

A Destiny Together

Justice for First Peoples

A Week of Prayer and Fasting
17-23 March 2014

What is *A Destiny Together*?

A Destiny Together is a call from the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia to all Church members to participate in a week of prayer and fasting for justice for First Peoples. It is a reflection of the Church's commitment to work together for justice, recognition and reconciliation and to bear witness to the genuine transformation of relationship that is possible through God's love in Jesus Christ.

A nationwide week of prayer, fasting and reflection

The heart of the week will be a nationwide movement of Uniting Church members, groups and congregations engaged in prayer, fasting and reflection. There will be many different ways to participate: through daily personal fasting and prayer, organising a public vigil in your suburb or town, and daily prayer and Sunday services in church.

A public prayer vigil in Canberra

A Destiny Together will feature a public prayer vigil on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra, on Tuesday 18 March. All Uniting Church members are invited to come to Canberra to participate in this service—a public witness to both our grief at the continued injustice, racism and exclusion suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our belief that recognition, justice and reconciliation are possible when we work together. The vigil will be led by the Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), Rev. Ronang Garrawurra, and the President of the Uniting Church, Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney.

Where did the Week of Prayer and Fasting originate?

In July 2012 in Adelaide, the 13th Assembly of the Uniting Church listened to members of the UAICC tell stories about the effects of the Federal Government's 'Stronger Futures' laws (and the 'Intervention' before that) on their lives and their communities. Those present were so moved by these stories of harm and exclusion that they resolved to call all Uniting Church members and congregations to participate in a week of fasting, prayer and reflection.

The theme for the week, 'A Destiny Together', is a phrase from the Church's Preamble to the Constitution and speaks of the Church's belief that it is all of us together who are responsible for building a reconciled nation.

Where can I find more information?

The Assembly, led by UnitingJustice Australia working in partnership with UAICC, will provide a variety of resources for the week.

You can keep up to date with all the news on the Facebook page facebook.com/adestinystogether/

Visit the Assembly's website assembly.uca.org.au/adestinystogether to

- register to attend the public vigil in Canberra on 18 March 2014
- access the resources developed by the Assembly for the week—these will include daily prayers, worship resources, and spiritual and practical guides to fasting
- subscribe to our email newsletter updates

If you need more information, contact the Assembly's Project Officer, Jennifer Whyte, via email, jenniferwhyte@nat.uca.org.au or phone (02) 8267 4238.



13th Assembly Resolution

12.37 WEEK OF PRAYER AND FASTING

The Assembly resolved to:

call the members of the Uniting Church to a week of prayer and fasting for justice for Indigenous Australians, culminating in a public prayer vigil at Parliament House in Canberra to be led by the UAICC Chairperson and the President;

- request UnitingJustice Australia to work with UAICC and UnitingCare Australia to determine the most appropriate date, and to resource and enable members to participate in this action;
- encourage every presbytery to send at least two representatives to the vigil; and
- invite other Christian Churches to participate in this activity.

