



UCAF Report to Australian Church Women

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) has, through its members been very active in the life of the Church and many communities in the last three years.

The National Committee's role is to plan, co-ordinate, and facilitate activities for its members under the approved Mission statement –

“To facilitate the network of Adult Fellowships nationally in order to promote the mission and witness of the Uniting Church in Australia.”

In the 2006–2009 triennium the National Committee has been based in Queensland, Through the leadership of Mrs Alyson Madsen (President) and the committee much has been accomplished throughout Australia and in other parts of the world.

In her report to the Twelfth Assembly of the Uniting Church, Mrs Madsen said “There are approximately 18,000 members nationwide; who bring diverse gifts, are extremely loyal and committed to the service of the church. Arguably, they are the “glue” which holds many congregations together. Each fellowship group brings together members for spiritual, social, educational, recreational, service, and mission support activities.” These activities are organised at local level and report to their State's Synod Committee.

The National Committee has a co-ordinating role with the Synod Committees. Nationally we are linked with, relate to, and pay affiliation fees to two world bodies: The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Department of Partnerships of Women and Men). Our Ecumenical Liaison member has corresponded with our thirty-three partner churches in the Pacific, Asia, India and Africa.

The theme for the triennium was “Let the Son Shine Through” and each affiliated group was challenged to use the theme in such a way that the Uniting Church could exhibit the love of God to the wider communities in which they live. This, in fact means, in excess of 18,000 women and men are witnessing to the people of Australia.

Some 2,400 rugs (approx. 48,000 squares) ‘were created, as members of fellowship groups throughout Australia were encouraged to knit, crochet or sew a square from warm material’ for the major project. The squares became rugs of all colours, sizes and textures to be distributed through Uniting International Mission and other agencies to people in many situations including – orphanages in Russia, Uganda, Mongolia, Zambia, Shi-Loh Church ministry; the Papua New Guinea Cyclone Appeal; Nan Province, North Thailand; fire victims in Nepal and Kinglake; in PNG Highlands; Cambodia; to Solomon Islands (for new born babies); World Vision; to Equestrian Group Members isolated in Warwick (Equine Flu); as well as many agencies/people in Australia.

Nine Australians were amongst 2000 women who attended the conference of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women held (May 2006) in Jeju Island, Korea. At the Conference the Australian contingent, agreed to embody the eight Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations and encourage all Fellowships to incorporate at least one of the Goals into their annual program.

Alyson Madsen joined a Uniting Church Assembly team of delegates to the World Methodist Conference in Seoul, a gathering of some 3,500 Christians from all over the world to experience diversity of spiritual expression, challenges confronting many countries, expressions of faith, daily worship and fellowship .In

practical support for our prayer partner, the Solomon Islands, Pose Telasasa accepted an invitation to join with us at the World Assembly

During September 2008 thirty-four Australians attended the South Pacific Area Seminar of the WFM&UCW held in Tonga with a number of our Solomon Island and Thursday Island friends accepting an invitation to join us. Ann Connan (Victoria), currently Vice-President of the South Pacific Area of WFM&UCW, provided leadership in the Bible Studies.

The National Celebration held in the early part of the triennium and the National Consultation at the close provide opportunities for people across Australia to gather. At the Consultation (May 2009) the 2009 – 2012 National Committee from the Synod of NSW and ACT was introduced and commissioned.

Greenhills Centre, Canberra, is the venue for the National Celebration to be held 21 – 25 April 2010 picking up the theme '*For such a time as this.....*'

Rev Alistair Christie
Chairperson
National Adult Fellowship Committee
2009 – 2012