



**Victorian**  
Council of Churches

# Council News

July 2021

Victorian Council of Churches

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## *Reflections*

Recently I was in rural Victoria , seeing something of the devastation of the storms that lashed our State earlier in June. Ancient mature trees uprooted, creek courses altered by the amount of water rushing down them.. And talking with people who were without power for days.

On the Sunday, I visit an isolated church community that had experienced a week of no power and no internet... . as I listened I discovered the grace and compassion of a community that reached out to one another, ensuring all had what was needed and non felt isolated....

As I left that community I found myself recalling of the events in the early Church where Luke writes...

‘ the believers were all together had all things in common ‘...

In this post Pentecost time, in our worshipping cycle, as we acknowledge the presence of the Spirit of God amongst us.. might we not pray that our churches might experience these same blessings of oneness and having all things in common.

- Ian

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I am beginning to accept invitations to come and share stories of the Council with your Church or group – I’m also happy to appear online or pre recorded

you can contact me on 03 9412 8487 or email at [ian.smith@vcc.org.au](mailto:ian.smith@vcc.org.au)

## News from the Council

- **The AGM of the Victorian Council of Churches will be held on July 24th .**  
Given the uncertainty surrounding the restrictions venue and format are still to be decided.
  - Council also is working on **finalising the next President of the Victorian Council of Churches** , a member Church has agreed to nominate a person - an announcement is eminent.
  - Council continues to work on its priorities and activities going into 2022 as it seeks to be a voice amongst the Churches and an influence within society. It is envisaged that standing Committee's thinking will be shared at the AGM.
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## VCC—Contact details

- phone: 03 9412 8487

- email [vcc@vcc.org.au](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au)

- Web [www.vcc.org.au](http://www.vcc.org.au)

- Facebook [www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches](http://www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches)

**NOTE: The Victorian Office now has a new PO Box number.**

- postal address PO Box 6804 509 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne 3004

# Notice of AGM

**The Victorian Council of Churches Annual General Meeting will be held on**

**July 24th**

**9.30—1 pm**

**This meeting will be for all delegates of VCC and will include**

**Receiving of reports, installing of new President,**

**details concerning location and format will be sent closer to day when**

**clearer knowledge of restrictions are available**

If you haven't received your registration form and notice of meeting please email

Rev Ian Smith, [ian.smith@vcc.org.au](mailto:ian.smith@vcc.org.au)



## President's reflection

Disciples of Jesus and the issue of "Climate Change" debate in Australia, 2021.

The love of God is revealed in the symmetry of Creation, Incarnation and Redemption. In the love of God, we are drawn to notice and cherish all God has made.

For more details go to [ncca.org.au/newsletter](https://ncca.org.au/newsletter)



NCCA ACRT Media Release

"Our churches, and other faith communities, are willing and able to be more involved in supporting refugees in our communities.... But we need government to make the changes... and encourage this community movement by giving permanent protection." Ms. Elizabeth Stone, NCCA General.

[For more information go to ncca.org.au/newsletter](https://ncca.org.au/newsletter)

NCCA (con't)

## Act for Peace

**Gaza Crisis: Help children heal from trauma before it's too late.**

The bombs have stopped. But the trauma is just beginning.

Gaza's children are now suffering widespread trauma. If we all chip-in now, we can make sure kids get the mental health support they need to heal, before this trauma steals their future.

For more details go to: [actforpeace.org.au](http://actforpeace.org.au)



As Refugee Week draws to a close, the NCCA shares a vision of new season of community support for refugees and asylum seekers. The NCCA's Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce had a delegation of church representatives in Canberra. Together, we talked about ways faith organisations can play a part in creating pathways for people seeking safety and protection.

## Reconciliation in Australia

**To walk this way**



A reflection on Reconciliation by Felicity McCallum, First Nations Adviser to the NCCA.

There is something irresistible about the place of forgiveness and reconciliation....

[Read More >>](#)

## July Calendar 2021

4— 11th Refugee week -

30th World day against Trafficking in persons





## WCC presidents: the vision of Pentecost still shines

In a message for Pentecost, World Council of Churches regional presidents reflect on the first vision of Pentecost undimmed by hesitation, fear or apathy. “It augured a new heaven and a new earth,” their message reads. “In the intervening centuries, has that Pentecostal vision narrowed?”

[Read more](#)



## [In northeast India, theological seminary sends words of encouragement to pastors amid COVID-19](#)

Amid the suffering caused by COVID-19 in India, a theological seminary in Nagaland, in northeast India, recorded “Words of Encouragement to Pastors and Church Leaders.”

[Read more](#)



## [His Holiness Karekin II extends greetings and blessings to WCC central committee](#)

In a video message, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, extended greetings and blessings to the World Council of Churches (WCC) central committee, which met from 23-29 June via videoconference.

[Read more](#)



## [With Green Village project, “we see the signs of hope and progress already today”](#)

The World Council of Churches (WCC) steering committee for the Green Village project offered an update to the WCC central committee that focused on both achievements and challenges of the past three years since a master plan came into effect in 2018.

[Read more](#)

of

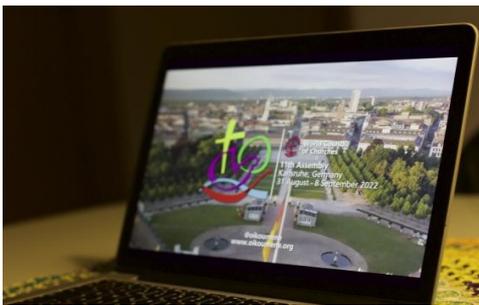


## [European churches reflect on transformation of pandemic death to pilgrimage of life and faith](#)

How will the churches use the wide range of new opportunities in the post-pandemic context? How will they call to faith and trust as we move beyond the global health crisis to a time of renewal? These were the core questions that representatives of the European region addressed during a discussion that took place at the World Council Churches central committee meeting, 23-29 June.

[Read more](#)

of



## [Welcome to Karlsruhe: video sets the scene for WCC 11th Assembly](#)

The finale to a closing press conference during the World Council of Churches (WCC) central committee meeting this week featured a special video invitation from hosting churches for the WCC 11th Assembly.

[Read more](#)



## [Patriarch of Antioch and All the East affirms “closeness in prayer” with WCC central committee](#)

In a special message to World Council of Churches (WCC) central committee received on 27 June, H.B. John X, patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and all the East, affirmed “closeness in prayer, and in accompanying the work of the meeting through the communication with the devoted delegates of the Holy and Apostolic Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East.”

[Read more](#)

# JIM Cluster

## Statement from the Heart Study Guide

A new resource from the Uniting Church in Vic/Tas exploring the *Statement from the Heart* is now available.

- Go deeper into your Covenanting Journey
- Explore the *Statement's* three key elements: 'Voice.Treaty.Truth'
- Can be used over six separate study sessions, or a single day intensive

Additional resource for facilitators available

You can download the study guide [HERE](#)

For more information, or for help organising study sessions, contact: [Timothy.Molineux@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Timothy.Molineux@victas.uca.org.au)

## REFUGEE WEEK (2021)

20 JUNE - 26 June

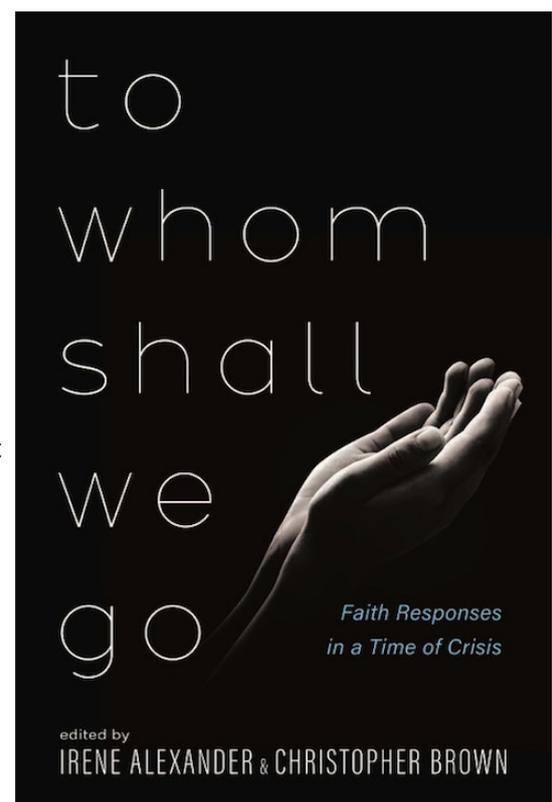
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This year's theme is [Unity](#). Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. For a list of events registered with Refugee Week, click [here](#)

## New book on faith in a changing world

*To whom shall we go?: Faith responses in a time of crisis*, edited by Brisbane-based Irene Alexander and Christopher Brown, 'is a book for those seeking substance for their souls. The authors come from different disciplines, science, medicine, theology, missions, economics etc., and 3 countries, but share a strong but light-touch commitment to spiritual direction. This is expressed in a sustained engagement with our interior lives. Prayers, poems and liturgies bring reflectivity to the chapters. A substantial bibliography and helpful indexes round it off. It is a solidly satisfying meal for the whole person – truly a blessing'.  
(Gordon Preece, Ethos Director)

Read more endorsements [here](#). Order your copy via the publisher's [website](#) in a few days, or on Amazon and Book Depository and at Koorong soon.





Whether you are a learned theologian or are just thinking about studying the bible and faith, there is a class for every student this upcoming semester. Whitley offers a wide range of courses from introductory subjects to further studies requiring prior study or experience, and intensive courses for those who have dedicated blocks of time.

This semester we are offering anything from learning basic Hebrew and seeing how the church has been shaped since the reformation to exploring how to live out your faith and make the connection between who you are and what you believe.

Below is a guide of all units being offered in the second half of 2021. Please read through and see which one speaks to you.

Interested? Enrolments are now open until 16 July for all semester 2 units or head to the [website](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.

Does one of the above units catch your eye?

Review our [timetable](#) to discover the dates and time of your preferred class or [contact our Registrar](#) Dorothy Morgan for more information.

Act now! Enrolments are open and close on July 16.

# Jewish Christian Muslim Association



## DONATIONS

JCMA is a not-for-profit organisation and donations go directly towards delivery of our many events, forums and conferences and to support our workshop programs in primary and secondary schools. As a listed harm prevention charity we have DGR (Deductible Gift Receipt) status. Your donations are tax-deductible (donations over \$2 are tax-deductible). If you would like to make a donation to help support the work of JCMA please go to our website <http://jcma.org.au/donation>.

## JCMA Membership

JCMA is a membership based organisation for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people of faith. If you would like to find out about joining JCMA as a member you can go to our website at <http://jcma.org.au/jcma-membership> or call Ginette Everest on (03) 9287 5590 or email to: [memberships@jcma.org.au](mailto:memberships@jcma.org.au).

For more information and details on any events see website: [www.jcma.org.au](http://www.jcma.org.au)



# CEH TRAINING

**LEARN WITH US & register @ Eventbrite for our upcoming FREE Webinars:**

**August 16** - 10:00 am- Hep B Made Easy

**October 13** - 10:00 am - Hep B Made Easy

[Register here.](#)

# UCA CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY –

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY – JULY

### 2021 Intergenerate AUS Conference (On-line or In-person) July 27, 28

Join **on-line** or **in-person** (Sydney, Brisbane or Christchurch) for *two days* of stimulating engagement around intergenerational ministry. Featuring excellent input from *Dave Csinos, Cory Seibel* and *Tammy Tolman* **plus** inspiring interactive workshops, the [2021 Intergenerate Conference](#) is a unique opportunity to connect with and be stretched by other leaders who are passionate about intergenerational ministry.

More information & registration: [2021 Intergenerate AUS](#)

#### Games, Games & More Games

[Zoom games \(Team Building\)](#)

[PowerPoint games \(Games4es\)](#)

[Active & Learning games \(Max7\)](#)

[Bible games \(Bible Games Central\)](#)

[Family, Faith and Fitness \(Family Fit\)](#)

#### Graphics & Multi-Media Tools (via Si from Logosdor)

[Canva: graphic design \(Canva\)](#)

[Blender: animation \(Blender\)](#)

[Magisto: video and image options \(Magisto\)](#)

[Mentimeter: interactive presentations \(Mentimeter\)](#)

[CloudStopMotion: stop-motion animation \(CloudStopMotion\)](#)

#### Via CRCNA

[5 Ways to pray with kids \(CRCNA\)](#)

[3 models for navigating change \(CRCNA\)](#)

[4 Steps for launching a new initiative \(CRCNA\)](#)

[10 Ways to cultivate youth leadership \(CRCNA\)](#)

[Word Clouds and identifying your church culture \(CRCNA\)](#)

#### Resilience and Well-being

[The Resilience Doughnut](#)

[How we build resilient faith – and how we don't](#)

## ***UCA CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY (Con't) –***

[Supporting parents and children emotionally \(Rock Pool\)](#)

[Building emotional health and well-being \(Vivienne Mountain\)](#)

[Introducing adverse childhood experiences \(free on-line training\)](#)

### **Covid & Beyond**

[Post-pandemic pondering and planning faith re-formation \(PCUSA\)](#)

[Nurturing young faith in the time of Covid \(Nurturing Young Faith\)](#)

[Signs of professional burnout and ways to overcome it \(Forbes\)](#)

[Recovery and Covid: coming in for a safe landing \(CRCNA\)](#)

[What's happening in our nervous systems? \(On Being\)](#)

### **Highlighted Books from the CSS/ Intergenerate US Conference**

[The Adept Church \(F. Douglas Powe\)](#)

[Theirs is the Kingdom \(Amy Lindeman Allen\)](#)

[It Takes a Church to Raise a Parent \(Rachel Turner\)](#)

[Spiritual Conversations with Children \(Lacy Finn Borgo\)](#)

[Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality \(Larson & Keeley\)](#)

### **Godly Play & Deep Talk Opportunities**

*Godly Play August 9,10,11 (Melbourne)*

This is an excellent three-day course in which participants are immersed in Godly Play practice. In this time two accredited trainers will work with the group to provide information and experience of the three genres of stories in Godly Play, the role of the storyteller, the role of the doorperson, the Godly Play space, materials, response time, spirituality of the child, forming and maintaining a story circle community that is safe, the history and practice of Godly Play and much more. For more information, e-mail [judythroberts@gmail.com](mailto:judythroberts@gmail.com) or go to [Godly Play Australia](#).

*Deep Talk (August – On-line)*

*Deep Talk* takes a number of Godly Play principles and some Godly Play stories—along with some new stories—and adapts these for a spiritual process suitable to secular and religious settings. Deep Talk UK Trainer Kathryn Lord and Judyth Roberts will be offering online Deep Talk training over six 90-minute sessions, beginning in August. If you are interested in the training, please contact Judyth Roberts: [judythroberts@gmail.com](mailto:judythroberts@gmail.com)

### **Highlighted 2021 Events (for your diary, watch out for more)**

**2021 Children & Families Ministry Intensive Unit      July 7-9, 12-14      Parkville, Melbourne + On-line**

**Act NOW** to participate in the upcoming *Children & Families Ministry intensive*. Part of the *Graduate Certificate in Children & Families*

## Australian Student Christian Movement

### Support ASCM

Donate to our [annual appeal](#), [general fund](#), or [centenary trust fund](#), or find out how to [make a bequest to ASCM](#).

### We want to hear from you

ASCM News is published fortnightly. Share it widely! Go to our website for our [newsletter archive](#) and [email subscription](#) page. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) for more news.

Do you have news about friends of ASCM and WSCF or other items of interest? Contact us at [digital@ascm.org.au](mailto:digital@ascm.org.au).



## Resources for Refugee Week July 4—11th



According to the UNHCR there are some 70 million people displaced or homeless across the world.

Almost 50 % of these are within their home countries, displaced through violence, religious and ethnic discrimination or because of age or gender....

Those of us living privileged lives of stable government and freedom to worship are during this week asked to stop and reflect on those for whom daily life is a struggle

For survival.

### Many Resources are available to help us engage:

- National Council of Churches: [www.ncca.org.au](http://www.ncca.org.au)
- And many of our churches have re4sources also—
- <https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/resource-kit/>
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## Online Event

### On the Way to Sigtuna 2022: Online “Pre-Conference”

*“Heeding the Spirit: New Horizons in Receptive Ecumenism”*

**When: 17 June 2021**

**Time: Thursday, 17 Jun 2021, 21:00 – Friday, 18 Jun 2021, 01:00 AEST**

**Register: Online at EventBrite**

**[“Heeding the Spirit: New Horizons in Receptive Ecumenism”](#)**



The Sigtuna 2022 committee, in partnership with the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University (UK), will host an online “Pre-conference” in June this year. This one-day digital event is open to all and will both provide an excellent preparation for the main conference in 2022, and offer an introduction to the topic for any interested scholars, church leaders, and ecumenical practitioners.

The pre-conference will include a short introduction to Receptive Ecumenism, a series of short, highly accessible talks by leading voices in the field (including some of the invited speakers to the 2022 Sigtuna conference) and time for discussion and sharing. There will also be chance to hear about the Sigtuna conference in more details, and some exciting forthcoming publications.

Please register for the pre-conference [“Heeding the Spirit: New Horizons in Receptive Ecumenism”](#)

For further information: [info.re5@ehs.se](mailto:info.re5@ehs.se)

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## The *Laudato Si'* Journey Continues

As the *Laudato Si'* Special Anniversary Year draws to a close, the next stage of the journey begins. Registrations for a Seven-Year Journey towards seven *Laudato Si'* Goals will open at the end of the *Season of Creation* when the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development will launch its online *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. The Platform will offer practical guidance on actions in line with the *Laudato Si'* Goals, a supportive community of practice and milestones for our journey together. Now ‘footsteps’ towards each of these Goals are being identified and once finalised will provide a global pathway towards a sustainable Church.

[Read more...](#)



Victorian Council of Churches  
President:  
Rev Fr Shenouda Boutros  
Executive Officer:  
Rev Ian Smith  
Ph: 03 9412 8487 / 9650 4511

The Victorian Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

\*\*\* If you have an event that you want others to know about then contact at [vcc@vcc.org.au](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au) excluding January we plan to publish a Council News each month \*\*\*

Council News is the official newsletter of the Victorian Council of Churches

Editor Rev. Ian Smith Executive Officer

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We're on the web!  
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Facebook [www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches/](http://www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches/)

### The new Office

The office of the VCC is now level 6, West Tower, 608 St Kilda Rd.

Access to the building is via the right hand drive to the rear double glass doors.

If you wish to visit please ring 9412 8487 or 0408 313 610 and arrange at time.