



# WESLEY PLACE

Farewell old friend



**As we prepare to move to Wesley Place, we pause to reflect on the building we're about to leave – The Synod Centre at 130 Little Collins St.**

The site was originally acquired by the Methodist Church in 1961 with the intention of constructing a purpose-built building to be the Church's administrative home, a dream which was realised seven years later. When the Uniting Church in Australia was formed in 1977, 130 Little Collins Street became the home of the Synod of Victoria, and later of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

Much has changed since 1968. So too had 130 Little Collins Street, including a total remodelling of the ground and first floors and numerous configuration changes elsewhere throughout the building over the decades.

However, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, not only was the building showing its age, but it was already struggling to fully meet the current needs of the Church.

Within a 2014 Whole of Church letter, then Moderator Dan Wootton informed the Synod of the Synod Standing Committee's (SSC) approval of the proposal to sell 130 Little Collins Street and enter into a ground-lease arrangement for the development of the property now known as Wesley Place. That announcement included SSC's request for a revised allocation of the proceeds to include a specific allocation for 'whole of Church mission'.



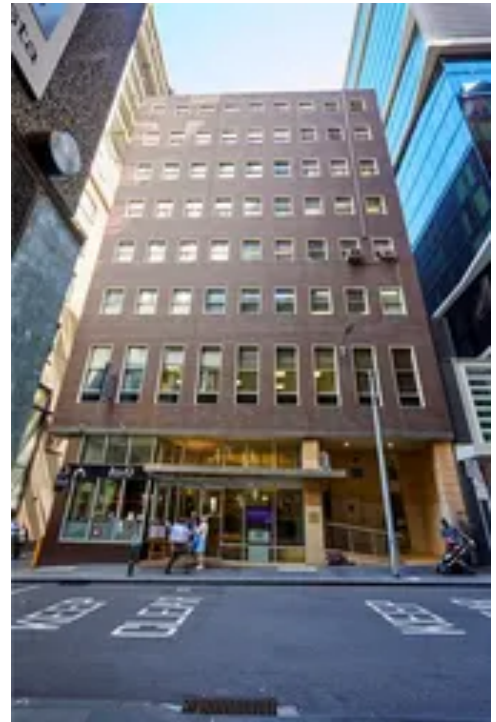
Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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This announcement was made prior to the Synod concluding the process of the Major Strategic Review (MSR), which included a focus on seeking to establish long-term plans for financial sustainability of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, its agencies and its mission.

The MSR recommendations were subsequently presented and approved at the June 2016 and September 2017 Synod meetings. These included a number of initiatives designed specifically to support and foster 'whole of Church mission', including the establishment of what is now known as the equipping Leadership for Mission (eLM) unit.

Upon further reflection and discernment, with a new Synod unit structure in place, based on current financial sustainability knowledge and wider mission resourcing in the Church, and taking account of the SSC's 2014 resolution, the current SSC recently approved the need to secure long-term occupancy tenancy at Wesley Place with a review to be conducted at least every 5 years.



Over the years, many in our Church have known 130 Little Collins Street, either as a place of work or as somewhere they have visited, or both. Many of us will have our own memories of the building, of colleagues and of friends, and of times shared together there. A number of decommissioning events and services were planned before we moved. Alas, due to the current COVID-19 restrictions these will not be possible.

However, despite this we can take heart that the returns generated from the sale of 130 Little Collins Street will be used to provide the whole of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania with a new home, under one united roof within the new Wesley Place, for decades to come. In a sense, even after we move to Wesley Place, 130 Little Collins St will provide the resources for our Synod's home for decades to come.

**So farewell old friend. We will miss you, but are thankful for the life and mission that was fostered from within your walls.**



*June 29, 2020: the final meeting held in the G1 & G2 rooms at 130 Little Collins St.*



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