

# Important Resources

For leaders in the Uniting Church in Australia, March 2010

## The Bible

NRSV and NIV are recommended.

GNB and CEV have a more limited vocabulary.

*The Message* by Eugene Peterson is a fresh paraphrase but is not adequate as a study Bible.

For further information see: [www.biblesociety.com.au/the-bible/translations.php](http://www.biblesociety.com.au/the-bible/translations.php)  
[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and <http://bible.oremus.org/>

## Biblical Commentary

Commentaries provide important historical and cultural background to the text. Some designed for preachers will often make contemporary connections.

Lectionary based commentary is available on the internet from UCA scholars:

Bill Loader (New Testament)

[wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader/lectionaryindex.html](http://wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader/lectionaryindex.html)

Anna Grant-Henderson (Old Testament)

[www.oldtestamentlectionary.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.oldtestamentlectionary.unitingchurch.org.au)

See also: Walter Brueggemann et al, *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary on the NRSV Years A, B & C*. Electronic Resource (Westminster/John Knox, 2007)

## Basis of Union, Constitution and Regulations (latest edition)

These contain core documents for understanding the Uniting Church and helping us to live together as a community sharing a common faith.

Recommended commentaries on the Basis of Union:

Andrew Dutney, *Where did the joy come from? Revisiting the Basis of Union* (Uniting Church Press, 2001) and Michael Owen, *Back to Basics: Studies on the Basis of Union* (Uniting Church Press, 1996)

## Worship

Uniting in Worship 2 (Uniting Church Press, 2005)

Uniting in Worship 1 (Leaders' Book and People's Book)

Iona/Wild Goose worship publications

Revised Common Lectionary

Available from MediaCom [www.mediacom.org.au](http://www.mediacom.org.au)

For further information see the website of the national working group on Worship:

<http://assembly.uca.org.au/cudw/worship-working-group> Also: [commontexts.org/rc1/index.html](http://commontexts.org/rc1/index.html)

## Theology

Rob Bos & Geoff Thompson (eds), *Theology for Pilgrims* (Uniting Church Press, 2008) This collection contains significant theological statements leading up to and following the inauguration of the Uniting Church.

For further information on doctrinal matters see the website of the national working group on Doctrine: [www.assembly.uca.org.au/doctrine](http://www.assembly.uca.org.au/doctrine)

A sound introduction to theology will provide a thoughtful consideration of the broad spectrum of basic Christian beliefs (eg. Christ, Creation, Humanity, Holy Spirit, Church) Recommended introductions are:

Gordon Dicker, *Faith With Understanding* (Unichurch Publishing, 1981)  
Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Eerdmans, 2004)  
Serene Jones & Paul Lakeland (eds), *Constructive Theology* (Fortress, 2005)

A good introduction to theological reflection or method will offer guidelines for doing theology. Recommended is:

Howard Stone & James Duke, *How to Think Theologically* (Fortress, 2006)

### **Christian history**

A balanced overview of Christian history will place Christian developments in the context of human history, noting the major historic phases and changes (eg. Patristic period, East-West division, the Reformation, the Evangelical and Pentecostal movements).

Recommended books are:

*The History of Christianity* (Lion, 1985)

Diana Butler Bass, *A People's History of Christianity* (Harper One, 2009)

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care has been a feature of the Christian church since its inception. It is important for leaders to be aware of contemporary pastoral practice.

Recommended books are:

Robert Dykstra, *Images of Pastoral Care: Classic Readings* (Chalice, 2004)

Emmanuel Lartey, *Pastoral Theology in an Intercultural World* (Epworth, 2006)

### **Christian Ethics and Christian Education**

A basic understanding of Christian ethics and Christian education is needed.

Recommended books are:

Neil Messer, *The SCM Study Guide to Ethics* (SCM, 2006)

Richard Osmer, *The Teaching Ministry of Congregations* (John Knox, 2005)

### **Mission**

Approaches to mission have developed significantly over the past century. The post-Christendom, post-modern context of our time calls us to consider seriously our theology and practice of mission.

Recommended books are:

David Bosch, *Transforming Mission* (Orbis, 1991) A classic text.

Stephen Bevans & Roger Schroeder, *Constants in Context* (Orbis, 2004)

### **Music resources**

The music we sing also shapes our theology and practice. In Australia we have some excellent collections of music that have been produced in an ecumenical environment with attention to the theology of the words as well as the music.

Recommended collections:

*Together in Song* (Harper Collins Religious, 1999)

*All Together Series* (Openbook Publishers)

On the internet see: [www.assembly.uca.org.au/worship](http://www.assembly.uca.org.au/worship)

cross-cultural: [www.assembly.uca.org.au/mcm/resources](http://www.assembly.uca.org.au/mcm/resources)

and [www.togethertocelebrate.com.au](http://www.togethertocelebrate.com.au)

*Prepared by the Doctrine and Worship Working Groups of the Assembly*