

GWUC Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group

AGENDA updated Aug 13

14 August 2025, 10am, Room 2

Welcome to all.

Present: Pam Bunney, Rev Ian Ferguson, Annette Wojak, Vida Foo, Michele Stringer, Margaret Fraser (Chair)

Apologies: David Morgan

Devotion: Margaret – a vision rooted in justice, reconciliation, and peace

Minutes of last meeting on 26 June 2025

1. Matters arising from last meeting

- COP 2025 selections were determined along with indicative donation amounts and applicants advised prior to the Congregational Meeting on 27 July. The COP Panel report and COP 2025 recommendations brochure were presented at the Congregational Meeting and endorsement of the recommendations was Unanimous. The report also included information from the 5 COP 2024 recipients, and has been included in the Minutes of the Cong Mtg (see wiki).
- The 4 congregation applicants and the 2 Panel-nominated COP projects have now been advised in writing of the endorsement.
- Margaret, Vida and Ian attended the NAIDOC Week event on 10 July, organized by Monash Interfaith Gathering and held at Wheelers Hill Library. This included a smoking ceremony and entertainment by an indigenous group Yeng Gali as well as short speeches by several local and state politicians
- New members for OSJMG – continuing need
- COP 2024 recipients Choir of Hope performance at nursing home – report – Vida
- Impact Report from Kids Under Cover– Michele preparing a summary for Kingsway
- After meeting Councillor Elisha Lee at the NAIDOC week function, Margaret kept in touch about indigenous history of Glen Waverley. Elisha was good enough to spend some time researching what was available and sent two links that we can share with Church Council and the congregation, as appropriate.
“As far as what is published, I can find this information on Monash region Aboriginal contact history at <https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Our-City/Monash-Heritage/Aboriginal-Heritage/Aboriginal-Background-Information/4.-Monash-Region-Contact-History>
I also found this archived document authored by the Monash Reconciliation Group on sites of significance in Monash.
<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/about-us/documents/public-notice/aboriginal-links-with-the-city-of-monash-area.pdf>”
- MF to Enquire about the lack of acknowledgement of 1st Nations in the Marriott windows brochure – not yet done

2. Ongoing Projects – updates as needed

- a. Material Aid - Annette, include fete items?
- b. Honey Money - Margaret, new honey bottled and labeled on 23rd July. Next donation to Asylum Seeker Centre due soon.
- c. Pancake Breakfasts at GWSC –
- d. Welfare Committee – Ian

3. Occasional Projects – update

- KOGO Knitting project –Pam - Total number of items? Finish appeal earlier in 2026?
- Christmas Shoeboxes - Annette

4. Communication: Notice-board, Bulletin & Kingsway and verbal notices –

- a. COP 2025 – Endorsed COP projects now shown on noticeboard and to be included in next Kingsway.
- b. NAIDOC week – items placed on noticeboard

5. Correspondence

IN: Email from Cr Elisha Lee, thanks to COP Panel from Anne Newton, Uniting World newsletter

- Request from RCH for calico dolls for sick children

OUT:

- MF sent a brief monthly report and forwarded indigenous history information to Church Council's August meeting
- Several emails to COP 2024 recipients requesting progress reports, and advice to Frontier Services and Moderators Emergency Fund.

6. Today's Business

○ **COP update:**

- Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre has sent thanks and offered to send a speaker to GWUC (see Lauren Daly's email). Discuss. Dates? 2026 COP Service?
- Quilts for Orphans were guest speakers at UCAF on 5/8/25, and thanked GWUC for making them a COP 2025 project.
- Liaise with Fete committee to promote the selected COP projects, on noticeboards & flyers. Change "Outreach" to "Community" projects on all promo?
- After fete: Notify all applicants and contacts of the final amounts to be donated and confirm the payment process and bank details. (MF, Pam, office)
- Thanks to the COP Selection Panel.

****Deferred from our June meeting:**

• **First Nations:**

At our June meeting, we tabled the Letter from Moderator, Rev David Fotheringham, to all ministers and church councils, 12 June 2025, ([see attached file](#)) urging support and action about the upcoming Yoorrook Justice Commission report.

The Yoorrook Report and Recommendations are now available. Please have a read at [Yoorrook Justice Commission](#).

Church Council has asked OSJMG for some leadership on this.

See also [Yoorrook Key Findings | Yoorrook Justice Commission](#) There are 10 Key findings of this Victorian document. How do we raise awareness?

The Uniting Church has produced a free booklet "Covenanting Pathways Toolkit" with ideas for congregations which can be found at [Covenanting - Uniting Church in Australia. Synod of Victoria and Tasmania](#) This booklet would form a useful basis for a *discussion group*. Ideas?

- [A Vision for a Just Australia – Uniting Church Australia](#) was prepared prior to the Federal election, an inspirational set of seven Social Justice foundational issues for our UCA congregations to be challenged/inspired by. Excellent resource, How can we make use of this? Prepare a Kingsway article?
- **Justice and International Mission (JIM):**
 - Ideas from JustAct newsletter for consideration?
 - JIM Cluster seeking volunteers to assist in distribution of monthly mail-outs of newsletters, at Parkville
 - Results of 2025 Issues survey

7. Any other business

- March for Palestine, Sunday 24th August, see [RALLY: Nationwide March for Palestine 24 August 2025 – Free Palestine Melbourne](#)
- Monty (working for Doctors without Borders) now safely out of Gaza

8. Meetings - Room 2 is booked for Thursdays at 10am: October 2 (before the fete), November 27 or Dec 4 (meeting then café) date tbc soon

Away dates: *David M: current - ?, *MF: 8-25 Nov *tbc*,