



The ACC Newsletter

Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia

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Next newsletter October 2007: Deadline for submission: October 5, 2007

1. New Website

YES the new site has arrived –

www.confessingcongregations.com

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS. The web designer and Revd Hedley Fihaki have done a marvellous job of updating the website and there are many new inclusions including areas for the state networks, prayer needs, forums and resources. **Remember this is your website.**

Hedley has particularly asked that people help to keep our website 'active and alive' by contributing to discussions on our forum as well as sending in photos and good news stories, prayer requests, articles, sermons, video clips etc to post.
"This is one way we can let the world know that we are a living and active Christ-filled community."

2. State and Region Reports

NEW SOUTH WALES

Report on the day of Learning and Encouragement at Wesley Institute

The Unchanging Gospel Day held on 11 August had nearly 70 registrations with most people being ACC individual members or coming from ACC member congregations. It was an excellent day with two first-rate biblical addresses by Dr Jim Harrison, opening with Jesus and his revolutionary social criticism, and to concluding with an examination of Paul's unique culture apologetics. There were also helpful introductory workshops in areas of theology, dance, and counselling. We were pleased that people travelled from the Hunter and Riverina to participate.

Wesley Institute is proposing to help ACC members and congregations in 2008 with the following events:

Ministry Workers' Conference - 2 days in February seen as a conference and retreat, a "gathering around the Word". (Open to ordained, lay and other leaders and members)

An intensive five day conference/workshop is planned for 5 - 9 May 2008, currently titled "Ministry with the Sexually Broken."

Synod 2007. The NSW Committee are planning to hold a breakfast meeting during the Annual Synod: Monday 8 October is the suggested date, but if you are not on e-mail and are attending the Synod please check with the Committee contact or the ACC office for further details.

The ACC NSW Committee will next meet on **Friday 2 November at Wesley Institute.** There will be a time of prayer at 9.30am and the meeting will begin at 10.00am, in Room B204.

Forward Notice for all ACC NSW Members:

There will be a meeting of the ACC - NSW Movement on **Saturday 8 December, from 10.00am to 12 noon at Sutherland Uniting Church.**

If you have any news and information for the NSW Committee please contact:

Bruce Fairhall

Hon. Secretary

Email: bruce@fairhall.id.au

Phone: (02) 4571 1019

QUEENSLAND

Rev. Rod James has been touring Queensland (and part of NSW) since August 13, concluding September 7 2007. Many members have received Rod's schedule as a prayer bulletin and full details have been on the website. The final part of his journey is included below. Rod has been meeting many ACC members in home groups and at their local churches.

August

Sun 26 th	am	Preach at Mackay
Mon 27 th	Daytime	Mackay to Rockhampton; then to Gladstone, then Bundaberg
Tues 28 th	Daytime	Bundaberg to Maryborough; Maryborough to Gympie; Gympie to Maroochydore;
Wed 29 th		Maroochydore to Brisbane
Thurs 30 th - Fri 31 st		Brisbane, Gold Coast, etc

September

Sat 1 st	Daytime	Brisbane to Toowoomba; then Dalby and St George
Sun 2 nd	am	Preach at St George
Mon 3 rd - Tues 4 th		The Downs
Wed 5 th	Daytime	St George to Narrabri
Thurs 6 th	Daytime	Coonabarabran to Hay
Fri 7 th	Daytime	Hay to Adelaide

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Anglican Archbishop of Sydney Rev Peter Jensen met ACC members and friends at Glenunga Uniting Church Adelaide 6th August 2007. The Archbishop's visit to the area coincided with the ACC SA Steering Committee meeting, and he was invited to speak.

Revd Ted Curnow reports.

A rather warm and friendly Archbishop of Sydney, Peter Jensen began his address with a strong affirmation for those in the Uniting Church who were making a stand on important issues. He said no one liked tension or division but it was extremely important for the whole church in Australia to know that there is continuing opposition to the Assembly decision on sexuality and on matters contrary to the faith.

While sharing something of his own spiritual journey the Archbishop spoke about the acute secularisation of our culture and what he described as raging individualism as a toxic sea in which Christians swim today. Yet he made it clear that to refuse to change and to relate to the world is as bad as being enmeshed in the world. He noted that when we turn away from the essentials of Christian teaching like the deity of Christ and the structure of biblical truth, we get rid of Christianity and this leads to the collapse of sound ethics.

The huge assault on Christianity in recent years he said had affected the Church in the West deeply and led to its enculturalisation and ultimately to translations and distortions like those of Bishop Spong's.

Confessing the faith is very important. We need to be decisive saying a clear yes or no to issues on the basis of God's Word. We also need to anticipate the pain and cost involved of long term friends sometimes choosing to distance themselves from us. Confession also unites and the Archbishop illustrated this by acknowledging his delight in accepting the invitation to address us in a Uniting Church. While some want to align Evangelicals with extreme Fundamentalism, Jensen pointed out that historically Fundamentalism is understood as a recent development where people turn in upon themselves and self-destruct. This is very different from what it means to be Evangelical. Evangelicals have a much longer history based on sound Biblical scholarship and a compassionate outward focus. We must ensure that our main aim is always to reach out to others and to introduce them to Christ

OTHER NEWS

Forward Notice: Mini-Conference Focusing on the Bible

Note – the SA ACC conference has been postponed to later in the year.

3. National Council

Next Meeting: Council members and Commission and Board representatives will meet in Sydney: 12 noon Monday 8th October until 5 pm Tuesday 9th October 2007. This is a one-off meeting to enable members to discuss issues and matters before the annual meeting in November. **Comments from ACC members and congregations are always welcome and can be e-mailed to Revd Ivan Kirk: i.kirk@confessingcongregations.com**

Or sent to the ACC Office: Attention The ACC Secretary.
PO Box 968, Newtown 2042

4. ACC MAGAZINE - Catalyst

The second edition of the magazine will be out in September. All members will receive a copy direct by mail through the Melbourne distribution house the printer uses. Thank you to all members who have provided comments to the office about the first magazine (all comments have been relayed to the Board of Communication).

Note: All members receive the magazine as part of their membership. A subscription price of \$25 (four issues) has now been set for non-members.

5. ANNUAL CONFERENCE: November 15 – 17 2007

Hopefully everyone has received their registration forms for the AGM and Conference. Please contact the office if you need more copies of the brochure. Day rates have not been included due to lack of space, but if you can only make a day, please note this on your form and include the relevant amount below.

Thursday 15 th November	\$50.00 (includes afternoon tea and dinner)
Friday 16 th November	\$70.00 (includes tea/coffee, lunch and dinner)
Saturday 17 th November	\$40.00 (includes lunch)

6. Bill Graham Crusade Jubilee – Stories to Tell?

To commemorate the 1959 Bill Graham Crusades, a book of personal stories of life-changing experiences is being compiled by Revd Bruce Thornton, the Secretary of the NSW Council of Churches. An invitation is extended to those with a story to tell to contact Bruce. Contributions (up to 2000 words) should be provided preferably in Word format.

Contact: PO Box 2029, Burwood North NSW 2134