



# Ministerial retirements and memorial minutes

Alexandra Park Conference Centre

**Moderator** Rev David Baker | **General Secretary** Robert Packer

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## **Rev Peter Aay**

- 1.16 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Peter Aay to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 8 March 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Peter Aay.

### **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Peter Aay**

The Queensland Synod places on record its appreciation to Rev Peter Aay for more than 32 years of service in ordained ministry.

Peter Aay was ordained at Oakey in 1983 after responding to the call of God to commit his life to full time Christian ministry. In this placement he served the Darling Downs townships of Oakey, Jondaryan, Acland, Goombungee and Peranga until 1984 followed by placement in the Noosa Hinterland at Cooroy, Pomona, Cooran, Kin Kin and Eumundi from 1984 to 1989. Ministry and life skills prepared Peter well for the role of Director of Life Line, Maryborough-Hervey Bay, which he filled from 1989 to 1997.

Moving on from Life Line and believing his call was not to the prime South-East corner of the State, Peter and Gwenda accepted placement in Chinchilla from 1998 to 2000. In Peter's words, it was towards the end of the third year in Chinchilla, that he "received the hand of the Moderator" on his shoulder, with the request that he accept placement in Central West Uniting Churches. Peter responded positively to the request, obviously answering the Moderator's prayer and resulting in a placement covering Barcaldine, Blackall, Alpha, Aramac and Jericho from 2001 to 2009.

As much as country ministry suited Peter, Peter also suited country ministry as revealed through his ability to communicate with and minister to people in this environment on a level which they have found pleasing and deeply meaningful. His effectiveness developed bi-lateral, life-long respect with peoples of these communities. Peter said he'd heard that the way for a minister to become known in a smaller town was to conduct a few funeral services early in the placement or for the minister's family to have a baby. Well, within two months of moving to Barcaldine, Peter fulfilled both criteria: Jayden was born in the local hospital and Peter had conducted seven funerals. What a way to cement for a minister to cement his presence!

In his ninth year of ministry in this western settlement, Peter accepted a call to the clustered congregations of Northside Mackay and Seaforth. Commencing in Mackay in January 2010, Peter ministered in this area through to his retirement. Peter has always given of himself in a most generous manner, expending well beyond the usual hours, in fulfilling his ministerial responsibilities and opportunities.

Congregations and those peripheral to the immediate worshipping life of the church have developed a love and healthy respect for Peter. Members of those families who are not regular worshippers but recipients of ministry through grief, turmoil or need have found Peter's ministry to be inspired and comforting in their lowest points of life.

In recognising Peter's service to church and God, we wish also to place on record the contribution of his family. Peter's wife Gwenda, daughters Rinalda and Yolanda, and son Jayden have been enthusiastic contributors through their skills and God-given gifts. Their musical abilities, in particular, as well as their skills at puppetry and mime, have enhanced worship in congregations where Peter has ministered. They have become well known as a family that worships and contributes together.

There is no doubt that Peter's family has been a great encouragement to him in ministry. The sacrifices required within a ministerial family are many and so, through this minute, we also extend our love and appreciation of their willingness to support husband and father in this way.

The Queensland Synod recognises, with great appreciation, 32 years of ordained ministry by Rev Peter Aay and thanks the Lord God Almighty for His call upon Peter's life.



### **Personal Reflection**

It has been a great privilege to share in the joys and sorrows of individuals and families, and to stand with them in the highs and lows of life.

It has been a privilege and joy to serve for many years in some of Queensland's small country towns and having been a presence of God in bush communities.

I have continued to be amazed and grateful that God has seen fit to use me in ordained ministry for thirty plus years, in spite of my personal limitations.

## **Rev Lloyd Beynon**

- 1.17 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Lloyd Beynon to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Lloyd Beynon.

### **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Lloyd Beynon**

Lloyd began life in Christchurch, New Zealand (the home of the All Blacks) back in 1947, growing up in a family of 7, living behind his Dad's Fruit/Vegetable & Grocery shops. Growing up in Christchurch provided plenty of opportunity for outdoor living, sport and travel. Early days were spent working in the shop and other holiday jobs, holidays on family farms and bush walking in the Southern Alps foothills.

Lloyd's Christian upbringing was through Colombo St Baptist Church, a highlight being the Easter Camps. He took a keen interest in outreach groups, Christian camps and holiday children's programs.

After a time at Canterbury University, in 1970 Lloyd headed off to the Pilbara in Western Australia to work on a railway construction project as a Survey Hand.

1971 brought a move for Lloyd to Darwin, where work was found in the Commonwealth and then Northern Territory Governments in several Departments, primarily Transport & Works, Health, Law and finally Education. Most of this work Lloyd found very fulfilling, especially building/facilities project development. He and Sue married in 1973 with daughters Tanya and Leisa arriving in 1978/9. Lloyd and Sue made their home in Darwin, experiencing Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Sadly their marriage ended in 1983.

Lloyd rediscovered his relationship with God in these hard times and through friends become involved in the Uniting Church, attending the Casuarina and later Karama Uniting Churches. The friendship and acceptance by people was a huge encouragement to Lloyd, especially that from the late Rev Bill Clarke.

In 1987 Lloyd was invited to apply for the position of Administration Manager with the Alice Springs Parish and took up this position, which involved managing the church office and outreach programs, on the Boards of Old Timers Retirement Home and St Philips College. From late 1988 his primary responsibility was as Project Coordinator for the commencement of St Philip's College Day School in 1989.

During his time in Alice Springs, Lloyd experienced a call to offer himself to candidate for Minister of the Word, was accepted and began training in Adelaide at Parkin-Wesley Theological College in 1990. Here Lloyd appreciated his practical involvement in churches in NE Adelaide and in Clinical Pastoral Education.

He and Viv where married in July 1989 and Lloyd was ordained in 1994, commencing ministry in the Flinders Parish, a group of 6 churches in the SA mid-north. Serving in country ministry was both challenging and fulfilling and provided many enjoyable opportunities of connecting with country community life.

In mid 1997 Lloyd & Viv where called to Katherine Uniting Church NT, making many new friends and serving in the community. The local churches enjoyed strong ties and sharing on many projects. In 1998 the Katherine churches worked strongly together responding to the Katherine floods after much of the town was inundated. The churches also served many people who travelled through Katherine and often needed care and support.

In 2002 Lloyd commenced a shared ministry with Mooloolaba Uniting Church and The Sunshine Coast Private Hospital. Personally this was a time of recovering health, learning how to manage 2 ministries with a developing hospital and a busy congregation and sharing together in ministry with many committed Christians. Becoming the first Hospital Chaplain at The Sunshine Coast Private Hospital was a privilege and provided many opportunities to serve patients and staff and in the hospital community. In July 2009 Lloyd took up the fulltime Chaplaincy ministry at TSCPH and continued seeing this ministry grow and serve the hospital community.

Retirement brings more time with family including being grandparents, outdoor life, pursuing interests and the opportunities of discovering what God has for us as the story unfolds.

Lloyd thanks the Uniting Church for the formation for ministry and the humbling privilege of serving in the South Australia, Northern Territory & Queensland Synods.

*“If you don’t know where you’re going, you’re on the right path.*

*The life-enhancing nature of adventure should never be underestimated. Whatever you’re doing, you expand your world when you push past the borders of the familiar into the wilderness of uncertainty. It’s when the unplanned and the unscripted happens that we begin to feel alive.”*



## **Rev John Case**

- 1.18 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev John Case to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 4 October 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev John Case.

### **Minute of Appreciation – Rev John Case**

We celebrate the ministry of John Case who retired from the Burke and Wills Frontier Services patrol on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

John was born in Crows Nest Qld in 1947 and spent his early years on a dairy farm at Ravensbourne.

The family moved to Brisbane when he was four to live initially at Camp Hill, later moving to Kalinga. His strongest connections to the church were the Woolowin Methodist church, now Clayfield Uniting, where he participated in the Youth group and Christian Endeavour along with the range of sports associated with that church.

He married Robin in 1969 and had 2 children, Brad and Sheryn.

In 1972 John took up a posting to Cairns with TAA as a Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, and became strongly involved in leading the youth group at the church there. His experience and ability to contribute to young people's lives was evident and he came to a point of decision about a full time role in church work.

Through the influence of the Rev Jack Frewen-Lord who at the time was Associate Director of the Christian Education Department, John joined the department and was given the role to establish Day Camps across the Presbytery of North Qld. In 1977, he was appointed Regional Education Officer for the Presbytery of North Qld based at Townsville until 1982. During this time, John ran numerous children's and youth camps. He established adventure canoeing on Lake Tinaroo, was heavily involved with the purchase and establishment of the Crystal Creek camp site, and took bus loads of young people to several NCYC's.

In 1983, John entered College to train for the ordained ministry. He was among the first group to be part of the Brisbane College of Theology with four years of training. John completed his field placement at Enoggera under the guidance of Wilf Kennedy. His final year was spent as an intern in 1986 providing ministry in the Cairns Parish at Edmonton and Freshwater. He was ordained at the end of 1986 and his first appointment was Cairns.

In that time he was involved with Rev Brian Whitlock in a large project to redevelop Cairns Central Church. During his time there, he provided ministry in the aftermath of cyclones and, on one occasion, provided significant pastoral support when a bus accident took the lives of Cairns High School students.

After five years in that position he accepted a call to St David's Coopers Plains parish commencing there in January 1991. His energy was directed to building up the Evening Service to attendances of 80-90 young people and young adults. Strong worship leadership teams were involved in providing these services. The Morning Service saw the development of a focus on family style services. John remembers a good support group of lay people who were gifted in leadership.

In July 1997, he was inducted into the Nerang congregation serving there until he moved to the Frontier Services Patrol in July 2005.

Patrol ministry was of continuing interest to him and he had expressed interest in Patrol Ministry in 1996. It was the people and their openness, who leave indelible memories of his ministry in the Burke & Wills Patrol. He still feels a strong link to these years of service. For John, his time in patrol ministry was a significant experience and he embraced and loved the patrol work. One of many highlights was his involvement in securing UC Foundation funding to hold a series of drought concerts on properties during 2006 and 2007.

These concerts provided a strong emotional and morale boost for many western people with many very thankful to John for his role in lifting their spirits. Another highlight was working ecumenically with the local Anglican and Catholic priests who valued his work in the outlying areas. They used to accompany him on his Christmas rounds and together they became known as the Three Muskateers.

While in Patrol Ministry, John became involved with the Police and the SES as a Chaplain.

John retired in October 2015.

His deep commitment to rural ministry is still evident in his continuing role as the Presbytery Secretary of The Downs. He exercises this role with diligence, deep thought and a compassion for people.

We are grateful to God for John's faithfulness, his gifts for ministry, and his insight into worship, witness and service that he continues to share with us.

## Rev Judith Dalton

- 1.19 (a) Notes the advice of Rev Judith Dalton to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of health from 28 February 2014 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(2).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Judith Dalton.

### Minute of Appreciation – Rev Judith Dalton

Judith grew up near London, England. She completed an honours degree in biology and a postgraduate certificate in education before teaching biology in London.

She moved to Australia with her husband Chris in 1974. They lived in Canberra for 22 years.

In Canberra she was a community facilitator in health education, tutor in health education and human ecology courses, and education officer with the ACT Cancer Society. Judith was an elder in the North Belconnen Uniting Church and then commissioned as a Lay Preacher in 1987. She later studied for a Graduate Diploma in Divinity through St Mark's National Theological Centre.

Moving to Sydney in 1997, she worked with Uniting Church Community Aged Care. She then continued studies at the United Theological College and achieved a Master of Arts in Theological Studies, graduating in 2002.

Judith led congregational ministry in Eden on the Far South Coast of New South Wales for 5 years to the end of 2009. She was ordained on 12 December 2009.

Judith and Chris moved to Brisbane in January 2010 to be near their son and his family, including 3 grandchildren. They also have a daughter in Sydney, and another son in Melbourne.

In addition to her commitment to her local church family, education and community work have been hallmarks of Judith's working life. This began with her teaching career in London, followed by various health education and community development roles in Canberra and then a year as a community worker at UCA Wesley Gardens Aged Care in Sydney.

Judith has always had a fascination with, and a sense of wonder at, the marvels of God's creation. In Sydney, following her aged-care work, she became a volunteer guide with Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Her passion for ecological ministry first developed as *Wander and Wonder Walks*, including a meditation.

Eco-theology is dear to both Judith's and Chris's hearts. It grew throughout Judith's placement at Eden, during which time the *Garden of Eden Community Project* was launched. This project's aim is for the church to work with the community to create an eco-conscious and wonder-filled garden, and a lively community art and cultural centre. Suffice to say that through the hard work and prayers of many people, the project soon became a living reality and this month celebrates its tenth anniversary.

In August 2010 the Queensland Council of Synod endorsed the establishment of the position of Green Church Associate within Synod Support Services, a volunteer position which Judith took up in September of that year, working alongside Rev Dr Clive Ayre.

In early 2011 Judith was a part of the Uniting Church's Flood Relief initiative, working in Emerald and Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery, followed by two months as supply minister at Chapel Hill Uniting Church. From 1 March to 31 October 2012, Judith was in a full-time supply placement at Sherwood Uniting Church. This was followed by a (.4) placement at Brookfield Uniting Church, a placement she concluded with deep regret, on the grounds of ill-health, on 28 February 2014.

Since that time, Judith's great ongoing delight has been in her family and in Chris's work towards a PhD in eco-theology. In December 2015, Judith and Chris were able to travel to Canberra, where they were joined by other family members to celebrate Chris's graduation. They are currently very valued members of Toowong Uniting Church.

Wherever Judith has ministered she has been deeply loved both for her passion and for her compassion. For her, the concept of "Shalom" has been central: *peace and wholeness; health and wellbeing; safety and soundness; tranquility and rest; and fullness and harmony*. This is summed up by her prayer "May Christ be your Shalom". The love of God shines through her.



### Personal Reflection

Just under 7 years ago I was ordained in the historic St Georges Uniting Church in Eden, which coincidentally is celebrating today its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its community garden project. It was a very special day for me, after 5 years of pastoral leadership at St Georges, a lifetime of involvement in the church and years spent wrestling with a call to ordination.

The ordination also coincided with closure of my ministry. Chris and I left Eden shortly afterwards to live in Brisbane, not knowing what God had in store for us there. It was therefore with a sense of peace and confirmation that I accepted a placement at Brookfield Uniting Church two years later.

So you can imagine my grief and bewilderment a year later when I became ill and had to retire. As I reflected on this, I recalled the Methodist Covenant Prayer – I had often wondered what these words might mean and whether I could say them honestly:

*I am no longer my own but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.*

**Let me be laid aside for you.** Shortly after I finished at Brookfield, Rev Sunil Kadamparabil was placed there as a part of his transitioning into the Uniting Church and preparation for ministry with Frontier Services at Cunnamulla. It was a time of blessing for all and I came to see that my departure opened the door for Sunil's adventurous ministry. This eased the pain, by helping me realise that God was still very much at work. **AMEN**

## **Rev Kate Dix**

- 1.20 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Kate Dix to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 November 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Kate Dix.

## **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Kate Dix**

Rev Kate Dix commenced her ministry placement in Bundaberg and the Coral Coast Uniting Churches. Having completed her studies, and served as Pastor in the Coral Coast Uniting Church Congregations of Bargara and Burnett Heads, Kate was ordained in the Bargara Uniting Church in December 2009.

During her term as Pastor, Kate led the Bargara congregation as they worshipped in the CWA Hall awaiting the construction of the new Church Complex at Bargara. They enjoyed being located in the community and placing the sign out each Sunday to welcome and be a presence in the community, which was to be and remained an integral part of the focus of Kate's ministry.

Following her ordination as Minister of the Word Kate accepted a call to the Oakey and District UCA Cluster from January 2010 to October 2013.

Consistent to Kate's passions and engagement with community, she continued to reach out to the community in matters of social justice, community support, caring for those who suffered. Kate taught Religious Instruction classes and supported the Oakey and District Christian Leaders Network in continuing to promote the mission of the Church to the community.

During her time in the Presbytery of the Downs, Kate served the Church on the Presbytery Standing Committee and providing leadership in the Ecumenical Womens' Retreat Group.

Kate moved to Maryborough in November, 2013. The congregation had a difficult year, with flood damage to the church building foundations, and the closure of St Stephens' Hospital. Kate was generous with her care and support for the community during this time, bringing people to prayer for the church and to seek to be the church for others. Kate retired in mid-2015. Saddened by the brevity of Kate's ministry with them, the congregation of Maryborough, Bauple & Tiaro do not regret her short time with them.

## **Rev Jackson Gill**

- 1.21 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Jackson Gill to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2014 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Jackson Gill.

## **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Jackson Gill**

Jackson Gill arrived in Australia in 1989 with the intention of studying for the Christian ministry and then returning to Pakistan where he had left his wife Victoria and their three young children: Juliette, Jane and Samuel.

He attended Indooroopilly Church and endeared himself to the ministers and congregation and entered Trinity Theological College and began his training in 1991. As Jackson was without any income, he worked hard finding jobs to allow him to live in Australia and send money home for his family. It was during this time he and Alan O'Hara became firm friends and he taught Alan many lessons about life and the privilege of using money in the service of God's people.

Jackson was working laying hot bitumen on roads in Brisbane in the heat of summer. He shared with Alan that every fortnight he made a forty minute phone call to his family in Pakistan. Alan told him in his best voice of wisdom that he could not do this for he could not afford it. "O I must", he told Alan. "I have to speak to Victoria and then to each of the children and make sure they are obeying their mother. How could I not do this?"

Jackson was granted Australian citizenship and allowed to bring his family to Australia. Alan met the most beautiful people who individually and as a community are making a rich contribution to Australian society. Jackson and Victoria have two grandchildren born in Australia.

Completing his study for the Christian ministry Jackson was ordained in 1999 and appointed to the Tara congregation 1998 in the Downs Presbytery, and then to the Pittsworth Parish 2006-2010.

After a period of supply as a Chaplain with the Blue Nursing Service, Jackson was appointed to Bundaberg as the chaplain to the Blue Nursing complex. It was here he worked closely with Rev Ray Nutley and they developed a close working relationship. After a short period this appointment ended, and Jackson sought to retire from ministry. Needing to find employment, he spoke to the Moderator who advised him that the Wesleyan Methodist Church was in need of some supply ministers. He was appointed to the Lismore congregation. The Lismore Wesleyan Methodist congregation have welcomed them and are seeking to have Jackson and Victoria appointed on a more permanent basis.

Jackson Gill is a fine minister of the Church, who because of his heritage has a rich understanding of his own culture, and of the difficulties of being a minority group in a culture that pays no heed to people who are different. He has a powerful evangelical message and a burning desire to preach the Gospel to all. For him his faith is not something tacked on, but grounded in the heritage of his Christian faith.

For many years (and may still) Jackson supported a Pentecostal Pastor and his family in Lahore. This congregation lived and worked on a disused airfield where they built their flimsy homes and tried to live out their faith. Every so often the Army would come and bulldoze their homes because they were squatting on Government land. The Pastor worked hard to keep his people together. He had an 18year old daughter who attended University. She had to go by bus for it would be unsafe for her to walk.

No matter how hard in Australia, life for Christians in Lahore was tougher.



## Personal Reflection

My story with Uniting Church Queensland Synod started from Albert Street Uniting Church within the old church office in 1991 and it was concluded at the footsteps of the main entrance door of the same church in 2014.

This 23 years journey with UCA Queensland Synod has many stories to share but I will keep them to myself. For these brief comments and reflections I want to quote the words from Proverbs: *"A person's mind plans its way but the Lord direct her/his steps and make them sure."* (Proverbs 16:9)

This was exactly what happened to me when I went to Albert Street Uniting Church office to seek someone to be my financial donor in my church ministry when I go back to Pakistan. An old lady was busy on her typewriter; I said; hello (no answer); then I said can somebody help me with some finance for my church ministry in Pakistan. The lady said, "I believe you need to have more theological education and I am making an appointment with the academic dean of Trinity Theological College for you to see him. She made an appointment put the phone down and said to me: "You can go now and meet him on such and such date."

Through this whole process; this God's sent angel didn't look at me and did not speak to me directly. I went to see the academic dean Rev Professor Hans Spykerboer, who helped me to get admission in the college. In 1994 I completed my bachelor of theology as a non ministry student for I was not a permanent resident of Australia. In the same year (1994) the Keating Government declares that people who have completed a bachelor degree in any field from Australia can apply for permanent residency. This was from God because the church who gave me admission on one condition that after finishing my study I had to go back to Pakistan to serve my church. The same church (UCA) helped and urged me to get permanent residency. I will never forget the day, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 1995 because that was the day I got my BTH and the permanent residency.

I went back to college to do another two and half years study to become and ordained UCA Minister of the Word in the Queensland Synod. Our first Parish was Tara where we went at the end of 1998; my ordination was 20<sup>th</sup> August 1999. After serving as permanent and supply minister in different parishes; I was asked to do chaplaincy in 2012. I was inducted as full time chaplain in Bundaberg and that is where my ministry with UCA Qld Synod was concluded in the middle of 2014.

The final decision took place on the main entrance door of the Albert Street Uniting Church in the conversation with my mentor.

As I reflect back on 23 years spent with UCA Queensland Synod I could say that certainly the Lord planned them and directed my feet to fulfill his will. There are three people I want say thank you to, my two supervisors and my mentor for last 25 years. Though there are many hurts and pains by the interrogative style of interviews yet I know that the sufferings, the hurts and the pain of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)

## **Rev Heather Griffin**

- 1.22 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Heather Griffin to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of health from 30 June 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(2).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Heather Griffin.

### **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Heather Griffin**

Heather was born in Melbourne. As a family, they moved to Sydney when she was 11. It was through the camping ministry of Scripture Union that she became an active Christian at the age of 13.

Her studies in geology were through the University of Sydney and later Macquarie University. She worked as a geologist at the Geological Survey of NSW until 1973.

In 1977 Heather moved with husband Derek and two children, Mark and Naomi, to Brisbane in time to attend the Union celebrations at the old Milton Tennis Courts.

They had come from the Anglican church in Sydney and changed to UCA in Brisbane. They attended Moggill UCA for 23 years and as a family, took on many roles there over the years.

Heather was a stay at home Mum from 1974-1984 and she can honestly say she has never worked harder than through that time!

In 1986 she undertook a Diploma of Education at the University of Queensland then returned to the paid workforce as a teacher/lecturer, mostly for Griffith University.

She studied theology out of interest at the Brisbane College of Theology over quite a period of time before candidating in 1998. Field Education in 2000 was at Centenary Uniting Church. Heather was ordained at Moggill Uniting Church on 9 December 2000.

Her first placement was Holland Park St David's. There she enjoyed much camaraderie with Lyn Burden and Peter Arnett as their congregations developed and ran children's holiday programs together.

It was during her first year as an ordained minister that the events of 9/11 occurred. This came home to her very abruptly when a petrol bomb was thrown through the door of the Holland Park mosque, less than a block away from the manse in which they were living. Suddenly the hatred was not only on the other side of the world; it was in her very own neighbourhood. So the folk at St David's wrote as Christians to the people at the mosque expressing their horror at such happenings and vowing to work alongside them in promoting peace.

This led to an ongoing interest in the interfaith movement and in peace building, and to her participation in the Synod Interfaith Relationships Committee and the Assembly Relations with Other Faiths Working Group.

During Heather's second placement at Sherwood UCA the Brisbane floods of 2011 hit, and the church facilities became a refuge for people who had waded out of their homes through rising floodwaters in the middle of the night. She is extremely grateful for work and training developed by Stephen Robinson and for his presence in Brisbane during that time. She later undertook his Disaster Management Peer Support training.

Heather's third placement was a country placement in the Brisbane Valley - Esk, Toogoolawah and Moore - a (.6) placement that enabled her to return to Brisbane (and her husband) every second week. It was a great joy and also a good way to transition to retirement.



She was a PRC member in both the Presbyteries in which she served: South Moreton and Bremer Brisbane.

For the last eight years Heather has taken on the role of Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee Chairperson and would like to acknowledge with grateful thanks, the teamwork and dedication of people who work so hard behind the scenes within the Synod to bring about justice and a degree of healing for survivors of sexual abuse and for those against whom complaints are made.

Ministry is never done in isolation. She had been privileged to work with many great people whose faith has inspired her and whose love for God through Jesus Christ has flowed out into the communities in which they live and work. Heather has learned much from them and has been inspired by their faith. She prays that she may have contributed to their spiritual growth as they have to her, as together they travel the paths that God had laid out for us.

She thanks, always, her dear husband Derek, and their two children, Mark and Naomi.

The Presbytery is thankful to God for Heather's life and ministry. We wish her and Derek every blessing as they enjoy retirement.



### **Personal Reflection**

When I was young, I came to an active faith in Jesus Christ through the work of Scripture Union. I subsequently attended bible studies and lectures organised by the Evangelical Union at the University of Sydney and was also heavily involved with Beach Missions. This had a strong influence on the ways in which I perceived God interacting with us in our lives. In my circles, daily bible reading was the most important way, combined with prayer and with the ever present expectation of God's direct guidance. Back in those days, and in those circles, I was taught many wonderful things, but I was also taught who to be wary of - Catholics in particular, and "high church" in general. We didn't even consider people of other faiths!

It was quite a number of years later that I came to understand that for many Christians, God's presence in the sacraments is incredibly significant and participating in the sacraments is participating in the life of God. This was the first of many broadenings of my understanding of divine-human encounter. Further broadenings were to come in the form of new understandings of the work of the Holy Spirit, and with it, the mystical encounters that were part of the charismatic movement. Yet more broadening occurred as the theological climate around me changed from seeing the role of Christians as bringing God to a world that didn't know Him/Her to an understanding that God is already present in the world and that our role as Christians, is to discern where God is at work, and get on board with that work.

It is this understanding that brings me hope. Wherever I see people - they may be people of faith, or they may be people who don't align with a particular faith tradition - wherever I see people acting as Jesus would have acted, I see God. Wherever I see disasters in the world, I see God not in the disaster so much as in those who then quietly come in and feed and bandage and bring healing and hope. As a Christian, and particularly as a Christian minister, there have been dark times, usually at about 2am when the "Why on earth am I doing this?" questions flood through the brain. But then I think of the many, many wonderful people I know (and you are some of them) in whom I see Christ-like actions and it floods me with HOPE. God has not deserted God's world. God never will!

## **Rev Subramaniam Manopavan**

- 1.23 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Subramaniam Manopavan to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 August 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Subramaniam Manopavan.

## **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Subramaniam Manopavan**

We all know him as Mano and he is pretty hard to miss, with his magnificent smile and a clear love of the Lord that shines from his face .

He has a naughty sense of humour that emanates from a love and appreciation of life in all it's fullness. We thank God for the opportunities we have had to know and walk alongside this lovely man.

Mano has served the Lord faithfully all his life. His ministerial experience spans some 4 decades, starting with 11 years from April 1974 in the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India right through until November 1985.

He has been a servant of the Lord who has always felt the very distinct call of God on his life. His home, growing up, provided a wonderful platform for his Christian walk and future ministry.

Mano began his ministry in Australia in February 1986 at the Ipswich Central Mission under the leadership of Rev Eric Moore. This appointment was followed by tenures at Mount Gravatt, Gladstone and the Clayfield – Hamilton Congregations which he completed in June 2003.

That same year he started a 6 year placement to the Tamil Congregation of the UCA, Victoria Synod. After this he returned to Queensland to serve at the Aspley Congregation in north Brisbane. This being his final appointment leading to his retirement in August 2015.

Mano has been faithfully supported by and ministered to by his loving wife, Rangini. They were married in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1975 and together they have 3 children Jonathon (wife Natalie), David (wife Sunita) and Johanna (husband Boris Hahn). Mano is blessed with four beautiful grandchildren.

Mano has been blessed by a loving and caring family. He is in fact someone very easy to like simply because he is himself a lover of people.

A fine Minister and a humble man of God.

Well done Mano and Rangini enjoy a long retirement.



### Personal Reflection

It still amazes me to know that I became a Minister forty years ago and survived it too! At a time I was in a way lost 'in the wilderness of life', I was made to understand that there was much more to life. Having been brought up in the Manse, with father and two brothers already in Ministry, I felt I was being challenged. In the early years, at a Church Youth Camp, the Speaker based his address on, *"I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvellous are your works, and that my soul knows very well."* – Psalm 139:14 (My text for the final sermon before retirement!). What a great journey it has been. If I were to start all over again, this is what I will be doing.

Early days were not easy. A very low sense of self confidence, being considered a 'failure' in comparison to siblings, and a poor track record of academic success made it harder to embark on a five year programme at the United Theological College, Bangalore, South India. As it happened to be an interdenominational and international institution, it was easier for me to find my way around. It was possible to find friends who had similar doubts, and we came to the conclusion that our God is a great God with a great sense of humour! It was a good start of a rather eventful career.

After about ten years in ministry in Sri Lanka, I had to make the painful decision to leave my country of birth and migrate to Australia at the end of 1985. To cut the long story short, in about six weeks after arrival I was a member of the Ministry Team at Ipswich Central Mission, thanks to the initiative of Rev and Mrs Eric Moore, people of extraordinary vision and courage! Interestingly enough, I had never heard of the Uniting Church in Australia up to that point. After the terrific start at Ipswich I have had the privilege of serving at Mount Gravatt, Gladstone, Clayfield, Oakleigh Tamil (Victoria), and Aspley – a total of thirty years.

I have been very fortunate to actively share in the wider work of the Church as I served in various Commissions and Committees at all levels, Assembly Commission for Mission, World Mission Committee, Qld Synod Leadership Team, Standing Committee, Presbytery Chair of Napean Presbytery (Victoria), and Pastoral Relations Committee of every Presbytery I served in. I strongly believe one should endeavour to understand the working of a Church in order to make any contribution. Speaking at NCYC in Tasmania, preaching at Closing Service of Synod, and leading Bible Studies at the following Synod have been the high lights.

My wife Rangini (married forty one years ago) and my children Jonathan, David and Arsha have been the real source of encouragement and support throughout. Having arrived in this country when they were young, they are all happily married and have children of their own of the same age as they were when they migrated. It is my sincere plea that the Church should recognise, acknowledge, and affirm the contribution made by members of the family of Ministers.

Except for one Placement, I have always served in Team Ministry. I have come to realise that it is not in every one's DNA to be a Ministry Team member. The Church as a whole should consider this carefully as I have seen disasters in this area. Philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, *"To accept good advice is but to increase one's own ability."* It takes a great sense of humour for a Ministry Team to work together. Secondly, I believe the so called 'critics' are part of creation for the good of society! There is always one in every crowd!! *"If you stop every time a dog barks, your road will never end,"* says an Arabian proverb. People who are rowing will have no time to rock the boat! Along with everything else, a good sense of humour is one of the greatest assets in Christian Ministry. I thank God for holding me in His care all these long years.

## Rev Hohaia Matthews

- 1.24 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Hohaia Matthews to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of health from 31 August 2016 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(2).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Hohaia Matthews.

## Minute of Appreciation – Rev Hohaia Matthews

Hohaia Matthews was born in New Zealand on 20 July 1956. At 18 he began as an apprentice boilermaker, then working at the Price Motherwell & Huntley power station in 1977-78. He turned to teaching, enrolling in Auckland Teachers College in 1979 and graduating in 1982. After several teaching positions in Auckland, Hohaia moved to South Australia in 1986. Here he worked in both teacher and boilermaker positions.

Early years in Hohaia's Christian formation were spent with Open Air Campaigners in NZ, sharing his own experience of faith in Christ. Completing his Bachelor of Ministry at Parkin-Wesley College, Adelaide, in 1997, Hohaia was ordained in July 1999. He served in the Synod of South Australia as a student minister at Alberton Links Congregation, Port Adelaide. This was followed by brief placements in Beulah, Brim Brim East Parish, Victoria, and with the UAICC in Port Augusta, South Australia.

Ministry with indigenous Australians was effective and personally fulfilling. Hohaia wrote, *"I've been working with First Nations people for many years in Adelaide and Port Augusta and I have enjoyed every moment."* The Presbytery commented on his ministry there: *"Hohaia has had a significant ministry in Port Augusta that has had an impact throughout the Synod. His leadership has been committed, visionary and dynamic."* It was also noted that his health had suffered during this time but he had "come through this crisis well."

Hohaia and family relocated to Queensland in 2012, and he commenced his placement at Logan Central Multi-Cultural Congregation on 1 December 2012. On arrival, he and his wife, Dawn, immediately established an outreach program. A number of initiatives were launched as points of contact and bridge-building projects to connect people with the church.

Two annual Family Days were established. These focused on effective parenting in order to help keep children safe. Fun activities such as rides, storytelling, food, feasting are an important part of this day.

Another major creative initiative was entering into a Community Development Program with the Correctional Services Department to deliver an integrated community service program for sentenced prisoners and offenders. During the week, 'Auntie Dawn' and a band of volunteers supervised about 10-15 young adults who were involved in cleaning.

As part of the LCMCUC's fresh initiatives, Hohaia and Dawn established a Hangi Pot Ministry. Experiencing a hangi has been an effective way to interact with the Maori culture. Another Maori connection came with the church's first commemoration of Matariki Day, the start of the Maori New Year, in June 2015. This was held in conjunction with Mental Health Awareness Week. About 400 people, mainly from the Maori communities and many not part of the church, came together to acknowledge the year gone by, as well as to celebrate and prepare for the year ahead, with the sharing of kai (food), rituals, entertainment, hospitality and knowledge.

In 2013, the church celebrated its tenth year as an intentional multicultural church, now one of the largest in the Brisbane area. This had been a decade of significant change. Where there once was a large Anglo-Australian congregation at Bardon Road UC, there is now a number of large ethnic groupings: Tongans, Samoans, Maoris, Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders,

Papua New Guineans, South Sudanese, Congolese and Anglo-Australians. This is the makeup of today's Logan Central Multicultural UC.

Hohaia finds leading worship, presiding at the sacraments, preaching, and ministry with youth and children most fulfilling. The Sunday schedule has been very full: services start at 8.30 am for those who prefer English, followed by the Samoan language service about 10.30 am, Tongan from 12:00 until mid-afternoon, and then, from 5.00-7.30 pm, the Maori service. Once a month all the communities gather together to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

'Auntie Dawn' has had an important ministry as an advocate for those who are marginalised. As the community support worker she has been instrumental in helping people with court hearings, job applications, finding homes for the homeless and supporting victims of domestic violence.

Hohaia has contributed to the wider church through involvement in South Moreton Presbytery's Pastoral Relations Committee and the Synod's Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group, where his theological acumen and cross-cultural insights were of enormous value. Hohaia and Dawn have been involved in the Queensland Community Alliance, giving leadership at meetings and support to projects making a difference in Logan. They have actively supported other multicultural communities, such as in catering for events, but always bringing encouragement to live the gospel authentically.

Hohaia and Dawn enjoy a large family with children Courtney, Sonny, Lara, James, Dawn, Chloe and Joylene.

Severe health problems arose for Hohaia in 2015 and, after several months sick leave, the decision was taken that he would retire and move back to join family members in South Australia.

We want to commend both Hohaia and his wife Dawn for their efforts and their relentless determination to do God's work. While Hohaia's ministry in Queensland has been relatively short, it has been fruitful, significant and deeply appreciated. We say thank you and pray God's blessing as Hohaia and Dawn prepare for a long and healthy retirement.

## Personal Reflection

*"Tuatahi, nga mihi nui, te iwi moemoea, tena koutou katoa.*

*Tuarua, he whakamoemiti a Ihowa i mahi i te rongo pai a Ihu Karaiti ki nga tangata katoa."*

Acknowledgement of the traditional owners of this land, and second to give praise to God in being able to bring the good news to all people.

It's been an absolute privilege to serve God. Never ever taken anything for granted on this journey, that started way back in Adelaide in the year 1985.

I take this opportunity to say thank you to all my colleagues, and the friends I have come to know over my journey of ministry, both here in Australia and overseas. Secondly, to my family and for their tremendous support of my wife and I.

I'll finish with this whakatauki (Maori proverb) which I have used as a source of inspiration for ministry among all people: *"Nau te rourou, naku te rourou ka ora ai te iwi". Transliteration (With your food basket and my food basket we will thrive).*

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa



## **Rev May Morris**

- 1.25 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev May Morris to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 12 December 2014 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev May Morris.

### **Minute of Appreciation – Rev May Morris**

This Synod places on record its appreciation for the life, commitment and service of Reverend May Morris.

She married her life partner, John Morris in 1966 and they had three children.

May was ordained on 29 January 1999 at Atherton Uniting Church and served until her retirement from Chaplaincy at SCOTS PGC College in Warwick on 12 December 2014.

She felt called to work as a Lay Parish Assistant in the Tablelands Parish in North Queensland and from these beginnings; her journey to ordained ministry would result.

May served for a year as Lay Pastor in the Tablelands Parish during 1992. She was appointed Principal of Woodleigh Residential College in Herberton and served in that role from January 1993 to June 1994.

After this significant service in a lay capacity, May candidated for the ordained ministry and following her studies she was ordained in Atherton.

Following a short period of supply ministry at Mossman until May 1999, May was called to the Caboolture region serving there from June 1999 to December 2002.

May was then called to Warwick Killarney parish where she completed her congregational ministry in a placement that spanned seven years. She then accepted the part time chaplaincy position at SCOTS PGC College in Warwick completing another 5 years of ministry to young people, staff and the school community until her retirement on 12 December 2014.

One notable feature of her commitment to the wider church was her faithful service to the Presbytery of The Downs within the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Over 24 years, May's varied service to congregations, schools, and the Presbytery is gratefully acknowledged and we wish her well in her retirement years.

### **Personal Reflection**

John and I have been married for fifty years this November, with three married children and six grandchildren.

Prior to training and ordination I worked as a Lay Parish Assistant in the Tablelands Parish, working in the towns of Ravenshoe and Mt Garnet in 1992. During this time I was recognised as a Lay Pastor and was appointed the Principal of Woodleigh Residential College in Herberton, a boarding facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait students. During my appointment there, 1993/4 I realised that God was calling me to candidate, and I began study.

I completed study in 1998, and was ordained in Atherton Uniting Church in January 1999. I began work in Mossman Port Douglas part time then began full-time in Caboolture Region in June, a place where I could encourage very engaged people to embrace change and look to include new people into the Church family.

In 2003 I was appointed to Warwick Killarney Parish, where I served for seven years. The beauty of the Downs region was a great witness to the compassion of our Creator, and a wise former Minister told me, "just love the people", and we have.

I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as Chaplain at The SCOTS PGC College for five years, a place where my passion was to assist young people to strive for a positive and purposeful future.

I announced my retirement towards the end of 2014, to the great delight of husband John, and we have been right round Australia in our converted Toyota Coaster bus in 2015 after a few hiccups.

"What a mighty God we serve."



## **Rev Jan Rossow**

- 1.26 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Jan Rossow to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Jan Rossow.

### **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Jan Rossow**

Rev Jan Rossow commenced Theological College as a candidate for the ministry of Deacon and graduated as such. It was in the interim between graduation and ordination that she began to think that perhaps her call could best be expressed as a Minister of the Word, feeling that on a continuum, she wasn't far enough towards the 'deacon end' to be a good fit in that area. With Synod/Presbytery looking for a suitable deacon placement, and then a change of focus on her part, a permanent placement wasn't organised until late in 1995, and she was ordained as a Minister of the Word in September 1995.

Before ordination, Jan exercised supply ministry in Murgon and then in aged care chaplaincy at Weller Gardens, one of the ministries of Wesley Mission Brisbane. After ordination she moved into a permanent placement with Wesley Mission as Chaplain for Sinnamon Village, Bethesda and Aldersgate Court. A lovely chapel was built for the 400 Sinnamon Village residents during this time. Many gathered together there for Sunday worship services, and the ability to hold on-site funerals was also greatly appreciated. A bonus personal blessing of the Brisbane location was that, rather than move away from her three sons as she'd anticipated, they were able to move into the manse with her.

In 1999 Jan moved to the Isis cluster, spending eight years with the Childers, Biggenden and Woodgate congregations before moving to Tannum Sands in 2007, also taking on the Blue Care Chaplaincy in Gladstone at this time. In 2013 she moved to Bundaberg, with special care of the Coral Coast congregations, where she remained until her retirement in 2015.

Elijah House has been a very important resource in Jan's ministry, affecting most importantly her approach to pastoral issues, but also the content of her preaching. Elijah House is an inter-denominational organisation that offers teaching, training and prayer to bring restoration to broken lives and relationships, and Jan was first approved by Elijah House to lead courses when she was in Childers after having been mentored by other leaders. She continued with this ministry into her other placements.

Jan wrote: *"I've met such gems of people all along the way – people of prayer and the quiet inner strength of faith; people of vision with the enthusiasm to act on the vision; people with such interesting stories to tell; people who privileged me to hear about heartache and trauma and to pray with them. Any sacrifices that might have been made and any struggles that might have been faced, pale into insignificance compared to those people of God."*



### Personal Reflection

I was originally accepted by the church as a candidate for the ministry of Deacon and graduated as such, having taken that direction because I felt that one aspect of my call was ministry with people who were hurting. I began to see the ministry of Deacon and Minister of the Word as a continuum, with the 'Church/MOW' at one end and the 'World/Deacon' at the other, and each ordained person fitting somewhere along that line.

I also began to see my own place on that continuum as being perhaps somewhere near the centre, and at some point began to question, 'Am I good enough to be a 'real' Deacon?' This was a tongue in cheek response to the question fielded by many Deacons, 'Don't you think you're good enough to be a real minister?' However the question was also a serious one, 'Am I sufficiently on the 'Deacon' end of the spectrum that I need to identify in that way?'

Many ordained people have in fact moved back and forth between exercising their ministry predominantly in the church and at other times in the world. I've actually come to the opinion that there probably should be only one ordained ministry, as I think, for most people there are too many fuzzy edges for a clear distinction to be made. It was in the interim between graduation and ordination that these thoughts began to gel more clearly and I came to believe that my call could best be expressed as a Minister of the Word. As the subjects that I'd chosen in theological college simultaneously fulfilled the requirements of both MOW and Deacon, I was able to be ordained as MOW in September 1995.

When I discovered Elijah House Ministries during my first placement, which was in aged care chaplaincy, I also discovered a way in which my sense of call to minister with hurting people could be expressed. Elijah House has given a framework and substance to that call. And let's be aware that not only do all churches contain many hurting people, but all of us have been hurt to some degree, all of us have made some responses to that hurt that have been destructive, and all of us need healing. Elijah House is an inter-denominational organization that offers teaching, training and prayer to bring restoration to broken lives and relationships. What I learned through this training has been a very important resource in my ministry, affecting most importantly my approach to pastoral issues, but also the content of my preaching. It's given greater depth and an experiential understanding of such important themes as being transformed, the power of the Cross, the power of forgiveness. I've also been challenged personally, and received prayer ministry from others. It is one aspect of ministry that will certainly continue into retirement.

In every placement, I've met such gems of people all along the way – people of prayer and the quiet inner strength of faith; people of vision with the enthusiasm to act on the vision; people with such interesting stories to tell; people who privileged me to hear about heartache and trauma and to pray with them. Any sacrifices that might have been made and any struggles that might have been faced, pale into insignificance compared to having known those people of God.

## **Rev Costa Stathakis**

- 1.27 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Costa Stathakis to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 January 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Costa Stathakis.

### **Minute of Appreciation – Rev Costa Stathakis**

Rev Costa Stathakis began his ministry as a probationer minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in 1971 and was ordained in the Methodist ministry in 1976.

He served in the Methodist church until 2009 when he and his wife Marge decided to relocate to Australia in order to be closer to their children, John, Mark and Ann and their families all of whom had previously settled in Brisbane.

Costa transferred to the Uniting Church of Australia in 2009 and served at Moggill Uniting Church until 2014 and then served at the Cairns UC until the end of April 2016, the date of his retirement.

We deeply appreciate his consistent and passionate devotion to God and to his family, evidenced by his faithful following of Jesus and his central commitment to his family.

Throughout his ministry Costa has enjoyed the remarkable support of his wife Marge. They have been married for 48 years and worked together as a team at every church they served in. Marge is blessed with counselling and pastoral gifts, which has contributed significantly to Costa's ministry. In fact, he considers her contribution to be fundamental to the fruitfulness of his ministry. He is deeply grateful to her.

Costa has sought to live out God's call on his life and has had a remarkably fruitful ministry not only to the local church, but to the larger church and society as well. God's call and equipping has enabled him to develop a number of gifts and passions. Highlighted below are a *select* few:

#### **Passions:**

**A passion for the gospel:** Costa loves to share the gospel. He loves to lead people from unbelief towards faith and to help people deepen their faith in God. God has used him strongly in this area.

**A passion for the growth of the local church:** Wherever he was placed as minister, the local church grew in faith and in numbers. This was true of smaller churches and larger churches. In particular, during his placement at Bryanston Methodist Church, the local church blossomed from a medium sized suburban church to become a mega church.

As a result, Costa has been involved in numerous building projects to enlarge and erect new church facilities in order to cope with greater number of attendees and expanded ministries.

**A passion for people:** He embraced the challenges of an apartheid South Africa, poverty and HIV Aids, amongst others, throughout his ministry. He challenged his congregation to accept a goal of 'eradicating poverty within 10 years' in an adjacent shanty town. His heart burns for the suffering of the poor. This passion has led him to be innovative and to attempt new ministries, with some real success (and some failures).

### **Gifts:**

**A gift of leadership:** The Chair of the Moggill Church Council acknowledged Costa's leadership gift at his end of placement by writing, *"Lots of organisations have Managers, but not all congregations have leaders. Thank you to Costa for leading us..."* Costa has a way of getting alongside people and helping them to release their best for the sake of the gospel.

**A gift of communication:** He has a strong ability to communicate well with large audiences, as well as with individuals of all walks of life. This has endeared him to people and coupled with his personal example of faith and integrity, has inspired and encouraged thousands of people.

There is much more that can and should be said, but space limits this.

Let us together express our gratitude to God for Costa, his life and witness and our appreciation to Costa for sharing his gifts and passions with us.

We also express our gratitude to Marge for her faithfulness in living out God's call on her life in partnership with Costa.

We entrust them to God with the prayer that the next stage of their life's journey will be deeply blessed and fruitful.

We do so with humility and in submission to the One who calls and *"equips us in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen"* (Heb 13:21)



### Personal Reflection

My active ministry extended over 44 years and I want to thank God for the privilege and opportunity of having been called into Ministry. I was certain at the beginning that the most wonderful calling in the world had been entrusted to me, namely that of being a preacher in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, and for the last 7 years in the Uniting Church in Australia. Nothing in the intervening years has led me to revise that certainty and I still hold to the priority of preaching, with conviction, that Jesus is the answer to life. The work of a minister is exacting and places tremendous pressure on clergy family life. I am very grateful for my wife who throughout my ministry supported me with love, grace and encouragement. Marge studied in psychology and was able to complement my ministry in dealing with the many complex difficulties we encountered in the communities we were serving. I am also very grateful to my three children who always supported us throughout the years.

One of my mentors, early in my ministry, used to say *“God can strike a mighty blow with a crooked stick”*. If we focused on our imperfections we would never have had the courage to continue, however, it was not our ministry, but God’s ministry through us. God can use anyone, even the likes of such imperfect men and women as we are. If you ask me today *“What is the most significant truth you have learned in your life?”* I would need to answer *“Learning about, wrestling to comprehend and experiencing the immeasurable, immense grace of God”*.

Brennan Manning put it this way: *“The truth of the gospel is, that my sin will never outweigh God’s love. That the prodigal can never outrun the father. That I am not measured by the good I do but by the grace I accept. That living a life of faith is not lived in the light, but discovered in the dark.”*

Around the world today there is a widespread yearning in the human heart for an authentic experience of living faith and grace. People hunger for a deep personal encounter with God and a spiritually orientated way of life that will empower them to live creatively and compassionately. But the church has fallen into disrepute both through vicious and ignorant tirades against it which has spread like a malignant virus but also, sadly, through cold judgmental theology and the gross abuse of the vulnerable by clergy that has drowned God’s message of love and grace. A challenge awaits those that minister now, and those entering into ministry, to find new ways of allowing God’s light to reach the searching souls.



## Rev Dr Paul Walton

- 1.28 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Dr Paul Walton to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2015 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Dr Paul Walton.

## Minute of Appreciation – Rev Dr Paul Walton

Paul emigrated with his family from Yorkshire in the UK in 1965 when he was 11 years old. He was enrolled at the Oxley High School where he excelled academically. He went on to the University of Queensland to study medicine, graduating in 1976. He spent 18 months as a Resident at the Royal Brisbane Hospital before taking up a General Practice training position in Mackay. He then decided to specialise in Psychiatry and this was the focus of his work from 1979-84.

He married Karen in 1983. They have had four children: Erin (1985), Chris (1987), Ben (1991) and Sam (1993). They have been delighted to welcome their first grandchild, Emilia, born to Erin in October 2015 in Chile.

Paul entered Trinity Theological College in 1984 and was ordained to the Ministry of the word in December 1988. His first placement was to Biloela where he served for three years. He then moved into an appointment as half-time Chaplain at the University of Queensland combined with a half-time placement with the St Lucia Congregation. In mid-1994 he commenced a placement at Indooroopilly. This concluded in 1999, at which time he went to The Wesley Hospital where he later became Head of the Pastoral Care Team.

In the meantime, in 1992, Paul had been appointed to the National Assembly Commission on Liturgy (subsequently renamed “Working Group on Worship”) and in 1994 was made Convenor. He was to continue in this role for another 15 years. Paul served as Convener of the Working Group during a particularly demanding period. The time and effort involved in the preparation for publication of *Uniting in Worship 2* was extraordinary, particularly as the process involved some strong differences of opinion and required careful and even-handed judgment and negotiation. *Uniting in Worship 2* represents an invaluable contribution to the Uniting Church and it has been warmly commended ecumenically.

In addition, under Paul’s leadership, the Working Group developed a wide range of other worship resources, as well as a number of papers aimed at helping the Church understand the nature, purpose and structure of worship within the reformed and evangelical tradition, culture and theology of the Uniting Church. Much of this work was Paul’s own personal contribution.

Throughout his time as Convener, Paul represented the Working Group at Assembly Meetings, was a member of the *Australian Consultation on Liturgy* (ACOL). He has been a member of the *Australian Academy of Liturgy* and the international liturgical body, *Societas Liturgica* for many years. He is widely known and respected for the breadth and depth of his knowledge and continues to be a corresponding member of the Working Group.

His Ph.D , “Presbyteral Services of Ordination 1977-1995: The Uniting Church in Australia ‘within the faith and unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church’”, was conferred by Griffith University in 2009 and was subsequently influential in regard to the 2010 revision of the UCA Service of Ordination.

Paul has served the church in a number of other ways. During 1992-93 he was a member of the panel responsible for the psychological assessment of candidates for the specified ministries of the church. He resigned from this role in 1994 to take up the position of Chairperson of what was then the Presbytery of Brisbane.

Between 1997 and 2005 he was a member of the Assembly Commission (later renamed Working Group) on Doctrine, at a time when there was cross-representation with the Working Group on Worship. Paul has also been a member of the Uniting Church-Catholic Dialogue since 2013 and continues in that role.

Paul was inducted into the Centenary Congregation in December 2005. In the context of ongoing conversations within the congregation and the wider church over matters of human sexuality, Paul offered wise and stable leadership.

During the ten years of his ministry the congregation has become a strong and united community, both welcoming and inclusive as well as outward-looking. Paul has ensured that the congregation clearly reflects the values and vision of the Uniting Church, not least in regard to its theological diversity and the way in which it worships. His preaching has been consistently challenging and stimulating.

The conclusion of his ministry at Centenary also marks his retirement. However, he intends to look for ways in which he can continue to serve Christ and the church. We give thanks for his significant contribution to the life of the Uniting Church and pray for God's blessing on Karen and him, and their family, in the years ahead.



### **Personal Reflection**

When I was a young man, I was greatly excited by this new church coming into being in June 1977. I wasn't a member of any of the Uniting Churches, but for me it was a great sign of the Christian unity I craved to see more of.

In 1980, I joined the Uniting Church. I had been excited by the vision of the Basis of Union, which was the most forward-looking church document I had seen. I took to heart some of its themes—

- 'The UCA lives and works within the faith and unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church'
- 'Christ the risen crucified One'
- 'On the way Christ feeds the Church with Word and Sacraments, and it has the gift of the Spirit in order that it may not lose the way'
- 'worship, witness and service'
- 'a pilgrim people'

Since my ordination in 1988, I have tried to stay close to these words. I have had opportunities to work in congregational and chaplaincy placements and to work with the Assembly, particularly in the area of the Church's worship. I wish to express my thanks to the triune God and to the Church, and also my hope that I can continue to serve the Church while I am able.



## Rev Ian Wilson

- 1.29 (a)** Notes the advice of Rev Ian Wilson to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 April 2016 under Reg. 2.6.1(d)(i)(1).
- (b)** Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Ian Wilson.

### Minute of Appreciation – Rev Ian Wilson

Born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1944 in Brisbane, Ian, the child and teenager, was nurtured in the faith at Grange Heights Methodist Church. A strong foundation was laid during this time. The example of local Christian teachers and leaders clearly demonstrated Christian discipleship. Ian committed his life to Christ during the Billy Graham Crusade in Brisbane in 1959. His call to ministry came at the age of 17 while in Grade 12 at High School. Lay ministry was given in Sunday School, Order of Knights, youth groups, Queensland Methodist Times youth page, Life Line telephone counselling and as Queensland co-ordinator for the 1967 “Go New Guinea” work parties.

Married to Merlene and with three young children, Merylisa, Nigel and Brent, the call of God to ordained ministry was renewed in a service of worship at Stafford North Uniting Church in 1979. What previously preceded and then followed was nine years of part time and full time Senior Matriculation, Queensland University and Theological College studies prior to ordination.

Ian’s secular employment included the Postal Service, Hastings Deering (Qld) Pty Ltd, Dalgety-Winchcombe Ltd.

Having completed studies at Trinity Theological College in 1986 he was ordained on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1987 in Warwick. Ian and Merlene then spent 29 years of ministry serving congregations in

- Warwick/Killarney/Freestone 1987 - 1989
- Stephens Parish – Annerley/Yeerongpilly/Yeronga, Brisbane 1990 - 1994
- Aitkenville Parish, Townsville 1995 - 1999
- Northside Mackay/Seaforth Cluster, Mackay 2000 - 2009
- Southport 2009 – 2016

Ian’s gifts, abilities and passions in ministry have been utilised differently from one congregation to the next as specific parish/congregation mission initiatives were embraced.

In Warwick, Ian served the Uniting Church’s SCOTS PGC College and its students in church worship, religious education and on the College Board, as the Uniting Church reinvigorated its relationship with the College. Ian was Director of the town’s “Crossroads” Group for the Disabled, and also served as a Police Chaplain.

In Stephens Parish, the emphasis was on children’s and youth ministry. Ian was Leader of the Kid’s Club, assisted with the leadership of the Combined Youth Group, was study leader for the annual children’s and youth camps, and led annual Holiday Clubs for children from the community. In Aitkenvale, the emphasis again changed to social justice ministries, such as “Iona House” Refuge for Young Women, a Refugee House to integrate incoming refugee families from overseas, and a Townsville wide “Distress Fund” for emergency assistance. Ian also served as Life Line Chaplain and supported Blue Care staff.

At Southport Uniting Church, his final placement, in addition to preaching and pastoral duties, Ian provided essential leadership for extensive building renovations including a new office, foyer and hall. He was instrumental in the establishment and leadership of the new “Never Alone” Friendship Group. In seeking to inspire and develop leaders, he took a team of 8-10 emerging and seasoned leaders to the Global Leadership Summit each year. To assist parents from the community in their parenting, Ian led several Parenting Children and Parenting Teenagers Courses utilizing Alpha Courses.

Ian's commitment has been to love the people entrusted to his care and to let them know they were loved, helping them grow in their relationship with God and offering hope, encouragement and support. His leadership of prayerfully prepared services of worship with appropriate music has been a major focus. This has at times included his own offerings in song. Ian has the capacity to give meticulous attention to detail, and while some have found that to be frustrating, in general the outcomes have been positive and beneficial.

Beyond the local congregation Ian has had an ecumenical heart actively engaging in Ministers' Fraternals in each town or city where he served. He also gave leadership to significant combined churches inter-denominational worship events and community events such as National Day of Thanksgiving. Presbytery roles have included serving on Central Queensland Presbytery's Pastoral Relations and Ministry Committee with responsibility for seven clusters of congregations. During that period the Presbytery had some difficult issues of sexual misconduct to deal with. Ian, minister in Mackay at that time, provided much local guidance. In the face of these difficult situations he showed considerable wisdom and was very helpful to the Presbytery's leadership in working towards a satisfactory resolution of the issues.

In South Moreton Presbytery Ian actively served on the Pastoral Relations Committee with oversight of Period of Discernment applicants.

Merlene, his wife, has been a strong support for Ian while exercising her own gifts in ministry. We honour her for her life of loving service. Ian and Merlene have a strong sense of family connection being very generous and supportive when it comes to care of their wider family.

2014 was a difficult year with serious surgery and some weeks on leave, yet anticipating retirement, Ian was absolutely committed to finishing well. It was his desire to continue to learn and grow so "Mission Shaped Ministry" and "Messy Church" were among the courses in which he enrolled.

In the year before his retirement Ian wrote, "I may not be a "prominent" minister but I aim to be a "good" minister to my congregation and to the community. In the Kingdom that values faithfulness in service above prominence we give thanks to God for a good minister of the gospel, his wife Merlene and their many years of fruitful service.



### Personal Reflection

I think that it is only those who experience a personal and intimate “calling” from God to a specific ministry who understand that it is a “calling” that you must answer, both in surrender and obedience, no matter how daunting that ministry may appear. And as one answers in humility, surrender and obedience, God always proves to be faithful. I am deeply grateful for the “calling” of God on my life, beginning at age 17 and renewed at age 34. The journey since then has involved nine years of part-time and full-time study to achieve ordination, and over 30 years of ministry in five different parishes/congregations. I want to express my deepest appreciation to my wife, Merlene, who has loved me, walked with me and supported me over those past 39 years, both in joys and tears, in achievement and failure, in fulfilment and frustration, in gratitude and disappointment. I also thank our three children, Merylisa, Nigel and Brent, whose understanding, support and journey in my ministry began at ages of seven, four and one and have continued to this day.

I have served God and the Uniting Church in five different parishes/congregations and I want to acknowledge my indebtedness to my colleagues who shared “team ministry” partnerships with me: Reverends Alan O’Hara, Allan Kuchler, Ken Cutmore, Sue Page and Dona Spencer. I appreciate the dedication of many faithful parish and congregation leaders who have worked alongside me. I honour the faithful folk who have upheld me in their prayer life day by day. I appreciate the across-town UCA colleagues and other denominational clergy with whom we served a wider community in worship, outreach and community care. I value the support of previous Presbytery Ministers and the friendship of my Presbytery colleagues. Merlene and I have accumulated many wonderful and close friends along the way, for whom we are deeply thankful. We have touched the lives of many people over those years, in ordinary congregation life, through pastoral counselling, funerals, weddings and baptisms, through pastoral care and hospital/home visitation: my prayer is that we have made a difference in those folk’s lives and that they have been touched by the love and grace of God and seen Jesus Christ in us.

An Olympic athlete was asked what must one aim at to reach one’s goals at the Olympics and she answered, “You must have ‘consistency’”. I think that is what I have aimed at in my ministry, “consistency”: consistency in leadership, preparation and conduct of worship, pastoral care, devotional and prayer life, spiritual growth, ministry growth, integrity and professional conduct. After 30 years of congregation ministry, after 30 years of preaching and proclaiming the Word of God, what might I now say to the Uniting Church? Firstly, God’s Church, in Australia and across the world, has been rocked by the child sexual abuse scandals and the subsequent denials and cover-ups. Our Church, wherever it is, must seek to restore the betrayed and broken “integrity” of Christ’s Church. Secondly, leaders, who have served faithfully in the past, must be willing to give up “control” of congregation life and hand over responsibility to younger potential leadership. Thirdly, members of congregations, who cling, at all costs, to the old traditional ways of worship, outreach, meetings, and ways of doing things, must learn to embrace the new leading of God’s Spirit in worship, outreach and church life across the world today.

May God richly bless you with his love, grace, peace and joy.

## MEMORIAL MINUTES

- 1.30** Adopts the Memorial Minutes as presented concerning ministers who have died since the Thirty-First Synod.

Rev Aubrey Baker  
Rev Adrianne Dempster  
Rev Ian Florence  
Rev Joe Gunders  
Rev David Lowry  
Rev Dr Ian Mavor  
Rev Donald McKay  
Rev Ron Smith  
Rev Nevin Stoddart  
Rev Deane Tietzel  
Rev Paul Trigge  
Rev John Tully  
Rev David Wiltshire

## **Rev Aubrey Baker – Memorial Minute**

Rev Aubrey Vincent Baker: 10 March 1925 – 24 February 2016

Aubrey was born in Gayndah in the Central Burnett district on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1925. He was the youngest child of Vincent and Elizabeth (Dot) Baker. His father was a dairy farmer at Woodmillar.

Aubrey's primary schooling was at Woodmillar. He studied at Brisbane Grammar School from 1939 to 1941. The war rendered his schooling incomplete and he returned to spend four years on the farm.

Aubrey's faith journey was strongly influenced by his home, and nurtured within the fellowship of the local Methodist Church and the Christian Endeavour Society. The Lionel Fletcher Mission in Maryborough in 1942 was a catalyst. He preached his first sermon aged 18 at an Order of Knights service in Gayndah.

Aubrey was accepted as a Candidate for Ministry by the Queensland Methodist Conference early in 1946. He then spent 3 years in King College, Kangaroo Point.

In 1949 Aubrey began what was to become an unbroken span of forty-two years in Christian ministry. He served several congregations during college years and was ordained on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1951.

Aubrey served:

- Five years at Nanango during which time he married Ailsa Bardsley.
- Six years as Superintendent of the Central-West Mission, with Longreach as the base in the first year and Barcaldine thereafter.
- Three years at Campbell St, Rockhampton.
- From 1969 to 1974 Aubrey was Director of the Department of Mission, and General Superintendent of Home Missions. He travelled widely with Wesley House as his Brisbane base.
- He was genuinely surprised to be elected President of the Methodist Conference in 1973 – the youngest in Queensland for more than forty years.
- Six years in Toowoomba (Neil St) which became the Toowoomba City Parish with Church Union in 1977.
- In 1981 nine years as Padre of the Burke and Wills Patrol began, an activity of Frontier Services of the Assembly commission for National Mission. In this ministry he was greatly loved in the 350,000 square kilometres in the general region of southwest Queensland from Charleville out to Birdsville. It is for this near decade of service that he will be most remembered.

Ailsa made her unique contribution wherever Aubrey served. Gentle and warm hearted with gifts of friendship and hospitality she was both mother and father to Ian, Geoffrey and David during Aubrey's absences on patrol.

Retirement in 1990 meant Aubrey and Ailsa had a freedom to take things easier, to engage more fully with family, and to enjoy travel. Even so, Aub delighted in continuing in ministry in a variety of ways. He supported for many years ministry around The Downs Presbytery – preaching and providing supply to congregations. He continued supporting the Burke and Wills patrol – playing an adjunct pastoral care role to people and their families who had retired in South East Queensland.

He played a significant role in the Darling Downs Emmaus Community, being involved in Emmaus Walks and Chrysalis flights. He loved his time on teams and being a support to lay leadership.

He exercised substantial supply ministries at Gisbourne, New Zealand Methodist Church, John Flynn Memorial, at Alice Springs, Kingaroy Uniting Church, with the then Rangeville UCA, and Hervey Bay UCA.

He and Ailsa ran UC Safaris, taking over from his great mate Jim Smallbone. These were camping holidays which had the purpose of Christian fellowship, giving people an encounter with the outback, and the people of the outback, and also raising funds for Frontier Services. They stretched to further venues – Northern Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and New Zealand.

The Rotary club of Toowoomba South played a big part in Aub's life. He formed great friendships there and Rotary was a strong supporter of the Bourke and Wills Patrol. Later on he joined Probus to continue the fellowship and the practical support that Probus offered.

In later years, Aubrey said that he had to come to terms with being "useless"; after such an active ministry, there was significant adjustment, but he did make it, and lived his last years happy as the "Pater familias" of the Vincent Baker clan, caring for Ailsa, ringing sons, grandchildren, nieces and nephews regularly – between 7pm and 8pm, encouraging them and keeping an eye on the families' doings.

The gospel inspired and shaped his life, calling him out to be a pioneer of the territory of God's grace; in doing so, he at times went to the edge of faith, and discovered the breadth of the grace of God, that, if it did not challenge orthodox faith, it certainly challenged traditional faith.

Aubrey Baker died at Wesley hospital on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the age of 90. We give thanks to God for a servant of the gospel who lived a long and very fruitful life.



## **Rev Adrianne Dempster – Memorial Minute**

Rev Adrianne Dempster died on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 215. Adrianne was ordained as Minister of Deacon on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1998 in the New South Wales Synod. Adrianne's story is one that is deeply connected to God and interwoven with her husband's ministry. She served and ministered alongside Graham who was ordained as Minister of the Word one year earlier in 1997.

Before ordination, Adrianne was a qualified teacher upgrading her teaching qualification to a Bachelor of Education in 1981. She also had a great interest in netball and held significant positions for the Australian Netball Association. Adrianne's ministry began in the early 70's when they with their 3 children, moved from Brisbane to Canberra so Graham could become the Commonwealth's National Fitness Adviser.

During the 70's and 80's Adrianne served God in teaching Sunday School, leading youth groups, choirs and bible studies. Many of these early experiences, as challenging and exciting as they were, shaped and influenced her future ordained ministry. Adrianne espoused a deep and long lasting commitment to ecumenism, she worked cooperatively in team ministry and shared Christ's love and compassion for people regardless of background and circumstance.

In 1988 in preparation for retirement at 55, they purchased a house in Tathra NSW. God had other plans for both Graham and Adrianne. In 1990 Graham enrolled at St Marks to test his calling into ordained ministry and was accepted as a candidate in 1993. The Uniting Theological College offered spouses of Ministry Candidates the opportunity to take courses, so in 1994 Adrianne enrolled in a certificate course and then transferring to a Bachelor of Theology. These decisions to study were all within the framework to be a support person to Graham's ministry. It was in 1995, when Adrianne started an 11 week intensive CPE Course for Chaplaincy, where she received a call into ordained ministry.

Adrianne and Graham's first placement together was at South West Rocks in NSW. During this time Adrianne fulfilled roles as deputy Chairperson of the Presbytery of the Mid-North Coast, Chairperson of Parklands Cottage Respite Care Centre and on Synod Selection Panel for 5 years. She conducted an ecumenical choir for 7 years, led regular services for 3 congregations, a quarterly healing service and monthly service at a Nursing Home. They ministered and served here for 7 years until Retirement in February 2005.

Since retirement, Adrianne facilitated Christian Meditation Groups in Tathra and in Maleny, attended World Community of Christian Mediators Conference in Malaysia, Ireland and Brazil, trained as leader of Christian meditation groups in 2007, led retreats for Christian meditators, supervised and mentored Lay Pastors, was a member of the Board of the Pastoral Counselling Institute, NSW Synod 2005 – 2008 and minute secretary for Bega Valley Advocates for Timor Leste. Adrianne also completed a 4 year course of Spiritual Direction at Kincumber, NSW.

It was in early 2009, where Adrianne and Graham transferred from NSW Synod to the Qld Synod and found in retirement a call to be Chaplains at Blue Care's Erowal Aged Care facility in Maleny.

It was here that Adrianne and Graham made a long lasting impact on staff, volunteers and residents of Erowal, as well as the wider community of Maleny and indeed across the Blackall Range. Between them they established a choir for residents, their families, staff and volunteers. They conducted weekly worship services, provided a room closing service, memory day service for the families who had lost a loved one and pastorally cared for all people who set foot on the site. Since mid 2014 Adrianne had enjoyed retirement again, continuing to lead the weekly Meditation Group at Maleny, provide spiritual direction, be the events coordinator for weddings and funerals at Maleny and lead worship across the Blackall Range Uniting Church congregations.

Adrianne graciously, generously, humbly and sacrificially gave all to God and God's mission. Adrianne was a faithful servant of God who fulfilled her ordination call as Minister of Deacon; she loved those within the church community and challenged them to look beyond the gathered space to those in need. She also loved others beyond the church community welcoming them in to explore God's love for them. She was a compassionate, dignified, thoughtful, caring and quiet woman who is greatly missed.

## **Rev Ian Florence – Memorial Minute**

Ian Thomas was born at Rockhampton 21<sup>st</sup> July 1936. The youngest child of Neill and Esme Florence.

Lived at Lakes Creek where his father was the Headmaster of the school. Family attended the Baptist Church which was next to the school.

Education: Lakes Creek –Primary – Rockhampton State High to Junior Level – Boarder Brisbane Boys Grammar to Senior Level.

He worked in a Bank for twelve month before attending Queensland University for four years gaining a B.Commerce – Dip. Education.

- 1958 – 1962 - teacher Mackay State High School. While teaching in Mackay Ian was involved in the formation of the Baptist Church in Mackay.
- 1963 -1965 - teacher Gympie State High School. Ian attended St Andrews Presbyterian Church where he met Margaret Wilson and they were married in December 1963.
- 1965 – 1968 - Ian entered Presbyterian Theological College – Field Appointments – Wynnum North – Ashgrove /The Gap – Kedron Parishes.
- 1968 – 1970 – Presbyterian Church - Isis Parish (Childers – Cordalba – Biggenden) Ian was Ordained at Childers in December 1968 by the Mary Burnett Presbytery – Presbyterian Church and was inducted into the Pastoral Charge of the Isis Parish on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1968 .

Ian also gained a B.Divinity – Dip. Religious Education

- 1971 – 1977 – Presbyterian Church Aitkenvale Parish ( Aitkenvale – Currajong – Pimlico)
  - ITIM Chaplain to Cement Works – Townsville Ecumenical Committee –
  - First Secretary Northern Presbytery Uniting Church. Where he was joined by the family.
- 1978 – 1982 – West Toowoomba Uniting Church ( Scots – Westbrook – Russell Street – Drayton) Secretary Downs Presbytery – Chaplain Westbrook Boys Home – Toowoomba Ecumenical Committee.
- 1983 – 1991 – Norman Park Parish (East Brisbane – Norman Park – Seven Hills – Mayfield Camp Hill) During this time Ian began studies in Clinical Pastoral Education.
- 1991 – 2011 – Hospital Chaplain Royal Brisbane Hospital.
- 1994 – August –November - Study Leave to do a Clinical Pastoral Education Course at Peter McCallum Cancer Institute.
- 2011 – Ian retired – continued part time Chaplaincy in Hospitals and Aged Care

Ian died on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Ian was passionate about Pastoral Care and Teaching and he loved nothing more than to visit someone in hospital... he had the heart of Carer through and through. Teaching of course was a major influence in his family growing up and his sermons as MOW were always delivered as a Teacher / Preacher. All his adult life he related extremely well to children. He was involved for many years as a regular R.E. Teacher in schools over Queensland. This love was also manifested in his Chaplaincy appointments and ministry... even spending some time as the Chaplain of Townsville Cement Works. He was a quiet unassuming man of God who was a great listener and a wonderful student of people.

He and Margaret were married on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1963 at St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Gympie. Ian is survived by his beloved Margaret, his son Mark and daughter-in-law Lauren and also grandchildren, Madalin and Ben.

The Lord called him home after a life of Christian service and ministry and the church is richer because of his quiet witness and ministry . We give thanks to God for the life and ministry of this wonderful man of faith.



## Rev Joe Gunders – Memorial Minute

This Synod mourns the passing of a faithful servant. Joe passed away on 18 April 2015.

Reverend Joe Gunders retired from ministry in 1982. The Minute of Appreciation, at that time, wished him “many years of happy retirement” and this was to be so.

Born in Mount Morgan on 19 October 1922, he lived his early life in the home of his Methodist Home Missionary father, Samuel Ernest Gunders. His father was a significant influence upon him and a witness to faith in Christ. During his family years, Joe lived in Roma, Emerald, Dalby, Gayndah, Landsborough and Mundubbera.

After school, Joe worked in various capacities and was involved in the life of the Methodist Church in Queensland including service as a Circuit Assistant under Reverend A. A. Mills at Margate.

During World War Two, Joe served in the Air Force and at its close he married Jean Kuskopf of the Bulimba Methodist congregation.

Post war education programs allowed Joe to candidate for the ministry. He served in circuit appointments at Moorooka (from 1947), Atherton (1948), Lowood (1950), Laidley (1954), Charters Towers (1958), Nundah (1962), Bundaberg (1968) where he oversaw the extensions to the Pioneer Memorial Home, and Sherwood from 1975.

Joe served the church in a range of other offices such as Chairperson of the Methodist District. He performed these tasks with grace, sensitivity and deep pastoral concern for clergy and their families; and for congregations.

Joe and Jean shared this ministry and grew a family of six children: Lorraine, Ernest, Margaret, Alan, Judith, and John.

The minute of 1982 states:

*“Over a long ministry Joe Ganders has quietly and humbly given witness to a deep loyalty to Jesus Christ and faithfully and sacrificially served the church.”*

With Jean, Joe retired to Cleveland where they had a home built. It was a joy for them to have their own home to design and live in after many years of manse life.

Sadly, Jean died shortly after retirement in 1985. They had undertaken three months supply ministry together in Stanthorpe in early retirement, but Joe enjoyed the private life of retirement and did not accept any additional supply placements without the support of his wife.

Joe stayed in the home at Cleveland and later married Ruth Everett in 1988. They shared a happy life together in the home before moving to a Blue Care Retirement Home, Nandeebie at Alexandra Hills. This was not to be their last home as they later moved to Warwick at the end of 1997.

In church life at Cleveland and later at Warwick, Joe assisted with preaching and the sacraments when required, and practical help around the church buildings. As he aged he was limited by his frailty. His granddaughter, Jenny Potter was honoured to take home communion to him when she served as a Pastor in the congregation. There was a further move to a retirement village in Toowoomba in 2011 for greater availability of support services. Increasing illness led to his final move to Symes Thorpe Home where he passed away on 18 April 2015.

The family remembers Joe’s self-deprecating humour and ability to come up with ingenious ‘improvements’ to things as fond memories.

The Synod remembers Joe as having a quiet, unassuming and gentle personality whose ministry was warm and effective, loved and respected.

## **Rev David Lowry – Memorial Minute**

Rev David Lowry was born in Brisbane on April 17, 1937 and died in palliative care in Caloundra on April 22, 2015. He had battled metastatic melanoma for 6 months.

David was raised by a loving church oriented family in the Baptist Church of Queensland. Even as a child he felt called to ministry, but serious health problems and then polio robbed him of education and voice. His vocal chords were left paralysed by polio.

David was still convinced he was called to preach, so he started preaching with the remnant of voice he had left. He said, *'God I'm willing to minister, but you'll have to help me with my education and my voice.'*

David worked in sales at McWhirter's department store and went to school at night to matriculate. One day when he was attempting to preach, a lady came to him afterwards and said she knew someone who could help him regain his voice. The man he went to massaged David's throat while passing electricity through his hands, sparks flying in all directions! Within 6 months David's voice was quite normal although he was never able to sing.

After completing the ordination course in the Baptist College, David was ordained in 1964 and served at Maleny-Beerwah, Redland Bay Cleveland and Tugun-Coolangatta congregations.

David and Wendy were married in 1963 while David was at Redland Bay. They spent 52 years together in service and were blessed with twin sons, Mark and John and daughters Caroline and Elisabeth. They have 9 grandchildren and 3 step-grandchildren.

After much reflection and soul searching and some further study, David was ordained in 1969 in the then Presbyterian Church. He served in Goondiwindi, Wynnum North and in a co-operative parish at Salisbury-Cooper's Plains. In 1971 David continued his call in Iona-West Mackay until he was called to St. Paul's Stafford in 1975. There he guided the parish through the preparation and voting into the Uniting Church.

David moved to St. Stephen's in Toowoomba in 1986 and then to Kingaroy Parish in 1996. He retired in 2000 to the Sunshine Coast but continued in service as interim minister at Caloundra, Glasshouse, Coolumb- Bli-Bli over the following years. He served as chair on several committees in the Caloundra congregation and as a group member on others. He became web-master and used his computer skills in many ways of service to the church and community. David led study groups and assisted in preaching regularly in churches along the Sunshine Coast up until the time of his illness. He achieved over 50 years of faithful, dedicated service.

From early in his ministry, David engaged in study and reflection that developed as great strengths in his ministerial vocation: Clinical Pastoral Education, Marriage Enrichment, Group Life Laboratory work, liturgical studies and preaching. Those areas - together with his deep commitment to ecumenism - have been the major emphasis of his life and work as a Minister of the Word.

David served as Synod Representative on the Queensland Ecumenical Council of Churches and chaired its Mission and Unity Committee while he served at Stafford. He was also a member of the Mission and Parish Services Department's Christian Education Committee and chaired that Committee for 3-4 years.

He also served as a member of the Synod's Committee for Doctrine and Liturgy and was secretary for a few years and Chair for 2 years. When the Assembly's Commission of Liturgy moved its operation to Brisbane in 1992, David became a member and served for many years on the National Working Group on Worship. David remained passionate about Liturgy until his death

During his time in Toowoomba, David accepted an invitation to become the Queensland trainer of Marriage Celebrants using Prepre/Enrich Programmes. He became a competent and respected trainer and continued this work until shortly before his death.

While at Mackay, David became chaplain to army cadets and travelled to Rockhampton for camps etc. He also trained in Industrial Chaplaincy and served in Mackay.

David trained in the Interim Intentional Ministry Program while in Kingaroy and was able to use these skills during his retirement.

David was passionate about social justice and protection of the environment and was instrumental in forming a Social Justice/environment committee in the Caloundra Church.

Travelling was one of David's pleasures and he planned and undertook many overseas adventures with Wendy. He enjoyed many sports, particularly playing tennis until his final illness.

David was always true to his ordination vow to participate in the life of the Church in and beyond the local congregation. He was an active participant in all levels of the life of the church. His life of service made a difference to many. A quiet, humble man, he sought to provide wisdom, pastoral care and guidance to all who sought a new view of God's future for them.

## **Rev Dr Ian Mavor OAM – Memorial Minute**

Rev Dr Ian George Mavor OAM: 4 October 1938 - 2 April 2015

Ian George Mavor was born in Brisbane on 4 October 1938, the third son of George and Agnes Mavor (nee Provan). George was a school teacher and was transferred to Beaudesert before Ian was 3 years old. Ian had his primary schooling in Beaudesert. As there was no High School in the town, he travelled by bus each day for four years to the Brisbane State High School.

George and Agnes Mavor were deeply involved in the Scouting Movement as Rover and Ranger leaders. Ian followed this interest and became the first Beaudesert Scout to achieve the Queen's Scout Medal awarded by the Governor. Ian's parents were also strongly community-minded. George became the Beaudesert Organising Secretary for the National Fitness Council. One of the main activities was to develop a camp site by Christmas Creek at Lamington. There they led August School Camps for school children and Easter Camps for young adults. Ian was very involved in these and had a love of hiking and the bush which he shared with many people.

Following High School, Ian began training to be a Physical Education teacher. He lived in Kings College while attending Teachers College and the University of Queensland. His early spiritual formation was through the Methodist Church in Beaudesert. His call to ministry was a response to a sermon preached by the Rev Dr Ian Grimmett at the Conference Ordination Service in February 1959.

After candidating, Ian was appointed as a First Year Probationer to Cunnamulla then returned to Kings College for his theological training. During those years he became President of the Student Council and President of the SCM at the University. He completed Bachelor Degrees in Arts, Divinity and Education.

Following College in 1963, Ian was married to Lola Green another school teacher and was appointed to Bowen. Ian and Lola had two children, Kenneth and Louisa. Later in life both received their Ph.Ds from the University of Queensland. Louisa's field was Human Movement and she was on the staff of the prestigious Loughborough University in England when she died of cancer in 2012. Kenneth is now a lecturer in Social Psychology at St Andrews University in Scotland.

After serving in Bowen, Ian became Deputy Principal to the Rev C. D. Alcorn at the Methodist Training College and Bible School at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane. He and the family went to the United States where Ian earned a Doctorate in Education at the Columbia Teachers' College and Union Theological Seminary in New York. During this time he was the Minister at Fishermens United Methodist Church near Cony Island in Brooklyn. On returning to Australia in 1974, he was again the Deputy at what was then Alcorn College. He then joined the staff of the Education Department to lead an ecumenical team which was preparing a Religious Education Curriculum for use in Government schools.

In 1986, Ian began a five year term as the fifth Master of Kings College. He was made a Fellow of the Australian College of Education and was the Dean of the Brisbane College of Theology. His wife Lola had become the Director of Women's Services in the Department of Mission and Parish Services and later a counsellor in what was then called Interchurch Trade and Industry Mission (ITIM). The marriage concluded in 1991. Lola died of cancer in 2014.

Ian returned to the Education Department as the Principal Education Officer (Health and Human Development). In 1993 he married Deirdre Hanna, and served for a time as Director of Lifeline on the Gold Coast. Deirdre had been the Anglican Chaplain at the Gold Coast Hospital Palliative Care Ward.

With a strong conviction that the religious dimension had an important place in palliative care, Ian and Deirdre formed a community-based committee and established Hopewell Hospice on the Gold Coast. A strong educational program flowed from this with courses on Grief Counselling, Palliative Care and many other topics. Paradise Kids was formed as support for children suffering illness, grief or loss.

Ian's interests were wide spread. He established Gamblers Anonymous in Queensland. He was the Chaplain for the Beaudesert Branch of the National Servicemen's Association. He loved being part of The Blenders, an a cappella male chorus. In 2002 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. Every month, a group of people, many of whom had given up on traditional Christianity and the Church, would gather at Hopewell. Ian would prepare resources for these gatherings drawing on his love of the Bible, his evangelical faith, Progressive Christianity and his much valued Integral Spirituality. The group continues still, drawing on the vast amount of material he produced.

Ian was diagnosed with cancer in his liver in 2014 and died on 2 April 2015 at Hopewell Hospice ministered to by the people he had trained.

An abundant life.

## **Rev Donald McKay – Memorial Minute**

Rev Donald McKay was a great man of God, a wonderful preacher, loving husband, brother, father and grandfather, and a valued friend to many.

Donald was born 1<sup>st</sup> July 1944, to Rene & Lesley at Elmore, Victoria. He was one of a family of 8 children living on the family farm. He was related to the founder of the well known McKay/Sunshine Harvesting Co.

He left school to work on the farm, and did some shearing with a stint in New Zealand one year.

Donald had a strong Christian upbringing, with his family involved in the local Methodist Church. He gave his life to Christ as teenager and was encouraged by Christian Endeavour and Keswick Christian Conventions.

Eventually he felt the call of God to leave the farm and go into ministry. To start with, he attended the Adelaide Bible Institute (1969-1972), where he met his wife to be, Barbara North, a Queenslander.

After Bible College, and marriage to Barbara, in 1973, Donald became a Theological Student at Trinity College in Brisbane. He began ministry in the Uniting Church as a Home Missionary serving at Mitchell, south-west Qld.

He was among those who were first ordained into the Uniting Church in Australia.

Donald's ministerial appointments were:

- 1972-1974 - Maranoa Mission based at Mitchell which involved some patrol ministry with homestead services.
- 1978-1984 at Dawson Valley based at Moura. This involved ministry to miners, townspeople and country folk with homestead services at Bauhinia Downs. Donald & Barbara did a ministry exchange to Joliet USA during this time.
- 1985-1993 the family was based in Townsville where Donald was the minister at Townsville Central Parish Mission. This involved ministry to large congregations one of which consisted of many University students. The Townsville work also saw involvement with Aged Care facilities, large Blue Nursing Centre, & also open air ministry in the Townsville CBD. An exchange ministry to Hemel Hempstead UK also happened during these years.
- Donald's final appointment from 1994-2009 was in the Samford Valley. Ministry was mainly to retired people and new families moving into this fast expanding area. The church saw major growth and at the time of retirement up to 300 people attended.

Donald was an enthusiastic and evangelical preacher and had wonderful ministries at each placement. He made many friends who have kept in touch over the years.

As an evangelical he was very concerned at the way the UCA has been moving away from orthodoxy and he became a member and leader of EMU, (Evangelical Members Uniting) as well as the later Reforming Alliance in the UCA. Finally he became a member of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church.

Wherever Donald served he promoted Men's Ministries. He would take them out west for some days out in the bush.

He and Barbara bought a hobby farm at Churchable and moved there on retirement in 2010.

He also did some shearing, on the hobby farms around the Lockyer Valley, and was a respected School Bus-Driver for the Faith Lutheran School based at Plainland.

Donald and Barbara attended the Laidley Uniting Church, where he preached when needed. He started up a Men's Choir and his enthusiasm was a great inspiration to all.

He loved to preach. His powerful voice and passion for Jesus were a great mix for his preaching ministry. But he was also a great pastor.

Unfortunately he was diagnosed with prostate cancer not long after retiring, and despite treatment over many years, he eventually succumbed to this, dying at home on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Over the last few months of his life Donald and Barbara would recite the words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm before going to sleep. It was a comfort each evening as they did this together, sometimes after a very hard and painful day.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want." Donald was a shepherd who followed the Good Shepherd – Jesus. He was a shepherd of the church – caring for his people in many placements throughout Queensland. He was also a shepherd, literally, caring for his sheep on his hobby farm. He gave them names and knew each of them.

Another favourite passage was Hebrews 12:13. He sought to "run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us." He "fixed his eyes on Jesus" and considered him "who endured the cross, scorning its shame."

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara his beloved wife and children, James, Karis and Liesl, their spouses: Becky, David and Toby and his grandchildren: Elvira, Reuben, Jakiah and Cassandra; Aaleyah and Mikayla; Ava and Maia.

Donald wanted to live long enough to see these grandchildren grow up. A passage that meant so much to him - the words of St Paul in Philippians 1:21-23 *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain... I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far"*.

We can celebrate and rejoice that Donald McKay is now truly at peace in a place better by far, safe in the presence of Jesus and his Heavenly Father.



## Rev Ron Smith – Memorial Minute

Ron Smith was born in Mackay in 1924 in a Salvation Army household. He was born again on the island of Moratai, toward the end of WW2 under the ministry of a Baptist chaplain in an Anglican chapel. He was ordained in the Methodist church in 1953. He served the Uniting Church faithfully since Union and (as the Salvos would say) was promoted to Glory in December 2015.

R.H. Smith is one of a cadre of men who lead the church in the post war years as communities wrestled with all the issues of grief, hard times, good times and a fast-changing world.

Typical of ministers in that era, he pedalled a bike and road the rattler around the Mary Valley in his probationary service, living in the room behind the church building, showering under the tank stand and valuing the hospitality of his flock.

The Queensland Methodist Conference was having difficulty placing anyone in Longreach so Ron offered to go. In less than a year, Rev Cyril Reid, the Secretary of the Conference asked if he would run the Central Methodist Mission, an area the size of a small European nation. Again, typical of many a bush padre, Ron was welcome on the properties when wool was a Pound a Pound, and when drought bit hard. He was known and loved in town, where a local told his son almost 50 years later, "If you're half the bloke your father was, you'll do alright."

He met and married Barbara Frazer in Longreach. Again, typical of the times, they committed their marriage to his ministry calling, going wherever the church required, as they raised three children in the faith in Maryborough, Townsville, Ipswich, Southport and back to Townsville.

In 1974, as Brisbane was flooding, Conference moved them back to North Queensland as the Chairman of the District.

Ron's work in North Queensland was to join the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches into the Uniting Church. It was a difficult task, made more challenging by the oversight of five indigenous congregations in the Gulf of Carpentaria. It was a time of frequent and long travel, with Ron away from his family for half the year travelling by train, boat, plane and car. He is remembered by the ministers he served as an excellent pastor of pastors. He mentored many wonderful young men in their ministry and a number of them went on to become leaders within the church. The saying that 'Great leaders leave great leaders' is true. The UCA was formed in 1977 amidst much rejoicing.

In 1982, Ron and Barbara moved across Australia to Perth for Ron to take up the position of Secretary of the Synod of WA. Another exciting and fulfilling appointment ensued. Ron retired in 1986 to return to Queensland.

Like so many of his colleagues past and present, 'retirement' was not defined by the dictionary. He filled in for the church from Bribie Island to Darwin.

Shaped by his times and circumstances, Rev Ron Smith reflected St. Paul's experience, being content with plenty and with little, in the good times and the very hard seasons, as well. Like many veterans, he carried his scars quietly. He treasured the loving support of the Methodist and Uniting Churches, even in the times he experienced the realities of church politics and procedures.

Ron was part of a generation upon whose shoulders our church stands in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: faithful men and women, who followed Jesus and have now heard Him say, *"Well done – good and faithful servant."*

## **Rev Nevin Stoddart – Memorial Minute**

Nevin Ronald Stoddart was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1925. His father Tom had emigrated from Newcastle on Tyne to Brisbane where he worked for the Adelaide Steamship Company. Tom served during the first world war and was injured during the battle of the Somme. At war's end he married Maud Davis. Nevin was the youngest of their three children. Tom was a committed Christian who was the Sunday School Superintendent at Nundah and involved with the Order of Knights. In retirement he audited the accounts for Wesley Mission Brisbane for many years.

Nevin's family heritage also included German immigrant missionaries brought to Australia by the Reverend John Dunmore Lang. Some of these families settled at Nundah where Nevin later attended Primary School. Another ancestor was a Methodist lay preacher who had participated in the Eureka rebellion.

When his primary schooling at Nundah had finished, Nevin attended Brisbane Boys College. When he left school, he worked as a clerk with the Brisbane City Council, meanwhile studying book keeping and accountancy.

On his eighteenth birthday, Nevin enlisted with the Australian Army and saw active service on Morotai, a small island located in the Halmahera group of eastern Indonesia's Maluku Islands. On 9 September 1945, he witnessed the acceptance of the surrender of the Japanese Second Army to the Australian General, Thomas Blamey.

Following the war, Nevins's interests turned to farming and family. However, his first wife, Halcyon Corbett, with whom Nevin shared three years of his life died from complications that arose after the birth of their son, Peter. For his first years, Peter was raised by his grand-parents while Nevin completed his first period of probation for the Methodist ministry at Toowoomba and received theological formation at King's College.

While they were at theological college, Nevin confided in his fellow student, the now Rev John Mavor, that he had fallen in love with a photograph of Jean Kidd. From that time Nevin began to devise a plan to meet Jean. He even made one forlorn trip to the Teacher and Leader Training Camp at Margate high in the expectation that Jean would be present; only to discover that this was a rare occasion when she had other plans. When eventually they did meet, he offered to teach her to drive. They were married by Jean's father, Rev Walter Kidd and her brother, Rev Noel Kidd on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1956 at the Grange Methodist Church. Her other brother, Alan, gave her into marriage. They began life together with Peter at Bundaberg where Nevin completed his period of probation for the Methodist ministry and was ordained in February, 1959.

Nevin also served at Murgon, Mount Isa, North Rockhampton, Aspley and Wynnum. Their daughters, Lyndal and Karen, were born in Bundaberg and their son, Scott, was born in Murgon. Nevin brought a practical, creative spirit to his ministry with a unique insight which enabled him to make the best of the opportunities when they presented. It was also a pastoral and ecumenical spirit with a social conscience.

At Bundaberg, he had been involved with the building of a church at Rosedale. He was also involved with constructing the worship centre at Murgon. He pioneered Blue Care activities at Mount Isa and was active in the relocation of Moreton Bay College to its present site while at Wynnum.

He was content to travel large distances in ministry if it meant he could provide pastoral support to folk without ready access to worship centres in the larger towns. In Bundaberg, he was happy to attend to the "country run" which took him to Rosedale and Miriam Vale. One week in every four at Mount Isa, he would travel to places as far afield as Boulia and Burketown.

Again at Rockhampton he also travelled long distances to Ogmoo and Marlborough. Wherever he went, he had the happy knack of being able to listen and relate to folk from all walks of life.

When possible, Nevin preferred to work in ecumenical partnership. At Mount Isa, he became actively involved in Indigenous affairs with the One People of Australia League an inter-denominational agency which co-operated with government funding agencies to improve the circumstances for Indigenous Australians. He was proudly associated with Action for World Development, which gave birth to Force 10 and continues to influence the Act for Peace activities of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Through Action for World Development, he was involved with refugee resettlement on the Sunshine Coast.

At Mount Isa, North Rockhampton and Wynnum, he initiated combined church missions. These involved local Christian communities of various denominations usually including the local Catholic Parish, co-operating with some denominationally specific and some ecumenical mission activities with shared publicity and promotion.

Nevin did not understand ordination as an invitation to social status and authority. Rather he realised that it was a call to a lifelong vocation of humble service. This was especially evident when Jean fell seriously ill and he retired early to Nambour. His practical creative spirit and pastoral concern rose to the fore once again as he began a much appreciated ministry within Sundale Retirement Village over a twenty-year period. During that time, he started services at Nicklin, McGowan and Bowder Lodges and at Rotary Village. He held a monthly service in the Sundale chapel when it was newly built and held occasional services in the Nursing Home.

As a retired minister, he visited regularly, took communion to people who could not get to church, and conducted over 200 funerals. He relieved ministers in Noosa-Tewantin, Maleny, and at Bli Bli-Coolum. He conducted worship at Nambour, Woombye and Yandina and was a member of the Committee for Retirement Living with centres at Maleny, Bli Bli and Gympie as well as several in the Brisbane area.

After a short illness, Nevin died on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. At the service which celebrated his life held in the Nambour Uniting Church on Tuesday, 13 October, these words from a poem by Marion E. C. Nettleton which Nevin had collected decades previously were read. They are offered again, together with the testimony of a well-lived Christian life, as his final witness through this memorial minute:

#### **Consolation**

Not dead – Oh no, but borne beyond the shadows  
Into the full clear light,  
Forever done with mist and cloud and tempest  
Where all is calm and bright.  
Oh no, not dead, but past all fear of dying,  
And with all suffering o'er;  
Say not that I am dead when Jesus calls me  
To live forever more.

We give thanks to God for a life of conviction – expressed in pastoral service and ecumenical fellowship – which in creative and practical ways made the most of each unique God-given opportunity. We give thanks to God for God's gift to us offered through Rev Nevin Ronald Stoddart.

## **Rev Deane Tietzel – Memorial Minute**

Deane Tietzel took probationer appointments at Quorn, Semaphore and Woodville after completing studies at the Wesley Theological College in Adelaide, and was then ordained at the South Australian Methodist Conference in 1958.

After a term at Cummins, he and his wife Gwen moved in 1962 to the West Kimberley Patrol (Methodist Inland Mission in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church in Broome), then in 1967 to Geraldton and to ministries in Midland (1971-74), and Claremont (1975 – 1980).

Deane then took up the post of Chaplain to Penrhos College, a girls' college of the WA Synod in 1981, then was Chaplain to Aged Persons Homes in Fremantle and Rosethorpe from 1987 until his retirement in 1991.

After experiencing life and ministry in South Australia and Western Australia, the Tietzels then moved to Queensland where Deane took a supply position in Townsville which included time in both Tully and Ingham.

They settled at The Gap in 1997 and soon moved to Ferny Grove until Deane's death in 2015.

During these years their membership in The Gap Uniting Church brought them many close friends.

Some would say that Deane's theology was anything but orthodox, but he was clearly a follower of Jesus whose teachings and example fashioned his life and ministry. Those who came to know him well saw Deane as one who had a rare ability to communicate with those who lived "on the fringes".

Aboriginal people in remote communities as well as those struggling with life in the towns were blessed by his ministry.

His work with young people continued in his retirement as he made hundreds of wooden toys and made regular visits to local schools.

Deane died on 29 May 2015 leaving his wife, Gwen and four children, Alan, Gail, Anne and Jane.

## **Rev Paul Trigge – Memorial Minute**

Paul was born at King's College, Kangaroo Point on 5th April, 1930. He attended the Kangaroo Point and Buranda State Schools and secondary education was at Brisbane Boys College where he won many prizes and was Sergeant in the Cadet Corps. After completing Senior, he enrolled at the University of Queensland. Paul studied Science, majoring in Geology. To pay for his University fees, he worked at many jobs – apple picking at Stanthorpe, washing bottles for Cosgroves, at the "Ekka" and various other positions.

After graduation in 1951, Paul worked for "Electrolytic Zinc", prospecting near Canberra, and whilst there, the call to the Ministry was confirmed. A seed had been sewn years earlier by the then Minister's wife at the Kangaroo Point Church, (where the family worshipped) when she said, "Paul, I often wonder why you don't hear the call, the Call to the Ministry." These words stayed. Contrary to what many may have thought, his father never put pressure on him to consider entering the Ministry.

In February 1942, Paul fell over the cliffs at Kangaroo Point, which could have proved fatal. It was while he was recovering, that his father said, "Maybe, God has saved your life for a purpose." Paul always linked these 2 comments, but the actual decision was not made until 1951. This followed the Local Preachers' exams (1948), and finally (1951), acceptance by the Methodist Conference as a Candidate. In those days the Theological Students had to take services in Circuits all over Brisbane, and assist Ministers during vacations. Paul enjoyed these commitments, especially the vacation duties at Boonah, Enoggera and other circuits. All travelling was done on his trusty motor bike.

In 1955, Paul was appointed as 3<sup>rd</sup> man to the Toowoomba Circuit where he annoyed the then Minister's daughter by taking from her, her afternoon after work relaxation of mowing the Parsonage lawns. Of course the lawns were not the only attraction. In 1957, Paul graduated from the University of Queensland with the first Bachelor of Divinity awarded by that institution.

From Toowoomba, and after ordination on 4th March 1957, Paul was transferred to Pittsworth where he married Marylou at Neil Street, by the 2 fathers, with Rev George Grimmett as Best Man on 29th March 1958.

After four years serving in Pittsworth, another seed was sown by Rev Cliff Williams while on Overseas Deputation, and the call to the Mission Field was felt. To be better prepared for this work, the family moved to the Bundamba Circuit so that Paul could be closer to the University to study for an Honours Degree.

In 1963 Paul took up the position as Principal of Si'atoutai Theological College in Tonga where he thoroughly enjoyed training Tongan young men for the Ministry. In 1965, Queen Salote died and Paul was Acting President, so had to devise and conduct a "Laying in State Ceremony" in the Royal Chapel. The following Sunday, Paul conducted a Memorial Service in the Centenary Church in Nuku'alofa, at which all the Royal Family and 2000 Tongans attended. The Services were all conducted in Tongan. Paul is very fluent in Tongan – legendary – and to this day, Tongans say "Paul Trigge is the only European man to speak Tongan like a Tongan man." After settling back in Brisbane, Paul started the Tongan congregation, which is still a great witness to all.

In 1969, Paul was appointed as Superintendent to the Methodist Children's Homes, which he served for six years. There were 10 homes none of which were on the Church Budget. To keep the Homes afloat, Paul travelled all of Queensland (2 weeks each trip) conducting Services of Deputation, and evening week-night meetings. During the days he would visit hotels and professional people appealing for funds in the towns which he was visiting.

Five happy years followed in the Chermside Circuit. In 1980 Paul answered a call to Holland Park, a very busy Parish with 2 active Churches. During this time he was also Chairman of Presbytery, and the local Community Youth Support Scheme - which later became Skills Share.

A call came from Sherwood, and he happily moved there, went off all Committees and concentrated on that Parish, helping it to overcome difficulties, re-organised properties and the construction of Chapel Gardens Retirement Homes.

Paul served on many Committees over the years, but the one that gave him the most satisfaction, and at times concern, was the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association. He was, over the years, Chairman of Clayfield College, Somerville House, and Moreton Bay College. For 3 years Paul was also Chairman of the overall council of the PMSA. In a book of the history of the Association, the author states "The fact that the PMSA survived the traumas relevant in the 1970 and 1980's is, in a large measure, due to Paul Trigge."

It was Paul's idea to commence the Somerville House Foundation (while he was Chairman of that School) which has proved to be a great success and was the example followed by other schools.

Paul will be remembered as a great Preacher. At the Farewell from Holland Park, one speaker described him as a "great Orator" and another speaker, as "a Shepherd". He always prepared well, NEVER read his Sermons or Prayers, and always put his all into the delivery.

Retirement, well earned, was enjoyed. Hobbies, long neglected, were rekindled, including lathe work and many timber articles were fashioned. His shed is full of boxes for his tools, and it also must be the tidiest shed in Australia.

In retirement, Paul and Marylou attended the Wesley Mission Brisbane Albert Street congregation where his steadfast faith was an inspiration to all members of the congregation. Paul was always interested in challenges and opportunities surrounding the life of the congregation. He identified the growing needs of homeless people in the inner city and was instrumental in the congregation establishing a street ministry to people living with disadvantage, especially homelessness, which is a core activity of the WMB Albert Street congregation.

At the heart of all Paul said and did, was his desire to make known the Gospel of God's love for the world and Humanity in Jesus Christ, believing that it is the true meaning of life, the answer to all our problems from the least to the greatest, and the hope for Eternal Life.

Blest be the tie that binds;  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred lives;  
Is like to that above.

When we asunder part;  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart;  
And hope to meet again.



## **Rev John Tully OAM – Memorial Minute**

Rev Selwyn John Tully OAM: 4 April 1933 – 13 April 2015

John Tully was born Selwyn John Tully on 4 April 1933 and grew up on a cane farm in northern New South Wales. As a child, he attended Condong Primary School, graduating to Murwillumbah High School. During his school years, John worshipped at the Murwillumbah Methodist Church and it was there that he met his future wife, Annette. John was the Youth Leader at the church and Annette later wrote that she met “a leather coated young man, riding a motorbike” and they became friends.

After graduating from high school, John became a public servant with the Department of Agriculture and was transferred to Macksville, from where he would regularly visit Annette prior to the announcement of their engagement in the winter of 1957. John and Annette married the following Autumn (April 1958) in the tiny wooden Methodist Church in Bellingen, Northern NSW.

In 1960 John answered the call of God and trained at Leigh College, a training facility established by the Methodist Church, in Sydney for six years. After graduating, John was ordained a Minister in the Methodist Church, on 15 October, 1967.

He served several parishes in West Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, and Glebe. As well as ministering to the parish, John was the Children’s Court Chaplain in Parramatta, Wollongong and Newcastle. His years at Glebe were incredibly formative for John – it was a multicultural society, a very poor area, had the highest unemployment rate in the country at the time, and the congregation itself was around 90% unemployed or pensioners. The Tully home was always open and so began a lifetime of offering hospitality to the broken and marginalised in the community. It was during this time that John and Annette had four sons – Peter, David, Phil and Mark. Unfortunately Peter was born prematurely and died at birth. This was another formative experience that enabled John and Annette to stand with others who suffered, grieved, and experienced hurt and disappointment.

John and the family made their move north to Queensland in 1982 to the then Gold Coast Parish, stationed in Burleigh Heads but principally to work in an Ecumenical initiative of the Qld Synod ‘Ministering to the Leisure Industries.’ John resigned Parish Ministry in 1985 to found Newlife Care (formerly New Life Ministry at Street Level.) Newlife Care remains the benevolent caring arm of the Newlife Uniting Church, Robina to this day.

John’s passion was for people with addictions, and family members affected by their behaviour. The Gambler and Family Care programme, the New Hope Awareness 12 Step Recovery Groups, and the Watch House Intervention Support Programme grew out of John’s contact with people suffering from addictions. In addition John visited local prisons as Prison Chaplain for the Uniting Church in the Gold Coast area. The homeless, the addicted, and the financially destitute all found an advocate, friend and champion in John Tully.

As a result of counselling people addicted to gambling, John was a founding member of the Australian National Council on Compulsive Gambling, as well as the National Association for Gambling Studies, and continued to provide both an expert and lobbying presence for the prevention of gambling addiction throughout his life. He was a prolific researcher and writer, producing dozens of publications (papers and books) throughout his working life and long into so called ‘retirement.’ He was also a much sought after expert speaker at conferences and seminars right around the nation of Australia and also in New Zealand.

In 2002, John’s hard work and compassion was rewarded with an Order of Australia medal for his work in the community. John and Annette formally retired from Newlife Care on John’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008 but in reality his ministry and service never stopped. Unfortunately he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease soon afterwards and he suffered declining health. Annette died in 2010 and John, on 13 April 2015.

John’s life was one of faithfulness, humility and service. He went above and beyond to serve and help others but he never boasted about it. His only desire was that those he reached out to would know the love, grace and peace of God in this lifetime and that God should have the glory.

We give thanks to God for the life, service, and witness of Selwyn John Tully.



## **Rev David Wiltshire – Memorial Minute**

David Wiltshire was born in Adelaide on 28 February 1948 and lived there until he was 16 when his family moved to Queensland. He became a bank officer and in the late 1960s was appointed to Nanango.

It was here that David made his commitment to Christ with much influence from his future father-in-law Len Ballin and the local minister Rev Ken Smith. He became a leader at Christian Endeavour meetings and conducted worship services in country churches. He always loved living and working in rural towns.

In 1971 he moved to Caloundra and he and Glenda were married. This is where their three children Sharon, Paul and Julia were born. David filled many leadership roles at the Caloundra Methodist and Uniting Churches. In 1983 he was challenged at a Mission at Caloundra Uniting Church and felt God's strong call on his life to Ministry.

David began his ministry in 1984 as a Lay Pastor in the Lowood-Rosewood Parish. While here, he completed courses at TAFE and Griffith University. In 1988 he entered Trinity Theological College for three years of ministry training and in December 1990, was ordained in the Geebung Uniting Church. He served in placements at Narangba and Dayboro in the Pine Rivers Parish 1991–1994, at Deception Bay, Burpengary and Narangba 1995–1999, at Crow's Nest district from 2000–early 2007; and finally at Chapel Hill from 2007 until he retired in early 2013. In retirement he provided Supply Ministry to Townsville Central in late 2013 and South Rockhampton in early 2014. In all his placements he was ably and faithfully supported by his wife Glenda, whose complementary gifts made them a great working team.

David also served the wider church in numerous ways. He was on the Synod Settlements Committee, was Ballot Convener at Synod meetings and fulfilled various Presbytery leadership roles, including Chairman of the Bremer Brisbane Presbytery. He was gifted in offering sound advice about process and wise counsel while managing difficult situations. He also had involvement within the Emmaus movement.

David had a deep and enduring faith in Jesus Christ. His reliance on the faithfulness of God enabled him to remain calm in all situations; and his clear sense of call to ministry ensured he kept his priorities clear. His life was dedicated to proclaiming Jesus Christ and seeing lives changed by the Holy Spirit.

He was a true and faithful pastor, genuinely caring for all the people in his congregation and faithfully walking alongside those going through difficult times. Many have attested to the quality of support they received from David. Over the years David conducted hundreds of funerals. He saw these events as a privilege to be involved in people's lives in their time of need. Some funerals were very sad – when there were very few or no mourners.

David's style of ministry might be seen by some as 'casual'. He believed his core role was a Shepherd to those entrusted to him. He strongly fostered the idea of a 'Church Family' to create unity and strengthen relationships. He desired to be available to his church family at all times and he strove to be in his parish each Sunday. He often prepared his sermons close to nature, while sitting beside a creek on Saturday afternoon. As a 'man of the people' he preferred to preach while standing on the same level as the congregation.

David's preaching was concise. He firmly believed that if you had something significant to say, it could be done in 10-15 minutes. Short as they were, however, his sermons made an impact. People remembered them!

Every week David preached on his favourite text. He loved the Scriptures and had lots of favourite texts. He didn't seem to exhaust the list! His sermon illustrations were incredibly apt and often included humour. Peanuts theology, the wisdom and commentary on life of Charlie Brown & friends was often used. David had a great sense of humour and abundant skill in telling a good story.

David was also a practical man, offering assistance to individuals or supporting church activities such as garage sales, spring fairs, sausage sizzles and working bees. His ute ministry was famous in the annals of local church history across all his placements; and if you needed to borrow a chainsaw, a trailer or a ute, you knew where to find one!

Formation of faith in young people was important to David. He conducted Religious Education in schools, was chaplain of Boys and Girls Brigades and shared the gospel through Youth Groups and Camps. One of his hobbies was working with wood and he used his woodworking skills to produce wooden puzzles. As the children and others pondered the solution to the puzzles, he suggested they ask the Creator or go to the manual – great illustrations with God our Creator and the Scriptures as our manual.

His real passion was Bible Study and he strongly believed this was an effective way to develop and strengthen Christian faith. Exploring the Scriptures excited him! He was gifted in explaining God's Word in a way which enlivened the text and rendered it relevant for daily living.

When he knew his time on earth was short, David felt God's call to compile a Bible Study/Devotional series on the Apostle Peter called 'Impetuous Peter'. This series of studies is being published and will soon be available for the Church's use.

Family was important to David and he lovingly supported and encouraged his children. His six grandchildren were precious to him and he felt very privileged to be involved in their baptisms. He was also much loved and valued by his wider family.

David retired on 28 February 2013, at the conclusion of almost thirty years of ministry in Christ's service within the Uniting Church in Australia. He and Glenda retired to Golden Beach. David was diagnosed with cancer and after a sustained battle passed away on 5 August 2015.

David carried out his ministry faithfully, through both word and deed witnessing to God's love for all people. In each of the congregations where David was placed, both he and Glenda gave unstintingly of themselves. They encouraged many in their life of faith, and were loved and appreciated wherever they served. David will be remembered with love and affection as a faithful minister of Christ, a trusted colleague and a loyal friend.

Vale, David! We miss you, but we know we'll meet again one day.