

**DIGEST OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA
February 16th Benalla UCA**

The first meeting of Presbytery for 2019 was held at Benalla UCA, chaired by Helen Collins

Worship, was led by Rev Richard Franklin and included the Service of re-commissioning and commissioning of Committee Chairs and members for 2019. Elections for 2020 -2022 Office Bearers will be held at the November meeting of Presbytery.

Book Launch: Rev Tony Davies launched Rev Lance Armstrong's latest book: **Search for Meaning**. We were delighted to have Lance present at the meeting. Copies of the book are available from Lance - \$10.

Dr Jessica Hateley-Browne from the Centre for Evidence and Implementation led a discussion on the VAD (**Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation**). Jess has been employed by the Synod of Vic Tas to produce a report and suggested proposals to the July Synod meeting re the Church's position on the VAD Legislation which will commence in Vic in Jun 2019. Four general options were put up for discussion: 1. No care, support, referral or participation. 2 Care, support and referral- but no participation 3. Care, support, referral and participation. 4 Permission for agencies, UCA members and staff to explore according to their values and support. More detail will be in the minutes of the meeting and slides are available from Helen Collins or Secretary Tanya. People are able to email Jess with their thoughts prior to Feb 28.

Mel Perkins – Lay Leadership Development Co-ordinator from eLM led a discussion on the nature of lay leadership. Table groups were able to provide Mel with ideas re the skills they think they will need in the future in order to be effective lay leaders.

Hymn singing was led by Steve Winkler after lunch.

Jennifer Sleep , Executive Officer Uniting Goulburn North East and Rev John Walker, Director for Mission, gave an update on the work of Uniting in our presbytery which includes Humanitarian Settlement, NDIS Support, Emergency Relief – Building Resilient Communities, Financial Counselling, Gambling Counselling, Respite Care, Independent Living Units, home-care packages and a Child Youth programme. Uniting will work closely with other relief providers in the future.

John spoke of the need to create **LEGS (Local Engagement Groups)** in the larger centres eg Albury/Wodonga. These to include reps from Presbytery, Local Congregations and the wider community. One of their tasks will be to identify the needs of the local area and to organise fund raising.

Tanya Walker outlined the Community Garden established late last year in Benalla with the aid of a local philanthropic grant. A means of exploring different types of gardens as well as reaching out to the wider community to create a space for belonging. Food is often used in providing the weekly free lunches.

NOTICES: Glen from Beechworth requested prayers for the continuation of their Sunday afternoon Messy Church services.

Joan McRae reminded all of the Lay Preachers day to be held in Euroa March 30 – open to all not just lay preachers.

Rev Tony Davies PMPCandM outlined the nature of a resource kit: **Lead With Your Strength**. This programme is useful for Lay Leaders, Elders and Church Councillors. Presbytery has the Kit available and Tony is willing to lead workshops for congregations wishing to explore this material. All Church leaders are reminded that they need to have a current Working With Children Check. Please advise Tanya asap of any changes in Church Council and Congregational Office Bearers and Presbytery Reps. Email addresses to be included as the Presbytery would like to organise paper free meetings in the future.

Rev Richard Franklin spoke briefly to his written report on Strategy which will be the topic for discussion at the next meeting. Members are invited to contribute suggestions for a Vision Statement for the Presbytery.

Barry Fish advised members that **Bill Gerritsen** will be assisting the PFAC with OHS concerns. Two Church buildings have been sold – Womboota and Tungamah

Susan Cheetham : Presbytery accepted the recommendation from the PRC on information from the Lay Preachers' Committee that Susan, having completed the prescribed requirements, be recognised as a Lay Preacher in the UCA.

Barry Fish read a Memorial Minute for the late Rev Latu Moimoi and Rev Glenys Gill concluded with the Prayers of the People.
Helen Collins