



NORTHERN SYNOD E-NEWS

Verse of the Week

**The Lord is a refuge for the
oppressed, a stronghold in times of
trouble**

Psalm 9:9-10

Dates & Events

- Assembly 17 - 18 July
- Synod 4 - 9 October
- May Day 3 May
- Mother's Day 9 May

Moderator's Appeal

Synod of the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor (GMIT)

**Cyclone Seroja
Emergency Response Center**

Urgently needed:
Your prayers, cash, staple foods,
drinking water, clothing,
medicines, tarpaulins, sleeping
mats, milk, diapers, sanitary
napkins, soap, toothpaste, and
building materials

Donations may be sent to:
BNI Acct #1192908672 - IDR
Acct Name:
Tanggap Bencana GMIT
Swift Code: BNINIDJAKPA

Contact Persons:
Rev. Mery Kolimon
+62 813 3946 9002
(Tlp/WhatsApp)
Rev. Paolina Bara Pah
+62 822 3752 3160
(Tlp/WhatsApp)

Alamat (Address):
Synod Emergency Response Center
Kantor Sinode GMIT
Jl. S. K. Lerik - Kora Baru
Kupang, NTT 85228
Indonesia
Tlp. +62 380 8438423
email: infokom.gmit@yahoo.com

On the 4th of April during Easter Day, Nusa Tenggara Timor was hit by Tropical cyclone Seroja. It damaged most of cities in the area including Sabu Raijua, Rote, Adonara Flores, Bena, Kupang as well as areas in East Timor. The cyclone destroyed a lot of properties including the churches.

The Evangelical Protestant Church in West Timor has had a long relationship with the Northern Synod through the NRCC in the Bible Translation Unit. However big or small our gift, it will be meaningful to our brothers and sisters in Timor.

The Northern Synod is sending \$1000 as a direct donation to GMIT because our strong connection to them. Co-ordinate of East Arnhem Land has also generously donated \$200 too because of their close connections.

God as the source of blessing will always provide us with abundance and through Him we help as service of love to others.

Assembly News

Uniting Church National History Society Conference - "Growing Up Uniting"

You are welcome to attend the 3rd Biennial History Conference with guest speakers, Dr Deidre Palmer, "Roundtable Conversations with Uniting Church Young People", Associate Professor Ruth Powell, "Growing up Uniting: an inside out perspective and Rev. Dr William Emilsen and Dr Elizabeth Watson, "Growing up Uniting: Insights to ponder; lessons to heed" along with other speakers and events organised over the three day conference.

More information can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/growing-up-uniting-tickets-138188825497>

Presidents Conference 2021

Called by God 2 - I am pleased to offer all members of the Uniting Church in Australia the chance to participate in my rescheduled President's Conference. - President of UCA, Dr Deidre Palmer

More information including registration can be found here: <https://uniting.church/presidents-conference-2021/>

Statement From The Heart - Study Guide

A new study guide for congregations and other small groups on the Statement from the Heart, is now available to the whole Church

The Assembly recommends this resource as one important way members of the Uniting Church can better understand Sovereignty and the determination of First Nations Peoples for Voice, Treaty and Truth-Telling.

<https://uniting.church/statement-from-the-heart-study-guide/>

National Redress - Two Years Old

<https://uniting.church/national-redress-scheme-two-years-on/>



Semester 1 2021 dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Feb 21	Nightcliff Uniting Church
March 21	Casuarina Uniting Church
April 18	Karama Uniting Church
May 16	Darwin Congress Ministry* @ Nungalinga College
June 20	Darwin Memorial Uniting Church
July 18	Trip to Kakadu and joining with Jabiru Uniting Church*

** To be confirmed*

If you are looking to join in with other UCA youth, then remember to save the date for Testify!

Milkarri Retreat



By Guthadjaka

The Milkarri Project has been inspired by Lamentations 9:17 This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Consider now! Call for the wailing women to come; send for the most skillful of them."

This is what we did. After gathering on Thursday night, expert wailing women (tutors) from Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi and Gapuwiyak settled down to the task of mentoring younger women from their communities, in the spirit of verse 20b Teach your daughters how to wail; teach one another a lament. There were 35 women and girls participating throughout the program.

On Friday, the tutors wailed their traditional Milkarri songs, which describe the Yolngu connection to one another and the land. We mourned and grieved our brokenness and losses. A small group of men supported the women with bilma. Then we studied scriptures that point to what has caused so much grief and suffering, and grieved some more.

On the third day, we read scriptures that focus on Jesus bringing healing and restoration, and how faith can bring peace and wholeness once again. We cried our Milkarri songs to Jesus. The tutors worked hard to wail their songs in turn, teaching both Yirritja and Duwa Milkarri, and culminating in combined wailing of Scripture as prayer in each clan's own style. The women finished with wailing Malachi 4:6, having discovered their own powerful way to pray.

The whole process was videoed so we look forward to a video that can be used throughout Arnhemland to bring encouragement, hope and healing to all communities.



Emily Hayes - Formation Journey



By Emily Hayes

In 2016 with much uncertainty I began what became a long journey of discernment and formation. It has been hard work to say the least. However, I am really grateful for the experience, it has brought me to a place in which I feel much more solid in who I am in God and God's call on my life.

And so it was only excitement, joy and a little relief that I felt when the Presbytery meeting on Friday 16th affirmed I am indeed ready for ordination. There is now the journey of finding a placement but it was significant step.

Lots of people to thank, of course. The journey of formation is one taken with the whole church. Firstly, my mentors Felicity Amery and Michelle Cook and the members of the formation panel Helen Paine, Steve Orme, David Crawford, Basil Schild and Wendy Beresford Manning. Also, thanks go to Darwin Memorial Uniting Church and Casuarina Uniting Church for welcoming me as a student; to the staff at the Adelaide College of Divinity who have really gone the extra mile to make my studies from such a distance easier; and to Richard Telfer who has been on this journey of formation with me.

I am eternally grateful as well to Steve Bevis and the congregation at Alice Springs Uniting Church who could not have been more supportive and enabling of me to explore different things. Their wisdom and grace has really formed me. And of course my family. Balancing work, studies and a family is no small task and they don't always get the most and best of me and yet they remain my greatest supporters.



Easter in Galiwin'ku

To wrap up the Easter celebrations around the Northern Synod, this picture was submitted from Galiwin'ku.

The church was decorated to reflect on the sacrifice that was made for us and especially for those in Elcho Island.

Photo Wall

Richard Telfer Ordination



Synod Prayer Meetings

The Synod Prayer Network meets weekly each Wednesday at 10am at the Northern Synod office and via zoom. Our group in the office is not large, but earnest prayers are offered by those present (and via zoom), including regulars like our Moderator Rev Thresi Mauboy, NRCC Presbytery Minister Rev Jo Mar, Rev Maratja Dhamarrandji, Mel Quilliam, Jemma Whittaker and Stuart McMillan. Our prayers are sometimes in language – what a joy!

We have planned a prayer calendar to focus on different aspects of UCA life in the Northern Synod, to fulfill the vision of building connections between individuals, congregations and agencies across our vast Synod. So far this year we have had prayers via zoom from Broome, Mowanjum and Alice Springs, and on different weeks we've had prayer points offered for Darwin, West Kimberley, UAICC and chaplaincy. Our focus next week is East Arnhem.

We are endeavouring to have a wider reach and participation by inviting different leaders for each week, and each week having a different focus. That is our goal. The zoom meeting link will remain the same, regardless of where the leader is.

The link is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83256549908?pwd=TzhQTmp1UkZMbUNTeHh3SEk3Vk1Ldz09>

Meeting ID: 832 5654 9908

Passcode: 346227

One tap mobile

+61731853730,,83256549908#,,,,*346227# Australia

+61861193900,,83256549908#,,,,*346227# Australia

The four main areas that will focus our prayers are:

- Northern Synod (usually the first Wednesday of each month)
- Congregations and Faith Communities by Region (East Arnhem, West Arnhem, Darwin, Kimberley and Centre/APY). In the spirit of covenanting, we have not divided into PPNA and NRCC, but rather, regions that incorporate both. "Congregations and Faith Communities" will be our focus on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month.
- Life Stages i.e. children, youth, young adults, parents, grandparents, singles (usually the 3rd Wednesday each month).
- UCA Assembly (when there's a 5th Wednesday in the month; there are 3 in 2021).

The 2021 prayer calendar is on a separate page. We are really keen for people throughout our Synod to participate directly in the prayer meetings (in person or via zoom), or to suggest prayer points for their region/agency. Please phone or email to let me know if you'd like to be involved.

Also, if you or someone in your congregation is unsure how to participate in a prayer group, I can forward you some "Prayer Bites" on video that explain what prayer is and how to pray.

Yours in Christ,

Ros

Roslyn McMillan 0438 831 016

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2021 Synod Prayer Calendar

	Synod & Agencies	Congregations & Faith Communities	Life Stages	Congregations & Faith Communities	
February 13-14 SSC	3 Synod	10 Darwin	17	24 West Arnhem	
March	3 NRCC	10 Kimberley	17	24 Centre	31 UAICC National
April [2-5 Easter]	7 Chaplaincy	14 East Arnhem	21	28	
May	5 PPNA	12 Darwin	19	26 West Arnhem	
June	2 Nungalinya	9 Kimberley	16	23 Centre	30 National Assembly
July 15-19 Assembly	7 Coordinate	14 East Arnhem	21	28 Darwin	
August	4 Post-Assembly	11 West Arnhem	18	25 Kimberley	
September	1 ARDS	8 Centre	15	22 East Arnhem	29 Northern Synod
October NS dates tbc	6 Somerville	13 Darwin	20	27 West Arnhem	
November	3 Social Justice	10 Kimberley	17	24 Centre	
December	1	8 East Arnhem	15	22	29

#Shaded area is school holidays.

Ministry Opportunities

Northern Synod

- Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia - Presbytery Minister

(More information may be found on the Northern Synod website in Vacancies.)

You may also contact **helen.paine@ns.uca.org.au**

Wider Church

- Uniting Care Campaign Engagement Officer

(More information may be found on the Northern Synod website in Vacancies.)

“We are seeking a highly motivated individual with appropriate skills to take the campaign to the Uniting Church community and ensure this campaign is successful.”

Contact

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From the Media team

Greetings everyone in the name of Christ!

Hope you are doing well!

As a reminder, this e-news is all shaped by you! If there is anything you want to see or read, please email me. This can be anything from pictures, stories or advertisements.

I wish you all the best for the year, and may God be with you in all that you do!

Cheers,
Loui

Liusem Mauboy
Media & Communications



Australian
Aged Care
Collaboration



**It's time to care
about aged care.**

Show your support.

Sign the petition.

CareAboutAgedCare.org.au

