

GOSPEL YARNING Feb 25-27 2021 North Parramatta

For Such a Time as This

Will we now be servants in the Kingdom of God, in ways that are transformative in our own time and place? Or will we hanker to be somewhere else or dream of another era? Will we bear witness that the Gospel, offered in our life words and deeds, unlocks life in all its fullness? Is our focus to grow disciples who make disciples who are a church on the way? Is this our calling in this time?

WHAT IS GOSPEL YARNING?

Gospel Yarning will inspire, empower and connect us. Gospel Yarning is an Open-space event, anchored in Aboriginal and Pacific cultures. It is primarily relational and grassroots so that the speakers are there to resource our conversations and learning.

In 2017, *Gospel Yarning* was an awesome experience of being a cross-cultural church that is centred on the Gospel. The feedback said it was effective, constructive and empowering. Circumstances delayed its follow-up.

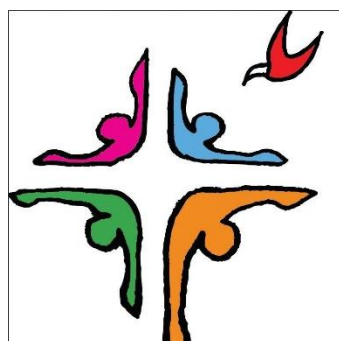
In 2021, we move along to this core question: Who will contribute leadership to the cross-cultural Uniting Church to share the Gospel for a secular world?

Keynote speaker alongside many other speakers

Rev Dr Peter Hobson, Wesley Mission Brisbane, formerly a local minister, university chaplain and lecturer, Peter is a good communicator, and a storyteller who is a good thinker about the world we seek to reach.

WHO SHOULD COME?

Who are those who are sharing faith and invitations already? Come along. Who are the evangelists in this generation? Come along. Who are those who lead the church to grow in evangelism? Come along. Who are those who imagine 'fresh words and deeds' for the UCA to move forward? Come along. Some 'evangelists' don't want to be called that! Come along. This is not business as usual.



Registration <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gospel-yarning-2021-registration-80435876873>

- Full 3-day Conference – \$200.00 (Adult) | \$109.50 (Concession)
- Single-day – \$80.00 (Adult) | \$36.50 (Concession)
- Free for UTC Candidates for Ministry.
- An early bird fee of \$175/\$80 applies until January 31.
- Several travel scholarships have been donated for persons coming from outside NSWACT. Contact us.
- If you experience any difficulty registering, please contact - UME: umeinfo@nswact.uca.org.au Ph: 02 8838 8912

2021 PARTNERS

The President Deidre Palmer is keen to attend and will speak.

Rev Simon Hansford, the Moderator NSWACT is also in keen support and will speak.

Organisational Partners and working group are Uniting Mission and Education (Exec Director Dr Glen Powell, Rev Ben Gilmour and Melisa Wang (Vital Leadership), Rev Dr Raymond Joso/Rev Moni Taumoepeau (Mission Enablement Team), Rev Karen Mitchell-Lambert/Steve Molкетин (Pulse), and the Alan Walker College of Evangelism (Rev Dr Chris Walker).

Uniting Venues will host us at **the Centre for Ministry (CFM), 16 Masons Drive North Parramatta**. Conference fee does not include accommodation, breakfast or evening meals. Arrange your own accommodation nearby or book early for limited rooms at CFM. Using several Zoom-rooms at the Centre, we plan to back up the whole event via Zoom if travel is Covid-restricted. It will then operate in Zoom hybrid mode. Register (above link) and we will send you the link.

DAILY SCHEDULE

- 9.00 Worship and prayer followed by Keynote address by Peter Hobson
 - 11.30 Umu - Open Space
 - 2.00 pm and 3.00pm. Two Elective Sessions
 - 4pm Oikos (diverse community) groups for one hour
 - Evenings free
- Saturday Feb 27 will close at 5pm. Please don't plan to arrive late or leave early.

ELECTIVES IN THE AFTERNOONS – telling their stories

Elective leaders are male and female, different age groups, different cultures. Topics so far include: *Women leading the Mission, Post-secular society, Hearing and Resourcing Next Generation Leadership, Church Growing Younger, Get Ready to turn the church around, Propel, Congregations Being Multicultural and missional, Congregation in fast-growth, The Newlife (Gold Coast) story, People from other states, Theology of the Church as seen in Sexual Abuse Royal Commission, Witness in Sydney Alliance, Chaplains on the front line*. Keep in touch for further news.

Wednesday lunchtime: Launch of Chris Walker's book JESUS STILL THE ONE by Principal Peter Walker. Thursday lunchtime: Launch of FIRST LOVE PROJECT

OIKOS GROUPS

All registrants are assigned upon registration to a culturally diverse OIKOS group, to which they return each day. Cross-cultural facilitators will guide inclusive conversations daily.

FIRST LOVE PROJECT

At part of Gospel Yarning, we will launch a disciple-making project called **First Love**. A booklet provides a simple way of speaking intentionally about following Jesus. It is not just a publication to distribute but a focus for conversations that will go viral. Uniting church people can be confident to share their First Love. It aims to build confidence in the Christian through simplicity and memorability. As a shared platform it also builds a collective confidence. It does not focus just on conversion but on making disciples who make disciples. Resources for mentoring conversations will also be provided on the **First Love Project** website, together with suggestions about how congregations can use it together. To commence, only those who attend will receive the booklets.

NSWACT PRESBYTERIES

We have reserved two spaces for you to send at least two from your presbytery. Others may register in addition. Each other synod has three places reserved. Act now to build a movement and momentum. Contact personally those who are suitable to attend (described above).

- **CONTACTS** UME Reception | umeinfo@nswact.uca.org.au | Ph: 02 8838 8912
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