

New and Renewing Report to Synod 2022

We are invited to live out the gospel within all different people groups in ways that are relatable and understandable to those groups (Acts 2) Our rapidly changing broader society can be said to be; post-institutional; post-binary gender; multi-faith; culturally diverse; post-patriarchal; post-colonial; and post-truth. It is within this context that as disciples we are called to embody and witness to the our faith and trust in Jesus. As complex and difficult as this may be it is the challenge God puts before us.

Some UCA Vic/Tas people do this by creating new Christian communities for different people than otherwise engaged in the existing churches. One such example of how people are doing this is Messy Church. This represents an adaptation of how the community gathers to engage with the stories of faith – recognising the unique opportunities that exist if we seek to develop interacting activities for different learning styles within intergenerational communities. Another example of a new community is the Sonder Collective who gather online to encourage and support each other in their faith. And another is Armstrong Creek. A video of their ministry and mission can be found [here](#). Wider conversations are happening to begin some other new faith communities within the synod.

Other UCA people lead this by Renewing the existing congregations. There are many ways in which people are attempting this. One example is by improving and developing a more engaging and welcoming online presence. Watch [this video](#) for more information.

Some communities are also developing a Welcoming Pathway to include people touched by the missional activities they offer.

Much of the New and Renewing work is advocating for clear pathways in order that people understand the next level of further engagement if they wish to take that step. To that end I provide my ministry in the role in the same way, providing ideas and information within the framework of alongside; invite; equip.

Activities **Alongside** Congregations & Presbyteries:-

- Presbytery events and newsletters
- Congregational events and worship
- Facebook engagement
- Synod Communications
- Speaking Engagements

Activities interested people are **Invited** to engage in:-

- Weekly email distribution
- Daily Facebook page posts
- YouTube Videos and Recordings

Opportunities for further **Equipping**:-

- Outdoor Worship Workshops
- Welcoming Church Workshops (2 series with almost 100 participants)
- Monthly Leadership Coaching
- Strategic Workshops for Congregational Transition (Customised)



Moving forward **Equipping** will also include:-

- Further offerings of Outdoor Worship Workshops
- Further Refinement of Strategic Workshops for Congregational Transition emphasising Development of a clear Change Model

Some of the communities alongside the New & Renewing Ministries actions over the past 18 months include:-

- Presbyteries - PPW, North-East, PPE, Loddon-Mallee & Gippsland.
- Congregations – Chalice, Habitat, Queenscliffe, Parkdale, Surf Coast Network, Ashburton, Tatura, Benalla, Armstrong Creek, Kerang, Manningham, Banyule Network, Brown Hill & Westernport Cluster.

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