**DIGEST OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA**

**November 15th Myrtleford UCA**

The fourth meeting of Presbytery for 2018 was held at Myrtleford UCA, and was chaired by Helen Collins

**Worship**, was led by Rev Andrew Delbridge and included the Service of Induction conducted by Chairperson Helen Collins of Rev Tony Davies as Presbytery Minister, Pastoral Care and Mission and Rev Richard Franklin as Presbytery Minister Administration and Strategy. Richard will also carry out the duties of eLM Liaison.

We thank **Rev Deacon Jeanne Beale for her work as Supply PM Mission and Education**. Jeanne commenced her new role as a PM with Port Philip West this month.

**Heather Ackland, Project manager Congregational Support Services from Synod** outlined ways in which she can support congregations with administration and financial matters. Members also suggested ways in which Heather’s department could help them.

**Rev Mat Harry – Project Officer New and Renewing Communities – eLM** – Mat raised many questions with the group – how do you take people on a journey of discipleship? How do we improve/build on what we are doing? He encouraged us to think about people who were previously involved in our congregations who might be interested in doing something different. What might that look like?

**Rev Rachel Franklin updated the Presbytery on matters relating to Safe Church** – over 600 people in our Presbytery have completed Working With Children Checks. All congregations are urged to complete and send in their 2018 Progress Reports to Rachel asap. Synod needs to know that all congregations have completed the requirements of the UCA Safe Church Processes.

**ARRM – Alpine Regional Resource Ministries** – members from those congregations present shared details of their participation in this resource ministry. All appreciate having Andrew as their minister. Andrew attends Church Council meetings where possible, leads worship at least once a quarter in each congregation and assists with resources for worship and advice on other matters as they arise. Congregations are trialling different ways of worship – eg Café Church in Mt Beauty at least 2 Sundays per months, a combined gathering of all the congregations was held at Beechworth in the park last month, Corryong are continuing their Starlight children’s programme and have an annual ecumenical service and Beechworth have had afternoon services styled along the lines of Messy Church, which are proving popular. Myrtleford also told of their support for a Timorese community.

Reports were received. Please see your representatives for details.

**Future Workshops:** Rev Brian Spencer will be conducting Social Media in-Services – more details to come.

Shepparton Dec 8 “ Keeping the Faith” – for people of youthful age – all welcome!

Barry Fish reminded congregations that unless they contact him their Mission and Service Contributions for 2019 will be as notified recently.

Presbytery has been successful in **gaining funding** for .5 additional funding to enable us to have another full-time PM Education, Resource and Innovative Support. This profile is currently with the Placements Committee. We have also obtained funding for 5 years for a .3 Secretarial position.

Table groups spent time discussing priorities for this Presbytery for 2019. These will be taken into account as we form our Vision and Mission Statements for 2019 and beyond.

Presbytery welcomes **Wendie Wilkie** who has joined the Property and Finance Committee. We thank Gwen Younger for her work as she retires from the committee after many years of selfless service.

Presbytery Calendar for 2019 and ‘Praying For Others’ schedules were distributed. Copies available on website.

**Rev Glenys Gill** will retire from ministry next year. Her Service of Release will be held at Euroa, Sunday Jan 28th commencing at 10:30am

**Hymn singing** was led by Meredith Briggs who introduced us to two new hymns.

The meeting concluded with Presbytery Reports and General Business. Helen Collins