

PRESBYTERY PORT PHILLIP WEST

7 JULY 2020



PRESBYTERY
OF PORT
PHILLIP
WEST

I have heard their cry...

Rev. Lisa Stewart (Mission and Ethos Partner, Uniting VicTas)

"I have observed the misery of my people.....I have heard their cry.... Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them... to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." (Ex 3:7-8). (From Uniting Share Sunday Resources 2020 - "A place to call home")

"I know their sufferings and I have come down to deliver them...to a good and broad land...flowing with milk and honey..." Exodus 3: 8-9



Uniting

Uniting is the community services organisation of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.



Our reading from Exodus provides a compelling context for this year's Share Winter Appeal and Share Sunday focus on youth homelessness. It tells a story of a promise made to a people who had suffered a great deal as a minority people under an oppressive regime, a displaced people on an uncertain journey, with little in their past to encourage in them a sense of hope for what might come to them in their future. In the midst of their uncertainty, and their understandable sense of despair, we hear in our reading an extraordinary invitation to hope – this promise: *"I have observed the misery of my people.....I have heard their cry.... Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them... to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." (Ex 3:7-8).*

It is at once a promise that reveals not only what it is that we, as this people, can hope for, but also the identity of the one who makes the promise. This is the one who sees, who listens, who knows and understands, and then who acts, in profound solidarity, to bring healing and hope to a dispirited people. This is the one who 'comes down', to meet the people where they are, in their need, to walk alongside them. But more than that, to then lead them into that promised place, that 'good and broad land', where they will find sustenance, respite, rest, and relief from those past sufferings – a place they can call home.

One pressing issue that the very intensity, and necessity, of the COVID isolation requirements has brought into very sharp focus for many of us within the confines of our homes is how profoundly challenging it must be for those in our communities without safe and secure housing, without 'a place to call home'.

The UCA and your community services agency Uniting Vic Tas share a continuing commitment to Making Housing A Priority. Never has this seemed more timely, more urgent. This year's annual Winter Share Appeal, and our worship resources for Share Sunday focus in particular on Youth Homelessness with the theme '**a place to call home**'. The sad reality is that 2 out of 5 people who experience homelessness are under the age of 25.

The promise of a home, or homeland, belongs to the foundational stories of our faith. This year we are all invited to reflect on how that promise calls, claims and challenges to us to hope for and respond to those young people so desperately in need of their place to call home.

If you would like to access the Share Sunday Resources Pack, which includes a complete service PPT some powerful video reflections, visit the Share Sunday 2020 site at: <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/share-sunday/>

PPW & Uniting

Uniting

Mental Health Matters

Rev Fiona Bottcher [Deacon]

Part of my ministry role is to establish an “open-door” community at Sunshine Uniting Church. Of course, since COVID-19 gathering has been put on hold and I’ve had time to reflect, plan and dream.

On entering Sunshine Uniting Church you find yourself in an open atrium space, an area of welcome that also unites the different spaces of the building: the worship space, Uniting offices, garden area, kitchen and congregation offices.

On a (pre-COVID-19) Sunday, it fills with worshippers gathering after a service. During the week, however, many different people move and gather in this space. Sunshine Mission, as it’s known locally, is a Uniting service providing emergency relief, financial services, a men’s shed, a community lunch and other support services for vulnerable community members.

I’ve been looking forward to “launching” HMAS Sunshine into this mix to extend this welcome to those living with mental illness and providing an important link to the mental health wards of Sunshine Hospital.

Uniting’s work in creating a compassionate hub in the heart of Sunshine creates a wonderful opportunity for missional partnerships. My hope is that as we plan and dream together we’ll discover new and exciting ways to unite in these challenging times and into the future.



Photograph by Marc Xu courtesy of Unsplash



Photographers across the Presbytery we are building a new PPW website and would love you to donate photos of your area. Eg. Local church street front, op-shops, congregational life, mission activities. Contact Linley on 0408 169 882 see FB.

UNITING OP-SHOPS (During Covid) may not have closed. Uniting managed Op-shops in the most neediest areas opened by appointment throughout the pandemic. Others opened in June. Congratulations to the Glenroy Op-shop that was the highest grossing op-shop for June. Well done Glenroy again for closing in July—that sounds like hard work. Congratulations to Corio-Norlane for being the first op-shop open in the Geelong region.

Op-shops VOLUNTEERS WANTED in your area may be opening soon. Older volunteers have need to withdraw themselves from service in this way. Uniting needs to look for more volunteers. Contact your local Uniting Op-shop.

SYNOD

**Postponed to
Feb 26th—28th 2021**

Thanks for everyone who put their names in as nominees for Synod. But everything has changed. Our representatives at the Synod meeting will be less due to covid and possibly the need to go on-line.

PPW Focus Worship Service

COVID has meant ministers had postponed leave. Now some ministers may be worn out and need leave at short notice... to help you can connect to the **Focus Worship Service through the Presbytery** Facebook Page in a number of ways by clicking on this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UCAPPW>. By going directly to the Focus church's website each week:

August 2nd Macedon Ranges

August 9th East Geelong & St. Andrews-St. Albans

August 16th - Melton

The video will be posted to the Presbytery Vimeo page <https://vimeo.com/user111726530> - The video will be there a little later & other resources.

Minister's Chat

August 12th 2020 10 am—12 noon

[Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86180307788](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86180307788)

Meeting ID: 861 8030 7788

9 minutes @ 9

PPW Presbytery Ministers pledging to pray with you twice a day...

- ♦ Prayers for wisdom for the Uniting management making decisions during the covid crisis.
- ♦ We give thanks for the op-shops (open by appointment) providing goods for communities in need.
- ♦ We give thanks for the Uniting Food Centers, finding new ways to supporting the vulnerable and the poor of our communities.
- ♦ Prayers of blessing upon the Uniting Kinder's that have been an essential service to our community at this time.
- ♦ Prayers for counsellors and welfare providers who seek to continue to support people in new ways.
- ♦ We give thanks for the blessing Uniting is to the wider community.

Linley.

Code of Ethics

Round 1- Last Chance

August 11th 2020
9:30—12:30 pm

Face to Face in Geelong—St. Luke's

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89908250311>

Meeting ID: 899 0825 0311

Make it Messy



Saturday August 25th

2- 5pm on-line

Messy church, young families and Intergenerational ministry.



Good Afternoon

At our last meeting (between the Presbytery and Uniting) I advised of the updates on the Playground works at a few of our Kindergartens. Please find attached photos of the Playground redevelopment at Roxborough Park stage 1. This redevelopment is funded by a State Government Grant and we have stage 2 to go before this is completed. We are very excited and have received some wonderful feedback from the families. We hope to gather a few of these stories for the Uniting website in the future.

Regards Donna

Donna Matthews

Area Manager – Early Learning
North West Vic.Tas

Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania)
Limited



Uniting

**...to inspire people, enliven communities
and confront injustice**

Mr Des Younghusband

Manager of Barwon & Footscray Uniting

Interview by Rev Narelle Collas and Mrs Cathy Slarks

What is your Role?

I am senior manager for both Barwon and Footscray Uniting. We run similar services across both areas. We offer emergency relief, counselling, there are 7 op shops, and childcare centres. Barwon Uniting encompasses Surf Coast Shire, Bellarine, Greater Geelong, and Winchelsea.

What led you to work with Uniting?

I have a background in accounting and I have been part of the Uniting Church for many years. My practice was across the road from 'Concern' and I was approached to do a project with them. I then volunteered then got involved on the Board and one thing led to another and I retired from accounting and started to work full time for the organisation.



How many people would you help through Barwon Uniting?

We would reach nearly 3000 people through direct access. We assist whole families. We are not government funded so we gather funding generally around food rescue. Over the past year we have been able to gather over 66 tonnes of food and the value of that food was almost \$500 000. That was nearly 89 000 meal equivalents. We see ourselves in the business of food insecurity as we give out food to our clients who are in need. We help other organisations working in this same area in the Geelong area. We are very grateful for the support from the local Uniting Churches.

How is Uniting connected to the Uniting Church?

Uniting is the community services arm of the Uniting Church. It is part of the church; it is not something that is outside of the church. There is a very close relationship between the leadership of the synod and the leadership of Uniting. Uniting has ordained ministers of the Uniting Church who are mission partners. Rev Lisa Stewart is the mission partner for our area, and she is involved in the local engagement group which feeds ideas and support for Uniting. Ministers and community members are part of this group. Lots of enthusiasm comes from this group and it really enriches Uniting.

How does your Christian Faith inform your work at Uniting?

That is why I am here at Uniting; it is the basis for my work. I want to see people cared for just as Jesus cared for people. When things get tough my faith gives me direction and support. I appreciate my minister and my church family which supports me and enables me to continue in this outreach work.

Collaborating on the Future Church

At Presbytery last weekend the eLM staff, Matt Harry, Chris Barnett and Linley Liersch made some observations to get you thinking about collaborating together. Congregations are experiencing some positives during restrictions, such as extra people attending worship, we are exposed to world-wide resources, and geography is no longer a barrier to participation. We observed that an enormous amount of time is spent preparing worship, whether it is online, printed resources or face-to-face—and is duplicated across the Presbytery every week. This time-consuming worship preparation has meant that mission and discipleship is under emphasised. We would like to encourage greater collaboration across presbytery. Get together with your neighbouring ministers: one of you may want to hold onto the worship preparation as important, and release your neighbouring ministers to experiment with discipleship on-line. A third minister might like to think about outreach to the wider community. By being more efficient in worship preparation that will mean more time for mission and discipleship. Does this appeal to you? Ministers and Church Council members can begin to think about what this could mean for your congregation at ...

Collaborating on the Future Church

August 13th 2020 4:00—5:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82237102017> Meeting ID: 822 3710 2017