Moderator Report

Annual Synod October 2018.

~ God’s call to a task is surely accompanied by his power to accomplish the task~

I started my service this year with the continuation of my second term as the moderator of the Northern Synod with endless blessings of God’s love and kindness. His inclusiveness and protection are a driving force which bears a witness to his goodness.

“Sharing Your Life Message” will be the theme of the synod over next three years. God wants us to share our experience with others, because our message is an essential part of our mission on earth. There is no other message just like yours so only you can share it. If you don’t share it, it will be lost forever. When you share it, you build a relational bridge that Jesus can walk across from your heart to others. It is an honour for to be a leader representing the church at various occasions and speaking on behalf of the church both in government and other events. I also continue to participate in Ecumenical functions in collaboration with the Northern Territory Council of Churches.

After last year's annual Synod, I attended the President’s National Minister's Conference at Darwin along with more than 100 ministers and lay people from all over Australia. The theme for the conference was “Honouring First Peoples as Sovereign” all the participants welcomed the opportunity to sit together and talk after the stimulating presentations of the guest speakers. And, of course, we also had the opportunity to enjoy the great Dry Season weather in Darwin.

In August 2017, I accompanied the president to work together with UnitingWorld during a ministry visit to our partner churches in Indonesia namely the Indonesian Christian Church (GKI). I also had the chance to meet with the Moderator and the Assembly staff of GKI.

During the time, we met with the leadership of Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) to learn more about interfaith dialogue and ministry to refugees and the displaced people. We visited the “Indonesian Bible Society” then departed Kupang to attend the UntingWorld South East Asia Regional Conference (SEARO) from 1-4th of August.

“Theology and Practice of Organizing Communities” this theme recognizes the nature of organizing communities for the common good within the breath of God’s grace. The vision is that social change is sustained by the transformation of communities. Through faith and charitable deeds we will be able to nurture each other. This life-giving relationship between the two exemplifies the biblical teachings of Jesus namely the love of God, and the love for neighbours. We were also in conversations about how society is taking effect on the lifestyle of the church.

It is an honour and immense pleasure to be among fellow ministers in NSW/ACT when I was invited by the moderator to be one of the speakers in their Synod.

“Telling Our Story” tells about our experiences and journey of faith in every condition, and to continue to believe that God's calling is never wrong for everyone who is always ready. My principle of being faithful in prayer is not asking for opportunities but asking God to be ready if the opportunity comes.

“This gathering will be an opportunity to give voice to the hope that is within us – that our lives are woven into the story of God spoken in Jesus Christ and that our calling as the Uniting Church is to tell that story in word and action.” (*Rev Simon Hansford, Moderator of NSW/ACT*)

Every year there are struggles and challenges we face. Whether or not we struggle through these challenges, however, depends on how we respond. This was experienced by our brothers and sisters from NRCC, who felt that it became increasingly difficult when the Resource Worker placed there had retired. For this reason, we offered our aid with our ability to continue to accompany and communicate pastoral visits, and pastoral conversation by:

* Chairing the full meeting of NRCC. There was an election of an NRCC Presbytery Minister. This meeting was extraordinary as for the time there was an election of a chair-person, secretaries and treasurer.
* Attending the re-open of the church at Galiwinku
* Leading the commissioning of pastors at Maninggrida
* Leading and inducting Rev Djawanydjawany Gondarra as a NRCC presbytery minister. Inducting Rev Maratja Dhamarrandji as a Deacon and Support Worker for the East Arnhem Area Council at Galliwinku
* Attending the Jubilee to celebrate 50th years of the church at Maningrida
* Supporting the Co-ordinate of Woman Ministry
* Attending the Area Council meeting.

Our Synod has two presbyteries’, as a member of PPNA in collaboration with Presbytery minister:

* Visiting the congregations Darwin base, preaching, leading the Communion, pastoral conversation with the ministers
* Being an active member for PR & PC, PPNA Executive committee.

One of the things most exciting, but challenging, points in every synod is how to establish cooperative relationships with agencies and schools. The basis of all that is very important to remember that the main task of the moderator is to provide pastoral support to all including agencies and schools by:

* Supporting and attending the graduation at Nyungalinya College
* Continuing to support and encourage the teacher and students of Nyungalinya to participate and leading the Bible Study at annual Synod.
* Supporting Somerville by wrapping presents to help the community during Christmas.
* Continuing to support CSIS in prayers for their special task.
* I received an invitation to visit St. Phillip’s College last year to attend the graduation of the year 12s. Unfortunately, I had prearranged commitments.
* I also had an opportunity to visit ARDS and ARRCS as well.
* Attending the final Eucharist Service and Breakfast at Kormilda College before the handing over to Haileybury Rendall School.

In addition to pastoral tasks in church service, I represented the church in the public space, meeting and attending invitations from the Government and other various activities such as:

* Attending the opening of the first sitting of Parliament.
* Attending the swearing-in ceremony of Mrs Vicky O’Halloran AM as the 22nd Administrator of the NT.
* Attending and celebrating 40 years of the Multicultural Council of the NT.
* Attending and leading in prayer of the Wesley LifeForce Suicide Memorial Day together in a spirit of comfort and hope.
* Attending Australian of the Year Award. (Three winners were members of UCA NS.)
* Attending the Darwin WW II Bombing ceremony
* Attending the Australia Day ceremony
* 75th Anniversary Memorial Service of HMAS Patricia Cam, Quarter Deck HMAS Coonawarra
* Attending the welcome reception for the Consul for the Republic of Indonesia
* Finally, it was great honour to attend a welcome reception in the presence of HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, Prince Charles.

The relationship with the Ecumenical church feels even stronger marked by regular meetings among church leaders and enhanced by communal services together. An ecumenical service titled “Together in Christ” was held at St Mary’s Star of the Sea Cathedral to Mark the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. This service was led by the leaders from Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and Uniting Churches. The service itself was filled with hymns led by the combined choir, prayers, and reflection without a communion.

As an active member of NTCC, we continue to cooperate with the government by paying attention to the needs and struggles of each church, and the needs that exist in society such as chaplaincy in government and private schools as well as chaplaincy in the detention centre.

There are also program exchanges in chaplaincy training for ministers and pastors in the face of Natural Disaster, in collaboration with the government to discuss Anti-Discrimination.

I attended a meeting with the Chief Minister to engage in conversations on various issues, including the government recognizing the leadership of Religious leaders. And the last time we were gathered together during the Palm Sunday March “Peace for The Refugee”.

In addition to the tasks at the synod there are also other tasks related to the National Assembly. As mentioned at the beginning of this report.

- I translated a sermon for the president when preaching in one of the biggest churches in Jakarta, “Gereja Gunung Sahari". I attended a fundraising event for the victims of Mount Sinabung sponsored by PGI which was also attended by the Minister of Women and children.

During the Presidents Easter Message, I translated the sermon presented at the Karama Indonesia congregation.

- As a member of the Multicultural-Cross Cultural National Reference Committee, we continue to celebrate the diversity in our church.

- Attended the Leaders Forum in collaboration with UnitingCare

- Attended the biannual collaborative meeting of moderator’s and General Secretaries hosted by the president and Assembly General Secretary.

- Attended the collaborative meeting of moderators and the Multicultural-Cross cultural National Reference Committee, hosted by the president.

All these meetings are valuable and offer a place of learning to develop leadership in the future, and more professionally in seeing and overcoming the problems that exist in the community.

There are deeds that cannot be contained within one report, such as the Synod Standing Committee meetings, the Synod Business Committee, and other regular meetings such those held by senior team leaders which are rare due busy lives. But what is stated in this report has been done according to the abilities and beliefs given by God. Because no one can do the work that God provides specifically for us, because that is all respect and glory only for His name.

I realize that there are many shortcomings and challenges faced, but I am grateful and continue to believe in God's promise that God's call for a task must be accompanied by His power, because no one can do the work that God provides specifically for us, because it is all respect and glory only for the name of God is the essence of all knowledge.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. PJ for his kindness and caring heart. I thank him for his extraordinary guidance and readiness to help in a supporting manner. Our journey together for the last three years as a team leader in this period will be an unforgettable one. It is very sad because this is his last synod as our General Secretary; we pray for you that God gives you strength and blessings always.



To all the staff, who each have had the capacity to work and struggle together, thank you for everything. Especially for my Personal Assistant – Lucy who always takes care of, and organizes all transport both land, air, accommodation, and reminding me of each activity or meeting, even on several occasions being ready to accompany me as the Moderator’s Guest for that, thank you Lucy.

To my husband Ben and son Lui who are so faithful in praying and encouraging me, even willing to cook and take care of themselves and being left behind for days. God bless you both.

~ I know who leads the future of my life; everything by God has been arranged perfectly. I rely on God, surrender everything~

Uis Neno Nokan Kit

Thresi Mauboy Wohangara.