



Uniting Church **LGBTIQ** Network

welcoming and celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people, couples and families
in the life of the Uniting Church in Australia

DARING for full equality

national conference: 8-10 June 2018

All are welcome to join members and friends of the *Uniting Church LGBTIQ Network* (Uniting Network) for our fifteenth biennial national conference.
For the first time, we are gathering in Queensland.

“Daring for full equality” reflects the significant progress in church and community acceptance of LGBTIQ during the past 40 years - but also the fact that we have not yet achieved full equality.

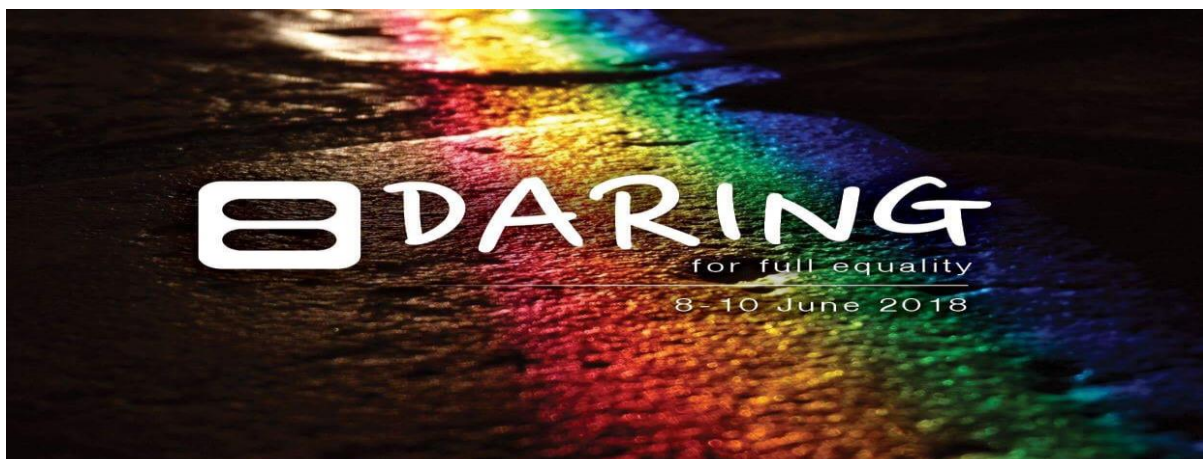
The program will include, but not be limited to:

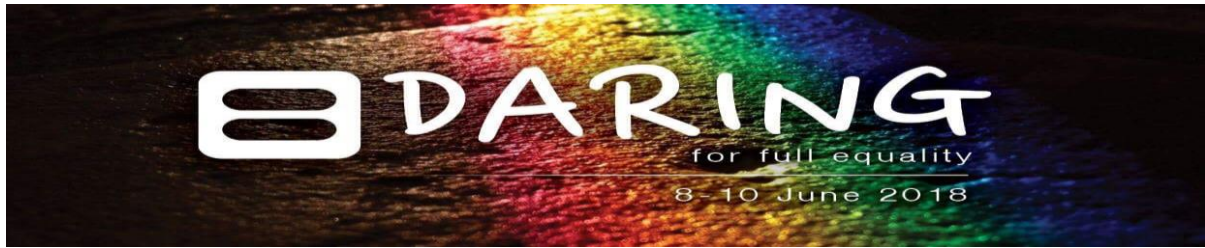
- * concerns of transgender, intersex and other gender and sex diverse people, and*
- * efforts to achieve religious marriage equality in the Uniting Church*

The program includes two guest speakers, small group workshops, worship, and Scriptural reflections/Bible study.

*The conference is not restricted to LGBTIQ people or to Uniting Church members.
The conference will be a safe place for all - where diversity is honoured and celebrated, not only tolerated; and where all are able to share in respectful conversations.*

Merthyr Road Uniting Church, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm QLD
Details: www.unitingnetworkaustralia.org.au





Conference Program

(As at 4 June. May be subject to minor revision.)

Friday 8 June

- 7.00 pm Registration, meet-and-greet, tea/coffee available
- 8.00 pm **Evening gathering and introduction:**
Acknowledgement of country
Welcome from Uniting Network team - Keith Gerrard
- introduction by the Revd Dr Jo Inkpin on the themes of her presentations
- 8.45 pm Closing worship: Revd Dr Margaret Mayman
- 9.00 pm Close

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Saturday 9 June

- 8.00 am Registrations open. Tea/coffee available.
- 9.00 am **Opening, Welcome and Greetings** - Warren Talbot
- Worship: Revd Murray Fysh
 - Program review
 - Daring Statement: Equality in the eyes of God
- 9.30 am **Shared Session One**
- “Changing the Game: Lazarus Learning, Transforming the Body of Christ”**
- Guest speaker: Revd Dr Jo Inkpin
- Facilitated by the Revd Ben Gilmour
 - Opportunity for questions and comments
- 10.30 am Morning Tea

- 11.00 am **Shared Session Two**
- “Equality goes global: the Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations and Gender Expressions”**
- Guest speaker: Tuisina Ymania Brown
- Facilitated by Melissa Krollig
 - Opportunity for questions and comments
- 12.00 pm Workshops One
- (1) “Daring for full equality” and the Uniting Church**
- A Panel will discuss proposals at the forthcoming Uniting Church National Assembly including:
- (i) a Proposal for marriage equality in the Uniting Church; and
 - (ii) a Proposal for the Uniting Church to develop a national apology to LGBTIQ people.
- Panel includes Ben Gilmour, Hannah Reeve, and Peter Weeks.
Facilitator: Warren Talbot.
- (2) “Fearfully and wonderfully made - affirming the theological gifts of gender and sexually diverse people”**
- Speaker: Revd Dr Jo Inkpin
- Facilitator: Revd Dr Robert Stringer
- 1.0 pm Lunch (provided at Merthyr Rd)
- 2.00 pm **Shared Session Three**
- Diversity, inclusion and welcome in the Uniting Church in Australia**
- A conversation with the Revd Lindsay Cullen, and the Revd David Parker, facilitated by the Revd Dr Margaret Mayman
- 3.00 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3.30 pm Workshops Two
- (1) Global Interfaith Network:**
- Speaker: Ymania Brown*
Facilitator: Hannah Reeve
- (2) ‘Defence Against the Dark Arts: exploring spiritual resources for the struggle and flourishing’**
- Speaker: Jo Inkpin.
Facilitator: Ken Moala

4.30 pm Workshops Three

(1) Open and Affirming Congregations in the Uniting Church

- Progress report on a shared venture between Uniting Network and Uniting NSW/ACT
- Facilitators: Keith Gerrard, Tash Holmes and Carolyn More

(2) LGBTIQ Christians working together in QLD

A Panel discussion including:

Revd Dr Jo Inkpin, Co-Convenor, Equal Voices, QLD
Roger Sawkins, Religious society of Friends (Quakers)
Revd Chris Holden, Minister, West End Uniting Church

5: 30 pm **Summary of the day: Are we moving towards full equality?**

- Closing worship

6. 00 pm Close of formal program for the day

6. 45 pm Restaurant dinner: Participants are invited to have dinner at a local restaurant or restaurants. (The dinner is not included in the Registration Fee.) Sign-up for restaurants at registration on Friday evening. Or make your own decision.

8: 00 pm Merthyr Road Uniting Church courtyard open for conversations, coffee and tea. Participants are welcome to bring beverages (alcohol permitted) and snacks.

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*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3²⁸)*

“...the letter to the Galatians is a powerful paean to the freedom and joy of Christ which all can enter, irrespective of whether we are Jew or gentile, male or female, or any other human marker. Let us therefore rejoice in our human diversity, for in it we enter more deeply into the mystery of God.” - (The Revd Dr) Jo Inkpin, www.transspirit.org

Sunday 10 June

9.30 am **Morning Worship at Merthyr Rd Uniting Church**

- including the Brisbane Pride Choir

11.00 am Free time

- (A small group will be working on the Daring Statement to be presented after lunch. Volunteers will be sought on Friday night.)

12.00 pm Lunch: provided at Merthyr Rd

1.00 pm **Uniting Network: Our dreams and visions**

“Where have we been...? And where we are going...?”

- Small group discussions.
- Biennial General Meeting - facilitated by Keith Gerrard and Uniting Network Executive members.

3.00 pm Afternoon Tea

3.00 pm **Australian Christians working together for full equality**

- Panel discussion, facilitated by Robert Stringer
 - Lessons from Australian Christians for Marriage Equality, (including religious freedom): Margaret Mayman
 - The contribution of Metropolitan Community Churches: Greg Smith
 - Christians learning to say ‘sorry’ with “Equal Voices”: Natalie Cooper
 - Progressive Christian Voices QLD. (TBA.)

4.30 pm **Closing Session**

- Conference themes. Thanks.
- Closing worship and Sending Out : Revd Clare Brockett

5.00 pm Dinner: own arrangements

7.00 pm **Evening Service of Worship**

Metropolitan Community Church Brisbane: held at Merthyr Rd Uniting Church

- all Conference participants are warmly invited to join MCC Brisbane, and help strengthen networks of LGBTIQ Christians in QLD.
- MCC has invited Rev Dr Margaret Mayman to preach at the service.

Monday 11 June

The Conference finishes on the Sunday, but people staying over might like to consider options such as Brisbane River Cruise, South Bank, GOMA, City Botanic Gardens, New Farm parks and Brisbane Powerhouse, Newstead House (1846 Georgian cottage, museum and venue).

Guest speaker: Tuisina Ymania Brown



Ymania Brown grew up in Samoa where she has pioneered work for Fa'afafine people in Samoa and internationally. Born male some Fa'afafine identify as gay males, while some identify as transgender women. Ymania is the Co-Chair of the Board of the Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions (GIN-SSOGIE). Ymania is also a representative from the Oceania region on ILGA - the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association.

Guest speaker: Jo Inkpin



(The Revd Dr) Jo Inkpin has been an Anglican priest for over 30 years, and worked in several different capacities (including theological education, community development, peace and reconciliation, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue and environmental mission), at local, regional and national levels, in both her native England and (since 2001) Australia. An historian, theologian, social ethicist, and border crossing activist, she now works as Lecturer in Theology and Senior Tutor at St Francis (Anglican theological) College Brisbane. She is currently co-chair of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland's Reconciliation Action Plan and co-chair of Equal Voices Queensland. Jo is also a transgender woman and author of *Trans Spirit Flourishing* - a trans Christian website of resources (www.transspirit.org). She is married to the Revd Penny Jones, with whom she shares two daughters, a grandchild and a border collie (named Brigid).

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Speakers, Panellists, Invited Guests and Facilitators

Revd Clare Brockett, Educator, Uniting Mission and Education, Synod of NSW/ACT.

Ymania Brown, Co-Chair of the Board of the Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions (GIN-SSOGIE).

Natalie Cooper, Co-Chair, Equal Voices.

Revd Lindsay Cullen, National Consultant, Uniting Church Assembly.

Revd Murray Fysh, Minister, Merthyr Rd Uniting Church, New Farm (Brisbane)

Keith Gerrard: National Co-Convenor, Uniting Church LGBTIQ Network.

Revd Ben Gilmour, Minister, Paddington Uniting Church (Sydney).

Revd Chris Holden, Minister, West End Uniting Church, Brisbane.

Tash Holmes, Church Engagement Leader - The Hunter \ New England North West Region, Uniting NSW/ACT. .

Revd Dr Jo Inkpin, Co-Chair, Equal Voices QLD.

Melissa Krollig, Treasurer, Uniting Church LGBTIQ Network.

Revd Dr Margaret Mayman: Minister, Pitt Street Uniting Church (Sydney); Chair, Australian Christians for Marriage Equality.

Ken Moala, Pacific LGBTIQ Elder, hails from Samoa residing on the Gold Coast, SE Queensland, currently studying at St Marks Theological College, Canberra. ACT.

Revd Carolyn More, Uniting NSW/ACT Chaplain, Illawarra Hub/ LGBTIQ+ Community Support, Shellharbour, NSW.

Revd David Baker, Moderator, Uniting Church Synod of QLD.

Revd Dr Rod Pattenden, Minister, Adamstown Uniting Church (Newcastle).

Hannah Reeve: Member, Uniting Network NSW/ACT.
Roger Sawkins, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (Brisbane)
Revd Greg Smith, Metropolitan Community Churches.
Revd Dr Robert Stringer, Executive member, Uniting Church LGBTIQ Network.
Warren Talbot: National Secretary, Uniting Church LGBTIQ Network.
Revd Peter Weeks: Minister, St Thomas' Uniting Church, Craigieburn (Melbourne).

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How to Register

Tickets are:

- \$65 for one-day admission (Saturday or Sunday), \$50 concession.
- \$110 for weekend admission, \$90 concession. Friday evening - no charge.

Tickets include two catered lunches and morning/afternoon teas.

Please not that dinner on Saturday night (choice of local restaurants) or Sunday night (own arrangements) is not included in the ticket price.

Location: Merthyr Road Uniting Church, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, Queensland, 4005
<http://www.merthyrroaduca.com.au>

Phone: 07 33586945

Registrations now open - click [here](#) to register/purchase your ticket(s) using credit card OR pay via bank transfer (UNITING NETWORK AUSTRALIA BSB 032090 ACC 561077) and then email your details to info@unitingnetworkaustralia.org.au

Inquiries: Damien Stevens 0418 511 562

We look forward to seeing you in June!

www.unitingnetworkaustralia.org.au

