



The ACC Newsletter

Assembly of Confessing Congregations
within the Uniting Church in Australia Incorporated

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No. 5 October 2007

Next newsletter November 2007: Deadline for submission: November 20, 2007

1. New Website

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE BOOK MARK THE NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS AND ADVISE YOUR FRIENDS:

www.confessingcongregations.com

FORUM DISCUSSIONS

Hedley Fihaki and Peter Bentley are considering having forum discussions probably each month. Feedback on this idea and timing (night – day and time) appreciated.

Please continue to send 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

GENERAL MEETING OF ALL NSW MEMBERS:

There will be a meeting of all members of the ACC - NSW Movement on **Saturday 8 December, from 10.00am to 12 noon at Sutherland Uniting Church, Merton and Flora Streets**. Please note this date in your diary.

If you have any matters you would like raised please contact Bruce Fairhall before **Friday 2 November** (this is when the ACC NSW Committee meets.)

Email: bruce@fairhall.id.au; **Phone:** (02) 4571 1019

Newcastle Regional Group

Alton Bowen reports that the next meeting of the ACC members in the Newcastle area will be held at 2.30 pm Sunday 21st October at Grinsell St Kotara UC. The group is up to Study No 5 of "The Freedom Walk". All members are welcome and if you are visiting the area please drop in for the fellowship and study.

Ministry Workers' Conference 2008 – The date is now set for 20 – 21

February. This will be a vital conference and retreat - a "gathering around the Word", and is open to ordained, lay and other leaders and members.

Dr John Dickson is the speaker for Thursday 21 February. The location will be at a conference/retreat centre in Sydney metro area, so people from other states are very welcome. Further details will follow, so if you are interested make sure you keep these dates free.

LIVING WATERS EVENTS AND COURSES

ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE. Beauty & The Breach: a course for couples to rediscover the good gift of marriage in the wake of sexual sin.

Led by Ruth & Ron Brookman @ the Living Waters Centre on Tuesday nights in 4th term 8 weeks commencing 23/10/07 Applications close Friday 12th October.

\$50 per couple.

The course provides a group format for couples to work out their healing together in the Living Waters way. For more info or to join contact Ron @ 9529 0022 or 0425 225386

Sexuality and the Cross (NSW members on e-mail will receive the attached flyer with the full details or see the website below). Here **Andy Comiskey**, author, founder, International Director of Living Waters Ministries & members of the International Council: **Tony Dolfo Smith**, Canada, **Sonja Stark** Belgium **Cam Rimmer** NZ on Australia Day as we stand for the purity of the Australian Church and its empowering for ministry to the sexual brokenness of our nation.

Where? Wesley Centre, 222 Pitt St Sydney.

When? 10 am till 5.30 pm 26/01/08

Cost? \$50 per person before 20/12/07, OR \$65 walk in on 26/1/08

Hosted by Living Waters Australia

www.livingwaters.org.au 02 9529 0022

QUEENSLAND (from Revd Ivan Kirk)

Rod James' Tour

Revd Rod James has rendered our movement good service in Queensland. He spend the better part of three weeks during September touring the state and spreading news about the work of the ACC. Public meetings were held in many locations and in others places Rod visited local leaders. Rod's travels took him along inland routes to reach Cairns in Far North Queensland and then he visited many Uniting Churches along the Queensland coast and completed his trip by visiting Uniting Churches across the Downs region.

Note: A separate report by Rod is attached with the e-mail version of this newsletter to provide ACC members a better understanding of this comprehensive visit.

Promotion and Events in Queensland

The Queensland Committee has also been working hard to make Uniting Church members aware of the ACC. Some 350 letters of introduction have been posted to people in Queensland during the month of September, encouraging them to join the ACC.

We do hope that this work along with the literature Rod distributed during his tour will arouse Queenslanders to espouse the important biblical and theological commitments of the ACC.

The distinguished Oxford theologian Alister McGrath spoke on **The Bankruptcy of Atheism** at the University of Queensland, St Lucia on Monday 1 October at 7 pm. Queensland members have been encouraged to attend these events and we will report further on any resources available and speakers directly to our members through the combined list of former EMU members and RA and ACC members that we are creating.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be at Glenunga Uniting on **Thursday 8th November from 1.30 pm to 4.00pm**. This date has been chosen to fall between the SA Presbytery/Synod [1st to 3rd November] and the ACC National Conference in Melbourne [15th to 17th November].

The Agenda will include:-

- Acceptance of the resignation of Revd John Cranmer as the Co-ordinator of ACC - SA Movement (John is continuing on the committee)
- Affirmation of Rev'd Dr Phil Marshall as Interim Co-ordinator
- Reflection on Notice of Motion to the November Presbytery/Synod
- Report from Field Worker [Rev'd Rod James]
- Report from Prayer Convenor
- ACC-SA Movement Structure [for discussion and recommendation to the Annual Meeting suggested for 23rd February 2008]
- Next General Mail Out

SA members are very welcome to attend the meeting and the prayer time before. Contact Revd John Cranmer for information and additional items for discussion: E-mail: jandmcranmer@internode.on.net; Mobile: 0427 938 357.

3. National Council

A report about the combined meeting with the Commission and Board Convenors (8-9 October) will be provided in the next newsletter. Please remember the need for prayerful consideration of nominations for members for election to the Council at the AGM in November. Forms for nominations were included with the mailing last month.

4. ACC MAGAZINE - Catalyst

All members should have received their copy of the September issue of *ACCatalyst* with a striking cover from the film *Amazing Grace*. Members receive the magazine as part of their membership and bulk copies are sent to contributing congregations. State committees also receive promotional copies and many copies will be distributed at the annual Synod meetings.

5. ACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM: 15-17 November You are very welcome to attend for a day.

DAY RATES FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A copy of the registration form was included in the September magazine mailing. Please take time to consider attending – we can extend the date a little for day people, but your RSVP as soon as possible is helpful for our catering advice. **Victorian members** in particular may be able to attend for a day or two or the PUBLIC RALLY on Friday night 16th November. Day rates are below and you can use the same form and simply write in the days you are attending and enclose the relevant amount.

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)

SOME OF THE KEY CONFERENCE SESSIONS:

Thursday 15th November

7.30 pm *'Christianity, Secularism And Culture: When Nations Perish'*
Bill Muehlenberg

Friday 16th November

11:00 am "New Spirituality in the Church and Marketplace: Churchless Faith, Alternate Pathways and Reinventing the Past"
Philip Johnson

PUBLIC RALLY : A time of praise, prayer and commitment.

Friday 16th November: 7.30 pm

Speaker: Max Champion on *'Gimme some truth'*

Venue: Macedonian Evangelical UC
Corner of Wood St and Murphy Grove, Preston.

Saturday 17th November

9.30 am *'Whose Justice? Which Sexuality? Sex, Social Justice and the City of God.'*
Gordon Preece