

Happy Anniversary UCA!

Intergenerational ideas to celebrate the Uniting Church Anniversary

On 22 June 1977, three Australian Christian denominations joined together to form the Uniting Church in Australia. After many years of prayerful discernment, the Congregational Union in Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia came together in the hope that they would “bear witness to that unity which is both Christ’s gift and will for the Church”.

Take the time to tell the story of how the Uniting Church came into being to younger generations or new members, so that the joy of that momentous occasion is not lost.

Here are few suggestions prepared by Judyth Roberts using the UCA logo and a variety of materials:

1. Story in felt:

Use the narration steps below to let the Uniting Church story emerge from a box



I have a story in this box (*Hold up box, but leave lid on*). I wonder if the colours of the box are a clue? What are the colours? Mmm, three colours in one box. Let’s see what is inside.



(*Place black felt circle on the floor and smooth it out slowly*) What does this look like? (*Usually someone will say “it is a black circle”*) Yes, well the person who first told this story said this is like a darkened earth ... (*Move your hand over the felt in a slow circle*) Have you ever seen photos of planet earth in the dark?



(Get the next piece out of the box, a white felt u-shape, and place it on) This makes a difference. What does it look like now? *(Usually someone will say "a smiley face")* It certainly looks brighter now. What could it mean? I wonder if this is a bowl ... or a letter 'u'...?



(Get the next piece which is a long white strip of felt) I wonder what this means? *(Someone usually says it is like an anchor or boat)* It could be those things, but what happens when we add this? *(Place the other strip of felt to form the cross)*



(At this point it looks strikingly like an anchor and you can agree with that suggestion, and perhaps point out that it also looks like a boat without a sail. Sit back and pause, looking puzzled) Hmmm, this is good, but it needs something more.



(Get the red felt dove out and place it in the middle) Ahh, this makes all the difference! This brings it to life! What do you think it is? Yes, it is a bird, but not just any bird. This is a dove, a sign of the Spirit, and it is red, like Pentecost. The red dove is flying not resting. Do you think it looks like a red flame too?

(By now people realise it is a familiar logo and they are intrigued) The three colours represent the three churches that formed the Uniting Church – Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational. The darkened earth has received the light of the cross, the u-shape stands for the Uniting Church but also helps form an anchor or a boat, both early symbols of the church. The red dove expresses the movement of the Spirit, and just like it brings this logo to life, it brings the church to life.



(Get out some small red feathers) In the box there are also some red feathers, from the red dove, so take one and remember the red dove and what it means, and when you see this logo on a building, it might be a school or a church or an aged care centre or a shop, you will know what it means.

2. The story in a biscuit



Take a plain dark chocolate biscuit like a wheaten.



Using white icing, either roll it between your hands to form shapes, or roll it out on a board and cut it in shapes, form a u-shape on the biscuit.



Next add the cross the same way.



Then add the red dove, either cut out of fruit strap or using red icing in a squeeze tube.

Using the narrative above, tell the story as you decorate the biscuit, then let children make their own. They might like to make lots for morning tea for everyone!



The same technique can be used to decorate a cupcake. If desired a large round cake can be iced with dark chocolate and decorated with whipped cream in a can and fresh strawberries or frozen berries to form the UCA logo. This makes a spectacular morning tea after a church service.

You can do the same with a savoury biscuit, using vegemite and cheese. The red dove can be cut from tomato or red capsicum or even a squeeze of tomato sauce.

See the steps in the images below.



3. Colour-in the Uniting Church Logo



[Download a colouring in version of the Uniting Church logo](#)

4. Uniting Church wrist band

The three colours of the Uniting Church logo represent the three churches that came together to form the Uniting Church – the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches. Plait together three colours of ribbon, wool or leather straps to form a wrist band. You could also use black, white and red beads.



This resource was developed by Judyth Roberts.