



*Life Overflowing*

# UNITING PRAYER AND FASTING

[www.unitingprayerandfasting.com](http://www.unitingprayerandfasting.com)

*"Alive with Christ" Eph 2:5*

Ministry of Liverpool Uniting Church

P.O. Box 36 Lurnea, NSW 2170

Email: [livunitcc@live.com.au](mailto:livunitcc@live.com.au); [revanne@bigpond.net.au](mailto:revanne@bigpond.net.au)

Phone: 02 96026772; 0425235758

**Covering Letter from Rev Dr Andrew Dutney,  
President Elect of the Uniting Church in Australia**

1<sup>st</sup> May 2012

Dear friends

New Testament scholar James Dunn once said that mission is "finding out where the Holy Spirit is at work and joining in". That kind of "finding out...and joining in" is impossible without constant prayer; through which we discern what God is up to and receive the strength and creativity to find our place within it. Wherever I get to know people and communities of faith genuinely engaged in mission I soon discover that at the heart of what they are doing is a deep commitment to prayer.

I was introduced to Uniting Prayer and Fasting several years ago through Facebook, being one of the thousands who are encouraged and nourished by the prayers and scripture passages included in its regular updates. In recent months I've learned more about this significant ministry of Liverpool Uniting Church. One priority of Uniting Prayer and Fasting is to maintain constant prayer support for the Assembly of the Uniting Church – its officers, agencies and international partner churches. In preparation for the Thirteenth Assembly Uniting Prayer and Fasting is conducting a forty day devotional process of "repentance leading to life". This process will begin in both the Liverpool congregation and in the virtual community of participants around the country who join in from where they are. During the Assembly itself those who are able will travel to Adelaide and continue to pray while the Assembly is in session, including a daily celebration of Holy Communion in one of the nearby city churches.

I commend this "40 Days of Life Overflowing" to you and invite you to join me in attending to the heart of the church's business – in prayer.

Yours in Christ

Andrew



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11<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year in Adelaide, we will once again be having the Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

## **Uniting Prayer and Fasting and 40 days of Life Overflowing**

Shortly after the last Assembly, a new prayer movement was born called "Uniting Prayer and Fasting". This prayer movement is a ministry of Liverpool Uniting Church and seeks to support the Assembly and its work in prayer.

In the 40 days before and during the Assembly, from the 12<sup>th</sup> June -21<sup>st</sup> July, Uniting Prayer and Fasting will be hosting a time of prayer called "40 days of Life Overflowing". This is based on the Assembly theme chosen by the President Elect, Rev Dr. Andrew Dutney.

## **Invitation to Take Part**

We would like to invite every Uniting Church Member, Congregation, Presbytery, Synod, Agency to take part in the 40 days of Life Overflowing.

## **Prayer Book**

The best way to take part is to be committed individually to pray and fast daily during these 40 days and encourage your members to do this also. A **prayer book** has been written that encompasses the Assembly theme. There are 20 days of reflections which are to be repeated once over. It has daily readings and reflections from the book of Ephesians, and the Basis of Union relating to the theme. It also has daily questions and prayer points to help us pray for the Assembly and our partners around the world, written by our general secretary Rev Dr. Terence Corkin. As well as this, it includes songs and a reflection on ministry by the Rev Dr. Andrew Dutney. This book has multimedia links to different images of life that can help us understand the word and help us to pray.

The book can be downloaded for free in pdf format

[http://www.unitingprayerandfasting.com/index.php?p=1\\_17](http://www.unitingprayerandfasting.com/index.php?p=1_17)

If you would like a hard copy, please contact the above email/phone number with your name and address and we will send you one. Donations for the book and postage please send to the address above and make out to "Liverpool Uniting Church".

## **Other resources**

There will also be extra resources on the Uniting Prayer and Fasting website for bible studies, children's ministry and sermon series during the 40 days (12<sup>th</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> July). Some multimedia presentations will be posted on the Uniting Prayer and Fasting facebook page during the 40 days.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Uniting-Prayer-and-Fasting/168051939506>



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## Prayer and Bible Study in your churches

You are encouraged during the 40 days to meet weekly for prayer and bible study in your churches using the prayer book and resources. As the prayer book will be repeated once, some of your church members may wish to only do 20 days, beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. An alternative to this is to use the book at the end of Assembly during the times when Ephesians comes up in the lectionary. However the prayer points from Terence will not be in line.

## Daily prayers at Liverpool UC then Adelaide during Assembly (Maughan UC)

During the first part of the 40 days there will be daily prayers with communion at Liverpool Uniting Church. You are very welcome to join us. Please contact us if you are coming so that we can confirm time and venue.

Whilst Assembly is being held (14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July) Uniting Prayer and Fasting will be leading daily prayer times of worship with sung communion in the middle of the day at Maughan UC in Franklin St, Adelaide. This will be to pray for the Assembly. Anointing and prayers for healing will also be offered at these services. You are very welcome to come to Adelaide and join us. This will be followed by a light meal to break fast together.

## Fasting

Fasting helps us to come humbly in prayer and show our utter reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ for what He wants to do in our church. As we fast, we proclaim that He is head of the church, and that without Him we can do nothing. There are many ways to fast and we encourage you to seek the Lord as to what He wants you to do. We will be fasting in the Wesleyan way, as we do every Friday. This is not eating after the evening meal, and then fasting till lunch time of the next day (i.e. 12 am – 12 pm). You are encouraged to drink water during this time. Some people who are ill, fast by giving up something else. It is important however in whatever way you fast to use this extra time to pray to the Lord.

## Conclusion

We pray that you may join us on this journey of prayer together in the 40 days of Life Overflowing, leading up to and during our Assembly in July.

*"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21)."*

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ

Rev Anne Hibbard (Minister of the Word at Liverpool Uniting Church)