

# Link



## Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

### Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Safe Ministry Lay Training on Sat, 30 Sept held at Aitkenvale UC starting 9.30am
- ◆ Safe Ministry lay Training on Sat, 7 Oct held at Edmonton UC starting 9.30am
- ◆ Registration for November Presbytery meeting in Townsville is **NOW OPEN**
- ◆ Garry will be in Brisbane on Sat for Rev David Busch's conclusion service as South Moreton Presbytery Minister
- ◆ Christy will be at Halifax, Ingham on Sun and Garry is preaching at Atherton on Sun

### Date Claimers & Reminders

#### Calvary Zone Meeting

\* The next Calvary Zone meeting will be held on **2 November** in Cairns

#### November Presbytery Meeting – Registration NOW OPEN

\* The next Presbytery meeting will be held on **3-5 November 2023** in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church.

<https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event1919.php>

#### Northern Zone Meeting

\* The next Northern Zone meeting will be held on **14 October** at Edmonton UC at 10am

### Presbytery Office NEW

#### Postal Address

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#### Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Frid  
8.30am-1.30pm

#### Executive Assistant

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#### Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

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#### Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

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#### Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley

0429 195 506

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#### Hospital Chaplains:

##### Cairns:

Rev Shane Kammermann

0409 287 109

##### Townsville:

Rev Barry Cox

0408 415 816

# Carpentaria News...

## Message from the General Secretary - Chaplaincy

Over the last decades, the Synod has provided the ministry of chaplaincy into several of our Queensland public hospitals. This ministry has been fully supported by the Synod, and we honour and acknowledge the deep and powerful ministry of this chaplaincy. However, this ministry can no longer be sustained in its current form, and we have advised those public hospitals that we have to stop providing a chaplain to them under the current arrangements from June 30, 2024. We have invited them to consider working with us to find other arrangements.

This has been a difficult decision to make, and we ask you to please pray for all our chaplains in hospitals and healthcare settings that we might find a way together to continue to bring the good news of Christ into our communities. Join us too, in thanking this cohort of chaplains, as well as chaplains in hospitals throughout the years, in acknowledgement of the exemplary way they have honoured their calling and their valuable service to both church and community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me at [Heather.DenHouting@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:Heather.DenHouting@ucaqld.com.au)

## Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting – 3-5 November 2023

This Presbytery meeting will be held at the **Mount Louisa Community Church, 485 Bayswater Road, Mount Louisa (Townsville – yes a change of venue)** and will begin at **1:00 pm on Friday afternoon** for all who can gather at this time. This session will be the sharing of information from the Synod office. For those who cannot make the meeting at this time, please arrive by no later than 5:00pm as a BBQ dinner will be served at 5:30pm Friday night for all Presbytery attendees, with our opening worship and celebration of Defence Chaplaincy to follow at 7:00pm.

The registration process is the same as it was in May, using our Presbytery website event management system. **The big change this time is that you will have to source, book and pay your own accommodation** (Ana can email you list of options so please let her know). You should then be able to seek reimbursement from your relevant entity (congregation, faith community, Uniting Care etc, unless they pay for it at the time of booking. **Breakfasts too, are your own responsibility.**

Meals provided include Friday night dinner and supper; Saturday Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and Dinner along with a Sunday morning tea. **If you have any specific dietary matters that need to be catered for, please email Ana on office@ucacarpentaria.com.au and note it in your registration.**

If you are unable to attend for the whole time, please contact Ana and Robyn, so that a specific invoice reflecting your attendance, can be prepared. If you will be present for whole of Presbytery (as is expected) and therefore present for all meals, **registration is \$90/person.**

Reports and further information will be sent out before the Presbytery meeting, so keep a look out for it. Don't get them confused with your Synod meeting notes and reports.

As in recent times each congregation & agency will be invoiced \$120 for Travel equalisation per entity.

**Register here:**

**<https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event1919.php>**

Registrations must be finalised by **Friday 13th October (to allow for catering preparation)**. If you have any queries, please contact Ana at the Presbytery office.

## Safe Ministry with Children Lay Training for Modules 1 to 5

Presbytery have organised for a fully accredited Safe Ministry with Children facilitator to conduct face to face training for lay people within the Carpentaria Presbytery in two locations during September and October. This FREE training will meet the legislative requirements under Safe Ministry with Children.

Rev Fa Matangi from the Moreton Rivers Presbytery will facilitate this training on the following dates:

### 1. Saturday 30th September

- Townville (Southern Zone area)
- Venue: Aitkenvale Uniting Church – 277/279 Ross River Road, Aitkenvale

### 2. Saturday 7th October

- Cairns (Northern Zone area)
- Venue: Edmonton Uniting Church – Ravizza Close, Edmonton.

**The training will be conducted in 2 sessions at both venues. The sessions will be as follows:**

- Session 1 (9:30am to 11:00am) – Module 1 & 2
- Session 2 (11:30am to 1:30/1:45pm) – Module 3, 4 & 5
- BYO water and snacks if you are doing both sessions.

**[Register here:](#)**

**Cairns 7th October (closes 4th Oct):**

**<https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event1818.php>**

A letter has gone out to all Ministry Agents and Secretaries with information for distribution to all lay leaders and volunteers within their congregation / faith community.

If you have any queries or need assistance please contact Ana at Presbytery Office on [office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)



## UnitingCare Prayer Points for September

### Birch St Hub

"We support individuals and families through drop-in services, play group, group activities and educational workshops on a range of life skills. Our family support services are co-located in the hub, so we can organise child and adult counselling. Our free pantry day is where we donate fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen meals and bakery goods as part of our emergency relief services."

<https://www.unitingcareqld.com.au/services-and-support/counselling-and-wellbeing/mental-health-support/birch-street-community-hub>

- ➔ The Hub is relocating to Anderson St while a new purpose built centre is constructed on the Birch St site.
- ➔ Pray that those people they serve will be able to travel to the new site and that new neighbours will be able to access their services.
- ➔ Pray for staff- that the move goes smoothly, that new staff members will quickly settle in and that the support offered to their clients will continue to be delivered with love and compassion.

*Rev Christine Herman, Cairns Region Community Chaplain  
UCA and UnitingCare QLD*

## Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare News...

### Would you like to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly meeting in 2024? Here is your chance

The Uniting Church in Australia is nearing its 47th anniversary, and we contemplate the church's trajectory in the upcoming 50 years as we maintain our role as pilgrim servants of God. The forthcoming 17th Assembly meeting in 2024 will be dedicated to prayerful consideration of these significant inquiries. **Are you interested in participating?**

Nominations for this vital gathering are now open, with the NSW/ACT Synod set to host the event from July 11th to 16th, 2024. Presbyteries have the opportunity to nominate two individuals (one layperson and one ordained), while the Moderator and General Secretary will attend ex officio. Additionally, the Synod has the authority to appoint 12 participants. We strongly encourage individuals under the age of 25 to submit nominations.

Should you wish to attend, please take note of the following:

1. You must commit to participating in all Assembly sessions throughout the entire week.
2. It is imperative that you thoroughly review all relevant documents and be well-versed in all the topics slated for discussion during the Assembly.
3. Be prepared for a variety of accommodation arrangements.

Please **fill out this nomination form** and email it to [governance@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:governance@ucaqld.com.au) by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2023.

## 40 Days of Prayer - Week 3

Our 37th Synod Session approaches in under two months, focusing on "Renewal - Faith for a New Season." Join us as we prepare and seek God's renewal for the Uniting Church in Queensland. Pray with us from September 10th to October 20th.

Please visit [this page](#) each week for the latest reflections, videos and prayers.

Enjoy our Spotify playlist - search 'UCAQ 37<sup>th</sup> Synod - 40 days of Prayer' or [UCAQ 37th Synod - 40 days of Prayer](#)

Join us for our Tuesday Night Prayer meetings – [Every Tuesday online via Zoom](#)

## Synod resourcing survey: We need you

Join us in guiding the church's resource path forward

Join us for a conversation on the financial and staffing challenges in our church sectors. Help shape a resource plan for the Synod that meets our needs. Your insights are vital for our shared journey of resource management and growth. Your feedback will be confidential.

Click here to participate in the survey, which should take no longer than 5 minutes: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TLLYRLB>

## The Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF)

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) in Queensland is the most extensive community grants program, distributing approximately \$60 million annually to non-profit community organisations. This funding enables these groups to offer services, recreational activities, and opportunities to Queensland communities.

- To check eligibility and understand the grant application process, please refer to the [GCBF applicant guidelines and application instructions](#)

If you require assistance, you can contact the GCBF team at 1800 633 619. More information is available [here](#).

For any questions, contact Vanessa Griffiths, Synod Fundraising Support Manager, at [Vanessa.Griffiths@ucaql.com.au](mailto:Vanessa.Griffiths@ucaql.com.au).

## Support action on housing - The Town of Nowhere Campaign

Hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders don't have a secure place to live. More than 300,000 Queenslanders have unmet housing needs. They are either homeless or on low incomes, paying more than 30% of rent.

- Sign up for campaign updates at <https://townofnowhere.com/>

## Support the Home Is Here Campaign for asylum seekers and refugees

Stand with asylum seekers and refugees in Australia - Join the Home is Here Campaign. Thousands living here for over a decade deserve permanence.

- Email your MP to show support: <https://action.asrc.org.au/home-is-here>

## Join the Conversation: Shaping UnitingCare Queensland's 5th Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Together

It's time to embark on the journey of planning UnitingCare Queensland's 5th Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and we're eager to hear from you about how we can build upon the commitment and accomplishments we've achieved thus far. We also want to explore ways to strengthen our relationships with First Nations peoples.

We extend a warm invitation to UnitingCare clients, patients, customers, consumers, Uniting Church congregations, and members of local First Nations communities, including Elders and Traditional Owners. We invite you to engage in meaningful conversations to help shape the design and development of UnitingCare's RAP for 2024-2027.

Our dedicated RAP team will embark on a journey across the state to listen to your reflections and ideas as we craft our next plan. Please express your interest in participating in one of the consultation sessions listed below. Join us to ensure your voice is pivotal in advancing our reconciliation journey.

Consultation Session Dates and Locations in our Presbytery are listed below:

- Wed 4 Oct - [Townsville](#), Mount Louisa Community Church
- Thu 12 Oct - [Cairns](#), BlueCare Cairns Community Care



## From The Word for Today...

### You must take responsibility for your life

**'We are each responsible for our own conduct.'** Galatians 6:5 NLT

Being accountable for yourself, your thoughts, and your actions is a very important part of being a contributing member of a relationship. But sometimes, we take things too far by assuming an unhealthy responsibility for others, and then using it as an excuse for not being accountable for ourselves and our own circumstances.

For example, we blame an unplanned pregnancy for our failure to go to university. Or we blame our unhappiness on the fact that we stayed married for the sake of the children. We focus so much on other people and taking responsibility for their lives that we never take time to look for solutions to rise above our own situation. And eventually, all the woe and hard times become our identity.

We don't just complain; we become chronic complainers. Let's be honest; sometimes, our tales of woe are simply excuses, made-up versions of the truth to hide the fact that we have decided to blame everyone else for our circumstances. That way, we don't have to take responsibility for our lives.

The fact is, we all make choices in life; to go or stay, to confront or ignore, to complain or look for a solution. Whether it's your spouse, your kids, or your parents, it's never a good idea to take responsibility for others if you're doing it to avoid deciding what you need to do for *yourself*.

The Bible says, *'Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct'* (Galatians 6:4-5 NLT).

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 27 September 2023) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass)*

