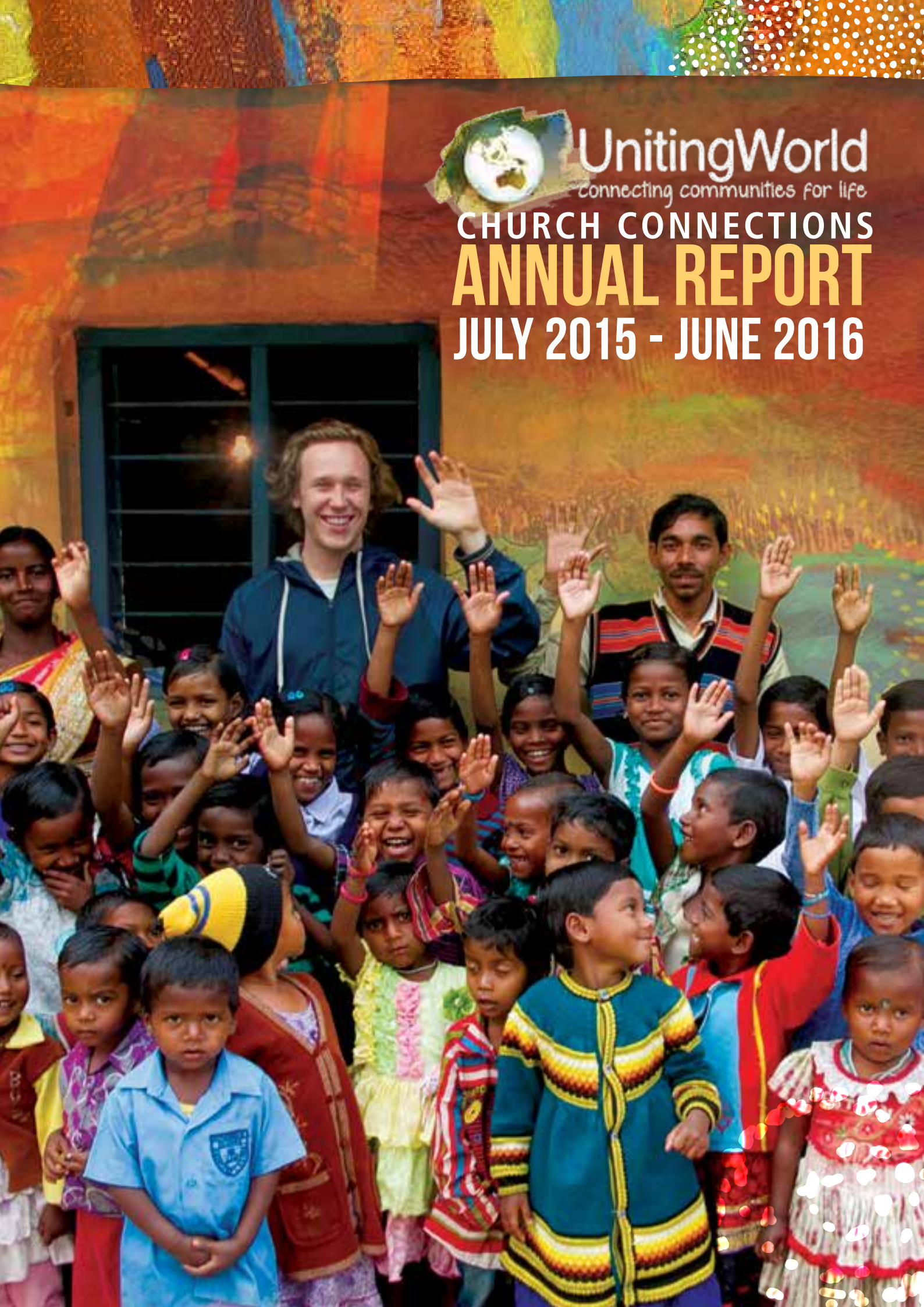


UnitingWorld

connecting communities for life

CHURCH CONNECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

WHO WE ARE

The Church Connections Unit is part of UnitingWorld, the international partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Our vision is to see transformed communities who honour God, experience hope and wellbeing and live free from poverty and injustice.

Our mission is to help the people of the Uniting Church connect with our overseas partner churches. We support our partners as they minister among people and address difficult issues in their local communities. As we foster relationships between people in Australia and across the world, we see lives mutually transformed.

CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Church Connections, as a unit within UnitingWorld, is guided by our Christian faith.
As we live and work alongside communities overseas and in Australia, **we value:**

PARTNERSHIP
We give generously and receive humbly, committing to long term change and growth.

FULLNESS OF LIFE
We believe the good news of Jesus means justice and hope for all, particularly for the oppressed and vulnerable.

MUTUAL RESPECT
We are sensitive to context, mindful of power imbalance; we recognise difference and embrace diversity.

INCLUSION
We actively seek equality for all, ensuring no discrimination due to age, culture, gender, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or social or political affiliation.

INTEGRITY
We are ethical, accountable and open in our relationships and work practices.

SUSTAINABILITY
We care for creation and build resources for the future.

Cover Local children in Durgapur, India with Experience Volunteer Alex Baker.

Opposite page Representatives from various partner churches attending UCA National Assembly in July 2015.
Image by Cath Taylor, UnitingWorld staff

CONTENTS

1 Values and Vision
3 Message from our Chair
4 Message from our Director
7 2015-16 Snapshot
19 Partnership at Assembly 2015
22 Mapping our work
24 The National Committee
26 Financial Statement
27 Financial Report
29 Thank you!

A copy of the Annual Report can be downloaded from our website at www.unitingworld.org.au

"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES, AND A BROTHER IS BORN FOR A TIME OF ADVERSITY"

Proverbs 17:17





MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

UnitingWorld continues to make a difference in the world as we work with our partners. More than forty partners attended the triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia held in Perth in July 2015. They had time together as well as opportunities to share their stories and experiences with members of the Assembly. Many of us were deeply moved by the joint statement that our partners prepared and read to the whole Assembly committing themselves to support the Uniting Church in Australia and to work more closely with each other through the sharing of resources and learning together. Following the Assembly, UnitingWorld has been able to assist our partners give concrete expression to their noble words by hosting a number of gatherings of our partners and also facilitating the exchange of people between our partner churches. This is an exciting new role that we, as the Uniting Church, can play in support of our partners to advance the mission of God in the world.

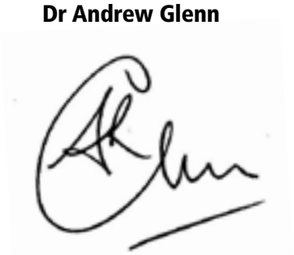
There is much to celebrate in our overseas partnerships and much to learn from our partners. For example, as the Uniting Church we are learning from our sisters and brothers in China about being a church at the margin.

It is great that we work in partnership with other parts of the Uniting Church, for example with UnitingCare in training in social service provision in China.

UnitingWorld has projects in countries from Africa to the Pacific islands and across Asia. In some cases there is a significant theological component to what we do, for example, in work on changing attitudes to violence against women in the Pacific or in approaching the theological implications of climate change for Pacific islanders whose land is threatened by sea level rise.

We are very fortunate that we have such committed and dedicated staff who work with our partners. Our role as a National Committee is to support this great team with good governance and financial oversight. And we could not work without our faithful supporters who pray for us, who promote our activities within the church and provide much needed funds. We look forward to the future and to the unfolding relationships that are at the heart of all we do.

Dr Andrew Glenn



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



The last year has been an exciting one for UnitingWorld Church Connections as we have consolidated our programs and deepened our engagement with overseas partners.

In the Pacific we have launched a new program in partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches called "Navigating the Tides". This program helps our partners to educate their people about climate change, its causes and impacts, and giving these strongly Christian communities a language and resources to address this important issue.

Building on the call of our overseas partners to work more closely with UnitingWorld and with each other, UnitingWorld opened a small office in Bali, Indonesia in early 2016. Working with our local partner Maha Bhoga Marga, the office will allow us to better serve our partners in South East Asia, assisting our near neighbouring partners to share with and learn from each other, to develop stronger programs and to implement, monitor and evaluate our work more thoroughly and effectively.

The year has also seen us reach out to our partner in South Sudan, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, to assist them as they work for peace in their conflict-torn land. I continue to be deeply moved by the stories of commitment and self-sacrifice that our partners are making to bring about lasting change in their country.

Finally, our Experience volunteer program and InSolidarity partner visit program continue to provide opportunities for members of the Uniting Church to experience the life, culture and faith of our overseas partner churches. I am so thankful that such an experience, almost 20 years ago, shaped and changed my life and it is wonderful to see those same impacts in the lives of others today.

Thank you to all our supporters for the generosity you show to our partners and the work we undertake with them on your behalf. Your support continues to allow us to stand alongside and share in God's mission with some of the most vibrant Christian communities in the world. Thank you for your partnership with us in this truly important work.

Rob Floyd



“WHEN ORDINARY PEOPLE IN MY COUNTRY AND ORDINARY PEOPLE IN YOUR COUNTRY BECOME TRUE FRIENDS, YOU WATCH! GOD WILL CHANGE ALL OUR LIVES.”

Bishop Kedenge, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

Rev Andrew, Kate, James, Hannah and Micah Smith, participants in an InSolidarity trip to Fiji, with local children. **Image by** Megan Calcaterra

2015/16 SNAPSHOT

Church Connections carries out the Uniting Church in Australia's commitment to growing global relationships through partnership. We work to connect the people of the Uniting Church in Australia with our partners overseas. We believe that at the core of all we do, there must be the desire to build lasting relationships. As we develop global relationships, through visiting, working together, sharing resources and stories of faith, we can learn much about resilience and the work of God's spirit.

"INTERNATIONAL MISSION IS NO LONGER BASED ON THE DIFFERENTIATION OF WEALTH AND CHURCH INSTITUTIONAL AND CULTURAL POWER. IT RESTS ON RELATIONSHIP."

Rev Dr Ji Zhang, UnitingWorld

Image by Alex Baker, Durgapur, India

EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

The past year has seen UnitingWorld continue to be involved in developing and resourcing ministers and lay leaders for ministry. There has been a particular emphasis on supporting women to become influential leaders in their communities. Across Asia, the Pacific and Africa, UnitingWorld is offering support to our partners as they continue to be leaders in their own communities.

CHINA • EXPRESSING FAITH THROUGH CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

China has an ageing population, with 200 million people over 60. It is important that the church seek further ways to support and engage with this more vulnerable group in society.

UnitingCare in Australia has extensive experience in providing aged care services. UnitingWorld has formed a unique partnership with UnitingCare and the China Christian Council to help support the church to increase their skills and leadership capacity in aged care services. Through this partnership, the church is beginning to express a newfound social engagement by involvement in aged care services.

In May this year an expert team of Aged Care specialists visited China to deliver a conference. As well as providing training and new skills to aged care managers, the UnitingCare partnership is helping to connect social services to personal faith. This partnership has also given UnitingCare the opportunity to broaden its vision of how to serve, beyond direct service provision.

The involvement of UnitingCare also allows the church in China to witness to the Chinese Government as to what the church is capable of achieving to the mutual benefit of both the Government and local communities.

This three way partnership is a meaningful way of sharing skills, knowledge and mutual learning. Rev Dr Ji Zhang from UnitingWorld says, "On this journey we have seen the work of the Spirit. The Church has been, and is, working hard – to capture the Spirit of life, by which the people of God have been captured".

CHINA • IT HAS WORKED

In a small rural town in China, a group of elderly people waited with anticipation at their age care facility for a visit from UnitingCare staff. The Australian's coming to visit were seen as friends since this would be their third visit and when they arrived they were greeted warmly by the residents. As soon as the visitors walked in the room, they were hurried away by the female staff. A resident had been very sick and the staff were keen to talk to their Australian friends about what they had done to help her. When the group of women came out of the room the local staff declared, "It has worked. She is completely healed!" Not long ago, when the local staff had no medical training the wound had been deeply infected and the patient had been in a lot of pain. With the help of UnitingCare staff in Brisbane, local staff had been using a social media platform, WeChat to learn the skills to treat the wound. "With the skills we now have," said the local staff, "we have learnt how to clean the wound and frequently change her position. Her body has healed itself!"

Sunday School Worker for children left behind by urbanisation, Anhui Province, China. **Image by** Rev Dr Ji Zhang, UnitingWorld Staff



Members of the local church in Fiji's Nanuku Settlement. **Image by** Cath Taylor, UnitingWorld Staff



"WE MUST FORGIVE AND BRING PEACE PERSON BY PERSON"

Rev Paska, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan

PACIFIC • WOMEN MINISTERS BRING A CHALLENGE

Mae* is one of only two female students studying at a Pacific theological college. In the Pacific 90% of the population identify with Christianity. The Church is highly respected and deeply influential. Mae believes it is time for women to claim full equality with men and that the church is at the heart of this change becoming a reality.

"We have always been part of a patriarchal system," she tells us. "It is a challenge for us as women here in the college. But I try to make men see that women are a very important part of the community – men won't be whole without us."

For Mae and other Pacific women, the foundation of gender identity lies in the Scriptures. "I'm glad there is a lot in the Scriptures that talks about how women are equal, to be valued and make a difference," Mae says. "When it starts from ministers, this will make a big difference in society."

Mae has faith that leadership from the church can be a powerful agent of change. Many across the Pacific have recognised that ideas of 'women's rights' are often not understood in cultures where both faith and patriarchy have been so dominant. People like Mae believe that change can happen through the involvement of the church.

"When we women become respected in society for what we are, the men will have a change of mindset about women and girls," says Mae.

**Mae's name has been changed*

SOUTH SUDAN • **LIVING PEACE**

It has been a year since Rev Michael Aban Obat returned to South Sudan. When he fled in 2013, the Presbyterian Church lost all their buildings, including the theological college which was burnt to the ground. Their leaders were scattered across the border or in IDP camps. Michael returned, knowing in his heart that his country needed the church to lead it to peace. The church needed to regather strong Christian leaders.

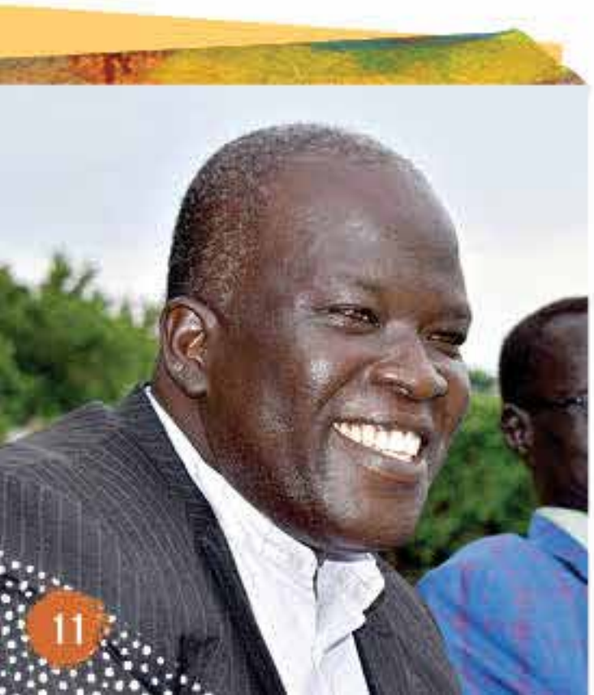
"Our country needs men and women of God to teach them the ways of peace and to care for their pain," says Michael. "We will face the suffering we have experienced and help others to face it too." Michael managed to salvage some books from the burnt out library and he and a friend found an abandoned bakery where they could start teaching theology with 5 students. Now with 20 students, the new Nile Theological College is Michael's hope for meeting the church's need for leaders.

"I managed to escape, leaving my country like so many thousands who fled across the borders and filled the camps in neighbouring countries," Rev Michael recalls. "We were all hungry, all exhausted, but none of us understood how much fear and violence had come to live in our minds… I was one of the lucky ones. I had counselling in Cairo for the trauma of those days. It made all the difference. I found hope again, I found my God gave me strength again."

"This is what my people need – they need healing from the terrible wounds of war. They need to hear God's Word of hope and peace. They need to be taught to live peace, to breathe it – commit to it, work for it. That is why I came back – because my church has work to do."

Brave men and women, like Rev Aban Obat, have begun rebuilding God's Church in South Sudan. They are weaving peace person to person – offering trauma counselling and practical help, listening to and encouraging people of different tribal groups to spend time together, creating bonds that will not allow them to turn on one another in the future. They speak truth to power, not taking sides and helping hold their government to account. They dream of rebuilding their schools and hospitals, helping their children grow strong and free.

UnitingWorld is strongly committed to our partnership with the church in South Sudan. We have committed to supporting our partner by funding basic needs such as petrol, food and accommodation for church leaders to travel to areas where they are needed, to fund training for new Christian leaders to take the place of those killed and displaced during the war and to support the trauma counselling the church is carrying out.



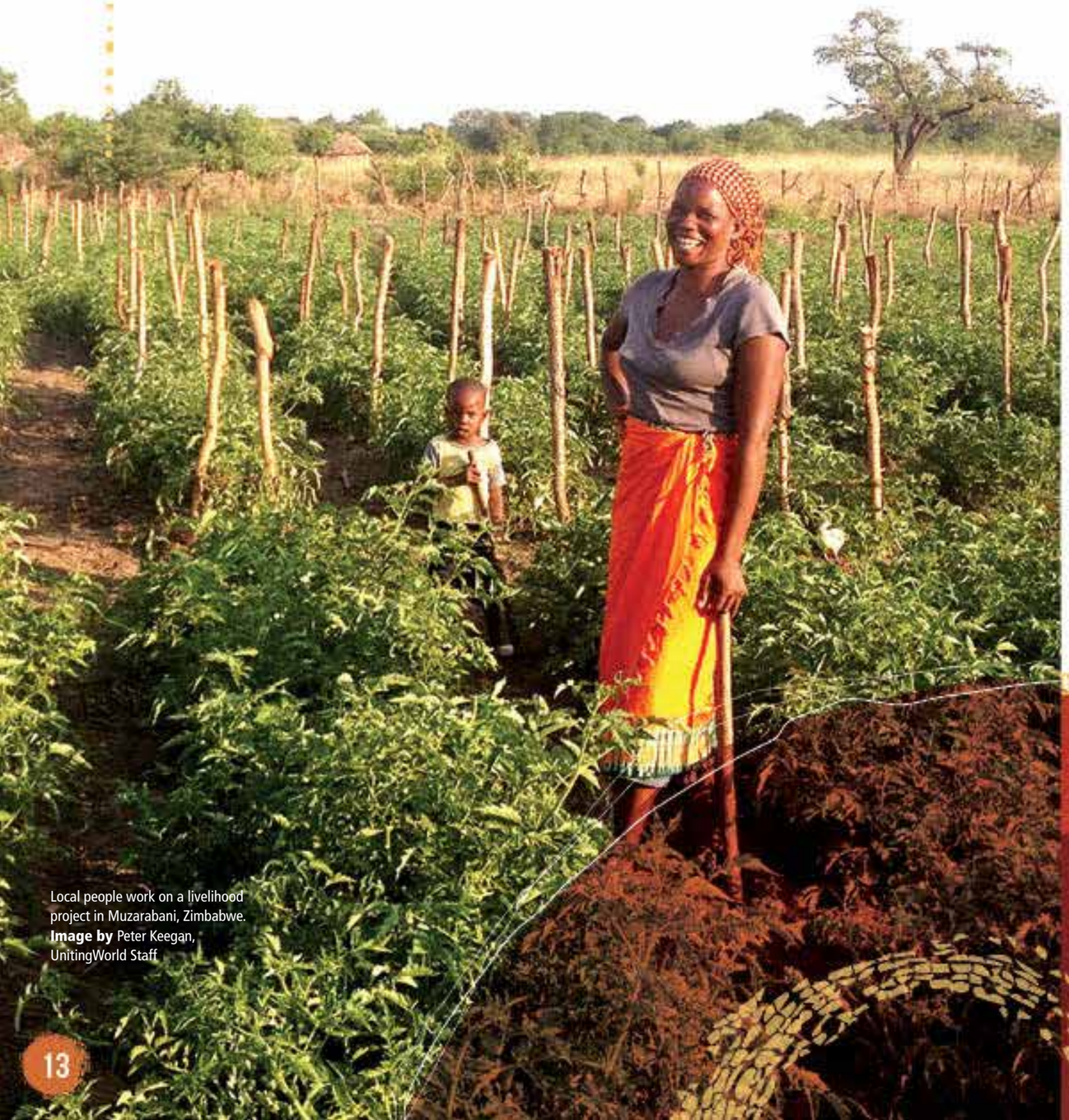
"EVERYONE ALIVE IN SOUTH SUDAN TODAY HAS GROWN UP IN WAR, LIVES WAR, BREATHES WAR. BUT WE HAVE A VISION FOR PEACE."

Rev Paska, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan
Pictured right. **Image by** Sureka Goringe, UnitingWorld staff

Left Rev Michael Aban Obat, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, Vice Principal of Nile Theological College.
Image by Sureka Goringe, UnitingWorld staff

“WE NEED TO LEAD THE WAY ON BETTER STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH AND TAKE THE LEAD IN TELLING PEOPLE THAT WE NEED URGENT ACTION.”

Maina Talia, Climate Program Officer of the Christian Church of Tuvalu



Local people work on a livelihood project in Muzarabani, Zimbabwe. **Image by** Peter Keegan, UnitingWorld Staff

PACIFIC LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

In the last two years Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa have experienced destructive category 4 and 5 cyclones. The effects of El Nino are being experienced in the highlands of PNG, Vanuatu and Fiji where many die of famine. Climate change is now a part of everyday life in the Pacific.

For some, the scale of the challenge can trigger an emotional, psychological shut-down. Pacific Churches are awakening to the challenge of leading their people through the troubled waters of climate change.

The church is a critical agent of change in the Pacific – and an active and engaged faith is vital to meeting the challenges of climate change. Churches also need leadership that can offer pastoral support, trauma counselling and practical activities to support their communities in responding to climate change impact.

UnitingWorld’s ‘Leadership in a Changing Climate’ program is supporting our Pacific partners in multiple ways. We are helping provide training to key leaders in churches throughout the Pacific so that they can lead their communities in theological teaching, disaster chaplaincy and practical responses. The program is also mobilising communities in Australia to climate change advocacy.

Rev Maleta Tenten from Kiribati Uniting Church talks about life as female church leader in the Pacific at the UnitingWomen conference in Adelaide May 2016. **Image by** Sureka Goringe, UnitingWorld staff



IN AUSTRALIA 3 PACIFIC WOMEN LEADERS were invited to speak at UCA National Assembly and UnitingWomen conference

People’s Climate March Sunday November 29th 2015 in Sydney. **Image by** Ralph Carroll



IN SYDNEY UnitingWorld helped to mobilise over **1,000 PACIFIC ISLAND DIASPORA** to march in the People’s Climate March

FIGURES FOR CHANGE

IN FIJI there are now **1,400 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS** for the Methodist Church in Fiji, which assists the church to keep in touch with people in remote areas

IN CHINA, 98 PEOPLE FROM 85 aged care centres were part of a skills training program

IN SOUTH SUDAN, 75 PASTORS AND DEACONS were brought together for peace and reconciliation

IN ZIMBABWE, 597 YOUNG ADULTS received leadership, health awareness and entrepreneurship training

MINISTRY IN THE MARGINS

Through the past year UnitingWorld has continued to support our partner churches as they minister to, care and advocate for the most vulnerable in their communities. We believe it is part of our mission to reach out to those who struggle with every day survival and to stand in solidarity with those whose faith or livelihoods are being challenged.

EAST TIMOR **CHANGE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP**

Four years ago, Glebe Road Uniting Church (UC) in Queensland began to build a friendship with the people from Ekaristi Church in Dili. Now, a genuine and lasting partnership has been formed. The Ekaristi Congregation ministers to poor local communities by providing low fee education through their primary school. Through UnitingWorld, Glebe Road UC is helping to fundraise for the school.

Noela Rothery, one of the project leaders from Glebe Road UC says, "The congregation has begun to own this simple yet profound difference between charity and partnership. It is not centred on "what we can do" but rather what we can be..."

Another member of the working group in Australia, David Hunter says, "It is God who is connecting us with the people there. The working group is building a cross-cultural bridge between Australia and East Timor, through real human relationship...building a school is the result of this growing relationship and an expression of this community-to-community connection."

The money raised by Glebe Road UC has helped Ekaristi church and local community to build two classrooms. The school currently teaches 578 students. The building of extra classrooms means that affordable education has been offered to 90 extra students. This relationship has also seen the sharing of skills and knowledge through visits to East Timor by Glebe Road UC members and visits to Australia by teachers from the school. The relationship between the two communities has extended in Australia to involve local community organisations and schools in the fundraising efforts.

FIGURES FOR CHANGE

IN FIJI
100 CHILDREN from the Nanuku Squatter Settlement received school supplies and uniforms so that they could attend school

IN INDIA
117 STUDENTS were enrolled in the newly established Nimbong School and all staff received child protection training

IN THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS
a new child protection policy was developed, and all teachers, Sunday School teachers and boarding house staff are receiving training.

IN EAST TIMOR
the new Ekaristi School was completed and opened

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS ON ME...HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR..."

Luke 4:18-19

United Church of Papua New Guinea Pastor working with the people of a remote highlands village toward peace
Image by Daniel Buckingham, UnitingWorld Staff

GROWING GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

UnitingWorld is committed to connecting communities. One way this can happen is through experiencing the lives of our partners first hand. Our Experience Program enables volunteers to live, work and make a real difference alongside our overseas partner church communities. Volunteers connect to and collaborate with people across the globe to share their knowledge and experience to learn, build capacity and share in the mission of God.

ASIA • NEW UNITINGWORLD OFFICE OPENS

2016 has seen UnitingWorld respond in an exciting way to the call of our partners in South East Asia for more regional interaction and cooperation. As a result of our deep engagement in the region and to further support multi-lateral collaboration between our partners, UnitingWorld has opened a small office in Indonesia.

In May this year our new South East Asia Regional Office opened in Denpasar, Bali with two local staff. Our partner in Bali, Gereja Kristen Protestan di Bali (GKPB), Maha Bhoga Marga Foundation (MBM)) kindly host this office on their premises.

These staff members and the new UnitingWorld office, will provide a greater level of support to our projects in South East Asia, and strive to bring our different partners in the region together.

The first ever South East Asian Regional Partner Conference was held at the office in May. All of our regional partners were invited to attend, and share with each other their missions, ministry and challenges, and to work with UnitingWorld in setting directions and priorities for the new office. To be a part of different areas of the worldwide church coming together to serve its people is a great gift.

AUSTRALIA • ENGAGING AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

Through growing engagement and support UnitingWorld is empowering Australian communities and people within the Uniting Church especially, to be engaged with our partners overseas through financial support, prayer, volunteering and advocacy. Through building relationships and facilitating opportunities for learning we hope to encourage people to think about how they can respond as people of faith to our partners overseas and the communities in which they work.

FIGURES FOR CHANGE

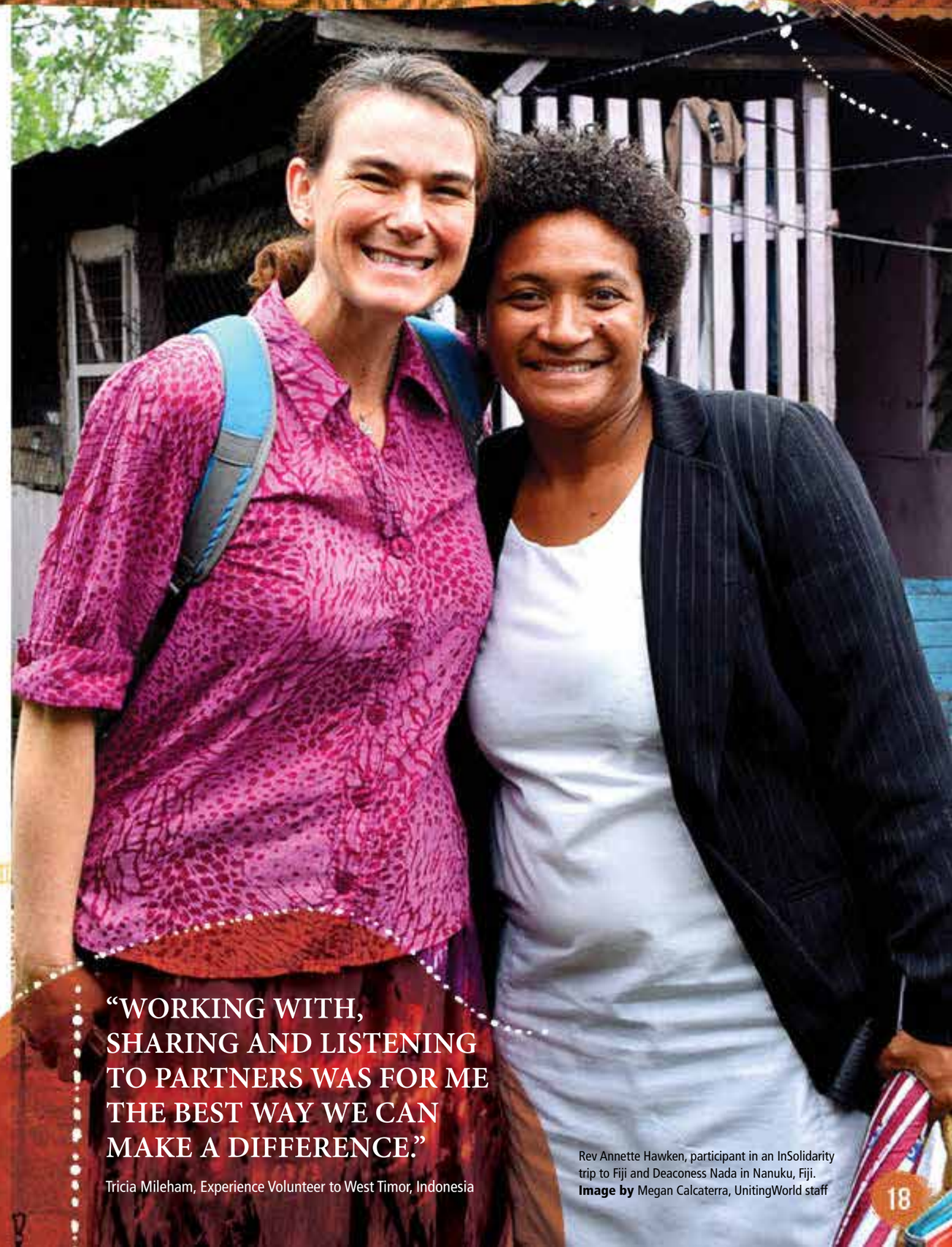
32 VOLUNTEERS have served across **16** PARTNER CHURCHES

9 EXPOSURE TRIPS took place with more than **80** PEOPLE taking part

7 PARTNER CHURCHES visited the Uniting Church here in Australia

IN AUSTRALIA

60 SPEAKING EVENTS were held involving UnitingWorld staff and partners



"WORKING WITH, SHARING AND LISTENING TO PARTNERS WAS FOR ME THE BEST WAY WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

Tricia Mileham, Experience Volunteer to West Timor, Indonesia

Rev Annette Hawken, participant in an InSolidarity trip to Fiji and Deaconess Nada in Nanuku, Fiji.
Image by Megan Calcaterra, UnitingWorld staff

PARTNERSHIP AT ASSEMBLY 2015

The Uniting Church in Australia's Triennial Assembly in July 2015 showed the breadth and depth of the relationships we have with our partner churches. In gathering our partners and nurturing conversations between each other and with the UCA, we heard two clear messages. Our partners truly value UnitingWorld's ability to connect them with each other, and they see enormous value in shared learning and collaboration with each other. And our partners are delighted to engage with the Uniting Church in Australia, working with us to grow in our own ministry, sharing their knowledge and wisdom with us.

At the Assembly, 17 of our overseas church partners signed a statement pledging to work in respectful, reciprocal relationship, together addressing the needs of their churches and communities.

By working together, both our partners and our own Uniting Church have the chance to create new networks, sharing our expertise and building up our Christian witness and mission. We are both better equipped to share the message of God's love for all people and address the crucial issues our world is facing. Our partnerships are our unique strength, defining our work and setting us apart.

During the Assembly time, our partners were warmly welcomed by Assembly members as well as local congregations. There were many opportunities for stories to be shared and support to be given. Panels were held with partner church representatives speaking on three topics:

- The Church in times of conflict
- The Church in times of change
- The Church in times of growth

As well as hosting partner churches, UnitingWorld brought two resolutions before the Assembly, in relation to foreign aid and collaboration with UnitingCare in our partnership with the China Christian Council. Both resolutions were unanimously approved. The highlight of the Assembly for UnitingWorld was certainly the opportunity to host 35 overseas visitors. Coming from Zimbabwe, India, Philippines, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Japan, PNG, Vanuatu, Fiji and Kiribati, they were a great physical representation of the partnerships the Uniting Church has and that UnitingWorld holds on the UCA's behalf.

Statement by Partner Churches
to the 14th Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need." Acts 4: 31-35 (Read at UCA 14th Assembly Opening Worship and Installation of President, 12th July, 2015)

We, representatives of sister churches from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, who are partners in mission with the Uniting Church of Australia; gathered here in this place and at this time, for worship, fellowship and partnership, during the 14th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia; following deep sharing with our mission partner, Uniting World and with each other on the common concerns and possibilities in the task of doing mission in the 21st century context:

- Acknowledge the first people and traditional owners of the land for their spirit of hospitality, and the whole Uniting Church in Australia for their loving kindness to us as sisters and brothers in Christ;
- Express our deep appreciation for the Uniting Church in Australia's support, through Uniting World, in addressing the needs of our Churches and our various communities through their work in human rights and justice, capacity building, gender issues and child protection, climate change, communication, reconciliation and social and economic empowerment;
- Acknowledge the changing dynamics of mission in the context of the 21st century, and the need for mission to balance the Great Commission to "go make disciples," with the Great Commandment, to "love your neighbour."

Through consensus we:

- Affirm that partnership in mission is a gift of God to willingly and passionately enter into a deep relationship of mutual sharing in fulfilment of the commandment of God to love one another as parts of the same body of Jesus Christ;
- Acknowledge that partnership obligations invite us to journey together in friendship, creating respectful and reciprocal relationships of trust and honest dialogue that hold us accountable to each other;
- Commit to strengthening our partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia through Uniting World as equals by offering our resources to enhance her mission in the world.

Inspired by the 14th Assembly, we discussed the need for us as partners with the Uniting Church to manifest the spirit of unity for which our host community of faith strives. With our "hearts on fire", we:

- Affirm that our partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia, challenges us to break through the boundaries of denomination, in order to partner as God's agents of transformation in this world;
- Commit to develop, nurture and strengthen multilateral mission relationships by making our God-given resources available to one another, sharing our needs, joys, sorrows, achievements and challenges with openness and joyfully participating in the life of our partners in a fruitful and effective manner.

To God be the glory now and forever.

Partner Churches

Church of North India
Evangelical Christian Church of Papua
Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa
Evangelical Christian Church in Timor
Protestant Church in Maluku
Protestant Church in Timor Leste
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Korean Christian Church in Japan
Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera
Indonesian Christian Church- Regional Synod West Java
Methodist Church in Fiji
United Church in Papua New Guinea
Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu
Kiribati Uniting Church
Methodist Church in Zimbabwe



PACIFIC

EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

1 Women in Ministry
2 Leadership in a Changing Climate
3 Fiji Communications
4 Kiribati, Tonga Lifeline Counsellor Training

MINISTRY IN THE MARGINS

5 Solomon Islands, Seghe Theological College staff development
6 Solomon Islands Nurse Training
7 Fiji Nanuku kids scholarships

ASIA

EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

8 China Theological Education
9 India Leadership Training
10 East Timor Leadership Training
11 West Papua Leadership Training
12 China Uniting Care Collaboration

MINISTRY IN THE MARGINS

13 North Korea Childcare Centre
14 East Timor Ekaristi School
15 India, Nimbong School
16 North India Kangra Girls Hostel

AFRICA

EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

17 Zimbabwe Youth Resilience Training
18 South Sudan Church Leadership

MULTI - REGION

GROWING GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

19 Experience Volunteer Placements
20 InSolidarity Exposure Visits

FULL LIST OF PARTNERS

These are all the partnerships that the UCA has entered into. All partner relationships are managed by the Church Connections team.

AFRICA

United Church of Zambia, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan

ASIA

Presbyterian Church of India, Church of North India, Church of South India (including Jaffna Diocese Sri Lanka), Methodist Church Sri Lanka, China Christian Council, Church of Christ in Thailand, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Indonesian Christian Church, Protestant Christian Church in Bali, Christian Church in Sumba, Evangelical Christian Church in Timor, Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa, Protestant Church in Maluku, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera, Evangelical Christian Church in Land of Papua, Protestant Church in Timor Lorosa'e, Korean Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, Byul Bit Foundation, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Korean Christian Church in Japan, United Church of Christ in Japan

PACIFIC

United Church in Papua New Guinea, United Church in the Solomon Islands, Nauru Congregational Church, Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu, Evangelical Church of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands, Methodist Church in Fiji, Tuvalu Christian Church, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Kiribati Uniting Church, Methodist Church of Samoa, Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Cook Islands Christian Church, Congregational Christian Church of Niue

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE



ANDREW GLENN Bsc (Hons) D Phil FAICD

Andrew has been involved in leadership in the councils of the Church since the time of Union, including as chairperson of the Presbytery of Tasmania. His professional background is in science and he has held a number of senior administrative roles in Universities, most recently before retirement as Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) and Vice President (Research) at Murdoch University and the University of Tasmania. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



RICHARD LA'BROOY

Richard works as an Associate Chaplain for the Uniting Church at Macquarie University where he is also studying a B Arts/B Education Degree majoring in Ancient History. He attends North Ryde Uniting Church in Sydney, where he is an Elder and involved in youth ministry. He is involved in various wider work of the Uniting Church including representing the Church on the World Methodist Council 2016-2021. He is a Second Lieutenant in the Australian Army Cadets working with the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit.



ELAINE LEDGERWOOD PhD, BTh(Hons.), BSc(OT)

Elaine spent a year as a volunteer in mission in India and presently chairs the international mission committee of the Synod of Western Australia. She is pastor to a small congregation. Elaine undertook theological studies at Murdoch University, completing a Ph.D. in 2011. Her thesis explored issues of suffering, hope and faith drawing on the reflections of Christians who had supported trauma survivors. She currently works in aged care chaplaincy.



TINA RENDELL-THORNTON BA, GradDip Ed, Assoc Dip Social Welfare, M Social Admin

Tina is well known in the Uniting Church for her ten years of service as Executive Director of the Board of Mission of the Synod of NSW and ACT. She has a background and qualifications in education, community development and social welfare and is currently Service Delivery Lead for Uniting NSW/ACT. Tina has 30 years' experience in cross-cultural relationships within and outside the Uniting Church. In her previous role she regularly interacted with UnitingWorld and undertook a review of social services in the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. Ms Rendell brings particular expertise in the area of cross-cultural relationships.



ROB FLOYD BSci (Hons.) DipEd, GradDipEd, GradDipIntlDev, GAICD

Rob has been National Director of UnitingWorld since May 2014. Previously he was the Associate Director Relief and Development, a role which saw his overseeing all of UnitingWorld's emergency relief and community development programs.



PAUL SWADLING

Former General Secretary of the NSW/ACT Synod and former Connexional Secretary of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Paul served as a Minister in rural, regional and inner suburban congregations, spent six years on the staff of the Australian Council of Churches and three years on the staff of the NSW/ACT Board of Mission. Paul also chaired the Synod Budget Committee and the Board of UnitingCare NSW/ACT.



COLLEEN GEYER BTh, GCELead, DipTeach, CertIV WTA

Colleen Geyer has worked for the Uniting Church and its agencies since 1995 holding positions at state and national level, including Director of Mission at UnitingCare Queensland, Associate Director at UnitingCare Australia, and National Consultant for the Assembly Gospel and Gender Unit. Since becoming Assembly General Secretary, Colleen has sought to improve national cooperation and resource-sharing across the Uniting Church.



ANDREW CORISH BA-LLB

Andrew is a lawyer of 33 years with specialist accreditation through the NSW Law Society in family law. He is the proprietor of Corish & Co Specialist Family Lawyers at North Sydney. He has been a member of the Uniting Church since 1977 at Pymble, Canberra City and at Lane Cove since 1999 where he is the chairman of the church council. Andrew's introduction to the Uniting Church was through Christian Work Camps and then International Christian Youth Exchange whilst he was at university, with an exchange year to Finland in 1979.



HUW LUSCOMBE BEd, MDiv

Huw currently works as the Youth Pastor at Turramurra Uniting Church. Previously he has been the co-ordinator of the Glebe Cafechurch. Huw has also worked as a teacher at Joeys, Knox, William Carey, and as a Chaplain at St Lukes, Dee Why and at Smithfield State High in Cairns. Huw has two Unicycles and a Bangladeshi Rickshaw in his garage and has visited projects in the Indian sub-continent on three occasions.



HANNAH JACKSON BA (Hons) (Political Science)

Hannah is a senior policy advisor with professional experience in governance, politics, strategy and risk management. Hannah is a Church Council Elder at Glebe Road Uniting Church in Ipswich, Queensland, and has been a part of that congregation for over fifteen years. Since 2011 she has been involved in the development of Glebe Road Uniting Church's partnership with a congregation in Dili, Timor Leste.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Financial Year ended June 2016 saw Church Connections raise $1.6M from our donors which comprised 71% of operating revenue for the year, up from 58% in the previous year. These funds included donations from Australian individuals, congregations and groups and also included funds from donors who left gifts in their wills totalling $1.04M. Investment income for the period was $0.37M, a decline from the previous year, largely due to falling interest rates and the weaker performance of the share market during the year.

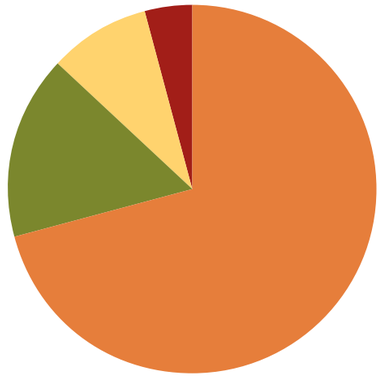
Program expenditure was $1.38M or 65% of total expenditure for 2016. This expenditure is made up of grants to overseas projects ($0.66M), partner relationships and support costs including our volunteer program ($0.59) million and community education in Australia ($0.13M).

Our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters for their continued support and generosity. We remain committed to our focus of building a strong, financially sustainable organisation with a view to sustainability and growth in the future. We will invest in fund raising activities in 2016/17 with the aim of growing our revenue and thereby the organisational capacity to better serve our partner churches and their communities with whom we work.

The condensed financial accounts that follow are not a direct extraction from the audited financial statements but reflect UnitingWorld Church Connection's core organisational functions. A full set of the Church Connections audited financial statements for the 12 months ended 30 June 2016 will be provided on request and is available on our website.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

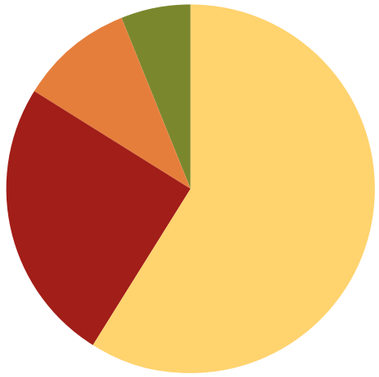
YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2016



- **71%** Donations
- **16%** Investment Income
- **9%** Synod Contributions
- **4%** Other

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2016



- **59%** International Programs
- **25%** Accountability & Administration
- **10%** Fundraising Costs
- **6%** Community Education

2015-2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2016

Revenue	30 JUNE 2016	30 JUNE 2015
Donations and gifts		
Monetary	1,636,973	1,004,212
Non Monetary	–	–
Investment Income	368,690	449,377
Synod Contributions	221,516	221,517
Other Income	85,789	52,628
Total Revenue	**2,312,968**	**1,727,734**

Expenditure	30 JUNE 2016	30 JUNE 2015
International Programs Expenditure		
International programs	1,257,109	1,014,391
Community education	126,271	–
Fundraising costs	219,533	260,193
Accountability & administration	541,412	449,807
Non-Monetary Expenditure	–	–
Total International Programs Expenditure	**2,144,325**	**1,724,391**
Domestic programs expenditure	–	–
Total Expenditure	**2,144,325**	**1,724,391**
Excess/(Shortfall) Of Revenue Over Expenditure	**168,643**	**3,343**

"EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."

2 Corinthians 9:7

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

Assets	30 JUNE 2016	30 JUNE 2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,251,510	4,991,398
Trade & other receivables	42,780	56,665
Other current assets	48,162	72,525
Total Current Assets	**5,342,452**	**5,120,588**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Financial Assets	2,208,584	2,287,739
Property, plant and equipment	2,160,078	2,164,823
Total Non-Current Assets	**4,368,662**	**4,452,562**
Total Assets	**9,711,114**	**9,573,150**
Liabilities		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & other payables	138,026	65,770
Provisions	62,708	41,554
Other current liabilities	5,656	10,720
Total Current Liabilities	**206,390**	**118,044**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	22,615	19732
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**30,005**	**24,864**
Total Liabilities	**229,005**	**137,776**
Net Assets	**9,482,109**	**9,435,374**
Equity		
General fund	886,687	951,105
Designated fund	385,373	622,402
Endowment fund [1]	1,314,146	105,123
Specific fund [2]	2,983,478	3,356,908
Capital Fund	1,957,575	1,957,575
Financial Asset Reserve	43,368	165,276
Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,911,482	1,911,482
Total Equity	**9,482,109**	**9,435,374**

1. Endowment funds are capital tied and only interest earned will be used on the programs.
2. The specific funds at the end of FY 2016 includes trust funds amounting to $1.67M where UnitingWorld acts as the Trustee.

The above financial accounts reflect UnitingWorld Church Connection's core organisational functions. This is not a direct extraction from the audited financial statements.

A full set of the Church Connections audited financial statements for the 12 months ended 30 June 2016 will be provided on request and available on our website.

WHAT A YEAR!

Thank you to all of our donors who have given so generously this year to UnitingWorld. Your support has helped our partner churches to continue their life changing work.

You have partnered with UnitingWorld in so many different ways through the past year, in one-off gifts, in bequests, in spreading the message in your local church, in volunteering with our partners overseas and praying for the work of our partners and the communities they serve. Thank you for playing your part!

Uniting World has a process for handling complaints. If you would like to read our complaints policy, lodge a complaint or give any other feedback, please email info@unitingworld.org.au or phone 02 8267 4267

Graphic Design: Wild Hive Studios

All photographs taken by UnitingWorld staff, volunteers and overseas partners in Africa, Asia and the Pacific unless otherwise specified. All photos are used with permission.

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UnitingWorld is an agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.