

# Glen Waverley

## Uniting Church

### Welcome

*GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love: [meet\\_god@anytime.with.us](mailto:meet_god@anytime.with.us)*

#### SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - March 2016

March 27 Easter Day		March 20 Palm Sunday					March 13 Lent 5		March 6 Lent 4		March 27 Easter Day	
Time		Neil Peters Communion	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw Alison Clarkson - Communion	Children & Families	Alanee Hearnshaw	Susan Karoly Communion	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters	Children & Families	Alanee Hearnshaw	10am Combined Service
8.00 am												
9.15 am												
11.00 am												
4.30 pm												
7.00 pm												
Lectionary							Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 19a:28-40 or John 12:12-16	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 19a:28-40 or John 12:12-16	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12	
Liturgical Colour							Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	White

#### FEBRUARY

9 February	11.30am
10 February	7.30pm
14 February	12noon
19 February	7.30pm
28 February	12.15pm

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Pancake Day
Ash Wednesday Service
Munch With A Bunch
Kenya Night
Outreach Forum

#### March

5 March	8.30am	Book Sale
6 March	10am	Combined Service followed by Congregational Meeting and lunch
17 March	10am	Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea
25 March	9.15am	Good Friday Combined Service
27 March	10am	Easter Day Combined Service



# Book Sale

1000s of Secondhand Books



Glen Waverley  
Uniting Church

cnr Kingsway & Bogong Ave  
Glen Waverley

Saturday  
5 March  
8:30am-1:00pm

Enjoy a Devonshire Tea

Donations of books welcomed from February 28



Proceeds to support the work of Glen Waverley Uniting Church

[www.gwuc.org.au](http://www.gwuc.org.au)

## The Christian Church in the World

**Military Escalates Attacks on Christian Kachin in Burma (Myanmar):** Despite having won Burma's 8 November polls in a landslide, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy will face major hurdles. The deeply flawed 2008 constitution centralises government and contains 'exception clauses' that give the military the legal right to orchestrate a coup if the military deems it necessary. Today, two military-run conglomerates continue to dominate much of Burma's economy. The conflict in Kachin State continues because the Kachin - a devoutly Christian people - want greater autonomy with cultural and religious freedom, while the military wants to exploit Kachin lands, which are rich in jade, timber and water for hydro-electricity. The extreme violence meted out by the Buddhist Burmese military to the Christian Kachin is driven by greed and racial and religious hatred.

**Mennonites Persecuted in Vietnam:** On 9 June, the students of a Mennonite Bible School in South Vietnam were woken by 300 plain-clothe police at 11pm for an 'administrative search'. The 76 Christians present were brutally assaulted and detained overnight. Twenty students needed medical attention. The same happened the following three nights. This is to intimidate a church group whose leader, Rev Nguyen Hong Quang, is an outspoken advocate for religious freedom. Raids and persecution have continued, utilities have been cut off and phones and motorbikes confiscated. Fifty-two students and leaders including Pastor Quang were summoned to be interrogated. On 12 June the Mennonite leaders protested officially about the abuse. A nearby Catholic church has agreed to provide refuge for Mennonite victims of persecution if needed. May the Lord protect and preserve them all.

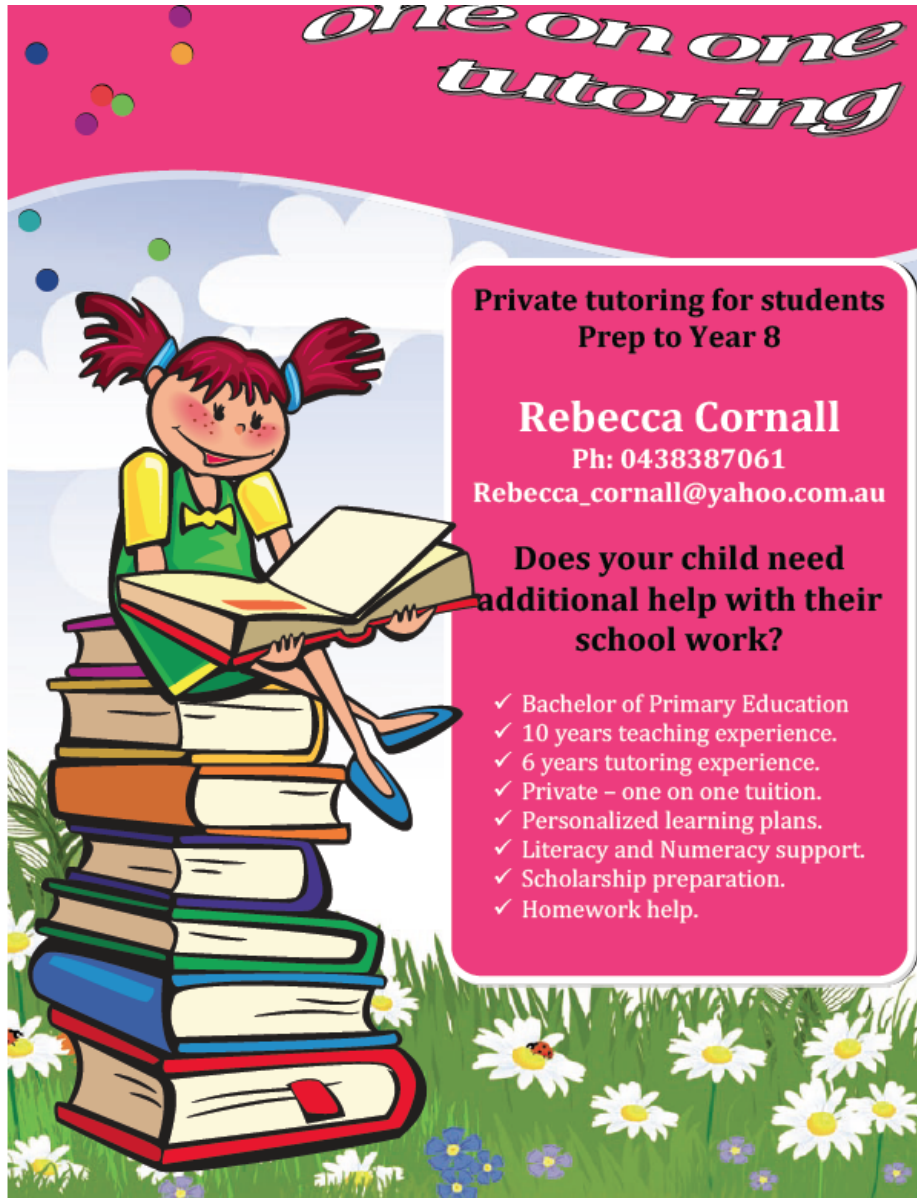
*From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

"The Lord has compassion for those who fear him."  
Psalm 103

"O Gracious God, help us to rise from fear to love, and from hate to forgiveness."  
With Love to the World

## One on One Tutoring

I am a qualified Primary School Teacher with 10 years teaching experience and 6 years tutoring experience looking for students aged Prep to Year 8 to tutor during the week and on weekends. If your child may require additional help with Literacy and Numeracy, please feel free to contact me on 0438387061 or via email [rebecca\\_cornall@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rebecca_cornall@yahoo.com.au)



**one on one  
tutoring**

**Private tutoring for students  
Prep to Year 8**

**Rebecca Cornall**  
Ph: 0438387061  
[Rebecca\\_cornall@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Rebecca_cornall@yahoo.com.au)

**Does your child need  
additional help with their  
school work?**

- ✓ Bachelor of Primary Education
- ✓ 10 years teaching experience.
- ✓ 6 years tutoring experience.
- ✓ Private – one on one tuition.
- ✓ Personalized learning plans.
- ✓ Literacy and Numeracy support.
- ✓ Scholarship preparation.
- ✓ Homework help.

## With Love to the World

The 2016 edition of this booklet is starting early in February. There will be four booklets over a year. Each day there is a Bible reading, and a short commentary on the reading, with a prayer.

What is special about the readings, is they are covering the theme, and preparing you for the following Sunday worship. You will be able to get more out of the service, in your anticipation of having followed the lectionary readings through the week.

Why not add your name to the list on the office counter, with your phone number. Each booklet is \$5, which contains, much more, with stories, preparing to hear God's word, and meaningful art work. The commentaries are prepared by retired ministers of the word.

Could the people who have been subscribing, please add your name to the list also. It is worth giving the first edition a go!

Judith Boucher



## The Hub is Open for 2016

The Hub is a welcoming and friendly meeting place for people to enjoy some company, have a cuppa and a biscuit, to relax in a busy day or to practise speaking in English in an informal setting.

You are very welcome to come along to The Hub any time. People of all ages are welcome. The Hub is open both Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 2pm, and Wednesday 10am - 12noon.

If you would like to help at The Hub as either a Hub Volunteer about once a month, or as an emergency Hub Volunteer, please contact Judith on 9803 8373.

## Kenya Again? Yes Definitely!

Hi Friends,

Yes it is true that we are off again to Kenya this year (whilst we are able) to share with the wonderful Kenyan people and assist where possible.

We depart in mid March and spend one month at Cherish Exchange Foundation in Nakuru Kenya. We will of course also visit our friend Pastor William, staff and children of Kerry Children Bible Ministry in Nakuru. However, we usually don't take money for projects there, even though they are very needy, simply because we can't do everything!

We will finally spend one month at that wonderful place Kivuli Project in the small town of Ndaragwa.

Money: Yes we need money again this year to pay for Projects. Some of these include:-

### For Cherish

- raising \$11,000 for the Cherish food program - this works out to be about 25 cents per child per day for food - not much even in Kenya
- provision of shelving in their library - \$500
- replacement of their (shabby) text books (one only per class) - \$1,000
- perhaps a little bit of solar lighting - \$200.



### For Kivuli and the local community

- supply and installation of LED lights, 12 volt battery and solar panel, for 10 homes without electric lighting and with students trying to study at night. Isaac has things planned for us.

## Planned Giving Letters

These are available from the table in the Foyer. Please check and take yours and any you can deliver. Please check name and address details carefully and advise the Office of any changes necessary.

## To All Open Plate Givers

The Giving Recording Committee acknowledges with much gratitude your personal gift through the Open Plate for the work of our church and is very much appreciated.

You may like to consider changing to either the envelopes system or the Direct Giving system which allow you to make regular gifts.

The Direct Giving system means no need for envelopes or cash, regular donations are assured and a reduced workload on the Finance Stewards. Currently we have 202 active pledge contributors – 98 using Direct Giving and 104 through the envelope system.

Should you wish to swap to either of these systems, please contact the Recorder, Ken Hutchinson on 9884 4002.

## Vacancies at Leisure Time for New Guests

Leisure Time has entered its 38<sup>th</sup> year of service to seniors in our community. This much appreciated program is run by our own GWUC members every Monday at the church and includes a lovely meal and activities, as well as occasional outings.

We welcome and encourage the guests to

- enjoy friendly and stimulating company and entertainment on a regular basis
- develop valued friendships with other guests and volunteers
- be actively involved in activities and outings, have some fun, and
- gain useful information to assist their independent living.

Leisure Time is a non-discriminatory community outreach program.

Leisure Time has vacancies for new guests. Men and women welcome.

Please help us to connect with people who may enjoy attending. If you would like to give it a try yourself or if you have friends, neighbours, relatives or know congregation members who may like to attend Leisure Time, please encourage them to contact the Church Office. Transport is available within Glen Waverley.

Margaret Fraser - for the Leisure Time Committee

## Kenya Evening

We would like to share with you an evening when we will mention briefly the Projects of last year. We didn't hold an evening on our return last year as we were quite troubled over a sad matter in Kenya. But last year's projects run into this year's projects so we will take some time in explaining what is planned for our 2016 visit.

As usual we will not be asking for money at this evening nor will there be a bowl for donations.

When: Friday evening, 19 February 2016

Time: Commencing 7.30pm

Where: To be advised depending on numbers

Please advise:-

- as soon as possible of your intention to be present at the Kenya Evening (bring friends if you like, just tell us how many of you altogether)
- if you would like to be included on our "emails from Kenya" list. You have to tell us this. Just because you received emails last year doesn't automatically put you on the list again. Please advise by email or phone.

If you would like to make a donation now or later to the project work we encourage you to talk with us to arrange how you can do this. (We fund our own expenses; all travel, accommodation, food etc; all donations are only used for the Project work.)

RSVP: 12 February

Email: [lynmcd@chariot.net.au](mailto:lynmcd@chariot.net.au) or

Phone: 9560 9798

Best regards,

Lyn & Pam McDonald



## **HOT CROSS BUN MORNING TEA at THE HUB**

Join us for hot cross buns, tea or coffee



**to help raise funds for  
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL**



**Where: Glen Waverley Uniting Church  
cnr Bogong Ave & Kingsway**

**When: Thursday 17th March 2016**

**Time: 10 am to 12 noon**

Please add your name to the list on the Office Counter if you are planning to attend.

Everyone is welcome!

### **Outreach Forum - 12.15pm - Sunday 28 February**

This month we are delighted to have the Principal of Glenallen School Michael Cole, along with Nancye Cottrell, Student Wellbeing Officer, come and share with us about the wonderful work of the Glenallen School which teaches and supports students with disabilities. It is the largest school of its type in Melbourne. Michael is an enthusiastic person committed to his students, staff and families.

You will recall this congregation raised \$2437 to upgrade Jai's wheel chair last year and the school is looking for ways to work with our church and other community organizations. This will be a very special Outreach Forum.

Come and share lunch together and hear about this wonderful work. Cost \$5 and please indicate attendance at the office window.

Neil Peters - for Community Outreach

### **NewView March 2016**

Our next issue of *NewView*, with the theme of readiness, will be distributed just before Easter, when we are remembering the path Jesus took and his readiness for what lay ahead. How significant is readiness in our own lives? Can we prepare ourselves for the future or should we just 'go with the flow'? Is 'readiness' an illusion? Is 'discernment' a type of readiness? What happens when our preparations go awry? If you have any thoughts or experiences to share relevant to the theme, start writing now!

Additionally your reports, photos, anecdotes of recent activities are necessary to keep us all informed about the work and life of our large church community, whether related to the theme or not! Accompanying photos are also welcomed.

Submit your contributions of up to 1000 words to the church office, or email to [popesr@aapt.net.au](mailto:popesr@aapt.net.au) by Monday, March 7. Any queries? Ring Robin Pope on phone 9561 7021.

## **Inclusive Community Report**

**Prayer Chain:** If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed in the prayer book, we do have a prayer chain. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed onto chain members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you need more information, contact Heather in the office, during office hours or Beverly on 0417 359 779.

**Munch with a Bunch:** Our first lunch will be held at the RSL on Sunday 14 February. Replies and money are needed by Monday 8 February. We look forward to this time of fellowship together.

**Celebrations at Penguin Uniting Church:** Jeanne Koetsier who was a member of our congregation for many years has moved to Penguin in Tasmania and is attending Penguin Uniting Church. She has sent me a brochure and newspaper article about the celebrations that were held recently to celebrate the anniversary of the church that was opened in May 1903. If you would like to see these Jan has them at church.

**Lunch:** Our next lunch will be after the Combined Service and Congregational meeting on Sunday 6 March.

**Pancake Day** will be on Tuesday 9 February (11.30am -2.30pm). Come and enjoy some pancakes and tea or coffee (provided by the Community Hub). Bring your friends and neighbours.

**Our next meeting** will be on Monday 7 March at 10.30 am. If you have suggestions for activities, please let us know.

Jan Clear

## **A Letter to the Congregation**

Dear Friends,

Sadness fills our hearts as we attempt to accept the news that Glenn Laub is no longer with us. Glenn was a brave man who never complained and bore his suffering silently. He never questioned 'Why me?' He courageously lived his life as a role model to all who knew him. Sue, Andrew, Tim and David must be proud to have a husband and father of Glenn's stature. Sue has been courageous as she has supported Glenn every step of the way. Each one of us will recall treasured memories of Glen. Personally, I especially remember Glenn when he was the father of a prep student at Glen Waverley Primary School. I remember watching Glenn's beautiful smile as he walked with Sue and his little boys. Glenn's absolute trust in God permeated every aspect of his life. Glenn had both faith and hope in God. This passage from Genesis reminds us that it is in moments of suffering and darkness that we encounter God. God's opening words are powerful words of comfort and reassurance: 'Do not be afraid ... I am your shield.' (Genesis 15:1-2)

Recently Ross and I reviewed a paper by Rev Sally Douglas titled 'Being the Church.' She poses the question: 'What are we here for?' She eloquently says that a 'painful gift of being Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that assumptions about the Church, its purpose and identity, are no longer valid.' She goes on to say that 'the Church is given the rare opportunity to examine the rubble and excavate to foundations to discern what is core to being church ... For this investigation to be authentic then those who remain the Church are invited to engage afresh with our sacred texts, to reflect on the ways Jesus communities were living.' (December 2015, Australian Journal of Mission Studies, Volume 9 Number 2 page 40.) The final paragraph (18) of the Basis of Union prays for this difficult examination:

*The Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.*

May we know the touch of Your hand, O Christ.

Chair of Editorial Board of Australian Journal of Mission Studies

Helen Stewart

Chair of Church Council

## Congregational Meeting - Sunday 6 March at 11.30am

Our next Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday 6 March at 11.30am following the 10am combined worship. Inclusive Community will also be providing a light lunch after the meeting. The key agenda items will include electing a chairperson for the congregational meetings, receiving the 2015 final accounts and the detailed report from Church Council on our Vision and Mission. Please put this date in your diaries now. Warren Greenwood - Chairperson of Congregational Meetings.

## Name Tags

The latest order of name tags has arrived. If you have recently ordered a name tag, please visit the office during office hours to collect it. If you cannot drop in during office hours, but will be at church on Sunday, please phone the office and your name tag can be put in an envelope in the letter rack for collection.

Name tags are being held for: Pam Graham, Judy Lowe, Julianne Millsom, David Morgan, Jayne Pastyr, Dorothy Patrick, Tom Rose, Graeme Schober, Sunny, Cheryl Swain, Marion Wadsworth, Sarah Weiden and David Williams.

## Magnets Requested

Ruth Dayment is making 600 fridge magnets for SIDS and Kids Charity. If you have any magnets (eg: tradesmen, real estate, old calendars) please leave them at the church in an envelope, in the letter rack.

Many thanks - Ruth Dayment

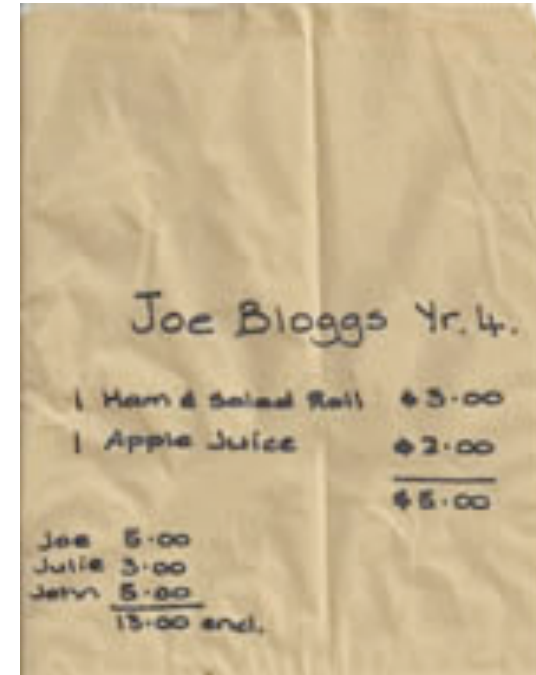
The Outreach Missional Committee then obtained permission from Church Council for one last novel and exciting fundraiser to be held during February to support the meal program feeding children at Kerry Children Bible Ministry. Funds from this one off fundraiser will be forwarded directly to the supermarket where the project has an account and will enable food to be purchased.

The Outreach Missional Group are making brown paper bags available for you to make a lunch order like when you were at school. Now you don't get lunch. You make a donation of however much you wish and place it in the offering plate at church or drop it into the office, if the office is unattended place it in the church letter box outside the front door. Your lunch order will enable children to eat in Kenya. It is as simple as that.

This will replace the Material Aid Offering for February.

Neil Peters

Convenor Community Outreach Committee





## Kerry Children Bible Ministry - Ponda Mali

### ... A Lunch Order Invitation

(on brown paper bags like when I was at school)

From the Community Outreach Missional Group

Kerry Children Bible Ministry led by Pastor William have three key areas of work in Ponda Mali, Kenya. They offer a feeding program for approximately 200 children. They also support children's education and they have programs supporting woman.

The mission of the organisation is -

*"Our Mission is to raise children full of hope and a better future in society.*

*We build the capacities of the vulnerable so they may work towards a positive future."*

In recent years, including 2015, Kerry Children Bible Ministry received COP funding support for their meal program for children. They appreciated our support and members of our church have visited the project. An application for COP funding for 2016 was not submitted. There has never been an intention to create dependency on our funding. We also recognise that there is sometimes a time or season for projects like this.



The Community Outreach Committee became aware that Pastor William was anxious about managing the transition time and continuing to feed the children. Neil consulted some of those involved in the past and Community Outreach considered a one off contribution to assist in this transition period.

## What is the purpose of a Congregational Meeting and the role of the Chairperson?

Congregational meeting provide an opportunity for a congregation to both appoint or change certain office bearers and placements, and to be informed of the work of the Church Council as per regulations.

Church Council is responsible for the day to day operation of a congregation as representatives of the congregation.

It is only when there are changes being made to a Church Council structure or specific problems within the community that a Congregational Meeting may sometimes become involved in Church Council matters.

Specifically, UCA regulations make the following statements.

**The Uniting Church regulations specify the purpose, frequency and tasks of a Congregational meeting.**

Under Section 3.1.1 (c) of the regulations (<http://www.victas.uca.org.au/aboutus/Documents/Regulations.pdf>) say a congregation responsibilities include:-

- (i) participating in shared responsibilities with any related Congregations;
- (ii) fulfilling the ministry of the Church in and to the community;
- (iii) appointing Elders and other members of the Church Council, and members of other bodies, as required; (See Reg. 3.3.2)
- (iv) appointing member(s) to the Presbytery; (See Reg. 3.3.4)
- (v) making arrangements to call a Minister in accordance with the Regulations; (See Reg. 2.6.6)
- (vi) providing facilities and resources in support of the work of the Congregation, including stipends and allowances and other provisions for the support of the ministry, provided that stipends shall be the first charge on the funds of the Congregation;
- (vii) meeting as required to transact business that belongs to the Congregation;
- (viii) advising the Church Council on property matters affecting the Congregation;
- (ix) maintaining all necessary and appropriate relationships with the Presbytery and other councils and bodies;
- (x) such other things as are consistent with the purposes of the Church and not the specific responsibility of any other council or body within the Church.

The regulations also require the following:-

## **Meetings of the Congregation**

### **3.5.1 Participation in the meeting of the Congregation**

- (a) The following persons shall be entitled to participate in the decision phase at meetings of the Congregation, (referred to in this Regulation as voting members):
- (i) all Ministers, Pastors, Youth Workers and Lay Pastors who hold membership in the Congregation;
  - (ii) all other confirmed members of the Congregation;
  - (iii) all members-in-association with the Congregation;
  - (iv) all Ministers, Pastors, Youth Workers and Lay Pastors serving in approved placements in the Congregation.

Adherents and members not yet confirmed may participate in discussion but not in the determination of any item of business at the meetings.

### **Chairperson and Secretary**

- (b) The meeting of a Congregation shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary. They shall hold office for periods determined by the Congregation. If the elected chairperson or secretary is not present at a meeting, the Congregation may appoint another of its members to act as chairperson or secretary.

### **General meetings**

- (c) (i) General meetings of the Congregation shall be held at least twice in each year and shall be convened by the chairperson and secretary or, if there is a vacancy in one of those positions, by the remaining officer;
- (ii) At least once each year at a meeting of the Congregation, financial reports shall be presented and policies, plans, budgets, appointments and other matters within the responsibility of the Congregation shall be determined.

### **Special Meetings**

- (d) (i) The chairperson and secretary of the Congregation may convene a special meeting, due notice being given, and shall do so if requested in writing by at least seven members eligible to vote or a number representing at least 10% of the members eligible to vote, whichever is the greater, of the Congregation. A special meeting shall deal only with matters specified in the notice of meeting.
- (ii) If, in the opinion of the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Presbytery, circumstances warrant, the chairperson of the Presbytery or the chairperson's nominee may convene a general or special meeting of the Congregation.

## **Notice of Meetings**

- (e) Due notice of all meetings shall be given at least one week prior to the date of the meeting, either by public announcement at a time of public announcement at a time of public worship or by such other means as the Congregation may determine.

## **So what does that all mean for us?**

Glen Waverley Uniting Church Congregational meetings are held to enable members of the congregation to carry out their responsibilities under the regulations.

These specifically include the appointment of elders and church councillors, receiving and approving annual budgets, reviewing actual financial outcomes, making arrangements to call a placement (Minster/Pastor etc) and for us, approving the Congregational Outreach Program recipients (COP) as well as being made aware of what is happening in the life of the congregation.

This is why we have a minimum of 3 meetings per year, as we need to select COP recipients mid year to enable the fete committee to do its work, we have an end of year meeting to set budgets, and a beginning of year meeting to review the previous year. At any one of those meetings, or at another special meeting, we also receive business that needs the congregation input - for example - making arrangements to call a placement.

## **Chairperson**

The role of chairperson of a congregation therefore has a specific set of tasks.

The role is to ensure that the congregation exercises its responsibilities as per the regulations:- and

The role manages the business of the meeting. But that is all.

If you feel you know someone who would like to do that role, or you feel you would like to make that contribution, please nominate for the position.

Warren Greenwood

Chairperson of Congregational Meetings