



ACC E-News March 2010

Dear ACC Members

1. Waverley regional cluster seminar

A highly appreciated seminar was held in Melbourne on 27 February at Mt Waverley UC. This was the first of the four seminars planned for the Melbourne area, and with an attendance of 85 persons it showed a significant level of support. Appreciation is due to the diligent members of the Waverley Cluster who promoted this initiative, and the co-ordinators, especially Elizabeth Adam and Bill Phillips.

Speakers were **Rev Prof. Ian Breward** on *Reforming the 21st Century Church*; **Dr. Rosalie Hudson**: *A Declaration of Hope (explaining and affirming the ACC Theological Declaration)*, (now available on the website:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/national/resources/doctrine-theology/> and ACC chair, **Rev. Dr. Max Champion**: *Firm Ground or Crumbling Foundation, the Future of the Basis of Union* (an examination of the UCA's understanding of the status of the Basis of Union).

2. Clusters Groups

Members may not be aware of the various cluster groups in existence. Some were started early in the ACC's history, like the Hunter Region(NSW) and Southern Tasmanian cluster. The idea of the cluster group is to help support and encourage individual and couple ACC members in an area (especially those who do not belong to an ACC congregation). Clusters meet for prayer, bible study and fellowship usually every month or 2 months. The clusters are listed below with the name of the contact person. More information is available from the office.

- Inner Northern Adelaide – Enfield (Les and Joan Knowling)
- Waverley, Melbourne Victoria (Elizabeth Adam)
- Mid-Northern Tasmania (Barrie Robinson)
- Southern Tasmania (Pauline Loughhead)
- Cranbourne, Melbourne, Victoria (Ted Curnow)
- Hunter (Newcastle region) NSW (Alton Bowen)

3. ACCatalyst INDEX – Volumes 1-3 - updated index now available (excel file)

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/magazine/P0/>

4. Material on the Preamble

There is an increasing amount of material being published on the preamble and the UCA constitutional issues. **ACC is preparing a more detailed resource guide of articles, and some are included below for your attention and circulation.**

Cross Purposes (a published and also e-journal from Melbourne), has a number of articles about the proposed Preamble changes, which they've made freely available on their web site.

- http://cp.unitingchurch.org.au/CP_preamble_papers.pdf - contains Jonathan Button's full article on the preamble – process at the Assembly and theology.
- http://cp.unitingchurch.org.au/CP19_printable.pdf - "on Areopagus Hill" - *Ian Breward comments on the process towards this Assembly decision, and offers a critique of aspects of the Frequently Asked Questions document.*

The pre- and post-Assembly issues of **ACCatalyst** contain comments on the proposed Preamble and are worth re-reading, including Warren Clarnette's review of Chris Budden's *Following Jesus in invaded space: Doing theology on Aboriginal Land*. You can also download copies of the magazine at the ACC website:

- www.confessingcongregations.com/uploads/june2009.pdf
- www.confessingcongregations.com/uploads/2acc014_accataylst_vol3_oct09_hr.pdf
- www.confessingcongregations.com/uploads/acc_caty3-3_final_2.pdf

As previously reported some articles are on the ACC website as individual links now:

[Too Many Gods: Re-reading the preamble](#)

Paul Langkamp offers a new reading of the proposed preamble. (From *ACCatalyst February 2010*)

[A Critique of the Proposed Preamble](#)

Peter Banney requests the UAICC to reject the Proposed Preamble.

[Making a preamble a post anything amble?](#)

Nola Stewart comments on the proposed change to the Uniting Church Preamble and raises a range of issues that result from the approach the Assembly has adopted

[The Road to Hell is Paved with Good Intentions](#)

David Lewinsohn responds to the 12th Assembly's proposed changes to the Preamble and Constitution with an Open Letter to UCA Members in one Presbytery.

The WA Synod newspaper Revive published a very interesting critique of the Preamble from UCA minister, Revd Margaret Tyrer in September p.13. The article was penned in response to a ‘burning question’ posed by a reader. The link to this article appears not be functioning at this time, and the link will be advised when possible. The context is below.

Q: The Australian newspaper made critical comment about the new preamble to the Uniting Church constitution passed by the Assembly. Would you please comment, in the light of God’s revelation to his people in Christ, on the statement in paragraph 3 in the Preamble? Lyn

A: I imagine that theologically informed Assembly members who wish Australia’s First Peoples well will have felt conflicted about this Preamble. It echoes scripture at some points, but moves quite beyond scripture at others.

5. Prayer Network

Revd Dr Hedley Fihaki has taken on the role of National Co-ordinator of the prayer network, and along with SA ACC Prayer Co-ordinator Mandy Scott and Jill Walker will seek to encourage and support the ACC in prayer. Prayer requests can be sent to: h.fihaki@confessingcongregations.com and Mandy Scott (see details below).

6. SA ACC Prayer retreat and meeting

YOUR ancient Ruins shall be REBUILT, You shall raise up the Foundations of buildings that have laid waste For many generations; And you shall be called Repairer of the Breach, Restorer of Streets to dwell in. Isaiah 58:12

Dear Friends,

“Come Join Us” at our inaugural Prayer Retreat sponsored by the Assembly of Confessing Congregations SA Movement to be held at Halbury Emmaus Campsite (North East of Balaklava) on Thursday May 6th at 6:00 pm until Friday 7th May at 9:00 pm.

A time to journey together and allow yourself to be restored by the Spirit of God, exploring a deeper prayer life through the Word of God, being empowered to be more effective in prayer and mobilised to pray and intercede for broken lives.

Followed by the seminar “Dig Here” on Saturday May 8th from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. An opportunity to dig deeper into our faith (in the Basis of Union) with speakers teaching on Confessing Christ, in our hearts, in our church, and in our world.

Your servants in Christ, ACC SA Movement—Prayer Team

For more information contact. **Mandy Scott** (08) 8584 7474; Email:-

ms.prayer@chariot.net.au

The cost of the retreat on the Thursday and Friday is \$40.00 while the cost for the seminar on the Saturday is \$15 (includes registration \$5 and food \$10).

(Please note that there are no shops in the local vicinity). Please make cheques payable to: ACC SA Movement.

RSVP by 23rd April to Jill Walker, 91 Hill St., Peterborough, 5422; E-mail:

theolives@netspace.net.au

7. New ACC regional gathering in Queensland.

Revd Lu Senitulu reports that the ACC Fellowship Bayside region has begun. The first meeting was held at the Bayside UCA congregation chapel, Wondall road on March 3rd at 7.00pm.

We began our fellowship with a welcome in the name of Christ followed by singing together the Doxology (573 AHB) 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow. This was followed with an affirmation of faith-the Nicene Creed and prayer.

Our Bible passage for the opening of this fellowship group was: **2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5**

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶**All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,** ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry.

Lu lead in devotion by paying particular attention to verses 16, 2 and 3.

After the devotion, we had a time of sharing followed by a brief presentation by Lu on the reason for the formation of the ACC.

The most significant time segment was spent in prayer for the fellowship groups and particularly for the Church of Christ to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and to stand firm in His Truth at whatever the cost.

The fellowship concluded in high spirits as we all had discerned the presence of Christ in our midst and as we also received great news that more new people will be attending the next gathering.

The next fellowship will be held on Tuesday 13th of April. The venue is yet to be decided because a member had offered his home to host the fellowship. However, I'm still keen at keeping it at the church but we will wait and see what develops.

8. ACC events and Calendar

The ACC Calendar attempts to provide a listing of local, state and national events. Please send your information to the ACC office for inclusion.

It is wonderful to see the number of events that are confessing and proclaiming Christ.

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/assembly/about/calendar/>

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