



The ACC Newsletter

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

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No. 9 July 2008

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

1. ACC National Matters

1.1 ACC Conference and AGM September 11 – 13: Coromandel Valley Uniting Church

It has been encouraging to see about 50 registrations already, and we are hoping for a big influx from the South Australian region. The revised brochure is included with this mailing and members are encouraged to send in as soon as possible to help catering and organisational details. If you need motel accommodation please try and book this soon as the Adelaide Show and other events are on during September. If you need information about caravan parks please contact the office. The prayer team will be at the Marion Caravan Park, but I understand this is now full. Our main accommodation basis is Billeting and details are included in the form.

1.2 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

South Australian ACC churches will soon receive details from the SA ACC Committee asking for help in the following areas:

BILLETING and Volunteer DRIVERS

Please prayerfully consider how you can help the ACC Conference planning team.

1.3 Papers and Minutes from the 2007 AGM

As a guide to what will happen at the 2008 AGM and also for your information, a combined booklet with the papers and minutes of the 2007 AGM is included.

1.4 New Bookkeeper and Membership Database

ACC has entered into a new financial arrangement, and also welcomes a new bookkeeper and membership manager: **Megan Lavender**. Megan brings extensive background in business and church areas, especially in local Anglican parish financial development. We are very pleased to have Megan on board.

ACC is also bringing on board a new database over the next 6 weeks or so. This will mean that re-subscription forms for 2008 – 2009 will not go out for a while. Members will be notified when it is time to re-subscribe via personal mailings.

1.5 Council Meetings: The National Council will next meet with the convenors of the Commissions and Boards (or their representatives) in August 11 – 12 in Sydney. This will also enable preparation for the annual meeting in September.

2. State and Region Reports

NEW SOUTH WALES

ACC Sydney Cross Cultural Area Gathering

Come and join other ACC members and hear from the Convenor of the ACC Cross Cultural Commission Revd Rev Lulu Senituli, ACC National Council member, Revd Hedley Fihaki, and other CCC members about what God is doing through the work of ACC & the Cross Cultural Commission.

Date: Friday 8th August 2008

Time: 6 pm for dinner (See note below – please RSVP)
And
7 pm for the meeting

Location: Belfield Uniting Church, corner of Linda Street and Punchbowl Road, Belfield. There is ample parking available at the church.

Note: DINNER

Dinner will be provided at 6 pm. There will be a \$5 contribution charge for the dinner. For catering numbers please advise Revd Ha Le if you are able to attend the dinner by 5 August 2008.

Telephone: 9798 6467; E-mail: hale@exemail.com.au

Wesley Institute Conference

About forty people, mostly ACC members, attended the annual encouragement and teaching conference at Wesley Institute Drummoyne on 19th July. Keynote speaker, Dr Joe Fantin from Dallas Theological Seminary provided a wonderful exposition on Ephesians Chapter 1, under the titles of 'The Life that Christ Brings' and 'The Life that Christ Empowers'. There were nine excellent optional seminars to choose from, including ACC 2008 Rally speaker, Revd Keith Garner, who spoke about 'The Social Challenge of the Gospel in an Affluent Society'.

Next ACC NSW Committee: 15 August. For further information, or to send comments, please contact the Secretary:

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

QUEENSLAND

Thirty members of the ACC gathered in the Queensland Synod Offices - Chapel on Friday evening the 18th July for our Annual General Meeting. Revd Ivan Kirk, who was chairman by default, of the Committee over the past year gave a report of its work. Revd Rob Brennan was elected chairman of the Committee for the incoming year along with nine other committee members. The Annual General meeting was followed by an engaging talk by Professor Ian Breward. Ian spoke about '**The future of our heritage**' and gave some stirring counsel about renewing the Uniting Church by congregations recovering a vigorous witness to Jesus Christ. Our guest speaker's explanation of how the uniting churches traditions have been eroded within the Uniting Church helped us to reassess the challenges ahead.

The committee reported its efforts over the last year to encourage others to join the ACC movement. Considerable sums of money were spent mailing people with literature, membership forms and complimentary copies of *ACCatalyst*. We also reported on an extensive field trip undertaken by Revd Rod James. Our meeting was well advertised through presbytery newsletters, ACC National office and personal invitation. Although small in number, everyone was good humoured and enjoyed some hospitality at the end of the evening.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ACC – SA. Winter Visit of Rev Dr Max Champion

At the invitation of the ACC-SA movement, Rev Dr Max Champion visited Adelaide and Murray Bridge over the weekend of 6th - 8th of June. The aim of the visit was to bring ACC members up to date with issues in the ACC and promote the national ACC Assembly in September. Max spoke at two seminars on the topic of "The New Tolerance", preached at Tusmore Memorial UC, visited with the Moderator and was interviewed for New Times (SA Synod paper).

"Max continues to inspire and bring insight into the theological issues we are facing. It was a great encouragement to us in South Australia having Max visit Adelaide." said Rev Dr Phil Marshall. During Max's visit a new regional ACC group (CLUSTER) was formed at Murray Bridge.

Rev Rod James, ACC field worker, is touring Eyre Peninsular and the South East regions of SA to promote the national Assembly.

3. ACC WEBSITE

3.1 Please check out the website for new papers and information.

A new resource paper by Wesley Institute lecturer, Dr Jim Harrison has been posted: *The Mission of the Church*. Past copies of **ACCatalyst** are also available for download, as well as the goals document and other material.

3.2 WEB CHAT

The next ACC web chat will be held on Monday 4 August 2008 at 7: 30 p.m. (EST). Join us in our live Chat Forum to come and 'chat' about the designated ACC topic, **AUGUST 4 topic is – AFTER WORLD YOUTH DAY – RESPONSES AND REFLECTIONS** (note - you can always suggest other issues/topics that people may wish to discuss). The moderator is Revd Hedley Fihaki from Cairns.

Have your say. You can participate by simply being on-line, even if you do not want to occasionally type a comment or response. To access the Chat Forum simply go to the 'Resources' section on the ACC website, www.confessingcongregations.com, and click on 'Chat Forum' and obtain an ACC ID.

4. News from the WEST

ACC Members would be aware of the network that evangelical members have formed in Western Australia – PNEUMA (*Pastoral Network of Evangelicals Uniting in Mission Action*). Professor Brian Hill has provided a copy of their annual report, and part of this is included for the information of ACC members.

PNEUMA was inaugurated at a gathering in the Bicton Uniting Church on May 16, 2007 and recognised as a network within the Synod of W.A. in September 2007. Networks draw together people of like mind to pursue specific goals within the Synod family of churches. Some specific activities have been; an occasional newsletter called Winds of Change; "CampFIRE 2007", a long-weekend gathering at Lake Yealering in late September 2007 to provide support and encouragement to members of the UCA in W.A. A meeting in May 2008 - called "PNEUMA in the City" was held in the Nedlands Uniting Church, at which the highlights were a bracing message by Rev. Stephen Francis and a number of reports of innovative training and outreach activities in several urban and rural churches.

We were well served through the inaugural year by the chairmanship of Rev. Michael Fawcett, who is now reducing his workload on the Steering Group and stepping back from this responsibility. Rev. Dr Ian Robinson becomes our public spokesperson, and plans are proceeding for CampFIRE 2008, to be held, by unanimous vote of those attending last year, at the same delightful site, from September 27-29. Our keynote speaker will be Verena Johnson, Spiritual Life Director at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in South Australia.

We give thanks to God for the encouragements of these two years of mission action, and commit ourselves to pursuing our targets in the coming year, under his Spirit, and within the Uniting Church. (This is an edited brief of the PNEUMA annual report)

5. ACC Signs of the TIMES

The ACC office is contacting member congregations to request copies of their new signs. Several congregations have now included the ACC in their front area or building signage. Bexley was included in the June *ACCatalyst* as an example. If you have a new sign it would be very helpful if you could let the office know and send a photo (preferably high resolution via e-mail).

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