

# NORTHERN SYNOD E-NEWS

## Verse of the Week

**I can do all things through him  
who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4: 13

## Dates & Events

- Godly Play 24 - 26 June
- NAIDOC Week 4 - 11 July
- Assembly 17 - 18 July
- Synod 4 - 9 October

## Using Language

Before the Pentecost, language was mistakenly used to serve a dishonest purpose. The story of this can be found in Genesis 11. At that time people all over the world knew only one language, they spoke one language but there was no unity. Why? Language was used for two purposes: To create a fortress to protect ourselves and to search for names. (Genesis 11: 4)

God gave humans language to use to identify themselves and make God's name famous. But the people who were saved from the floodwaters did something else.

They used language to protect themselves and find their own glory. They do not use language just to communicate and come together, but as a means of power and destruction. Whenever language is used for this purpose, the unity of society and fellowship in the family, even within the church, is bound to be in chaos. This fact did not only happen at Sinear when they built the tower of Babel. The languages we use can be one and the same, but if we start using language to look for names, then language will no longer be useful as a means of peace, but a weapon of disagreement. This has already happened in Babylon, and it will continue to happen everywhere until today.

With the events of Pentecost, God introduced a positive way of using language as a tool of ministry and reconciliation. In Jerusalem, there are many languages, that are used when there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, through different languages people can glorify God and be used as an instrument of peace.

We realize this very well, in our synod that there are translations in various languages we are applied and using in church life to glorify God's name. Let us make the church a place where the language, we use aims to glorify Christ. It turns out that the problem is not in how many languages we know, but in the way and purpose we use that language. Language will be a blessing if it is used to glorify God's name.

Amen

Rev Thresi Mauboy

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## Assembly News

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

Steve and Judy Orme, Lauren Merritt and the Moderator Rev Thresi Mauboy will be attending 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.

It's not too late to register for zoom here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/growing-up-uniting-tickets-138188825497>

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### Launch of the Kiosk Touch Screen at Adelaide House and the unveiling of a Memorial Plaque for late Rev Dr Colin Ford on Monday 17th May 2021.

Chanston Paech, The NT Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage launched the Kiosk and spoke about the importance of Adelaide House and John Flynn Memorial Church to the community and country.

Thanks to Judith McKay and Alice Spring UC volunteers for their work in making this happen through grants and voluntary services. Minister Paech also joined the memorial service at the chapel. The service was led by Rev Peter Greenwood (ASUC Minister), Rev Haloti Kailahi (NS General Secretary), Rev David Baker (Past Moderator QLD Synod), Keith Castle (Chair ASUC), Judith McKay (Adelaide House), Janine Jacksons (Frontier Services) and members of the Ford family. A plaque was unveiled by the Ford children and Janine Jackson after the service. Fellowship and sharing with community members and Alice Springs Uniting Church friends continued over a late morning tea.



## National Reconciliation Week - Nightcliff Uniting Church

NUC marked Reconciliation Sunday 2021 with a prayer service focusing on justice and freedom for the First Peoples of Australia. We lit candles in the form of a cross to symbolize Christ's light and hope as we walk alongside our Aboriginal brothers and sisters for justice and peace.

(Taken from Facebook, "Nightcliff Uniting Church")



With gratitude & respect,  
we gather on the land of The Larrakia  
for our

# UCA Anniversary Multicultural Service & Celebration

Preacher: Rev Maratja Dhamarrandji

All UCA congregations, friends  
& partners in the NT join together  
in person & via zoom to celebrate the  
*44th Anniversary*  
of the Uniting Church in Australia  
with worship & praise.

Light refreshment provided.

All are welcome.

Sun, 20 Jun 2021 at 1730h  
Darwin Memorial Uniting Church  
& Live Stream  
78 Smith St, Darwin

For Details Rev Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams  
katalinatw@gmail.com  
0418 229 564



## NCLS Research

In May, NCLS Research posted or emailed an invitational brochure to all local churches.

Every local church is welcome to take part—whether or not their denomination or region is fully involved.

For more information you may go to:

<https://www.2021ncls.org.au/>

## Synod Prayer Meetings

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 the Kimberleys.

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.

## 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
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
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
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.



**Northern Regional Council of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress & The Uniting Church in Australia, Northern Synod**

**STATEMENT ON THE NT GOVERNMENT'S YOUTH JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021**

We, the Northern Regional Council of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (NRCC), together with the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia (NS), representing communities and churches throughout the Northern Territory, make this statement to express our grave concerns regarding the NT government's *Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2021*. We wish to voice our strong objections to this legislation on the basis that it has not been subjected to a proper process of community consultations and scrutiny, given the inevitable and extensive adverse impacts it will have on Aboriginal children and youth, and on Aboriginal communities in general in the NT. We know this to be true because we count ourselves amongst the many key NT organisations that have not been consulted on this law or invited to give feedback. We also know that our constituencies including communities have not been provided with opportunities to give input.

We reject the underlying rationale that youth crime in the Territory is out of control which is behind the NT government's youth legislative reforms. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, youth crime in the Territory has reduced by 9%. We reject the assumption that the best way to address youth crime is to make it incredibly difficult for children to get bail, minimise their access to diversion programs, increase police powers to target and arrest them and implement electronic monitoring bracelets. We are appalled at this reactive approach which treat such punitive measures as solutions when evidence from around the world and within the country show that such measures only push young people further into the criminal justice system, and do not add value to the safety and social cohesion of communities. We especially object to this law because we know that it will disproportionately target and affect Indigenous children. Every single child locked up in the Territory is Indigenous, and that number will continue to rise under this legislation.

We all need answers, we all need to find solutions to youth social alienation, and we all need to live in safe communities. But locking children up is no solution for any society and it is no way to build a future for our country and for the Territory. Prison is no place for children! We therefore urge the NT government to seriously consider evidence-based community and grassroot solutions that address root causes, promote youth diversion from detention and the criminal justice system, and that appropriately support Aboriginal children and families.

Signed Micky Wunungmurra..... Date 14-5-21  
NRCC Chair, Micky Wunungmurra

Signed [Signature]..... Date 14-5-21  
NS Moderator, Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara

For enquiries:  
Rev Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams  
Social Justice Consultant  
+ 61 8 41822 9564 katalinatw@gmail.com

## Ministry Opportunities

### 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."

#### - *General Secretary, Synod of WA*

The Synod now wishes to appoint a new General Secretary who will be accountable to the Church in Western Australia through its Synod Standing Committee.

This position is the Secretary of the Synod and the Chief Executive Officer of the Uniting Church Centre.

More information can be found on their website:  
<https://unitingchurchwa.org.au/jobs/gensec2021/>

#### - *Nungalinga College, Dean of UCA/NRCC Students*

Position description and applications can be found here:

<https://www.ns.uca.org.au/vacancies/>

## Contact

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2 Railway Street, Parap NT 0820  
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P: (08) 8982 3400

### 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

Darwin Community Legal Service



# Free Legal Advice Service

## Do you require help with:

- Tenancy Rentals
- Bond Returns
- Centrelink
- NDIS
- Discrimination
- Human Rights
- Employment Rights
- Unfair Dismissal
- Contracts
- Credit & Debts
- Consumer Rights
- Adult guardianship

## Free Legal Advice Session

### Every Tuesday

Darwin -75 Wood St

5.30pm – 7.30pm

\*Booking required\*

### Every Thursday

Darwin - 75 Wood St

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Walk ins welcome

### 4th Monday of Every Month

Palmerston Library

6.00pm – 7.00pm

Walk ins welcome

### 2nd Saturday of each month

Casuarina Library

10.00am – 11.45am

Walk ins welcome

[www.dcls.org.au](http://www.dcls.org.au)

1800 812 953