

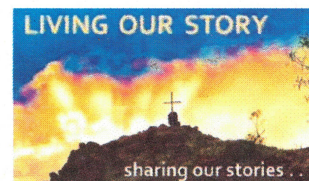


Uniting Church in Australia  
Northern Synod

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
Christian Congress  
Northern Regional Council of Congress



## Pastoral Note from the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia; and the Northern Regional Council of Congress.



17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was with a heavy heart that we heard the news of the passing of Mr G Yunupingu, the Yulngu leader on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. He was the head of the Gumatj clan from North Eastern Arnhemland and the founder and inaugural Chairman of the Gumatj Corporation. Yunupingu was an outstanding leader and friend to many. He was a champion for self-determination for Yolngu people and for Aboriginal rights in general. He was recognised as Australian of the Year in 1978. His late brother Mr M Yunupingu was recognised as Australian of the year in 1992. Their family has made a great contribution to Australia.

We are grieving his loss. Family have said we can use the name Yunupingu, but not his personal name. They have said to mourn his passing in our own way, but as a family they encourage us all to rejoice in the gift of Yunupingu's life and leadership. In time the family will announce the dates for *bäparru* (ceremonies) that will see him returned to his land and to his fathers.

Mr Yunupingu was a wonderful man and we give thanks to God for his life. He was committed to his community and worked for many years to help improve the lives of First Nations people.

He will be missed. He will never be forgotten. He was a true leader.

Farewell, our brother. Farewell good leader.

Grace and Peace to all

*Goodluck*

*Jamie Nyaningu*

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*Living on Larrakia land  
Born on Jaitmatang land  
Raised on Jaitmatang, Woiworunn, Maarku and Larrakia land*

*A First Nations man of the desert ancestors:  
Living on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankuntjatjara Land*



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