

OUR NEWS

3rd October 2021

Our Vision

A Community Transforming Lives



Our Values
**Grace,
Inclusion,
Dignity,
Faith and Hope**

**Congregational life at Westmead & Parramatta,
Hospitality Services at 175 Hotel and Wesley Apartments
Meals Plus Services providing for those in need across the
Parramatta LGA**

**Parramatta Mission acknowledges that all of our work takes
place on the land of traditional owners.
We pay respect to the original custodians of the land on
which we gather, and acknowledge their elders past and**

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for

Our Community

- We give thanks that some small gatherings are starting to take place. We give thanks for welcoming cafes and the disciplines we have learnt to help keep us all safe.
- We give thanks for coffee, tea, muffins and spiritually encouraging conversations.

PM Westmead

- We pray particularly again this week for all those involved in the medical profession - doctors, nurses, paramedics, psychologists and providers of in-house medical care. Fortify them, Lord, and grant them the strength to fulfil their tasks.
- We hold in our prayers those who are confused and afraid, victims of the mixed messages being spread amongst many of our community members. And also for those who are worried about recent political events at home and the general state of our world, bestow upon them, Lord, "that peace that passeth all understanding".
- For all those who fight for the rights of others - Human Rights lawyers, Legal Aid workers and those who work tirelessly in defence of the less fortunate in our society, we give thanks. We pray that they will be given added wisdom in this time of COVID to continue their valued work.
- Lastly, we give thanks for the lifting of some of the COVID restrictions which have enabled us to have a "picnic in the park" (observing the rules!) with friends and others.

PM Korean Faith Community

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for the revival of the church.
- We pray especially for Nak Su Baik, Kyeong Ok Hyeon (Those who are not in good health).

PM Fijian

- We pray for those who are going through transitions from school to beyond.
- We pray for the Synod Pulse Team and Ofa's role as a newly commissioned Pastor in the Team, resourcing youth ministry across NSW/ACT.
- We pray for the guests at the Bula Feeding Ministry and Meals Plus and our wonderful volunteers. We pray for those who are unable to meet because of rain or storms and for those who have been sleeping rough.

Prayer Points

PM Leigh Memorial

- We pray for all PM congregation members, leaders and staff who are unwell, or having tests or procedures - and/or suffering from anxieties surrounding work, study, family life or health. We particularly remember our members in need of additional support at this time, including those who are separated from their families or grieving. We also remember those within our congregations who are devoted carers for others, including during the current lockdown, and our wonderful PM kids, youth and HSC plus uni students;
- We pray for the PM pastoral team, leaders, managers, programs and staff – and for Paul and the team at Meals Plus – and offer our hopes for strength, wisdom and inspiration to infuse decisions and actions at this crucial juncture.
- We also pray for our local communities as we strive for greater mutual respect, compassion and care for one another.

Wider Work

For our Combined Parramatta Mission Team

- May God guide all our staff and volunteers to live out our values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope;
- Rev. Vladimir, Rev. Suzanne, Rev. Hyun Goo, Chaplain Sarah, PMC Chairperson, David and Secretary, Robert and all those who lead and serve.

Service & Zoom Information

Parramatta Mission Combined Worship

Time: Sunday 9.30am

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95778738282>

Each week an online service is also available for those who cannot attend the Zoom service.

To access this service (usually available by 8pm Saturday evening) visit the Northmead Uniting Church Website and click on the “Worship” tab at the top of the screen.

<https://northmead.uca.org.au> The online service is a pre-recorded service including similar liturgy and reflections as the Zoom service.

Parramatta Mission Leigh Memorial Fijian Worship

Time: Sundays 11.15am

Join Zoom Meeting <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/9134913679>

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Rev Niall Reid

Genesis 2:18-25

It is said that a dog is a man's best friend.

John Bulley presented us with this dog, and we saw that it was good, there was evening and there was morning and every day it was good. We named the dog "Bulley" and he is very good – quietly standing by our front door without a bark, a fart or a snore, never needs to be fed or taken for a walk, never wants a tickle on the tummy or a stroke of his neck – he has no beating heart or endearing scamper when we come in the door, truth is he is hard to love, in fact our Bulley is a little bit of a bore.



In our scripture reading today, in the story and it is a story, but not just a story, as Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sachs writes *"Genesis is truth as story"* having also said that the Hebrew word for "Genesis" does not have the sense of *"First of a chronological sequence"* but rather

"...implies the most significant element, the part that stands for the whole, the foundation, the principle. Genesis is Judaism' foundational work, a philosophy of the human condition under the sovereignty of God.

That is a helpful way of looking at it that really takes us out of the whole unfruitful conversation focussed on science pitted against the Bible.

The story is about us and this bit of the story is significant in a number of ways. Let us begin where this part of the story begins – the man God has created needs a helper and obviously that helper is not God although in other parts of the Bible God is described as such, so in Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

But not here. God is not the helper envisaged here.

However, it is not good for the man to be alone. The man needs a helper to be a partner.

The helper is to come from that which was created and so God forms all these creatures and gives the man permission to name them, one might see this as participating in God's blessing of creation – naming was a sacred act, it reflected that Godness that is within us which we reflect in our humanity. In Judaism God cannot be cast in images so it is a surprising passage in Genesis 1:27

*So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

OT scholar, Walter Brueggemann comments “Within...Judaism’s... critique of every religious temptation to idolatry, our text makes a surprising counter-assertion. There is one way in which God is imaged in the world and only one: humanness. This is the only creature, the only part of creation, which discloses to us something about the reality of God.”

So, this naming of the animals was an act of human creativity reflecting God's blessing of creation and thereby the image of God.

The naming and blessing of animals is what we do, over the animals we are given responsibility, even sharks and crocodiles are worthy of our protection. And animals, unlike our Bulley, do give joy and companionship – they are part of God's good, beautiful, blessed creation – they are far from boring and easy to love, even the ones that scare us a bit or we know are dangerous.

But as for being the helper the man needs, not what was required. The text says, no, even though these creatures are a wonder to behold and worthy of blessing and care, and can be a blessing to man, man's best friend (as the saying goes) none are what was needed

Then God embarks on a second creation one which would be the fulfilment of God's work. Without the man being aware God creates woman.

Rabbi Lord Sachs writes of how in Judaism immortality is in our children and he goes on to say this:

"Until he became aware of his mortality Adam could think of his wife as... 'a suitable helper' - as an assistant not an equal. 'She shall be called 'woman' [ishah] for she was taken from man [ish]... he says. She was in his eyes, an extension of himself.

Now he knew otherwise. Without her, he could not have children – children were his share in eternity. With this awareness he ceased to think of her as an assistant. She was a person in her own right – more even than he was, for it was she, not he, who would actually give birth. In this respect she was more

like God than he could be, for God is He-who-brings-new-life-into-being" It was when he saw her as a person that he "gave her a personal name, Eve, meaning, 'she who gives life."

This was a blessing, yes, a sacred act but it was also an acknowledgement of Eve's status as one at least equally mirroring the image of God.

Brueggemann references Phyllis Trible who "...points out that the creation of woman is a second full creation story which is necessary to the completion of creation (*God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality*, 1978, chap 4)."

In a sense, as Brueggemann writes;
"Woman is the crowning event in the narrative and the fulfillment of humanity."

Although Rabbi Sacks speaks of Judaism as the most child centred of all faiths with that understanding of immortality being gained through our children, I think Walter Brueggemann's insight is helpful when in reference to Genesis 1:27 he writes,

“...it is worth noting that humankind is spoken of as singular (‘he created him’) and plural (‘he created them’)... on the one hand, humankind is a single entity. All human persons stand in solidarity before God. But on the other hand, humankind is a community, male and female. And none is the full image of God alone. Only in community of humankind is God reflected. God is, according to this bold affirmation, not mirrored as an individual but as a community.”

Thus, it is not about our individual blood lines in which immortality is found but all of humanity in community with God.

The naming of the animals speaks of our creative responsibility which recognises the image of God mirrored in human life. If God sees creation as good what does that mean for us as those who bear the image of God?

The creation and naming of Eve rather than creating a hierarchy of male and female is about the creation of wholeness – man without woman is nothing. How does this way of looking at this story impact our understanding of the role of men and women?

References:

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs Genesis: The Book of Beginnings. Covenant and Conversation, A weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible
Walter Brueggemann Genesis Interpretation, A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching

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Leigh Memorial Congregation

THIS SUNDAY – COMBINED ZOOM WORSHIP

This Sunday, 3rd October at 9.30am, the Leigh Memorial & Westmead congregations will again be joining in zoom worship with members of Northmead-Centenary UC. Details are in the newsletter. This is another step in our period of discernment re the 'Parramatta City Uniting Church' alliance. *May God give us guidance, wisdom and open hearts and minds as we undertake this journey together.*

LOCKDOWN THANK YOU

Thanks very much for everyone's ongoing encouragement of each other and the warm communication that has continued within our congregation during the lockdown. Please join us in praying for all those continuing to be impacted by mental health issues – and for those preparing for the re-opening of their businesses or the re-commencement of school and work as the restrictions begin to ease this month. Please contact LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com or brucebennetts20@gmail.com – or leave a message at 9891-2277 – if you need prayerful or practical help, or have any questions or suggestions for pastoral care and worship within our new model. Everyone remains in our prayers, including those we haven't seen in a while – and we look forward to seeing you very soon. If you need a hand getting set-up for Zoom, or if we can help you feel better connected in any way, please let us know.

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI – PEACE WITH ALL CREATION



The Feast day of St. Francis is **Monday, 4 October**. Francis, who lived a charitable Christian life in Italy between 1181 and 1226, is the Patron Saint of animals, merchants and ecology (declared in 1979 by Pope John Paul II), and also families, peace and needleworkers. The current Pope Francis, took his name from St. Francis of Assisi – and in doing so, made a special commitment to care for the impoverished people of the world. On the World Day of Peace in 1990, Pope John Paul II said of Francis of Assisi

that he "invited all of creation – animals, plants, natural forces, even Brother Sun and Sister Moon – to give honour and praise to the Lord. The poor man of Assisi gives us striking witness that when we are at peace with God we are better able to devote ourselves to building up that peace with all creation which is inseparable from peace among all peoples."

WONDERFUL TRIBUTES

Recent funeral services for Olive Wright and Bruce Streatfeild revealed the extent and impact of the lives of these two fine people, and the many ways in which they served God and their church and local communities throughout their lives. We are thankful and inspired by their examples of courage and selfless giving. Up until the last, and each in their own way, Olive and Bruce were helping, befriending and comforting others, and making the world a better place. Anecdotes and sympathy messages provided by LMC members past and present have been conveyed to the families.

ABRAHAM CONFERENCE 2021: WOMEN LEADERS

The theme of this year's Abraham Conference is 'Women Leaders in the Abraham Tradition – Role Models of Our Time.' This important annual gathering of those representing the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths in Sydney will take place via Zoom on Sunday 10 October, 2.30 – 4.00pm. Details are on the flyer in this week's newsletter. *All welcome.*

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

If you would be willing to fill out a research questionnaire on children's and youth ministry in the 1970s and early-to-mid 1980s, please contact: Rev Dr Christine Gapes, Uniting Church Chaplain at Western Sydney University, c.gapes@westernsydney.edu.au

MEALS PLUS

Please pray for Paul, his team and the Meals Plus clients, and look out for updates on how best to help this vital Mission program as it continues through the ups & downs of the pandemic. To donate to Meals Plus or learn more about the program, please go to

<https://www.parramattamission.org.au/donate/>

Foster your faith this week

Jb 1:1;2:1-10

Ps 26

Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mk 10:2-16

Worship Sunday 3 October

Worship this Sunday for the combined congregations will be led by: Rev Niall Reid on Zoom.

Zoom Details for Sunday Morning Worship: 3rd of October at 9.30am
<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95778738282>

Each week an online service is also available for those who cannot attend the Zoom service.

To access this service (usually available by 8pm Saturday evening) visit the Northmead Uniting Church Website and click on the “Worship” tab at the top of the screen.

<https://northmead.uca.org.au> The online service is a pre-recorded service including similar liturgy and reflections as the Zoom service.

Break Out Rooms in Worship

Following feedback received the breakout rooms after the message will be discontinued and for those who wish to discuss the questions raised in the message there will be a breakout room made available for discussion 15 minutes after the service concludes. The “Passing the Peace” breakout rooms at the beginning will continue as this is an opportunity to introduce ourselves to members of other congregations. At the conclusion of the service there will be three breakout rooms labelled for the congregations and you are welcome to enter any one of those as you choose and even move from one to the other.

Could you also include the link for Club Chat as some members of Parramatta Mission Congregation indicated an interest in joining:

[https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/99322953162?
pwd=ZmdEUExrSWFFKzdqWGoreFJsUFE5QT09](https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/99322953162?pwd=ZmdEUExrSWFFKzdqWGoreFJsUFE5QT09)



Women Leaders in the Abrahamic Traditions Role Models for Our Time

Speakers



Jacquie Seemann Charak
Or Chadash Synagogue



Sr Michele Connolly rsj
Assoc. Prof. Biblical Studies
Catholic Institute of Sydney



Yamamah Agha
GM of Service Delivery Settlement
Settlement Services International

Abraham Conference 2021

A live stream on [Zoom](#)



Jane Jeffes, MC
Producer/Director, Firefly Productions
Former Executive Producer, ABC Radio, Religion & Ethics

Sunday
10 October
2.30pm-4pm (AEDT)

Jewish, Christian and Muslim speakers
draw from their religious traditions
women role models for our time



To receive the Zoom link,
register FREE at Humanitix



events.humanitix.com/2021-abraham-conference



@AbrahamConference

Westmead Congregation

SUNDAY 3rd October, 2021 - COMBINED SERVICE - 9.30AM

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95778738282>

Everyone is welcome to this combined service with Northmead, Centenary, Leigh Memorial and Westmead congregations. Each week we have the opportunity to meet members of the other congregations we haven't met before. Breakout rooms at the beginning of the service, and then at the end of the service help us to chat.

Thank you to the Transitional Ministry team for the excellent planning, and also for listening to what the congregations have had to say.

DAYLIGHT SAVING is upon us!

I hope you have been able to adjust your clocks.

This is also a long weekend, and so there will be no Bible Study at Westmead this week, and no Monday night CCLM zoom.



Margaret Cheah had a catch up call with Les Owen this week. Les is well known to the Westmead congregation and especially to No. 28 family. Les moved away to Toowoomba in Queensland. He is doing well, and attends the Uniting Church at Middle Ridge. He is also connected with TOMNET - The Older Men's Network Inc., Provides older men with the opportunity for mateship, the chance to reconnect and cope positively with life after loss. Les is keeping well. When he finally comes to Sydney again he may pay us a visit. It would be good to see him.

Many in our congregation have concerns for loved ones, some in far away places. We keep them in our prayers. Caroline is in our prayers also, as she continues with a rigid programme of dialysis in Covid times. Good to hear she is in good spirits, which will be lifted if her favourite team (Bunnies) win the grand final!

CONNECTION GROUPS

for All congregations: An opportunity to say Hello,

Wednesday - 1 - 2p.m.

Friday - 5 - 6pm.

Zoom: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ON ZOOM

Led by Pastor Sarah Bishop on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.25am

Contact Sarah for zoom link -

Email: sarah@bluetardis.com.au

Phone: 0412 606 049

WESTMEAD LEADERS:

Jan Robson : Pastoral Matters and Prayer Chain 0418 438 901

Lorna Porter: Finance and Administration 0408 365 478

Alysa Biju: Technology Support 0467 674 251

Biju Chako: Technology Support Assistant 0420 275 396

Mere Vulaono: No. 28 Household

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING CAN BE MADE ELECTRONICALLY

Account Name: PM DIRECT WESTMEAD

BSB 634 634 Account Number 100046885

Leigh Fijian Congregation

1. **Lotu ena macawa oqo 03/10:** Na lotu ena sigatabu oqo e rau na vei qaravi tiko kina ko talatala Vlad kei talatala Suzanne. Ena qaravi tale tikoga na sakaramede. Vunau vakarau Josefa Foiakau kei Meli Donu. Ratou na tu vakarau ena vunau na soqosoqo ni tabagone.
2. **Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 10/10:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo, ena vei qaravi tiko kina na soqosoqo ni tabagone. Rau na vei qaravi ena vunau ko Akisi Allison kei Soweri Suguta. Vunau vakarau Ini Foiakau kei Ofa Foiakau.
3. **Lesoni ni macawa:** Jope 23:1-9,16-17 Same 22:1-15 Iperiu 4:12-16 Marika 10:17-31
4. **Bula Feeding Food Hamper:** Vinaka vakalevu Y30 Komiti na cau vei ratou na Bula Feeding. Sa laki vukei sara na wekada e ra gadreva tu me ra vukei.



1. **Lolo kei Na masumasu** - Veinanumi ena lolo kei na masumasu ena vei matai ni Vukelulu ena vei vula mai na 6am – 12pm se 6am – 6pm. Soli tu na galala ke o rawa ni qarava.
2. **Veinanumi ena Masu** : Kerei meda veinanumi tikoga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase Aqriu Rogoimuri, Vilikesa kei Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, Violet Cama. Ko iratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodrau vuli talatala ko Filikesa Kamotu kei Samu Sadrata. Na nodratou vei qaravi na Bula Feeding.
3. Gadrevi na noda veinanumi ena masu vei ira na lewe ni vavakoso era mai sasaga kei na nanumi talega ni nodra vuvale mai Viti.

19번째 성령강림주일 (19th Pentecost Sunday) 21년 10월03일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 1 장** **통 1 장** **만복의 근원 하나님** 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 15 장 **통 55 장** **하나님의 크신 사랑**

새 415 장 **통 471 장** **십자가 그늘 아래**

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 **새 635장** **하늘에 계신 우리 아버지** 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **출애굽기 3:1-5**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 **신을 벗어라**

봉헌 송(Offeratory Hymn) **새 421장** **통 375 장** **나는 갈 길 모르니**

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 전 세계가 전염병으로 힘들 때 주님과 동행하시는 성도가 됩시다.
2. '매일 성경' 말씀으로 주님과 교제의 시간(QT)을 갖고 적용하는 훈련을 합니다.
3. 말씀, 기도, 전도 생활로 하나님이 기뻐하시는 삶을 사는 성도님들이 되시기 바랍니다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn) **새502장** **통 259장** **너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)**

축도 전현구 담임목사(Rev. HYUN GOO JUN)

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
출애굽기 27:1-14

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
출25:23-29:18

**Report from the Transitional Ministry Team of the Parramatta City
Uniting Church**

10 September 2021

This report has been written for the Church Councils of Northmead -Centenary and Parramatta Mission (including the Combined Congregational Leaders Meeting (CCLM) of the Parramatta Mission congregations) and is also suitable for distribution to all congregation members for their information.

Please note: The “Parramatta City Uniting Church” has been adopted as a “working name” for the purposes of the year of exploration. Any decision on a permanent name for the regional collaboration will be made in the future after an evaluation of the year of exploration and following a formal decision-making process by all the congregations.

The members of the Transitional Ministry Team of the Parramatta City Uniting Church are:

Rev Vladimir Korotkov (70%), Rev Rhonda White (50%), Rev Niall Reid (100%) and Rev Suzanne Stanton (50%). This report has been prepared by the TMT with input from all members.

The Transitional Ministry Team began working together in July 2021 following the decisions of the Westmead and Leigh Memorial Congregations to join Northmead-Centenary Uniting Church in a 12- month period of exploration, as outlined in the proposal brought to the congregations by the Presbytery PRC.

The Leigh Fijian Congregation has decided not to join in the year of exploration as yet, but the Leigh Fijian Congregation remains within the pastoral responsibility of the Transitional Ministry Team during this time.

The Presbytery PRC has been requested to seek a part-time Ministry agent to provide dedicated Pastoral support and leadership to the Leigh Fijian Congregation in addition to the TMT members.

The TMT meets weekly on a Wednesday morning.

The team is joined for part of the meeting once a fortnight by Paul Linossier, Chair of the Parramatta Mission Board, and Mark Newton, General Manager of Parramatta Mission.

The team is joined once a month by Rev Geoff Stevenson, Chairperson and Mission Strategist for Parramatta Nepean Presbytery.

In addition to their duties as Ministers under the Regulations of the Uniting Church (Reg 2.2.1) the team is guided by the Objectives and Responsibilities set out in the proposal of the Parramatta Nepean Presbytery PRC to develop a Parramatta Regional Hub Ministry as adopted by the four participating congregations.

These are as follows:

Objectives of the Parramatta City Uniting Church

- A commitment to growth in relationship, impact, discipleship, and number:
 - To provide opportunities for people to encounter the Gospel in ways that are life- giving, transformative, and inclusive.
 - To offer opportunities for people to experience an integrated approach to life engaging the whole person (body, mind, soul).
 - To promote opportunities that explore engagement with spirituality and the gospel that recognise a person's social and cultural background.
 - To create opportunities for people to develop relationships, share knowledge and skills and engage in advocacy that benefits individuals and the community.

- To grow groups/communities that promote values and a sense of purpose that enhance individual and community well-being.
- To grow communities of faith that are life giving and inclusive.
 - A commitment to develop ministry with people in the first third of their lives.
 - A commitment to walk together with First Peoples and to share ministry.
 - An ongoing and active commitment to the stewardship of the Earth.
 - Provide community services that are an active expression of our faith,
 - And which address the social need within the region.
 - Embrace the diversity of the communities in which we worship and serve.
 - Welcome renewal, be contemporary communities, and – God willing grow our witness to the gospel.
 - Facilitate the development of a strong culture, vision and values grounded in the vision of the Uniting Church and especially ministry with (*not to or for*) marginalised people.

Responsibilities of the Transitional Ministry Team

The Team will be responsible for:

1. Providing Worship and Discipleship Resources
2. Facilitating the Transition from current worship practices to practices that better reflect the range of communities and especially those gathered as micro-churches
3. Overseeing current missional activities and providing support to new ones

4. Celebration of the Eucharist, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
5. Facilitating the participation of those expressing an interest in the development of the Parramatta City Uniting Church
6. Develop a strategic plan and mission strategy for the Parramatta Regional Mission
7. Ensuring that Pastoral Care and Safe Church requirements are met
8. Co-ordinating the administrative and governance requirements of the Parramatta Regional-City Uniting Church
9. Developing IT Strategies that meet the needs of the Parramatta City Uniting Church
10. Facilitating the development of the Parramatta City Uniting Church, Church Council (or Oversight and Leadership Committee).

Outstanding Action Items from Transitional Ministry Team Meetings as at 10/9/21

- Strategy for emerging from lockdown
- The need for updated Transitional Supply Agreements/redrafted Terms of Placement for TMT members
- Further work with the Leigh Fijian Congregation and Presbytery towards placement of a part time talatala dedicated to providing pastoral leadership for the Leigh Fijian Congregation
- Pastoral support and the relationship of the TMT to the Leigh Fijian Congregation
- Work on Communications including Website and Newsletter Design
- Pastoral Care Forum (see Pastoral Report below) and planning for pastoral care
- Planning for first meeting of the proposed VSAG
- TMT leave planning
- Ongoing reporting by TMT to Church Councils and congregations.

Execution of Responsibilities

The Transitional Ministry Team members are continuing to work out how they will share in meeting their responsibilities to the congregations as the congregations also explore new ways of being the people of God. The table below provides an update on progress in each of the 11 responsibilities contained in the Presbytery proposal. Over time more specific work will be planned for each of these areas of responsibility and progress towards the objectives listed above will also be considered.

One key action that the TMT has taken to enable it to meet its responsibilities has been to recommend to the Church Councils the creation of the Vision and Strategy Action Group (VSAG). The proposed VSAG will be critical in the visionary and strategic work being undertaken in this year of exploration, as well as in working with the congregations to move from developing vision and strategy to action. It is proposed that the VSAG will have the following responsibilities:

- Developing and implementing the vision and strategy for the year of experimentation
- Engaging participating congregations in experimenting with different ways of being the people of God
- Discerning the shape of collaboration beyond 2021/22 articulating the joint vision and strategic priorities in mission as well as the appropriate joint governance arrangements

TMT Responsibilities: From Presbytery PRC Proposal as adopted by Northmead-Centenary, Westmead and Leigh Memorial Congregations

<p>1. Providing Worship and Discipleship Resources</p>	<p>Worship (for the four congregations) being led by the team as a collaborative effort, currently via Zoom and online. Discipleship resources: to be discussed. Discussions on micro-churches / discipleship groups were held in August as part of N-C worship and with PM CCLM.</p>
<p>2. Facilitating the Transition from current worship practices to practices that better reflect the range of communities and especially those gathered as micro-churches</p>	<p>The TMT has recommended that the congregations trial one combined Zoom service and online services for September and October. It is proposed that the current Worship Committees be suspended temporarily as the TMT works out the format and plans for worship in the longer run over the next two months. The VSAG (once formed) will consider and recommend longer term options for Worship Planning and leadership.</p>
<p>3. Overseeing current missional activities and providing support to new ones</p>	<p>Current Activities – continuing as previously for the moment, most not running as affected by lockdown (see Pastoral Reports below). A young adults Bible Study has begun (facilitated by Rev Rhonda) and will be held fortnightly. VSAG (when established) will consider how to encourage and support the establishment of new micro-churches/discipleship groups.</p>
<p>4. Celebration of the Eucharist, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals</p>	<p>See Pastoral Reports below</p>

5. Facilitating the participation of those expressing an interest in the development of the Parramatta City Uniting Church	To be discussed with VSAG (once established). Some work on communications (draft Newsletter, website enquiries) has begun.
6. Develop a strategic plan and mission strategy for the Parramatta City Uniting Church	To be discussed with VSAG (once established) – longer term goal
7. Ensuring that Pastoral Care and Safe Church requirements are met	Pastoral Care Forum in planning Safe Church – very important, but less urgent in lockdown – to be discussed in near future.
8. Co-ordinating the administrative and governance requirements of the Parramatta City Uniting Church	Ongoing discussion as new bodies form, and existing bodies adapt. Ministers appointed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Niall Reid serve as members of the Parramatta Mission Board. • Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Dr Rhonda White attend the weekly General Manager's Team (GMT) Meeting on behalf of the TMT. • Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Suzanne Stanton represented Parramatta Mission at the Parish Mission and Synod Collaboration Meeting on Thursday 2 September. • All TMT attend NCCC, PMC and CCLM
9. Developing IT Strategies that meet the needs of the Parramatta City Uniting Church	To be discussed
10. Facilitating the development of the Parramatta City Uniting Church Church Council (or Oversight and Leadership Committee)	During the 12 months of exploration the VSAG will fulfil this role, with a decision about longer term Church Council arrangements to be made at the end of the year.
11. Convening meetings and offering leadership with the Senior Staff and the Board of the New Parramatta Mission	As noted above Rev Vladimir and Rev Rhonda attend the GMT meeting weekly. Rev Vladimir and Rev Niall are members of the PMB.

In addition to these areas of focus for the 12 months of exploration, the Transitional Ministry Team members continue to hold responsibility for their ministry roles as per the regulations with respect to all five congregations.

Pastoral Reports for Each Congregation

At the time of writing this report the TMT is planning for a Pastoral Care Forum to take place on 19 September. This forum will include all interested members of the congregations and will involve hearing from each congregation how Pastoral Care has been provided and shared in the past, followed by a discussion of potential models of Pastoral Care for the future.

For the moment Pastoral Care continues as previously within each of the congregations and with the support of the TMT. Members of the TMT are available for any emergencies or specific needs – please see their contact details at the end of this report.

Northmead

Club Chat and some small groups continue to meet online

Zoom church on Sunday and online service recorded and edited in conjunction with Centenary Music Team engaged in the production of songs with copyright clearance for online worship Niall does an online

Almost Daily Chat 4 days a week

Church members keeping in contact by phone

Uniting Care Committee continues to meet and provide oversight of Adrian Rizzo, the Adolescent and Family Counsellor, Sunhee Song, Café Play co-ordinator,

- Adrian continues to provide adolescents and their families counselling online from home
- Sunhee has sought to maintain contact with families online with limited success

Participation in Local combined Churches Action to lobby minister Alex Hawke to increase support and intake of Afghan refugees

Since July 2021:

There have been no Weddings or Baptisms, and no requests for Baptisms or Weddings.

There has been 1 funeral and one yet to occur.

Centenary

Sun Hee Song continues with English Conversation Class on Tuesday mornings and a less formal “morning tea” zoom session where people can practice their English conversation.

All playgroups have been suspended during lockdown

Leigh Memorial

Attendance at Zoom services at Leigh Memorial has been strong during the current lockdown. Leadership of these services has been provided mainly by Rev Vladimir, as well as Rev Suzanne and other preachers and leaders including Rev Ben Gilmour.

Members of Leigh Memorial have joined in combined worship with Westmead and Leigh Fijian for their recent 30th Anniversary services.

Pastoral Care has been regularly provided by congregational leaders and other members, and the ministers as needs were discerned, as Leigh Memorial has a good network of relationships, and provides holistic support and keeps conversations going.

There has been one recent request for a Wedding that will be further considered in October when it is hoped that the situation with future restrictions will be clearer.

There have been no Funerals or requests for Baptism since July.

Westmead

Leaders at Westmead provide care and support to one another and all congregation members. Included in their care are residents of nearby group homes who remain in connection with the congregation even though lockdown prohibits gathering on site.

Recent significant events in the life of the congregation:

- 30th Anniversary Service on 25 July, held on Zoom – was very well attended and a time of celebration and shared memories and hope for the future. The day also included the launch of the book “The Westmead Story: From Cotswold to Queens”.
- Congregation members organised for donations of clothes to “Reinspired Threads” a fundraising initiative of Parramatta Mission
- Cash donations were also collected to support Meals Plus
- Jean Mitchell turned 100 on 4 September – Pastor Sarah Bishop worked with congregation members to prepare a recorded Zoom message for Jean that she was able to watch for her birthday.
- Jan Robson moving house 9 September
- Support for Westmead Children’s through sending cards/letters encouraged during the stresses of COVID
- 175 Accommodation and Wesley Apartments being utilised by NSW Health for accommodation of children and staff.

Since July 2021:

There have been no Weddings or Baptisms, and no requests for Baptisms or Weddings.

There have been no funerals

Leigh Fijian

A recent highlight in the life of the Leigh Fijian Congregation was the 30th Anniversary Service on 5 September. Due to COVID restrictions the service took place via Zoom, with Talatala Rev Viniana Ravetali leading worship and preaching for the service, with the participation of many other talatalas and lay leaders.

Since July Talatala Suzanne and Talatala Vladimir have shared in attending and leading worship and communion for the congregation. In lockdown other pastoral activities have been limited. Rev Vladimir has continued to be in contact with leaders of the congregation. The Transitional Ministry team are continuing to work on how all their Pastoral Responsibilities are shared and acknowledge that while this remains uncertain this is causing some confusion and difficulty, particularly for the Leigh Fijian congregation who have decided not to participate in the combined regional ministry at this time. Some conversations have gone around how the proposed placement to provide ministry to Leigh Fijian can be filled but further work with the congregation and Presbytery is required to bring this to fruition.

The Bula Feeding Ministry has continued on a more limited basis during lockdown.

Note: Twice a week congregation members of all the Parramatta Mission Congregations have been offered the opportunity to attend a Zoom "Connection Group" during lockdown. These groups offer an opportunity to meet with others for conversation to stay in touch and to break up the long days of lockdown.

They run on Wednesdays at 1pm and Fridays at 5pm.

Minister's Comments and Reports

Rev Dr Rhonda White

It is now six months since commencing 50% supply with Northmead/Centenary with an expressed call to help facilitate a transition into a new way of being the people of God. A lot has happened in this past six months and in some ways, although presenting additional challenges, being in lockdown is also providing us with some unique opportunities, particularly in being able to share worship together. The number of meetings since the collaboration begun has been extraordinary, but again assisted by not having to travel between meetings so in some ways helping productivity. I am enjoying the challenge of working in a ministry team that is trying to also develop a new way of being in ministry. Learning and practicing how to “share toys” is a new skill for a “seasoned” minister. Nevertheless, as it is apparent to us that we must learn to be church differently, so it is with ministry and this collaboration is a marvellous opportunity to develop a new way of being in ministry which will hopefully be something that can be replicated for other ministry teams. As the collaboration gains momentum it is becoming more difficult to manage time and I find myself working most days, if only for a few hours, but again lockdown helps this and I am hopeful that in time as we establish the rhythm of team ministry, the hours will be more manageable.

Rev Niall Reid

It may seem surprising but despite being housebound ministry continues and days are full, with ongoing meetings (local, Presbytery and Synod), pastoral care, worship and sermon preparation, working in team ministry, engaging with Centenary and now Parramatta Mission. Editing videos for Sunday is time consuming but a different way of shaping worship to suit

the context. I continue to provide a daily chat online (now only four days a week). With the other ministers, much time is spent in the formation of the Transitional Ministry Team and developing strategies for the way ahead. Although Sundays tend to be quieter than previously, I find that my usual patterns of operating have changed, and I am working every day. This is partly due to different and additional meeting arrangements in the context of the collaboration with other TMT members and engagement with Parramatta Mission.

Rev Suzanne Stanton

Since commencing in July 2021 I've still yet to attend a face-to-face meeting with any congregation members, team members or staff of the Parramatta City Uniting Church due to the ongoing COVID related restrictions.

I've been spending time meeting with people and attending and leading worship via Zoom. I'm beginning to understand the complexities of Paramatta Mission and the regional collaboration. It's quite a lot to take in and there is much work to do with the team to begin to shape the proposal for a regional collaboration into a plan for moving forward. No two weeks have been the same yet! I have prepared a proposal for the TMT describing some specific parts of the team's responsibilities that I could focus on however things remain fairly fluid as the shape of the collaboration work continues and this is not settled as yet. I believe the formation of the VSAG will be critical to this year of experimentation and look forward to the input of its members once appointed. Work to date has been heavily focused on forming the TMT and working out how worship will be led in new ways as the period of exploration begins.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov

This report is written with the luxury of being the last, so I will not repeat what my colleagues have said in their reports, as we work together as a team; but just to say I echo a number of their comments.

My supply is for the next 12 to 24 months, as long as the transition requires my participation. Since I started in October 2020, my work covered the whole-of-organisation, working closely with the transition of the services and working as organisational consultant to empower others to create a new collaborative culture, and to build the congregations. From June 30th, these foci ceased with the new proposal from Presbytery. Our task, and one of my commitments, is to learn together how to recreate/reshape these foci within the new vision and our new collaborative mission and action efforts.

Specific Notes for the Parramatta Mission Council

The PMC has made the following resolutions or requests of the Ministry Team (previously Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Suzanne Stanton) and the CCLM of the PM Congregations.

1. Working with CCLM to identify and document the Roles and Responsibilities of the TMT (Rev Vladimir and Rev Suzanne) (Resolution July 2021)
2. Working with the PMB Board Chair, Paul Linossier, to develop and execute a “Listening Program” for the three PM Congregations (Resolution July 2021)
3. Provision of a Pastoral Report to the PMC (Reporting Requirement)

As a result of decisions made in July about involvement in the regional collaboration, and recent meetings and decisions of the Presbytery PRC, the Transitional Ministry Team has now expanded and comprises the four ministers currently serving in the four congregations that have decided to participate.

Since that decision was taken there have been many meetings to discuss governance arrangements during this transitional phase, and new roles and relationships between various bodies (PMC, PMC SC, CCLM, VSAG, PMB) have been separately documented.

The key responsibilities of the expanded TMT are as stated in the Presbytery proposal and subsequent Presbytery PRC decisions, as well as the usual duties of Ministers under the regulations, but with particular emphasis in this transitional time on the work contained in the Presbytery Proposal. Those responsibilities and the objectives of the regional collaboration are summarised above in this report.

The TMT have provided this report from the whole team on how those responsibilities are being shared and fulfilled, and any other matters that they have attended to (e.g. membership of the PMB and attendance at the GMT weekly meeting) as a part of this report. This should cover both points 1 and 2 above from the TMT's perspective.

The proposal for an intentional and structured "Listening Program" is on hold until COVID restrictions ease. Careful listening and discernment is taking place in other meetings and gatherings as the TMT begins their work together.

Also to note:

- The TMT are in regular communication with the CCLM of the Parramatta Mission Congregations, with a weekly informal gathering that now includes Rev Dr Rhonda and Rev Niall. A formal meeting is being planned for 18 September 2021.
- As noted above: the TMT meets with PMB Chair Paul Linossier and GM Mark Newton fortnightly, as well as Presbytery Minister Rev Geoff Stevenson monthly.

- Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Niall Reid serve as members of the PMB.
- Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Dr Rhonda White attend the weekly GMT Meeting on behalf of the TMT.
- Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Suzanne Stanton represented Parramatta Mission at the Parish Mission and Synod Collaboration Meeting on Thursday 2 September.

If you have any questions in relation to this report, please contact a member of the Transitional Ministry Team.

Parramatta City Uniting Church Transitional Ministry Team

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Phone: 0408 659 702

Why is the Uniting Church supporting the School Strike 4 Climate movement?

Uniting Church members are invited to a stimulating webinar aimed at shedding light on this question.

Over the last two years, hundreds of Uniting Church members have supported actions by the School Strike 4 Climate (SS4C) movement, calling for stronger action on climate change in Australia. They have made supportive signs (#BuildOurFutureNotGas), posted messages on social media, and stood with and marched alongside students when COVID restrictions allowed and joined them on-line when they did not. Congregations have acted as well, hanging banners with messages like *Act on Climate! Leave No One Behind*, using church noticeboards to create their own messages and integrating themes of creation care into worship. Standing with students in these ways is consistent with the commitment of our Synod's Climate Action Strategy, created by a Synod resolution in July 2019. Part of that resolution read:

That the Synod:

Support initiatives taken by young people in advocating for action on climate change, including the global climate strikes.

But other Uniting members and those in the wider church community might have wondered what all the fuss was about. Others may have disagreed with the idea of a school strike. After all, shouldn't students be in school rather than taking to the streets in protest! Why are they so worked-up on this issue anyway?

Now a special webinar, hosted by well-known broadcaster and journalist Julie McCrossin, will explore why our church has taken this sometimes controversial position. In her lively and engaging style, Julie will interview some key players, across the diversity of the Uniting Church. They include our Moderator, a Headmaster of a UCA school, members of Christian Students Uniting and other adult supporters, representatives of our First Nations and Pasifika communities and most importantly, students from both UCA and public schools directly involved in the SS4C movement.

We'll hear about the different reasons they have for supporting the student's call for stronger action on climate, how their faith and personal values have led them to be involved in this movement and what they are hoping to achieve by adding their voice in support.

Whatever your views on the questions involved, don't miss this stimulating, informative and engaging evening, Wednesday October 6, 7.15 pm – 8.30 pm. You can [register](#) for the event here.

If you would like more information, or have any questions, please contact Jon O'Brien on 0477 725 528 or jobrien@uniting.org

LIVE! ONLINE COMMUNITY FORUM + PANEL DISCUSSION + Q&A

WHY THE UNITING CHURCH SUPPORTS THE SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE MOVEMENT



WEDNESDAY
OCT 6

7.15 PM
'til
8.30 PM

FEATURING

- REV SIMON HANSFORD, MODERATOR
UNITING CHURCH NSW.ACT
- MICHAEL PARKER, HEADMASTER,
NEWINGTON COLLEGE
- MIRIAM PEPPER, SOCIAL RESEARCHER
- ISAAC HEMSWORTH-SMITH SCHOOL
STRIKE FOR CLIMATE ORGANISING
COMMITTEE
- MICHAEL RAMAIDAMA, CHRISTIAN
STUDENTS UNITING
- ALISON OVEREEM UNITING ABORIGINAL &
ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS
- LILLIANI TAHAFFE-WILLIAMS, PHD
CANDIDATE, CDU
- REV. DR JASON JOHN, MINISTER,
ECOLOGIST, POET
- AND STUDENTS FROM UNITING CHURCH
SCHOOLS



WITH
JULIE MCCROSSIN AM
Broadcaster, journalist &
facilitator

REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/efcbvcdf>

Uniting Earth



Uniting

Lord's Mayor's Letter of Appreciation to Meals Plus Services



Cr Bob Dwyer
Lord Mayor

Ref: LORDMAYOR/2021/00636

24 September 2021

Thank you

On behalf of myself, Councillors and the City of Parramatta, I would like to thank you for all you have done for our community during NSW's 2021 COVID-19 outbreak.

It has been a very hard time for all, with many challenges, outbreaks and lockdowns causing concern in our community.

I wish to acknowledge your hard work through these difficult times, the wonderful support you have given to our community and your many contributions throughout the City of Parramatta LGA.

We are lucky to have you as part of our community. Thank you and I congratulate you on your efforts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Dwyer".

Cr Bob Dwyer
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta Council

Contact us:
lordmayor@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au | 02 9806 5050
PO Box 32, Parramatta, NSW 2124
ABN 49 907 174 773 | cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au



The Centre for Volunteering



Rosina Armstrong-Mensahone

A Meals Plus volunteer won the

**Western Sydney Young Volunteer of the
Year Award**

Pastoral Contacts

Prayer Points may be sent to
wecare@parramattamission.org.au

For a conversation or to contact a Minister, please call
Parramatta Mission Reception (9am-3pm)
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
9891 2277

Leigh Memorial Church
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
9891 2277

Westmead Church
175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead NSW 2145
9891 9354

IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED

Please contact our minister Vladimir Korotkov or Suzanne Stanton for any pastoral needs.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Transition Minister) 0431 759 573
Rev Suzanne Stanton (Transition Minister) 0408 659 702

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THESE PEOPLE FOR PASTORAL ISSUES

Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith Community)	0433 320 588
Pr Sarah Bishop (Children's Hospital)	0429 912 943
Anare Vocea (Fijian Vakatawa)	0432 772 852



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