

DAY OF MOURNING Introduction

23 January 2022

Every year the Uniting Church marks a Day of Mourning to reflect on the dispossession of Australia's First Peoples and the ongoing injustices faced by First Nations people in this land. For those of us who are Second Peoples, we lament that we were and remain complicit.

The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the 15th Assembly in 2018 arising from a request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

As an expression of the Uniting Church's commitment to justice and truth-telling, we declared the Sunday before Australia Day as a Day of Mourning.

Again in 2022, we invite you on or around Sunday 23 January to hold worship services that reflect on the effects of invasion and colonisation on First Peoples.

In marking a day of mourning, we hear the call of Jesus to a love one another. We live into our covenant relationship to stand together with, and listen to the wisdom of First Nations people in their struggle for justice. We affirm the sovereignty of First Peoples and honour their culture and their connection to country. We reaffirm our understanding that First Peoples encountered the Creator God long before colonisation. We confess and seek forgiveness for the dispossession and violence against First Peoples, we lament our part, and we recommit to justice and truth-telling.

We encourage you to use this opportunity to make a connection with UAICC or First Peoples in your local community. You might also like to take this opportunity to begin a conversation about how you will continue to live out the covenant as a faith community. As the President of the Uniting Church and the Interim National Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, we pray that our Church and our nation will continue on this journey of confession, truth-telling and seeking of justice and healing.

Grace and Peace to you.



Rev Sharon Hollis

President Uniting Church in Australia



Rev Mark Kickett

Interim National Chair Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress