

UNITING CHURCH ADULT FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

WEAVING TOGETHER PROGRAMME REPORT – FIJI 2018

I am pleased to provide this report on behalf of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship in Australia. With reference to your theme “Chosen People – Called To Proclaim”, which is the theme for the next five years, the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship have been involved with the following activities. As the Uniting Church National Committee chooses a theme for the three years in office, our committee in Victoria/Tasmania, chose “Living Water – Come Drink” for the period 2015 - 2018.

WORSHIP:

At our National Celebration held in Geelong, Victoria, in April 2016. Worship related to our theme. Members from all Australian states attended with worship held every morning, with the bible studies relating to Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s Well. We also focussed on hymns relating to our theme. Rev. Malcolm Frazer taught those in attendance to sing “Draw Deeply”, the water themed song which he composed for the UCAF National Committee and launched at the Celebration. Dedication Services are held in February in NSW/ACT to commence the year for the State Committee, with Communion following. Our Fellowship Days held in every State have a strong emphasis on worship.

RELATIONSHIPS:

We have over the past three years continued to have a strong relationship with groups Australia wide. The Western Australian committee have developed a Strategic Plan 2017-2020, which identified a range of strategies to pursue. These are **vision** – to be visible, valued and a vital contact with fellowship groups, **mission** – to provide positive leadership, promote the diversity and value of fellowship groups and encourage the members in spiritual growth and involvement, and **values**, **United in ... Committed to ... Acting in a spirit of service ... Fostering friendship, openness, connections, spiritual growth.**

The South Australian Synod Committee have supported Uniting World and Frontier Services throughout the past three years, with Victoria having a strong relationship with the P.W.M.U. (formerly the Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Union), with an annual prize of \$500 awarded to the outstanding pastoral theology student at Pilgrim Theological College at Parkville in Victoria.

The National Committee has endeavoured to build a deeper relationship with the Assembly of the Uniting Church during our term in office. We also have widely promoted the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women in particular the South Pacific Seminar in Fiji in July, with 40 attendees attending from our Unit. Joy Jino, the South Pacific Area President was a guest at our Consultation held in Hobart from May 3rd to the 6th in 2018. Joy was able to share what the Federation is doing in the South Pacific Area. It was a blessing to us all to have her in Hobart with us.

SOCIAL ACTION:

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship in Australia over the past three years have supported the National Committee Projects relating to Water. These are as follows:

Vanuatu Water & Toilet Project:

This project began in March 2015 following the devastation wrought by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam. This project benefitted the village of Paunangisu, North Efate. This project is an off-shoot of the group Medical Sailing Ministries that provide remote-access transport and logistical support amongst the islands of Vanuatu, and is an outreach programme of the North Ringwood Uniting Church. This partnership has led to the installation of solar power in the local church, followed by the construction of a public toilet, plus large community water tank and roof gutters. This village has continued to develop tourist-related activities designed to generate income and employment in the village.

Outback Links - Frontier Services:

The "Living Water" Project has been very successful with over \$20,000 raised to provide bottled water for all of the Outback Links Group Programmes through 2016 and 2017. The funds raised have provided water for over 300 volunteers reaching out to over 80 farming properties in Queensland, NSW and South Australia. The water bottles can be recycled and labels were printed advising people that the funds to carry out this project were donated by the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship.

"Rait Mama, Rait Famili, Rait Kommuniti" – Safe Clean Water in Papua New Guinea

This project raises awareness about health and sanitation and the importance of washing hands. It has been established by Uniting World, and community enablers based within three communities across Milne Bay province have been trained to conduct a 4 week campaign in their village. The campaign involved awareness about health and hygiene practices, a call to action, motivational posters emphasising the qualities of "Rait Mama" and "Rait times" to wash hands and fun drama to reinforce the learning. The campaign also promotes behaviour change at the personal, household, community and institutional level. UCAF Groups throughout Australia raised over \$6,000 towards this project.

In addition to the above projects, the Western Australian State Synod Committee in 2015, supported the Dian Kristawati's (The Women's Fellowship of the Protestant Church of Bali) WASH program in conjunction with Uniting World (project to improve water provision and sanitation). The Victorian Fellowships support Nungalinya College in Darwin in their pre-school, and support many activities of the Justice and International Mission Unit of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. In addition to this the Victorian fellowships strongly support Mission Liaison Group who collect and send containers of goods to the South Pacific Region. In South Australia they have over the past three years supported Rural Ministry, and Resourcing three Migrant Ministries in South Australia.

Margaret Pedler

AUSTRALIA UNIT PRESIDENT