

6 May 2020

PRESBYTERY UPDATE



DATES TO NOTE

Presbytery Meeting
Saturday 16 May, 9:30am-12:30pm

Presbytery Database Update Forms
Return to Presbytery Administrator by
Friday 29 May

Presbytery Website Update
May/June
Thanks to congregations who have sent photos

Ethical Ministry Training
June, details emailed soon

Message from the Chair

Hello everyone,

It is good to be part of the Illawarra Presbytery!

Through my wider church interaction with all the presbyteries across the Synod I have become more aware of the good position our presbytery is in. The previous attention to financial concerns and attention to pastoral matters has enabled us to face this current COVID-19 situation with assurance that we will get through this.

The Presbytery Standing Committee with the help of the Presbytery Finance and Property Committee will be monitoring congregations for any warning signs that may indicate more Presbytery support is necessary.

At present most congregations, with the help of the JobKeeper program, are moving forward with new and different initiatives for worship, pastoral care and ministry to the community.

When we come to the end of this time of closure we will have been changed by the experience.

I am hopeful that the many opportunities we have had to try new things will encourage us to renew our thinking about who we are and what we do.

- ◇ Where have you seen God at work?
- ◇ What does it mean to do things differently and well?
- ◇ What is vital for the next season of openness?
- ◇ What is transformative, what do we let go of?

There will be a new format for our next Presbytery meeting :
the Presbytery meeting will be held by Zoom on Saturday 16 May, 9:30am-12:30pm.

During this meeting there will be an opportunity for one person from each congregation to share the joys and struggle, hopes and concerns from this new way of being church.

We will only carry out essential business and we will importantly consider the issuing of a call for the Shoalhaven Mission Development Agent. Voting will be by secret ballot over email.

May God's peace be with us all.

Rev Diane Anderson

"I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:12-13

Summary of PSC Decisions

Compliant Workshops for Congregations

Business Manager, Barbara Moore with assistance from Presbytery Administrator, Vi Richardson will offer workshops to assist congregations with paperwork and plans to manage risk and compliance.

Change of Presbytery Postal Address

Illawarra Presbytery postal address has changed to
PO Box 163, KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500

Other News

Update Your Details

This week congregations will receive a form to update us on your essential contact details.

When COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, your Church's contact details are useful for the Presbytery to invite your congregation to courses and events and to send you correspondence from Synod and Assembly. Please return your completed forms to Vi by Friday 29 May.

Synod Newsletter—Weekly Insights

News, resources and events. Click the link to read and subscribe.

[https://www.vision6.com.au/v/47004/1752073\(email.html?k=aydYnG8GL7w-HaeDHB87pgVxXg1rw1eFnGciSfogTFY\)](https://www.vision6.com.au/v/47004/1752073(email.html?k=aydYnG8GL7w-HaeDHB87pgVxXg1rw1eFnGciSfogTFY)

Illawarra Presbytery Contact:

Vi Richardson, Presbytery Administrator Mob 0491 185 320 illawarraAdmin@bigpond.com PO Box 163, KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500

School Climate Action – Show Support 10 and 15 May

For more information go to <https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/>

A key element of the Synod Climate Action Strategy was our resolve as a church to support young people in the [School Strike 4 Climate](#) actions. **The next School Climate Action event is Friday 15 May.**

The School Strike 4 Climate movement has three core asks:

- ◆ No new coal, oil or gas projects, including the Adani mine
- ◆ 100% renewable energy generation and exports by 2030
- ◆ The funding of a just transition and job creation for all fossil fuel workers and communities

How to get involved:

<https://www.unitingearth.org.au/uniting-supports-the-may-15th-climate-strike/>

Before the event - Sunday, 10 May

Hold a safe climate themed online worship service on Sunday, 10 May (the Sunday before).

All the pre-prepared videos and text liturgy you need are at <https://www.unitingearth.org.au/worship/>

There are also options to log in to another church's service instead.

Uniting Earth hope that providing these videos for the whole liturgy will take some pressure off stressed ministers/worship leaders (and candidates) and give them some time to catch up on other things.

Rally on the day - May 15

1. Attend the **"Build a Better Future" national broadcast** online from 4-8pm.

Because we can't physically gather it will take the form of an interactive live broadcast between the hours of 4pm and 8pm (join in when you can). <https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/may15>

2. Share a personal message of support for climate action on 15 May.

We are asking all Uniting people to film and share a 30 second maximum video finishing the sentence **'I support a safe climate future for all, because....'**

Get all the details and see other people's contributions here. <https://www.unitingearth.org.au/may-15-personal-message/>

3. Post a prepared video on 15 May on all your social media channels

with the hashtags #uniting4climate #BuildaBetterFuture #ClimateStrikeOnline and tagging your Members of Parliament.

4. Or post a photo of yourself holding a sign

that says **'I support a safe climate future for all, because....'** and finish the sentence.

Post on social media with the hashtags #uniting4climate and #climatestrikeonline #BuildaBetterFuture #SignsOfFaith and tagging your Members of Parliament.

5. Or if you aren't into social media, write

'I support a safe climate future for all, because....' message to your Member of Parliament by email or post.

You can find your federal MP here at https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/guidelines_for_contacting_senators_and_members

6. Attend the ecumenical prayer service

Organised by Common Grace at 3pm on Friday, 15 May, with participation by Assembly President Dr Deidre Palmer, Uniting Earth Advocate Rev Dr Jason John and Uniting Church Minister Rev Alimoni Taumoepeau.

For more information go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1507767699408392/>

7. Be part of the multi-faith service

Organised by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (more information at <https://www.arrcc.org.au/strike>)

Uniting Earth Dates Coming Up

15 May - Climate Strike online

18-22 May - Festival of Homiletics

1 June - Eco-sermons

5 June - World Environment Day

September - Season of Creation

Other Uniting Earth Events

Festival of Homiletics: 18 - 22 May

The international Festival of Homiletics event usually held in the US is going online this year, and will be free to livestream (if you're willing to stay up late).

The theme is Preaching a New Earth: Climate and Creation, so Uniting Earth and UME are keen for everyone to tune in. <https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/>

Eco-Sermon Festival: Due 1 June

Inspired by the Festival of Homiletics, Uniting Earth will be asking ministers to share recordings of their best eco-sermon with us by June 1, to be shared on World Environment Day. Our favourite 5 will become sermon video resources as part of the liturgy resources we create for the Season of Creation this year.

Uniting Earth Climate Conference 2020: 31st July – 1st August

This conference will now be online, and primarily on the Thursday night, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

It includes training for Ministers and church leaders on offering best practice pastoral care to their communities in light of climate anxiety, grief and mental health issues; climate communication training & training on how your church can take climate action.

As such, it will be relevant to anyone in the church with an interest in climate, and particularly important for Ministers, Candidates, Pastoral Practitioners and pastoral care leaders.

Uniting Earth Contact: <https://www.unitingearth.org.au/>

Dee Davidian and Jon O'Brien on behalf of the Climate Actions Task Group (one of the five task groups of the Synod Climate Action Strategy).