



Incoming Presbytery Chairperson

The Presbytery, at its in-council meeting on 4 May 2024, agreed by unanimous vote to call and elect Rev Fiona (Fee) Morrison to the role of Gippsland Presbytery Chairperson as an IIM placement to commence on 1 July 2024.

We thank the members of the Joint Nominating Committee, led by Rev Jay Robinson, for their work in helping discern this way forward for us. The Presbytery-in-Council elected Simon Trebilcock as Presbytery Chairperson until Fee takes up the role.

A few words of introduction from Rev Fiona (Fee) Morrison

Hi everyone

Milly, my chocolate Labrador, and I are looking forward to moving to Gippsland in response to the Presbytery's call to ministry placement as Presbytery Chairperson.

I enjoy walking Milly, reading books, knitting, gym and netball, family and friends, enjoying a good coffee in the sunshine, making tea in a pot, playing board games, enjoying being in nature (by the sea, up a mountain, by a river), and working from a café office where possible.

My favourite bible verse is John 10:10, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." This verse has had a huge impact on all of my ministry and life - in accepting all people for who they are, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, beliefs, or abilities; in caring for the whole person and community, and assisting them to be the best person they can be. For us, especially me, to care for the whole of a person is not just spiritual, but includes physical and mental aspects of each person.

Over the past 30 years, I have worked for the Uniting Church in a range of ministry roles: first in youth ministry and then, following theological studies, as an accredited UCA Youth Worker. I have served as an ordained UCA Minister of the Word for the past 15 years. My work has included congregations and presbyteries in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, and almost always in team ministries. Most recently, I have been the resource minister for a cluster of four congregations spread over six towns along the north-west coast of Tasmania. Beyond that, I have also served on the Presbytery's Pastoral Relations Committee, and the Synod's Placements Committee and Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee.



In the role of Presbytery Chairperson, I am really looking forward to getting to know the local Church communities of Gippsland, the local leaders and ordained ministers, and seeing God already at work in our churches and the communities around us. Together, I hope we will continue to find ways to help each other on the journey of life and faith, with respect for diversity and difference, and putting our faith into action with hope, grace and love.

Rev Fee Morrison (she/her) and Milly.

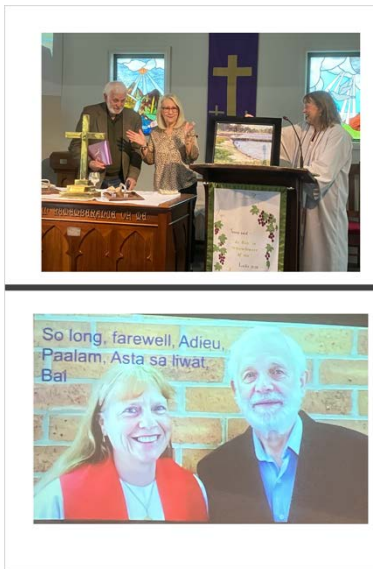
What is an IIM placement?

IIM is the abbreviation for Intentional Interim Ministry. This is a specific ministry to help guide the church through periods of change and transition, and to seek clarity for future directions. It is interim - for a limited period of up to two years. It is intentional - there are defined objectives for the ministry period. It is not done alone - the Presbytery is involved and committed to this process and will provide suitable support structures for the person called to this role (i.e. Rev Fee Morrison).

For us in the Gippsland Presbytery, the primary purposes of our Presbytery Chairperson IIM Placement are: *to fulfil the governance requirements of Chairperson of Presbytery; to build and nurture a culture of mutual respect, collaboration and trust within the Standing Committee and across the teams of the Presbytery; to develop recommendations to Presbytery regarding the future of governance and leadership structures within the Presbytery; to lead the Presbytery Ministry Team; and, to provide pastoral leadership as necessary across the life of the Presbytery.*

What else was decided at the Presbytery-in-Council meeting?

Recognition of Service



Rev Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt is retiring in July and the Presbytery acknowledged her service to God and the church. Rosalie was ordained in December 1988 and she served as Minister of the Word at Shepparton before coming to Gippsland in 2020. She was inducted at Bairnsdale 19 September 2020 - via YouTube! Despite coming in the midst of a global pandemic, Rosalie was a great spreader of hospitality, enthusiasm, and teaching the Word.

A thank you was offered for her service to the Bairnsdale and

Paynesville communities. As Rosalie was unable to attend the Presbytery meeting, flowers were presented to her on Friday, 26 April, on behalf of the Presbytery at the East Enders Lunch. The Paynesville Faith Community also held a farewell event for Rosalie, presenting Rosalie with a specially commissioned painting of the Paynesville foreshore by local artist Dawn Stubbs.

Rosalie's release of ties will be held on Sunday, 2 June, as part of the worship service at 9:30 am, at Bairnsdale Uniting Church.



Elections and appointments

A significant portion of the agenda for the Presbyter-in-Council meeting was dedicated to the election and appointment of officers of the Presbytery and for membership of the numerous committees functioning within the Presbytery, and for determining the roles and responsibilities for some of these Presbytery committees.

- During the meeting, the Presbytery approved the roles and responsibilities of the Gippsland Presbytery Property Committee.
- In response to the number of vacancies for officers and committee membership remaining after nominations had been received, Presbytery agreed to form a Nominations Committee, with responsibility for identifying suitable members it wishes to nominate for the vacancies, and make recommendations back to Presbytery. Peter Kingwill, Cathie Halliwell, Rev Ian Brown, Rev Joedy Meers and Deb Bye were appointed to the Nominations Committee.
- Nominations for election and appointment of officers and committee membership were presented to Presbytery (circulated with the agenda papers). A ballot was held, and all nominations for officers and committee membership were successfully elected or appointed by majority vote. A huge THANK YOU to those who have faithfully served on Presbytery committees over the years, but this year have chosen not to renominate.

September Camp 2024

The Gippsland Presbytery Camping Committee presented a report on September Camp and made recommendations for holding the camp this year. Presbytery approved the running of the 2024 Gippsland Presbytery September Camp from 23 to 27 September 2024 and its budget, and appointed Cathie Halliwell as Camp Director and Study Leader.

The theme for the 2024 September Camp is "Breathe" - taking time to be still and seek God in prayer, reading the scriptures, talking with others about questions of faith, and living as a disciple of Jesus in today's world.

We give thanks to God for the generosity shown through the support for this ministry each year. We offer our prayers of support for the camp leaders and junior leaders, the camp participants, and all those who provide the practical, emotional and spiritual support for all involved.

Frontier Services - Bushfire Recovery Chaplain

With the term of the Bushfire Recovery Chaplain appointment coming to a close, Rev Deacon Peter Harvey has presented some recommendations for a potential future ministry based in Orbost to Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee, and Frontier Services. Discussions are ongoing between the Presbytery and Frontier Services regarding the establishment of a Remote Area Ministry based at Orbost and how this may be funded.

Two-minute reports

A number of congregations shared their news of celebration and events.

- Marilyn Cassidy - Paynesville: Engaging with seasonal workers - mentioned seasonal workers needing warm clothes and blankets. Marilyn suggested asking seasonal workers in your area if they need such support.
- Julie-Anne Trease - Leongatha: Shared the success of an ecumenical Youth Alpha program under auspice of the Baptist Church. Julie-Anne reported on the involvement of 40 youth plus support crew, with ongoing engagement in the community.
- Judy McLeod - Mirboo North: 150 years of worship celebrated at Poowong. An ecumenical worship service was conducted with 150 attending. The retiring offering raised \$1,000 for the CFA. Read more about this on the [Crosslight website](#).
- Jeanette McNamara - Maffra: Reported on the updating their congregation's website with the assistance of Synod. Check out the new look [Maffra website](#). If your congregation needs similar help with the digital world, please contact Diego Lopez, digital technical officer ((03) 9340 8811, diego.lopez@victas.org.au).
- Ann Kay - Yarram: Shared that the Yarram church participated in the Tarra Festival over the Easter weekend. On the Saturday, the Church opened their doors for the public to look at the stained-glass windows and an ecumenical service was held as part of the festival.
- Veronica Gribble - Wonthaggi: Share the joy of their Easter service, where the children had the opportunity of enacting the story through drama. A fantastic atmosphere.



[New Website for Lake Tyers Camp and Caravan Park](#)

LEONGATHA: On Sunday April 28th we had an opportunity to thank Ken Reid (right) for his many years of service as a lay preacher. We also thanked Rev. Jim Murray (left) for his worship leadership and support for the congregation. We are grateful that both Ken and Jim continue to lead worship and serve the church in many ways. Flowers presented by chairperson Julie-Anne Trease.



PAYNESVILLE: Great to be able to help out our local seasonal workers - receiving warm clothes and blankets from Paynesville Op Shop. They are not used to our autumns - cold mornings and even colder nights.

REMINDERS

- Presbytery Property Committee – Thursday 16th May 4:30pm zoom
- PRC Wednesday 28th May – 1pm – Traralgon UC
- Standing Committee Monday 20th May 2pm – Traralgon UC
- Presbytery in Council – Saturday 3rd August 10am – Traralgon UC

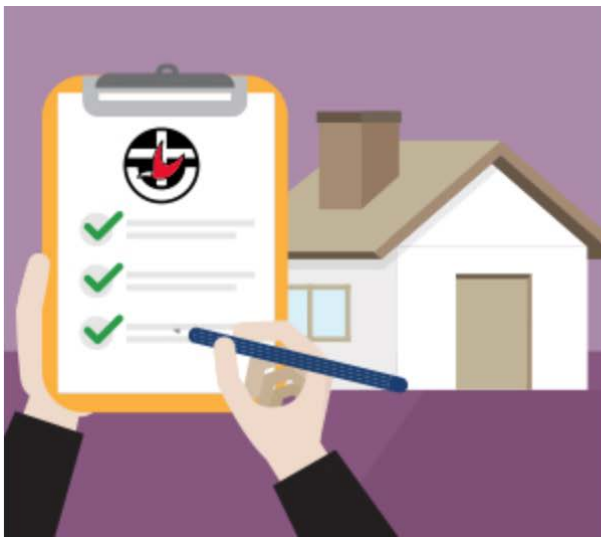


The Uniting Church's South Australian Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts has launched a series of new worship music packs called 'Walk as One', for congregations across the country. The lyrics are contemporary in language, and mainstream UCA theology, and cover a range of themes, from praise, confession, lament, hearing and responding to the word, praying for others, being called and sent in mission. More information about the music packs is available [here](#).



An introductory online Unit for anyone who wants to know more about the New Testament. Mon 15th Jul 2024, 7:00 pm - Mon 30th Sep 2024, 9:00 pm Zoom link will be emailed on the morning of the first session.

[Tickets here](#)



Lease information

A reminder that all leases require approval by Church Council, Presbytery, and the Synod via a 3ER Application to Lease form (3EC for Commercial).

[READ MORE](#)