



Lifeworks

Uniting Church

Responding to God's Love

A Daring Hope

The theme of the 36th Synod was 'A Daring Hope', and on the Friday when Synod was due to commence, it seemed that there was only a hope that it might be able to go ahead, with torrential rain and flooding blocking many of the routes into the Sunshine Coast.

But on the Saturday morning, the weather cleared for long enough to enable travel from most directions, and the Synod kicked off at 11am on the Saturday. I was able to get there from midday, just in time for lunch!

A full report of the Synod meeting has been emailed with this newsletter, and if you require a hard copy of that report, please let me know.

What remains to share is my personal reflection on Synod, for what it is worth. For me, Synod is always an opportunity to connect with the broader church in Queensland, and to be open to the leading of the Spirit in all aspects of our life. Something that gave me hope, is that of the six Synods I have attended, this seemed overall to be the youngest Synod I can recall. This is a gradual shift, but several people also made this comment to me, and I hope that indicates that younger generations are engaging with leadership in the Uniting Church. Alongside this, there were many stories of positive things happening in the life of the church.

Yes, we are all aware of the challenges and the decline the church has been facing for many years, but what emerged for me was the hopeful narrative that when people respond to God with love and devotion of their own, amazing stories still happen. This left an impression on me, not of a church that was tired, weary, and hopeless, but of a church that in many places is hopeful, expectant, and re-ordering it's life to meet our current situation.

The most moving part of Synod for me, and I'm guessing for most of the rest of the members was the report from Wesley Mission which included a video on the work of Hummingbird House. Hummingbird House provides palliative and pastoral care to children and their families who have life-limiting illnesses. It is a remarkable ministry, one that offers peace, comfort, and dare I say joy, to those children and families. I'm proud to be part of a church that is involved in this kind of ministry, which speaks so powerfully to me of bringing a daring love, into the most difficult of situations.

I encourage you to engage with the full report from Synod, and to ask what is your daring hope for Lifeworks, and where are we called to demonstrate a daring love?

Grace and Peace.

Rev. Adam Tipple

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are scattered across – the Jarowair and Giabal people.

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Newsletter

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Newsletter Revamp and Renaming

Over the next couple of months our newsletter is going to have a revamp and relaunch. This will expand the newsletter, as well as presenting a different design.

As part of this we are looking for a new name for our Newsletter. This should be a name which reflects the mission of the church and our values and will reflect that the news of church will start to contain more content relevant to mission. An example of this is from Warwick-Killarney UCA who decided to call their newsletter 'New Horizons'. If you have a suggestion, please email to minister@lifeworksuniting.org.au

Church Council will look at all suggestions and 'pick a winner'.

Get your thinking hats on!

Adam's Leave dates

Rev. Adam Tipple will be on leave from 26th June to 6th July. If you need pastoral care during this time, the ministry mobile 0487 572 400 will still be answered by a member of our team who will assist you.

Annette's update

Because Annette can no longer read books, I have been reading aloud to her on an almost daily basis beside her in Toowoomba North rehab hospital. I was reading to her recently from *Where is God when it hurts?* a book by Philip Yancey which we had read long ago. As she heard the following paragraphs in a chapter on pain and suffering, Annette asked me to share them with you:

... The notion of suffering [as something] productive brings a new dimension to our experience of pain. Human beings undergo goal-directed suffering quite willingly, as athletes and pregnant women can attest. According to the Bible, a proper Christian response to suffering gives similar hope to the person on the hospital bed. As we rely on God, and trust his Spirit to mould us in his image, true hope takes shape within us, "a hope that does not disappoint." We can literally become better persons because of suffering. Pain, however meaningless it may seem at the time, can be transformed.

Where is God when it hurts? He is in us – not in the things that hurt – helping to transform bad into good. We can safely say that God can bring good out of evil; we cannot say that God brings about evil in the hope of producing good....

Annette does value your prayers. Please keep them coming. The stroke she suffered 6 months ago has left her paralysed on the left side, from her mouth to her toes. The latter are very sensitive and painful. It has unfortunately also diminished her smile. She is trying to be patient as she awaits the day of her homecoming, even though she will remain immobile and totally dependent. She finds it almost impossible to answer phone calls, and her eyesight makes it very difficult to see the mobile phone screen anyway, though she does enjoy short visits from friends. I give thanks that we live in Australia, with excellent medical and nursing care, and with systems of support so well developed.

Derek Curnow



Worship With Us

Sunday Mornings

9:00am

Live-stream

[Lifeworks YouTube channel](#)

Other Activities

Keenagers

mainly music

Other interest groups

Youth Group

More details found on the [Lifeworks website](#)

Second offering for June (taken on 29th May)

The offering to support Dostana amounted to \$520 with more possibly pledged on-line. Some of you will remember the fund-raising dinner held in Toowoomba a few years ago. At this dinner, held at Fairholme College, the sum of \$25,000 was raised for Dostana, the girls' education and hostel project in the Diocese of Amritsar. The Church of North India is a sister church of the Uniting Church in Australia. More recently, a delegation of Diocesan guests visited Toowoomba in July, 2018, to attend a meeting of the Downs Presbytery. One of the delegates, Rev Ajay Singh, preached at a Sunday morning service at Lifeworks.

A second offering later in 2018 contributed to the purchase of a data projector for Rev Ajay's church, called St John in the Wilderness, near Dharamshala, North India.

Your support will be welcomed by the Dostana community.

English Classes

We have been holding classes regularly on Saturday mornings for members of the Brazilian congregation. Numbers vary from week to week, and there have been several interruptions to the schedule for various reasons, but those attending seem to have been learning while having fun at the same time. We always seem to have lots of laughs together! In the lessons, we have focused mainly on basic speaking skills and building confidence in this area. Thanks must go to those who have come regularly to help: Jane O'Regan, who has taken the class when I have been unable to, Jan and Peter Lee and Daphne Hindmarsh.

Mary Tibben



Giving to Lifeworks

Please continue to give to Lifeworks as you are able. You can choose to give in the following ways:

- Cash can be left in the offering plate on Sunday mornings
- Write a cheque to Lifeworks Uniting Church, and post in the mail to:
PO Box 18093, Clifford Gardens, Qld, 4350
- Electronic direct deposit
Bank: Westpac Bank
Name: Lifeworks Uniting Church
BSB: 034 242
Account Number: 359 011