



NORTHERN SYNOD

<p>Map of Northern Synod</p> <p>UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA</p>	<p>Mission Statement:</p> <p>As part of the Uniting Church in Australia, the mission of the Northern Synod is to proclaim, promote and live out the reign of God revealed in Jesus Christ under the direction of the Holy Spirit, transforming people and communities in which God calls us to worship, witness and serve.</p> <p>Vision Statement:</p> <p>To achieve our mission, we commit to following Jesus, living together, and going forward together in the love of Christ.</p> <p>Key Synod leadership changes</p> <p>Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara's six-year term as Moderator will end in October 2021. Rev Tony Goodluck was elected as the Moderator-Elect in November 2020.</p> <p>Rev Haloti Kailahi replaced Peter Jones as General Secretary in December 2018.</p> <p>Rev Felicity Amery moved to SA Synod as General Secretary in 2019.</p> <p>There were 3 new ordained ministers, 3 ministers who transferred to the Northern Synod from other synods and 7 NRCC commissioned local pastors. The NRCC is growing its membership in great numbers with two new faith worship communities and more members from CALD communities.</p>
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The Synod theme 'Sharing your Life Message' (2019-2021) by the Moderator, Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara:

This theme was chosen based on personal experience and the struggle with our brothers and sisters as First Peoples on this land. In visits to their communities, I often hear stories of those who live in trauma and feel marginalized but uphold their culture. Sometimes they are not able to share their stories fully because they cannot express it in our language. They have many stories to tell about culture, especially those related to the natural surroundings created by God. Serving in diversity is the greatest strength for us, therefore each of us have experiences in this life. Whether it is with our families, or in the church now or many years ago. If we are willing to share these experiences with others as testimonies it can become a wise tool to enlighten our brothers and sisters as to how good God is in our lives. God wants us to share our experience with others because your message is an essential part of your mission on earth. There is no other message

just like yours, so only you can share it. If you do not share it, it will be lost forever. Your life message includes your life lessons and the truth that God has taught you from experiences with him. These are lessons and insights you have learned about God through relationships, problems, temptations, and other aspects of life. Whoever believes in God's Son has eternal life. ("All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true" 1 John 5:10a). When you share your message, you build a relational bridge that Jesus can walk across from your heart to others.

There are only two presbyteries within the Northern Synod. The Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) for First Nations peoples. The Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia (PPNA) for Non-Indigenous People and they both equally share the same geographical area under the Northern Synod boundary. They are committed to:

- Growing new faith communities and equipping and building capacity of existing and new leaders; and
- Training and empowering people through preaching and living the Gospel within the region
- Continue its Bible and Languages translation through its COORDINATE project.
- Commitment to Bush Chaplains ministry and grateful for Frontier Services financial support

There are bodies with linkages to the Northern Synod. It is particularly exciting to see Nungalinga College, St Phillips College Alice Spring, Aboriginal Resource Development Services and Sommerville Community services continuing in their growth. Collaborative partnership and support of organisations that are operating within the Northern Synod region includes ARRCs-QLD, Juniper-WA, Exodus Foundation-Sydney, Wesley Mission-NSW, and other Aboriginal organisations like ALPA.

The Northern Synod is currently conducting a comprehensive review that includes its strategic purpose and direction, operations, governance, people and culture.

The Northern Synod is committed to justice for all. For example we are passionate about the elimination of racism through the Black Lives Matter workshops, opposition to recent changes to NT bail laws and opposition to formerly proposed building of a Dan Murphy store in Darwin.

The Northern Synod is committed to its relationship with its indigenous peoples and peoples from a CALD background. We are undertaking a plain English project to make the Northern Synod documents and presentations accessible to people by using active language instead of passive explanation. We have employed indigenous peoples and international students and have championed NAIDOC and Harmony Day.

Covid-19 did not affect the worship life and witness of the Northern Synod much like other synods. We will continue to pray for our people's safety during the pandemic. We will continue to explore new ways of doing mission despite limited financial and human resources but trusting in the abundant Grace of God.

On behalf of the Northern Synod, we give thanks to God for the leadership of the outgoing President Dr Deidre Palmer and wish her the very best in her future endeavours. Thank you (Malo) Dietrie. We are also looking forward to continuing our collaboration and missional engagement with the new President Rev Sharon Hollis, Assembly General Secretary Colleen Geyer, and the Assembly team over the next three years.



Lest we forget.

Rev Garrawurra funeral at Elcho Island, NT in June 2019 attended by Assembly President, UAICC President, Late Aunty Dorothy, NS Moderator, General Secretary, Anglican Bishop Anderson, NRCC, extended family and community.

Sadly Missed

RIP.

Rev Garrawurra

Rev Dorothy Harris

In God we trust and melino (peace),

Rev Haloti Kailahi
General Secretary of the Northern Synod