



MIDDLE RIDGE UNITING CHURCH  
264 Stenner St Middle Ridge

16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## Downs and Toowoomba Churches Together

### Prayer Points

- Ecumenical Seminar 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June

About 40 people attended a week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at St Alban's Anglican Church in Toowoomba on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May. This was an enjoyable evening of prayer, praise and fellowship. If you did not have an Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in your town. Please consider one for 2024. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is always the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday.

Our Ecumenical Seminar this year's theme is "Reflecting on the Church coming out of Covid-19." The Seminar will be held at Brescia House at St Ursula's College in Toowoomba. Our speakers are Bishop Mark Vainikka, Qld District, Lutheran Church. Kathy Matuschka, LCA Assistant Director of Ministry and Mission and Dr David King, Queensland Quakers. I have attached a Seminar Program and registration form. It would be great to see you there.

Our last Abrahamic Faiths Gathering was a bit disappointing, as only one of our speakers turned up. Rev Pauline Harley from West Toowoomba Anglican Church gave an informative presentation on "Dignity of Difference". Even with only one speaker, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Our next Abrahamic Faiths Gathering will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August at the Garden City Mosque, West Street in Toowoomba at 5.45pm.

Jesus prayed, "I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me." John 17: 21

### Recommendations

1. That the report be received.

Report Submitted by:

Name: John Agnew

Position: Chair

Email Address: agnewjj@yahoo.com.au

Phone Number: 4666 3225

*If you have questions, please email before the meeting.*

**Attachments:**

**Flyer - Ecumenical Seminar Program**

**Registration Form - Ecumenical Seminar**



Ecumenical Seminar 23 to 25 June 2023 at St Ursula’s College:

“Reflecting on the Church after Covid-19”

**Programme**

**Friday 23<sup>th</sup> June**

- 5:30pm Arrive and settle in
- 6.00pm Dinner
- 7.00pm Welcome (John Agnew, D&TCT Chair)  
1<sup>st</sup> Session - Pastor Ken Schultz from Oakey-Norwin Lutheran Parish  
*Ken will share his own story and lead us in practice of ‘Dwelling in the Word’ - this involves Bible reading, reflecting, listening to what God might be saying, and sharing together.*
- 8.30pm Supper

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

- 7.30am Prayer Led by Kathy Ober
- 8.00am Breakfast
- 9.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Session – Kathy Matuschka (LCAQD Assistant Director Ministry & Mission) – Who and where are we now?
  - *Being Church post-Covid*
  - *Broader changes facing the church (both good and bad) and what we are learning.*
  - *New ways people are finding to be/connect with church.*
- 10:00am Anne Marie Doecke – Benedictine Oblate  
*An introduction to Contemplative Spirituality (also known as Christian meditation)*

11.00am	Morning Tea
11.30am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session – Kathy Matuschka – Where are all the young people? <i>How can the way young people express their faith help us to understand the new things God is doing in 2023 and beyond? Kathy Matuschka will present learnings from the field.</i>
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Session – David King – Queensland Quakers <i>Lighting the path to reflection, repentance and resilience</i>
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Session – Dr Mark Vainikka, Bishop LCAQD <i>Finding hope in uncertain times</i>
6.00pm	Dinner
7.00pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Session – Stories from the communities, facilitated by Kathy Matuschka Participants are invited to tell their story of what is happening in their area. Facilitated by KM
8.30pm	Supper

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June

8.00am	Breakfast
9.00am	Worship – using Week of Prayer for Christian Unity order. <i>Led by seminar planning committee members. Preacher: Dr Mark Vainikka, Bishop, Lutheran Church of Australia, Qld District</i>
10.00am	Morning Tea
10.30am	7 <sup>th</sup> Session – Kathy Matuschka – Where to from here? <i>What are you noticing? What does God seem to be doing? What could you see applying? What would you like to see happen? Next steps together</i>
12.00pm	Lunch

*We depart after lunch*

Our committee has chosen the following focus texts for the weekend:

- John 5:31 – 44
- Romans 8: 31
- Jeremiah 29: 11

**Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together  
Ecumenical Seminar 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
at Brescia House, St Ursula's College**

**Corner Warra Street & Rome Street, Newtown, Toowoomba 4350**

## **Registration Form**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time of arrival** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special dietary needs** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency contact name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seminar Cost including accommodation and meals is;**

**Accommodation - \$180 per person**

**No accommodation - \$80 per person**

**Per day - \$40 per person**

**Please make cheques payable to "Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together"**

You will need to bring bed linen, towel and toiletries.

**Please return this form with fee by 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to:**

Denis McAleer

15 Lister Street

Harristown Qld 4350

Email: denismcaleer@gmail.com

**NAB Bank Details**

A/c No. 653097284

BSB 084-961

Reference No. 833-S10 + Surname