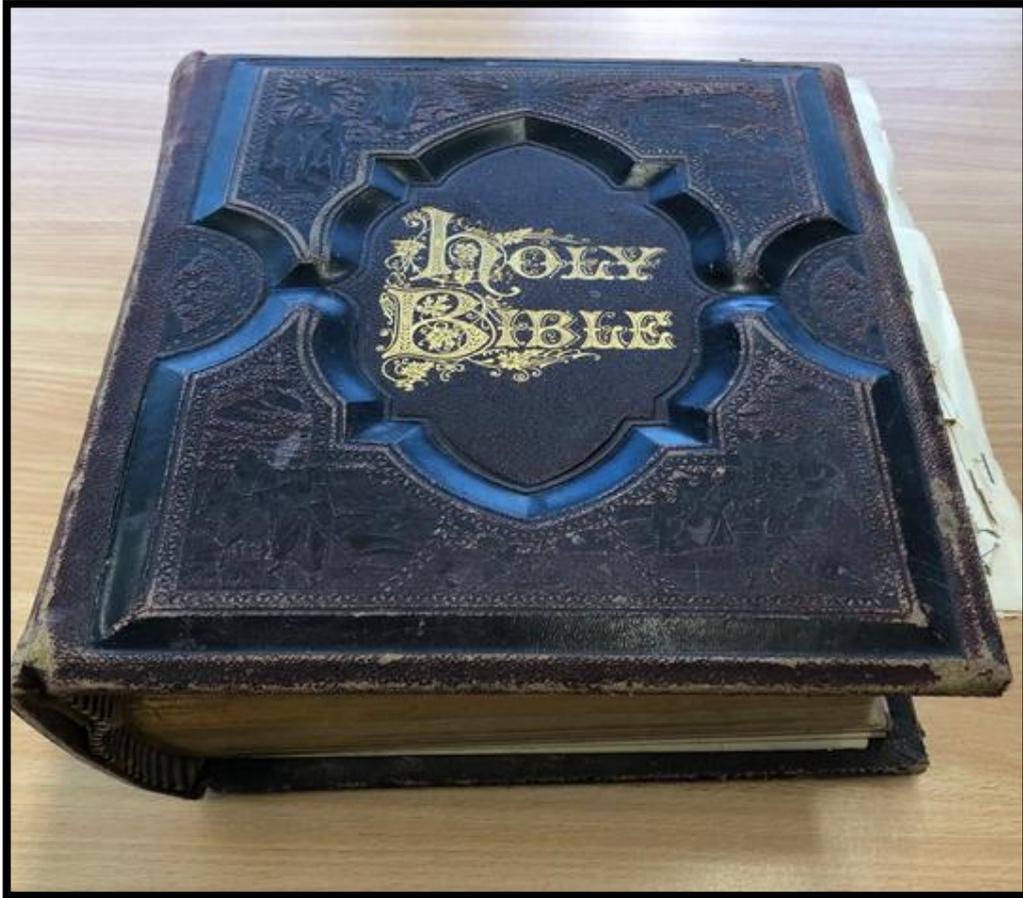




Uniting Church in Australia-Northern Synod  
PROGRAM HANDBOOK



~Sharing Your Life Message~

Forty-third Annual Meeting of the Synod  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
Club Tropical Resort, Lee Point, Darwin

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### **Welcome to Country**

*The Northern Synod would like to acknowledge and pay our respect to The Larrakia Nation people, Elders past, present and emerging, the Traditional Owners of the land where we meet as this 43<sup>rd</sup> Northern Synod Uniting Church, at Club Tropical.*

*We acknowledge all First Nations Peoples as the traditional custodians of this continent Australia, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history, with Aboriginal nations own unique languages, law, culture and traditions where their sovereignty was never ceded.*

*Front Cover: Chesson family Bible, Dale Chesson's great-grandfather John Chesson Presented the Bible to Emma, his wife in January 1894. It has remained in the Chesson family since and passed from generation to generation by the eldest surviving son with a surviving son. Since 2009 Dale became the custodian of the Bible.*

## WELCOME TO SYNOD 2019

### Reflection on Synod Theme

~ **Sharing your Life Message** ~ will be the theme of the synod over the next two years.

The Northern Synod is one synod full of diversity. This diversity should be gratefully accepted as God's gift that must be valued. This theme was chosen based on personal experience and struggle with our brothers and sisters as First People on this land. In visits to their communities I often hear stories of those who live in trauma and feel marginalized but uphold their culture. Sometimes they are not able to share their stories fully because they cannot express it in our language. They have many stories to tell about culture, especially those related to the natural surroundings created by God.

Serving in diversity is the greatest strength for us; therefore each of us has experiences in this life, whether it is with our families, or in the church now or many years ago. If we are willing to share these experiences with others as testimonies it can become a wise tool to enlighten our brothers and sisters as to how good God is in our lives. God wants us to share our experience with others because your message is an essential part of your 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.

Your life message includes your life lessons and the truth that God has taught you from experiences with him. These are lessons and insights you have learned about God through relationships, problems, temptations and other aspects of life. Whoever believes in God's Son has eternal life. (*"All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true"* 1 John 5:10a).

He is all you need to work for it, you don't need to wait for eternal life because it begins the moment you believe. You don't need to work for it because it is already yours. You don't need to worry about it because you have been given eternal life by God himself and it is guaranteed. When you share your message you build a relational bridge that Jesus can walk across from your heart to others.

~I love to tell the story, of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love:  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true  
I love to tell the story 'Twill be my theme in glory~

Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara  
Moderator



## General Secretary Greeting

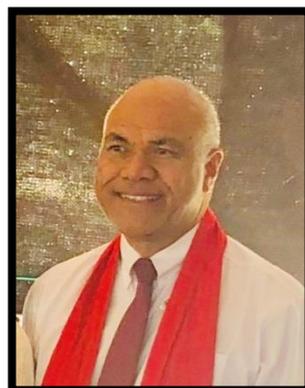
Malo e Lelei and welcome to the 2019 Northern Synod gathering.

We begin this 43<sup>rd</sup> Synod with a worship celebration at Charles Darwin University on Friday evening 25<sup>th</sup> October. We have invited many church leaders and community leaders, our congregation members and friends to worship and share our life stories together. On Saturday and Sunday at Club Tropical, we have organised the meeting agenda in a way that will make it more interesting thus keeping delegates more alert and staying connected. There will be two rooms for meetings when required between NRCC and PPNA and more than enough space outside to explore God's creation. The Bible Study, worship, songs, snaps of video clips with good news interviews and more breaks for coffee and fresh air are all designed to encourage communal space that offer "Abundant Grace". There will be minimal readings where most reports will be two pages only thus focusing more on visual presentations and face to face talking and sharing. We will make limited copies of reports, proposals, memberships, nomination forms, maps, and other information separately. Please access reports on your digital devices and we will have Free Wi-Fi Access in both meeting rooms. Please bring your computers/laptop/Ipad if you like. Your booklet includes the agendas and some information about our Synod. You will be advised each day of changes to the program.

We have decided to send all the delegates to worship with local congregations on Sunday morning and returning in time for lunch together. We will provide transport. Your comfort is paramount to us so please feel free to contact our Synod Event Coordinator Judy Orme with details in the program whenever you need information or directions. In fact all the Synod staff will be wearing their uniform and ready to serve you when needed. Samples of uniform will be on display for purchase. I trust that you will find this year's Synod meeting a more relaxed experience with opportunities of forging new friendships and strengthening existing ones. Together as one in Christ we are the Church and we are called to serve ALL.

I look forward to greeting you on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October and to share a meal with you, a laugh or two and to continue the fellowship on Saturday and Sunday. Please stay safe in your preparation to come and stay safe when you are on-site and stay safe when you travel back to "Tell It Out" because your very presence is the essence of our gathering and a blessing no doubt to the Synod and everyone around. Again our Synod theme "Sharing your life message", let's continue our Talanoa (sharing) with Wäwa(brother), Yapa (sister) and each other. May the Love of Christ be with you and be present always.

Grace and Peace (Kelesi moe Melino)  
Rev Haloti Kailahi General Secretary.



## WELCOME TO CLUB TROPICAL RESORT

This is the first time that the Northern Synod has met at Club Tropical Resort.

Information to help you find your way around the resort:

### Rooms we will be using for our meetings

- ❖ Di Lusso Room - NRCC Presbytery – Friday and other times
- ❖ Equatorial Room - Pilgrim Presbytery – Friday
- ❖ Equatorial Room - Synod meeting – Saturday & Sunday

### Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner – Sole Restaurant

Breakfast is available from 7.00am until 8.30am

### Accommodation

Most members will be accommodated in

- Hibiscus and Eucalyptus

*Please remember that smoking is not allowed in the rooms.*

**Please ask Synod Staff for assistance if you need it**

There is a map of Club Tropical Resort on the next page

## CONTACT DETAILS

Synod Coordinator:	Judy Orme	0407 828 495
General Secretary:	Haloti Kailahi	0499 333 072
First Aid Officer:	Lucy Hayes	0438 816 278
NRCC Admin Manager:	David Forsyth	0458 547 708
Chaplain:	Jenny Inmulugulu	0438 702 632
Chaplain:	David Crawford	0477 778 000

# CLUB TROPICAL RESORT MAP



## NORTHERN SYNOD PROGRAM

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS 2019		SYNOD MEETINGS 2019	
Thursday 24-Oct-19	Friday 25-Oct-19	Saturday 26-Oct-19	Sunday 27-Oct-19
<b>Travel day</b>  <b>Uniting Women Gathering at Casuarina Church 9.30am to 3.30pm</b>	9.00am  NRCC & PPNA Presbytery Meetings On agenda  NRCC meet in Di Lusso room PPNA meet in Equatorial room	9.00am  Synod Session 1 Opening worship  Bible Study-Rev Lee Levett-Olson Announcements Briefing re nominations  Snap shot	Bible study continued through <b>Local Church Services</b>  <b>Transport will be provided</b>  Service commence at: Casuarina 9.30am Darwin Memorial 9.30am Karama Indonesian 9.30am Nighcliff 10.00am Palmerston 9.00
	10.30 - 11.00 am  MORNING TEA	10.30 - 11.00 am  MORNING TEA	
	11.00 - 12.30 pm	11.00 - 12.30 pm  Synod Session 2 Guided discussion groups to prepare for Session 4 on what was previewed on Friday at Presbytery meeting NRCC and PPNA Reports	
	12.30 - 1.30 pm  LUNCH	12.30 - 1.30 pm  LUNCH	12.30 - 1.30 pm  LUNCH
	1.30 - 3.00 pm	1.30 - 3.30 pm  Synod Session 3  Synod Reports Moderator, General Secretary Financial FAPS  Assembly Reports Frontier Services, UCAF UALCC, UnitingCare  Snap shot	1.30 - 3.30 pm  Synod Session 6  Ballots and Elections  Other Business  Reflections
3.00 - 3.30 pm  AFTERNOON TEA	3.30 - 4.00 pm  AFTERNOON TEA	3.30 - 4.00 pm  AFTERNOON TEA	3.30 - 4.00 pm  AFTERNOON TEA
3.30 - 5.00 pm	4.00 - 5.30 pm  Synod Session 4  Synod Reigned- Revival Other reports Proposals Election nominations close  Snap shot	4.00 - 6.30 pm  Synod Session 7 Farewell Minutes  Memorial Minutes Recognition of Retired Ministers Informal closing service with communion	
Evening Meal at Club Tropical	Evening Meal at Club Tropical	Rest Break	
5.30 - 6.30 pm  EVENING MEAL	5.30 - 6.30 pm  EVENING MEAL	6.30 - 7.15 pm  EVENING MEAL	6.30 - 7.30 pm  EVENING MEAL
6.30 - 7.00 pm  Travel to CDU	6.30 - 7.15 pm  Travel to CDU	7.30 - 9.00 pm  Agency Reports - ARCCS, ARDS, CSIS Nungalinga, Somerville, St Phillips College	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm  Synod Session 8
7.00 - 9.00 pm  Opening Service at CDU Theatre - Orange 3	7.30 - 9.00 pm  Opening Service at CDU Theatre - Orange 3		

## AGENDA

Procedural Recommendations	Recommendations 1 - 2.9
Welcome to members and visitors	Recommendation 3
Confirmation of membership of Synod	Recommendation 4
Apologies	Recommendation 5
<b>Reports</b> 6.1 Moderator 6.2 General Secretary 6.3 Synod Budgets 6.4 The UCA Property Trust (NT) 6.5 Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia (PPNA) 6.6 Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) 6.7 Coordinate Supporting Indigenous Scriptures (CSIS) 6.8 St Philip's College 6.9 Nungalinga College 6.10 ARDS Aboriginal Corporation 6.11 Somerville Community Services 6.12 Safe Church 6.13 NS Placements Committee 6.14 Youth and Young Adults 6.15 UnitingWomen 2020 6.16 UCA President 6.17 Assembly General Secretary and Assembly Resourcing Unit 6.18 Social Justice	Recommendation 6

Proposals	Recommendation 7
Elections and Nominations	Recommendation 8
General Business	Recommendation 9
Farewell Minutes Memorial Minutes	Recommendation 10
Thanks	Recommendation 11
Adjournment	Recommendation 12

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	Constitution of Synod
1.1	That the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Synod be deemed to be constituted by an act of worship held at the University Theatre, Charles Darwin University, Darwin on Friday 25 October 2019, and that its members be determined by the list of Members of Synod 2019 which will be adopted at a later business session.
2.	Appointments and Arrangements
2.1	That the following be appointed: Business Manager: Andrew Williams Business Committee: Thresi Mauboy, Haloti Kailahi, Lee Levett-Olson, Christine Senini, Howard Amery and Micky Wunungmurra. Minute Secretary: Joyce Hudson Returning Officer: Scrutineers:
2.2	That 'within the house' shall include the entire area of both meeting rooms in which the Business Session is being held
2.3	That the Synod Business timetable shall be:  <b>Friday 25 October 2019</b>  Synod Opening Service 7.00 - 9.00 pm at Charles Darwin University Theatre, Orange 3  <b>Saturday 26 October 2019</b> Session 1: 9.00 am to 10.30 am at Club Tropical Resort Session 2: 11.00 am to 12.30 pm at Club Tropical Resort Session 3: 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm at Club Tropical Resort Session 4: 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm at Club Tropical Resort Session 5: 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm at Club Tropical Resort  <b>Sunday 27 October 2019</b> Session 6: 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm at Club Tropical Resort Session 7: 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm at Club Tropical Resort Session 8: 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm if needed
2.4	That the closing time for receiving Proposals shall be 12.30pm on Saturday 26 October 2019
2.5	That the closing time for receiving nominations shall be 5.30pm on Saturday 26 October 2019

2.6	The ballots shall be held at Session 6 on Sunday 27 October 2019
2.7	That the Moderator, the Synod Secretary and the Chairpersons of Presbyteries be authorized to confirm the Minutes of Synod.
2.8	That the procedures for the presentation, discussion and voting on Recommendations and Notices of Motion are as set down in the Manual for Meetings and as directed by the Moderator.
2.9	That the program and timetable for Friday 25 October, Saturday 26 October, Sunday 27 October 2019 be adopted.
3.	That a warm welcome be extended to: <i>All people attending Synod for the first time:</i>
4.	<b>Membership of Synod 2019</b>
4.1	That the following be a co-opted or invited member of Synod.
4.2	That the following be formally associated with the Synod:
4.3	That the list of Members of Synod 2019 be adopted: <i>As per a separate supplementary list</i>
5.	<b>Apologies</b>
5.1	That the following apologies be received:
6	<b>Reports</b>
6.1	<b>Moderator</b> That the report be received.
6.2	<b>General Secretary</b> That the report be received.
6.3	<b>Synod Budgets</b> That the report be received.
6.4	<b>The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NT)</b> That the report be received.
6.5	<b>Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia (PPNA)</b> That the report be received.
6.6	<b>Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC)</b> That the report be received.
6.7	<b>Coordinating Support for Indigenous Scriptures (CSIS)</b> That the report be received.
6.8	<b>St Philip's College</b> That the report be received.

6.9	<b>Nungalinga College</b> That the report be received.
6.10	<b>Aboriginal Resources &amp; Development Services Corporation (ARDS)</b> That the report be received.
6.11	<b>Somerville Community Services</b> That the report be received.
6.12	<b>Safe Church</b> That the report be received.
6.13	<b>NS Placements Committee</b> That the report be received.
6.14	<b>Youth and Young Adults</b> That the report be received.
6.15	<b>UnitingWomen 2020</b> That the report be received.
6.16	<b>UCA President</b> That the report be received.
6.17	<b>Assembly General Secretary and Assembly Resourcing Unit</b> That the report be received.
6.18	<b>Social Justice</b> That the report be received.
7.	<b>Proposals</b>

## REPORTS

Please refer to separate report booklet

## PROPOSALS

***Proposals will be made available for both Presbytery meetings on Friday and the full Synod meetings on Saturday and Sunday.***

## ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

<b>STANDING COMMITTEE</b>		
<i>Up to 19 members elected annually. No FEWER lay members than ministerial members</i>		
<i>Synod staff are not eligible to be elected in 2019 for the Standing Committee</i>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
<b>Ex Officio</b> Moderator	Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara	Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara
Past Moderator	Stuart McMillan	Stuart McMillan
General Secretary	Rev Haloti Kailahi	Rev Haloti Kailahi
Chairperson, NRCC or nominee	Mr Micky Wunungmurra	Mr Micky Wunungmurra
Chairperson, PPNA or nominee	Rev Lee Levett-Olson	Rev Lee Levett-Olson
Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia	Two Ministers and two lay people. Names to be provided by PPNA.  Rev Matthew Stuart Rev Helen Paine Ms Jemma Whittaker Ps Steve Bevis	<b>Election required (2019)</b>
Northern Regional Council of Congress	Two Ministers and two lay people. Names to be provided by NRCC.  Ms Elizabeth Gurimangu Ms Kylinda Brown Rev Jo Mar Pastor Marrpalawuy Marika	<b>Election required 2019</b>
Chairperson Synod Finance and Property Services Committee	Mr Barry Hansen	<b>Election required 2019</b>
Appointed by Synod Up to four persons	Mr Benjamin Quilliam Mr Liusem Mauboy Vacant Vacant	<b>Election required 2019</b>

<b>FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>		
<b><i>Members elected for a term of three years.</i></b>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
<b>Ex Officio</b> General Secretary Synod Finance Manager Synod Property Officer	Rev Haloti Kailahi Mr Lal Wijeratne Mr Dale Chesson	Rev Haloti Kailahi Mr Lal Wijeratne Mr Dale Chesson
Convenor Elected by Synod	Mr Barry Hansen	Mr Barry Hansen (2020)
Three (3) persons elected by the Synod	Mr Matthew Kennon Mr Mike Lane Ms Cathy Spurr	Mr Matthew Kennon (2021) Mr Mike Lane (2021) Ms Cathy Spurr (2021)
One (1) person co-opted by the Committee	Vacant	<b>Election required 2019</b>
Two (2) persons appointed by NRCC	Ms Elizabeth Gurimangu Bukulatpi Vacant	Ms Elizabeth Gurimangu Bukulatpi (2021) Mr Howard Amery - Interim NRCC Resource Worker
Two (2) persons appointed by PPNA	Rev Lee Levett-Olson - Interim Presbytery Minister  Mrs Sue Smith - Treasurer	Rev Lee Levett-Olson - Interim Presbytery Minister  Mrs Sue Smith - Treasurer

<b>UCA PROPERTY TRUST (NT)</b>		
<b><i>Five nominations, one of whom is elected by the Synod as the Chairperson of the Trust. Elected Annually</i></b>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
<b>Ex Officio</b> The Moderator Synod Secretary Chief Financial Officer Synod Property Officer	Rev Thresi Mauboy Rev Haloti Kailahi Mr Lal Wijeratne Mr Dale Chesson	Rev Thresi Mauboy Rev Haloti Kailahi Mr Lal Wijeratne Mr Dale Chesson
Trustees	PPNA Chairperson- Rev Lee Levett-Olson NRCC Chairperson - Mr Micky Wunungmurra Mr Barry Hansen Ms Cathy Spurr Mr Matthew Kennon	<b>Election required 2019</b>

<b>NUNGALINYA COLLEGE BOARD</b>		
<i>Three Board Members appointed for a term of two years.</i>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
One corporate member appointed by the Synod.	General Secretary /Rev Haloti Kailahi	General Secretary /Rev Haloti Kailahi
Two director members appointed by Synod on the advice of NRCC.	Mr Djawut Gondarra (2019) Mr Harry Garrawurra (2019)	<b>Election required 2019</b> <b>Election required 2019</b>

<b>ST PHILIP'S COLLEGE COUNCIL</b>		
<i>In accordance with St Philip's Constitution. Appointed for three years</i>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
	Mr Peter Jones (2020) Mr Kevin Tutt (2020) Mr Kevin Davis (2020)	Mr Peter Jones (2020) Mr Kevin Tutt (2020) Mr Kevin Davis (2020)

<b>SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>		
<i>Two members appointed in accordance with Somerville Constitution for a maximum of 3 years</i>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
	Ps Richard Telfer Ms Daphne Read	Ps Richard Telfer (2021) Ms Daphne Read (2021)

<b>COMMITTEE FOR DISCIPLINE</b>	
Delegated to the Synod of South Australia	
Chairperson	Appointed by the Standing Committee when required
<b>SEXUAL MISCONDUCT COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE</b>	
	Appointed by the Standing Committee when required.

<b>SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ADVISERS</b>	
	Appointed by the Standing Committee when required.

<b>COUNSELLING COMMITTEE</b>		
<i>Elected for a three year term and eligible for re-election</i>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
Up to 6 people elected by the Synod one of whom is elected by the Synod as the Chairperson		Appointed by the Standing Committee when required

<b>NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES</b>		
<i>Appointed in accordance with NTCC Constitution. Three to be elected annually</i>		
	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Elections</b>
Ex Officio	Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara  Ms Lauren Merritt Ps Richard Telfer Rev Helen Richmond	Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara

<b>16<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY 2021</b>	
<i>Ten members to be elected</i>	
Moderator	Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara
General Secretary	Rev Haloti Kailahi
Two PPNA Representatives	
Two NRCC Representatives	
Four Synod Representatives	
2 Ministers	
2 Lay Persons	

## FAREWELL AND MEMORIAL MINUTES

- **Rev Felicity Amery**
- **Rev Ron Brandt**
- **Rev Jeffery Garrawurra**
- **Rev Teubiti Tapera**

## FAREWELL MINUTE

### Felicity Amery 2019

Felicity has been coming and going from the Northern Synod for nearly forty years! In her 'Farewell Minute' written in 2008, Rev Steve Orme hoped "she will return again in coming years to live and minister among us", and so she did.

Felicity first arrived in January 1979 to teach at Minjilang on Croker Island. Moving to Darwin in 1981, Felicity joined the Darwin congregation. As an active member of their dynamic young people's group, Felicity caught the eye of Howard Amery. Their wonderful partnership in life and ministry began when Felicity and Howard were married in 1983; and in 1984 they went to Ramingining, working with the local people. Tobiah was born, keeping Felicity active in teaching and mothering: she was adept at 'multitasking' before the word existed.

They moved to Adelaide in 1989 where twins Rebecca and Joseph were born. But the NT called them back: in 1991, the family returned to Darwin and joined the Karama congregation, where Felicity was active in children's ministry in the congregation and with the Synod, helping organize Kids Camp Out, involved in the Social Responsibility Task Group and in the movement for Reconciliation, and leading worship at Synod meetings. Felicity attended the 1991 National Assembly and was elected to the Assembly Standing Committee, and re-elected in 1994, serving six years as a highly valued member from the Northern Synod.

In 1995, the family moved to Yirrkala where Felicity taught at Yirrkala School while being active in both Yirrkala and Nhulunbuy congregations. During this time, Felicity discerned a call to Diaconal Ministry, candidated while studying externally, and was accepted. The family moved to Adelaide for two years 2000 and 2001 where Felicity completed her study at the Adelaide College of Divinity. In 2002, Felicity fulfilled her field education with Nightcliff congregation and prison chaplaincy.

In July 2003, Felicity commenced her first placement as part-time Coordinating Chaplain at the Berrimah Correctional Centre. Her ordination and induction as a Deacon on 6<sup>th</sup> July on the oval at the prison, outside the officer's club, has become the stuff of legend among prison officers who attended.

This ecumenical ministry was important to Felicity; she brought determination, creativity and pastoral care into a harsh and often unforgiving environment. She pushed for change, engaging staff and prisoners alike in conversation and activities that challenged individuals and the system. She earned the respect of both prisoners and staff, arranging a prisoner art exhibition, commencing family days for prisoners to maintain contact with their families and providing a chapel space in the adjacent office.

The 2004 March meeting of Pilgrim Presbytery elected Felicity as Chairperson with support for a 0.4 placement. In 2005, the role of Presbytery Minister was added to Felicity's responsibilities and the position grew to a 0.6 placement. Felicity has never been good at fractions – whether 0.4 or 0.6, she gave 100% despite personal cost. Her energy and work capacity, still undiminished, helped her reshape each position she took up and serve with faithfulness in multiple roles.

As Presbytery Minister, Felicity helped build the identity of Pilgrim Presbytery. Those who have known her Presbytery work more recently would have recognized the creativity and enthusiasm that first pushed people beyond their comfort zones in discipleship to Jesus and service of God's people. In particular and well supported by Howard with his own rich experience with Aboriginal people, Felicity's commitment to partnership with NRCC greatly deepened relationships across the Synod.

In 2008, Felicity concluded her placement as Chairperson/Presbytery Minister with PPNA. Continuing her leadership role as Chairperson with the Hunter Presbytery in New South Wales, she brought to that Synod the same strengths and gifts we valued here. In 2012, Felicity began a combined role as 0.5 Resource Minister with the Sydney North Presbytery and 0.5 Minister with Neutral Bay congregation. But the call back to the Territory would not go away.

So the Northern Synod was delighted when once again the family returned. In April 2013, Rev Amery, Deacon, was inducted as Dean of Uniting Church students at Nungalinga College, in a very demanding role that involved recruiting and supporting students from over 60 communities, determining the training most suited for them, readying them for travel by bus or charter plane, and nurturing their wellbeing while they attended a variety of short-course intensives on Christian themes. Even Felicity's fabled energy was stretched by the hundreds of phone calls across dozens of languages that managed, during her tenure, to attract the highest numbers of Indigenous Christians Nungalinga had ever taught.

Since she had endured the attainment of a TAE Cert IV, Felicity was also qualified to teach, and she took on the additional role of Coordinator of Foundation Studies which she did with enthusiasm and skill. She brought her worship skills to Chapel services, where the setting of the worship space had begun to be creative, colourful, and reverential in ways that connected students from Gippsland to Kalumburu, from Perth to Weipa, and from the APY Lands to Arnhem Land.

There were times when Felicity also pushed some of the Nungalinga staff beyond their comfort zones; yet her attention to detail, first-hand knowledge of Indigenous communities, and a fierce commitment to justice and faith enriched the lives of countless students. There was a sense of genuine grief and loss when she gave notice of completing as Dean when the academic year 2016 finished. Once again the Northern Synod had helped Rev Felicity discern a call as Pilgrim Presbytery Chairperson / Minister, the same role she had pioneered in 2005. She was inducted in a wonderful service of celebration at Casuarina UC in March of 2017 – but only on condition that she be allowed to return to teach a unit at Nungalinga in the new course on Music Composition and Performance.

In many respects, the task she faced was more complex and daunting than ever. There were many vacant placements; one church was struggling to hold together; the needs were greater but the resources more meagre. There were tensions in the office team and serious health issues amongst ministry agents, including the tragic and untimely passing of Rev Chris Paine from an aggressive cancer. Through the years, Felicity's skills had been sharpened, her wisdom deepened, and her astonishing wealth of relationships across the wider church broadened; but her energy continued undiminished.

It was not easy to say 'no' to Felicity when she sensed a call from God on your life. She persuaded a very reluctant PR&PC Convener to stay on for another year; she managed to hold together a strong team of office staff, and she found new roles for existing ministry

agents. Felicity was in her element at retreat gatherings, and the time of deep learning with Rev Professor Andrew Dutney at Lake Bennett will be long remembered by those who attended – Pastors being included alongside ordained ministers. She also initiated a retreat time for the PR&PC, where the first candidates for ordination in many years began their journey of formation.

In large part, because it was hard to say ‘no’, she has left the Northern Synod with a wonderful strength of ordained, candidate, and pastor leaders gathered from across Australia. Despite difficult challenges, PPNA and NRCC still value the partnership and seek to build a closer covenant, just as Felicity has always advocated. And she set in place the dream of the Northern Synod continuing to be on the national map as a place for shared learning: building on Stuart McMillan’s President’s gathering to host the national Presbytery Ministers Conference in Alice Springs this year; and leading the way for UCA women everywhere to gather in Darwin for UnitingWomen 2020.

To the shock of many, it was Felicity who could not say ‘no’ to the call of the Synod of South Australia; and in April this year she took up the challenge of General Secretary. Almost immediately she has been caught up in significant change as that Synod becomes once more a multiple-presbytery synod.

Yet again, we will miss her energy, her creativity and challenge, the beauty of worship she organised, and the breadth of her wisdom and experience in serving the church. But as we say ‘Farewell’ we also know the deep pull of the Northern Synod on her life and her family: in God’s time she may yet return again!

Thank you, Felicity: we have seen God through your ministry, and may God be with you in this new challenge.

Rev Lee Levett-Olson

## MEMORIAL MINUTE

### Rev Charles Ronald Brandt

23 September 1934 - 8 January 2019

Ron was born in Ararat in Victoria. After leaving school, he studied Hospital Management and Social Administration in Melbourne. As a twenty year old in 1955, Ron started studying part time for the Presbyterian ministry. He was also involved in an experimental store front ministry exploring alternative styles of Christian ministry in inner Melbourne. From the beginning, Ron was engaging with the community in pioneering styles of ministry. Ordained in 1963, his first appointment was to the Mildura District Parish based at Merbein.

In 1966, he was recruited by the Australian Inland Mission of the Presbyterian Church to a New Patrol ministry in the Pilbara, Western Australia. He and his wife Jo were based in Carnarvon with ministry to the construction camps for the developing Iron Ore mines. An outbreak of infectious hepatitis in the area hospitalised Ron and necessitated his return to Melbourne for specialist treatment. Jo, with their two young sons, returned with him. While under medical supervision, Ron acted as an interim at St Andrews Mount Gambier.

In 1968, Ron returned to AIM and the Esperance Patrol along the south east coast of Western Australia. Here he again engaged in experimental ministry with land and mining developments on that remote edge of the continent.

In 1970, the family moved to Perth and for 8 months Ron ran a Pilot Project in Urban Mission out of cluster of shops adjacent to the Perth city railway station car park. At the end of the project, Ron was called to minister with the "Melting Pot" coffee shop and neighbourhood house in Nedlands. He was commissioned as "Minister - in - Community" with St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Nedlands. For his work, he received a Perth Citizen of the Year award in 1972. During this time, Ron encountered the phrase "Conversations at the edge of the Raft" from a book by Denham Grierson. This was an apt description of Ron's ministry. His focus was always on ministry in the community particularly with the marginalised.

In 1974, the family returned to north west Victoria. Ron worked in the Mallee Regional Parish, based in Ouyen, preparing Methodist and Presbyterian congregations in the region for union. In 1976, they moved to Mount Beauty in the North East of Victoria. Again Ron was Minister-in-Community as Industrial Chaplain with the Hydro Electric Scheme and tourism ministry in the snow resorts in the area.

Late in 1979, Ron was approached by the Northern Synod to engage in a new form of ministry with Nightcliff Uniting Church. He accepted the challenge and came to establish a Neighbourhood House at the church. The church became a hub of community activities. Playgroups began. A drop-in hub for homeless youth was established. The op shop started. Worship in the round was introduced. Children were invited to participate in Holy Communion. The music group "Kerygma" came into being, developing its own repertoire of contemporary Christian music. Ron was also involved with prison chaplaincy and Nungalinga College. He joined the Board of Somerville Community Services and was honorary Chaplain.

In February 1984, tragedy struck when the elder son, Stephen, was killed in a motorbike

accident in Darwin. From 1984, Ron was without a placement in the Uniting Church, but worked as Minister-in-Community with NT Government in Drug Addict rehabilitation and as Ecumenical Chaplain for the Port of Darwin. He continued as honorary Chaplain with Somerville. His work with the Port of Darwin led to his appointment as Director of Stella Maris Community Services on the invitation of the Roman Catholic Bishop. In this, he worked with the seafarers particularly from the prawn fishing fleets.

During this period, Ron remained engaged with the Synod as the Chair of the Board of Church and Community. In 1990, he was employed full time as Agency Chaplain and Minister-in-Community with Somerville Community Services. In 1996, the position became a placement in the Northern Synod. While at Somerville, he served as Moderator of the Northern Synod from 1992 to 1994. He ministered with Somerville, making a significant contribution to its development and supporting staff and community clients, until his retirement in 2005. He continued on the Board of Directors after his retirement.

Ron died at home in Fannie Bay on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019. We thank God for Ron's long ministry with the church and the community and for his many life giving conversations with those at "the edge of the raft".

Steve Orme

## MEMORIAL MINUTE

### *Rev Jeffrey R Garrawurra - A Faithful Life*

2 March 1944 - 14 January 2019

Jeffrey R Garrawurra (Burralan) was born on 2 March 1944 on Murrunga Island in the Crocodile Islands on the northern coast of Arnhem Land. Probably, not surprising, his parents Djunmal and Mayalil chose to be at Murrunga given the nearby Mission of Milingimbi was bombed twice during 1943 and there were many Australian and American Air Force personnel stationed there.

Our late brother was a member of the Liyagawumirr Clan Nation. Burralan's parents took their newborn son back to Yurrwi (Milingimbi) by *lipalipa* (canoe). This was the first of many ocean journeys for a passionate fisherman, who later went on to be a fisher of people.

He spent much of his youth immersed in the Yolŋu world around him, hunting and fishing and learning law and ceremony. During this same time he was learning, through the stories of Jesus at Sunday school, the way of Christianity.

With the encouragement of his mother, family and elders, he learned to read and write and moved to Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island. It was here Burralan applied his deep knowledge of country in his work as a professional fisherman, working on boats at Galiwin'ku.

Catching, filleting and selling fish to the local Mission was hard work, but he relished it.

Here too, he was encouraged into Church leadership, attending a three weeks church leaders' course at Darwin Showground in 196, studying outside in the shade with no tables and chairs.

*"It felt free"* he recalled later. *"You can see the whole creation is there present with you"*. His sense of call to ministry grew, as the movement for an Australian Indigenous ministry was growing.

*"What if God is calling us to plant seeds?"* his wife Djuluŋa asked. Often in the years that followed my *gutharra* and *dhuway* would ring or meet me to share what they believed God was saying through a dream, vision or prayer.

In 1979 the family moved to Darwin, and Burralan joined the inaugural Diploma of Theology class at Nungalinga College.

He was ordained in 1985 and appointed Parish Minister at Yirrkala. In 1989, Rev. Garrawurra returned to Nungalinga where he worked as a teacher of theology and as Assistant Principal, forming an abiding friendship with the late Rev Dr Les Brockway, the Principal at the time.

Burralan was able to attend the Summer School of the Native Ministries Consortium in Vancouver at the School of Theology in the University of British Columbia, Canada. This began a creative connection with other First Nations leaders. He continued studying in

Australia and was awarded his Bachelor of Divinity in 1995, conferred at a graduation ceremony in Sydney University's Great Hall in May 1996.

While dedicatedly pursuing his studies, our late brother was also playing a central part of the movement of the Holy Spirit that became the UAICC, and its subsequent ministry.

Galiwin'ku hosted the 1983 national conference which led to the formation of the UAICC. Rev. Garrawurra was one of the members who presented the case for the UAICC at the 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, in Sydney in 1985. He attended many Assemblies and was involved in setting the direction for many Assembly discussions and decisions with First Peoples.

His wisdom and strong commitment to social justice won the respect of First and Second Peoples who worked with him. He worked with Rev. Dr Djinyini Gondarra in the formation of the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC), a presbytery within the Northern Synod, and from 1995 worked with the NRCC in Indigenous ministry in Darwin.

Our brother was passionate about educational opportunities for young people in communities. He advocated tirelessly for this, particularly for truly bilingual education and for Indigenous teachers and teaching assistants in the classroom. Many times, he challenged the Church to do more in this matter which he considered critical for the future of First Peoples.

Many people in the UCA came into contact with Rev. Garrawurra as National Chairperson of the UAICC during the triennium of the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly (2012-2015), through his involvement in a number of high-profile events in the life of the Uniting Church.

At the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Adelaide in 2012, he joined President Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney as Assembly members suspended their meeting to walk to the South Australian Parliament and hold a prayer vigil for justice for Indigenous Australians.

The so-called NT Intervention, imposed without consultation, was a source of great pain and Rev. Garrawurra urged the Assembly to act in solidarity with the First Peoples in the NT.

In March 2014, he and Rev. Prof. Dutney led a Service of Lament on the lawns outside Parliament, as part of the Week of Prayer and Fasting for Indigenous Justice, called A Destiny Together.

The landmark service of prayer and sacrament included the marking of participants with clay and ash, cross-cultural symbols of mourning.

As UAICC National Chairperson, he was strongly committed to the relationship with the UCA. In March 2013 Rev. Garrawurra was a key member in a UCA delegation to the Pacific Conference of Churches in Honiara, Solomon Islands and his contribution was a key factor in the UCA's readmission to the Conference. Rev Kerry Enright has described his important visit this way:

*"In Honiara he was clearly in his element. The ease with which Pacific leaders engaged with him and he engaged with them showed me, again, how precious it is for indigenous peoples to meet across regions."*

*He had what Maori call mana, (i.e. he held the respect of other leaders and further they recognised his spiritual wisdom). Kerry continues: I cannot adequately convey just how momentous it felt to be present when the distinguished leader of UAICC spoke at the Pacific Conference of Churches. People fell silent and engaged with him with deep respect.*

*As we sought to strengthen the Uniting Church's catholic (universal) identity, I believe this was one of the most significant steps UnitingWorld facilitated in my time.” His grace and generosity for the Church in difficult circumstances has been a great blessing.*

Around the time of A Destiny Together, Burralanj made a number of media appearances on ABC Radio and Television, which enabled him to bring to the attention of the nation the concerns he had for justice for First Peoples, and particularly the NT Intervention.

When asked one day about asylum seekers and refugees he gently said: “We (i.e. First Peoples of Australia), *we have been waiting for you to ask us*” and he went on to explain that for centuries prior to colonisation by the British, Yolŋu had been welcoming and developing strong relationships with people of other nations. He outlined both a contemporary Christian understanding, and the Yolŋu practice, of hospitality and welcoming the stranger.

On most public occasions, including at Assembly Standing Committee Meetings, Rev. Garrawurra would deliver his reports in his heart language, drawing the concerns of First Peoples to the attention of ASC members.

On one occasion Stuart McMillan was translating for the Assembly Standing Committee into English and somewhere part-way through, he changed to English and Stuart to Yolŋu Matha. They both cracked up with laughter as did Standing Committee members.

Several members recall one of his poignant and thought-provoking statements in English “*I have learned a lot from you. Tell me what you’ve learned from me.*”

Whilst he stood down as UAICC National Chairperson in early 2015 because of ill health, he continued to contribute actively as a UAICC Elder, at Synod meetings, and at other events.

He played a significant role in the installation of Stuart McMillan as President in July 2015 and then the 2017 President’s National Conference in Darwin – ‘Honouring First People as Sovereign’.

The Spirit-centred wisdom which was evident through his ministry was recognised formally when he was nominated as a finalist in the 2016 NT - Senior Australian of the Year awards.

Of course, many of us within the Northern Synod have been enriched through our friend’s wise perception and deep faith. We all can give thanks to God for the blessing of Rev Garrawurra’s life. Our hearts and minds are full with the rich Yolŋu wisdom and Christ-centred life he generously shared with us.

Peter Jones and Stuart McMillan

## MEMORIAL MINUTE

### Rev Teubiti Tapera

17 July 1949 -18 August 2019

Teubiti was born in what is now the Republic of Kiribati in the Central Pacific. He moved to the Solomon Islands where he was received as a candidate for ministry within the United Church of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands and entered Rarongo Theological College in 1969. In 1974 he graduated with a Diploma of Theology and began ministry in 1975 in various appointments with the United Church in the Solomon Islands. In 1988, he attended Nungalinya College in Darwin doing a graduate refresher course. He returned to the United Church and served as Superintendent Minister in the Rarongo Circuit for two years.

In 1991, he came to work with NRCC in the then Parish of Malalkutjikutj, which included Minjilang and Warruwi communities. This was a two year secondment from the United Church of PNG and the Solomon Islands. His stay was extended for another two years while he continued to minister at Warruwi. In 1995, he was issued with a call to remain as Minister with the Parish for another 5 years living at Warruwi on South Goulburn Island. During this time he was sponsored by the Uniting Church to become a permanent resident in Australia.

In 1997, he moved to Minjilang community on Croker Island and commenced part-time work with the community to supplement his now part-time stipend. In 2000, the placement became non-stipended. Teubiti supported himself and his family by working in the community while still providing ministry to the Minjilang congregation. He was an active member of NRCC and the Northern Synod, serving on Standing Committee and other committees. He also served as a member of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church.

After over 20 years of ministry with NRCC in the Uniting Church in Australia, Teubiti applied to be received as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church. He was admitted in November 2014, and a service of recognition was held during the Northern Synod meeting in June 2015. In late 2014, he suffered a serious illness and decided to retire from active ministry in February 2015. In retirement, he spent time in Darwin with family and also at Minjilang where his son is still working. During these visits, he continued to support the Minjilang congregation.

After a short stay at the Darwin Hospice, Rev Teubiti Tapera lost his battle with cancer and passed away on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019. His funeral was held at the Casuarina Uniting Church on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August with extended family, colleagues in ministry and many friends present.

We give thanks to God for Teubiti's forty years of ministry with both the United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, and the Uniting Church in Australia. Here in the Northern Synod, he faithfully served the people in West Arnhem, supporting himself and the church through his work in the community. He was a pastor to his extended family and will be greatly missed by them. Truly the text from Matthew's Gospel applies to Teubiti: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Steve Orme

## ACRONYMS

AMC	Area Ministry Council
APY	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands
ARDS	Aboriginal Resource and Development Services
ARRCS	Australian Regional and Remote Community Services
ASC	Assembly Standing Committee
AuSIL	Australian Society of Indigenous Languages
FAPS	Finance and Property Services Committee
GMIT	Gereja Masehi Ingili di Timor
MAF	Mission Aviation Fellowship
MEB	Ministerial Education Board
NRCC	Northern Regional Council of Congress of UAICC
NS	Northern Synod
PPNA	Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia
PR&PC	Pastoral Relations and Placements Committee
SSC	Synod Standing Committee
UCAF	Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
UCA	Uniting Church in Australia
UAICC	Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
UBB	Unit Bahasa dan Budaya (Unit of Language and Culture)

# FORMS

This section contains copies of forms for use by Synod members

- Proposal Form
- Nomination Form

Extra copies of these forms are available at the Business Table

# Uniting Church in Australia – Northern Synod Proposal

**Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal:**

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**Rationale:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Proposers:** \_\_\_\_\_

Those framing proposals are asked to note the following:

1. Each proposal must be signed by two members of Synod OR, where the proposal is from a Church Council, two members of that Council. Proposals from Church Councils need to note the date of the meeting at which the proposal was accepted by the Council.
2. All proposals must be submitted in writing to the Business Table at Synod, or be mailed to the Synod Office prior to the commencement of Synod Business Meetings.
3. Proposers should note that the wording of the proposal will be considered by the Synod Business Committee, which may, if necessary, refer the Proposal back to the Proposers for clarification or re-wording.

# Uniting Church in Australia – Northern Synod

## Nomination Form

**For Position/Committee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Proposed:** Rev, Mr, Ms, Mrs, Miss \_\_\_\_\_

**Age (circle/tick)**      up to 30      31 to 50      over 50

**List the qualifications/gifts that this person will bring to this position /committee**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Present Committee Membership

**Congregation**                      **Synod**                                      **Assembly**

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

## THANK YOU

On behalf of the Northern Synod, we would like to thank you all for making the 43<sup>rd</sup> Synod a life-giving atmosphere and a friendly experience for everyone.

We also would like to extend our thanks to CDU, Club Tropical Resort and Synod Staff for supporting our Synod this year.

May God bless you all.



Rev Thresi Mauboy  
Moderator



Rev Haloti Kailahi  
General Secretary



**NRCC Executive Committee Members September 2019**



***Photo taken in October 2018, at the Ministers and Pastors Retreat,  
Honeymoon Gap, Alice Springs***