



OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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Advent 2019

The 'Lund' Principle

*Should not the churches act together in all matters
except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?*

Advent Message from the President

We can't drive very far these days without encountering road works. As we see the new roads emerging, I am reminded of the cry of St John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord: make his paths straight!" (Mark 1, 3). We reflect on this passage each year during Advent as we recall the coming of Christ among us.



I have always loved the Season of Advent. Perhaps for us in Tasmania, where it is linked with the beginning of summer, it reminds us of new life, a time of expectation, waiting and joy. These feelings are reflected in Nature – the longer days, the freshness of the mornings, the sunshine, the green of new growth, the colours of the flowers and the song of the birds.

As a teenager, I remember each evening during Advent opening the little flaps on the Advent Calendar with the younger members of my family. This memory led me to think about the surprise encounters with God that happen each day in our own lives. Perhaps Advent is a good time to reflect each evening on where we have encountered God through the day and where we were able to bring the light of Christ into someone else's life by a welcoming smile, an encouraging word, a thank you for a service received, or sharing a moment to listen with care to the concerns of another.

As we look forward to spending time with family and close friends, it is heartening to see the generosity of people who think of others who are lonely or less fortunate than themselves and try to ensure that they too share in love and friendship at this time.

Let us pray that God will teach us what he wants us to do and that we will walk His light, in the paths he has chosen (cf Isaiah 2,5). May we bring the Light of Christ to our world each day – in the midst of wars, suffering, fires, drought, power struggles, hatred and division – a world so much in need of peace and reconciliation.

Sr Elizabeth Vagg PBVM

TCC President

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TCC EXECUTIVE

Officers

President:	Sr Elizabeth Vagg, PBVM
Vice-President:	Mr David Morris
Treasurer:	Mr David Clarke
Immediate Past President:	The Revd Jeff Gray (<i>Ex-Officio</i>)

Heads of Churches (appointed by the Member Churches)

Anglican:	The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie
Catholic:	The Most Reverend Julian Porteous
Churches of Christ:	<i>position vacant</i>
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers):	David O'Halloran
The Salvation Army:	Captain Kim Haworth
Uniting:	Mr Rohan Pryor

Alternates for Heads of Churches (appointed by any Member Churches who choose to appoint an alternate for their Head of Church)

Catholic:	Sr Elizabeth Vagg, PBVM
Religious Society of Friends:	Kevin Sheldon
The Salvation Army:	Major Christine Ellis
Uniting:	The Reverend Rosalind Terry

Representatives of Member Churches (appointed by the Member Churches)

Anglican:	Mr David Morris
Catholic:	<i>position vacant</i>
Churches of Christ:	<i>position vacant</i>
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers):	Julie Walpole
The Salvation Army:	Envoy Basil Giffard
Uniting:	The Reverend Jeff Gray

Executive Members elected by the Annual Meeting (up to five): The Reverend Carolyn Field *4 positions vacant*

Executive members co-opted by the Executive (up to three): *3 positions vacant*

Representatives of Associated Bodies:

Principal, Jane Franklin Hall:	Ms Joanna Rosewell
Australian Church Women:	Miss Daphne Mitchell
ReVenture:	<i>position vacant</i>
Spiritual Care Australia:	Ms Carmel Fader (Southern meetings); Mr Bradley Taylor (Northern meetings)
TCC Emergencies Ministry Inc.	Pastor Gordon (Gus) Yearsley

TCC Executive Liaison Persons:

NCCA Act for Peace:	The Reverend Carolyn Field
Christian Ministry in State Schools:	The President (DoE, DCI, HCM); Mr David Clarke (SU)

The Executive Working Group (EWG) includes Sr Elizabeth Vagg, PBVM, Mr David Morris, Mr David Clarke, the Revd Jeff Gray, and Envoy Basil Giffard.

News from the Launceston Quakers

I've just read the Tasmanian Peace Trust Lecture for 2019 *From Uluru to Nauru: the peace that still eludes Australia*, by Phil Glendenning. Phil is the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education in Sydney and President of the Refugee Council of Australia.

The lecture was delivered in Hobart on 16th October and can be watched online at <https://peacetrust.org/annual-peace-trust-lecture/> The lecture is also available for purchase from the Tasmanian Peace Trust for \$5.00.

The full transcript of Patsy Cameron's speech on the 2019 UN International Day of the worlds indigenous peoples *Trick or Treaty* can be found at <https://traca.com.au/blog/2019/08/26/trick-or-treaty-tasmanias-unfinished-business/>

In this season of Peace & Goodwill, I have also encountered and appreciated John O'Donohue's Blessing for Peace. (below)

Peace

Julie Walpole

Launceston Quakers

A Blessing for Peace

As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.
We pray for all who suffered violence today
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

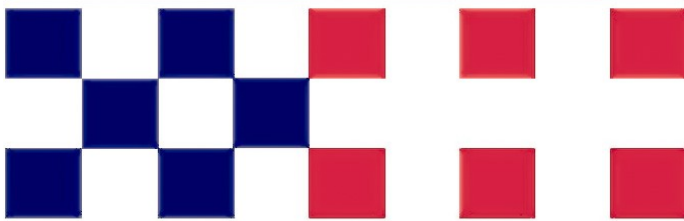
For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.
That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.

That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.
That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares
And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

John O'Donohue in Benedictus: a book of blessings. 2009

Tasmanian Council of Churches



EMERGENCIES MINISTRY

Deployment

TCCEM was activated in all three regions of the state as a result of the fires in January and February this year. More than 60 volunteers were deployed to 9 locations across numerous weeks. The busiest location was the Huonville Evacuation Centre but teams were also sent to Queenstown, Miena, Bothwell, the Tasmanian Emergency Information Service, and Service Tasmania offices in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. In an unusually long deployment, our volunteers were greatly appreciated and highly valued.

Training

A training day was held with 20 participants from 9 LGA's and representing 7 denominations/faiths at St Clement's Anglican Church in Kingston on 31st May. Our usual trainer, Margaret Savage, was unavailable so Paul Hueston stepped into that role for the day. It was a very worthwhile and productive day with some brilliant people now on the journey to be accredited volunteers with TCCEM.

AVECA

The Australian Volunteer Emergency Chaplaincy Alliance, of which TCCEM is a member, is an increasingly strong and active collective across state and territory jurisdictions. AVECA arranged a speaking tour of Dr Naomi Paget one of the world's foremost authorities on crisis chaplaincy in Sydney and Melbourne in July. Dr Paget presented three days of seminars (Operational Stress First Aid; Managing Relationships During Crisis; and Resilience for Stress Management. Paul Hueston attended in Sydney and Gus Yearsley & 2 Volunteers attended in Melbourne.

Connections with LGA's

Our project "Enhanced access to a more resilient pastoral care service across Tasmanian local government areas" had us engaged with Mayors and/or council Emergency Management Coordinators in 15 local councils, with a very positive reception.

Go Kits and Jackets

TCCEM received a federal government Volunteers Grant to purchase warm jackets for our volunteers and to double our number of Go Kits to six. The new jackets will be kept with the Go Kits and be available to volunteers on deployment.

Hobart Airport Chaplaincy

This chaplaincy service is progressing well and is greatly appreciated by Airport staff. Hobart Airport has announced a Terminal Expansion Project that will significantly increase the size of the terminal and facilitate international flights. TCCEM is well positioned to offer support over the next three years of this building project, which will undoubtedly be a busy and stressful time for many. The chaplaincy service has been boosted by a grant from the Tasmanian Christian Fund that contributed to our goal to raise \$100k by July 5 this year.

For more information: www.tccem.org.au or admin@tccem.

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The **TCC Emergencies Ministry** is part of the State Government's Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan, with the activation of the regional social recovery committee in the event of a disaster or emergency. The TCC Emergencies Ministry is the primary agency whose sole purpose is to deliver accredited pastoral care in times of crisis. We provide **training** for this Emergencies Ministry: details about our training courses are on tccem.org.au. **Contact** our Emergencies Ministry Officer, Pastor Gus Yearsley at emprojects@tcctas.org.au.



SCHOOLS SUNDAY - 16 FEBRUARY 2020



Schools Sunday is an initiative of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, supported by Scripture Union Tasmania.

Schools play an important part in the life of our community, and a formative role in the lives of children. When our own schooling is finished, it is easy to forget this fact. People are asked to plan a specific Sunday morning that focuses on schools. Schools Sunday is an excellent way to remind Christian students and school staff members that God is not confined to a Sunday service, but goes with them to school.

Schools Sunday will be held on **16 February 2020**. Our 2019 theme is **Tasty, Bright & Smelly** – taking a look at how we can all make a difference to the lives of others, shine brightly for Jesus and attract others to him.

Of course, if you miss out on celebrating Schools Sunday in February, you can choose another day for your church.

Scripture Union Tasmania has collated a number of resources, either to plan a complete Sunday service, or a segment such as a skit or sermon, if that will best suit your congregation and circumstances. Please contact the office on 6244 8422 or enquiries@sutas.org.au

David L Clarke
SU Business Manager



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experience.**



JANE FRANKLIN HALL

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- 24/7 pastoral support.
- Academic support.
- Full catering.
- On-demand tutoring.
- Chaplaincy services.
- Campus transport on the Jane bus.

Visit Jane.edu.au or call 62 100 100 for more information.

World Council of Churches



**World Council
of Churches**

Two candidates nominated for WCC general secretary



The search committee appointed by the central committee to prepare the election of the next general secretary of the World Council of Churches met this week, and has informed the moderator of the central committee, Dr Agnes Aboum, about the results of their work. The position will be vacant as of 1 April 2020 since the present general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, announced to the central committee in June 2018, that he would not stand for re-election for a third period after having served two five-year terms.

The search committee has, through its moderator Prof Dr Fernando Enns, informed the moderator of the central committee, that they have finished the search process and interviews, and concluded by consensus to propose two names to the central committee for the upcoming election of the next general secretary of the WCC.

Name: Dr Elizabeth Joy

Occupation: A Director/Trustee at Churches Together in England

Church: The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Country: United Kingdom/India

Born: 1961

Name: Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay

Occupation: Head of the Department of Church History and Polity, University of Pretoria

Church: Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa

Country: South Africa

Born: 1965

The final decision will be taken by election at the central committee, 18-24 March 2020, in Geneva, Switzerland.



Today I invite you to reflect with me on the first Christmas Bowl where the Reverend Frank Byatt of Victoria placed an empty bowl on the dinner table and asked his friends and family to consider their good fortunes and contribute something to help those who had fled the horrors of World War II.

As we enter the season of Advent, I'd like to invite you and members of your congregation to place a bowl in your church as a symbol of remembrance and prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world in urgent need.

This can be a bowl you already own, or if you prefer, we have a cardboard bowl which has been printed with the Christmas Bowl logo and has plenty of space for members of your congregation to decorate! If your church or anyone in your congregation would like to order their own free bowl, please phone 1800 025 101 or email info@actforpeace.org.au.

Your Christmas Bowl resources are also available online at www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl. This year, a range of fun and engaging children's colouring-in sheets are also available to download and use during your services.

With blessings and gratitude,

Janet Cousens
CEO
Act for Peace

Singers of Southern Tasmania presents

A Christmas Proclamation of Hope
'THE PROMISE OF A KING'

by Lloyd Larson

2.30pm.
Saturday 7 December.

Wellspring Anglican
Church,
Lord St. Sandy Bay

Tickets at the Door:
Adult Tickets.... \$20
Children under 15...\$10

**With a Community sing-along of
favourite carols
followed by afternoon tea**



The Tasmanian
Council of
Churches
and its member
churches wish you,
and all the members
of your
congregation,
a joyful Advent-
Christmas season
and a healthy
and happy 2020.



Tasmanian Song Company presents
CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR
Sunday 8th December, 2pm
Clarence Uniting Church, York St,
Bellerive.

Tasmanian Song Company presents their last concert for the year, a pre-Christmas treat for all the family.

Come and sing along with the choir as they sing their seasonal favourites as well as traditional and Australian carols.

\$20 adults—\$15 concession—\$10 children (under 15)
(includes homemade afternoon tea)

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/BEEYF>

Or door sales available.

Allegri Ensemble Chamber Choir
Directed by Jonathon Wallis

CAROLS & MOTETS for the CHRISTMAS SEASON
alongside CANTATAS for VOICES & INSTRUMENTS

Saturday 14th December, 8 pm

All Saints Church, 339 Macquarie St, South Hobart



Schools Sunday

in Tasmania is observed
on the third Sunday in February.



In 2020 Schools Sunday is on

16 February

Visit the Schools Sunday website
for worship and activity resources:

<https://sutas.org.au/Schools-Sunday>

Schools Sunday is an initiative of the TCC resourced by SU Tasmania.

The next **Oikoumene** will be
published in March, 2020.

All material for publication
should be received at
jeffgray@bigpond.com

or at

12 Turnbull Crescent,
Rosetta 7010
by the end of February.