

**Ministry update for Synod 2019**  
**Intergenerational Ministry – Young Adults**

Since starting half time in January 2019 I have sought to network and gain a deeper understanding of young adult ministries by connecting with young adult ministry leaders and ministerial agents from Port Philip East, Port Philip West, Yarra Yarra and Tasmanian Presbyteries. I will endeavour to connect with other presbyteries soon.

An important part of my networking work involves building and strengthening relationships with CALD congregation and community ministers and young adult leaders. I have made connections with Korean, Indonesian, Tongan and Fijian communities and will seek to create connections with other migrant ethnic communities in the months ahead.

The Next Gen Committee has been an important group in the life of the Synod. The committee has reconvened to reimagine its vision, direction and priorities. The committee was joined by eLM representative including Nigel Hanscamp (Director of Priorities, Focus and Advocacy), Bradon French (Intergenerational Ministry – Youth) and Sylvia Akauola Tongotongo (chair of the Synod Intercultural Forum).

One of the initial priorities has been to work with my colleagues Chris Barnett (Intergenerational Ministry – Children) and Bradon French (Intergenerational Ministry – Youth) as members of the Intergenerational team, to develop a unified ministry strategy.

Another initial priority has been to meet with eLM colleagues who work from the Centre for Theology and Ministry, to better understand their roles and responsibilities.

Key Events attended include:

- NYALC – Helping lead a group of young adults from VicTas to attend the National Young Adults Leaders Conference in Adelaide between 16-20 January.
- “Discipling Young Adults in the UCA” national gathering held on the 11-12 February. This gathering included representatives from all Synods to discuss a future national strategy around ministry with young people.
- Surrender Conference held between 21-23 March. <https://www.surrender.org.au/>
- Indonesian National Conference on the 6<sup>th</sup> April to build networks and heard about how they are resourcing and assisting the second generation.
- Somers Leadership Event on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. An opportunity to meet the Somers leadership team.

In preparation for this Synod Meeting, I have working with Fran Barber (Continuing Education and Leadership Development Coordinator) and Mel Perkins (Lay Leadership Development Coordinator) in compiling a congregational worship resource that may be used during Synod. Contributions to the resource were offered by a number of eLM colleagues.

At the invitation of Denise Liersch, the new moderator, the role of theological reflector at Synod will be offered by a group of young adults, resourced by Rev Dr Geoff Thompson and coordinated by myself. This is an exciting opportunity for the five young adults and synod members to hear their voice.



From the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019, I commenced full time in my role. I would deeply appreciate everyone's help in networking with young adult communities (both geographical and virtual) across the Synod. If you know key leaders and ministerial agents within congregations, agencies, universities, schools, prisons and the wider community who are connected with young adults, I would welcome the opportunity to connect with them.

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Finally, may I ask for your ongoing prayers as I seek to serve the Synod in my role. I am reminded my position is a privilege and I am here at the Lord's calling. My role depends on being deeply rooted in the Holy Spirit, to continually hear and obey the Spirit's leading and to be wise in every situation. Please pray that I would carry this heart.

Robin Yang  
May 2019

