

Forming Disciples in Mission

Colloquium

**Wednesday
18 November
3.00–9.30 pm**

**Korean Church of Melbourne
Glendearg Grove, Malvern**

Photo: National Young Adults Leaders Conference members exposure visit to the Wayside Chapel in Sydney

The Colloquium is an opportunity for the sharing of research, innovation and reflection around the connections between formation, discipleship and mission in relation to the Uniting Church. The purposes of the Colloquium are to encourage critical thinking, foster dialogue, and provide encouragement and inspiration both in terms of thinking and practice within Australia.

Keynote Speaker: Dr Deidre Palmer

Deidre Palmer has a PhD in Religious Education and a Master's Degree in Social Work. She has been on the faculty of Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, USA and the Dept of Theology, Flinders University and the Adelaide College of Divinity. Deidre is the Moderator of the Presbytery and Synod of SA and President-Elect of the Uniting Church in Australia.

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Program

3.00 pm	Welcome
3.10 pm	Keynote Speaker: Dr Deidre Palmer
4.00 pm	Presentations
5.00 pm	Presentations
6.00 pm	Dinner
7.00 pm	Worship with Korean Church of Melbourne Preacher: Rev Dr Ian Price
8.00 pm	Presentations
9.00–9.30 pm	Panel reflections and prayer

Presentation details overleaf.

Cost: \$25 includes dinner

Register online: go to assembly.uca.org.au/fed

Closing date for registrations: Wed 11 November.

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FED Formation
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Evangelism
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Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY 

4.00 pm Presentations

Presenter	Title and Description	Person	Room
Rev Sean Gilbert	Paying attention to divine beauty: Jonathan Edwards, spiritual practices and the forming of affective disciples	Lecturer in Ministry Practice, Uniting College for Leadership and Theology, UC SA	1
<p>What might it mean to be about educating and forming disciples who, through spiritual practice, pay very close attention to sources and expression of divine beauty? How could mission then be framed and enacted in more sensate or artistic ways, without impractical or romantic (naïve) results?</p>			
Rev Wendy Snook	Ministry and mission in Cranbourne: Ephesians and processes of discipleship and mission development	Minister, Cranbourne Regional UCA, Victoria	2
<p>In the Post Christendom period, we need to rethink both the outcomes desired for our Christian formation and the methods by which we do it. There are key themes in Ephesians that are helpful for the development of missional thinking in Christian formation which I have used in my work with Cranbourne Regional UCA.</p>			
Mr Neil Thorpe and Rev Mel Perkins	Deepening and growing faith in disciples in an information, communication and technology age: an Australian case study	Adult Faith Educators, Trinity College, UCA Queensland	3
<p>Helping people to deepen their faith through the digital environment is possible where formation of disciples is part of the intention of learning. The paper will discuss the significance of particular Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) platforms for faith development in adult lay leaders in the Uniting Church.</p>			
Rev Dr Paul Goh	Toward a contemplative model of evangelism: evangelism as spiritual guidance	Senior Minister, Korean Church of Melbourne, UCA	4
<p>In the context of religious pluralism and interreligious dialogue, this paper attempts to construct a contemplative way of evangelism as spiritual guidance grounded in the Mystery of God and embracing other religions' rich spiritual heritage. This paper suggests missiologically-inclusive correlational paradigm of evangelism with rediscovery and awareness of the mystical and contemplative dimensions of the Gospel as a source of evangelism and calls for renewal of contemplation in the practice of evangelism.</p>			
Rev Rob Hanks	Forming young disciples in mission: reflections on story, Scripture, stations and experiences	Former Hunter Presbytery Youth Ministry Development Worker, NSW	5
<p>If discipleship is framed by engagement with Scripture and commitment to authentic relationships with God, others and self, how can people be helped to explore that and make connections with daily life in their context or their current cultural 'address'? Rob will offer stories and reflections of events and practices that help encouraging people to embrace a shift from propositional to narrative faith.</p>			
Rev Dr Ian Robinson	How university chaplaincy is changing: models of engagement from experience at the University of WA.	UCA Chaplain, University of Western Australia	6
<p>Like everything else at your old university, chaplaincy is different now. Ian will run through some models that have been used in the past and some effective forms of engagement today, from his vast experience of trying things over seven years in the wilderness at UWA.</p>			
Dr Val Webb	Celebrating doubt as a catalyst in authentic faith formation	Theologian, Author, Speaker	7
<p>The history of Christian theology overflows with theologians for whom doubt has been the catalyst that moved them to re-examine tradition in light of new knowledge and context; yet somehow, in that same history, doubting the tradition has been promoted to laity as something negative, or at least problematic. This presentation will argue that doubt should be celebrated and encouraged in our changing and challenging scientific and technological world so that each of us can find a theology that is life-transforming for our own context (Based on Val's books <i>In Defence of Doubt: an invitation to adventure, second edition</i> (Morning Star Publishing, 2015) and <i>Testing Tradition and Liberating Theology: finding your own voice</i> (Morning Star Publishing 2015).</p>			

5.00 pm Presentations

Presenter	Title and Description	Person	Room
Rev Dr Ian Tozer	Preaching and mission: the renewal and transformation of Uniting Church congregations	Minister, Fremantle Uniting Church. WA	1
<p>At a number of key points in history, preaching has been very important in bringing renewal and transformation in the Christian Church. While worship has received attention in relation to mission, little appears to have been written about mission and preaching. This presentation will explore how preaching contributes to renewal and transformation of Uniting Church congregations.</p>			
Rev Graeme Harrison	Forming disciples according to your Gospel; but which Gospel are you using?	Minister, Living Faith UCA, Greensborough, VIC	2
<p>Your version of the Gospel informs what you think Christian formation is all about and therefore will inform how you structure your church life around faith formation. Conversely, how you structure your church life reveals what Gospel you actually believe in practice regardless of what you think you are doing. This session explores the link between Gospel version, Church Structure/Program, and Faith Formation.</p>			
Mr Rohan Pryor	Towards a training and recognition framework for local lay leaders within the Uniting Church	Lay Leadership Educator, Centre for Theology and Ministry, UCA Victoria and Tasmania	3
<p>The role of local leaders and lay specified ministries in the Uniting Church is evolving within a context of rapid change and intercultural engagement. The Uniting Church needs a comprehensive framework which can take account of both the intercultural and contextual needs related to changes in lay leadership. This presentation will seek to identify the key elements and challenges for a national framework in the Uniting Church in Australia.</p>			
Rev Dr Ji Zhang	Formation of faith in Asian Context	Manager, Church Partnerships, Asia, UnitingWorld, UCA	4
<p>Christianity in Asia is a minority. But amidst religious plurality and cultural diversity, there is a common story - the transformation of Christianity.</p>			
Rev Michelle Cook	On being a covenanting and multicultural church: how do people see church in our current context?	Presbytery Minister – Mission Development, UCA Tasmania	5
<p>This is the topic for Michelle's PhD Research in Practical Theology. The research will bring interviews with young adults in the UCA around their understanding of being a covenanting and multicultural church into dialogue with official UCA Assembly statements on these topics.</p>			
Rev Dr Adam McIntosh & Rev Rosemary Broadstock	Developing missional leadership: reflections on the Port Phillip West "Regenerating the Church" strategy.	Presbytery Minister, Mission & Education and Mission Development Strategist, Port Phillip West Presbytery, Victoria	6
<p><i>Regenerating the Church</i> is a strategy developed by the Presbytery of Port Phillip West in 2013. A goal of this strategy is the identification, nurturing and developing of missional leadership for the development of fresh expressions of church and the renewal of existing congregations. This presentation will reflect on the early stages of the <i>Regenerating the Church</i>.</p>			
Rev Christine Gilbert	Deep down and all around: facilitating conversations with the sacred through multi-sensory engagements	Minister, St Andrews by the Sea UC, Glenelg SA	7
<p>Dreams, visions, rituals, symbols, poetry, and metaphors abound in scripture revealing a God who relates in creative, non-prosaic ways. As such, multi-sensory engagements that are by nature creative and non-prosaic, have the potential to facilitate encounters with the divine giving shape to an enlivened faith that is engaged in the world.</p>			

8.00 pm Presentations

Presenter	Title and Description	Person	Room
Rev Dr Christine Sorensen	Self-awareness and mindfulness: learning from traditions and current experience about forming reflexive disciples and leaders	Formation Co-ordinator, Centre for Theology and Ministry, UCA Victoria and Tasmania	1
<p>"Mindfulness" has become a commonly used term in secular and spiritual arenas: in this workshop we will consider what mindfulness is, how it relates to Christian spiritual traditions, and how it may be useful in contemporary discipleship and formation.</p>			
Rev Dr Rob McFarlane	Grounding the Bible: The role of biblical pilgrimage in adult faith development	Mission Education Officer, Moreton Rivers Presbytery, UCA QLD	2
<p>In recent years there has been a growing movement of biblically-focused study tours to Middle Eastern countries. This paper explores the impact of such "theo-tourism" on participants' formation, education and discipleship. The concept of Biblical pilgrimage is also a powerful tool for spiritual formation even in our own physical location, eg retreat programs.</p>			
Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes	Learning from neuroscience for faith formation: enhancing our creation of the environment and practices for faith development	Executive Director, Centre for Theology and Ministry, UCA Victoria and Tasmania	3
<p>The insights into how our brains work can enhance our creation of the environment and practices for faith development. This presentation will offer a brief introduction to the arena of neuroscience and delve into some of the consequences for the Christian journey of discipleship, formation and education.</p>			
Rev Dr Tony Floyd	Riding the rainbow of promise: discipleship as diversity – difference – destination	Former UCA National Director of Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Ministries	4
<p>Churches in Australia are increasingly blindsided by assumptions about theology, scripture, spirituality and discipleship formation that are locked in to western philosophical and theological frameworks. Through story-telling and story-listening, imagination, and conversation this paper will explore discipleship as diversity, difference and destination in a church committed to living its faith and life cross-culturally.</p>			
Rev Duncan Macleod	The gospel and communities of practice: intentional communities of prayer, theological reflection, prayer, action and rhythms of life.	Director, Uniting Learning Network, UCA NSW–ACT	5
<p>In an era in which individualism has led to the privatisation of religion in Australia, the Uniting Church has the challenge of developing and supporting intentional communities in which the Christian gospel is embodied in prayer, theological reflection, prayer, action and communal rhythms of life. This paper will explore connections between the current thinking around communities of practice, as explored by cognitive anthropologists Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger, and the multi-faceted approach to Christian gospel as explored by missiologist John Driver.</p>			
Rev Dr Ian Robinson	"Makes You Wonder": ways to help everyone share faith in their own voice for their own world	UCA Chaplain, University of Western Australia	6
<p>Probably the most pressing need in the church today is to find a fresh way to make disciples. Most of us are tired to think of old models of evangelism 'bringing them to commitment' or the anti-evangelism "we don't go for bums on seats round here'. There are ways to help everyone to find their own voice with their faith for their own world. It requires the growth of confidence through exercises and support systems.</p>			
Dr Val Webb	Evolving metaphors for Divine Mystery: God-images and faith formation	Theologian, Author, Speaker	7
<p>How we imagine God is essential for faith formation. It determines how we relate to God and even whether we can believe in a God at all. This presentation will trace metaphors for God through biblical and church history, demonstrating how they have evolved, changed, and even rejected in different contexts and world views. The paper will also consider images for Divine Mystery that can be accommodated in a scientific world. (Based on Val's books <i>Like Catching Water in a Net: human attempts to describe the Divine</i> (Continuum Bloomsbury 2007) and <i>Stepping out with the Sacred: human attempts to engage the Divine</i> (Continuum Bloomsbury 2010).</p>			