

ACC E-News August 2011

1. ACC Supporting and Congregational Memberships

The annual renewal period is now underway, and will be undertaken by the middle of August. The mailing will have the renewal form and a covering letter with information about ACC finances. Please consider how you can support the confessing movement within the Uniting Church.

2. Young Leaders Conference: Sep 30 –Oct 1 2011

Camden UC hosting a Young Leaders Conference. ACC Congregational and Group contacts have been sent this information, but I have included Simon Nixon's letter below, in which he outlines how this came about. If you know of any possible leader in your congregation please encourage them to consider attending.

Dear Church Leaders.

I'm writing to let you know about The Exchange Conference. The Exchange Conference is a leadership conference that aims to encourage young leaders within the church. While attending last years' Assembly of Confessing Congregations conference a strong desire grew within me to be a part of training and supporting young leaders within the Uniting Church. We would love the opportunity to encourage and learn from young leaders from your church. Our hope is The Exchange would be an opportunity for leaders to learn from some great speakers as well as share ideas with each other.

My own experience of being a young leader is that it's easy to feel isolated and lonely. My hope and prayer is that this conference would be an opportunity for leaders to build relationships that would support them in their own relationship with Jesus, and spur them onto to achieve great things for the Kingdom of God. We have found an amount of success at Camden Uniting in the areas of Children's Youth and Young Adults Ministry as well as in the areas of Worship and Social Justice. While we still have a lot to learn, I feel we have a lot to offer in sharing our own experiences. We have also invited 2 great speakers to come and share. Craig Bailey from the Uniting College of Leadership and Theology in South Australia and Darren McMahon- the founder of Your Dream ministries.

I believe each person who attends The Exchange will be personally blessed and encouraged. I truly hope you will pass this information onto to the appropriate people in your church and encourage them to attend. If you would like more information about The Exchange Conference please contact me at snixon@camdenuniting.com.au or on 02 4655 9303.

Yours in Christ, Simon Nixon, Youth Pastor, Camden Uniting Church

Location: Camden Uniting Church (corner of John and Mitchell Street Camden)

Cost: \$50

Accommodation: If you are travelling a long distance to be at conference there are plenty of options for accommodation in Camden. There are also some billeting options available for those who are travelling from interstate.

Food: Dinner will be provided Friday night and Saturday night.

3. 2011 ACC Conference and AGM: 8-10 September 2011.

The AGM is held within the 2011 Conference, and this year the theme is: **The Future of Evangelism.**

We are delighted to have the following speakers sharing with us.

Thursday night: **Benjamin Myers** on *'The Basis of Union - An Evangelical Manifesto?'*

Friday morning: **Mark Durie** on *'Evangelism and Islam.'*

Friday Night rally: **Stu Cameron** on *'Confident Humility'*

Saturday morning: **Graham Paulson** on *'Bringing the Gospel to Indigenous People'*

Members can participate at the AGM by submitting proposals and nominating members for election to the National Council. A separate mailing was provided to congregations, groups and cluster members in June. Conference registration forms were sent out with the June ACCatalyst, and can be downloaded from the ACC website. Part-time registration is available.

Invite your friends to the Friday Night Public Rally. This will be an excellent opportunity to join the ACC community and hear from one of the Uniting Church's well-known leaders Rev Stu Cameron. Stu was formerly the SA Synod Secretary and is now the Senior Minister at New Life Uniting Church, Robina, Queensland.

For further information please contact the ACC office.

4. Ministry Position – Moura, Central Queensland

The Moura congregation of the Uniting Church in the Dawson Valley in Central Queensland is looking for a person to come as a Minister of the Word, Deacon or Lay Pastor to the community of 2500. Moura is a mixed farming and mining community with very little spiritual & pastoral care available.

The Moura Uniting Church has finance in place for the next 2 years, which will enable this ministry to commence. The position of a 50% part time minister would also be considered. This ministry could also look to extend, reaching the wider community of the Dawson Valley after the two years. The position would suit a married couple with Bible college training and who have a heart for visiting people at home whether they are families or single males or females of any age. This visitation will be seen as intentional in providing pastoral care with spiritual food. The position will include assisting with maintaining regular worship, general community involvement, and working with other churches in Moura. The congregation is open to trial various forms of worship that would encourage people to seek to know Jesus and to grow their Christian faith. **Contact:** David Hutchinson, Chair Moura UC Church Council, "Glendale", PO Box 348 Moura Q 4718; ☎ 07 4997 4114

You are encouraged to pray for Moura about this ministry and rural areas in particular as they often struggle to call people.

5. UCA Assembly Discussion Paper on Membership (in the UCA)

Michael Owen has prepared a substantial response to the Discussion Paper about Uniting Church membership which has been prepared by the UCA Assembly. All Presbyteries have received a copy of the Discussion Paper and have been asked to respond by 31 August 2011. Michael's critique is now available on the **Uniting Views Website:** <http://www.unitingviews.com/issues/item/future-of-the-uca/dismembering-uca-and-membership/>

6. COMPASS – Same-sex marriage discussion – clarification from Baptists Marriage is not for same sex couples, say Baptists (Press release)

The sentiments expressed by the Reverend Nathan Nettleton in an ABC Compass program on same sex marriage legislation broadcast on Sunday July 10 do not represent the views of Australian Baptist Ministries or an overwhelming majority of Baptists in Australia and around the world.

In November 2010 Australian Baptist Ministries reaffirmed marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and has commended the Australian Government for reflecting the biblical teaching on marriage in the federal Marriage Act. Marriage is not the appropriate institution for same sex couples.

Australian Baptist Ministries supports the rights of all couples to justice with respect to property and like entitlements and acknowledges that people, including some in Baptist churches, face difficult issues with respect to sexuality. Recognition of such rights and difficulties does not justify major changes to our convictions about marriage or to marriage legislation.

“It is regrettable that Mr Nettleton failed to consult with Australian Baptist leaders before expressing his personal views about same sex marriage on national television. To his credit he made it clear in the program that he was not representing the official Baptist position on marriage. It is disappointing that ABC staff chose not to invite a more representative Baptist voice to participate in the Compass program,” Revd Dr John Beasy, President of Australian Baptist Ministries, said. The Baptist World Alliance, representing over 47 million baptised believers and 210 Baptist Unions and Conventions in more than 200 countries, shares the views of Australian Baptist Ministries on marriage. The Baptist World Alliance views homosexual lifestyle as incompatible with the teachings of Scripture and no BWA member body affirms, promotes or approves of same sex marriage. At the Baptist World Alliance annual gathering in July 1994 in Uppsala, Sweden, the BWA General Council passed a resolution confirming that the BWA “proclaims the biblical definition of the family, a permanent, monogamous, heterosexual union, as the original divine plan for family life which must continue to serve as the foundation and ideal for an ordered and effective society.”

7. Compass Summer Programme for young leaders

The Compass Foundation and the Australian Christian Lobby run an annual summer programme in Canberra. Do you know any university students (or year 12 students about to go to uni) who are performing well in their studies? Do they have a strong commitment to their faith and are they keen to intelligently engage the world for Christ, and demonstrate a high potential to be influential and strategic in their future profession? Then Compass will be of benefit to them. The Compass summer conference is a strategic future leaders training initiative run in partnership with the Compass Foundation and the ACL. Now in its fifth year in Australia, the program aims to:

Train leaders who will represent Christ in strategic and influential positions.

1. Equip Christian students to not just survive university with their faith intact but to thrive in that scholarly and often morally and intellectually challenging environment.
2. Maximise their effectiveness for Christ in their future profession by linking students with established Christian leaders in their future profession.

Invitation to Compass is by nomination only, by Christians in positions of authority. This includes (but not limited to) school principals, pastors, chaplains, university Christian group staff workers and business leaders. Nominations are now open online at www.compass.org.au and click on the Compass Summer Conference link and the nomination button. The intake for 2012 is limited to 80 students.

As Christian leaders it is most important that we train the next generation to whom we will pass the baton to be even more effective in impacting the nation than we have been. To inspire and equip talented youth to become our next cabinet ministers, High Court judges, newspaper editors and the like, is an essential part of our legacy, and this initiative provides a combination of training and mentoring that should ensure it. Visit www.compass.org.au for more information about the program, the speakers, the cost and the vision. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Compass Operations Manager, Salli Taylor, on salli.taylor@compass.org.au or on 07 5518 8839.

8. **Bible Exhibition** <http://www.kjv11.com.au/>

“Book that Changed the World” exhibition is touring Australia on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the KJB.



Further times have been announced for the Sydney area.

Pymble Ladies College

Publicly advertised open hours:

2pm-5pm Sat-Sun 6-7th August

2pm-5pm Sat-Sun 13-14th August

School Visits can be booked for Thu-Fri 11th-12th August only by ringing PLC school on (02) 9855-7799

St Matthew's Manly

Publicly advertised open hours:

10am-5pm Wednesday 17th August – Sunday 28th August

9. Request for help with survey on spirituality. ACC received the following request (sent to all UCA Synods and presbyteries as well)

My name is Abel Trindade and I am conducting research into spirituality as part of my Honours degree in Psychology at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. In my research I am looking to gather information about the religious, spiritual, and mystical activities and experiences of religious elders in order to better understand the role spirituality in the lives of Australian. To gather this information I am using an online survey that includes a number of commonly used measures of religiousness, spirituality, and mysticism. The reason that I am contacting you is that without at least 150 participants it will be difficult to produce reliable results. The link for this survey is: www.surveymonkey.net/s/spirituality

Completion of the questionnaire is voluntary and all of your responses will be anonymous. You will need approximately 30 minutes to complete all of the questions and are free to withdraw from the study at any point while filling out the survey. The findings from this research will be reported in the form of a dissertation submitted to Charles Sturt University as a requirement for the Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) (Honours) degree. You should also be aware that findings from this study may be published in academic journals and/or presented at conferences. Your participation in this research project will provide much needed insight into the religious, spiritual, and mystical activities and experiences of Australians. Please do not hesitate to contact me (abeltrindade@gmail.com) if you need further information. Any help with achieving the target number of participants would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Abel Trindade (Researcher)

ACC AUGUST PRAYER DIARY 2011

Greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord. Prayer requests for the month of August:

- ✚ ACC NSW Executive meeting – 19th August at Wesley Mission
- ✚ Please pray for Rev. Don Purdey who has contracted motor neurone disease and is now not able to actively lead in SA. This sad occurrence has been tempered by Don's amazing sense of well-being in God's gracious care. Don's main difficulties at the moment have to do with the functioning of his tongue for talking and swallowing. Please also uphold Annette (wife) and family in your prayers.
- ✚ August 29–31: Oxygen 11, the First National Conference for Pastors and Leaders, in Redfern, Sydney. Speaker: John Piper (ACC NSW has a group of 11 members attending – please pray for the conference and the members attending.
- ✚ Please continue to pray for the Emmanuel Uniting Church, Qld Synod and Presbytery of NQ regarding the Good Samaritan Ministry Centre. www.emmanuelcairns.com
- ✚ Please continue to pray for our Chair, Rev. Dr. Max Champion, Peter Bentley, NC, Commissions and Boards.
- ✚ Pray for our conference in Melbourne including guest speakers, Rev. Stu Cameron, Dr. Mark Durie, Dr. Ben Myers and Rev. Graham Paulson. May this be a special time of learning for the sake of reaching out to others with God's love.
- ✚ Pray for change and reform within the UCA. Come Holy Spirit!

- ✚ Pray for individuals to stand up and be counted and not to allow 'fear' to prevent us from proclaiming the truth – pray for courage and boldness.
- ✚ Pray for the UCA President, General Secretary and our Leaders as a whole.
- ✚ Pray for our government and its leaders and decisions they make regarding carbon tax, refugees, same sex marriage, abortion, etc. Pray for wisdom.
- ✚ Tues 16th 10.30am Combined Hope Network/ACC SA planning meeting
- ✚ Wed 24th 2pm Northern Suburbs ACC Cluster meeting. Rod James will be leading a study.
- ✚ Please also pray for people to fill the Convenor and Secretary positions in the SA Movement.
- ✚ Pray for Rod James and Mandy Scott as they go to Mt Gamier in September

"Lord, we would be your instruments. We have nothing to offer except the desire to be workers in your harvest. But since you have chosen the weak things of this world and the things which are not, will you not also choose us to be your servants? We cannot of ourselves speak your message to man. But we pray that you will grant us not to speak our own words but your Word, through which men come to know and love you. Give us courage to confess the name of Jesus Christ before men. Help us to care for them, to act as neighbours unto them and to share with them what you have given to us. We do not ask to see the results of our work. We would only know that you are using us in your work of salvation and that your kingdom is coming amongst us. Send us, Lord, as witnesses of the good news of your love made known in Jesus Christ. Amen" [Prayer by W. A. Visser 'Hofft 277]. *Used by the Rev. Dr. Max Champion during our July 2011 National Council teleconferencing meeting.*

Please remember Friday is our National Day of Prayer and Fasting.

This e-mail message is from the **Assembly of Confessing Congregations Inc.** If you have received this message by mistake, please delete the message and e-mail address from your system.

Assembly of Confessing Congregations Inc.

ABN 73 794 518 715 ARBN 128 001 785

Incorporated in NSW INC9887628 Liability of Members is Limited

Registered Office: 2 Erskineville Road, Newtown NSW

Postal Mail: PO Box 968 Newtown NSW 2042

Tel: (02) 9550 5358; 0423 637 576; accoffice@confessingcongregations.com

www.confessingcongregations.com