



UnitingWomen is the national womens conference for women in the Uniting Church. Women from the Northern Synod travelled to attend each of the three UnitingWomen Conferences that have been held, in Sydney (2014), Adelaide (2016) and Brisbane (2018). A group of women from the PPNA and NRCC have been hard at work preparing for Darwin to host the next one, which will be held at Club Tropical Resort at Lee Point from July 9th-12th, 2020. As a result of their work, the venue is booked, the website is up, registrations are open, and women from around the country are planning holidays to Darwin.

The theme of next year's conference is 'Weaving Our Stories Together', and stories will be at the centre of our gathering. Instead of shipping in a speaker from overseas or down south, the majority of our speakers will be women from the Northern Synod, sharing their stories alongside girls and women that they are in relationship with. We know that there are remarkable women in all of our churches and communities, and UnitingWomen is giving us the chance to seek those women out and celebrate them on a national stage. This is such a great opportunity for us to get to know each other more deeply, as well as an opportunity for women from down south to learn about the incredible women of the North, from a range of people they wouldn't otherwise be likely to meet.

The skeleton of our program is set, with each day including a main session, some electives, and some special activities. These special activities include a fellowship night run by women from NRCC, local tours to significant sites in Darwin, *UnitingWomen's Got Talent* (in honour of the Moderator and her love of talent shows), and a conference dinner under the stars at Lee Point, catered by Warung Missy, the missional catering operation of Karama Indonesian Uniting Church. We are going to hold a wide range of electives, from creative workshops to deep conversations, spiritual practises to pop up choirs.

At the gathering that will be held on the day before the presbyteries meet, women from all over the Synod will come together to experience a little of the work done so far, and to help design parts of the program. We are looking forward to a fuller version of the conference program being ready to share in more detail in the new year. To achieve this, we will need to network with women from across the Synod, and we are hoping that you will be able to help us with this. We are looking for musicians, workshop leaders, prayer/song/poem writers, space 'beautifiers' and of course women with stories to share. We are looking for ministries and activities that you would like to highlight on a national stage, through workshops, stories or the marketplace. We are also looking for people with the practical skills that will be helpful closer to the day as we set up, pick people up from the airport and register people as they arrive. Please let us know by emailing unitingwomen2020@ns.uca.org.au if you, someone you know or your congregation might have something to offer in any of these areas.