



The ACC Newsletter

Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, Proclaiming the truth, Renewing the church

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No. 7 February 2008

The ACC Newsletter is an occasional publication. Next issue: May 2008.

1. ACC ANNUAL Subscriptions and arrangements

1.1 Individual, couple and family Re-subscriptions

All supporting members who were deemed as needing to re-subscribe would have received a re-subscription notice in early February. This included a covering letter and the subscription renewal invoice notice for supporting membership for 2007 – 2008. Please note that you should return the whole invoice form and note any address corrections or new e-mail on the section which includes your name (s) and address.

The full rate for supporting membership: Individuals, Couples and families - \$50.00, and concession - \$25.00 (self-assessed). You may have changed your subscription basis since joining. If so, please make the appropriate alteration on the invoice. The inaugural meeting in October 2006 decided that the membership year would be the calendar year. That meeting also agreed that anyone providing a donation or membership contribution in the initial period would be regarded as financial for 2007. Donations were the basis until the membership categories and fees were established.

Once the ACC was formally established and incorporated with a constitution in May 2007, it became clear that the membership year should be the financial year. Now that it is 2008, it is necessary to move to the financial year basis for membership. In most cases, members joined or contributed between August 2006 and early 2007, so it is a reasonable time to consider renewing your supporting membership (Note: membership includes ACCatalyst magazine). Some members have already sent their subscription in for this period (2007 – 2008), acting on the understanding it was near time to renew in any case, and these have hopefully been recorded as financial for the year 2007 – 2008, along with the many members who joined during this year. If you have any questions, please contact the office. We have finished entering members' details into the new ACC database. Please assist us to keep our records current by advising of any necessary corrections or changes.

Donations: Many members provided donations to the establishment of the capital fund for the ACC (to provide a long-term financial basis), and we are very grateful for this, as the regular contributions are essential to cover our on-going expenses. I apologize if you have made a donation and not been acknowledged yet. We are still awaiting receipts for the period October – December, and appreciate your patience in awaiting an acknowledgement for your generous support. Over \$25 000 was contributed to the capital fund to enable a longer term financial footing for the ACC.

1.2 Congregational Re-subscriptions

All contact persons for ACC congregations and groups needing advice about the period 2007 – 2008 received their re-subscription notice in January. Please help the ACC by passing this notice onto your Treasurer or Church Council as appropriate, so that the appropriate subscription can be determined and forwarded to the ACC.

1.3 Cluster arrangements: New Situation with regard to clusters

The following is a fuller clarification of the situation with regard to clusters and groups. The National Council decided that it was too much to expect people to pay twice, i.e., as individual members, and then when joining a cluster. The Council made the decision which was reported and confirmed at the ACC conference and AGM in November 2007.

A cluster is now a group of people within a regional area who join the ACC as full members (concession or general). The new basis enables all the members to receive information at the same time via e-mail and/or post. A cluster appoints a contact person as a reference for the group for decisions and/or appointments to the AGM.

1.4 ACC Groups

An ACC group is similar to an ACC congregation, and is a group of members from the one congregation. In this situation, the congregation has been unable to agree at the time to become a congregational member, but has allowed an official group to be formed. The membership of the group is calculated on the same basis as a congregation: \$10 per member. Individual members do not receive direct mailings, but copies of material are sent to a contact person who distributes material and advises of ACC business and matters.

2. State and Region Reports

NEW SOUTH WALES

A further report of NSW activities will be presented after the meeting of the committee on 29 February. For information contact the Secretary: Bruce Fairhall; **Email:** bruce@fairhall.id.au **Phone:** (02) 4571 1019, or Convenor, Revd Dr Alan Russell: (02) 9363 1861

WESLEY INSTITUTE SPONSORED EVENTS

Note the change of date for the 2008 Seminar.

- **Day Conference: Encouragement for Ministry: Sat 19 July 2008**
Speaker: Dr Joe Fantin, Dallas Theological Seminary, plus electives by the faculty of Wesley Institute.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The ACC-SA movement held its AGM on February 8th, 2008 at Tusmore Memorial UC. A new leadership team was elected with Rev Dr Phil Marshall as the state coordinator and Rev Don Purdey as the deputy coordinator.

"This year will be a Springboard year for the ACC in SA." said Rev Dr Phil Marshall. "2007 was a good foundational year for the ACC with 53 congregations in SA now members of this new movement. There is a growing excitement about the Springboard year. It will be a year of growth."

The Springboard year involves:

- 1) *A pledge to increase the ACC communication with SA urban, regional and rural Uniting Churches.*
- 2) *Provide a preaching and teaching ministry through the ACC Field Worker, Rev Rod James across the state.*
- 3) *Promote a SA Winter Tour by the ACC National Leader, Rev Dr Max Champion June 6-8.*
- 4) *Host a fantastic ACC National Conference (Sept 11-13) located at Coromandel Valley Uniting Church SA.*

Peter Bentley attended the SA ACC Meeting, and presented an update of National issues. He particularly gave thanks to God for the development of the ACC in SA, and for the enthusiastic support for the hosting of the 2008 Conference.

SA members are very welcome to attend the committee meetings and the prayer time beforehand. Contact Phil Marshall for information and additional items for discussion at Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church or E-mail: phil2042@gmail.com

TASMANIA

The Tasmanian ACC are pleased that Revd Rod James has been conducting a touring ministry of encouragement through Tasmania during February and early March. If your congregation or region would like to consider a Rod James ministry visit, please contact the office for his details.

3. National Council matters

The National Council met by teleconference on Monday 11th February. Some of the matters discussed and agreed upon were:

Acceptance of a statement of Vision and Goals 2007 – 2017.

This will be provided when produced as a leaflet.

Ecumenical Commission; The new convenor is Revd Dr Alan Crawford from Melbourne, and Revd Professor James Haire and Revd Dr Ian Breward have also agreed to join the Commission.

Survey of ACC Congregations: Members will be aware, the Council agreed to the request of Revd Paul Jensen (a UCA minister in Queensland) to survey ACC members in relation to his university project, and members will receive a survey packet in the next few weeks for you to complete if you are willing to help in this way.

Date for next teleconference of the National Council: May 12. Matters or comments to the Secretary: Revd Ivan Kirk via the office, or e-mail:

ivankirk@bigpond.net.au

4. ACC WEBSITE – LIVE CHAT FORUM – 1st Monday each month

Next chat forum, **Monday 3rd March 2008** at 7: 30 p.m. (EDST).

Topic for discussion: *Why are you remaining in the Uniting Church, and what are you doing to help renew and reform the church?*

The initial chat forum in February was a great start and enjoyed by the small group, including one person from South Korea. We are inviting all ACC members to join us in our new live Chat Forum to come and 'chat' about the ACC or other issues/topics that people may wish to discuss. Members of the national council will also be available to respond or comment. You do not need to post replies if you want to just see what happens the first time – just let the group know you are viewing the exchanges.

To access the Chat Forum simply go to the 'Resources' section on the ACC website and click on 'Chat Forum'. You will need to 'get an ACC ID' by first registering (very quick and short process) then login using the username and password that you chose during the signup process. Once you're in the Chat Forum, click on "Main Room" and then on "Assembly of Confessing Congregations CHAT" room and you're ready to chat live. This may sound complicated to some, but once you're in the actual chat forum it's pretty easy to navigate your way round. If you have any problems, feel free to email Council member and web moderator Revd Hedley Fihaki:

webmaster@confessingcongregations.com

Note: *The chat forum is also available 24/7 for anyone wishing to meet up with someone or others to chat. Private chat is also possible with the possibility also of creating your own chat room. For public discussions, please use the 'ACC Chat room' in the main room.*

Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia

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