

# Multiculturalism Matters

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA | PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH MORETON | 19 MARCH 2014

## ‘The gospel makes us one and commits us to a destiny together’



**A Destiny Together: Justice for First Peoples – the vigil underway in Canberra**

GOD brings people together from very different backgrounds into Christ’s body, with one paramount command: Love one another.

UCA President, Rev. Dr Andrew Dutney, said this on the lawns in front of Parliament House, Canberra, on March 18, as he preached on 1 Corinthians 13, at the church’s national prayer vigil for justice for Australia’s First Peoples.

About 250 people from across Australia, including many from the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and all seven Synod moderators, attended the prayer service, co-led by Dr Dutney and Congress chairperson, Rev. Ronang Garrawurra.

Queenslanders attending included Revds Kaye Ronalds, Dr David Pitman, Gwen Fisher, Dr Beth Nolan, John Case, Hohaia Matthews, Tony Shumack, Alison Cox and Keren Seto, and Shirley Coulson, Matt Gees and Pastor David Busch.

The 80-minute service included a marking with



ash and an act of confession, prayer for reconciliation, a sung lament, and Holy Communion.

Speaking in his Liyakawumirr language with an interpreter, Mr Garrawurra said the vigil, part of a national week of prayer and fasting, was a significant

expression of the First and Second Peoples in the church joining in mutuality before God, committing to walk together. "We need not be frightened of any power or authority," he said, "because we can stand strong together with God."

Dr Dutney said the church had chosen the most public place in the nation to declare its conviction that, while we are very different from each other, Christ brings us together. "We want to be a sign to Australia of God's purpose in Christ – to bring all people from every place together in reconciliation, justice and love," he said.

The vigil also was to draw attention to the pain that part of the body of Christ and the Australian nation, the First Peoples, were suffering, as a consequence of a range of injustices including the Stronger Futures legislation.

At midday the vigil adjourned to nearby Wesley Church for lunch and a time of further reflection and discussion.

Concluding the event, Dr Dutney said it would take some time to discover the full significance of what had been achieved – through the coming together of people at the vigil, the many congregations and individuals participating in the week, and the spiritual power of prayer and fasting.

Dr Dutney, Mr Garrawurra, and President-elect Pastor Stuart McMillan of Darwin also visited politicians at Parliament House on March 18-19.



Photos, clockwise from left: Rev Hohaia Matthews of Logan Central Multicultural UC with Rev Grant Finlay of the UAICC in Tasmania; Moderator Rev. Kaye Ronalds places ash on the forehead of Rev. Dr Elizabeth Nolan of Indooroopilly UC; Rev. Rronang Garrawurra and Rev. Dr Andrew Dutney outside Parliament House; Rev. Gwen Fisher writes a prayer in the Reconciliation Well prayer book at Wesley Church.



Elder Hwa-Yeol (Paul) Kim, Pastor Donghyuk (Kevin) Kwon, Rev. Gwen Fisher and Rev. Kwang Duk (James) Ko.

## New pastor for Gold Coast Korean church

DONGHYUK (Kevin) Kwon was commissioned as Pastor (Stream A) with the Gold Coast Korean UC last Sunday, March 16.

Originally from Daegu city in South Korea, Kevin came to Australia in 2006 for a working holiday and studies. He has completed three years of theology and English at Hope College, a Bible college on the Gold Coast catering for

international students, as well as a Certificate 4 in optical dispensing.

Kevin completed the requirements for Pastor in January.

He is married to Mi Sun Kim, and they have three young children: twins Yeyoung (Marie) and Yechan (John), and Yeju (Eloi).

Kevin, an accomplished

pianist, will assist Rev. Kwang Duk (James) Ko with particular responsibilities for the praise and worship team, leadership training of young adults, leading Bible studies, and preaching.

The congregation meets at Newlife UC, Robina, on Sundays at 12:30 pm. Rev. Bradley Foote, Newlife's Crossroads director and Families minister, represented Newlife at the service.



### Rev. Paul Cho leads Korean ministers

UC MINISTER Rev. Paul Cho is the new chairman of the Gold Coast Korean Ministers' Association.

Paul (left) is with the Gold Coast Korean Fellowship, one of two Korean UCs on the coast.

The association comprises clergy from 11 Korean churches including Uniting, Presbyterian, Baptist and Full Gospel.

He was elected in January 2014 for a 2-year term.

### Fijians gather

Brisbane Fijian UC at Annerley is hosting a special combined service this Sunday for three Fijian worship communities in South Moreton and Moreton Rivers presbyteries.

### Taiwanese induction

Rev. Yi-Kang (Grant) Cheng will be inducted as the minister at the Brisbane Taiwanese UC, 1 Wineglass Ave, Hillcrest, on Sunday, March 30, at 1:30 pm.