



35th SYNOD



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD



Major sponsor



Event sponsor



Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group (MCCRG)



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD



[Public]

MCCRG Membership

Chairperson – appointed (1)	Rev Louisa Yu Member – Elected	07.11.2022 (membership since April 2017)
Member – ex-officio (1)	Rev Heather den Houting General Secretary <i>Proxy:</i> Rev John Ruhle Associate General Secretary	35 th Synod
Members – appointed (11) Current number of appointed members: 5 Current total: 7 (incl. chairperson and ex-officio)	Peter Lien Zual T.Boi	07.04.20 <i>*will NOT continue due to financial needs/support his family</i>
	Rev Tevita'Unga Takai	06.04.2023 (Second Term, membership since April 2017)
	Rev Faye Talatonu	01.02.2021
	Rev David Kim	05.04.2021
	Levon Kardashian	01.11.2021
	Rev Monique Coughlin <i>*resigned</i>	28.02.2022 <i>*cannot commit to attend weekday meetings</i>
	Peggy Chigeza	05.06.2023
Associated: 5	Va Tuilovoni, Next Gen Arise Project Worker Simon Gomersall, Supervisor/Mentor of Next Gen Arise Project Worker Kellie Broderick, Minute Secretary Dr Paul Jones, In-house Theologian Eric Woodrow (Indooroopilly and Buderim Uniting Churches)	

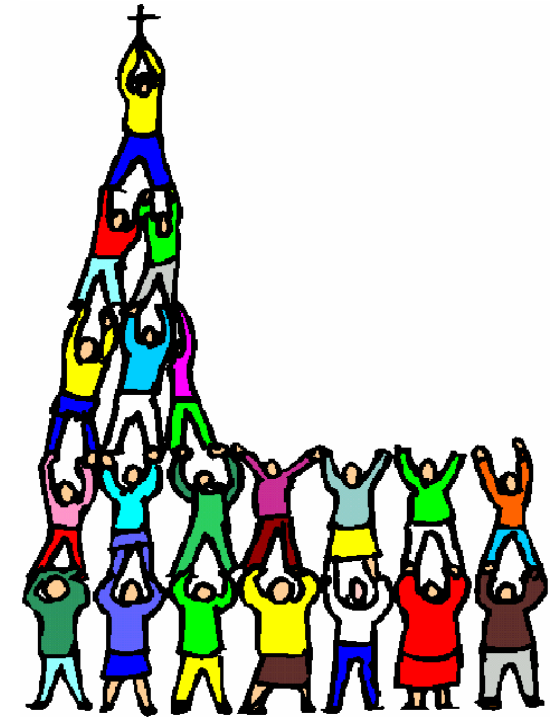


MCCRG Vision & Values

The Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group aims to assist **congregations, presbyteries** and **Synod** as together we seek to embrace the gift and the challenge of fulfilling our stated calling to be a truly multicultural church.

Three areas of focus = Three focus groups:

1. UCA Enabling
2. UCA Equipping
3. UCA Connecting





Assembly

Worship in over **25** languages

13 national conferences

Queensland Synod

Worship in over **13** languages

37 culturally-based congregations

8+ intentional cross-cultural churches

Focus group 1 – UCA Enabling

Developing stronger links between culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) congregations and faith communities and the Uniting Church to enhance the mission of the church.

MCCRG being the link between Synod and CALD congregations/faith communities, and their current and emerging leaders.

Sharing biblical, theological and ministry resources.



Networking and Celebrating Cultural Diversity

Wesley Winterlude: a choir-
fest and hymn-fest
at Albert Street Uniting Church on
Saturday 22 June 2019



Wesley Winterlude:
The Fijian Choir, Kangaroo Point Uniting
Church
22 June 2019



Wesley Winterlude:
The Batak Indonesian Choir
22 June 2019



Chairperson's visit with South Moreton
Presbytery's Multicultural Officer to
Brisbane Taiwanese Uniting Church

(Hillcrest, 5 January 2020)



Taiwanese worship service at Brisbane Taiwanese Uniting Church



Networking with the wider Church and imagining ...

Ordination Service

of the first Chinese ordained minister from a network of many independent
Chinese churches
by Queensland Chinese Christians Mission League
(QCCML)

Rev Robert Li

at Gold Coast Chinese Christian Church (GCCCC)

on 25 November 2020

8 Chinese and Malaysian ministry agents in Queensland formed the first Ordination Committee

(this photo included their spouse and staff from BTS in Toowong)



Rev Louisa Yu represented MCCRG and networked with QCCML

Networking and imagining ...



This photo only included members from one of their Mandarin speaking services. Gold Coast Chinese Christian Church has a vibrant community including a Cantonese service and two English speaking worship services.

Focus group 2 – UCA Equipping



Build on the established Synod-wide next generation CALD leadership network and development program.

– Next Gen Arise (NGA)

NGA Project Worker: Va Tuilovoni

(this role officially started in June 2019 and funding concluded in June 2020).



Next Gen Arise events and activities

- Worship gatherings
- Disciple Makers Gatherings (leadership development)
- Social gatherings
- Wildfire (prayer and worship nights)
- Team nights
- Game nights

Worship gathering at
Toowong Uniting Church,
September 2019





Young leaders are empowered to lead worship gatherings hosted by Toowong Uniting Church (2019) and Brisbane Taiwanese Uniting Church (2020).

Next Gen Arise's Plans for 2020

10 events from February to November

(most have shifted to online platforms e.g. live on Facebook):

4 x Worship gatherings

2 x Disciple Making Workshops

1 x Prayer and worship night 'Wildfire'

1 x Team night

1 x Vision night

1 x Social night

Focus group 3 – UCA Connecting

1. Create cross-cultural experiences of worship and fellowship which foster and showcase the leadership and gifts of cultural diversity;
2. Establish effective platforms of communication to connect people across cultural groups and encourage wider Uniting Church intercultural engagement.

Worship gatherings and community forums (Queensland Synod)

Facebook page: Multi Cross Cultural Reference Group – UCA Qld

Connecting on a national level: being the link between the Queensland Synod and the National Assembly
e.g. connecting with the 13 National Conferences, the Assembly Resourcing Unit and the Being a Multicultural Church Circle on matters relating to multicultural ministries.

Multicultural Pentecost Service

Pentecost Sunday Service at
Broadwater Road Uniting
Church, 9 June 2019

No. of participants: ~150







Presentation and fellowship dinner with Korean National Conference

Maroochydore, 14 August 2019



The 13th National Conference – Ibero-Latino National Conference

The inauguration service took place at St. Marks Uniting Church, Brisbane on 12 October 2019



Rev Louisa Yu represented the MCCRG, welcomed and congratulated. Many Spanish and Portuguese speaking leaders from Brisbane, VIC and SA.



Leaders of the Ibero-Latino National Conference: five from Queensland, one from South Australia, and one from Victoria.



Luminous Lantern Parade

The Queensland Synod delegates joined many community leaders and Queenslanders with a red dove lantern and welcomed new Queenslanders at the Luminous Lantern Parade at South Bank Parklands on 6 June 2019.

No. of participants: Over 12,000





The Queensland Synod delegates paraded with a red dove lantern (as a symbol representing the Uniting Church), and welcomed new Queenslanders at the Luminous Lantern Parade at South Bank Parklands on 6 June 2019.

Rev Louisa Yu represented the Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group and attended the opening ceremony led by the Queensland Government and Multicultural Development Association (MDA) officials.

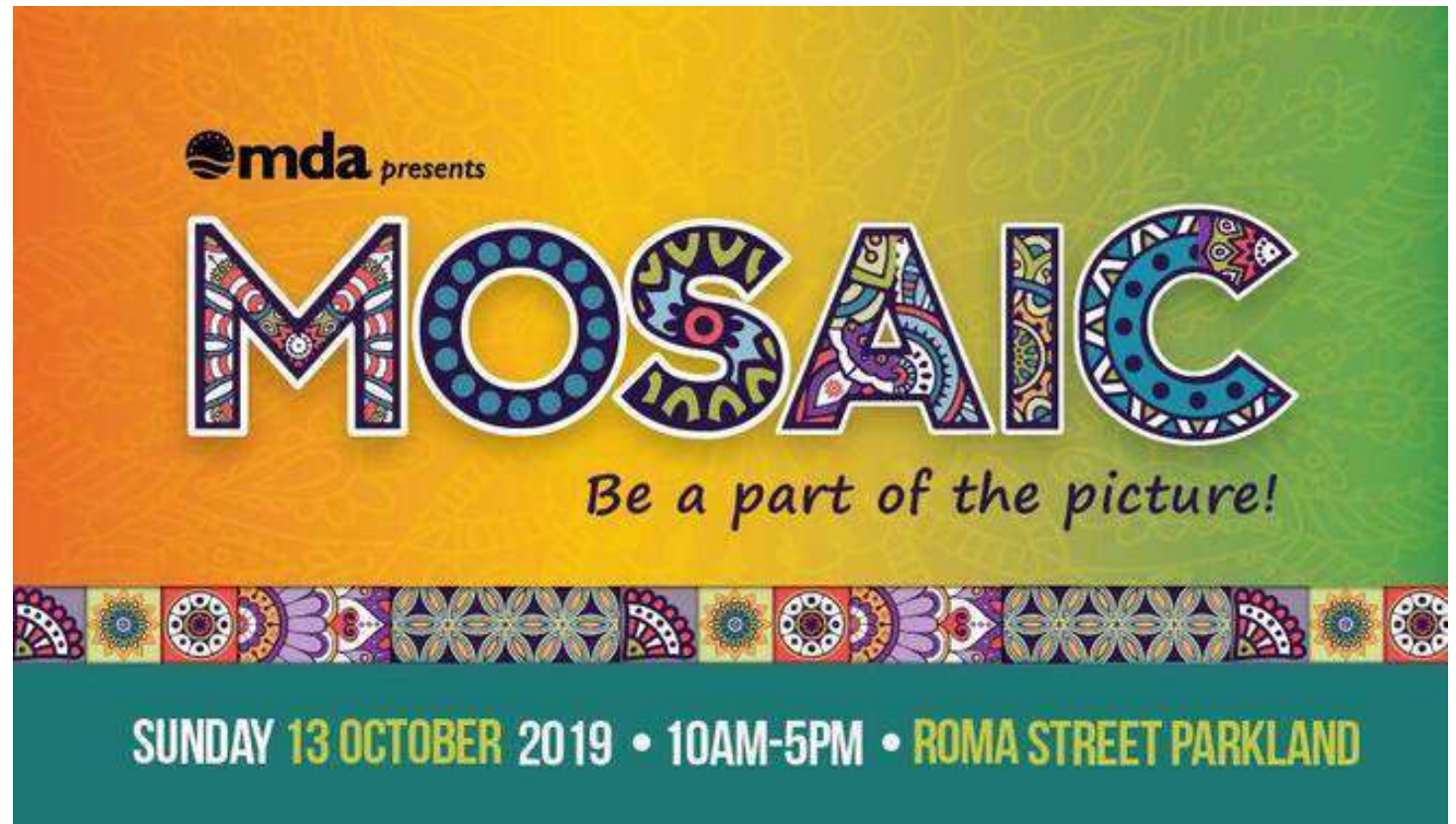


MOSAIC Festival

Sunday 13 October 2019

Connecting with the wider
community.

No. of participants: Over 15,000





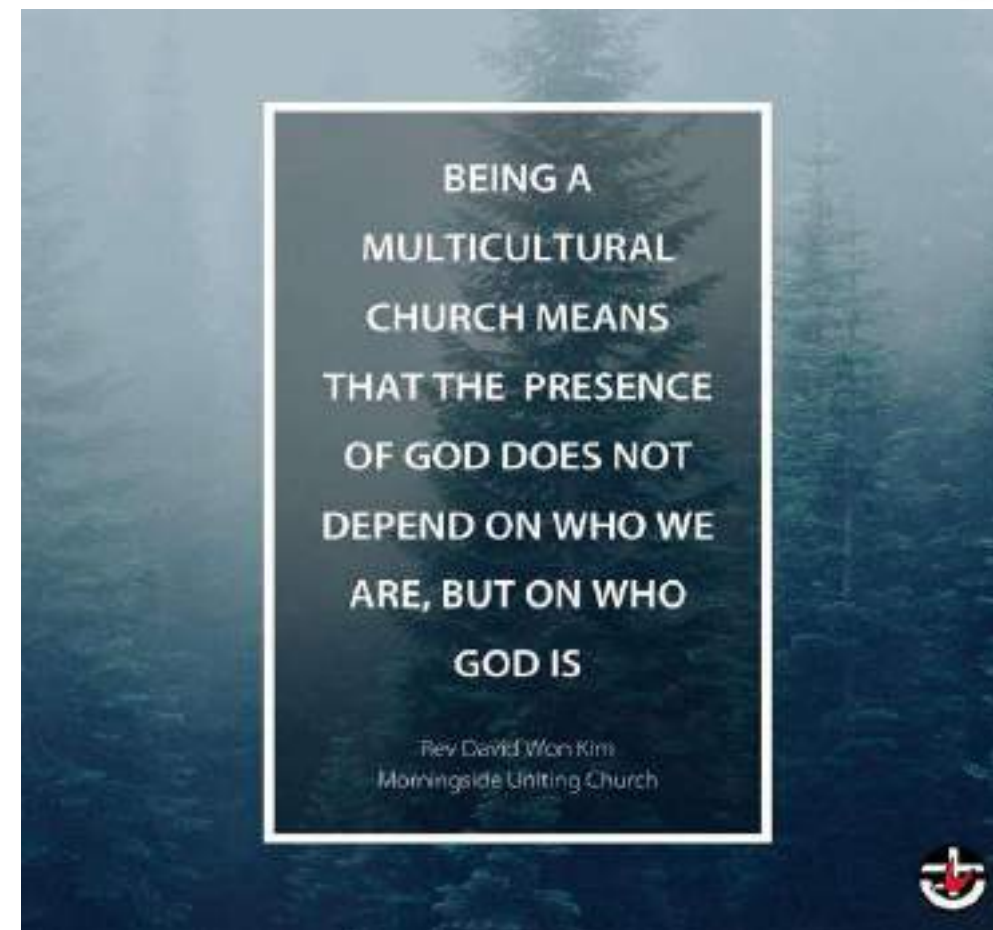


Grand stage and lake stage for cultural and music performances.

Queensland Multicultural Month

"As more different coloured lights get added on and on, the brighter they become—multicultural churches share the brighter and clearer presence of God in our worship, service and witness to the glory of God" said Rev David Won Kim.

- August 2019



Queensland Multicultural Month

Four stories were featured on
JourneyOnline (Summer Edition, 2019)



Multiculturalism within the Uniting Church
(JourneyOnline, 21 August 2020)



Project Plenty workshops

Multicultural Project Plenty Consultation in 2019

MCCRG members attended the various workshops the Project Plenty Team conducted with different presbyteries and agencies, as well as a CALD Community leaders workshop which took place at the Synod Centre in September 2019 to listen to the needs and ideas of the communities.

Project Plenty report and workshop



What we heard report was presented to the MCCRG during the Reference Group's regular bi-monthly meeting on 24 April 2020.

A **MCCRG Project Plenty Workshop** was held on Zoom on **10 July 2020**, which included a presentation of the draft report ***Shared life. Flourishing Communities.*** and listening to feedback from MCCRG members and CALD community leaders.

MCCRG Pentecost Service 2020

31 May 2020 (Pentecost Sunday)

Online service premiered on the Queensland Synod Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo:

1) Whole service including worship songs and scripture readings in different languages

***181 views/devices noted on YouTube**

2) Segments of worship songs, prayers, scripture readings in different languages for congregations to adapt and use for their online service were made available on the Synod website.



Ongoing challenges ...

MCCRG:

To maintain stable and sustainable leadership

Members being time poor; weekend engagements on top of five workday week and preaching commitments on Sunday mornings.

➔ prayer support

To expand its membership

➔ vision casting from Moderator, Strategic Leadership Team, Project Plenty Team, to presbytery level: be **passionate** about and **intentionally engaging** in fulfilling the calling and mandate of "**being a multicultural church**".

Clarity on the roles of the Chairperson and members of MCCRG and the Multicultural Officer of South Moreton Presbytery for effective communications between Synod staff and MCCRG, and for better connection and communications between the MCCRG and the National Assembly Resourcing Unit.

Ongoing challenges ...

Synod-wide:

- Impact of the 15th Assembly decision on same gender marriage on CALD faith communities and their leaders.
 - ➔ Intentional relationship building and listening.
- Faith education and formation for people from CALD backgrounds.
- Developing next-generation and women in leadership.
 - ➔ Reimagining formation for ministry and leadership development programs with Board for Christian Formation (BCF) and the National Assembly.



Considerations

Presbyteries:

The MCCRG would like to invite each presbytery to nominate a Multicultural Ministry Champion to join the MCCRG network.

Congregations/faith communities/Queensland Synod:

1. Consider funding a Next Gen Arise Project Officer for 0.2 FTE from your MDF.
2. Consider contributing to the funding of a Multicultural Ministry Officer for the Queensland Synod.



Questions on notice?

1. Please send your question(s) to Rev Louisa Yu, Chairperson of MCCRG, at LYU@wmq.org.au
2. Recommendations:
That the report be noted.

Get involved:

To find out how you or your church community can engage with the work of the MCCRG, please contact Rev Louisa Yu on 0417 740 972 or LYu@wmq.org.au

Facebook: Multi Cross Cultural Reference Group – UCA Qld
[@mccrgqld](#)

