
December 2004
Issue 9

The Next Step

REFORMING
ALLIANCE

Within the Uniting Church in Australia



Canberra Christian Fellowship in the Methodist Tradition

Our Fellowship and The Reforming Alliance

Some confusion has become apparent concerning our Fellowship, The Reforming Alliance and The Uniting Church.

Our **Canberra Christian Fellowship in the Methodist Tradition** was initially formed to provide support for people who had recently left The Uniting Church, who were disaffected by it or felt it was not meeting their needs. Our Fellowship is NOT a part of the Uniting Church although many people who are part of our Fellowship still attend the Uniting Church and / or continue as members.

The **Reforming Alliance within The Uniting Church in Australia** was formed by Uniting Church members, who disagreed with Assembly resolution 84, in response to the passing of that resolution. Its concerns however are not limited to just resolution 84. RA identified three strands which broadly encompassed its supporters. Strand 1 was those people who felt they could work for Uniting Church reform within the current organisational structures. Strand 2 was those who wanted reform but could not work within the existing structures. Strand 3 was for those who were close to leaving or felt unable to remain within the Uniting Church. We, as a Fellowship, fall into Strand 3 although individually we may represent different Strands. The full RA name suggests that RA members (individuals and organisations) are part of the Uniting Church even though strand 3 people or congregations may not be. Our Fellowship has been accepted as a member even though we are NOT within the Uniting Church.

RA is examining options to lessen such confusion.

Our Fellowship **IS** a member of The Reforming Alliance.

Our Fellowship **IS NOT** a part of The Uniting Church.

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Coming Up

There are a few corrections and changes to the details printed in the last "Next Step".

Bible Study every Tuesday at 10 am at the Campbell Gospel Chapel, Chauvel Street. (For further details, contact Joyce Hall – 6241 2085). **In recess for Christmas / New year until the 1st Tuesday in February.**

Sunday 19 December at 6 pm.

MULTICULTURAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE followed by supper.

We will be joined by members of various Canberra Christian Churches including the Korean Church Choir, the Fijian Methodists, the Fijian AOGs, Chinese Methodists and the Vietnamese Christian and Missionary Alliance.

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME FOR THIS SERVICE IS 6 PM.

Christmas Day – no service of our own

Sunday 26 December 2004 at 5 pm – Rev. Don Purdey

Sunday 23 January 2005 at 5 pm – Dr. E. Dennis

Tuesday Bible Study



Pictured after Bible Study recently are
L to R: Ruth, Joyce, Marenas, Wendy, Wilma, Isobel, Dinah, Margaret and Marie.

An Evening Together

Despite rain that seemed to say 'stay home out of the weather', a considerable crowd (30 ish) gathered at Bradbury's on Wednesday 8-12-2004 for 'desserts'.

Once everyone had negotiated their way through the unavoidable puddles, shaken out their umbrellas and joined the refugees from the dampness inside, it was time to tackle the main agenda item – desserts.

In actual fact the definition of desserts was particularly loose. The first wave of desserts included delicacies such as sandwiches, party pies, pizza and dip. Those with a liking for preciseness in language may have felt something was wrong but I detected no dissatisfaction as people made return visits to the table to refill their plates. Wave 2 came closer to what most people recognise as desserts. There were cakes, slices, tarts and a bowl of very popular fruit salad. There was no need for a Desserts Wave 3.

We took the opportunity the evening offered to thank Abraham Tang for the support he has given our fellowship by preaching and providing some pastoral care.

With Christmas approaching rapidly we decided to close the evening with a few carols. It was a time of great enjoyment as we sang and remembered the events of around 2000 years ago.

Thankyou to the Bradburys for opening their home and organising the evening and to the many who helped by providing such a wonderful spread.

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*Canberra Christian Fellowship
in the Methodist Tradition*

invites you to join with us for a

*Multicultural Christmas Carol
Service*

*Sunday 19th December 2004 at 6 pm
at the Campbell Gospel Chapel
Chauvel Street, Campbell*

*Singing by the members of the Canberra Korean Church
Choir, Fijian Methodists, Fijian AOGs and Vietnamese
Christian Missionary Alliance*

*After the service everyone is invited to join with us for
supper*

Stop Press: The Chinese Methodists will also sing !

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