



NOTES & UPDATES

- **Christy has Synod Standing Committee meeting on Thursday**
- **Annual Returns due on 15 September – email to pres.accounts@ucaqlld.com.au and office@ucacarpentaria.com.au**
- **BlueCare Sunday on 23 August – Please send photos & a short description of your celebration to connect100@ucareqlld.com.au**
- **Cross Cultural Mission w/end will be held at Aitkenvale on 19-20 September. Enquiries can be made to Rev Brendon Lukin on mob 0408 212 210.**

PRAYER POINTS

- **Carpentaria Presbytery Minister, Congregations, Faith Communities, Ministry Agents and Councils as they serve and live out their church mission within the community**
- **Nepal and affected region, may they get the aid they need as soon as possible. Remember Nepal communities within Australia as well**

PRESBYTERY OFFICE



Monday – Friday | 8:30am – 5:00pm



0459 544 507



PO Box 7070, Garbutt QLD 4814
New PO Box from 1 June 2026

Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

REV CHRISTY ALLEN (Chairperson)

0418 184 834 | presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Residing in Southern Zone

Mon (Day Off), Available Tues-Fri

Deputy Chairperson

REV CRAIG MISCHESKI

0400 036 630 | cjmisch@gmail.com

Executive Assistant

ANA MILA (Secretary)

0459 544 507 | office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.00pm

Administration Support (1 day/wk)

NATALIE LUND

0491 278 198 | natalie.lund@ucaqlld.com.au

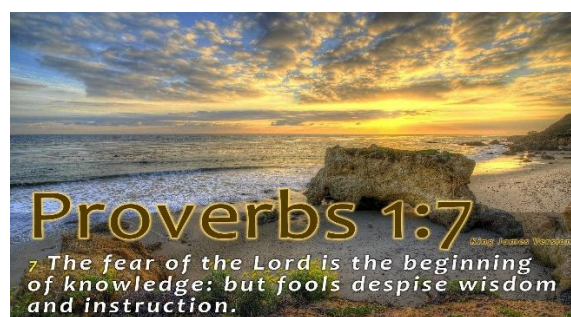
Mon 10am-12:30pm | Wed 2-4:30pm | Thurs 3-4:30pm

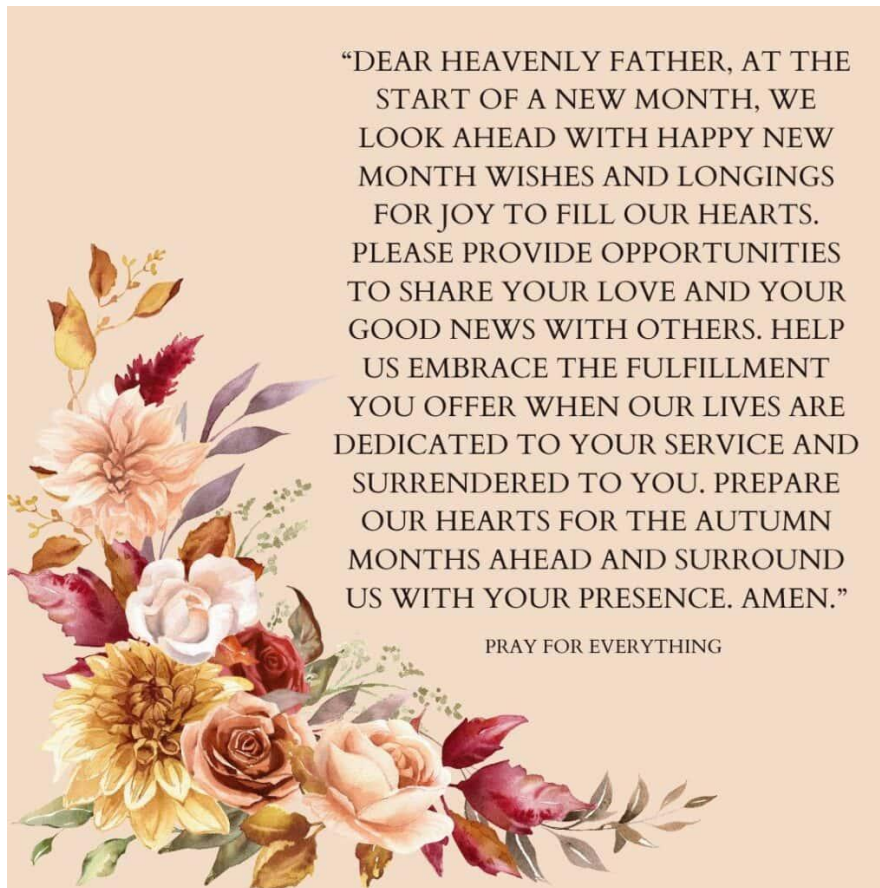
Uniting News – Stay connected with UCA QLD by subscribing to weekly updates and stories [here](#).

QLD Synod Hub – hub.ucaqlld.com.au

Connect100+ Newsletter – email connect100@ucareqlld.com.au

UCA Assembly Newsletter – subscribe [Sign up here](#)





CARPENTARIA NEWS

PROPERTY IS HERE TO SERVE MISSION

The Synod Standing Committee has approved the Property Stewardship Policy, and the Finance Investment and Property Board (FIPB) has approved the Property Development Process. Together, these documents are designed to make property matters easier to navigate by providing clearer guidance, clearer pathways and better support across the Queensland Synod.

Importantly, they are not intended to take decision-making away from local communities, reduce the role of Presbyteries, or create additional bureaucracy. Rather, they have been developed to strengthen collaboration between congregations, Presbyteries, Presbytery Property Committees, Presbytery Property Officers and the Synod Property Team so that property matters can be approached with greater confidence and clarity.

The Property Stewardship Policy provides a shared framework for how property is stewarded across the Church and clarifies where support and guidance are available.

The Property Development Process provides a clearer pathway for property development opportunities and projects, helping ensure ideas are appropriately supported, considered and planned before significant commitments are made.

The role Presbyteries play in supporting and guiding congregations, remains critically important. These documents recognise and reinforce that role. The Synod Property Team is here to work alongside Presbyteries, providing additional expertise, resources and support when needed.

Property is one of the resources entrusted to the Church to support worship, ministry, community connection and service. Whether the conversation is about maintaining existing property, exploring new opportunities or considering a development project, our shared goal is to help local communities make informed decisions that support ministry, mission and future sustainability.

Property is here to serve mission, not itself. Together, let us turn property opportunities into mission opportunities. For queries, contact property@ucaqlld.com.au so enquiries can be directed through the right Property, Presbytery and support pathways.

WARNING NOTICE – EMAIL SCAMES AND IMPERSONATION

Attention Church Administrators and Leadership

We would like to bring to your attention a recent attempted email scam involving our church.

Today, our office received an email that appeared to come from our Pastor. The email address used was our Pastor's first name.last name@outlook.com, and the sender advised that his email address had changed.

At first glance, the email appeared legitimate. The sender then requested a PDF copy of our church directory, which contains personal contact details of members of our congregation.

Before providing any information, we contacted our Pastor directly by phone. He confirmed that the email did not come from him and that he had not requested the church directory. This appears to be an attempt to impersonate our Pastor in order to obtain confidential congregation information.

Please be vigilant. We have also heard of similar scams involving invoices purportedly from Government Departments.

In these instances, the email address can look very similar to the genuine address, but the sender may actually be using an @outlook.com or other free email account. The invoice may even be for an amount that is close to what the church is expecting to pay.

The email may then advise that the department's bank account details have changed and request that future payments be made to a different account.

Important precautions

Please ensure that all church administrators and anyone responsible for finances or congregation records:

- Do not rely solely on the sender's name or email address.
- Be particularly cautious of emails from @outlook.com, @gmail.com or other free email accounts claiming to represent a Pastor, church organisation, business or Government Department.
- Do not provide church directories, membership lists or other personal information in response to an unexpected email request.
- Do not change bank account details based solely on an email.
- If an email requests sensitive information, payment or a change to bank details, independently contact the person or organisation using a known telephone number or previously verified email address.
- If you receive an unusual request from your Pastor or another church leader, contact them directly to verify the request before taking any action.
- If you suspect an email is fraudulent, do not reply to it or click on any links or attachments.

A simple rule to remember

STOP – CHECK – VERIFY

If an email involves money, personal information, passwords, bank details or confidential church records, stop before acting and verify the request directly with the person or organisation concerned.

LIFELINE CRISIS SUPPORT AND SUICIDE PREVENTION CAIRNS – 55TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER – 10TH OCTOBER 2026

Lifeline Cairns is inviting community members to its 55th Anniversary Gala Dinner on 10 October 2026, celebrating decades of crisis support & suicide prevention across Far North Qld. It's theme: Saving Lives Together - celebrating volunteers, staff, supporters & community members who have contributed to Lifeline's work over the past 55 years.

The evening will include keynote speakers, entertainment, and networking opportunities with organisations and community leaders committed to suicide prevention and community wellbeing. A special recognition will also be given to a team member marking 45 years of service with Lifeline.

Event Details:

- **Saturday 10th October 2026**
- **6pm to 11pm**
- **Pullman Reef Hotel Casino Cairns**

To purchase a ticket/s:

1. Visit the Eventbrite registration page at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lifeline-cairns-55th-anniversary-gala-dinner-tickets-1993982190408>
2. Select your ticket type - Standard Earlybird Individual
3. Enter the discount code **LLC55** and click Apply.
4. Complete your registration.

Accommodation – Guests can receive **10% off accommodation**, on the night of the event, generously provided by the Reef Casino Hotel, Cairns.

To book, contact the hotel on +61 (0)7 4030 8888 or Reservations@reefcasino.com.au quoting **1010QLDLIFE**. Rooms are subject to availability.

Should you have any queries, your direct link is [Therese Wade](#), Service Leader & Trainer, Lifeline Far North Qld, 0461 577 272.

ASBESTOS INSPECTIONS AND REPORTS

The 5yr Asbestos Inspections have been undertaken throughout our Carpentaria properties and reports have been circulated to congregations for their information and record. An invoice for the asbestos inspection and reports will be sent out to individual congregations in due course.

MORETON RIVERS PRESBYTERY: VACANCY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY FACILITATOR

Moreton Rivers Presbytery has an exciting opportunity for a part-time **Children and Youth Ministry Facilitator** to join our Presbytery team in Clayfield. Working alongside the Youth and Children's Ministry Co-ordinator, the successful applicant will assist in the planning and management of our children and youth ministries, camps, and events.

We are looking for someone with experience in children's and/or youth ministry, excellent communication and relationship-building skills, and a genuine desire to encourage young people in their faith. Studies in ministry or theology would be viewed favourably but are not essential. It would be expected that the successful applicant would complete the learning requirements associated with the Ministry of Pastor formation pathway as part of their role.

If you are interested in this role, please email office@mrpres.org.au for a Position Description.

TOWNSVILLE CENTRAL CITY MISSION'S ANNUAL FETE



SOCIAL IMPACT STUDY LAUNCH

To register email: fundraising@ucaqlld.com.au

A poster for the 'Social Impact Study Launch'. The top half features the text 'YOUR CONGREGATION IS PART OF A BIGGER Queensland story.' in a mix of bold, sans-serif and script fonts. To the right is a green silhouette of Queensland with a white heart inside. Below the text, it says 'When congregations share their stories, we discover the powerful impact we're making together across Queensland.' The middle section is titled 'JOIN THE SOCIAL IMPACT STUDY LAUNCH AND DISCOVER:' and features three icons: a group of people with a heart (The Collective Impact), a magnifying glass over a bar chart (Emerging Needs), and two people high-fiving (Opportunities to Grow). The bottom section is a dark blue banner with a calendar icon and the text 'Join THE ONLINE SOCIAL IMPACT STUDY LAUNCH'. To the right of this banner, it lists the event details: 'DATE: Thursday 10 September 2026', 'TIME: 5:30pm - 6:30pm (AEST)', and 'ONLINE: via Microsoft Teams'. At the very bottom, there is a logo with a heart and the text 'Local churches. Local impact. Stronger together.' and the 'Uniting Church in Australia QUEENSLAND SYNOD' logo.

QLD CHURCHES TOGETHER – GATHERING IN CAIRNS ON 12 SEPTEMBER



Queensland
Churches Together



St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Parish
450-462 Kamerunga Rd, Kamerunga

CHRISTIAN

Unity in Cairns

SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

WORSHIP * FELLOWSHIP * INSPIRATION
EVENT PROGRAM

11am - 12pm: Ecumenical Worship Service
A time of prayer, music & reflection led by local Christian leaders from various traditions

12-30pm - 2pm: Lunch & Guest Speaker
"Communicating Christian faith in a post-Christian world"

Executive Director of the Centre for Public Christianity, Simon Smart has a Masters' in Christian Studies from Regent College (Vancouver). He is the co-writer and co-presenter of the documentary *For the Love of God: How the church is better and worse than you ever imagined*, and the author of *The End of Men?* (2024). He has also written for The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, The Australian, and The Guardian.



Guest speaker
SIMON SMART
CENTRE FOR PUBLIC
CHRISTIANITY

Everyone welcome!



To assist with catering,
please register by
Friday, 4 September:
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1632640>

QLD DISASTER CHAPLAINCY NETWORK – DISASTER CHAPLAINCY TRAINING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CAIRNS AND TOWNSVILLE

Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network is pleased to announce we have received more funding to roll out additional Disaster Chaplaincy Training!!!

LOCATIONS: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE (North & South), ROCKHAMPTON, REFRESHER TRAINING AND MORE TBA

The Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network is running disaster chaplaincy training for accredited chaplains and credentialed ministers. To take part in training, you will need to hold an ordination with your denomination or an accreditation with a recognised chaplaincy organisation.

The training takes place over two days. The first day covers Disaster Chaplaincy within the Queensland context and the role of chaplains within recovery and evacuation centres. The second day focuses on trauma, and the different effects disasters have on people. This official disaster chaplaincy training will enable you to be deployed to support people inside evacuation and recovery centres as deployed by local Councils and the State Government.

Training will run 9am-4:30pm each day. Attendance on both days is required to be deployed.
Please register at your preferred location below:

- Register [Brisbane North Sat 19th & Sat 26th Sep](#)
- Register [Cairns Tues 6th & Wed 7th Oct](#)
- Register [Townsville Fri 9th & Sat 10th Oct](#)

- Register [Brisbane South Fri 6th & Sat 7th Nov](#)
- Rockhampton: 2027 (*Dates and Registration TBA*)

Refer to Uniting Church Queensland Synod's [QDCN Disaster Chaplaincy Policy](#) here
For more information, see our [Disaster Chaplaincy Flyer](#) here

INVITATION TO THE LAUNCH OF THE CONGREGATIONS SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT

We warmly invite you to join us for the **launch of the Congregations Social Impact Report online on 10 September 2026 at 5.30pm**—a moment to celebrate and reflect on the everyday ways our communities offer care, connection and support. This report shines a light on the often unseen, relational and volunteer-led impact happening across our congregations, helping us recognise what we already do and imagine what is possible together.

We look forward to having you attend the event! Please click on the link below to register.

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/1eaa5b94-03da-4229-b648-1dc2d98add31@6f22e5a7-e1b9-4ede-a7c5-31fca0deaa40>

FIRST AID TRAINING COURSES

Each congregation should have a First Aid person and be up to date in training. Australia Wide First Aid provides the necessary training. They offer the following training courses:

- HLTAID009 for Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- HLTAID011 Provide First Aid
- HLTAID012 Provide First Aid in an education and care setting

You can book directly through their website: <https://www.australiawidefirstaid.com.au/qld/townsville>

Alternatively, if you are looking to have the invoice issued to your organization, please complete a booking form which you can get from Ana at Presbytery Office and send it to cic@australiawidefirstaid.com.au.



DATE CLAIMERS

2026

19-20 September – Cross Cultural Mission Weekend at Aitkenvale
23-26 October – 39th Synod at Alex Park
19 November – Muth Arrak Zone Meeting in Cairns
20-22 November – #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church
23-25 November – PLT F2F Strategic Meeting

Synod Selection Panel (SSP) Key Dates 2026
Selection Day 2
 Synod Selection Day 2 – 7th November

ZONE MEETINGS

Muth Arrak	Northern	Southern	Cape Gulf
19 November - Cairns	12 September	1 August	(Zoom meetings at 5.30pm) 20 August 17-19 November - Retreat to be confirmed



THE WORD FOR TODAY

USE THE GIFT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

“[God] has given each one of us a special gift.” Ephesians 4:7 NLT

Paul said that when Jesus *“ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people”* (v. 8 NLT). He used the metaphor of a victorious king. It was common in Paul’s day for the conquering monarch to return to his palace with prisoners and treasures in tow. He celebrated his conquest by giving gifts to his people. So did Jesus. Having defeated sin and death on the cross, He ascended to heaven, took His rightful place at the right hand of God, and *“gave gifts to his people”*.

What a delightful thought! Jesus, eternally crowned, distributing abilities and skills: “Joe, take your place in the domain of medicine. Mary, your territory is accounting.” Everybody gets a gift. And these gifts come in different doses and combinations. *“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other”* (1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT).

Our inheritance is grace-based and equal, but our assignments are tailor-made. No two snowflakes are the same. No two fingerprints are the same. Why would two skill sets be the same? No wonder Paul said, *“Understand what the Lord wants you to do”* (Ephesians 5:17 NLT).

Do you understand what the Lord wants? If not, you’ll lead a dull, joyless, and fruitless life. You’ll never sing the song God wrote for your voice and never cross the finish line with heavenward-stretched arms and declare, “I was made to do this!” That’s why the Bible says: *“Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done”* (Galatians 6:4 NLT).

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 2 September 2026) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2026)

