

The Presbytery has continued to support and exercise oversight of the congregations and ministries within its large area. Of particular challenge, is the support of congregations without a Minister in placement. The ability of some congregations to maintain a vibrant ministry in their communities, despite the need for some people needing to fill several roles, is amazing and praiseworthy.

Meetings

In addition to our coming together in June at Synod-time, the Presbytery also met in April 2016. This year Rev. Ashley Davis from the South Australian Synod/Presbytery provided valuable training in the area of how to plan for local mission. The response was positive and provided skills to build-up the capacity of congregations and faith communities, to plan for, and move into their future.

In conjunction with this meeting, the Ministers, and others in ministry, also met for their Code of Ethics in-service training and their annual retreat (see below).

In September 2015, an in-service training was held to train Ministers in Appreciative Enquiry and Open Space Technology. This was skilfully led by Brendan McKeague. The skills he shared; enable a group to be empowered, to affirm its strengths and find solutions to its issues. The training was well attended and was received positively, giving opportunity also, to strengthen relational networks between those present.

Ministers

- Retreat: This was held following the April Presbytery meeting, at the Mary River Conference Centre. The leader (once again) was the Rev. Lynnette Dungan from the Vic/Tas Synod, and focussed on the theme, 'Leaving the Known'. This retreat gave a good opportunity for reflection, prayer, conversation and renewal.
- Coming: we welcome the following Minister, with joy..
 - James Godfrey, Deacon (Alice Springs). Police Chaplain (part-time)
- Transferring: we warmly receive on transfer from Frontier Services ..
 - Peter Wait, Deacon. (Tennant Creek Congregation, Tennant Barkly Remote Ministry)
 - Lindsay Parkhill, Minister of the Word. (Jabiru Congregation, West Arnhem Area Ministry [NRCC])
- Concluding placements: we acknowledge the following with deep gratitude..
 - Salomo Bangun, Minister of the Word. Salomo concluded his long ministry placement at Philadelphia Indonesian UC at the end of September. (He is currently a Chaplain at Kormilda College.)
 - Colin Gordon, Minister of the Word. Colin concluded a five-year placement as the Centralian Patrol Minister with Frontier Services, in December. He has returned to New Zealand.

Other Ministries

- Jemma Whittaker – was appointed in 2014 as National Youth Activities Officer. She has continued enthusiastically, to develop networks for youth, young adults and leadership development.
- Basil Schild – is active as the Synod Social Responsibility Resource Person; raising key issues of concern; for example, in relation to asylum seekers, and prison chaplaincy. He maintains links with the UCA national social justice network. He also had a major part in the development of the Synod's *'Guidelines for Decisions about Proper Use of Money and Doing Good Business for God'* document.

Property

The re-build of the Living Water Community Centre, following its being burnt down in recent years, is very nearly complete. This will be a useful facility for the ministry and outreach of this congregation.

Placements

The Pastoral Relations and Placements Committee (PR&PC) has been active throughout the past year. It is especially mindful of those Congregations, either where their Minister is leaving or where the placement is currently vacant. It continues to work hard in support of ministry and mission across this diverse Presbytery.

Presbytery Minister/Chairperson

Early in 2016, I notified the PR&PC of my intention to retire at the end of the year. A Joint Nominating Committee has been active and the process for finding someone to fill the placement and is making progress. I would like to thank the members of Synod and Pilgrim Presbytery for your encouragement and support, while I have been in this role. I find it is a great experience and opportunity, to serve Christ and his Church in this way.

Rev Bruce Slater

Presbytery Minister/Chairperson.