



Ministry update for Synod 2020

Intercultural Community Development

Exercising ministry since the pandemic has been very challenging. Not able to visit CALD congregations / Faith Communities have affected the effectiveness of my ministry. Able to keep in touch with the ministers / pastors/leaders via phone or zoom to listen, encourage and resource have been worthwhile but had its limitations. I had stay in contact and collaborate and resource presbytery ministers whenever possible. Again, this was limited due to the shuts down.

I continue to offer 'Introduction to UCA Workshop' with colleagues in eLM. Unfortunately we could only offer three workshops to three CALD faith communities. I also participated in a Church Council Training with Port Philip East Presbytery for Springvale Uniting Church.

During the lockdown I have focused on preparing at least five Intercultural workshops. These are at different stages of completion.

1. gRACE and RACE Workshop
2. Honour and Shame Workshop
3. Self-awareness Workshop
4. The Six Core Values of Uniting Church Workshop
5. Unconscious Biases Workshop

Three issues that I have identified from many visitations and conversations I had with the members of CALD communities the last few years that we need to focus on:

1. How to communicate with CALD communities that English is not the first language and most members have very limited capability of English language?
2. A need to minister to CALD women within the within the CALD communities. They are the "forgotten" group within the work of the Synod. There are particular challenges that the CALD women face that we need to become more aware off and resource.
3. The need to offer intercultural awareness and competency workshops for Presbyteries and Congregations is urgent. Lack of these skills have contributed to misunderstandings and in some cases a breakdown of relationships.

I thank God for the privilege of serving God's people in our Synod and the wider church.

Rev Swee Ann Koh

Rev Swee Ann Koh completed his ministry term in January 2021.

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