

Presbytery Standing Committee

UPDATE



Issue 5/2021
July 2021

The Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) met on the 13th July 2021

The following information has been prepared for the use of members of Presbytery and distribution to Congregations within the Georges River Presbytery.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING 13TH JULY 2021

Welcome to the July 2021 update for the Georges River Presbytery. We again find ourselves having to deal with life in lockdown, ministering in ways that stretch and challenge us as a church. The Presbytery continues to function under the new stay at home orders, with presbytery staff working from home and meetings taking place via zoom. As we continue in this lockdown, please be aware that the presbytery staff and leadership are praying for you and the churches in the Presbytery. Do not hesitate to contact the presbytery office if there are any problems or concerns arising from this lockdown. While we may be separated from our communities of faith, locked down in our homes, we are not alone; God is with us always.

The Presbytery has initiated a regular monthly zoom meeting for all the ministers & ministry agents within the Presbytery to offer support and encouragement in this difficult time. If you could not attend the first meeting, I would encourage you to join in the next zoom meeting on 18th August at 1 pm.

The Presbytery is also planning on a holding zoom meeting with church council chairpersons, secretaries, and treasurers in August. The purpose of this meeting is to listen to the concerns, provide support and disseminate further information.

Presbytery Meeting
10th August 2021
7.30pm-9.30 pm Zoom



Keynote speaker: Rev. Stuart Cameron
(Superintendent of Wesley Mission)
Pulse to present "Growing Young" program.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be held 10th August, 7.30 pm via zoom. Rev Stu Cameron (Wesley Mission CEO and Superintendent) will be our guest keynote speaker. This will be an opportunity to hear the excellent work that Wesley Mission is doing across NSW and in the Georges River Presbytery. Alongside this, Stu will also encourage and challenge the Presbytery as we seek to fulfil the mission, vision, and strategic plan





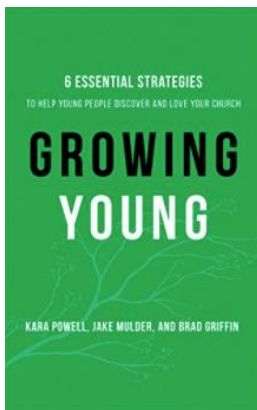
Presbytery Nomination

Three candidates have been approached potential members to fill the 3 vacant positions on Standing Committee. There are three vacant positions on the Property Committee.

Meeting times for Standing Committee (SC) are under review to find a suitable time to suit those who are working during the day.

Standing committee recognised and highly recommend congregations to add the “Growing Young” book as great helpful addition for anyone within the Georges River Presbytery to buy and read.

Unleashing the Passion of Young People in Your Church Is Possible!



Churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. Based on ground-breaking research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations, *Growing Young* provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. It profiles innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing--spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with both research and practical ideas, *Growing Young* shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the *whole* church.

MISSION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE JULY 2021

‘Out of the Box Mission Conference’, 23rd – 25th July 2021

What does it mean to be a missional church?

OUT OF THE BOX

Missional Conference | 23-25 July 2021
Centre for Ministry, 16 Mazons Drive, North Parramatta
Some sessions will be available by Zoom, check the program for details.

Facilitated by UME Mission Enablement Team

The Out of the Box Missional Conference is about exploring what it means to be a missional Church in an ever changing world. This is a fantastic weekend for anyone who wants to explore how to engage their wider community in Mission.

Prof Dr Sarthakban Clarke | Rev Dr Karina Kromnicki | Rev Dr Michael Frost

To find out more, scan the QR code or call: 02 8838 8946

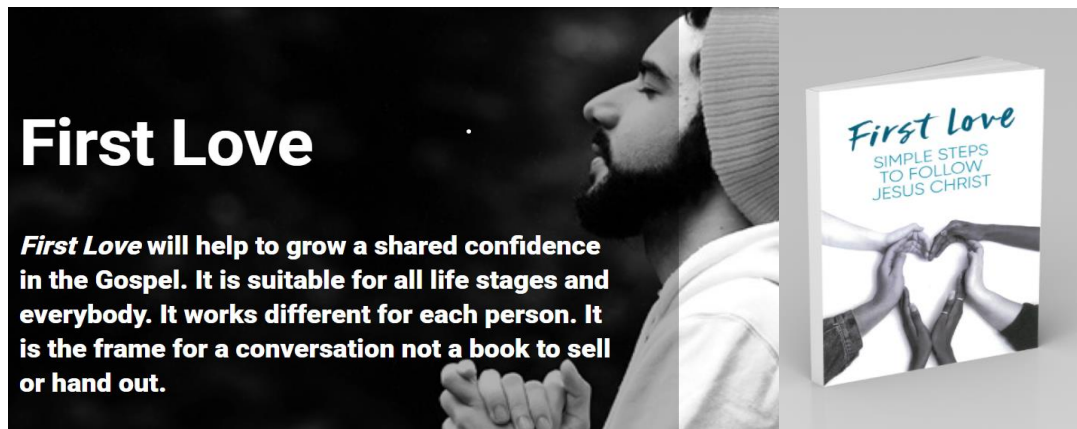
Following a very successful ‘Out of the Box Mission Conference,’ there is excitement among the many who participated including a number from Georges River Presbytery. Members from our Presbytery have benefitted from the conference, and we look forward to seeing some fresh initiatives happening in our local congregations. There will be opportunities to invite some of the speakers to our Presbytery gatherings in the future.



Training Opportunities for Mission:

'First Love Resources'

'First Love' is a simple step-by-step resource on how congregations and members can equip themselves to confidently share the gospel with others, essentially rebuilding the congregation through relationships in responding to God's mission in the local community. 'First Love' that can be found on the UME website: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/first-love/>



'Building a Discipling Culture' (BDC)

With similar goals to 'First Love' resources, BDC is a comprehensive two-year discipleship training course (with 2 intensives) made simple and practical aimed at building a discipling culture. Making disciples is, in essence, the church's purpose for existence. New Beginnings UC is beginning to see the results by the number of members involved in the training and the number of adult baptisms since participating in the training.

Congregations are encouraged to contact the Mission and Leadership Minister or New Beginnings Minister, Rev Simon Lee, for more information or visit: <https://www.bdc.org.au/>



'Global Leadership Summit' (GLS)

New Beginnings UC is hosting our Presbytery cohort of the GLS that will be taking place between 8th – 21st November 2021. The actual dates are yet to be confirmed but Standing Committee has agreed to support a group of 10 members of 'Living Streams in Christ' (Presbytery Youth) to join the New Beginnings team. It will be a full-day event and the main speakers for the summit are highly experienced mission practitioners from various backgrounds who are making a difference in God's mission worldwide. For more information about GLS click on: globalleadership.org.au



The 16th Assembly "Dwelling in Love" made history

While the installation of the new President Rev Sharon Hollis was expected, the election of Rev Charissa Suli as President-elect was historical in that she is the first woman of colour and the youngest ever to hold the prestigious position in the Uniting Church. Charissa Suli is a second-generation Tongan woman who is still under 40 years old. A strong advocate for NextGen and intercultural ministry, Charissa is a symbol of the changing face of the UCA. She will take on the role of President in the next Assembly. The Georges River Presbytery congratulates Rev Charissa Suli for her new appointment. May God bless and guide her on the new journey.

(Picture: President-elect Rev Charissa Suli)





(Picture: retiring President Dr Diedre Palmer, new President Rev Sharon Hollis, Colleen Geyer)

The Assembly also re-elected Colleen Geyer as General Secretary for the next triennium. There were tributes for the retiring President Dr. Diedre Palmer as she passes on the baton to the Rev Sharon Hollis. Dr. Palmer gifted the church with her faithful and compassionate leadership in the last triennium. She will always be appreciated. Assembly papers and other resources can be accessed here: <https://uniting.church/16thassembly/>



Multicultural Celebration & UCA Anniversary

The planned Mission Day Multicultural Celebration that was to coincide with the UCA Anniversary was postponed from the 26th of June to the 31st of July. Following an extension of another four weeks lockdown, this event is now further postponed to the 18th of September. Please watch this space for further information.



PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE JULY 2021

Rev Alex Thomas of Oatley Uniting has been appointed as an alternate representative to the UCA Advisory Committee of Ministry Placements (ACOMP). This committee meets monthly (currently by Zoom) to discern possible matches between minister profiles and placement profiles for NSW/ACT. Alex is experienced with this work and will represent GRP well when called to replace Ruth Fyfe (ACOMP Rep) from time to time.

ACOMP held a Listening Day at Parramatta Centre for Ministry on 18th June. A number of people from GRP attended. Reports from this event have been presented to ACOMP in July and a working group will present possible ways ACOMP could go forward with ideas from this conference.

The need for more Ministers was highlighted. For those thinking about the ministry, **encouragement from the local Minister and congregation is of great importance.**

Supply Presbytery Pastoral Relations Minister: We look forward to a new Supply Minister in August/September to share his pastoral gifts with the GRP ministers and congregations.

Meeting times for PRC are under review to find a suitable time to suit those who are working during the day.

Georges River Hub Uniting: Chaplains Susan Russell and Gail Kilby attended July PRC meeting and shared how thankful they are for the individual ministers and lay people from GRP congregations who give support to the 6 locations across the GRP where Uniting Pastors and Chaplains are based. Uniting Chaplaincy is in aged care facilities, mental health and hospitals. They stressed how important it is to maintain contact with your congregation members who may have had these changes to their lives. People with language capacity are in need particularly. Gail is interested in helping anyone wishing to know more about the Uniting Chaplaincy work or Aged Care generally.

Out of the Box- A missional conference was held virtually, and a number of PRC members attended as well as other familiar faces from GRP. It was a great success under COVID restrictions, and we congratulate Rev Dr Cameron Eccleston and Uniting Mission & Education (UME) for the passion that was generated by so many notable speakers and workshops.

Congregations

Engadine had conducted interviews to appoint an Admin Officer to support their mission in the church and community.

New Beginnings (Cronulla) will have a Vital Ministry consultation soon led by Rev Alex Thomas and Rev Junmo Koo. **Rev Simon Lee** has a very busy diary at present with Synod and GRP demands



Grace Christian Church (Padstow Panania) has commenced a Placement Profile.

Kogarah A Congregation meeting was held (via Zoom and telephone) on 25th July to call **Rev Deok Hee Cho** as their fulltime Minister from 1st November 2021. Deok Hee has accepted the Call and we look forward to his ministry at KUC being a fruitful and blessed time for all.

Rockdale A Placement Profile is in progress and will be sent to PRC soon for their consideration.

Mission planning is underway or completed in most of the GRP congregations. If assistance is needed, please contact the Presbytery office.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE JULY 2021

COVID

COVID restrictions have delayed all maintenance work as properties can't be visited.

Mission Vision and Strategic Plan

Sale of Properties

- Contracts are due to be exchanged and deposits received.

Archiving

Ongoing for:

- Blakehurst, Helensburgh, Mortdale, Penshurst and South Hurstville.

Fluorescent and Halogen bulb Replacement

- Government initiative; where there are more than 20 lights cost is \$33 per site
- Mortdale in progress awaiting supply of light fittings
- Helensburgh church and hall and Sylvania church to be inspected
- Three light LED light fittings to be checked at Beverly Hills.

Fire

- Equipment has been tested and updated at Blakehurst, South Hurstville, Beverly Hills, Helensburgh, Sylvania and Mortdale.

Beverly Hills

Church

- Tree trimming completed
- Some rubbish removed



- Storage area has been cleaned out by the Peshurst Tongan group for equipment storage so the group can move to Beverly Hills Suitability of the area for storing musical instruments to be determined.

Blakehurst

Church – immediate work

- Broken windows to be repaired
- Fence between the adjoining restaurant car park to be installed
- Replace hall external lighting
- Replace kitchen appliances that do not work.

Manse at Ercildoune Avenue Beverly Park

- Property has been inspected and quotes have been received for maintenance work including internal and external painting and carpet replacement.

Mortdale

- Existing storeroom has safety issues. The storeroom to be replaced with a separate shed
- Check for leaks in the church and repaint walls and ceilings
- Remove the gas stove and instal an electric stove – gas has been disconnected
- Dispose of unwanted goods and archive records.

Presbytery Manse at Winter Place, Oatley

- Garden has been cleaned up
- Rubbish has been removed
- A six-month lease is a possibility after COVID restrictions have been lifted for site visits.

Presbytery Office at Peshurst

- Peshurst office may be retained and rented if the net return is satisfactory
- A Real estate agent has been engaged to lease this property.

South Hurstville Church and Hall

- A quote has been received to replace the rust damaged hall roof
- A report has been obtained for the leaning brick boundary wall. The report states that there is no immediate risk of collapse. A quote has been received to replace the wall
- Rusted sections of gutters on the church and main hall are to be replaced and gutters and roof valleys need to be cleared of leaves to minimise water damage
- Other work includes repairing soffits, a collapsed ceiling and water damaged hall flooring.



Sylvania

General

- Safety report has been requested to inspect the concrete wall on the neighbour's property next to the old hall. The concrete retaining wall has been undermined
- Timber weather boards below ground level on the old hall need to be replaced that have rotted due to poor drainage
- Actions have been delayed due to COVID restrictions.

Manse 2a Yeran St.

- A quote has been accepted to replace the tile roof. The tiles are crumbling due to salt spray causing the roof to leak.



Registration send email to: Admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au

UPCOMING LAY MINISTRY COURSES 2021

Courses	Details
Proclaiming Jesus Christ	Saturdays, 9:30 – 11:30 am 10 th July – 21 st August Zoom
Sacraments Training	11 th -12 th September (Goulburn Uniting) 9:00am – 4:30 pm
Leading Worship in the UCA	25 th September 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Canberra (Venue TBC)



PULSE's mid-year YouLEAD+ retreat is fast approaching, and it's a great way for 18-35's to learn more about helping others to share their faith and developing your leadership skills.

Register today!

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/.../pulse-you-lead-retreat.../>



UME.NSWACT.UCA.ORG.AU

Pulse | You Lead+ Retreat - Integrating Leadership with Experience

As well as the next retreat for YouLEAD+ leadership development for Young Adult Leaders 18 – 35.

[Pulse | You Lead+ Retreat - Integrating Leadership with Experience - Uniting Mission and Education](#)

Our usual YouLEAD training weekend will be happening in August for All your young leaders. Promo still comes.

This year we will also be having our High School Camp in the September School Holidays and the HSC looking for those wanting a fun way to study for the HSC.



SEPTEMBER CAMP IS COMING!

20-23 September | Grades 7-11

- Worship God
- Make new friends
- Have heaps of fun
- Learn how to be more like Jesus

[Contact the PULSE team for more info](#)



HSC LOCK-IN 2021 is go!

Helping Year 12 students to get some quality study time, tutorial classes, practice exams & prep done for the HSC, living in a supportive, Christ-centred community. Supported by High School and Tertiary chaplaincy.

[Contact the PULSE team for more info](#)

georgesriver.uca.org.au

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ABN 11 939 987 352

A Presbytery in the
Synod of NSW and the ACT



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Rev Dr Robert Harry Wyndham

Date of Death:

22 July 2021

Further Details:

Rev Dr Robert Harry Wyndham was ordained in 1968 and served in the ~~Wentworthville~~ Circuit, Port Kembla–Shellharbour Circuit, Revesby, Chaplain at MLC School, Bankstown, Norfolk Island, and Bexley. Since his retirement, Robert served in supply at Menai-~~Illawong~~ and Miranda. He is the husband of Margaret, father/father-in-law to Warwick, Fiona and Kathryn and grandpa of Matilda and Anastasia. Kathryn is also an ordained Uniting Church Minister.

Funeral Details:

Date: 30 July 2021
Time: 10:30am
Place: Lugarno Pankhurst Uniting Church. Livestreaming of the service can be watched through either of the following links:
<http://lpuc.org.au/homepage/sermon-archive/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChEm1fJeADpcP6gO1BsBKcg/live>

Georges River Presbytery Updates Newsletter will be published on Georges River Presbytery website monthly on the last Thursday of the month.

Please note that all content contribution will need to be send in via email to Admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au by the Tuesday of the same week.

IMPORTANT DATES

3 rd August	Pastoral Relation Committee Meeting
5 th August	Property Committee Meeting
5 th August	Standing Committee Meeting
10 th August	Presbytery Meeting
12 th August	Mission and Strategy Meeting

Does anyone have a laptop or device that is in good working order but is no longer needed, please? Thanks

Please let us know by sending email to Admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au



Thoughts for the Week

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear... Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ...The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:19-22 NIV)

“Life in lockdown is difficult. Confused, jumbled memories, lethargic, depressed. Why am I feeling like this? Why am I feeling worse than the first lockdown?” These are some of the shared emotions told by some friends in ministry. I shared similar experiences. I still struggle but I am finding myself sustained by the *Ruach* (*Matagi-he-Iki* or ‘Breath of God’ as we find in the Old Testament) and practicing a breathing-in exercise.

I walked outside to my garden one day and simply breathed. With my shoes off, feet firmly planted on the ground, I draw in a long and deep breath of fresh air. As I deeply inhaled the cool winter air, my mind began to fill with the memories of what ‘breathing-in means in my cultural-spiritual world.

The ‘*matagi*’ in Polynesian languages refers to the wind and the air that sustains life. I recall early mornings out in the ocean on my fishing canoe. I would often pause and take long deep breaths - taking in the smell of the ocean. Oftentimes, a whiff of sweet-smelling fragrance from the forest gardenia flowers carried by the winds onto the ocean seascape pleasantly breaks the strength of the salty air. I remembered also the early morning visits to the scrubland to work on my taro patch. The practice of deep breathing, soaking in the aroma of the living breathing ‘*fonua*’ (land, placenta). It was life-giving, life sustaining.

Breathing-in reminds me of the interconnectedness of every living being. It connects one to the *fonua* and all its life - as with the *moana*, the sea. The fragrance of pollen, flowers, and plants, the scent of decomposing *moupi* (fallen trees) fertilizing the land, and the redolence of the living things: insects and creatures of sorts are part of my habitat. I am reminded that ‘I am because of them, they are because of me and we are because of the *Ruach*.’ It reminds me of my birth and my death: of whence I come and to where I will return - the *fonua* (placenta, land). Simply wonder-full!

The ‘Breath of God’ plays an important role in the Mission Dei. Jesus said, “*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*” *And with that, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:21-22).* Mission is advancing life in the Kin[g]dom of God animated by the power of the *Ruach*. It offers deep communion with God, broad communion with all human beings, and a flourishing communion with all things in creation. Covid lockdown may isolate us from our communities, disturb our work routine, disrupt our rhythm of life, challenge our sense of place, but it also reminds us of the Spirit (*Matagi-he-Iki* or *Ruach* Breath of God) who is in and around us, no matter where we are.

The *Ruach* connects us to the Creator God who is present in the intimacy of our private spaces and at all places. So, take some time to go out to your garden or your balcony, slow down and take some deep breaths, soak in God’s refreshing and life-giving Spirit. Centre yourself in silence, unclench your hands, loosen your shoulders, breath deeply. Connect with



God in those around you and in his beautiful creation. Feel his breath upon you and hear his words afresh, *“Peace be with you! ...Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

May God encourage, strengthen and sustain you with the life-giving *Ruach* as he leads you in new ways to stay connected with your families, congregation members, and his creation. Amen.

Prayer:

*Ribbono Shel Olam
Holy One, Creator of all things*

*In the beginning you spoke
there was light and there was darkness
And there was life.
You were manifest as Ruach Elohim
The Wind. The Spirit. The very breath of existence.
And you formed us the human being from clay.
And you animated us with the breath of life
To live is to breath.*

*Ribbono Shel Olam
Ruach Elohim*

*Creator of All things and Breath of All Life
The voice of your children cry out to you from this earth
We are struggling to breath.
A mysterious virus - also part of life, and creation is stealing our breath.
We must stand apart from one another.
Our breath, our voices, are straining behind masks to keep us safe.
And we weep for thousands of our children in our world who have died.
We wail for hundreds of thousands across the globe.
And we pray for those who are ill and struggling.
May we bring forth your Light in the darkness
And where there is death
Choose life.
Amen.*

(adapted from Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner’s prayer:

<https://reformjudaism.org>)



A community forum in Sutherland

Affordable Housing Crisis in the Sutherland Shire

In September 2017 only **16%** of rental stock in Sutherland Shire was affordable for very low and low income households

On a typical day in 2018 only **4.7%** of advertised rentals in Greater Sydney were **affordable** for households on the minimum wage (\$719.20 in July 2018)

62% of low to moderate income earners, living in private rental, are in **rental stress** (paying more than 30% of their income in rent)

Rental prices in Sutherland Shire are about **6% higher** than average rental prices across Greater Sydney

This issue can affect **you, your children and your grandchildren** because affordable rental and house prices are beyond the reach of people working in essential industries in Sutherland Shire, such as teaching, policing or nursing.

Affordable Housing applies to those earning between 50% - 80% of Sydney median income

Sutherland Council is currently considering its commitment to affordable housing

Show your interest and support this issue by attending the community forum

Local councillors are invited and your vote in the 2021 Council elections matters to them

TUESDAY 17TH AUGUST, 2021

Registration 6:30

Commencing 7:00pm sharp

Finish 8:30pm followed by supper

GYMEA MIRANDA UNITING CHURCH HALL

15-17 CENTRAL RD, MIRANDA

Or via zoom if COVID restrictions are in place.

Register here: <https://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/local/#sutherland>



For more information contact Shane snslade36@gmail.com



The Bosco Social Justice Group
Doing NSW for Justice & Living Peace



**Advance
Diversity
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**Sydney
ALLIANCE**



**ENGADINE
UNITING CHURCH**



**uniting
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In NSW,
Serving Life Continually



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