

# Link



## Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

### Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Prayers for Rev Saimoni Davui and family as his brother passed away this week in NZ – safe travels to Saimoni & Duri who will travel to NZ for funeral
- ◆ **PRESBYTERY OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:** Closing on Friday, 15th Dec at 1.30pm and re-opening Monday, 8th January 2024 at 8.30am
- ◆ Prayers for Christy for her upcoming knee surgery and recovery afterwards
- ◆ Conclusion service for General Secretary, Rev Heather den Houting will be held on 14 November at Synod Office

### Presbytery Office NEW

#### Postal Address

PO Box 6071  
Mackay MC Qld 4741

(07) 4068 8131

#### Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Frid  
8.30am-1.30pm

#### Executive Assistant

Ana Mila  
(07) 4068 8131

[office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

Rev Garry Hardingham  
0409 276 940  
[presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

Rev Christy Allen  
0418 184 834  
[presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley  
0429 195 506  
[admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Hospital Chaplains:

**Cairns:**  
Rev Shane Kammermann  
0409 287 109

**Townsville:**  
Rev Barry Cox  
0408 415 816

## Remembrance Day

Lest We Forget

Ever-living God,  
We remember those whom you have  
gathered from the storm of war  
into the peace of your presence;  
may that same peace calm our fears,  
bring justice to all peoples  
and establish harmony among the nations  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Carpentaria News...

## Moderator's Message – Disaster Relief Fund



Dear family in Christ,

We are thinking of all of you who face the challenges of bushfires in your communities this fire season. Our thoughts and prayers are with the affected families and communities during these challenging times, as well as with the dedicated congregations providing support to those in need.

The Queensland Synod seeks to offer practical help as we face these challenges together. **If you or members of your congregation or community are in need, please apply for the Queensland Synod's [Disaster Relief fund](#).** These funds can be used by congregations and/or Presbyteries to assist with any additional/extraordinary expenses incurred in responding to their community's needs following the recent disasters. The application form is a short one to make the process as simple as possible. **If you have any questions, please contact [Vanessa.Griffiths@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:Vanessa.Griffiths@ucaqld.com.au).**

There are several other grants which **individuals** may be eligible for:

**[The Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme \(ESSRS\) grant](#)** helps people who are uninsured or unable to claim insurance and who meet an income test by providing a contribution towards inspecting, repairing, and reconnecting essential services (i.e. electricity, gas, water, or sewerage) that were damaged by a disaster.

**[The Emergency Hardship Assistance \(EHA\) grant](#)** helps people affected by a disaster to get:

- Food, clothing, medical supplies, temporary accommodation
- They can apply for \$180 per person, up to \$900 for a family of 5 or more
- This grant isn't income or asset-tested

**[The Essential Household Contents Grant \(EHCG\)](#)** helps people who are uninsured or unable to claim insurance and who meet an income test by providing a contribution towards repairing or replacing essential household contents that have been damaged or lost in a disaster.

**If you would like to lend a hand to support our Uniting Church local congregations as they help local communities, please consider a donation to the [Queensland Synod Disaster Relief Appeal](#).**

Lifeline has also [set up a donations page](#) to support funding of their crisis call lines.

The unpredictable nature of bushfires makes it essential for all Queenslanders to stay informed and prepared. Below are some steps to follow:

- **Stay informed:** Regularly check Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) [current bushfire warnings and incidents](#)
- **Prepare a bushfire survival plan:** Make sure you and your family have a well-thought-out plan in place in case of evacuation or emergency.
- **Create a survival kit:** Put together an emergency kit with essential items like water, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, important documents, and clothing.

- **Stay vigilant:** Keep an eye on local news and weather reports and be ready to act if conditions change.
- **Observe total fire bans and fire restrictions:** Respect all fire bans and restrictions, as they are in place for your safety and the safety of the community

For more information, please save this link: <https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/alerts-and-warnings>.

Look after yourselves and look after each other and please join with me in prayer and in hope for the best possible outcomes - for communities standing strong together in adversity and in recovery.

### **Creator God.**

*You breathe life into all things and made all things good.  
Our land, our people, our bush, and our wildlife are hurting and suffering,  
We pray for relief through rain. Please soak our land and bring relief with rain from the heavens.  
We pray for those who are enduring unimaginable injury and loss through destruction of fires.  
Bless them with deep comfort, consolation, and hope in these times where their loss is so keen.  
We pray for our heroic firefighters and emergency services who tirelessly give of themselves whilst at times facing great personal loss themselves.  
Cover them with your protection and bless them and their families in this time of need.  
We pray for our community leaders. Inspire them with courage and wisdom for the decisions that need to be made.  
Almighty God, Your people look to you with trusting hearts and the certainty of your love.  
With deep gratitude and longing, we ask you to hear our prayer.*

*Amen.*

*Rev Bruce Moore, Moderator, Queensland Synod*

## **UnitingCare Prayer Points for November**

### **StandBy Support**

- ➔ StandBy support is free, and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We can:
  - Arrange face-to-face or telephone support.
  - Help you understand and respond to your needs.
  - Provide information and referrals to other local organisations.
  - Run tailored workshops to meet community needs.
- ➔ We support anyone who has been bereaved or impacted by suicide, including:
  - Individuals, families and friends.
  - Witnesses.
  - First responders and service providers.
  - Schools, workplaces and community groups.

*[Anyone who has been impacted by suicide can access the service, regardless of when the person died by suicide or whether you knew the person who passed away.]*
- ➔ Pray for the staff – wisdom and guidance as they interact with clients to work through the issues raised. For safety for the Cairns staff, as they travel to people and communities in Central and Northern QLD.
- ➔ Pray for Clients – that they may know God's love, comfort and healing as they work through this often confusing time.

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

## Could you host an Amplify Conference Hub in 2024?

I'm wondering whether you know of any Uniting Churches across Queensland, especially in regional locations that might be interested in hosting an Amplify Conference Hub in 2024?

Amplify is a great training and professional development opportunity for anyone working and volunteering in Children's, Youth, Young Adults and Families Ministry, including Religious Instruction. It has recently become a national event, with the option to run local-in person hubs all over Australia, making it even easier to access the great training and support that the conference provides. You can find out more at [www.amplifyconference.com.au](http://www.amplifyconference.com.au)

If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please feel free to pass this on to someone else, give me a call, or reach out to the Amplify team via [info@amplifyconference.com.au](mailto:info@amplifyconference.com.au)

*Jessica Pinkerton (Mission Integration Project Officer - Uniting Early Learning)*

## November - Townsville Free training opportunities

There will be some FREE LOCAL Townsville training opportunities coming up, which hopefully are of interest to yourselves, your leadership team and/or any volunteers you work with across congregations and community.

These training sessions are on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov (afternoon) and Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov (morning). Let me know if you would like to attend/or organise a group to attend, as our C100 team would love to support you. If there is enough interest in the training, we could also put on a network dinner Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov or lunch on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov as a debrief and opportunity for connection.

### **FREE Strengthening Connections (PFA) workshop**

**UnitingCare Community Townsville, Tues 14 Nov 2023, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

Preparing local communities for the emotional and psychological care aspects of community disaster and critical incidents.

**Click below to register**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-strengthening-connections-pfa-workshop-townsville-registration-640467454397?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

### **FREE Bystander Action Training**

**UnitingCare Community Townsville, Wednesday 15 November 2023, 8.30am - 12:30pm**

Bystander Action Training is about building communities that do not allow violence against women to continue. Each of us has a part to play in preventing domestic violence and family violence. The Bystander Approach offers a framework in which everyone has a positive role to play in violence prevention and intervention.

**Click below to register**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-bystander-action-training-townsville-tickets-640348639017?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

*Sam McDonell, Connect100+ Program Lead | Community Partnerships State Manager  
Pastor | Mission Group - e [sam.mcdonell@ucareqld.com.au](mailto:sam.mcdonell@ucareqld.com.au)*

# Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...

## Act2: In Response to God's Call

The latest report [Act2: In Response to God's Call](#), has now been widely received by the communities and councils across the Church. Since July 2023 we have been in a time of intensive discernment, unpacking the report and exploring future Directions and Options. This is a genuinely whole of Church process.

The discernment and lived experience of local Uniting Church communities is essential to helping us understand whether we are heading in the right direction. We encourage you to continue to support local communities to reflect on the **Directions** for local communities of faith and discipleship (found in Section 5 of the report). In addition we would also like to encourage you to engage the presbytery in responding to the **Options** (found in Section 6 of the report).

**This email is to remind you that the deadline for responses is 30 November.**

Now is the time to make sure that in the next two months there is adequate opportunity for your whole community to give concrete feedback about future directions for our Church.

The input we receive by 30 November will shape the proposals to go before the Assembly meeting in July 2024. As you prepare to make your response, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. Find all the ways you can [contact us here](#).

Grace and peace

*Andrew Johnson, Act2 Project Lead*

## Respond to the Report

[Act2: In Response to God's Call](#) emerges from our direct engagement across the Uniting Church between November 2022 and June 2023. Every person, council, committee and board in the Uniting Church is invited to respond to the insights in the report and the future directions and options put forward. Your community is invited to discuss specific questions and share your feedback in one of these ways:

- Use the online form (our preferred response tool)
- Email the response form to the team: [uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au](mailto:uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au)
- Mail the response form to: Act2 Project Unit, c/o Uniting Church Assembly, PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235.

**Responses are due 30 November 2023.**

## Vale Rev Gale Hall

On Friday evening, at the age of 81, we sadly bid farewell to Rev. Gale Hall. Gale's life was marked by significant military service and his unwavering commitment to the Uniting Church, having previously served in the Methodist Church. In his earlier years, Gale served as an Army Chaplain in the Reserves, dedicating a substantial portion of his life to this role. Later, he assumed the vital position of being the Uniting Church member for the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services, a role he held for approximately 11 years. Additionally, Gale contributed his leadership as the General Secretary in the Northern Synod, although he spent the majority of his time serving in Queensland.

His beloved wife, Phyllis, also played a pivotal role in the church community, serving as the Secretary for Moreton Rivers Presbytery for several years. Together, they raised two children, leaving a lasting impact on their family and community.

## Wesley Mission Queensland appoints new Director of Mission, Ms Colleen Geyer

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of **Colleen Geyer** to our new WMQ Director of Mission (DoM) role.

Colleen comes to this role with significant experience and skills. She has contributed to the life and mission of the Uniting Church (UCA) through leadership roles in its Councils and community services, having in the past served as Associate National Director of UnitingCare Australia, Director of Mission at Blue Care and UnitingCare Queensland.

Colleen is currently the General Secretary of the National Assembly, and her placement concludes on 31 December 2023, after 8 years in the role.

Colleen is excited to be called to this role and following some leave will commence at Wesley Mission Queensland on 5 February 2024.

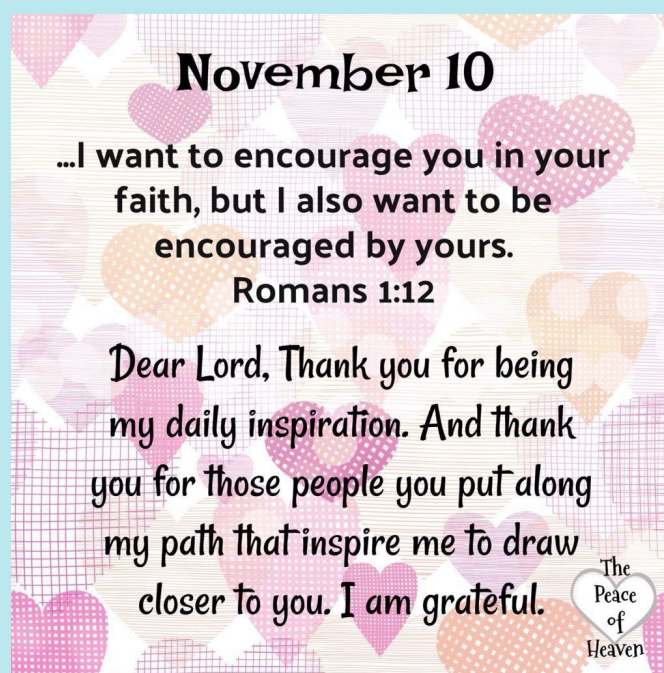
## Join us this Advent as we explore Love in Action: Preparing and Nurturing the Garden of the Soul

We are again creating Advent and Christmas Resources to help congregations, families, and the community show Love in Action during Advent. The resource will include themes and ideas for worship, community and congregational reflections, and ideas for early learning and playgroups to celebrate the season with their communities.

There will be **four** parts to this resource:

- **Worship Resource** (for weekend services)
- **Bible Reflections** (for Church members and families)
- **Community Reflections** (for families of playgroups, childcare centres, and other ministries)
- **Early Learning Resources** (for childcare, playgroup, and other children's ministries)

Materials will be available early in November; please add your name to the distribution list by [completing the form](#) or contact Jess Pinkerton at [jessica.pinkerton@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:jessica.pinkerton@ucaqld.com.au) or Paul Wetzig at [paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au)



## From The Word for Today...

### God is good – all the time!

**'Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!'** Psalm 34:8 NKJV

What you believe about God is crucial to the quality of your life, especially in difficult times. So, starting today, tell yourself, 'God is good – all the time,' and keep saying it until it gets down into your spirit.

What does it mean to be 'good'? It means living up to the best and highest one knows. And since God always knows what's best and highest, His goodness is beyond question. If God is good – genuinely, practically, consistently good – then your cup of well-being, security, peace, confidence, and joy should be overflowing!

A good God can't break His promise, abandon His children, or fail to love and provide for them. In every trial and circumstance, you can be sure He will treat you in the best possible way. When things seem to be falling apart, when you stumble confused in the dark, it's hard to see God's goodness or feel that things will get better. That's when you must draw on the faith God has deposited in you (see Romans 12:3), and by an act of your will, trust Him.

A troubled parishioner once asked his pastor, 'Does the world look like a wreck to you too?' He replied, 'Yes, like the wreck of a bursting seed! Without the 'wreck' stage when its world appears to be falling apart, the acorn could never give birth to an oak tree.'

So, embrace God's will in your time of testing because it's *'good, and acceptable, and perfect'* (Romans 12:2 KJV). Ultimately, you will *'... see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!'* (Psalm 34:8 NKJV)

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 10 November 2023) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass)*

