

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 10 May 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

Deadline for Update submission is 3pm on the Wednesday prior.



TOORAK UNITING CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

To be held at 11:00am on Sunday 31st May 2026 (or so soon thereafter as the 10:15am service permits) in the Faichney Room

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held at 11:00am on Sunday 31st May 2026 (or so soon thereafter as the 10:15am service permits) in the Faichney Room.

The agenda will be as follows.

1. Election of Elders and members of Church Council.*
2. To consider and if thought fit to receive the Annual Report for 2025.
3. To consider and if thought fit to approve the Annual Financial Report for 2025.

Copies of these reports will be sent out to members electronically. Please contact the Church office if you would like a hard copy.

* Nominations may be made on the form available from the Church Office and emailed to members of the Congregation. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary of the Congregation, James Barber, **by 17th May 2026**, preferably by email to jbarber@vicbar.com.au.

Anyone with questions about what is involved in Eldership or membership of Church Council may contact the Chair of Church Council, Barbara McKinnon at chair@toorakuc.org.au.

Mozart: Requiem in D Minor Concert | 2:30pm on Saturday, 30 May at St Andrew's Church, 228 New St, Brighton

Glen Eira City Choir in conjunction with Bendigo Chorale presents a concert featuring Mozart's Sancta Maria (1771) and Laudate Dominum (1780). Conducted by Elena Varsharvskya and featuring soloists Lisa Robinson, Soprano, Chloe James, Mezzo-soprano, Nicholas Sheppard, Tenor, Christian Smith, Bass with Hugh Fullarton on the Organ. A performance not to be missed!

Tickets are \$45 for adults and under 16s are free.
To book, please visit trybooking.com/DLASF

17 May – Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday we come together to celebrate Communion. It is these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards our four Outreach programs we support.

These programs are all under the umbrella of the Uniting Church and greatly rely on and appreciate our support. They are The Homework Hub in Pakenham, The Cranbourne Food Truck, the Boroondara Community Outreach in Kew, and SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya).

You may either donate cash into the Outreach offering bowl at the rear of the Church or you may donate electronically at any time to Toorak Uniting Church, marking your donation as "Outreach".

BSB: 033 086

Account Number: 911 892

Thank you for your heartfelt support!

Putting together an Argyle House Working Group

With the closure of the Café, we have the opportunity to review and renew the purpose of Argyle House. Argyle House is currently used by Uniting AgeWell as a drop off and pick up point for its social connections program on Mondays and Tuesdays, for TUC groups including the Bible Explorers and Coffee Club, and Church Council meets there when meetings coincide with Dancing Class.

Argyle House can be used as a public gathering place – just like the church and the Wettenhall, Faichney and Hall spaces. It cannot be used for retail, as an office or as a café.

We have expressions of interest from Uniting and a Korean entrepreneur to run community programs on the site (see Church Council reports). With a projected operational deficit and the spire expenses looming, we also need Argyle House to be income producing. It is a lovely part of our site with significant potential.

If you would like to be part of a working group to evaluate the pros and cons of different proposed uses and report to Church Council (ideally for the next meeting on June 4), please email chair@toorakuc.org.au.

Please note that the Exploring the Bible group will be taking a break while Rev Peter is away and **will not meet for two weeks until Monday, 25 May.**

Roundtable Gathering for Climate Justice in the Uniting Church | Thursday, 21 May at 2pm via Zoom

As a Church, we are called not only to proclaim the Gospel, but to live it—responding to God’s love through our care for one another and for the whole of creation. There will be a series of three Assembly Net Zero Emissions online Roundtable gatherings focused on Climate Justice this year, each held via Zoom for two hours.

Together, these gatherings seek to:

- Equip the Church to respond faithfully to the call to Climate Justice
- Strengthen connection and shared purpose across our communities
- Encourage ongoing action in local contexts and spheres of influence

The gatherings are an opportunity for us, as the Uniting Church, to deepen our shared commitment to this work—grounded in faith, shaped by the wisdom of First Peoples, and expressed through practical action in our communities. You are encouraged to take part in these important conversations and to invite others within your communities to join you.

The first session will be held on Thursday, 21 May at 2pm and explore how we, as a Church, are called to advocate for justice and how you can engage in this work within your context.

To register, please visit <https://uniting.church/join-the-journey-to-net-zero-2026-roundtables/>

The Royal Gala VIP Concert | Saturday, 13 June at 4pm, Lincoln of Toorak, 445 Toorak Rd

This is a formal, alcohol-free event featuring gospel artist Fiston Mbuyi aimed at bringing together churches and multicultural communities from across Melbourne. Organised by Hope Multicultural Community Association Inc., it will be a night of worship, joy, and non-stop celebration. To book, please visit <https://shorturl.at/3y0e0>

May Diary Dates

Sun	10 May	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	10 May	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	10 May	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall
Tue	12 May	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Online
Wed	13 May	2:00pm	Property Committee Meeting	Argyle House
Wed	13 May	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Sun	17 May	9:00am	Worship in the Round HC	Rev Sylvia
Sun	17 May	10:15am	Worship Service HC	Rev Sylvia
Sun	17 May	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall
Tue	19 May	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Church Space
Wed	20 May	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall

Call for Nominations for Election to Eldership and/or Church Council

On Sunday, 31st May 2026 we will have the Annual General Meeting of the Toorak Uniting Church Congregation at which we will receive the church accounts for approval and vote for Elders and Church Councillors.

Elders and **Church Councillors** serve on **Church Council**, unless otherwise authorised by Presbytery. The nominated term is for between one and five years, after which they may stand for re-election.

The priority of the **Church Council** is to build the congregation up in faith and love.

The responsibilities of **Church Council** include[†]:

- Sharing with the ministers in the encouragement of faith and love to all Church members; assisting the ministers with worship, particularly at Communion, Baptism, Confirmation and other special occasions.
- Assisting on rosters of welcome, vestry duty.
- Making decisions in keeping with regulations: managing financial affairs and general administration: arranging for audit, presentation and examination of the accounts; preparing and presenting annual reports to the Congregation.
- Managing and controlling property.
- Referring matters to Presbytery as required.
- Exercising discipline on behalf of the Congregation as appropriate.
- Managing Child Protection Reporting; ensuring the Church is a safe place for all people.

In addition, **Elders** “assist in the spiritual oversight of the congregation” through

- Attending regular bi-monthly Elders’ meetings.
- Pastorally caring, encouraging and supporting their assigned congregational members.
- Serving communion and preparing the table and the elements.
- Being a point of contact for baptismal parents and assisting with baptism.

If you would like to be nominated as an Elder, please arrange to speak with Rev Syliva 'Akau'ola Tongotongo or Rev John Edwards.

Who can be members of the Church Council?

Confirmed members & members in association; Elders or leaders; any ministry agents in placement.

The Church Council meets bi-monthly.

The terms of office of one current Elder, and two current Members of Church Council not being Elders, expire on 30th June 2026.

Church Council exercises oversight of both the smooth running and mission direction of TUC and renewal of its membership strengthens our congregation. You are invited to consider whether this is a way in which you can contribute to the life and work of the Church.

Nominations need to be received in writing by the Secretary of Congregation, James Barber, **by 17th May 2026**, preferably by email to jbarber@vicbar.com.au.

[†]See Reg 3.1.2(a) and 3.1.2(b) of the Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia