



**The Uniting Church in Australia**

**KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH**

**We welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,**

**We create a safe place for the community**

**We share the journey of life and faith.**

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ 10am**

**Pentecost + 2**

**Mercy on the Move**

**Leader Richard**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Genesis 12:1–9;**

**Psalm 33:1–12; Romans 4:13–25; Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26**



For details and Information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: [kogarah.uca.org.au](http://kogarah.uca.org.au) and <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>

New email address for Kogarah Uniting Church: [kogarahuc@gmail.com](mailto:kogarahuc@gmail.com)

**For pastoral concerns, please contact  
Rev Deok Hee Cho on 0401 975 745.**

### Scriptures

**Genesis 12:1–9**

God calls Abram from the security of the familiar to become a blessing; faith moves outward for the sake of others.

**Psalms 33:1–12**

God's purposeful love stands firm when human plans wobble; praise becomes an act of trust in the faithful Maker.

**Romans 4:13–25**

Promise rests on grace, not performance; like Abraham, we are invited to trust the God who brings life from what looks dead.

**Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26**

Jesus calls a tax collector, eats with 'sinners,' and interrupts urgency with mercy; hidden ache and bold grief both find healing in him.

### Theme Focus

We walk with Jesus as he moves toward outsiders and the hurting, and reflect on how faith, shaped by grace, walks into our streets, makes room at the table, and reaches toward healing.

## Word for the Day

This week's readings explore what faith looks like when grace sets it in motion. God's promise to Abraham begins with a step into the unknown—not a performance of certainty but a trust in the God who brings life where none seems possible.

Paul reminds the church that this promise rests entirely on grace. Faith is not a reward for effort but a response to the God who 'gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.'

In Matthew's gospel, that grace becomes visible. Jesus calls Matthew from his desk, shares a table with those whom others avoid, and honours both a desperate parent and a trembling woman who reaches for healing.

You might explore faith as movement (get up), mercy as table (make room), and healing as courageous reach (touch the hem).

Where might mercy be on the move in our own streets? Who is still waiting to be noticed, welcomed, or restored?

### Ideas for Reflection

- What 'desk' (habit, fear, role) is Jesus inviting me to leave?
- Who needs a literal or figurative seat at my table this week?
- Where are you being invited to reach toward healing—giving or receiving it?
- When have you experienced mercy from someone unexpected?

# **KUC Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections**

**On Sunday June 21, we plan to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections.**

## **The church councillors at present are**

- Sue Baglin (2027)
- Joshua Chang (2026)
- Robert McAlpine (2026)

Joshua's and Robert's terms expire this year, while Sue will continue until 2027.

## **The elders at present are**

- John Baglin (2026)
- Dorothy Makasa (2026)
- Bobbie Miller (2028)
- Richard Goodman (2027)

John's and Dorothy's terms expire this year while Bobbie and Richard will continue as elders next year.

Dear Inner Circle, (submitted by Jim)



What does it mean to reconcile?

The word itself feels heavy in the mouth. As though it already knows something difficult is coming, that the work of repair requires the fortitude and grace missing in rupture. Reconciliation asks us to see the separation of 'us and them' for what it truly is and always has been: an illusion.

That illusion has shaped nations, including our own.

Two days ago (*actually on May 26*) was National Sorry Day, marking the moment in 1997 when Australians were first invited to say sorry to the Stolen Generations. Sorry for the children taken, the families shattered, and the cultures suppressed.

We know now that trauma carries a genetic weight, passed down through generations, its echo still felt. We marked the day and we mourned it, and from that mourning, we carry hope into this Reconciliation Week that we will write a better story in our times.

I have sat with enough pain over the years to know that reconciliation in any form, in any relationship, is among the most demanding things a human being can attempt. It requires the injured party to risk being hurt again. It requires the one who caused harm to surrender their own comfortable story about themselves. Both must stand in the same space and agree that something matters enough to be repaired.

We see reconciliations of all kinds happen here every day. Sometimes it looks like a conversation between brothers after years of silence, between parents and children, between present and past.

There is a third position reconciliation quietly asks us to consider. Not the one who inflicted the wound, nor the one who received it — but the one who simply walked into a world already shaped by both. Who benefitted from systems they didn't design, opportunities they didn't question, a belonging they never had to fight for. Reconciliation doesn't ask that person to carry guilt for what they didn't do. It asks something smaller and harder: honesty about what they received.

One of the great temptations in life is to separate ourselves into categories. Good people and bad people. Deserving and undeserving. Us and them.

Today we recommit to dismantling those partitions, letting love be the thing that dares to cross the line between us — and then, slowly, dissolving the line altogether.

Thank you for being part of the Inner Circle,

Jon Rev. Jon Owen  
CEO & Pastor  
Wayside Chapel

## Planning Ahead

- **June 11 Next Kogarah Church Council meeting via Zoom @ 7pm**
- **June 19 Chinese Community Health Seminar 10:30-12**
- **June 21 – AGM for our Congregation. Election of Elders and Church Councillors**
- **August 6 – Worship Task Group meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **September 18 Chinese Community Health Seminar 10:30-12**

### **Please pray for ...**

The mission and ministry of our congregation and for our Minister, Deok Hee, and Wynne Cheng as they make links to the Chinese community.

Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers The Kogarah Storehouse and its many clients; Lala and staff and volunteers at the Storehouse. Dorothy and Godfrey and the work of LACLA. The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely: We pray especially today for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Rhonda Chamberlain and family; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahua, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives - For others whom we name in our hearts.

Pray for the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Jordan and other Middle Eastern Countries involved in the current war; Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza and Lebanon. The USA and the countries of Europe. Sudan.

**Next Sunday**

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ 10am**

**Pentecost + 3 - Promise at the Door**

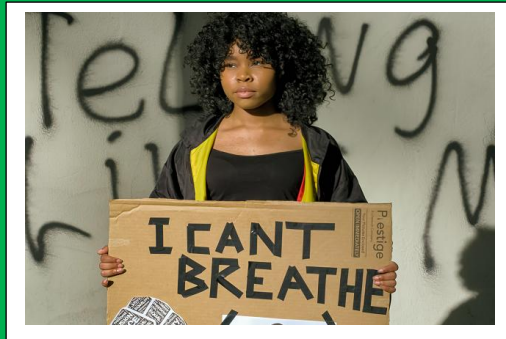
**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**Genesis 18:1–15, (21:1–7);**

**Psalm 116: 1–2, 12–19; Romans 5:1–8; Matthew 9:35–10:8, (9–23)**



**Church Council 2025-2026**

***Chair***

**Richard Goodman**

***Secretary***

**Sue Baglin**

***Treasurer***

**John Baglin (2027)**

***Councillors***

**Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2026)**

**Sue Baglin (2026)**

**Joshua Chang (2026)**

***Elders***

**John Baglin (2026)**

**Bobbie Miller (2028)**

**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Dorothy Makasa (2026)**

***Culture of Safety Contact Person***

**Richard Goodman**