

**DIGEST of PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA MEETING SATURDAY 13th MARCH 2021 AT SHEPPARTON
UNITING CHURCH – Zoom and in person**

Pastoral Joys and Concerns: We noted the death of Jean Berryman. Mansfield asked for prayers for Phil and Harry. Euroa/Terip Ruffy- rejoicing following commissioning of Pastor Scott Leslie. Nagambie – outreach project commenced. Rev Jim Hazeldean and Rev Loni Vaitohi unwell at present.

TELLING THE STORY: Tanya Walker, Benalla, outlined how their revamped, more informal explorative 5 o'clock worship services, now called Sharing the Journey, have attracted people with no prior connection with Church or de-churched folk – people joined during Zoom times and have remained when face-to-face services reintroduced.

NOTICES: Wendie Wilkie: Sacraments Training Courses- Interested? Please contact PRC or. Gideons' conference in Moama April 9 and 10. Rev Gereldine Leonard – requesting feedback on her reflections – also happy to have an occasional Zoom session on things that interest you, questions you wish to explore –contact

Gereldine.gereldine1@gmail.com

Field Days: Connect and Grow: Theme: Eco theology Key Note Speakers eg Dr Vicki Balabanski, Sat May 1st on Zoom through to May 8th with Workshops on Zoom throughout the week

Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes – Director of eLM and Duncan McLeod PM PPE: Who is eLM? The Story begins with you as you are the mission agents of the Church.

What can be done better together than apart? This is where eLM comes into play... eg **Education and Formation for Leadership** (Pilgrim ,Leadership Formation), **Relations and Connections** (Pres eLM Ministers, Grant distribution, Placements, Agency Connections, Chaplaincy, Camping), **Priorities, Focus and Advocacy** (Justice,Thriving Communities) also Communications. Jenny stressed we are working together to thrive – Congregations are doing the prime work and eLM is there to resource you. **Educational Grants and Scholarships distributed by eLM – contact eLM if need more details or assistance – details on website!**

Joan McRae: Recognition of Lay Preachers –Jan 30 Joan Martin, retired after 27 years as LP –, Wendie Wilkie last Mon celebrated 40 years as LP. Several ordained people have served for long periods – Jim Hazelidine – 65 years, David Sloane 50 years, John Van Riet - 50 years, Ian Littler – 50 years, Len Sherret - 50 years last year

REPORTS Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care and Mission - Rev Tony Davies - Mission Studies: important to take time out to critically review what we are doing, evaluate – to gain overall picture. Contact Tony if you would like assistance with this.

Presbytery Minister Administration and Strategy Rev Richard Franklin: 2 boxes of books: Building a Discipleship Culture, and How to Pray, Pathways – contact Richard if you would like a copy.

Here for Good (HFG) Project Duncan McLeod and Jenny Byrnes – Synod has established a committee to work across the whole of the Church to address the financial situation of the Church. Background: Prior to Covid there was 11-13 years of reserves to support actions of church –but post Covid we now have reserves to last 6 years if we continue with same expenditure Pre Covid Synod wanted balanced budget by 2022. Finances are key to how we support mission, etc across the church...includes Presbytery staffing and grants across the whole church. Video shown of a mythical congregation ... showing interconnection of Synod, eLM, Pilgrim in supporting the work and mission of a congregation. HFG is a church wide 2 year project tasked with addressing the current financial challenge in order to return the Church to missional sustainability. Developed a range of pathways to achieve this goal: Money for Mission – already over 20 congregations have opted in, Cost reductions in Synod operating budgets, Explore other revenue-generating streams, Exploring other pathways of giving and donations .Note importance of conversations – ask questions – **feed comments questions to Richard Franklin who is on HfG steering committee**

Consider the wise stewardship of your church – would your congregation consider increasing their contribution to Mission and Service? Could bequests, donations be made to Synod for use in wider Church? For further questions and comments you can email HFG; HereForGood@victas.uca.org.au Project is not just about money – an opportunity to reimagine ourselves as a church.

Rev Brian Morgan led the meeting in Prayers of the People.

Helen Collins