



The Presbytery of The Downs

Living Water for a Thirsty Land

Newsletter - January 2023

Welcome to 2023

Hi friends, it's great to be back. A new year, a new knee, new hair and with all of creation I'm singing a brand-new song to God. (Psalm 98).

I have felt so blessed and surrounded in prayer and love since my surgery in early December thank you everyone for your concerns. All is going as well as can be expected, still hobbling along, a little tired but getting stronger everyday. A huge thank you to Rev Dr Linda Hamill for stepping in and supporting the Presbytery while I was away, she has done a great job. I now have the Presbytery Minister phone back and am getting my head around what you have all been up to, what is coming up and I want to share some upcoming highlights with you in this newsletter.

It is looking like a productive and hopeful year, we are starting off the year by welcoming three new Ministry Agents to this wonderful part of the world. Welcome Dylan, Alisi and Dona please pray for them as they begin their ministries Dylan at St Stephen's, Alisi in Dalby Jandowae, and after the launch of the Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry Dona will be inducted as the Bush Chaplain based in Roma. If you are a member of Presbytery and are planning to be at one of these services you are invited to gather at the door of the church 5 minutes before the commencement to join in the procession - Ministers are invited to wear Red stoles.

As you all know the Presbytery Office is without administrative support, since the resignation of Susan last November, this is an agenda item on the next Standing Committee meeting (24th January) and we hope to have an admin solution to present to the Presbytery meeting in February. In the meantime a few good souls are working hard to keep the website up to date with [upcoming events](#) and producing a monthly newsletter. Emails to admin@downspresbytery.org.au are being checked and passed onto to someone to respond, we are doing our best to get responses to you asap. Please be patient and if you need anything urgently phone me on 0427 962 781 or email pm@downspresbytery.org.au.

I'm looking forward to catching up with you all soon.

Peace and Blessings

Yvonne (Presbytery Minister, The Downs Presbytery)

WELCOME



Rev Dylan Miegel

Service of Induction

22nd January, 3pm

St Stephen's Uniting Church,
51 Neil St Toowoomba.

RSVP [HERE](#) by 20th January.



Pastor Alisi Manu

Service of Commissioning

5th February, 12:30pm

Dalby Uniting Church,
75 Condamine St, Dalby.

RSVP [HERE](#) by 2nd February.



Rev Dona Spencer

Service of Induction

as Bush Chaplain,
Bottle Tree RAM

Friday 24th February, from 6pm
Highfields Community Church,
55 Highfields Rd, Highfields.

RSVP [HERE](#) by 20th February.

Learning Opportunities



Building a discipleship culture

We are hosting two watch hubs and invite you and your leadership team to come to either:

**Middle Ridge Uniting Church,
264 Stenner Street, Middle Ridge**

**Warwick Uniting Church,
85 Guy Street, Warwick.**

We will join online with the hosts of this event, Moreton Rivers Presbytery on

11th February 2023 from 9am - 3pm.

This is a workshop discerned to help your congregation explore:

- What contemporary discipleship looks like
- The theological basis for focusing on discipleship
- Why discipleship is not the same as 'attending church' and why it is critical to congregational health, mission and growth
- designing an action plan for your congregation to begin or advance a culture of discipling.

Cost is \$20/person which includes handouts, morning and afternoon tea.

BYO your own lunch.

Register [HERE](#) by 6th February, 2023 and bring payment on the day.

For more information about the Watch Hubs contact pm@downspresbytery.org.au

For more information about starting your own watch hub contact:

adminsupport@mrpres.org.au



Three short course coming up on that may be of interest to you and your Church Council:

8th February - **UCA Identity, Purpose and Future**

8th/9th February (over two nights) - **Church Council Essentials**

9th February **UCA Governance and Regulatory Life**

Register [HERE](#) or for more information contact Trinity College Qld

Ph: 07 3377 9950 or E: ask@trinity.qld.edu.au

UPCOMING MEETINGS

24th January 6:30pm Lifeworks Uniting Church - Presbytery Standing Committee

8th February 10am Lifeworks Uniting Church - Pastoral Relations Committee

25th February 8:30am - 8pm Highfields Community Church - Presbytery Meeting

Annual Safe Church Audit

Around the 30th of January each year, the General Secretary asks each presbytery to gather information from congregations to demonstrate compliance with their obligations to provide a safe environment for the children and anyone vulnerable. This review occurs in the form of a safe church assessment. Some new resources have been developed to assist congregations and presbyteries to gather this information.

- C/2.1.13.2 Information Required in a Register of Volunteers
- C/2.1.13.3 Template: Model minute for church councils and presbyteries
- C/2.1.13.4 Template: Model Minute for Church Councils (Resolution)
- C/2.1.13.5 Blue Card Information Required for the Annual SMC Audit
- C/2.1.13.6 Pre-appointment Screening Information Required for the Annual SMC Audit

If you have any questions about what is required please contact admin@downspresbytery.org.au

PRAYER POINTS

- Cambooya Uniting Church and their leadership
- Chinchilla Uniting Church and their leadership
- Central Downs Parish (Millmerran and Pittsworth congregations) and their leadership
- Crows Nest District Uniting Church, their leadership and Joint Nominating Committee
- Rev Rob Callow as he finishes his role as IIM at CNDUC
- Annie Baker and Naomi Bell (Candidates for Ministry)
- Pastoral Relations Committee and Standing Committee Members
- Dylan Miegel, Alisi Manu and Dona Spencer as they begin ministering in this Presbytery

If you would like something from your congregation shared with the whole Presbytery - it could be a good news story, a need, an event or a prayer point please send it to:

admin@downspresbytery.org.au

