

Uniting Church National History Association

3rd Biennial History Conference



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY

DATE SAVER AND CALL FOR PAPERS

GROWING UP UNITING

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11–13 June 2021

Centre for Ministry
16 Masons Drive
North Parramatta
NSW 2151

Contributors are encouraged to approach the conference theme **‘Growing Up Uniting’** creatively.

It could mean growing up Uniting in a secular age, or growing up multi-culturally. It could mean growing up ecumenically, theologically, spiritually, proudly, liturgically, multiculturally, hopefully and joyfully. It could also deal with the various struggles faced by young (and not so young) people growing up in the Uniting Church.

Young people from various Uniting Church CALD communities, for example, have proposed that some contributors might explore growing up Tongan Australian, Korean Australian, Fijian Australian, Samoan Australian etc in the Uniting Church. Some contributors might also consider what it means to grow up disciples or to explore growing old gracefully in the Uniting Church.

Papers may be presented in person or online.

*Please send paper proposals of no more than 300 words to William Emilsen and Patricia Curthoys at: **ucnhs2021conference@gmail.com** by **30 April 2021**.*

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Invited Speakers will include



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DR DEIDRE PALMER **'Roundtable Conversations with Uniting Church Young People'**

Dr Deidre Palmer is President of the Uniting Church in Australia. She has served in this role, since July 2018. Prior to becoming President, Deidre served as Moderator of the Uniting Church in South Australia.

Deidre has been involved in theological education for much of her life. She has served on the faculty of the Adelaide College of Divinity, Flinders University School of Theology, the Uniting College in South Australia and Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Deidre is also a social worker. She worked for four and a half years with Uniting Communities as a counsellor with their Childhood Sexual Abuse Counselling team, prior to becoming Moderator.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RUTH POWELL **'Growing up Uniting: an inside out perspective'**

Dr Ruth Powell is Director of NCLS Research, a research centre that focuses on church vitality and community spirituality and wellbeing.

She manages the five-yearly National Church Life Survey (1991 to present), a large and comprehensive database on church life. Ruth also holds a position as Associate Professor and Research Fellow, Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre, Charles Sturt University, as well as Honorary Professor at Alphacrucis College.

Her research interests are congregational studies, leadership, and spirituality in the wider community.



REV DR WILLIAM EMILSEN AND DR ELIZABETH WATSON **'Growing Up Uniting: Insights to ponder; lessons to heed'**

William W. Emilsen is an Honorary Associate Professor in Church History and World Religions at Charles Sturt University and a Principal Researcher with its Public and Contextual Research Centre. He has recently written *Fighting Spirit: A History of Christianity at Waruwi, Goulburn Island* (2016) and *Charles Harris: A Struggle for Justice* (2019). He has had a long-term interest in the history of the Uniting Church. He lives in Leura in the Blue Mountains with his wife, Carolyn.

Elizabeth Watson is a retired academic who holds degrees in Anthropology and Sociology from the University of Sydney, the Australian National University and the University of New South Wales. Her research and publications have focused principally on women's unpaid work, especially caring work. She grew up within the Congregational Church and has been an active member of the Uniting Church since the 1980s, serving on the Board of the United Theological College for several years until its disillusion. She is a long-time member of Amnesty International and served for a number of years as National President of the Australian Section.

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