



Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 24 July 2022

office@toorakuc.org.au

Phone 9829 0300

www.toorakuc.org.au

Sunday services 9:00 & 10:15am

The deadline for Update submissions is 3pm on the Tuesday prior

Thought of the week - Rev. Peter Whitaker

“We can have a full life even when we haven’t got everything we want.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison.

Those who use even the little things they have will always gain, although it may not always be in kind.

COVID-19 update

Current levels of COVID-19 and other viruses in the community are very high. So that we can protect each other, Management Team would prefer masks to be worn during worship services, particularly when singing. Morning coffee after the 10:15am service will be served in the Hall to increase social distance and allow more air circulation. Members of the congregation are asked to be mindful of the need to protect our office staff and to refrain from entering the office.



Tasmanian End-of-Life Choices Act

On 22 April 2021 the Tasmanian Parliament passed a new law that will make voluntary assisted dying legal in Tasmania. This new law is called the End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act 2021 (The Act). The Act has an 18-month lead-in ‘implementation period’, meaning voluntary assisted dying, in keeping with the legislation, will be allowed in Tasmania from the 23 October 2022.

Tasmania is one of five Australian states to pass voluntary assisted dying laws. In Victoria and Western Australia voluntary assisted dying legislation has already been implemented. Voluntary assisted dying will commence in South Australia in late 2022 -early 2023, and in Queensland on 1 January 2023.

As a consequence of the above the Synod Standing Committee initiated a process to prepare a response of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania, including its institutions, to the Tasmanian VAD legislation to be considered by the Synod.

The Synod considered the report in groups and then in plenary session, there being considerable discussion.

The following proposal was agreed by consensus.

31 Synod response to the Tasmanian End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act

The Synod resolved:

a) To affirm relevant Christian beliefs and UCA theology, including:

i) that life is a gift from God, and that all human life is precious to, and has dignity before, God;

ii) that neither death nor life, neither suffering nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (see Romans 8:38-39);

- iii) that it is a deep and abiding mystery that, as followers of Christ and through God's accompanying grace, peace, wisdom and growth can be birthed in the midst of suffering, though suffering is not to be idolised;
- iv) that as followers of Christ, we are called to spiritual discernment throughout our life and death journey, and to be a loving and supportive community to people in need of care.
- b) To affirm, in light of a) above:
- i) that high-quality palliative care be the primary, preferred means through which end of life care is provided;
- ii) the importance of equitable and timely access to culturally responsive palliative care in hospitals and community-settings.
- c) To recognise and respect that, within the bounds of the Synod, and including within our First People communities and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, there is a range of faithful Christian responses to the Tasmanian End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act and these include exploring, accessing, and conscientiously objecting to voluntary assisted dying.
- d) To give permission within Tasmania to UCA institutions to make voluntary assisted dying allowable within the context of their facilities and services, according to the state's legislation.
- e) To recognise that UCA institutions have already developed and adopted clear and robust policies and procedures that protect and uphold the right of staff to conscientiously object to participating in or supporting a resident/client who is exploring or accessing voluntary assisted dying in accordance with the provisions outlined in the legislation.
- f) To request UCA institutions to review their voluntary assisted dying policies and procedures and, if necessary, revise them for the Tasmanian context to reflect the requirements and provisions in the Tasmanian legislation.
- g) To commit to the provision of a compassionate pastoral response to all people associated with the Church and UCA institutions, including those people (and their loved ones) who choose to explore or access voluntary assisted dying in a legal manner in Tasmania. *Chris Begg*

Interested in yoga ?

The following groups are at TUC:

Yoga Mitra. Class times: Monday 9:30 -10:30am Thursday 9:30 -10:30am

Yoga with Chrissie. Class time: Friday 9:30 - 10:30am

July Diary Dates

Sun	24 Jul	9:00am	Family Church Service	Rev. John Edwards
Sun	24 Jul	10:15am	Morning Worship	Rev. John Edwards
Tue	26 Jul	7:30pm	Study Group	Zoom
Wed	27 Jul	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Thu	28 Jul	10:00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St Peter's
Sun	31 Jul	9:00am	Family Church Service	Rev. Peter Whitaker
Sun	31 Jul	10:15am	Morning Worship	Rev. Peter Whitaker