

# 2010 Diary Dates

## January

- 7-8** **Secular and Sacred in Australian Society**  
**11-12** – **Intensive**  
**14-15** Explore through key metaphorical sites (home, church, sports ground, etc.) the dynamics of belief and unbelief in contemporary Australia. Led by Katharine Massam.
- 18-22** **Psalms in Christian Ministry – Intensive**  
**27-29** Considers the use of the Psalms in private and public prayer, liturgy, preaching and pastoral care. Led by Howard Wallace and Merryl Blair.
- 29-30** **Becoming Storytellers**  
Immerse yourself in story with a Story Retreat, then embody and tell sacred story over five Wednesday evenings using a range of story techniques and traditions including Godly Play. Led by Julie Perrin, Jeanette Acland and Christina Rowntree. Continues Wednesday 3, 10, 17, 24 February, final telling 3 March.
- 31** **UCA Youth Kickoff**  
Celebrate the summer and the coming year by catching up old friends, making new friends and finding out about planned activities and events.

## February

- 1-5** **Caring and Teaching in the Church and Community – Intensive**  
**8-11** An introduction to both the principles and practice of caring and teaching in the ministry of the Church. Led by Randall Prior.
- 9-11** **Resourcing Resource Ministers**  
An opportunity to gather with other resource ministers and those interested in this ministry. We will look at some adult learning theory, share reflection and further develop our understanding of resource ministry on resource ministry practice.
- 22** **UFT Semester 1 begins**
- 23** **Healing and Hospitality on Aboriginal Land**  
An opportunity to explore what it means to live as Christian disciples on land that was claimed unjustly. Tuesday evenings at Church of all Nations Carlton. Presented by Indigenous Hospitality House, CTM and JIM unit. [www.ihh.org.au](http://www.ihh.org.au)
- 25** **Uphold One Another in Prayer Training Day**  
This workshop introduces you to this dynamic resource for prayer and equips you to use the material in your context. Led by Joan Wright Howie.
- 22-26** **Big Year Out Kick off**  
A gap year adventure in living and serving for Christian young adults. It's an experience that you can take on part-time as a day placement, discipleship group and an exposure experience. <http://thebigyearout.com>
- 27-28** **Ministry to Children Conference**  
Launch your year with others involved in ministry to children from all over Victoria. Features a great range of electives, huge display of resources and an excellent keynote speaker.

## March

- 5-8** **Surrender**  
A radical discipleship conference with a focus on edgy local and global mission. [www.surrender.org.au](http://www.surrender.org.au)  
0403 177 995

**6,13, 20,27** **Educating and Ministering through Life Passages – Intensive**

A view of adult spiritual development integrating psychological and theological understandings on Christian maturing. Led by Maryanne Confoy.

**18** **Resting in God's Maternal Embrace**

A quiet day to reflect on the gifts of wisdom gained from the experience of mothering and an invitation to encounter and rest in God's maternal embrace. Led by Joan Wright Howie.

**19-21** **Digging into the Old Testament – Lay Ministry Intensive**

An introduction to the Old Testament that includes skills and resources to interpret and preach from the OT. Second weekend April 16-18.

**20** **"Boost and Refresh" – Geelong**

Organised in conjunction with ACCESS Ministries, these Children and Families training events provide opportunities for those in regional Victoria to learn together, encourage one another and network effectively.

**27** **Faith Journeys with Children and Families – Benalla and Traralgon**

Facilitated in partnership with the Victorian Children's Ministry Network, these events encourage excellence in ministry with children around Victoria. Suitable for those in church-based, school-based and community-based ministries.

## May

**1** **Alternative Worship Training Day**

A workshop for people who no longer find their home in mainstream worship, exploring the why and how of alternative worship and sacred spaces. Led by Cheryl Lawrie.

**1** **"Boost and Refresh" – Frankston and Greensborough**

For those living in Melbourne, these Children and Families training events provide the chance to boost enthusiasm, refresh skills and connect with others engaged in similar ministry activity.

**14-19** **Synod Meeting**

**28** **UFT Semester 1 Ends**

**29** **Playgroup Conference**

A stimulating conference for those involved in serving families with children aged 0–5, including playgroup leaders, Sunday School teachers, parents and those responsible for worship preparation.

**30** **MoreFocus**

An opportunity for young people to worship experiment live act out faith. Each moreFocus is organised by young people for young people.

## June

**5-8** **State Youth Games (SYG)**

SYG is a sport based camp run by the Church of Christ. Attended by many people from the UCA, we run Bible Chats and sacred space with Urban Seed in CafePraxis.

**17-18** **School of Ministry – Ordinary Times**

What are the rituals, routines or repetitions which sustain us in ordinary times? How to feed faith in daily life? This event will include lectures, workshops and time for reflection.

**19 Ordinary Arts**  
Bringing art to the simple, everyday acts of Christian life and worship. A variety of activities will explore ordinary practices using earthy materials and achievable techniques for artists, and any who yearn to bring the arts alive in their faith community.

*Ordinary Times (17-18 June) and Ordinary Arts, while separate events, are designed to reflect on complementing themes and may be booked together.*

**19 "Boost and Refresh" – Western Suburbs**  
See information for 1 May.

**19 Faith Journeys with Children and Families – Warrnambool**  
See information for 27 April.

**26 - 17 July About FACE**  
About FACE is a cultural and faith exchange where young adults (18+) take two weeks living and learning from indigenous and overseas communities. <http://aboutface.unitingchurch.org.au>

**21-25 UCA studies – Intensive**  
**28-30** A Diploma of Ministry subject that explores the history, theology and practice of the Uniting Church.

## July

**16-18 Talking Faith – Lay Ministry Intensive**  
An introduction to Christian thinking about God and an exploration of Uniting Church perspectives. Includes skills for leading worship and preaching. Second weekend August 20-22.

**17 Practicing the Presence of God**  
Experience and learn to facilitate a new collection of collaborative group processes devised by artists and retreat leaders.  
Led by Christina Rowntree & Joan Wright Howie.

**9-12 School of Discipleship**  
A discipleship conference run by the UCA that focuses on what it is to live the Christian life - to be biblically grounded and theologically informed. <http://schoolofdiscipleship.org.au>

**20 "Boost and Refresh" – Bendigo**  
See information for 20 March.

**26 UFT Semester 2 commences**

**29 Embodied Prayer**  
A quiet day when you are invited to explore body awareness, bibliodrama and focusing as tools in prayer. Led by Joan Wright Howie.

**31 Overflow**  
Growing each year, this training day includes a focus on multi-age worship, developing leadership, mission and practical skills for ministers, leaders and anyone engaged in ministry with human beings.

**31 Unity and Division in the Church – Intensive**  
Examines causes of division in the Christian Church and movements towards reconciliation. 31 July, 14 Aug, 28 Aug, 16 Oct. Led by Charles Sherlock.

## August

**28 Faith Journeys with Children and Families – Horsham**  
See information for 27 April.

**29 MoreFocus**  
See information for 30 May.

## September

**2 Introduction to Spiritual Direction**  
For those considering a call to practice this ministry, this day provides information, encounter and discernment as you consider applying to a formation course. Led by Joan Wright Howie.

**3-4 Children & Families Ministry Symposium**  
Building on the success of the national "Children & Spirituality" Symposium, the 2010 Symposium will engage in depth with issues relating to theology, scripture and children/childhood.

**5-7 Women in Ministry**  
A chance for women in ministry to gather to recharge the batteries, learn and have some fun together.

**10-12 Selection Conference**  
The meeting of the Synod Selection Panel, in which an applicant's call to ordained ministry is discerned.

**17-19 MorePraxis Gathering**  
Think, pray, play and meet with more of your tribe who long for a Christian spirituality that interconnects social action and theological reflection.

## October

**17-19 "Next Gen" Conference**  
For those employed in roles specifically relating to children and families across Victoria and Tasmania, "Next Gen" is a significant professional development opportunity for 2010.

**20 "Boost and Refresh" – Ballarat**  
See information for 20 March.

**28 Faith Journeys with Children and Families – Horsham**  
See information for 27 March.

**29 UFT Semester 2 finishes**

**31 Live and Give**  
Join with other youth/churches/action groups to go 'trick or treating' on Halloween to collect non-perishable items. <http://morepraxis.org.au/liveandgive>

## November

**9-11 Preaching in the Year of Moses and Matthew**  
This event will feature lectures on the main lectionary passages for the year and offer a range of interesting workshops that will focus on preaching, teaching and worship leadership for the coming year.

**18-20 'Immense, Unfathomed, Unconfined': – Conference**  
A conference on God's grace in honour of Rev Dr Norman Young, including a public lecture and conference dinner.

**27 MoreFocus (Nearly NCYC)**  
is a chance to gather as a Synod of young people before making the trip to NCYC. Bring your friends and meet new ones!

## December

**29 NCYC**  
The National Christian Youth Convention to be held on the Gold Coast. <http://ncyc11.com.au>.

