



28 NOVEMBER 2018

Next issue: December 12. Deadline: December 11.

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News from around the Presbytery

MINISTRY CHANGES

Ps Lorin Ripley concluded her role as Youth Pastor at Southport UC on November 25.

Rev. Dr Marian Zaunbrecher has accepted a call to Trinity UC, Wellington Point, from 1 March 2019. Her conclusion service at Twin Towns UC will be on Sunday, December 30.

THIS IS IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

Annual audit: SMWC and Blue Card register of workers

Each year, Synod conducts an audit of how the UCA entities in Qld are complying with their legal requirements in relation to safe ministry with children. This audit is a vital part of ensuring that every Congregation and agency is intentional, clear and pro-active in their legal and ethical obligations. The audit is an opportunity for every Congregation to check its progress, and to help the Synod see any gaps in education or resourcing that should be filled to help improve our work in this area.

The Synod's 2018 Safe Ministry with Children audit has now begun. Its letter of explanation and request is [here](#). This has already been emailed to Church Council secretaries and ministry agents. Information is collected through Presbyteries and then forwarded to Synod.

The request is for:

1. Your Church Council minute from 2018 adopting the Safe Ministry with Children [policy](#); OR the minute noting any Council decision **not** to conduct activities with children; AND
2. Your register of workers; AND
3. If your church conducts a regulated child care activity, your 'Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy' and register of workers.

Regarding the register of workers, this is one which often has problems caused by simple errors. Here are some tips:

- Make sure that the people's names are listed **exactly** as they are on their Blue Cards. Please don't guess. Check each person's Blue Card and the listing of their name. Also make sure the card expiry date is listed.
- Update the list with details of any training each person has done.
- [Templates](#) are provided.

Synod requires all information by end-January 2019, and so we are asking for this **no later than Friday, 25 January 2019.**

Please contact Michele or Greg at the Presbytery Office if you have any questions or need any help.

Presbytery dates to keep in mind

Tuesday, December 4	Pastoral Relations Committee, 5:00 pm, Beenleigh Region UC
Wednesday, December 5	Healthy Ministry Breakfast for ministry agents, 7:00-9:00 am, Coffee @ New Life UC, 3 Greenwich Ct, Robina.
Thursday, December 6	Healthy Ministry Breakfast for ministry agents, 7:00-9:00 am, Coffee Club, 1442 Logan Rd, Mt Gravatt.
Saturday, December 8	Presbytery vigil in support of the South Sudanese community, 5:00 pm, St David's UC, Coopers Plains.
Tuesday, December 11	Mission Resources Committee, 7:00 pm, Cromwell Room, Beenleigh Region UC
Wednesday, December 12	Placements Committee, Synod office.
Tuesday, December 18	Presbytery Standing Committee, 5:00 pm, Presbytery Office
Friday, December 21	Presbytery Office closes for Christmas / New Year
Sunday, December 30	Conclusion service for Rev. Ross Mackay, 8:30 am, Victoria Point UC
Sunday, December 30	Conclusion service for Rev. Dr Marian Zaunbrecher, 9:00 am, Twin Towns UC, Coolangatta
Monday, January 7	Presbytery Office reopens.
Sunday, January 20	Closure service for Rev. Matt O'Donoghue, 8:30 am, St David's UC, Coopers Plains
Thursday, January 24	Induction of Rev. Catherine Solomon, 7:00 pm, Elanora UC
Saturday, February 2	Thanksgiving and closure service for Thorneside UC, 2:00 pm

2019 Presbytery calendar

The 2019 Presbytery Calendar has been uploaded to the Presbytery [website](#). Here are some preliminary date claimers.

Presbytery meetings:	Saturday February 9, May 11, August 10, November 9 (AGM)
Treasurers training/meeting:	Saturday morning, March 2
Sacraments for Lay Presiders:	Saturday, March 16
First Aid training:	Saturday, April 6
Presbytery retreat:	Monday-Wednesday, July 22-24 (note shorter duration)

The Year of Luke – preaching seminars, Advent resource

As we enter Lectionary Year C with Advent in December, retired New Testament lecturer Rev. Dr Malcolm Coombes of St Marks UC, Mt Gravatt, is offering resources and seminars on Luke's gospel (Year C is the Year of Luke). These are designed to give preachers helpful background and preaching ideas on the gospel through the church's year.



Here is [his preaching resource for Advent and Christmas](#).

Next year Mal will offer three Sunday afternoon seminars:

- Planning for Lent and Easter worship: **Sunday, February 17.**
- Planning for Pentecost and following weeks: **Sunday, May 19.**
- Planning for worship in 'ordinary' time, September-Advent: **Sunday, August 4.**

Each will be at **Beenleigh Region UC, 2:00-5:00 pm**. They are open to all. Light refreshments will be served.

Faith that lasts – conference with Jake Mulder

Real Life Christian Church (formerly Logan UC) is hosting Jake Mulder (*pictured*) from the Fuller Youth Institute at Fuller Theological Seminary, in February 2019 for a conference called "Faith That Lasts," and interested people from UCA Congregations are invited.



The event runs Friday-Saturday, February 22-23 at 129 Dennis Rd, Springwood:

Friday focus: Growing Young – creating the environment to cultivate deep faith in young people in your ministry.

Saturday focus: Sticky Faith – cultivating a deep and wide sticky faith in young people

This is an area of importance for parents, Christian educators and church ministry leaders alike. Registration is \$129 for both days, or single-day registrations are \$79.

To register go to www.luc.org.au and click on the event. For more information, contact Real Life Christian Church on 3387 5777 or e-mail info@luc.org.au.

Jake Mulder, MDiv, is the director of strategic initiatives at the Fuller Youth Institute and is pursuing a PhD at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has worked in a variety of ministry and professional roles, including as a youth pastor in the Reformed Church of America, ministry director with Youth for Christ, and missionary with Youth with a Mission (YWAM) in Europe and Asia.

Discoveries Camp – January fun for kids

Discoveries is our Presbytery's annual camp children in school years 3-7. It will be held on 13-18 January 2019 at Bornhoffen PCYC Leadership Development Centre, Natural Bridge, on the theme, "Hotel Discoveries."

Please encourage children in your networks to participate, or consider how your Congregation might sponsor campers to attend (especially from rural and remote areas).

[Registrations are open now.](#)

Enquiries: [Rev. Beth Nicholls.](#)



Safe Ministry with Children training – volunteers, leaders

SMWC training for leaders and volunteers in Congregations is required every two years. Congregations often arrange their own training which is also open to people from other churches. Details of upcoming training dates:

THE DOWNS PRESBYTERY

- **Where:** Dalby Uniting Church
- **When:** Saturday 2 February 2019
- **Time:** 9.30 - 12.00

Morning tea will be provided. The training is available to church council members and also to leaders of groups involving children and youth. For catering purposes and so we can make sure we have sufficient handouts, **please RSVP before Monday 28th January to:**
Robin Case, The Downs Safe Ministry with Children Liaison, tdpresb.safe@gmail.com

If your Congregation wants or needs to hold volunteer refresher training in Safe Ministry with Children through 2019, please [contact Beth Nicholls](#) early so she can book you in to her calendar.

Vigil for South Sudanese – Saturday, December 8

Australia's South Sudanese community continues to experience trauma and tragedy, most recently with the suicides of several young people. Presbytery is arranging a vigil for prayer and solidarity on Saturday, December 8, at 5:00 pm at St David's UC, Coopers Plains (corner Orange Grove Rd and Rookwood Ave). All are welcome. Please come and support our South Sudanese Faith Community and wider community at this difficult time.

[Flyer available here.](#)

NYALC 2019 – for young adult leaders

Young adult leaders who want to grow their faith, learn practical leadership skills, connect with others and shape the church for the next generations have a chance to participate in the UCA National Young Adult Leaders Conference in Adelaide, 17-20 January 2019. Over the years, NYALC has equipped, empowered and transformed hundreds of young adults in their faith, discipleship and leadership.

[Details are on the NYALC web page.](#)

South Moreton Presbytery will provide sponsorships in cooperation with the Synod for participants to attend this conference. More information to come, but if you are interested please flag this with [Rev. Beth Nicholls](#) or [Ps Levon Kardashian](#).

Congregational bookkeeping service

The Synod office is currently proposing to set up a centralised bookkeeping service that is opt-in (no compulsion to join). The service can assist presbyteries and congregations that cannot easily obtain people to perform bookkeeping services or may choose to outsource these tasks.

Synod is asking all Congregation Treasurers to [complete this survey](#) to ascertain whether there is sufficient interest. [The survey](#) will take approximately three–minutes and should be completed by 11 December.

Peter Cranna
Executive Director – Strategic Resources, Queensland Synod

Risk assessment template available

[An Appeal Court in August](#) has found against an Australian church over the failure to conduct a risk assessment of a go-karting activity and upheld awarded damages.

The court found that a reasonable risk assessment would have resulted in the activity not being held because there was foreseeable risk of injury.

Does your congregation require risk assessments before approving activities? This case emphasises the need for a documented risk analysis for all events where injury or harm is foreseeable.

A risk assessment template is available from terry.selva@uca.qld.com.au or peter.rose@uca.qld.com.au

Terry Selva
Manager Risk and Compliance, Queensland Synod

2019 Insurance Renewal Declaration: due Dec. 14

The Synod is fast approaching its 2019 insurance renewal which means we are required to obtain updated information for our underwriters. All Congregations should have now received an email with the [Microsoft Excel](#) and [Adobe PDF](#).

The information provided by your Congregation will help the Group Insurance team to determine the Church's insurable exposures by providing insurance underwriters with accurate data to assist them in determining appropriate coverage and calculating the insurance premiums required for the upcoming insurance year, 31 March 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The completed declaration should be forwarded by email or post before **14 December 2018** deadline. Failure to provide a fully completed declaration may affect your insurance coverage and will impact your renewal premium.

Please contact the Group Insurance team on 3377 9725 or ucinsurance@ucaqld.com.au with any questions.

Synod Selection panel – 2019 dates

Here are the crucial dates for people wishing to apply to be accepted as candidates for ordained ministry through 2019. Note that applicants must have completed a Period of Discernment.

PRESBYTERY

ROUND 1:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Friday, January 25 | Application received by Presbytery, which then gathers references and supporting documents |
| Tuesday, February 5 | Application considered by PRC; decision to interview or not. |
| Tuesday, March 5 | Interview with PRC. Decision to recommend to Synod Selection Panel. |

ROUND 2:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Friday, June 21 | Application received by Presbytery, which then gathers references and supporting documents |
| Tuesday, July 2 | Application considered by PRC; decision to interview or not. |
| Tuesday, August 6 | Interview with PRC. Decision to recommend to Synod Selection Panel. |

SYNOD SELECTION PANEL

ROUND 1:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday, March 25 | Applications close |
| Saturday, March 30 | Interviews with Panel Psychologist |
| Saturday, June 1 | Selection Day |

ROUND 2:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday, August 26 | Applications close |
| Saturday, August 31 | Interviews with Panel Psychologist |
| Saturday, October 26 | Selection Day |

Pastoral care training – Toowoomba 2019

This will involve group days as set out below as well as practical placement such as the Toowoomba Hospital. There will be two options at this stage.

1. Every Friday for 20 weeks except Good Friday which will begin on Thursday and Friday 7-8 February and conclude on 14 June, or
2. Every second Wednesday beginning Tuesday and Wednesday 5-6 February and running until around 2 October.

The cost \$1300 plus a \$30 application fee. Applications close Friday 23 November and interviews will be on the 5 December. Further details from Annie Pfeffer, 0427 938 191 or annie.pfeffer@bigpond.com or annie.pfeffer@health.qld.gov.au

Newlife worship academy launches for 2019

Newlife College, Robina, has completed its pilot program for its Worship Academy and also received full accreditation for the Diploma course for 2019. Applications are now open from anyone interested in developing their knowledge and skills in areas associated with Christian worship, but there is a particular emphasis on seeking current worship leaders nominated by their pastor or minister. The course is online with two one-week intensives, enabling participants to study as they continue to serve in their local church. Further details, with a brief introductory video explainer by Ps Craig Hindman, the Worship Academy director, are [online here](#). Details of how to apply [are here](#).

This is a significant new venture within the Presbytery, and an excellent complement to the Lay Preachers' course.

Craig also conducted a webinar at the end of last year, sharing some of the lessons Newlife has learned as a church over the past 10 years in transitioning from traditional to contemporary, multigenerational worship services. He has offered us [the whole webinar here](#), in the hope that it might offer “some little bits of gold that might be valuable to others”. (Start at 6:33 in, and it runs for a further 58 minutes.)

Tis the season to be safety conscious!

With lots of extra activities, people and special displays such as Christmas lights and manger scenes, this is a season where being busy is no excuse for being heedless of risks. The Synod has provided a list of safety considerations to keep in mind at this time. We've turned that into a few pages that you can download.

[The safety sheet is available to download here.](#)

Professional standards for UCA ministry

The National Professional Standards project is underway, and participation is invited from all interested parties. The principal aims of the project is to undertake a comprehensive review of professional standards for ministry agents in the Uniting Church, to enhance consistency in processes and operations, to provide clarity over the role of ministry and to help define the relationship between the Minister and the Church.

The desired outcome is that the National Professional Standards will support an ‘enhanced engagement culture’ which characterises a ‘people centred’ approach that empowers ministry agents to be the best they can be. In its development the National Professional Standards will address the variances in processes, systems and monitoring, will aim to provide clarity around roles and responsibilities, and will examine the various issues around confidentiality that currently exist across synods and presbyteries.

In summary the National Professional Standards aims to provide clearly defined professional standards, provide context for their application within various ministries, and establish clearer responsibilities for oversight and accountability. It is envisaged that these ‘Standards’ designed in collaboration will be a living document which is constantly reviewed and updated to meet the changing needs of the Church. The project approach aims to work collaboratively to find solutions to issues which have been identified as hindering the provision of quality ministry within the UCA.

The National Professional Standards will:

- Tie all ministry agent-related obligations together;
- Promote confidence, for both ministers and the public, in terms of them knowing what conduct is expected in the various ministry environments;
- Provide direction and a framework for appropriate behaviour for ministers;
- Promote the relationship of mutual trust between ministry agents and the Church;

Take the survey

A survey has been created aimed primarily at ministry agents but open to all those with an interest in developing professional standards, to collect opinion on how best to support and facilitate excellence in ministry. The results will be fed into the development process and help guide the content. By adding your opinion, you help to make the National Professional Standards more applicable and robust in the task of supporting ministry agents.

[To complete the survey, click here.](#) (Tip: Check your junk mail for the link verifying your email address.)

For further information on the National Professional Standards contact Patricia McGurren at the Synod office, 3377 9704., or PatriciaM@Nat.uca.org.au

<p>WRONG NEWS ON NEWLIFE: Newlife at Robina is not about to leave the Uniting Church. If you read or heard a news story which suggested otherwise, please read the Moderator’s statement.</p>
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Presbytery at prayer

This fortnight, the 2018 Presbytery Prayer Calendar invites us to pray for:

December 2: Cleveland UC

December 9: Newlife (Robina)

If your church or activity is on the Prayer Calendar for December 16 or December 23, please email any specific prayer points for the Newsletter to office@southmoreton.org.au by Tuesday, .

Phil Day's cartoon

For high-resolution, signed copies of this cartoon, contact the artist: philday.maggie@gmail.com.



Presbytery Minister's reflection

Advent is a good time for us to confess that, in the church, we aren't very good at waiting. We tend to be impatient with ourselves, with others, with the church and with God. We have a vision, a plan and a time frame. And when things go wrong, we ask God to sort it out, preferably yesterday. We tend to be very uncomfortable when we aren't in control of what needs to happen and when.

Some 400 years elapsed between the prophetic words of Malachi – “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming.” – and the appearance of John the Baptist. God did not seem in a particular hurry to bring this to pass. Moreover, Malachi lived in the early period after the Babylonian exile, as Jerusalem was being rebuilt. So as the Israelites are returning to reclaim God's promise to restore them and their land, Malachi comes and declares a greater promise to come. As tends to happen with prophets, the people who hear him no doubt have no clue what he is talking about. But it is a word of promise, of God's plan beyond that which can be conceived and imagined at the time, to be fulfilled in God's time. It will bring a whole new meaning to the restoration of Israel.

Similarly, Advent points us to a word of promise that Christ will come, that God's plan is beyond that which can be conceived and imagined now, to be fulfilled in God's time. Meanwhile, like the Israelites after the exile, in faithfulness we build and rebuild – our lives, our churches, our communities – to be signs and bearers of Christ's reign. But we learn from Malachi to do so with humility, a sense that we don't really comprehend the deeper work and purpose of God which we serve. God is on about something far more transformative than we can imagine or hope for. We are expectant for that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation. But we can't manufacture or control how and when the signs of that healing, restoring and renewing work of Christ will be offered – in us, through us, beyond us, for us.

I'm reminded of the famous [prayer by Teilhard de Chardin](#) which invites us to “trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time ... Your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.”

If that is how we see ourselves, each other, our church and even our world – in suspense, incomplete, yet held in the certainty of God's grace in our journey of becoming – we may engage our discipleship and our work with diligence and faithfulness, but also with humility and patience, knowing that ultimately God's work is done with God's power by God's love in God's time.

Tired and spent, or energised and focused, or distracted and busy, or despondent and uncertain, whether we're in the fast lane or the slow burn to Christmas, may we choose to walk in the rhythms of God's renewing love and utter faithfulness for us.

David Busch

FROM CONGREGATIONS & AGENCIES

EMAIL DETAILS OF YOUR EVENT TO office@southmoreton.org.au

Beenleigh Community Christmas Carols

Beenleigh District Churches Together will be holding Community Christmas Carols on Saturday, 15 December from 5:30pm-8:00pm.

[See flyer here for details.](#)

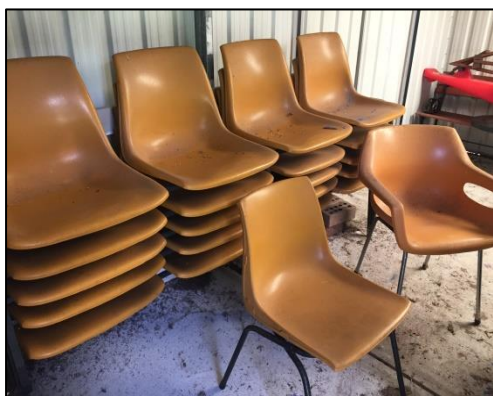
Christmas Fun Day – St Mark’s Mt Gravatt

Christmas Fun Day for kids prep – grade 6 to be held at St Mark’s Mt Gravatt, [Cnr Springwood & Hicks Streets](#), on **Tuesday 18 December 9:00am-3:00pm**.

Cost is \$20 per child. Spaces are limited! Registrations must be received by 11 December. Please contact Ps Rachel Manton for a registration form: pastor.rachel@outlook.com

[See flyer here for details](#)

Chairs available



Tingalpa UC, [61 Belmont Road, Tingalpa](#) have a number of plastic chairs available for a small donation (or to give away). **Pick up only.** If interested, please contact the church office on 3390 4240 or tingalpauc@bigpond.com

Choose gifts that change lives

Make a difference with your Christmas gift giving. Choose a gift from UnitingWorld's **Everything In Common** Ethical Gift Catalogue. Each gift represents a life-changing project that is helping lift people out of poverty. Your gift will help provide clean water, education and income opportunities for families to live with dignity. **Choose a gift card, dedicate it to a loved one, change lives.** Every gift you buy helps take us closer to the kind of world we all hope for!



[The catalogue can be accessed here.](#)

Wesley Mission 2018 Red Bag Appeal

November 14 to December 10

To give joy and hope this Christmas to struggling Queenslanders, you can fill a red bag with Christmas groceries, donate, or *participate in 500Food*. Your support will bring smiles to thousands of those that otherwise may not be able to afford a wonderful Christmas lunch.



FILL A RED BAG TODAY

You can [*download the grocery suggestions shopping list*](#) to give you some ideas of what to put in your bag.

We have a number of Red Bags in the Presbytery Office. Please come in and pick some up!

DATE CLAIMER:
Saturday March 9 2019
9am–5:15pm
Chermside Kedron Uniting Church

Following the very successful Uniting Women's conference this year
Let's gather againfor.....A DAY TOGETHER.

WORSHIP; MUSIC; INSPIRING SPEAKER; ELECTIVES;
CREATIVITY; EATING.

An initiative of
all SE QLD
UCA
Presbyteries



PRESBYTERY COMMUNICATION

All Presbytery mail should be sent to: PO Box 125, Beenleigh, Qld 4207			
Presbytery Office www.southmoreton.org.au	Mon-Fri, 9:00-2:00	3807 7421	office@southmoreton.org.au
	Michele Cochrane (Monday to Thursday)	3807 7421	finance@southmoreton.org.au
	Greg Seymour (Tuesday & Friday)	3807 7421	compliance@southmoreton.org.au
Presbytery Minister <i>Generally, David's day off will be Friday, but he will seek to monitor text messages on his mobile for urgent matters.</i>	Ps David Busch	0438 646 559	PresMin@southmoreton.org.au
Project Officer: Mission	Rev. Beth Nicholls	0407 170 573	mission@southmoreton.org.au
Project Officer: Multicultural	Ps Levon Kardashian	0410 404 542	multicultural@southmoreton.org.au
Presbytery Chairperson	Rev. Dr Marian Zaunbrecher	0417 017 704	Chairperson@southmoreton.org.au
Presbytery Treasurer	Dale Ham	0407 730 764	Treasurer@southmoreton.org.au
Presbytery Secretary	Gaye Pitman	0409 893 392	secretary@southmoreton.org.au
Pastoral Relations C'ttee Chairperson (to 31/12/18)	Rev. Andrew Ross	0408 457 315	PRCChair@southmoreton.org.au
PRC Secretary	Gaye Pitman	0409 893 392	secretary@southmoreton.org.au
Mission Resource C'ttee Chairperson (to 31/12/18)	Rev. Ross Mackay	0432 681 362	MRCChair@southmoreton.org.au
MRC Admin Support	Greg Seymour	3807 7421	MRCAdmin@southmoreton.org.au
POD Coordinator	Rev. David MacGregor	0414 392 802	POD@southmoreton.org.au
Lay Preacher Coordinator	Neil Ballment		LayPreachers@southmoreton.org.au
Safe Ministry With Children Coordinator: Training	Rev. Beth Nicholls	0407 170 573	mission@southmoreton.org.au
Safe Ministry With Children Coordinator: Administration	Greg Seymour (Tue, Fri)	3807 7421	compliance@southmoreton.org.au