



ANNUAL REPORT

CHURCH CONNECTIONS

JAN 2013 - JUN 2014



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

WHO ARE WE?

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 grow life-changing relationships between the peoples of the Uniting Church and our partner churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. We foster relationships between people who transform their communities and themselves by partnering in God's mission together.

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A copy of the 2013/2014 UnitingWorld Church Connections Unit Annual Report can be downloaded from our website at www.unitingworld.org.au

WHAT DO WE VALUE?

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

PARTNERSHIP

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

FULLNESS OF LIFE

We believe the good news of Jesus means justice and hope for all, particularly for those who are oppressed or vulnerable.

MUTUAL RESPECT

We're sensitive to context, mindful of power imbalance; we recognise difference and celebrate diversity.

INCLUSION

We actively promote equity 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 seek to build resources for the future.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

UnitingWorld Church Connections National Committee Chair – ANDREW GLENN



At the heart of the Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld is a deep respect for the relationships that exist between the Uniting Church in Australia and our overseas church partners in the fellowship of Jesus the Christ. Our support for, and sharing in, projects results in life-changing ministries both in communities overseas and in Australia.

Over the 18 month period to June 30th 2014 we defined more clearly our key areas of work and strengthened our partnerships in the Pacific and Asia, including forging a new, extensive partnership with the China Christian Council (CCC). This partnership involves support for theological education and, working

closely with UnitingCare, the sharing of knowledge and experience in the provision of church-led community services. It was a privilege for me to share in worship and reflection with friends from China in the joint UCA-CCC conference “One Shepherd-One Flock” held at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary.

Whilst our partnerships are multi-faceted and long-term, they often involve practical support for the communities in which our partners serve. For example, over the period our Australian supporters have funded over 15 scholarships for women to attend theological colleges throughout the Pacific, raised over \$137,000 for the Church of North India to establish a new church school in the Himalayas as part of their anti-human trafficking initiatives, and supported the Methodist Church In Zimbabwe to build resilient youth ministries in remote and rural communities.

Through supporting our partners in their ministries with some of the most vulnerable in their communities, we have together supported volunteers to serve vulnerable children in North Korea and assisted the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga to provide counselling for deportees and safe houses and support for single mothers and their children.

THE UNIT ALSO SEEKS TO SUPPORT CROSS-CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA AND OUR PARTNER CHURCHES, OFTEN SUPPORTING CHURCH LEADERS DURING DIFFICULT, POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TIMES.

Likewise our Volunteer Experience Program continues to strengthen, with volunteers in 70 placements supported to visit church partners, often in response to partner initiated requests, sharing their skills and in return, invigorating the Uniting Church in Australia with understanding from our spiritually dynamic and growing partner churches.

I would like to thank our gifted and committed National Committee members both past and present, who have given their time and expertise to the continued good governance of the Unit.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Rev Dr Kerry Enright for his excellent work as National Director of UnitingWorld over the past eight years. Kerry returned to New Zealand in April 2014 to take up a congregational ministry. We welcome Rob Floyd as the new National Director, and rejoice that he's had an incredible first year putting his own wisdom and vision into the role. We are fortunate to have an excellent team of committed and energetic people working with Rob. For all the work of the staff we are very fortunate and thankful.

Finally, thanks to the National Assembly of the UCA and our incredible supporters – namely the people of the Uniting Church in Australia, for sharing in our vision for a transformed world.

Dr Andrew Glenn

**Chair, Church Connections
National Committee**

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

UnitingWorld National Director - ROB FLOYD



The Uniting Church in Australia is richly blessed by its partnership with 37 churches across the Pacific, Asia and Africa. From our denominational roots, the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, we have long-standing, truly reciprocal relationships with these partners, some reaching back over 150 years.

Over the 18 months to June 30th 2014 the Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld has worked hard to define its key areas of work and to refine its identity as a unit which strengthens and develops into practical expressions, the strong relationships between the Uniting Church in Australia and our overseas church partners.

The three key areas of our work: growing life-changing global relationships; equipping Christian Leadership; and supporting our partners as they minister to the most vulnerable in their communities underpins what it means to be a church in the 21st Century.

You can see from these areas that UnitingWorld Church Connections works to build up our partners, support them and encourage them in their work and provide key resources to assist them in their ministry. We, the Uniting Church are greatly blessed as we share with our partners in their ministry and learn from them as we journey together. In our experience, it is these gentle, supportive yet resilient bonds between followers of Jesus that are the strength of the global church today, the support, hope and strength we give to one another as we each serve faithfully in his name.

And without a doubt it's an exciting time to be a part of this vibrant, global church. Churches in Asia and parts of Africa and the Pacific are witnessing incredible growth, presenting new and exciting opportunities for us to work and grow with the global Church. As you'll read in this report, we are now working closely with the China Christian Council, supporting amongst other initiatives the theological training of new ministers to serve hundreds of thousands of new Christians every year. Likewise, our support for Pacific women to study in theological

colleges throughout the Pacific is quite literally changing lives, helping women to become established church leaders in their own communities, and enabling them in turn, to offer support to women and girls living in remote, often under resourced rural communities.

Our work is positioned to support our partners as they face unprecedented challenges including globalisation, climate change, living in multi-faith contexts and the changing roles of women and men in their communities. We have much to learn from our partners as well as things to share as we seek to learn together. As I stood amongst friends in the Methodist Church of Fiji last year, and celebrations were being streamed for the very first time to thousands of Fijians living in remote communities and much further abroad thanks to the Church's dedicated communications team, I was reminded by one church leader that this was 'our' celebration as much as theirs, because of our shared Methodist history.

AS WE FACE THIS NEW AND CHALLENGING WORLD, IT HEARTENS ME TO KNOW THAT WE DO STAND AMONGST FRIENDS.

And whether we are connected through our forefathers or newly linked as with the China Christian Council, we can provide immeasurable support and guidance to each other as we share together in God's transformative mission in the world.

As this Annual Report outlines, we have made great steps towards this shared Christian goal, and I thank you, our supporters and the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia for their support in making this happen. Thank you also to the Church Connections National Committee for their careful, diligent governance and to the staff of UnitingWorld for their continued enthusiasm and hard work. It is a great pleasure to lead this team.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rob Floyd'.

Rob Floyd

**UnitingWorld
National Director**

HOW WE WORK

The Church Connections Unit carries out the Uniting Church in Australia's commitment to growing global relationships.

While many of our partners in Asia, Africa and the Pacific live in spiritually vibrant communities, they often experience the daily reality of conflict and poverty.

As members of the Uniting Church in Australia, we may enjoy abundant resources but are challenged by declining membership and a sceptical society. As we develop global relationships - visiting, teaching, working together, sharing resources and stories of faith - we learn much about resilience and the work of God's spirit.

Alongside the relationships we build, we raise funds for life-changing ministries. We help our partners build capacity in project management, governance and theology. We connect regional partners working in similar ministries so they can share and learn from each other. These ministries have a significant impact within local communities and upon the global church.

All partners are blessed and renewed through these relationships. All partners grow in faith and discipleship. Lives and communities are transformed, the Kingdom is advanced and God is glorified.



KEY AREAS OF OUR WORK

1. GROWING LIFE-CHANGING GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

When we glimpse the world through the eyes of others, it changes how we see ourselves, our world and God. It changes how we live.

Working through these relationships we:

- **Place Australian volunteers** in overseas partner communities at our partners' request, sharing skills and experience such as teaching, nursing, IT, theological training, librarianship and so much more.
- **Facilitate InSolidarity Exposure Visits**, opportunities for small groups from across the Uniting Church in Australia to immerse themselves in the life, the work and the culture of our partners, forging life-long connections with our global church communities.
- **Mobilise the Australian community** to advocate on issues that impact our overseas partners.
- **Engage with diaspora communities within Australia** who have connections to partners overseas, and work with them to strengthen connections between the partner and the UCA, and promote UCA participation in relevant UnitingWorld programs.

2. EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

The global church is growing rapidly and is hungry for home-grown leaders and teachers.

We encourage members of the Uniting Church in Australia to offer financial support to help partners develop leadership and theology that is rooted in, and relevant to, their own context. We connect UCA leaders and teachers to our partners so that our leadership can be renewed and refreshed.

- **Facilitate UCA Ministers and lecturers to serve with overseas church partners**
- **Support Pacific partner churches to train women in theology**
- **Support the church in Zimbabwe to train youth leaders**
- **Support the training of ministers throughout China and West Timor.**

3. SUPPORTING OUR OVERSEAS CHURCH PARTNERS TO MINISTER TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Poverty, conflict and injustice are realities for many of our partners.

We support our partners to bring 'good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom to the oppressed and release to the captive'. We raise funds in Australia, and assist in the building of partner capacity in planning, management and governance.

- **Turramurra Uniting Church has raised over \$34,400** to support the Church of North India, Diocese of Eastern Himalayas to establish a local church school for children vulnerable to trafficking when walking long, remote trails to primary school.
- **Proserpine Uniting Church have devised a number of creative strategies for supporting the Methodist Church in Fiji**, including making lip balm and candles to raise funds for educational materials for children living in a squatter settlement.
- **UnitingCare Health Hospitals have contributed more than \$70,000** over three years through workplace giving to support nurse training at Helena Goldie Hospital in the Solomon Islands.

"WE'RE YOUR TYPICAL SMALL UNITING CHURCH CONGREGATION IN A COUNTRY TOWN, YET MAKING THE CANDLES AND LIP BALMS MEANS LAST YEAR ALONE WE WERE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE OVER \$5,000 TO THE CHILDREN IN FIJI. AS A RESULT WE FEEL A REALLY STRONG PERSONAL ATTACHMENT TO THE PROJECT".

- REV WAYNE MCHUGH, MINISTER, PROSERPINE UNITING CHURCH



WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED TOGETHER?

GROWING GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS IN 2013-14

- We placed **volunteers** into **70 placements** in 15 countries.
- We arranged **dozens of visits from overseas partner churches** to Australian congregations and other events.
- We facilitated **InSolidarity Exposure visits for 95 participants**, visiting eight overseas partner churches.
- The Church Connections team **visited 13 countries through 30 trips** to support, advocate and work alongside our church partners in their ministries.
- We **nurtured relationships between our overseas church partners** and over 7,000 active financial supporters, 13 Uniting Church schools in Australia and 4,200 email newsletter subscribers.

"I was enriched by this experience in so many ways: faith, friendships, understanding of community.... Working with, sharing and listening to partners was for me the best way we can make a difference. This is a model of mission that can work for lasting change."

TRICIA MILEHAM, EXPERIENCE VOLUNTEER, WEST TIMOR.

"We're determined that this not be simply an exercise in charity - we want it to be a two-way street. We have so much to learn from a people for whom faith is absolutely fundamental to identity, those who have travelled to see the projects and be part of the life of the church in East Timor have been quite profoundly impacted by the experience."

REV STAN CLARKE, RINGWOOD UNITING CHURCH PARTNERSHIP WITH HOSANNA CHURCH, EAST TIMOR



EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



- We **finalised an historic partnership** with the China Christian Council to exchange teachers between theological colleges, provide training resources for new ministers, and share expertise in community and social services.
- We **provided cross-cultural training** for more than 100 members of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- We **enabled 15 emerging women leaders from five countries** in the Pacific to study theology with scholarships sponsored by UCA congregations across Queensland and New South Wales.
- We **supported 90 youth leaders to complete training** with the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe to share faith and practical skills with youth ministries across rural Zimbabwe.

"We are blessed to bless others. Not only in Australia, not only in Zimbabwe: I say to you, find your place in the world and do something to make a change. There's a deep satisfaction from making a difference in someone else's life. Don't tire from that, regardless of the challenges. Thank you for the chance to make a difference in other people's lives."

TAPIWA, YOUNG AFRICAN LEADER, METHODIST CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE

SUPPORTING PARTNERS TO WORK WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE



- In India **we're supporting the Diocese of Eastern Himalayas**, North India in a remote community as they build a school to allow 60 students to study locally, protecting against the dangers of human trafficking.
- In Tonga, **Lifeline provides accommodation, counselling and other services** for single mothers and deportees.
- In Fiji the **local church supported 97 students in a squatter settlement** by providing school resources and access to education.

"We are extremely grateful to the Turramurra Church in Sydney and the Uniting Church in Australia through UnitingWorld for your support. We know you understand the predicament our children face and the very great difference this school will make to their future."

MR NS PRADHAN, PRINCIPAL, SUMI SCHOOL,
KALIMPONG, NTH INDIA.



OUR CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS AT A GLANCE





A SNAPSHOT OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS AROUND THE GLOBE

AFRICA

1. United Church of Zambia
2. Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
3. Presbyterian Church of South Sudan

ASIA

4. Presbyterian Church of India
5. Church of North India
6. Church of South India (including Jaffna Diocese Sri Lanka)
7. Methodist Church Sri Lanka
8. China Christian Council
9. Church of Christ in Thailand
10. United Church of Christ in the Philippines
11. Indonesian Christian Church
12. Protestant Christian Church in Bali
13. Christian Church in Sumba
14. Evangelical Christian Church in Timor
15. Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa
16. Protestant Church in Maluku
17. Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera
18. Evangelical Christian Church in Land of Papua

19. Protestant Church in Timor Lorosa'e
20. Korean Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church of Korea
Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
21. Byul Bit Foundation, North Korea
22. Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
23. Korean Christian Church in Japan
United Church of Christ in Japan

PACIFIC

24. United Church in Papua New Guinea
25. United Church in the Solomon Islands
26. Nauru Congregational Church
27. Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu
28. Evangelical Church of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands
29. Methodist Church in Fiji
30. Tuvalu Christian Church
31. Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
32. Kiribati Uniting Church
33. Methodist Church of Samoa
Congregational Christian Church of Samoa
34. Cook Islands Christian Church
35. Congregational Christian Church of Niue

Over the period the UCA community supported Church Connections programs with the following overseas churches:

ASIA - Church of North India, China Christian Council, Protestant Christian Church in Bali, Protestant Church in Timor, Protestant Church in East Timor, United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

AFRICA - The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

THE PACIFIC - Methodist Church of Samoa, Methodist Church in Fiji, Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue, Cook Islands Christian Church, Nauru Congregational Church Eglise Evangelique en Nouvelle Caledonie (Evangelical Church of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands), Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Congregational Church in Samoa, Tuvalu Christian Church, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, United Church in PNG, United Church in Solomon Islands.



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

TRUE PARTNERSHIP CHANGES US ALL

Connecting with our partners overseas is life-giving for everyone involved. Our returned volunteers and InSolidarity participants are experiencing how important it is to live out values of partnership where we each learn, grow and give. Connecting globally requires us to listen, be humble and open as well as generous.

"We had this idea that we wanted to go and change the world but we ended up receiving as much as we gave. The trip was about establishing friendships and learning from each other as much as it was about 'doing things for people overseas.'"

16 YEAR OLD INSOLIDARITY VISITOR TO TONGA,
WAGGA WAGGA UCA.

OUR FRIENDS AT EKARISTI CHURCH EAST TIMOR
REMINDE US:

"The meaning of partnership goes beyond only material and financial assistance. Showing care in solidarity, love, action and praying for each other in ministry are a real testimony of God's love and Christian life style."

THE UNITING CHURCH IS INVIGORATED BY THE GOOD NEWS OF GLOBAL CHURCH GROWTH

Within the Uniting Church in Australia there's a genuine enthusiasm for projects that help train Christian leaders for the rapidly growing global Church. This leadership is home grown and grassroots, born of local places and people. In China, 400,000 new believers are being baptised every year. In the Pacific, the Uniting Church is helping equip women to take their place as leaders of the church in a society where women are often excluded from leadership and decision making.

This form of mission enlivens the Uniting Church in Australia and will continue to shape the direction of Church Connections projects and ministries.

"Thank you for telling us about the growth of the church in China. It's extremely exciting! We had no idea this was happening or of the role the Uniting Church can play in encouraging leadership."

CONVERSATIONS WITH CONGREGATION MEMBER
AND UNITINGWORLD STAFF, 2014.

"Right now in the United Church in the Solomon Islands, female ministers are being trained and ordained...we are being recognised because God created us all equal. This change means so much to us."

LIMA TURA, PACIFIC WOMEN'S THEOLOGICAL
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT.

"It's daunting to go back to our communities with the training we have received. But we have been taught: instead of cursing the darkness, why not light a candle? As leaders, we will go back and light as many candles as we possibly can."

24 YEAR OLD GILBERT, YOUNG AFRICAN LEADER,
PARTICIPANT IN METHODIST CHURCH IN
ZIMBABWE'S YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING.



MEET OUR PEOPLE

CHURCH CONNECTIONS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Past: **Kathy Pereira**
2007 to 2014

As Associate Director for Church Connections between 2007 and January 2014, Kathy developed strong links with our overseas church partners, establishing a number of key projects and facilitating volunteer placements that responded directly to the expressed needs of our partner churches. Kathy helped launch our Experience program, which provided a tangible means for people within the UCA and our church partners to forge meaningful relationships, strengthening the life and witness of our global church community.

Interim Associate Director Feb 2014 to December 2014: Janet Scott.

Dr Sureka Goringe joined the unit as Associate Director in November 2014. Sureka has significant experience in both the business and charitable sectors and within the Uniting Church in Australia. She served on the National Committee of the Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld for five years, the last two years as Chairperson. Sureka was also the Executive Director of the successful UnitingWomen conference in September, a conference under the auspices of the Uniting Church that brought together more than 500 women from across Australia.

COORDINATOR, UNITINGWORLD EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Laura McGilvray

Laura brings to this role her own experiences in international volunteering where she served with our partner in Bali for 12 months, a Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies

and a passion for connecting people across the world to strengthen meaningful and long-lasting partnerships.

Her role supports volunteers throughout the placement process, to in-situ pastoral support and post-placement debriefing and evaluation. She also communicates regularly with overseas partners about opportunities for volunteer placements and Australian church communities to promote the Experience Program.

MANAGER, CHURCH CONNECTIONS ASIA

Rev Dr Ji Zhang

Rev Dr Ji Zhang, who grew up in Shanghai and studied theology in Melbourne and Boston, joined UnitingWorld early in 2013 after congregational and academic placements in Victoria. He completed his doctoral degree in comparative studies between East and West traditions on the topic of "Unity and Diversity" and brings a unique mix of ministry experience and theological discipline to the role, positioning the Uniting Church's international engagement into the diverse and vibrant Asia context.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CHURCH CONNECTIONS PACIFIC

Past: **Bruce Mullan 2009 to 2014**

Bruce served the Church Connections Unit for over 5 years, bringing to the role over 30 years of experience in education, mission and youth ministry and an enduring passion for the peoples and cultures of the Pacific.

Rev Sef Carroll joined the unit as Manager, Church Connections Pacific in July 2014. Sef is a Fiji born Rotuman who spent her formative years growing up in Lautoka, Fiji before arriving in Australia in 1987.

Her experience includes working with the Pacific Island Women's Advocacy Services, South Pacific Association of Theological Schools, Pacific Theologies Conference, Association of Oceania Women Theologians and Alan Walker College of Evangelism. Her ministry has included work with congregations of Five Dock/Drummoyne, Caves Beach, St Clair and Methodist Ladies College.

PROJECT AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Megan Calcaterra

Megan joined UnitingWorld in 2014 and has a Masters in International Law and International Relations. She provides support for the Experience program and co-ordinates all InSolidarity Exposure Visits.



Kathy Pereira and Laura McGilvray

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

The Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld is governed by a National Committee appointed by and accountable to the Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church. Its Chair, Dr Andrew Glenn, is appointed by the Assembly of the church.

National Committee members are selected because of their governance skills in relation to the Unit's areas of operation. The National Committee sets strategic direction, governance policies including philosophy of international partnerships and regional priorities.

It monitors the achievement of plans and oversees the work of the National Director.

The National Committee has two sub-committees. The Governance and Compliance Committee attends to financial, audit and risk matters and the International Program Committee attends to regional and country strategies and issues.

The Unit is committed to ethical practice, transparency, sustainability and accountability.

PAST NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Rev'd Dr Kerry Enright**
March 2012 to April 2014
- **Rev'd Stu Cameron**
March 2012 to July 2013
- **Rev'd Apelu Tielu**
March 2012 to November 2013
- **Rev'd Dr Ji Zhang**
March 2012 to March 2013
- **Professor Joan Beaumont**
March 2012 to September 2013
- **Dr Rosemary Dewerse**
July 2013 to November 2014

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS



DR ANDREW GLENN
NATIONAL COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON

Andrew was a member of the last Assembly Standing Committee. He 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.



MR COLIN MILNER
CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Colin worked as a public servant until April 2014, with diplomatic postings in Pretoria, Brussels and as Special Representative to Nauru. His areas of policy interest and experience include human rights, indigenous peoples, transnational crime, international law, immigration and refugees, and also multilateral and Pacific Island affairs in general. Admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of NSW, Colin is now working at ANU. He is a member at Wesley Uniting Church in Canberra.



MR JOHN MANNING
TREASURER AND CHAIR
OF THE GOVERNANCE AND
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

John is Managing Director and Equity Partner of Dewings Pty. Ltd, Adelaide, a firm of Chartered Accountants. He has been employed by that

organisation for a number of years including as HR Manager and Practice Manager.

From 2000 to 2002 he undertook theological study at Morling College in Sydney, graduating with a Bachelor of Ministries and has subsequently completed a Master of Divinity through the Australian College of Theology. John is Chair of the Church Council of City Soul, a church plant in inner city Adelaide.



MR RICHARD LA'BROOY

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Richard works as an Associate Uniting Church Chaplain at Macquarie University where he is also studying a B Arts/B Education Degree majoring in Ancient History.

He is a Second Lieutenant in the Australian Army Cadets and works as the Administration Officer for the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit, the largest cadet unit in Australia. He attended Knox Grammar as a student where he participated in their UnitingWorld partnership and saw firsthand UnitingWorld projects in PNG. He attends North Ryde Uniting Church, in Sydney, where he is involved in youth ministry leadership.



DR ELAINE LEDGERWOOD

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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 also practices as an Occupational Therapist.



MS TINA RENDELL-THORNTON

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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 Operations Manager for UnitingCare Burnside in South West Sydney.

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.



MS SHERINA SWAN

EXTERNAL RELATIONS ADVISORY GROUP

Sherina's expertise is particularly in fundraising and marketing. Until recently she was Director of Account Services at Dunham + Company, an organisation with which UnitingWorld has worked

for its direct marketing. Her previous work experience is with commercial organisations like Oracle and IBM. Sherina grew up in Sri Lanka and has lived in Zambia and Botswana. Sherina is an active Christian and has led youth and children's work in her church and participated in trips to India and Sri Lanka.



THE REV'D TERENCE CORKIN

MINISTER OF THE WORD AND CURRENT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UCA

After ordination Terence served as a Minister in rural NSW for 20 years – twice in congregational ministry and finally as a Presbytery Minister.

Exercising ministry as Assembly General Secretary allows Terence to be involved in supporting the church in a very broad way. Terence has had wide exposure to Uniting Church overseas partner churches and the challenges they face.



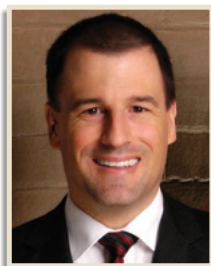
MR ROB FLOYD

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE/INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Rob has been National Director of UnitingWorld and Director of Church Connections Unit since May 2014.

Previously he was the Associate Director Relief and Development, a role in which he oversaw all of UnitingWorld's emergency relief and community development programs.

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT



We are pleased to be able to present the first annual report of the UnitingWorld Church Connections Unit, as part of our ongoing commitment to improve transparency and accountability to our stakeholders.

This eighteen month period completes the UnitingWorld Church Connections Unit's transition to a new financial year which will now end on June 30th.

We are proud of our financial performance over the last eighteen months and would like to point out strong community support through donations for the Kangra Girls Hostel, and self-supported Volunteer placements with partner churches overseas for an increase in donations year on year.

Additionally, overseas grants increased year on year due to new projects supporting Women's Ministry in the Pacific, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Solomon Islands Nurse Training Bursaries and supporting Experience and volunteer placements with partner churches.

We would like to thank each of our generous donors, volunteers and staff for their ongoing commitment.

UnitingWorld Church Connections is the proud custodian of reserves and historical assets held by the predecessor churches for overseas mission before Union in 1977. We take seriously the governance and stewardship of historical bequests and donations, including those given for specific projects. We hold reserves and funds in order to meet our current and future commitments to these projects, along with other UnitingWorld Church Connections activities.

The financial information that follows has been extracted from statutory financial statements, which have been audited and are available on request.

John Manning

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Deloitte.

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Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements to the Members of UnitingWorld Church Connections

The accompanying Summary Financial Statements prepared by UnitingWorld Church Connections, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014 and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the 18 month period then ended, are derived from the audited general purpose financial report of UnitingWorld Church Connections for the 18 month period ended 30 June 2014. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 28 October 2014. The financial report and the Summary Financial Statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on that financial report.

The Summary Financial Statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the Summary Financial Statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of UnitingWorld Church Connections.

The Responsibility of the UnitingWorld Church Connections National Committee for the Summary Financial Statements

The UnitingWorld Church Connections National Committee is responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Statements in accordance with the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Summary Financial Statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Summary Financial Statements derived from the audited financial report of UnitingWorld Church Connections for the 18 month period ended 30 June 2014 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report, in accordance with the basis described in Note 1.

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

David Black
Partner
Chartered Accountants
Sydney, 17 March 2015

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.
Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

UNITINGWORLD CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the eighteen month period ended 30 June 2014

	18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2014 \$	12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2012 \$
Revenue		
Donations	1,366,807	792,994
Synod contributions	736,742	575,444
Investment income	744,982	612,198
Management income	222,891	80,000
Other	49,774	34,446
Total Revenue	3,121,196	2,095,082
Expenses		
Salary & related costs	1,187,495	779,805
Travel	550,347	371,058
Funding grants	507,460	109,337
Promotional material	107,693	97,144
Other	739,870	356,900
Total Expenses	3,092,865	1,714,244
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the period	28,331	380,838
Other Comprehensive Income for the period:		
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of financial assets	190,152	28,966
Amounts recycled to profit and loss on disposal of available-for-sale financial assets	(121,561)	(133,020)
Reclassification to profit and loss of impairment on available-for-sale financial assets	-	3,250
Total other comprehensive income/(deficit) for the period	68,591	(100,804)
Total comprehensive income/(deficit) for the period	96,922	280,034

NOTE 1:

The summary financial statements are an extract from the full financial statements and have been derived from the full financial statements of UnitingWorld Church Connections for the 18 month period ended 30 June 2014.

The prior year comparatives cover the year ended 31 December 2012.

The full financial statements were prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the constitution and regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and were prepared on the basis of historical costs except for available-for-sale financial assets which were measured at fair value at the end of each reporting period. Further information regarding accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the full financial statements can be found in note 1 to the full financial statements.

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

UNITINGWORLD CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014

	30 JUNE 2014 \$	31 DECEMBER 2012 \$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,313,938	4,557,663
Trade and other receivables	58,986	122,801
Other current assets	64,924	113,615
Total current assets	4,437,848	4,794,079
Non-current assets		
Financial assets	2,948,594	2,245,718
Property, plant and equipment	2,215,019	2,511,068
Total non-current assets	5,163,613	4,756,786
Total assets	9,601,461	9,550,865
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	52,542	52,251
Provisions	53,123	62,117
Other current liabilities	10,687	45,764
Total current liabilities	116,352	160,132
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	28,202	30,748
Total non-current liabilities	28,202	30,748
Total liabilities	144,554	190,880
Net assets	9,456,907	9,359,985
Equity		
General Fund	1,323,371	1,444,436
Designated Fund	801,272	803,264
Endowment Fund	278,600	276,600
Specific Fund	3,023,195	2,890,756
Capital Fund	1,928,835	1,911,886
Financial Asset Reserve	190,152	121,561
Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,911,482	1,911,482
Total equity	9,456,907	9,359,985

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to our financial donors for their generous support and to all who volunteer and pray for UnitingWorld, our partners and their important programs.

You are incredibly important partners in all we do.

**To find out more about the UnitingWorld Church Connections Unit
see www.unitingworld.org.au**

**UnitingWorld 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.**

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UnitingWorld is an agency of the National
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