

The Word Became Flesh

John 1: 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of Grace and Truth.

A Time for everything

Ecclesiastics 3: 1. There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. This is our time.

Where were we? - Past (guide) - honour the past, my thanks to Peter Jones and former General Secretaries. I am grateful for your service and the whole Northern Synod family. The relevancy of the future will largely depends on Saints of the past. "Lest we forget"

Where are we? - Present (mission action) - Let's celebrate the present and smell the roses while empowering our gifted people to go with God, serve and fulfil God's Mission. .

Where will we be? Prospect (Vision / Future) - Let us "Imagine something that is not yet but could be". What is a Church? Who is the Church? You and me and together we are the church. The future looks bright with our Northern Synod - To Redesign, Refocus, Renew, Regrowth and Revive with a Growing Mindset where Jesus is the Reason.

Worship Life and Witness - To worship God and be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. Started in December 2018, my wife Katalina and I have been blessed by the hospitality of the Northern Synod churches and families. I have travelled extensively far and wide within my role and always blessed by the people I meet. Here is a brief snapshot of some of my commitments:-

Assembly and Inter-Synods

General Secretaries and Assembly Standing Committee meetings - Sydney, General Secretaries meetings in Vic, SA and retreat in WA. UCA Leadership forums - Uniting Care - Canberra.

Northern Synod visits - Listening, Observing and Sharing Life and Witness.

PPNA - Alice Springs, Broome, Casuarina, Darwin Memorial, Derby Faith Community, Katherine, Karama Indonesian, Living Water, Nhulunbuy, Nightcliff and Palmerston. **NRCC** - Darwin Ministry, Galiwinku, Ramingining, Yirrkala, Maningrida and Mowanjum. National Presbyteries Ministers Retreat – Alice Spring. **Preaching** - Casuarina, Darwin Ministry, Darwin Memorial UC, Nightcliff, Palmerston, Yirrkala, Maningrida, Ramingining and Galiwinku. I will continue to preach the Good News in the future at other congregations when opportunity arises.

Networking - Civic Community and Business Events - NT Government officials, Administrator, Chief Minister and other Ministers, attend many Chamber of Commerce events, NTCOSS events, CDU Events, AICD events, ORIC seminars, Bombing of Darwin, ANZAC, Climate Change, etc.

Other Agencies and Schools meeting and engagement

Council of Churches events, Frontier Services, ARDS, AARCS, Somerville, ALPA, Nungalinga College Board and events, St Phillips College, Wesley Mission.

ARDS Board - Appointed as the Interim CEO effective from 25th September 2019.

Nungalinga College - Executive and Board member

Duties of Synod General Secretary according to the regulation Reg 3.6.3.4:

(a) The executive officer of the Synod: with executive leadership, pastoral and advisory roles and responsible for:-

- (i) *Ensuring execution of Synod policy - Current Reviewing and Refining*
- (ii) *Coordinating Synod activities - meetings, events, trainings, etc.*
- (iii) *Overseeing the management of Synod staff - Empowering*
- (iv) *Acting as liaison officer of the Synod with Presbyteries and other bodies*
- (v) *Providing necessarily reports and information to Assembly as may be required*
- (vi) *Such Other things as the Synod may require*

(b) The Secretary of the Synod is a member ex-officio of all Synod bodies.

Is that ALL? No, There is MORE and with some details.

Key focuses:-

1. Synod team re-igniting its services through streamlining processes.
2. Exploring traineeship for NRCC High Schoolers / Tertiary students / young adults.
3. Assembly Theological Education Review - NS Training of Ministry Agents / NRCC pathways.
4. Partnership for Growth - With UCA Assembly Frontier Services / ARDS / Nungalinya, etc.
5. UCA Assembly - Uniting World, Redress, Safe Church Funding support
6. Vic/Tas Synod - appoint legal team to handle applications by litigants on abuse accusation
7. NSW/ACT Synod handle Insurance and Payroll systems
8. QLD Synod support IT/Property system Reviewing IT Capacity - John Philp
9. SA Synod - UC Invest, approved the loan for \$5.6M to buy properties in Alice Springs City
10. Review of all contracts - Human Resources / Properties / IT / Housing / MV / etc.
11. Exploring New Ministry Opportunities: Tourism, Hospitality and Seasonal Workers / Chaplains
12. Exploring new Funding sources – Grants / Organised Tours / Partnership / Rental properties
13. Property matters - Alice Springs and Broome – opportunity, Somerville conversation
14. Employment of an Office / Community Engagement / HR Manager to support Gen Sec and NS
15. Exploring of an Outreach Family / Children Ministry Agent appointment - Church Growth

Thank you

In his book “Five practices of Fruitful congregations”, Robert Schnase said that “Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations practice Radical Hospitality... and offer Passionate Worship that connects people to God and to one another”. Rom 15:7 “Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the Glory of God”. Let’s be radical and be passionate in our resolve and quest to build the body of Christ in our unique way at the largest Synod in the Uniting Church within our geographical boundaries including NT, and reaching SA and WA.

Thank you to the Moderator and the Synod staff for your support. Thanks to all colleagues and Disciples of Christ. You have made my first year a memorable one and I am sure there are more exciting wonders and opportunities to come. As our Synod theme says “Sharing Your Life Message”, lets continue to share = *talanoa* with our *wāwa* = brother and *yapa* = sister the great Love of Christ.

May the Peace of the Lord Be with you.

Much Blessings, Malo Haloti.

Rev Haloti Kailahi, General Secretary