

## Digest of Presbytery Meeting held at Kyabram Uniting Church

Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

The meeting commenced with worship led by Rev Iain Nixon, recently inducted as Minister of the Word in the Kyabram and Cooma congregations. Iain reflected on the importance of perseverance and the support of the Holy Spirit as we continue our Christian journey. Worship also included the induction of the Rev Brian Spencer as Education, Resource and Innovative Support Minister working across the Presbytery.

**Rev Loni Vaitohi reported on aspects of the President's Conference in Fiji – For the Whole of Creation:** whilst a visual report prepared by Tanya was screened. Extreme concern was expressed at the effects of climate change on the lives of the Pacific Islanders. As a result of this the meeting passed the following Resolution: **That the Presbytery of North East Victoria, the Uniting Church in Australia, wishes to express its extreme disappointment that the Australian delegation to the Pacific Island Forum in Tuvalu was unable to endorse the Funafuti Statement on the climate emergency prepared by the Pacific Island nations. We refute the inference that the Australian economy is more important than the lands, seas and lives of our neighbours in the Pacific who are bearing the consequences of rising sea levels in all aspects of their lives.** To be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Greens, Members of Federal Parliament from the area covered by the Presbytery and the Gen Sec Synod Vic/Tas. Loni also spoke of his support of migrant workers who spend 9 months of each year working in Australia to support their Pacific Island families. Loni also encouraged people to join the Assembly Circle of Working for Justice.

**Synod 2019:** Jen Shields reflected on her experience of Synod as Chaplain to the newly elected moderator, Rev Denise Liersch. Cam Shields was one of the younger theological reflectors assisted by Rev Robin Yang and Rev Dr Geoff Thompson – an opportunity to voice opinions of youth on matters of property, mission, stewardship. Sunny Kim attending her first Synod meeting, was amazed by the size of the meeting, the respectful use of consensus decision making and the opportunity to meet with many Korean ministers and share her journey to become a Lay Preacher. The meeting later agreed, following a recommendation from PRC to recognise Sunny as a Lay Preacher – the first Korean female LP in this Synod. Denise Naish reflected on the opportunities for ministers to network during the meeting. Ken Faulkner too appreciated the time to talk with those sections of the church involved in work on matters of Social Justice – JIM, Uniting Housing. Family Violence etc. All spoke of the respectful way in which the proposal regarding Voluntary Assisted Dying was handled.

**Rev Robin Yang – Intergenerational Ministry, Young Adults, eLM** outlined his role with eLM. 'The Church is at its best when all generations are present – serving, worshipping, leading together. He sees his role as building bridges between individuals and the church, the CALD communities and the wider church, and the Church and the wider community.

**Rev Jinsoen Park spoke of the Outreach work of the Open Café at Nathalia** UCA likening it to the parable of the mustard seed. People are invited to the weekly café through personal invitations and ads in the local press.

**Notices:** Nominations are due Nov 15 for all Presbytery Roles and Committee. Elections to be held at Nov 21 Pres meeting, JIM Conference on Climate Change Sept 7, 12<sup>th</sup> October Sister Patricia Fox will be at St Stephens in Wodonga, Tues Nov 19 6pm Social Justice group Wodonga St Stephen's hosting Senior Analyst UCA, Field days October 25, 26; LP Course: Exploring the NT commences Sept – contact Brian Spencer or Joan McRae, Service of release Rev Berlin Guerrero Oct 13, 4pm Emmanuel Anglican/Uniting West Wodonga Meeting agreed to proposal to commit to ways of exploring different ways of meeting in 2020 and at times which will enable under 50's to attend.

For more details see Minutes of Meeting when available. Helen Collins Chairperson