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| PPNA logo 50%.jpg | PPNA ExecutiveMinutes | **Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia****Meeting held on Thursday 1st March at Somerville Community Centre, Berrimah NT.**  |

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:**

Deputy Chairperson Richard Telfer welcomed those in attendance and “Welcome to Country” at 9.02am.

**2. PRESENT:**

Rev Felicity Amery (Presbytery Minister and Chairperson), Rev Salomo Bangun (Humpty Doo), Pastor Dr Steve Bevis (Alice Springs), Pastor David Crawford (RDH), Pastor Rosemary Hudson Miller (Darwin Memorial), Peter Jones (Synod), Rev Joe Mar (NRCC), Pastor Lauren Merritt (Darwin Memorial), Rev Reva Natigor (Karama), Rev Helen Paine (Synod), Rev Myung Hwa Park (Nhulunbuy), Pastor Benjamin Quilliam (Alice Springs), Rev Dr Helen Richmond (Casuarina), Rev Basil Schild (Nightcliff), Rev Christine Senini (Defence Chaplain), Pastor Sailosi Sekitoga (Darwin Ministries), Pastor Richard Telfer (Deputy Chairperson, Palmerston), Rev Peter Wait (Tennant Creek), Pastor Jemma Whittaker (Synod), Wendy Beresford-Manning (Darwin Memorial), Andrea Bolten (Kununurra), Adrian Calyun-Sice (Tennant Creek), Olive Frakking (Secretary -Humpty Doo), Emily Hayes (Alice Springs), Joy Linton (Nhulunbuy), Louise Macdonald (Jabiru), Stuart McMillan (UCA Assembly), Ros McMillan, and Sue Smith (Treasurer). Rev. Dr Lee Levett-Olson (Nungalinya Teacher), and Pastor Tony Goodluck (UCA Dean of Students).

**3.0 WELCOME FROM LAWSON BROAD, CEO Somerville Community Services:**

Lawson gave a brief history of Somerville’s connection to the Uniting Church. Somerville Community Services was named after Margaret Somerville, a missionary at Croker Island prior to World War Two. Children who were removed from their families into protection by the church and government were taken to Croker Island. When the children had to leave Croker Island because of the War, Margaret Somerville made an extraordinary trip from Croker Island to Gumbulunya, to Pine Creek and then by rail into South Australia. Today Somerville Community Services has strong connection to the Uniting Church, with two of their Board members appointed by the Northern Synod. Somerville cares for 50-60 people with great disabilities, and provides family and financial counselling.

Synod Gen Sec Peter Jones told the meeting that the Northern Synod has two colleges, St Philips in Alice Springs and Nungalinya in Darwin. Three agencies; ARDS, ARRCS and Somerville. The relationship varies, dependent on the CEO. The future is brand new, and the Synod looks forward to working with Somerville.

**4.0 CANDLE LIGHTING:** Deputy Chairperson Richard Telfer lit the Candle, signifying that Christ is with us. Our meetings are an act of worship.

**5.0 DEVOTIONS:** Led by Pastor Benjamin Quilliam (Alice Springs):

What is Patrol Ministry? - A ministry in the wilderness. Getting out to people in remote Central Australia and serving them where they are at. Mainly funded by Frontier Services.

Backpacker/nannies/tourists (50-60,000 Tourists, many international.) Benjamin shared a story of a USA tourist death in Central Australia. The young man’s father said in eulogy for his son that “the Chaplain’s mission is to bring people together”

The Kingdom is oriented work. We plant the seed. Others water it and watch it grow.

Benjamin has a wide area to cover and so spends a lot of time in advocacy and technology trying to reach more people.

*“What price do you put on being a Chaplain in a person’s darkest hour?” Meeting people in their wilderness experience. Being there. Don’t underestimate your service to others - both ordained and lay people. Benjy shared a song, reminding us of the God that is with us in dark times. “You Never Let Go“ Matt Redman . Handout Attachment 1.*

**6.0 SCHOOL CHAPLAINS: Sharing Their Story Ros McMillan**

Chaplains are based in six schools in the Top End. Chaplaincy in Schools commenced in 2007 and was initially funded by Government grants, then government grants topped up by Living Water Uniting Church and now topped up by the Northern Synod. The chaplains work between 1.5 to 4 days per week. Each school is a totally different environment. God provides the chaplains from various church backgrounds. When there is a vacancy, we put our need to the Lord. He provides.

**6.1 Kaye Jones – Wulagi School:**

Kaye started July three years ago and works four days per week. Wulagi is based in the northern suburbs of Darwin, 250 students 100 Indigenous, 65 diagnosed or extreme trauma. High violence and bullying within the school. Kaye mainly works in the area of supporting children affected by trauma through Sand Play therapy sessions (1500 figurines), her art and just listening. Kaye works in with referral agencies. Kaye tries to see 16 children over the four days.

**6.2 David Hucker – Taminmin College:**

David was previously a missionary in Chile, and currently a house parent at Marrara College.

Taminmin has 1300 students, and David works four days per week. The needs are tremendous and so vast; David often feels like the boy with the five loaves and two fish.

Psalm 23: “Surely goodness and mercy will follow me.

Have been able to run a Strength and Shine course, and hopefully a Parenting course soon.

David: “Jesus left the 99 to see to the one” David requested us to pray that *“God will bring across David’s path the one that is left behind.”*

Richard prayed for the School Chaplains and their work.

**7.0 CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:**

Rev. Felicity welcomed all to this precious gathering of Presbytery; hearing the stories from non-congregational based ministries.

**7.1 Lay Preaching:** There are four specified ministries in the Uniting Church (1) Ministry of the Word, (2) Ministry of Deacon, (3) Ministry of Pastor and (4) Ministry of Lay Preaching.

The Pilgrim Presbytery has planned 2 Workshop and a three-day retreat for Lay Preachers to attend in 2018. Travel for two participants of the sessions would be funded, and congregation could fund the third one of they were in a position to do so.

PR&PC will identify pathway to accreditation for those that attend events, which will include extra requirements.

Church Councils, Ministers/Pastors are encouraged to talk about Lay Preaching and encourage their Lay Preachers to be accredited. There are many Lay Preachers within the Synod; only two of whom are accredited. There is a Code of Ethics intentionally designed specifically for Lay Preachers. Church Councils and Ministers are encouraged to be across the Code of Ethics.

**7.2 Continuing Education and Professional Development funds:**

The Presbytery encourages professional development and ongoing learning. There are two funds:

1. Continued learning for lay persons to go to a ministry-related activity (ie workshop, gathering, conference) for up to $700 over two years. The request must be approved by Church Council.

Ministers and Pastors: $700 over two years. Request goes directly to Presbytery Treasurer who will seek approval through a small committee and PPNA Exec.

**7.3 Candidature:**

Following a series of meetings and conversations with individuals and congregations, PR&PC received two applications for Candidature. Candidates have in the past had to be sent interstate for Training and Formation. The two current candidates have felt a strong sense of call for ministry in the Northern Synod.

1. Richard Telfer - currently in ministry in Palmerston congregation.
2. Emily Hayes - currently in ministry with Alice Springs congregation.

Rev Felicity invited both of the candidates to share.

**7.3.1 Richard Telfer:** All of Richard’s working life has been spent in ministry. He has never doubted this path, but is it ordination? Richard took twelve months out of the ministry to reflect during his Period of Discernment. Then he had a special reassurance that God calls us where we are, AS we are.

**7.3.2 Emily Hayes:** Emily thought her Period of Discernment was best described by a song that has become very dear to her. “God is a River” *Attachment 2.*

*“It slowly dawned on me that I wasn’t being asked to make the right decision. I was being asked to let go, let go of all I had clung to about who I thought I was and surrender to God. Once I managed to loosen my grip slightly I was swept along the river and here I am.“*

*“Yesterday I went for a run to the water and along the coast. Coming from the desert my soul needs to do that. At some point an eagle flew across my path. I noted it wasn’t in fact flying, but simply floating, allowing the breeze to hold it and guide it. At that moment I knew God was with me and will always be with me making the path; and I was affirmed and grateful.”*

Rev Felicity thanked Emily and Richard. Everyone’s journey to ministry is different. It is a blessing that Emily and Richard are very different, from very different paths and we are excited to see what God has in store.

*Emily and Richard left the room to allow Presbytery discussion.*

*Rev Felicity stood in as the Chair.*

Felicity explained that Rev. Helen Paine leads Richard’s Formation Panel, and Rev. Peter Waite leads Emily’s Formation Panel.

The journey to ministry consists of

***Phase One*: Period of Discernment.**

**Phase Two: Intentional Study.** Formation and Preparation period. Candidates work together with a group of people and prepare themselves for ministry. Make themselves available to the Church for the next 10/20/30 years.

Felicity thanked Rev. Helen for producing the Handbook for Formation Panel.

She also encouraged the Presbytery to keep looking around for people who may consider candidature.

**That Presbytery affirm the decision of PR&PC to accept Richard Telfer and Emily Hayes for candidature. Consensus.**

*Emily and Richard were called back to the room.*

Felicity told them that it is with much joy and encouragement that we accept Richard and Emily for candidature.

Assembly President Stuart McMillan prayed for Richard and Emily.

Richard resumed the Chair.

*10.58am Meeting broke for Morning Tea.*

*11.19am Meeting resumed.*

**8.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS:**

**8.1 Minutes of Presbytery Meeting held on 24th and 27th June 2017,**

8.1.1 Page 1 Add apology from Adrian Calyun-Sice

8.1.2 Page 7 Delete” year elected”

8.1.3 Page 7 Delete Sue Smith name as Treasurer (Not appointed at that time.)

8.1.4 Page 4 Remove Report attachment.

8.1.5 Page 2 Remove highlighted “no changes have been made”

9.1.6 Page 7 Remove highlighted “this remains outstanding”

**With the amendments to the Minutes as detailed, the Minutes of Presbytery Meeting held on 24th and 27th June 2017, were accepted. Consensus.**

**8.2 Minutes of Presbytery Executive held on August 10th, November 8th 2017and February 8th 2018**

**That the Minutes of Presbytery Executive held on August 10th and November 9th 2017 and February 8th 2018 were received and noted.**

**10.0 WELCOME to Presbytery for the first time:**

*Rev. Myung Hwa Park* Nhulunbuy Supply Ministry and Gove region NRCC

*Sue Smith* as Treasurer and Admin Support PPNA

*Pastor Rosemary Hudson Miller*, Supply Ministry Darwin Memorial.

**11.0 PRISON MINISTRY**

**11.1 Alice Springs (Pastor Dr Steve Bevis):**

The incarceration rate in Alice Springs is one in one hundred (Four times the national average). NT, WA and Qld all have high Indigenous proportion.

Christ expects us as good and faithful servants to visit in prisons. The Alice Springs Uniting Church visits once every six weeks. Other churches take a turn. There is a small group of Volunteers and a Chaplain that serves the prison.

The Alice Springs Prison was built for 450. Currently 650 inmates, mostly Indigenous.

Prison visits take the form of singing, scripture, talking and prayer. People line up in queues to pray. There are huge numbers of people on remand; waiting for court case (up to eight months!). Music has a very powerful place in bringing out emotion.

The Youth Correctional Facility is visited every two weeks when possible. It’s important to be present in those facilities; sharing music, being with them. People are open in that place; but it’s hard when they return to the town camps for them to go forward. There is a lot of trauma-induced behavior. Have to be God’s people and be present in both places, the prison and then the town camps.

*Please pray and advocate for the prisoners. God is greater!*

**11.2 Derby (Rev Jo Mar):**

In 2012 there were 120 males, 30 females in Derby West Kimberly Regional Prison.

Today there are 220 males and 40 females. Many are on remand.

Of the 5000 prisoners in WA gaols 40% are Indigenous, and 40-50% of those are adult males.

There are four chaplains (2 Catholic, 2 Uniting) that go to the prison on Sundays; and Jo spends two hours each Thursday in the Maximum and Medium security and Female areas. The inmates are very respectful in the prison, desert people and freshwater people.

They are locked in rooms at 6pm each day.

*All Jo can do is to pray before prison visit and when leaving the prison. He is thankful to God that this is his ministry.*

Richard thanked Steve and Jo for sharing how congregations can help and connect to the prison ministry.

**12.0 HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY:**  **Pastor David Crawford -Royal Darwin Hospital.**

David has been at RDH for 10 years. The Northern Synod map is the catchment area for patients at RDH. 60% of patients are Indigenous, many with chronic health problems. Many different languages are spoken. Interstate Chaplains notice that many Indigenous are strong Christians and want prayer. The Chapel at RDH has a service each Sunday, led by Anglican, Catholic and Uniting. The Muslims share the Chapel for their prayers during the week and the Catholics have Mass on Tuesdays.

*Please help by having people to come and visit the hospital. (Contact David first).*

**13.0 Time for Reflection on the questions:**

What have we heard? What are the issues? What questions would we like to ask?

Richard encouraged small group discussion at tables.

12.03pm Rev Basil Schild prayed for the work of Chaplains in the Northern Synod for their commitment, courage and love.

**14.0 TREASURER’S REPORT: (Sue Smith)**

**14.1 Budget** was prepared for 2018. Once the Treasurer received 2017 actual figures found many irregularities. 2018 Budget was re-worked.

The proposal to increase budget income has already been presented to FAPS and the Gen Sec has worked with FAPS to identify funds to cover deficit. The 2018 Budget has now been revised and the proposed 2019 Budget prepared. FAPS recognize that the grant has not been increased to Presbytery for a number of years.

The proposal is for Presbytery to approve the 2019 Budget; in order for Synod to prepare its’ 2019 Budget.

**14.2 Congregational debt:** FAPS is concerned about growing number of debts in the congregations PPNA Exec has discussed and is satisfied that there is a narrative and a plan (in some cases a long term plan) to clear each one of them.

**14.3 Presbytery income:** Discussion.

(i) Presbytery has no external income. It has not always been easy for PPNA to negotiate to increase grant (No increase since 2011).

(ii) Could stay in that space or could encourage Presbytery to research how we could increase income.

(iii) Synod does not have a bottomless pit and we are encouraged to spend wisely.

(iv) Both Synod and NRCC have income streams from property

(v) The presbytery was reminded that the property income stream was originally established for ministry.

(vi) It is appropriate that PPNA request increased funding.

**Proposal: That the 2019 PPNA Budget be approved. Consensus.**

**14.4 Synod Accounts:**

Treasurers of Church Councils have been advised that there are significant funds ($28,000) that were unidentified when deposited.

Encouraged congregations to educate their members to identify their church number when depositing funds.

Treasurer will endeavor to get the list of unidentified funds out to Congregation Treasurers to help with identification of these funds.

Questions were raised about the possibility of congregations having independent accounts. The General Secretary indicated that it was not possible.

**Action –** Presbytery Minister and Treasurer will compile a letter to Congregational Treasurers in relation to the unallocated funds.

**14.5 Derby Congregation Account:**

Rev Jo from Derby queried the balance on the Derby Congregation account 2.5080 as the Mowanjum congregation paid $4,000 into Derby F.C. account and asked had this happened. Treasurer to check.

Rev Jo prayed.

*12.45pm Meeting broke for Lunch.*

*1.20pm Meeting resumed.*

**15.0 PRESBYTERY STAFF PANEL:**

*Rev Basil Schild:* Social Responsibility. Part-time..25 PPNA

*Jemma Whittaker:* Communications/Young People. Part-time..2 Youth PPNA, .4 Communications Synod

*Rev Helen Paine:* Bringing policies and practices into congregations to make SAFE places for all people. Part-time. Synod .8

All panel members encouraged congregations to contact them when they need help.

Rev Basil Schild challenged congregations to respond to the Presbytery Minister’s call to focus on our covenantal relationship of First Peoples living alongside us. On Rev Basil’s report there are ten suggestions of ways to do this.

**The positions are all part time. How does this work for you?**

*Rev Helen:* Only want part-time work at the moment.

*Rev Basil:* Spend 25% of my time in this role. I am busy with my parish and find I have to do SJ in blocks.

*Jemma:* Find it hard to get the balance right.

**How as a Presbytery can we better love you?**

*Rev Helen:* If you contact Helen and she can’t do it, please hear her.

*Rev Basil:* If every Church Council could look at the ten suggestions and link with First People sisters and brothers. We are called by God to connect with Indigenous people (geographically there are 25 languages). Basil would like to see the formation of Indigenous Ministry group in congregations.

*Jemma:* Feel loved by NRCC because they call and give her things to do. It’s when spending time in the office that she feel negative about what she should be doing. She loves to hear from people who have ideas and are passionate.

*Rev Jo:*  Is there such a thing as part-time in ministry?

*Rev Myung Hwa Park:* Walking Together - Ministry of Connection. Rev Myung Hwa encouraged congregations to make themselves familiar with the document Doctrine of Discovery.

Rev Lee Levett-Olson encouraged Rev Basil to speak of his work with Pastor Sailosi Sekitoga. Nightcliff Church ended up with a spare room at the church. Offered the room to Sailosi for an office. This allowed Sailosi connection with a congregation. Have not had an historical link with First Peoples around, so this was a way they could support Sailosi and local Indigenous people.

Rev Basil asked when First Peoples come to our churches what can they see to connect with. eg NLC Land Rights News, community school magazines. These promote connection. The Indigenous Seasons calendar was circulated to each Darwin based congregation.

**Communication- How can you use your youth role in your communication role?**

*Jemma:* Youth Rally at Jabiru. Youth Rally at Ramingining. Use pics of young people because it creates interest in other young people.

**Metal cross story:** Jemma shared a little story about the metal cross on display, which was cut by her grandfather and painted by her father’s church. Her grandfather has made hundreds of the crosses, and they were all sent to the Adelaide Congress Church to be painted. Over a process of years the simple act of one person has had wide-spreading results.

**Fish stickers** are at entrance of Nightcliff Church can be purchased and funds go to Larrakia Nation.

**Rev Myung Hwa:** The Youth worker position -First Peoples are connected with Jemma and trust her. How do you see that in this Synod as the only youth worker you share the role with Yolngnu young people. How do you operate in place of two presbyteries, PPNA/NRCC?

**Jemma:** It is an entwined relationship that honors each other and allows us the space why we are different. Originally five hours per week connecting young people with national events. I’d like to have a youth gathering in the next holidays to connect young people to meet and be united even though they come from different backgrounds.

**Rev Lee LLO:** A SAFE Church issue - To think together how we can help churches to be safe places for people on both sides for debate on same-sex marriage.

*Jemma:* Struggle to always trust when I read a church is welcoming for everyone. Young people scour church websites to see if they are welcomed as they feel low valued.

*Rev Helen:* Let’s think about the older people. A lot of people are hiding. Let’s make space for them.

*Rev Basil:* Really appreciate that in our own families/Synod that there are gay and lesbian people that love God.

Prayer: Peter Jones prayed for Presbytery and Synod workers.

**16.0 NUNGALINYA COLLEGE**: Tony Goodluck, UCA Dean of students Nungalinya.

Rev Lee Levett-Olson is the Theology Teacher, part-time.

**16.1 Tony:** The name Nungalinya is taken from the name of Old Man Rock, custodian of the stories.

Nungalinya is a combined churches (Anglican, Catholic, Uniting) theological college.

When looking for a name, the churches shared this with Larrakia people who came back and suggested Nungalinya – place of sacred stories of life and spirit.

This year Nungalinya has 30 applications for Certificate 3 in Ministry and Theology and 400 applications in Foundation Studies (with a maximum of 150 positions).

Foundation Studies, Foundation Studies Certificate 1 and Foundation Studies Certificate 2 are also available.

**16.2 Rev Lee:** Nungalinya “Empowering Indigenous Christians”

Lee travels to communities to promote Nungalinya.

How do they have the authority to decide how to follow Christ in their own context?

The students come in for intensive two-week blocks.

Staff are often told mainly by women that Nungalinya is the only place that they can sleep through the night. That it is a place of safety and that they can sense spirit.

Nungalinya is a great ecumenical faculty with students from Anglican, Uniting, Catholic, Lutheran and Baptist churches working with people from different backgrounds and cultures. Give people the tools to decide for themselves. Lee teachers

“Our Culture Story” – wonderful results.

“God’s Story in the Bible” How do we find a way that Indigenous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Leading Well” Code of Ethics. It is unethical to preach or teach that your view point is the only view point.

Legacy of Trauma – Lee has done 10 years at Nungalinya which equates to 400 weeks. Not one week has gone by without a trauma. Death in family and students have to travel back home to communities.

*LOVE – If you are a congregation in Darwin welcome some students. Introduce them from the front of the Church. Let them do a Bible reading.*

*Pray for Staff, students and NRCC who has to find ways to shepherd these folk.*

*Advocate for Treaty and Sovereignty, otherwise the legacy of trauma will not be healed.*

**17.0 DEFENCE CHAPLAINS: Chaplain Christine Senini**

The role of chaplain is Making a personal God, guarding the sacred and acting with compassion.

The idea of chaplain was taken from St Martin of Tours, who visited people out and about, and tried to form relationships with heretics. He is best known for the account of his using his military sword to cut his cloak in two, to give half to a beggar clad only in rags in the depth of winter. He continued on in life with half his cloak. Guarding the sacred and acting with compassion.

Chaplain Christine works with many transients, many identify with a faith. Sometimes they do not feel welcomed. Many carry trauma.

*LOVE the military people. Engage with them. On Christine’s base she does not have a Sunday service, she encourages the military to go to the local churches. Keep Chaplains accountable – invite them to events. If you have a chaplain in your midst be aware of their workload and limitations.*

*Pray for Defense folk and their work in our world.*

**18.0 SYNOD 2018:**

“Sharing Your Life Message” is the theme of Synod in Alice Springs in October 2018. Pray for preparation of this event. The reason for Synod in October is the Triennial UCA Assembly being held in July.

**19.0 ASSEMBLY 2018: President of Assembly Stuart McMillan**

**19.1 Theme for next Assembly:** Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope.

**19.2 Songs:** President-Elect Deidre Palmer has requested prayers and songs along the theme.

Assembly is a gathering of community. Worship, Witness and Service.

**19.3 The key issues for this Assembly** include:

**19.3.1 First Peoples:** Spend this three years looking at honoring First Peoples as sovereign.

**19.3.2 Treaty:** Make a statement about Treaty “Just Terms”

Actions: Will need to have actions

**19.3.3 Resourcing national Theology and Spirituality** Centre (will not reside in one place)

**19.3.4 Conversation of Reparation:** Percentage of all properties flow to congress. The outworking of this varies in different synods (10%, 1/12th of 1/12th).

**19.3.5 Leadership:** Seriously resourcing leadership in Congress

**19.3.6 Marriage:** Paper/resource at March meeting. will be very helpful to churches (Thinking about relationships/gender) and hoping that materials will come early enough for discussion around the church.

**19.3.7 Climate:** Formation of policy and actions to come out of the policy that Presbyteries, Synods and Congregations can find helpful (sea level rises, global warming)

**19.3.8 SAFE Church:** Putting forward an ongoing unit that will carry on into the future. This is missional – giving them a voice, allowing them to thrive.

**19.3.9 Professional Standards:** Link in with Code of Ethics.

**19.3.10 Royal Commission:** Crosslight October 2017 issue has article containing Royal Commission affirmed data about Uniting Church.

**20.0 REPORTS:**

*20.1 Chairpersons Report*

*20.2 Social Justice Report*

*20.3 SAFE Church Report*

*20.4 Youth/Young Adults Report*

**That the reports detailed be accepted. Consensus.**

Prayer: Rev Lee Levett-Olson prayed for Stuart and the Assembly.

*3.05pm Broke for Afternoon Tea.*

*3.32pm Meeting resumed****.***

**21.0 STRATEGIC THINKING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS:**

Deputy Chairperson Richard presented Elaine and Lawson a candle indicating that “Christ goes before us” and gave a small donation towards Somerville Community Service’s work.

**21.1 Table Feedback:**

Kaye’s story at Wulagi with such a large percentage affected by trauma.

Feel very sad when engaging in prisons where they are full of trauma.

Remote communities and urban (Wulagi) – At this Synod where we are – are on par with US shootings. This is our space. We are church in space of trauma.

Human beings coping with a level of grief. The more we name our context the more we will focus on our being church in this place.

Dealing with vicarious grief you take it home; upsets you and you get angry about it.

Maybe this Synod ought to think of these Chaplains/Ministers working amongst heavy trauma spaces.

Need a time annually for a time for them to come together with others to to share their journey – ie three-day retreat.

Recognize those people with heavy trauma load.

Triads can help.

The trauma Tony and Lee understand is one thing, but the other side is the story of faith and resilience, signs and wonders. We have this extraordinary experience of being in the presence of faith, and emerging out of this darkness as it happens and being part of it.

It is not even easy to talk about. There is moments of God’s grace where the stubbornness does not shut up.

God being greater than our narrower congregational context.

A lot of what God’s doing is unexpected.

God’s presence is there in the vulnerable presence of the chaplains.

Chaplains – living with uncertainty, powerlessness, loneliness, lack of affirmation.

Focussed around trauma – We need to do something about it. Have just had healing workshops in Alice Springs, an ecumenical thing. Hoping to have more workshops held.

The film “Paper Tigers” How trauma shortens people’s lives. Relates to adverse child experience. There are 10 types of childhood trauma measured in the ACE Study. Five are personal — physical abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, and emotional neglect. Five are related to other family members: a parent who’s an alcoholic, a mother who’s a victim of domestic violence, a family member in jail, a family member diagnosed with a mental illness, and the disappearance of a parent through divorce, death or abandonment.

In the context of this film set in a school environment, the Principal – one person that loved them to change their life.

The Congress National Conference in January: Harley had Trauma sessions. With recurring in all conversations Harley invted people to share stories. Invitational way of allowing people to share trauma stories.

**21.2 Chaplain’s Feedback:**

**21.2.1 School Chaplaincy: Ros McMillan**

School Chaplaincy funding from the Federal government runs out this year. Ros as Supervisor of Chaplains is pursuing future funding.

Suggestion was made that local congregations adopt the school chaplain in their neighborhood to support the chaplain.

**21.2.2 Defence Chaplain Christine Senini:**

As Chaplains, concentrate on our being, not on our doing. Often feel isolated.

 *“By holding the hurts,*

 *Preserving the hopes,*

 *Naming the fears,*

 *Articulate the dream and*

 *Believing in the creating transformation of those in my care through Christ “*

The Christ is already there. Wants to be part of that dance.

Naming God’s call on your life.

**21.3 Supervision: Rev Felicity Amery**

Rev Felicity encouraged all of us to ensure self-care.

One of the ways the Presbytery encourages us to self-care is. Supervision which has the ability to prevent downward spiral of burnout. Trauma is one of the triggers.

For some people counselling is not always helpful. In those cases we need to find other ways to help us self-care.

**22.0 SERVICE OF DEDICATION** for the non- congregationally based ministry agents.

Prayers and singing. The gift of a Candle labelled “Christ goes before us. The light gives hope” for each of the ministry agents that shared today; Benjamin Quilliam, Steve Bevis, Jo Mar, David Crawford, Tony Goodluck, Lee Levett-Olsen, Christine Senini,

The School Chaplains David Hucker, Kaye Jones, Heidi Franklin, Amanda Lockwood, and Heather Dawson were affirmed in ministry and their work dedicated.

**23.0 CLOSE:**

Deputy Chairperson Richard Telfer closed the meeting at 5.07pm.

Members were invited to a shared Tea at the Wharf.