

# REOPENING OUR DOORS

VACCINATION AND  
NAVIGATING THE ROAD AHEAD



## Reflections on Moderator's forum **Rev Jennie Gordon**

### **Beginning**

Gathering in respectful, muted online silence and short replies.

Backgrounds curated, blurred and open.

Renaming ourselves to be recognisable.

Acknowledging the lands that we gather on.

Respecting the custodians and elders and committing again to the covenant of walking together.

### **Gospel**

Here is a longing and opportunity for radical hospitality.

The imperative of being the body of Christ is essentially physical, encountering the richness of needing and reading the gathered body.

Whoever wants to save their life will lose it ... what do we need to lose in order to live?

We are walking out of the wilderness, and being called back to basics – what have we carried, collected, left behind?

### **Questions**

What does it mean to be inclusive?

What does it mean to love our neighbour?

What happens when virtual reality becomes reality?

How important is it to meet face to face?

What is the witness to the faith in our choices?

### **Pain**

The injustice of unequal vaccinations across the world (Tanzania 1.4%)

That bodies can be a threat to other bodies.

We are separated communities in many ways.

That the perception of the church as judgemental and non-inclusive could be strengthened.

Whatever decisions we make, people will be excluded.

### **Joy**

That the Spirit keeps the light aflame in every window in the village.

Here is an opportunity to be made new.

Potential of being a kingdom people.

Being connected more broadly, part of a bigger community of churches who can respond together with different offerings.

### **Challenges**

Being over-cautious.

Countering misinformation.

The Pope's message that everyone has a duty to be vaccinated.

Waiting to return – to what? To a reimagined possibility?

Being sensitive to people's individual personal history in their choices about vaccination.

Moving as fast as the slowest member.

Being mindful of other church/community groups as well as the worshipping community.

Wondering if Holy Communion is different in services for the vaccinated or undeclared?

*Continued over*



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

# REOPENING OUR DOORS

VACCINATION AND  
NAVIGATING THE ROAD AHEAD



## Hope

A strong longing to be together.  
An invitation into deep and resonant  
conversations.  
That the Spirit will correct that which is  
erroneous in our life (see Basis of Union).  
Separate pencils and utensils for Messy Church.

## Insights

Being welcoming can also mean being  
excluding and/or unsafe.  
We are not promising a COVID-free zone even if  
we are all vaccinated.  
We need to enter into the discussion and  
decisions with intentional consciousness.

## Blessing

May you be gathered, gathered,  
gathered as you walk  
this wilderness of longing, longing,  
longing to be the body, body  
body of Christ.

May the Spirit dwell in the spaces,  
in the spaces between your face to faces,  
and the ever-present stranger  
waiting at the open door.

May you travel light and carry  
what you need of hope and courage,  
in the constant costly company  
of incarnated love.

Rev Jennie Gordon

©2021 Permission given for use with acknowledgement



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA