrating to Australia. When Rhodesia became Zimbabwe in 1980 there was a rapid decline in safety, health facilities and education. After much prayer, Michael & Doris accepted the call to the Uniting Church in Shepparton, central Victoria.

### **Australia (1981 – 2024)**

The Veary's arrived in Victoria January 1981, to Scots Uniting Church Parish in Shepparton which included farming congregations of Pine Lodge and Dookie and in 1985 the family moved to Leopold Uniting Church near Geelong. In both parishes, Michael instigated his tried and trusted management plan for congregation growth introducing Vestry hours (for visitations outside of normal office hours), youth groups, men's nights, home fellowship bible studies, and teaching Religious Education in local schools. In Leopold he also became the Chaplain to the Scouts Troop and President of the Lions Club.

After a decade in Victoria, Michael accepted a call to the Stafford Parish in Brisbane. Again, Michael implemented his vision plan for growth, encouraging Sunday school attendance, establishing women's associations and youth fellowships. He was involved in Crossroads (for people with disabilities), was the secretary for Continuing Education for Ministers and ran a couple of terms as President of the Aspley Lions Club. In 1989 Michael and Doris moved to a placement in the Balmoral Parish which included the congregations of Morningside and Bulimba. Here Michael was instrumental in employing a second minister to run a more vibrant contemporary morning family service while he ran the earlier more traditional service.



Michael's ministry was not only recognised within his congregations, but also in an advisory capacity to the Queensland Parliament and local civic councils, especially in the leading of the local Dawn Services for ANZAC Day.

Michael retired from ministry in January 2004 but continued to guide and counsel people within his local community. He had lived through the loss of his brother at a young age, witnessed the atrocities of war in his homeland, and took a leap of faith to move across the globe, though through it all, his faith in the Lord did not falter.

Michael passed away in July 2024.



## Appendix 5

### Spirit of Synod Award – Winner Jessica Pinkerton

#### **History of the Award**

The inaugural Spirit of Synod award was introduced at the 33rd Queensland Synod and has continued to be presented each Synod in Session to one individual who exemplifies the call and vision of the Queensland Synod and inspires others to do the same.

Nominated by their peers, this person is selected for their outstanding contribution to the life of the church. *Our Spirit of Synod Award is a small way to honour the extraordinary work of individuals, and the Christ-led changes they make in our congregations and communities throughout Queensland*

#### **38<sup>th</sup> Synod in Session Spirit of Synod Award Recipient**

This year's Spirit of Synod Award recognises Jessica Pinkerton for her commitment to creating safe, welcoming spaces where real engagement and discipleship can take root. Jess is a learner and a teacher—always seeking renewal for individuals and faith communities alike.

Through her work in intergenerational ministry, she helps others feel included and valued, and is actively part of the change needed in the life of the church.

For her Christ-led contribution and her heart for community, we are honoured to present the Spirit of Synod Award to Jessica Pinkerton.

## 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 that has a focus beyond day-to-day congregational ministry.*
- *The Queensland Synod works with UnitingCare Queensland to administer this award*
- *Recipients are presented with their Medal, in their local context... Usually in the format of a small function hosted by the Moderator and including representatives from the community, local church or community service agency and the Presbytery.*

## Betty Rogers

Organisation	BlueCare
Presbytery	Mary Burnett Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	29 years going onto 30 years

For nearly 30 years, she has provided one-on-one support to residents, played the ukulele, and sung for them, creating joyful experiences. Betty's involvement with BlueCare and her ability to engage both residents and staff in activities highlight her commitment to improving the wellbeing of individuals and the community. She is a beloved, quiet achiever whose kindness and dedication have touched many lives.

## Diana Jane Thomson

Organisation	Lifeline
Presbytery	Mary Burnett Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	19

Diana has been a crisis supporter at Lifeline, providing unconditional positive regard to those in their darkest moments for 19 years. Diana is highly respected as a mentor, guiding new crisis supporters with her calm demeanor and vast experience. Her peers praise her professionalism and willingness to do more. She is a role model, always available to offer wisdom and support to both help seekers and fellow volunteers.

## Don Ross

Organisation	St Stephen's Uniting Church
Presbytery	The Downs Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Employee
Length of Service	Over 50 years

Don Ross exemplifies the UnitingCare mission through his dedication and service. he has been the organist at St Stephen's Uniting Church for over 50 years, using his musical talents to uplift and inspire the congregation. Don's contributions extend beyond music; he assists with gardening, prepares for events, and supports garage sales and mission activities. Despite being in his 80s, he continues to help others with tasks like moving furniture and mowing lawns. Don's humble and compassionate nature has made a significant impact on the church community.

### Hazel J Turner

Organisation	BlueCare
Presbytery	Mary Burnett Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	
Length of Service	17 years

Hazel has been a vital part of BlueCare at Maleny, spending four days a week providing one-on-one support to residents, assisting with activities, and ensuring their wellbeing. Hazel's respect for residents, families, and staff, along with her advocacy for those in need, highlights her commitment to fairness and justice. Hazel's willingness to help, whether through walks, setting up activities, or simply brightening someone's day, showcases her unwavering compassion and innovation in service.

### Ian and JulieAnne Harding

Organisation	Bells Faith Community
Presbytery	Mary Burnett Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	6 years

For six years, Ian and JulieAnne Harding they have improved the health and wellbeing of individuals and families by providing healthy breakfasts at schools and delivering fresh meals to social housing. Their compassionate approach ensures they never simply drop off meals but engage in meaningful pastoral encounters. Ian's efforts in recycling have raised significant funds for the homeless and school chaplaincy work.

### Judith Hunt

Organisation	BlueCare and The Wesley Hospital
Presbytery	South Moreton Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	
Length of Service	10+ years

Judith serves as an End of Life Compassionate Companion at The Wesley Hospital, providing emotional support and companionship to patients and their families. Judith's dedication to fairness and justice is evident in her advocacy for patients' needs and her efforts to connect with community groups for additional resources. Her creative initiatives, such as sourcing music and crafting keepsakes, bring comfort and meaningful connections to those in palliative care. Judith's impact extends beyond the hospital, promoting death literacy and supporting non-clinical death doulas through community outreach.

### Judy Ross

Organisation	St Stephens Uniting Church
Presbytery	The Downs Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	50 years

Judy has supported the church community in numerous ways, from being an elder and choir member to organizing garage sales and book sales for mission projects. Judy's compassion and dedication are evident in her behind-the-scenes efforts, such as preparing the church for services, baking for families in need, and advocating for Pacific Islanders' support.

### Lyn Watson

Organisation	BlueCare
Presbytery	Carpentaria Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Employee
Length of Service	11 years

Lyn has travelled from Charters Towers to Townsville, assisting clients with alarm issues and ensuring their safety. Lyn's compassion and willingness to help, even without reimbursement for travel, highlight her selfless nature. She is a leader among volunteers, providing maintenance, client reviews, and emotional support. Lyn's efforts have kept vulnerable clients connected and safe. Her dedication and innovative approach make her an invaluable asset to the community and the Safe Alert program.

### Margaret Jean Reid (known as Jean)

Organisation	BlueCare
Presbytery	The Downs Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	70 years

For 70 years Margearet, known as Jean to those close to her, she has been a pillar of her local congregation, preaching, teaching, and leading various groups, including youth and women's groups, Bible studies, and Grief and Loss support. Jean's open door and willingness to listen and offer comfort reflect her deep compassion and commitment to helping others. Her innovative spirit is evident in her early adoption of technology for church services and her continuous learning, even in her late 70s.

### Margaret Whitechurch

Organisation	Lifeline
Presbytery	Central Queensland Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	31 years

Margaret through her extensive volunteer work with Lifeline has reached out to people in need, particularly through her crisis support work on the 13 11 14 Crisis Line, where she has answered over 700 calls since 2020. Margaret also mentors new students, ensuring they are well-prepared to support others. Her leadership in Community Recovery and efforts to link Lifeline with broader community initiatives demonstrate her commitment to fairness and justice.

### Muriel Wroe

Organisation	St Stephens Hospital
Presbytery	Mary Burnett Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	15 years

Muriel Wroe has dedicated over 2700 hours to assisting patients and staff. Her efforts have touched the lives of over 30,000 patients, making a significant impact. Inspired by her own experiences, Muriel's commitment extends beyond her duties, encouraging others to join the volunteer team. Her innovative approach and dedication to helping others make her an invaluable asset to the community.

### Rev'd Dr Carol Hebron

Organisation	BlueCare
Presbytery	South Moreton Presbytery
Volunteer or Employee	Volunteer
Length of Service	7 years

Carol's compassion and wisdom shine through her dedication to residents, offering emotional and spiritual support, especially during end-of-life care. She advocates for residents' needs, ensuring they receive the care and attention they deserve. Carol's innovative approach includes organizing sessions on preparing for end-of-life and engaging residents in meaningful activities. Her kindness, energy, and unwavering commitment have positively impacted so many lives.

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