



Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;
people to people; and people to community.

Newsletter

June 2023

Act2

Act2 is an initiative of the Assembly of the Uniting Church. Act2 commenced in 2020. The primary focuses of Act2 is the second act of a play, the next act of the Uniting Church. There is also an echo of the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, which speaks of the happenings of the early church as a 'Fellowship of the Spirit in Christ.' It is an attempt to take a fresh look at our life together as part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. A lot has changed in both the Australian society and the Uniting Church since the inauguration of the Uniting Church in 1977.

The Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) conceived of the Act2 Project as a way of **identifying and implementing sustainable structures, practices and ways of working**. The ASC determined that there were three critical outcomes to address:

1. Create an enabling environment for local communities of worship, witness, service and discipleship formation,
2. Foster a cohesive national character of the Church and collaborative ways of working across the Church, and
3. Fulfil the Church's legal, ethical and social obligations

The slogans of Act2 are:

- Grounded in our faith.
- Attentive to the Spirit.
- Fuelled by prayer.
- Discerning together.

A survey of the church was conducted during late 2020 and early 2021. 626 people responded from the UCA across Australia.

The top 3 strengths identified by positive responders were:

1. "Inclusive and welcoming"
2. "Equality of women and men in leadership"
3. "Basis of Union" and "Every member ministry" (tied)

For those who had a mixed view of the UCA, the top strengths were:

1. "Equality of women and men in leadership"
2. "Commitment to the most vulnerable"
3. "Willingness to have hard conversations" and "Multi-cultural and Intercultural" (tied)

For those who had a negative view of UCA identity, the top strengths were:

1. "Equality of women and men in leadership"
2. "Willingness to have hard conversations"
3. "Basis of Union"

I wonder if we conducted a similar survey at Bathurst UC, what might be our perceived strengths and our concerns of the UCA?

Our President of the Assembly, Rev Sharon Hollis, said that one of the key directions suggested by the findings of the survey is that we should:

Reconnect with our core identity and clearly articulate and communicate the common theological and other frameworks shaping the life of the UCA.

Sharon Hollis stated that “the *Basis of Union* is a key guiding document allowing us to reconnect with our core theological identity as we continue to chart our life together.” To that end, the ASC asked Rev Dr Geoff Thompson to write a set of studies on the *Basis of Union*. Geoff is a theologian who teaches at the Uniting Church’s Pilgrim Theological College, part of the Centre for Theology and Ministry in Melbourne and is a member of the Assembly Standing Committee. Geoff has published books on the *Basis of Union* and Uniting Church theology.

The *Basis of Union* studies can be used in small groups, Church Council, Presbytery, and in other areas of the Church. Sharon Hollis encourages the church to use them “to deepen your understanding of the *Basis of Union* or to help you think about Act2 in light of the *Basis of Union*.”

Each of the five studies has two to three pages of comments on one or two paragraphs of the *Basis of Union*, followed by a Bible passage and some questions for reflection and discussion. These could make for a series of studies in our Church.

In other news, our Bathurst UC Future Direction Team is working on the pages of great ideas that came from the congregation consultation at the end of April. The Team intends to report back to the two congregations and invite people to give a priority on the ideas to be further developed. Details of that future consultation will be put forward during June.

Blessings

Keith Hamilton

NEWS

Sunday 11 June: The preacher both morning and night will be David

Church Union Anniversary 22 June 2023.

We will commemorate Church Union on Sunday 18 June. At the morning service, some of our members will speak about their recollections of moving into the Uniting Church, which required them to leave their former church and place and relocate to a new congregation and location.

Sunday 25 June: Rev Dr Rob McFarlane will be the preacher at our 9:30 service. Rob and his wife Andrea live at Browns Creek. Rob is the Presbytery Relations Minister for the Synod of NSW.ACT. Rob will speak about his work project, and implications for our Macquarie Darling Presbytery, and Bathurst UC.

Worship Services

9.30am in the church.

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

4 June Rev Keith Hamilton
Communion

11 June David

18 June Rev Keith Hamilton

25 June Rev Dr Rob McFarlane

2 July Rev Keith Hamilton
Communion

‘Sunday @ 5’

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

BUSS Update

Last month we introduced Ian Waddell who had started work with us but sadly Ian has had to step down for family reasons. He will continue to help in some voluntary ways.

We are currently advertising for someone in an admin role for 10 hours per week. More details are on the BUSS Facebook page or you can contact Julie by email buss2795@gmail.com. Closing date is 9 June.

The generosity of the community continues to amaze! We have had donations of clothes, bedding, fresh vegetables for the Frypan Warriors, meals for the café. A big thank you everyone!



We also have a wonderful community of volunteers but always welcome more - especially when winter illness strikes!

It has been a hive of activity outside the BUSS kitchen and if you go down there you will see that there is now a paved area to allow for people to sit outside in good weather and to make it safer for people with mobility scooters or wheelchairs if they go off the path. Pavers were found secondhand and with a lot of helpers they were collected and brought to the church and then a band of workers have levelled the area and are laying the pavers. A huge undertaking and a fantastic job!





On 14 May at the 9:30am service we had a retiring offering for the McFarlane family whose daughter Eliza is undergoing lengthy treatment at Westmead. Please pass on our appreciation to the Church Congregation.

“Your kindness and support has been greatly appreciated in this difficult time in our life. We keep praying Eliza is on the right road to recovery and soon it will be a past memory.” Lisa

THE AIR FRYER MYSTERY

Recently an Air Fryer was donated to KUCA so that the children can have healthy fried food. It has not yet been used by KUCA but has disappeared from the church kitchen.

If anyone has any clues as to where it is please let Rocelyn know as she is the chief cook.

New email address for Bathurst Uniting newsletter

I have created a new email just for the newsletter. I will send the newsletter out each month from this email address and you can send any news or information to the address. I will still receive items at my usual email address as well.

The new address is bathurstucanews@gmail.com

Please send news or information for the website to allanwray@hotmail.com.

Ruth

Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email BUConnect@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with someone.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com

Mowing Roster

June Brian