

Regional Partnership: Riverina Presbytery Newsletter

March 2024



*The Regional Partnership is the Committee charged with oversight and responsibilities of the Riverina. We meet monthly and this Newsletter is a summary of the meeting held on **27 March 2024**.*

At each Regional Partnership meeting we begin our conversation with discussion around theology, the Church and then in prayer together. The Regional Partnership, as part of the practice of Saltbush, grounds our work and conversation within our faith rather than our faith within our work.

Regional Partnership Chairperson's Report

I pray you all experienced the richness of Holy Week and Easter. As the seasons shift from summer to Autumn, so we move from Lent and Easter to Pentecost. We now look forward to the celebration of God's Holy Spirit given to all who believe.

Saltbush Regional Minister Report: Key comments

- We have had good responses from the Future Ministry Plan. Some of the Riverina congregations have started to respond with some really positive comments about what they are doing and how they are seeing their life together.
- Northern area Campfire event - a good time was had, albeit a rather wet and cool day.

Future Meeting Cycle

- The Regional Partnership Committee has moved its meetings to the second Wednesday of each month. 9.30am to 2pm.
- Our monthly meetings will alternate between business focus and relationship building. This means every second month we can focus on meeting with our congregations, hearing their hope and aspirations as well as how we can support and encourage them.

Quarterly Riverina Finance Report (document attached)

- YTD result was a \$20k net surplus, \$140k favourable to budget.

The Walbundrie congregation is due to close on the 31st of March 2024. We will advise the relevant stakeholders of the closure.

Casual Preaching Payments Matrix

Have met with Finance, Payroll and Secretariat, we are gathering some frequently asked questions to prepare a document to help guide congregations in this area. We will circulate this as soon as possible.

UCA withdrawal from the relationship with St Paul's Community Church Talbingo

The Regional Partnership has decided to withdraw from the Talbingo Community church arrangement.

We simply do not have the resources needed.

Conflict Resolution Training

Rev. Terence Corkin is presenting this workshop on conflict intervention strategies over three days from May 22nd to 24th at the Centre for Ministry with his colleague from the United Methodist Church (USA), Julia Kuhn Wallace. Both have been regularly involved in providing conflict intervention services in support of Presbyteries and Districts.

They have decided to share their knowledge and resources with the church so that Presbyteries have the skills immediately at hand to address conflict situations in a timely and effective manner.

What participants will get from undertaking in this course:

- A knowledge base that will make it possible to diagnose the type of conflict and to design an appropriate intervention.
- Information, including through using the world renowned Thomas-Killman Indicator instrument for self-assessment, on their conflict style and how to maximize and manage it in a conflict situation.
- Education on resistance to change, skills needed in a conflict intervention, dealing with difficult people and a variety of different conflict situations.
- A step by step guide to **FOUR** tried and proven intervention strategies that participants will be equipped to apply after this course.
- Resource sharing in the area of conflict.
- Access to **TWO** follow up Zoom sessions with Julia and me, 3 to 4 months after the workshop to share experiences and to receive support.
- A printed Guidebook from the workshop with all the input, including copies of the PPT slides and a thumb drive with all the resources that we share, including the slides for use in a congregation conflict transformation process and additional worksheets with permission to use them.

We believe that this is a unique opportunity to establish a pool of people in your Presbytery who understand and can respond to conflict between Ministers, key leaders and within congregations. While the skills are useful for any leader, we are encouraging you to identify a group - in larger Presbyteries 5 or 6 people - to attend this course. This will provide a team and colleagues who can support each other.

The investment of \$2,000 or so by your Presbytery in this training will repay itself through one successful conflict intervention process. We encourage Presbyteries to identify people who could undertake this kind of ministry and sponsor their participation.

The cost per person includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch on day two and all the printed resources. The cost is advertised at \$540 per person. However, if a Presbytery sends three or more people there is a \$100 discount per person. This is incredibly good value given the immediate benefits that come in time, energy, resources, money and mission from a prompt and effective conflict intervention.

To access the discount insert the promo code CIT-PRES-DISC into the relevant field. If you have difficulty accessing the discount option please contact Rohan England at RohanE@nswact.uca.org.au or on (02) 8838 8912.

Register via this link: <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/conflict-intervention-training/>

Should anyone be interested, please let me know as we can try and find financial support for you.

We did not receive any good news stories to share this month.

Please let me know if you have particular needs or if you have any good news stories to share. I would love to hear from you, please send to: regionalpartnership@nswact.uca.org.au

Blessings to you all.

Bron

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy

Associate Secretary for the Synod of NSW and ACT on behalf of Regional Partnerships Committee