

25 July 2021



# BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

## Dwelling in love...

Last weekend the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) installed the Rev. Sharon Hollis as President of the Assembly for the next three years. At the same meeting (being held online because of the COVID pandemic), the Assembly also elected a female President-Elect, the Rev. Charissa Suli. She will serve as President-Elect for three years, and then take up the position of President in July 2024. For the next three years, the President, the Past President, and the President-Elect will all be women: the Rev. Sharon Hollis, Dr Deidre Palmer, and the Rev. Charissa Suli, respectively. In addition, the current General Secretary of the Assembly is also female: Ms Colleen Geyer. It is an important symbol, when considering the national leadership of Christian churches across Australia. All of our key leadership are women. The UCA contribution has been, and will continue to be, a reminder, of the importance of providing a female perspective when issues of national social and political importance are being considered.

Women in leadership is not an unusual thing for the UCA. Both women and men are ordained within the life of our church and set apart as Deacons or Ministers of the Word. Both women and men, lay and ordained, are called to leadership positions in all councils of the UCA. The first Moderator of our NSW/ACT Synod was Mrs Lilian Wells (1977–78). This is completely consistent with the affirmation made in our *Basis of Union* (the document on which the formation of the UCA was based). Paragraph 13 of the *Basis*, states, *"The Uniting Church will thereafter provide for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them, and will order its life in response to God's call to enter more fully into mission."* This is also consistent with the fundamental theological affirmation made earlier in paragraph 13 of the *Basis*, declaring that the church *"acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ."* This is developed from the affirmations about the gifting of the Spirit that the apostle Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 12. The Spirit knows no limits of gender in gracing individuals with gifts for ministry. So, women in key leadership roles is a practice consistent with scripture and in accord with the central values and practices of the Uniting Church.

In an era where the experience of women in society in regards to gender equality, abuse and domestic violence continues to be such a major issue, let us be thankful that as a Church we are being led by women gifted by God for such a time as this. May we hold them in our prayers and hearts as they fulfil this wonderful calling and may we as a church seek to empower women in exercising their gifts in our communities.

Grace and peace, Rev Phil



*(The above picture from Rev Hollis' installation service depicts from left to right, Dr Deidre Palmer, Rev Sharon Hollis and Ms Colleen Geyer)*

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

# MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

## Every Week...

**Men's Cooking @ Bangalow Uniting Church:** 10am Fridays (Not yet running)

**Scripture at Byron Bay PS:** Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm

**Open Church:** Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay

## Now Operating...

**Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:** Monday to Fridays 9am-1pm

**Uniting Sewing and Social Group @ Byron:** 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

**Growing Young Bookclub:** every fortnight (details below)

## Upcoming events...

**Growing Young Bookclub:** Monday 2nd August 3.30-5pm Zoom (unless restrictions lift)

**Fair Trade Fortnight Morning Tea:** 10th August (Bangalow UCA) & 11th August (Byron Bay UCA)

**Frontier Services Gathering & Baptism:** Sunday 15th August 10am @ Bangalow UCA

**Church Council Meeting:** Tuesday 17th August, 11am @ Bangalow UCA

**Bangalow Harvest Service:** Sunday 17th October

**Bangalow Fair Trade Fair:** Saturday 6th November

## Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6601 2010

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // [phild@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:phild@nswact.uca.org.au)

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692  
email: [allthenashes@gmail.com](mailto:allthenashes@gmail.com)



## For The Calendar

Fair Trade Fortnight Morning Tea: 10th August (Bangalow UCA) & 11th August (Byron Bay UCA)

Frontier Services Gathering & Baptism: Sunday 15th August 10am @ Bangalow UCA

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 17th August, 11am @ Bangalow UCA

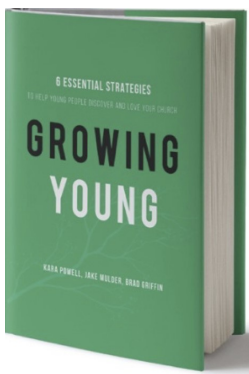
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## Minister's Leave:

Rev Phil will be taking leave from Wed 18th August until Wed 1st September. If you have pastoral needs in this time please contact one of our elders.

## Growing Young Project



The Growing Young Project has recommenced after a pause on our sessions due to the COVID situation. This group met last Monday by Zoom to consider Chapter 3 and discuss the contents. We have really been enjoying the facilitation and leadership of Pastor Steve Molkenntin (Molk) from our Synod as we continue this journey. It is not too late to join in, so see Rev Phil for a book and more details. The next session is planned for Monday 2nd August from 3.30pm on Zoom (unless restrictions ease) and we will be looking at Chapter 4.

## Frontier Services Gathering & Baptism Sunday 15th August 10am @ Bangalow UCA

On Sunday 15th August we will be gathering for a combined service at the Bangalow Church. During this gathering we will consider the ministry of Frontier Services and raise funds for their important work. We will also share in the baptism of Matilda & William Jarrett, the children of Luke and Courtney (great grandchildren of Kevin & Edna). Please mark this on your calendar and join us for this special celebration.

## ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 25 July: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda

Week of 1 August: Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

## Prayer Points

- Our new UCA President, Rev Sharon Hollis, as she offers spiritual guidance and encouragement to the Church over the next three years.
- Rev Charissa Suli, as she enters a time of preparation as President-elect.
- The ongoing faithful ministry and discipleship of retiring President Dr Deidre Palmer in the Uniting Church and in the world.
- The ongoing COVID situation and those experiencing intense lockdown restrictions. May we be patient, loving and supportive of all in our community.

# Gathered Worship

<b>Sunday 25th July</b>	9.30am Byron Bay Communion 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 1st August</b>	5pm Bangalow Communion	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 8th August</b>	9.30am Byron Bay	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 15th August</b>	10am Bangalow (Combined Baptism & Frontier Services gathering)	- Rev Phil

## Lectionary Readings

<b>25 July</b>	2 Samuel 11:1-15	Psalms 14	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
<b>1 August</b>	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a	Psalms 51:1-12	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
<b>8 August</b>	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	Psalms 130	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35,41-51
<b>15 August</b>	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Psalms 111	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58

**Newsletter Items** If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.