

the Good Confession



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Anne
Hibbard

National Council
Secretary



“Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ”

A blessing from the ACC National Council

2021 was another huge year with many challenges to the Church due to continuing restrictions and lockdowns, along with ongoing conflicts in the UCA. As we embark on this new year of our Lord may we be so filled with the wonder of the incarnation, that in joyful response, our mouths may proclaim, and our hands might display, the

glory of God's love to those in need.

May our Loving Father truly bless you and your loved ones during 2022 with the joy and hope in believing.

Grace and peace

Rev. Anne Hibbard *National Council Secretary*



Congratulations to Rev. Robert (Bob) and Miriam Imms on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary on the 14th of January 2022. Bob and Miriam have been faithful servants of reform and renewal groups in the UCA over many years and stalwarts in Tasmania, providing support and encouragement to local ACC members, particularly in the Southern Tasmanian area. Bob would be well-known to ACCatalyst readers through his Seeds for Harvest devotionals over ten years.

We pray God's blessing on Bob and Miriam's witness to God's faithfulness and love, and may they enjoy the loving company and support of family and friends on this significant occasion.

COMING EVENTS

Propel Conference 2022

Tuesday, 15 March 2022 6:15 pm
- Thursday, 17 March 2022 12:00 pm ACDT

Like many groups in 2021, Propel Network postponed their annual conference. Their conference was to be held just before the planned joint ACC and HopeNet SA conference in September in Adelaide. Several ACC members were planning to attend Propel and will be pleased to note that the new date for the Propel Conference has been set. Location: Journey Church, Ridgehaven, Adelaide.



Propel 2022 seeks to bring together a shared sense of urgency to make disciples who make disciples, continuing their mission of championing renewal in the church.

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Office: 2 Erskineville Rd, Newtown NSW | PO BOX 846, Newtown | 0423 637 576 | Email for The Good Confession: accoffice@confessingcongregations.com

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Confidence in the Gospel and the Scriptures



Rev. Dr Stuart Lange, who spoke at the ACC Conference in Townsville in 2017, provided a helpful message on Reformation Sunday for 2021. A brief article in the latest edition of the Presbyterian AFFIRM Newsletter (November 2021) provides a precis and the link to the video message (see QR Code below).

Wherever the church of Jesus has truly thrived, as in the early church and in many times since, it has demonstrated a deep confidence in the Gospel and the Scriptures. Wherever the church has fallen away from confidence in these, and has sought to reinterpret the Gospel and the Bible to fit the prevailing cultural moods, it has usually lost its spiritual power and vibrancy, and has withered on the vine. In the fourth century, Saint Augustine was miraculously converted, preached from the Bible, and emphasised the grace of God. In the medieval period, God was still at work in his church, in countless lives, and in the continuing expansion of the church across many formerly pagan societies. By the late medieval period, however, the western church in its doctrine and practice had significantly lost sight of grace, and the scriptures were often overshadowed by religious tradition. The Reformation was a time of spiritual and doctrinal renewal, founded on the power of the Gospel (the message of God's grace through Jesus, received by faith) and the primacy of biblical authority over the church. It was out of that Reformation reawakening

that we got Protestant Christianity, later waves of revival, the global expansion of Christianity, and even the Presbyterian Church. How much confidence do modern Protestants have in the Gospel and the Scriptures? How much confidence do the people in our own congregation have in the Gospel and Scriptures? How much do we? Do we doubt the power of God in the Gospel of Jesus, the power to save those who are sinful and lost? Do we doubt that the Scriptures are the authoritative Word of God? Do we water these down, and accommodate our Christian beliefs to the thinking and ways of our world? We are of course free to do all those things. But not if we want to see the lifechanging power of God, or a thriving church.

AFFIRM is a network for Action, Faith, Fellowship, Intercession, Renewal and Mission within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and the National Association of Presbyterian Evangelical Churches (NAPEC)



Scan to access the YouTube video

WHO WE ARE

Within the Uniting Church context of a very broad range of theology and practice, the Assembly of Confessing Congregations is a nationwide body of congregations and individuals whose vision is confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, proclaiming the truth, renewing the church. Our goals include:

- Encouraging the confession of Christ according to the faith of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, as that faith is described in the UCA's Basis of Union.
- Providing resources, seminars and conferences to build up believers, develop their gifts, and equip them for life, mission and works of service.
- Encouraging Christian believers in earnest prayer through our Prayer Network.
- Encouraging younger members of the Uniting Church in their faith and participation.
- Communicating about current events and issues through our website, social media and local newsletters.

JOIN US

Membership rates for supporting members:

 Concession (single or couple): \$10.00 pa. (financial year basis)

 Full (single or couples): \$20.00 p.a (see website)

 (0423) 637 576.

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 PO Box 846 Newtown NSW 2042

For more about the ACC visit: confessingcongregations.org.au