



# BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

28th February Weekly Newsletter 2021

## 2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

### Synod 2021 – Friday 26-28 February (meeting virtually online)

As we gather to worship this Sunday, Synod 2021 meeting is well underway. Synod is one of the inter-related councils of the Church that form the structure of the Uniting Church in Australia as set out by its Basis of Union. These councils consist of the Congregation, the Church Council, the Presbytery, the Synod and the National Assembly.

Paragraph 15 of the Basis of Union outlines the framework in which these inter-related councils will operate. "The Uniting Church recognises that the responsibility for government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks which God has laid upon them. The Uniting Church therefore so organises its life that locally, regionally and nationally, government will be entrusted to representatives, men and women, bearing the gifts and graces with which God has endowed them for the building up of the Church. The Uniting Church is governed by a series of inter-related councils, each of which has its tasks and responsibilities in relation both to the Church and the world."

The Constitution of the Uniting Church defines the role of the Synod as having 'general oversight, direction and administration of the Church's worship, witness and service within its bounds.' Within these defined responsibilities, the Synod, through its Synod Ministries and Operations (SMO), seek to support congregations within its bounds in the following ways. (i) Support and encourage congregations in acts of reconciliation with our Indigenous people; (ii) provide resources and training through Culture of Safety Unit in relation to Child Safe Policies, persons of Concern regulatory requirements; (iii) monitor Occupational Health and Safety protocols, Insurance program providing cover for any personal injury, theft, and property claims; (iv) Property Services to support congregations to ensure facilities are fit for missional purposes, ensuring disability access; (v) Moderator providing pastoral support, through Pastoral letters and visits; (vi) provide education for ministers and lay leaders; (vii) centralised stipend help congregations pay their ministry agents; (viii) Crisis team to support congregation in times of time of crisis, Covid Q&A, bushfire relief, worship resources; apply and monitor JobKeeper payments on behalf of every congregations, (ix) offer IT support for congregation websites; (x) help resolve disputes and offer pastoral care to minister, members and congregations; (xi) calling a new minister, move the new minister to the manse, look after work-cover, long-service and retirement requirements; (xii) Crosslights and e-news; (xiii) Resourcing Presbytery and congregation through funding of missional projects and oversight.

The Synod is able to fulfil its responsibilities because of the generous support offered by congregations through their Mission and Service contributions. As a generous congregation, we have been able to maintain our Mission and Service contribution, even throughout this time of the pandemic, thanks to your ongoing donation and support.

To watch the meeting: <https://victas.uca.org.au/about-us/synod-meeting/>

Let us continue to uphold our Moderator, General Secretary and Synod members as they meet that their deliberations and discernment reflect the will of God.

~ Rev Ikani Vaitohi

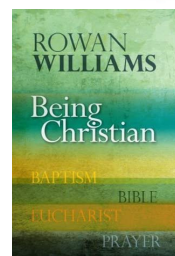


This year's Lenten Study will be held at 5 pm on Sunday afternoons in the Church hall, in safely distanced seating, on the four Sundays Feb 28, March March 14 and March 21. The study book is Rowan Williams' Being Christian and it is about strengthening the practices that underlie our lives as Christians. It has been borrowed for free from the Otira library so there are no costs for participants. We will look at one of its four chapters each week. They are on Baptism, Bible, Eucharist (communion), and Prayer.

We propose that you bring a sandwich for yourself and that we stay on for this self-supplied light meal after the study session. Tea and coffee will be served in paper cups in a Covid-safe way.



## Lenten Bible Study



Please let Ikani or Cherry (phone: 5245 8225) know if you would like to take part in this Study.

February 2021



## Belmont Uniting Church March Roster 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Mar 7	10.00am	Rev. Ikani Vaitohi	L. Jackson	J. & D. Stephens	J. Oman J. Ferguson	R. Ferguson	G Schneider	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
Mar 7	L. Moss, A. Merritt J. Jeffers, R. Pearson	R. Buckwell

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Mar 14	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	Bev. Dickie	J. Murray	H. McCann C. Schaller	R. Ferguson	R Bunting	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
Mar 14	N/A	R. Buckwell

**If for any reason you are unable to attend your rostered duty, please endeavour to swap with anyone & contact the worship leader**



Friday 5th March - Cyril Germon  
Saturday 6th March - Leon Herviou

### **THANK YOU FROM BUSHIKORI**

The Geelong Bushikori Committee sincerely thank those members of Belmont Uniting for their generous "Retiring Offering" to assist with the expenses for Anne Wandendeya's Service and catering. The \$700.00 raised will be forwarded to Bushikori in Uganda.



**Synod 2021**



Next week from the 26-28th of February, members from across the life of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania will take part in the Synod 2021 meeting.

We have been asked for our prayers as they seek to discern God's will for the worship, witness and service of the Church in this new and unfamiliar virtual space.

The entire meeting, excluding any member-only sessions and working group times, will be broadcast live for members of the wider church. The Synod Worship will be broadcast from 7.30pm on Friday, February 26. Speak with Ikani if you need further details.

## Lectionary Reading

**February 28 - Lent 2**

Gn 17: 1 - 7, 15 - 16

Psalm 22: 23 - 31

Rom 4: 13 - 25

Mt 8: 31 - 38 or 9: 2 - 9

February 2021

**March 7 - Lent 3**

Ex 20: 1 - 17

Psalm 19

1 Cor 1: 18 - 25

Jn 2: 13 - 22

**March 14 - Lent 4**

Nm 21: 4 - 9

Psalm 107: 1 - 3, 17 - 22

Eph 2: 1 - 10

Jn 3: 14 - 21

**March 21 - Lent 5**

Jer 31: 31 - 34

Psalm 51: 1 - 12

Heb 5: 5 - 10

Jn 12: 20 - 33

## Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Heavenly Father, when we face the inevitable disappointments of life, give us perspective and faith. When we are discouraged, give us the strength to trust Your promises and follow Your will. Help us to live with the assurance that Your love endures forever.

Dear Lord, we know many people are failing to cope through these difficult times and great uncertainty.

We pray for Uniting and its welfare agencies which are reaching out to help people who are struggling with unemployment, lack of food, clothing and good accommodation.

Loving God, help us to be people of hope and during this period of Lent guide us day by day to have a strong faith, focussing on You and being led by Your Holy Spirit.

*by Peter Wood*



### **From the Treasurer**

Offering via Direct Debit—Our bank details are:

Account Name: Belmont Uniting Church

BSB: 063-504, Account No: 00902634.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Council Meeting - Tuesday 2nd March @ 7:30 (Fellowship Room)

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 14th March

Annual Reports to Secretary required by 2nd March

### **Presbytery Pastoral Care Seminars**

4 Mar - Thursday 6:30pm - 9:30pm

11 Mar - Thursday 6:30pm - 9:30pm

19 Mar - Friday 9:30am-12:30pm

16 Apr - Friday 9:30am-12:30pm

22 Apr - Thursday 6:30pm - 9:30pm

*Speak with Ikani for details*