

## Deacons:

- hold up **service** as an inescapable response to the Gospel;
- **encourage** all God's people in their service of God inside and outside the church;
- are **advocates** for justice, sharing in the church's justice ministries; standing beside people who are disadvantaged or oppressed, encouraging others to work for justice and calling the church to costly action;
- are **carers** who offer support and encouragement, standing beside those who suffer, and encouraging others to use their caring gifts;
- are **pioneers** serving on the fringes in areas of life where social, economic and political changes are exposing new needs which are frequently remote from the experience of church-goers;
- are **educators** whose special task is to educate the church on justice issues and community needs;
- are **enablers** who encourage other people to recognise and use their gifts of service;
- are called to be **prophets** prepared to challenge injustice and offer alternatives;
- are **bridge builders** between the church and the community



### Want to find out more?

The 2012 'Occasional Papers' publication provides a snapshot of the renewal of the diaconate in the UCA and current examples of diaconal ministry, and is available on the DUCA website.

If the Ministry of Deacon is something you'd like to know more about, contact the Uniting Church theological college in your Synod, the Synod office, or Deacons in your Synod.

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## DEACONS IN THE UCA

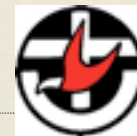
### Celebrating 20 years in 2012



# DIAKONIA

IN THE

## UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Through the Ministry of Deacon, the UCA is responding creatively to God's call to ministry and mission in our time, by providing men and women who exercise leadership in service and justice.

In 1991, the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) resolved that the diaconate be renewed. In 1992, the first Deacons were accredited (those who transitioned from Deaconess), followed by ordination later that year for those who had trained for the diaconate. In 2012, the UCA celebrates 20 years of the Ministry of Deacon.

The UCA recognizes two expressions of ordained ministry: the ministry of the Minister of the Word and the Ministry of Deacon. Together with the whole people of God, they share in the mission of God in the world.

'Deacons in the Uniting Church are called: to be, along with the scattered members of the congregation, a sign of the presence of God in the everyday world; to be especially aware of the places in the community where people are hurt, disadvantaged, oppressed, or marginalised and to be in ministry with them in ways which reflect the special concern of Jesus for them; to recognise, encourage, develop and release those gifts in God's people which will enable them to share in the ministry of caring, serving, healing, restoring, making peace and advocating justice as they go about their daily lives.'

(Report on Ministry in the Uniting Church 1991 Assembly)

### DEACON PLACEMENTS

Deacons work in community programs including counselling and health care; new housing projects; advocacy in social welfare; rural resource ministry; justice and education ministries; children's and family ministry, and with youth and young adults. Some Deacons work in congregations with a focus on diaconal ministry and fostering the diaconal ministry of the whole people of God; Deacons may also have roles in Synods and Presbyteries, and serve with ecumenical bodies and agencies. Deacons also exercise leadership in pioneering ministries and new ways of being church.



*Rev Jason John has pioneered eco-faith communities. in SA & NSW*



*Rev Michelle Cook with Yalga Binbi Aboriginal students.*

### DEACONS IN CHAPLAINCY

Deacons are involved in a wide range of chaplaincy placements including tertiary chaplaincy, prison chaplaincy, defence force ministries, aged care chaplaincy, mental health chaplaincy, sports chaplaincy, Frontier Services, schools ministry, hospital chaplaincy, disability ministry, and ministry with the arts community.



*Rev Angie Griffin serves as an Aged Care chaplain.*



*Rev Aimee Kent served as an EAPPI Volunteer in Israel, with Palestinian communities.*

### DEACONS IN CROSS-CULTURAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRY

Deacons provide leadership in cross-cultural and multi-cultural ministry, including working with partner churches in international mission; resource roles with UAICC; and serving in placements with other agencies focussed on relief, development and advocacy.



*Rev Sue Langhans meets with an English conversation class.*



*Rev Andy Calder works as a disabilities chaplain and also leads CPE & SFE classes.*