



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT

2016

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
TOOWONG CONGREGATION





LOVING GOD • LOVING ONE ANOTHER • LOVING TOOWONG

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LEAD PASTOR'S MESSAGE

SIMON GOMERSALL
LEAD PASTOR

It was with much sadness that we farewelled Simon on 11 December 2016. We are truly thankful to God for the ways in which He has worked through Simon, Selena, Sally, Hamish and Alister, blessing us with their love and their gifts. While we are sad that our much-loved pastor and friend has a different ministry ahead, we know that God will continue to do amazing things through Simon as he takes on new study and work opportunities. Please read on for Simon's words of farewell and encouragement:

Kristen Armstrong once penned the words: "When we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out and the tide of love rushes in." I am trying to hang onto that statement as my final Sunday approaches at TUC. It would be easy to be overtaken with the sadness of saying farewell, but much better to focus on my gratitude for the privilege of sharing the last eight years with such a wonderful group of faithful and faith-filled people.

There is so much to be thankful for. I am grateful to the JNC who took a risk on me when 'pastors' were new and I didn't fit the normal Uniting Church minister mould. I'm grateful for a small but committed congregation who saw the importance of maintaining a Christian presence in the rapidly changing suburb of Toowong. I'm grateful for the welcoming ethos that imbued this church long before I came along. I'm grateful for the courage of the congregation to change . . . pretty much everything. I appreciate the willingness to forge a missional imagination: looking ever-increasingly outward to the needs of those beyond the church. I so value the constant concert of prayer that has underpinned everything we have done. I'm grateful for so many people committing their time, talent and energy both to congregational activities and to other people. I'm grateful for mature Christians who put their own needs aside to encourage those in our midst who were new to the faith. I'm grateful for a godly church council, for a fantastic staff, for a proactive property committee, for generous givers, for risk-takers, for encouragers, for servants, for leaders. I am deeply, deeply grateful!

So, on behalf of Selena, Sally, Hamish and Alister, thank you for your prayer, care, love and friendship. Please be assured that TUC will always have a special place in our hearts and we look forward to seeing what Jesus will accomplish through his people in Toowong into the future.



top: The Gomersall's farewell service on 11 December 2016 was a celebration of their time at TUC.
bottom left: The celebrations continued after the service with a special morning tea in the hall.
bottom right: Selena and Simon on 11 December 2016.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

DIANNE HUBBARD
SECRETARY, TUC CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council Report is an overview of the activities of the Toowong Uniting Church during 2016. More details about church activities can be found in the other reports in this Annual Report.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting elected the following elders to the Church Council to serve on the Council until the 2016 Annual Congregational meeting: Neil Dutney, Wendy Geldenhuys, Shelagh Griffin, Dianne Hubbard, Wayne Middleton, Karen Nivala, Will Stewart and David Vicig. Callan Battley did not submit a nomination for elder for 2016 and he is thanked for his valued contributions to the Council over the past few years.

As per their ministerial positions, Simon Gomersall, Clare Hankamer and Duncan Barlow are ex-officio members of the Council, and at the April 2016 Council meeting Lauren Murray was co-opted as a member of the Council for a period of two years.

CONGREGATION OFFICE BEARERS

Jane Trewern was elected as Congregational Chair and Dianne Hubbard as Secretary of the Congregation at the Annual General Meeting in May 2016.

MINISTRY TEAM

Simon Gomersall, Lead Pastor, continued at Toowong, 0.8 or four days per week during 2016. He was released by the Congregation to work 0.2 or one day per week, as a Chaplain as part of the Active Faith Project funded by Presbytery and Synod at the University of Queensland. Indooroopilly and St Lucia Uniting Churches were also involved in Active Faith projects.

In late August, Simon informed the Church Council of his intention not to renew his placement at Toowong and consequently a Congregational Profile was developed to enable the process for a new ministerial placement to commence. An interim minister, Evan Stenlake, was secured until the end of March 2017.

Simon completed his placement at Toowong after eight years at a farewell service on 11 December. This was followed by a special morning tea which celebrated his ministry and his family's time at Toowong Uniting.

Clare Hankamer, Families' Worker, continued to be employed for 0.6 or three days per week being responsible for children's work, youth work and ministry to families.

In June, Toowong Uniting welcomed Pastor Duncan Barlow, and his family, Alison, Evangeline and Ella. Duncan was employed as part of the ministry team for three days per week, (0.6) to establish and grow an evening worship service. He is also currently working two days per week (0.4) at Emmanuel College at the University of Queensland.

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

Louise Middleton was employed as Office Manager for 2 days (0.4) and Lauren Murray continued in her role as Relationship Manager for 2.5 days (0.5) per week. In addition, volunteers also assisted from time to time in the office which is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

FINANCES

Offerings totalling \$200,755.75, including the Evening Plant of \$26,745.00, increased by \$33,136.79 (19.77%) on 2015, and the Funds at bank and on deposit, were \$577,283.63. The Provision for Major Maintenance stands at \$40,000 as at 31 December 2016.

The Net Loss for 2016 was \$14,330.82 after charging Provision for Major Maintenance \$20,000.00.

REPRESENTATIVE TO PRESBYTERY

Once again Will Stewart generously gave his time as the Presbytery representative for the Toowong Congregation and he is thanked for his proactive and faithful participation. When appropriate, he keeps the Council and Congregation informed of Presbytery activities.

BAPTISMS

During 2016, the following infants were baptised:

- Grace McKinnon, daughter of Julie and Rory McKinnon, baptised, 24 April 2016
- Alex Driver, son of Michael and Fiona Driver, baptised 29 May 2016
- Camilla Kefu, daughter of Simi and Cara Kefu, baptised 18 September, 2016
- Matilda and Noah Bellgrove, daughter and son of Matt and Vanessa Bellgrove, baptised 27 November 2016

After their very moving confessions of personal faith, Sander Seymore was confirmed on 20 November 2016 and Eli Gearing, Mitchell Guyatt and Jack Lord were baptised by immersion on Sunday, 27 November 2016.

We praise God for the twenty five members who were added to the membership roll of TUC during 2016.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday morning service

Attendance at the Sunday morning services increased slightly throughout the year. There was an average attendance on Sunday morning of approximately 110 including children. Sunday morning worshippers appreciated Simon's preaching and teaching, a highlight being a series of sermons from the book of Acts.

Prayer ministry was offered at the conclusion of every service, and vibrant, interactive morning teas, supported enthusiastically by volunteers in the kitchen were enjoyed.

Evening service

The Sunday evening service, (Sunday Twilight) commenced on 28 August 2016. The establishment of this service was generously supported by the Congregation, especially through financial gifts received in the Congregational Plant project. Several families have committed to supporting this service and its establishment. While attendances were mixed towards the end of 2016, the average attendance was around 30 people with senior youth being strongly represented.

The intergenerational aspects of the services continued to create a much appreciated community quality at Toowong Uniting Church.

Aveo service

Services were conducted by Simon on the first Wednesday of each month at the Aveo Aged Care Facility at Taringa. He was assisted on these occasions by volunteer helpers.

ARCH MARTIN LEADERSHIP RESIDENCY

Commencing in 2015, the Arch Martin Leadership Residency is a two day a week program aimed at developing emerging leaders in the Congregation. In 2016, there were two participants, Lauren Murray and Nathan Holland. They were particularly involved in leadership development by leading the Junior and Senior Youth Group under the guidance of Clare Hankamer, the Families' Worker.

They are congratulated on their dedication to the program, their contribution to many aspects of the life of the Congregation and on their perceptibly improving skills in many aspects of Christian leadership.

FAMILIES' MINISTRY

Clare Hankamer is thanked for her continuing dedication to Families' Ministry. Clare's relationship building skills with all age groups were greatly appreciated by parents and children. She has built and trained a willing team of volunteers to assist in this ministry, enabling it to grow and to provide a strong outreach to the community.

SAFE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN (SMWC)

The Toowong Uniting Church believes that every person is precious to God and in following Jesus' example we are committed to following the principles and policies of Safe Ministry with Children.



Throughout the year, Clare diligently ensured that systems and processes were in place to ensure the safety of our children in all programs and events. Wendy Geldenhuys is thanked for her diligence, expertise and the countless hours spent setting up and completing the SMWC registers, and in managing the Blue Card system required by Synod and the Queensland Government.

Training

All volunteers participated in ongoing training for Safe Ministry with Children. Clare Hankamer, supported by Ken Acworth (Oxley Uniting Church) conducted a training evening in July using the material supplied by Synod for this purpose. An attendance of over forty people, some from other congregations, ensured that volunteers complied with training requirements of the Synod. In addition, the volunteers and Congregation were kept informed during meetings about SMWC processes. Several volunteer members have First Aid Certificates and continued to update them during the year.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Council greatly appreciates all the assistance from volunteers who give their time so willingly during the year to ensure our young people grow in faith and knowledge of the Bible. It is exciting to see the children move from one group to another building friendships as they grow in age and faith together. We are mindful that more resources will be required as this ministry grows.

Kids at Toowong on Sunday (KATS)

The Tigers group (pre-schoolers), held in the crèche, enabled children younger than Prep to sing, listen to Bible stories and participate in simple craft. The Leopards group (Prep to Year Two), and the Lions group (Years Three to Five), continued to flourish during the year with children encouraged in their faith, using Scripture Union Light curriculum.

Two special events were held during the year. A 'Mum and Me' evening was held in May for mothers and daughters to strengthen their relationship. A Light Party was again held in October, to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World. Approximately 80 people attended including families from the church, playgroup and the local community.

Junior Youth

Junior Youth also met on Sunday mornings. Each session encouraged the children to get to know God better as they read the Bible together and learned to pray and share with each other. Activities during the year for Junior Youth included a Pancake Party, a Moon Walk to Mt Coot-tha and a sleepover for the Junior Youth group, assisted by Senior Youth.

Senior Youth

Senior Youth commenced meeting on bi-monthly Saturdays for various activities including bible study, games and prayer. A highlight for the group was the writing, development and action of a video of the Christmas story told for modern times. Senior Youth members were encouraged to take part in Sunday Services, and to assist with data and music during the service.

Kittens Playgroup

In 2016, about 30 families attended Playgroup each week. As part of story time Bible stories and Christian songs were used on alternate weeks. A strong team of helpers ensured a pastoral care setting for the families attending as well as a great deal of fun for the children.

CHILD CARE CENTRES

Wesley Mission opened the Jahjumbeen Child Care Centre in February. This centre was previously earmarked for occasional care; however, it was upgraded to child care to meet the needs of the current Toowong Community.

During 2016, Clare, assisted by Lauren Murray (Relationship Manager) sustained their relationship with the Childcare Centre and Jahjumbeen Child Care, conducting activities on several different occasions including Easter and Christmas.

KOREAN CONGREGATION

The church facilities were used by the Korean Congregation who have continued to face some significant challenges during 2016. Brian Hoole, Presbytery Minister continues to liaise with this Congregation; however, no decision has been reached by Presbytery on its future.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Committee members were Simon Gomersall (Minister), Robert Hubbard (Chair), Louise Middleton (Property Management and Administration), Robert Lord, Ray Mackenroth, Brad Round, and Barry Whebell. Tim Kuffer tendered his resignation from this committee early in 2016 due to a move to New South Wales and he is sincerely thanked for his service over the past few years.

During 2016, the Committee continued to ensure property maintenance was kept up-to-date and that good risk management practices and processes were sustained. Investigations were ongoing to explore major repairs of the roof and the solution to the water ingress into the kitchen.

Various improvements were made to the house at 16 Grove Street, so that it was a suitable manse for Duncan Barlow and his family. The Committee is thanked for their work during the year as is Louise Middleton for administering the properties and tenants throughout 2016.

PRAYER GROUPS

A faithful group has continued to meet for prayer in the church between 7.00 am and 8.00 am on Wednesday mornings during the year. In the latter part of the year, another prayer group was established on a Monday morning between 8.00 am and 9.00 am. Prayer points for both groups included members of the Toowong Congregation, the local community, and Australian and overseas concerns.

PRAYER ROOM

The 24/7 prayer room, continued to be available on a 24 hour basis for individuals or small groups for private or small group prayer.

PASTORATES

Two Pastorates met fortnightly throughout the year on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons with the Sunday afternoon group having a family focus. At the Pastorates, a meal was shared, and various members took part in leadership and worship with an emphasis on interactive activities. The Pastorates assisted people to get to know one another in an informal setting while having fun. The groups also encouraged and developed leadership, and provided an opportunity to grow in faith and prayer journeys as participants shared experiences and Scripture together.

THREE: QUESTIONS OF LIFE AND FAITH COURSE

Simon conducted the Three: Questions of Life and Faith Course several times during the year. Baptismal families and others who attended were able to discover more about Christianity, sharpen their understanding of their faith and examine their own personal spiritual journey. Simon also conducted a special Three Course for young teenagers after which several teens decided to go ahead with baptism.

EQUIP

During 2016 Simon conducted a series of seminars which provided training and education in discipleship, leadership, teaching and coaching. The topics were designed to help people think and work through practical issues in their faith and to equip them to be engaged in ministerial activities. It was attended by the Arch Martin Residency participants and other members of the Congregation who were seeking skills in these areas.

MORNING TEA UNDER THE UMBRELLAS

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas met monthly at the church with Gwen Gloynes, Beryl Mortimer, and June Rayment providing faithful and authentic leadership. Contributions from various speakers, time to intermingle, as well as delectable morning teas were enjoyed. Gold coin donations at each meeting enabled a donation of \$1,000 to be made to Frontier Services.

CONNECT BRUNCH

Held after Sunday services several times a year, Connect Brunch successfully enabled new people to meet members of the Congregation after the service and to learn more about Toowong Uniting over a meal and in an informal setting.

STITCHING AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Led by Shirley Holden, the group met in the church hall for friendship and craft. Craft items included a wide variety of items and contributions were generously made to several charities including donations of polar fleece and knitted items. Highlights were the Mothers' Day Stall, the Melbourne Cup Luncheon and the Christmas breakup.

OUTBACK FUTURES

Arising out of the Cobbold Mission of the past several years, Outback Futures is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing regular, professional and consistent allied health services to rural and remote Queenslanders. While not specifically an activity of the Toowong Uniting Church, it is mentioned in this report as many members of the Congregation participated in various ways, including using their professional skills, praying for projects, and making monetary contributions.

CONVERGE

Developed by a group of young people in the Congregation, and supported by the Toowong church and other local churches in the area, Converge is an ecumenical connection point for Christian young adults in Brisbane. Converge met regularly with attendees from a number of different churches and on-campus ministries to network, to encourage each other and to see how God is working in their lives.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Free English Conversation classes were held on Mondays during term time from 9.30 am to 11.30 am. With the assistance of volunteers who facilitate, serve morning tea or provide child minding, these classes were appreciated by people for whom English is not their first language. The classes were also an opportunity to enhance and practise their speaking skills in a Christian environment. The volunteers are thanked for their loyal contribution to this ministry.

MINISTRY FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

A Christmas Disco for people with an intellectual disability was held on 18 November. The evening was a success with attendees enjoying an evening of fun and fellowship, capably lead by Kim Jennings and a team of enthusiastic volunteers. It is anticipated that similar functions will be continued and supported in the future.

PRAYER AND CARE TEAM (PACT)

A pastoral care team was formed in June, meeting fortnightly with Simon Gomersall. This team provided support for people, mainly from TUC at this stage, who were in need for various physical, emotional, spiritual or life reasons through personal contact, prayer and meals. The group does not replace in any way, the informal caring conducted by all members of the Congregation for each other.

PASTORAL

Simon is warmly and sincerely thanked for his commitment to, and leadership of the Congregation throughout 2016. He engaged everyone in God's Word and encouraged all to walk in a personal Christian faith journey as well as overseeing the myriad of practical aspects of church life. A huge thank you also goes to Selena for her support and guidance within the church community.

Simon, Selena, Sally, Hamish and Alister will be greatly missed as they move on to a new chapter in their lives. We wish them God's richest blessings in the future.

Clare Hankamer has worked devotedly in her role as Families' Worker to engage children, young people and families in the life of the church and to encourage them in their faith and Louise Middleton and Lauren Murray bless us all with their administrative and relationship skills.

A great deal of service and caring was provided by Congregation members throughout the year. Many provided transport, counted the offering, welcomed at the door, prepared communion, provided music, presented sermons, helped in the office, and assisted with morning tea. The freezer and the pantry were continually stocked throughout the year and distributed on a needs basis to the community. In addition, many people spontaneously and organically cared for others through various means of contact and through prayer.

The Council extends their sympathy to members of the church family who experienced poor health and to those who lost loved ones during 2016 and prays that they will experience a time of healing during 2017.



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2016

The coming year will be a challenging one for Toowong Uniting Church as a new ministerial placement is sought through the Joint Nominations' Committee and assisted by the Presbytery. Evan Stenlake is warmly welcomed as interim minister as the placement process proceeds.

The Council is very appreciative and grateful for the outstanding support it has received during the year and we encourage the sustained support of the evening worship and of the growing children's ministry. We ask the Congregation to be in prayer as we encourage everyone to continue to develop relationships with our God and each other, and to continue to create a welcoming, intergenerational and prayerful community which has Christ at its centre. We look forward to the ongoing faith development of all people at Toowong Uniting, to the purposeful engagement of people not involved in the church, and to the equipping and training of our current and new leaders.

Let us approach 2017 and all that it brings for Toowong Uniting, knowing that God is there before us "and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17



FAMILIES' MINISTRY REPORT

CLARE HANKAMER
FAMILIES WORKER

Thank you to everyone for your continued prayers for our families and young people at Toowong. As each year goes by, it is wonderful to see our children and young people grow in faith and stature. Please continue to pray for them as they respond to God's call.

Please pray especially for our parents. Pray that they would be encouraged in all they do for their children and that God would give them confidence to faithfully and lovingly guide their children to grow in their faith.

KITTENS PLAYGROUP

I thank God for such a great team of Playgroup volunteers in 2016, all of whom have great pastoral gifts and use these gifts to lovingly support our young families: Karen Bowles, Denise Harch, Barbara Mitchell, Beryl Mortimer, Lauren Murray, Ghislaine Salter, Arini Stamenkovic, and Jecy Tan. Special thanks go to Ghislaine, Karen and Jecy who are stepping down from the Playgroup Team in 2017.

Playgroup is a very warm and supportive community of local families. Many are from Brisbane, however, we also have many who are new to Brisbane and Australia. We have families from China, India, Sri Lanka, Iran, Ecuador, Chile, Canada, UK, Germany, Poland, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Russia. Let us rejoice that God has provided this place for these wonderful families to meet, and that it is a place for them to encounter God and His love for them.

While there is quite a high turnover of families, in 2016, we saw an increase in attendance (with 35 families attending at one session).

I have also introduced a new Christian song per term that the children can get to know and sing. I have been really blessed with this! It is a great time to worship God together. We continue to sensitively share the Bible through reading it aloud and through lively retelling and I pray this will make it accessible to families. Please pray that families will be open to God's love.

KIDS AT TOOWONG ON SUNDAY (KATS)

It is so good to have worked with such a dedicated team in 2016 most of whom have now taught in KATS for a number of years: Sheri Guyatt, Dianne Hubbard, Catherine Wuttke; Alicia McLachlan, Sarah Smith, Brendan Tan, Jane Trewern; and Kiki Keefer. We are very blessed to have so many leaders who give strong support to each other. I especially thank Sheri Guyatt, Alicia McLachlan and Jane Trewern who are all stepping down from the KATS Team in 2017.

We continue to have a full and lively program with approximately 10-15 children in each group. We celebrated a big night out for the Pancake Party in February 2016 with both youth and Lions attending. It was decided, with thankful hearts, due to the large numbers in all three groups to run this event just for Lions in 2017.

We continued the same approach to Tigers this year as last year, to try to facilitate the running of this group. We have found that it is best to have parents of toddlers leading this group; however, it is challenging for parents to commit to this. Kiki Keefer very kindly offered to be available to lead if there were families wanting to conduct a Tigers session. Material was then laid out ready to use for her and this worked well. Please pray for our wonderful families who are keen to encourage their children at this young age.

The KATS Christmas Celebration was a wonderful and joyful time for our children to share the Good News of God's gift of His son Jesus with the church and wider community. Thank you to the leaders for their patience and hard work at such a busy time of year.



top: Music time at Playgroup.

bottom: The KATS Christmas Celebration and Youth Band.

MUM AND ME AND LIGHT PARTY

A huge thank you to Sheri Guyatt for her wonderful ministry to our families through a number of really great family events in 2016, including a Mum and Daughter Bible study for the youth group girls and their Mums. This was an important foundational time and it blessed me as a mother and all those who attended.

Mum and Me was a lovely celebration for young children and their mums held on the Saturday before Mother's Day. This was a great time for families to pamper Mum with craft activities, homemade hand scrubs, food and Bollywood dancing!

The Light Party held at the end of October offers an alternative to the focus on witches and ghouls for Halloween. It was a huge success with 80 people attending for games, food and fun. Fifty solar powered lights were constructed and were sent to children in Uganda as part of the SolarBuddy project, a Queensland charity that engages primary aged children in making and sending out solar powered lights to children who do not have access to light at night to help them read. We were able to celebrate Jesus Light of the World with the children as a central part of this evening. It was good to welcome families at both of these events and to invite them to worship with us.



top left: Tun and games at the Pancake Party in February 2016.

top right: Some members of Junior and Senior Youth in a scene from their Nativity film.

bottom left & right: Games and craft at the Light Party on 29 October 2016.

YOUTH MINISTRY

It was a privilege to work with Lauren Murray and Nathan Holland as our two Arch Martin Leadership Residents during 2016. They took up the leadership of both youth groups, working closely with Simon and I, and developing their many ministry gifts.

As we prayerfully invest in our young leaders, we are investing in the future of the church. Please continue to pray for Lauren, Nathan and Stephen Longbottom (Resident in 2015). It is hoped that we can continue with the Residency in the near future.

It is exciting to see our young people grow into adults. Please encourage them and pray for them.

JUNIOR YOUTH

We continued to meet in the House on Sundays for teaching (10-15 young people) and offered the Leadership training program to both Senior and Junior Youth through the Chaplaincy Walk, Sleepover and end of year meal. The Moon Walk in Term Four gave children, who are moving up to youth group from KATS, the opportunity to spend time with youth group on our night walk up Mt Coot tha followed by some amazing star gazing with the Brisbane Astronomy Society.



The Junior and Senior Youth Sleepover, 13 August 2016.

SENIOR YOUTH

It was exciting to launch a Senior Youth group in 2016 with eight young people. Senior Youth meets on alternate Saturday nights at 6.30 pm in the church House. The aim was to offer a varied program with a focus on discipleship and leadership training with young people planning and helping to run KATS groups in Term Four. It is hoped that a separate camp for this group can be held for this group in 2017.

BAPTISMS AND CONFIRMATION

We were all blessed to witness the testimonies of God's work in the lives of our young people at the confirmation of Sander Seymore and the baptisms by full immersion of Eli Gearing, Jack Lord and Mitchell Guyatt. A big thank you to the Griffins for allowing the use of their pool and special thanks to Shelagh for her support and encouragement to these young people. Please pray for them as they grow in their faith.

SAFE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

Thank you to the Church Council and the Congregation for their willingness to embrace the new policy and training and to work together to make our church a safer place for children. This has been challenging. We now have a good framework in place thanks to the work of Dianne Hubbard reviewing programs, risk assessment and ensuring the policy is implemented across the church through an in-house audit. I especially thank Wendy Geldenhuys whose professionalism and hard work in 2016 meant that we were able to meet our legal obligations to Safe Ministry with Children through the process of screening volunteers especially the management of Blue Cards.

I was thrilled to have so many people from our Congregation commit to the Safe Ministry with Children Training session at Toowong in July 2016. It was good to meet the members of the Church Council and Youth Ministry team at Inala Uniting Church to assist in conducting their training session with Peter Taubner. I would value your ongoing prayers as I continue to facilitate training for other congregations in the Presbytery in 2017.



EVENING CONGREGATION PASTOR'S REPORT

DUNCAN BARLOW
PASTOR

We (Duncan, Alison, Evangeline and Ella) are very thankful for the warm welcome we have received from people here at Toowong Uniting Church since we started attending in July. While we have had to adjust in a number of ways we have experienced significant support from the staff and council of TUC. Thank you very much.

Duncan was appointed to serve at Toowong with the intention of developing an evening congregation and this was started in August. We began with a night of praise and prayer (and pizza) on 21 August. The following week was the first "official" gathering of the evening congregation, which also served as a formal commissioning of Duncan into his role. The enthusiasm and commitment of TUC members evident from the start has been a great encouragement.

We began the evening congregation, now called Sunday Twilight, with a soft start which meant that we were not going to pre-determine the exact target of who would come or the definite style which would be used as we want to see who the Lord moves to come along.

Being a new congregation we were not surprised when we were heavily impacted by school holidays and by the busyness of parents and teenagers leading up to the end of the year. We paused the service in mid-December and will restart on the 22 January 2017. A number of families have indicated that they hope to make the service a priority as it should be a good fit for their teenage children.

Thank you for your prayers for the service. Please continue to remember us before the Father as we seek to honour the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.



top and bottom: The first gathering of the Sunday evening congregation, and Duncan's commissioning, on 28 August 2016.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Members of the committee in 2016 were Louise Middleton (Property Manager), Simon Gomersall, Barry Whebell, Tim Kuffer (until he moved interstate), Rob Lord, Ray Mackenroth, Brad Round who joined us in mid November 2016 and Robert Hubbard (Chair).

We thank Tim Kuffer for his energetic and thoughtful input to the committee over the last couple of years and we wish him and his family well in their future endeavours interstate.

Simon Gomersall has been on the Property Committee since he first joined Toowong Uniting Church eight years ago. We sincerely thank him for his guidance and support of this committee over those years. We also wish Simon, Selena and their family all the very best including God's richest blessings as they redirect their futures following their time with us.

During the year the committee held four formal meetings and a number of informal gatherings to discuss various maintenance issues.

Early in the year we farewelled Samantha Duncan and the girls at 16 Grove Street and welcomed the Barlow family into our midst and into a refurbished manse.

The largest area of expenditure during the year was the refurbishment of the manse. This included a repaint internally, two new air conditioning units, a number of new light fittings, a new vanity unit and shaving cabinet, new curtains and blinds, new refrigerator and dishwasher, and a clothesline with associated paving.

There were also a small number of other maintenance type activities carried out within the church/hall and the church house, such as:

- an engineering inspection and report of the bell tower structure
- installation of two new roofing downpipes to the church to reduce or eliminate the kitchen water ingress issue
- installation of child proof latches to the pool type gates
- installation of child proof power points to the crèche and hall
- installation of new fans to the hall and kitchen from a generous member's gift
- purchase and installation of a memorial seat in honour of Stillpoint, and John and Helen Woolcock's integral part in the establishment and work of Stillpoint
- painting of raised concrete steps for Workplace Health and Safety reasons
- cleaning of portions of the concrete paving and brick walls
- repairing of sliding door tracks in the hall and church house
- updating of first aid kits
- purchase of new trestles and
- the annual termite and pest control inspections.

One working bee was held during the year when a number of maintenance and cleaning activities were undertaken by a small number of willing workers.

The most significant cost for 2017 will be the replacement of the church's roof sheeting which was installed in 1958. A number of inspections were undertaken during the year. Rust and patched holes are evident in numerous places with some rust stains visible on the church ceiling.

The committee worked well together during 2016 and I thank all members for their contributions to the continuing stewardship of our properties here at Toowong UCA.

ROBERT HUBBARD
CHAIR, PROPERTY COMMITTEE

MORNING TEA UNDER THE UMBRELLAS

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas (MTUU) has established itself as a popular monthly meeting of friends who share fellowship, good food, and entertainment in an atmosphere of warmth and encouragement. A variety of themes has surprised, challenged and inspired us. Thank you to all who contributed.

The final occasion of the year, was a party event (with an element of sadness) to say a final thank you to Simon (accompanied by Selena) for his tireless support and encouragement.

The success of MTUU is largely due to the selfless, faithful and delectable contribution given by our lovely hostesses, Gwen Gloynes and June Rayment. Three cheers for them!!!

To express gratitude on each occasion monthly contributions from attendees totalling \$1,000 were forwarded to Frontier Missions.

BERYL MORTIMER
COORDINATOR



top left: Just one example of the delicious baked goods Gwen and June spoil us with at MTUU.

top right: Participants at MTUU sharing their hobbies, including cross-stitch, wood-work, crochet and quilt-making.

bottom: The final MTUU for 2016.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

The English Conversation Classes, held each Monday during term time, continue to be a successful method of contact with Toowong Uniting Church for our international community.

Overall, new members were coming each week, some coming from as far away as Sunnybank. Numbers did decline towards the end of 2016, due mainly to many attendees returning to their various countries for the Christmas break.

However, it is expected that classes will continue in 2017 and I look forward to our new year's start. English Conversation Classes are an important outreach to our local community providing a practical service to those who need it.

I express my appreciation and thanks to thank Ray Mackenroth and to Will Stewart for their dedication and assistance in assisting this mission to continue.

BARRY WHEBELL
COORDINATOR

SUNDAY PASTORATE

Sunday Pastorate continued to meet through 2016, and continued to be a gathering that welcomed all ages. A range of families participated over the year, with ages ranging from pre-school to adult.

The Pastorate shares time together each week exploring scripture, growing disciples, praying, learning, having fun, and finishing with a shared meal. The emphasis is hands on, creative, and fun gatherings. The Pastorate was coordinated by Scott and Sheri Guyatt, with many others extending leadership during gatherings. The Pastorate was delighted to be able to lead worship on Palm Sunday for the morning congregation.

With several of the families involved transitioning to the Sunday evening congregation, we took the decision to conclude the life of the Pastorate group in its current form at the end of 2016. The intent is to extend an open invitation to those (from within the existing Pastorate and beyond) who may be interested in a new beginning in early 2017.

SCOTT AND SHERI GUYATT
COORDINATORS, SUNDAY PASTORATE

TUESDAY PASTORATE

It has been an exciting, occasionally daunting, year for the Tuesday Pastorate. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to two of our leaders, Carl Tessmann and of course Simon Gomersall, our pastor, but we also welcomed Luke Reynoldson, Mikayla Hiscock, and Maggie Jensen onto the leadership team. We have welcomed a number of new people to Pastorate this year with numbers tending to be around 12 – 18 each fortnight with attendance peaking at 25 mid-year.



top: A typical Tuesday Pastorate.

bottom: Pastorate breakup held on 13 December 2016.

At the beginning of the year we identified five goals of our Pastorate: to equip, engage, encourage, enjoy and express.

At the beginning and the end of the year we had a number of studies focussed on our goals and community. For the remainder of the year we went through the fruits of the Spirit. Both at the middle and end of year the leadership team has evaluated how we are going as a group in regard to these goals and we have enjoyed seeing progress.

The evening usually takes the following form:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7.00 pm | Dinner and dessert |
| 7.30 pm | Worship
This includes a song or other reflective worship activity. |
| 7.45 pm | Sharing
This is an opportunity for different people to share about themselves or their faith walk. For example, countries of origin if visiting or expressing faith in our workplace. |
| 8.00 pm | Study |
| 8.45 pm | Prayer
This has included a variety of creative ways to share. |

The leaders create a roster at the start of the semester with regular members having the opportunity to take on different roles. The role of 'host' is also designated to one of the leaders each week. We have a Facebook page and share emails to communicate.

Due to the great growth of the Tuesday Pastorate we have discussed as a group 'birthing' a new group on another night. We are currently looking at increasing our leadership team to enable this process. We had originally planned to do this at the end of 2016 and we are now considering this for 2017.

Members of Pastorate have faced a number of challenges this year. We continue to have a number looking for work, there are various health challenges, loved ones in crisis, and a number who are studying and face the regular stress of assignments and exams. We have also celebrated new jobs, good results, exciting travels and had lots of fun together.

SHELAGH GRIFFIN
PASTORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM

CONVERGE

Converge is an inter-church young adults ministry that serves as a connection point for young people from various churches and university Christian groups around Brisbane. The leadership team comprises the following churches: Toowong Uniting Church, Toowong Baptist Church, Taringa Baptist Church and Sunnybank Uniting Church. During 2016, the Converge ministry had two main meetings, with several associated events alongside. The responsibility for hosting Converge meetings is shared amongst the churches involved.

At the start of the year, Toowong Baptist Church hosted the first meeting. It was a great success with over 50 young adults attending from more than five different churches. The night centred upon the theme of "Church" for the discussion and Bible talk time. Everyone brought a plate of food to share so there was a delicious banquet and great fellowship. We had a testimony by a young adult who was about to go to India as a long-term missionary, and another testimony by a pair of girls who had recently completed a domestic mission trip.

In December 2016, TUC hosted the second Converge event. It was a wonderful time with over 20 young adults attending from a range of churches. Many non-Christians (at least 20% of attendees) also came, so it was a great outreach event. We had a blessed time of

'get-to-know-you' questions, fellowship over dinner, prayer in small groups, and testimony sharing about God. We also deconstructed several well-known carols to understand the meaning of Christmas. A big 'thank you' to Waree and Shelagh who assisted in the kitchen.

There have also been events not exclusively part of Converge, but connected to Converge that have occurred. For instance, TUC young adults attended Toowong Baptist Church's Fundraising Trivia Night to support their Laos mission trip. In addition, Converge has served as a great platform to reach young adults around Brisbane. The Summer Madness (Uniting Church youth and young adults conference) Coordinator attended the last Converge meeting and advertised the Summer Madness camp, and Sunnybank Uniting Church's International Students Pastor also attended and has invited the Converge group to a cross-cultural inter-church young adult service in Logan called Next Gen Arise Worship.

Through the relationships that have been formed through Converge, the young adults across churches in Brisbane have united and fulfilled the Great Commission together. We thank God for the non-believers who have been able to hear the gospel and meet other Christians through Converge meetings.

Please continue to pray that the relationships between the churches are further strengthened, and that the Converge ministry continues to be fruitful in spreading the gospel.

STEPHEN LONGBOTTOM
CONVERGE LEADER



left and right: The Converge Christmas/New Year celebration, held on 17 December 2016 at TUC.

TOOWONG STITCHING AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The calendar year of 2016 was another successful and enjoyable year for the craft group.

During Term One, the main two crafts were making pin cushions using hexagons including a magnet, as well as making and repairing necklaces.

Several activities occurred during Term Two including a demonstration of how to use a rotary cutter, mat and ruler, as well as a demonstration on how to make a sewing bag. The Mother's Day stall was again successful and there are always interesting pieces for the sale table. 36 Beanies were knitted for the 139 Club. The members of the group are thanked for their excellent effort.

Term Three started with Christmas in July and there was a special morning tea to celebrate. During this term the group made a Christmas ball from recycled Christmas cards as well as covering and decorating recycled cereal boxes. The polar fleece project included three blankets, five pairs of gloves, 13 scarves, 12 beanies and six face washers, all donated to Mary and Martha's Shelter for Women.

A big project undertaken this year was a quilt. Each person made a block and it was put together beautifully and was also donated to Mary and Martha's Shelter for Women.

In Term Four, a highlight was a fun day for Melbourne Cup. Everyone 'froked up' and wore their fascinators, enjoying the food brought by everyone to make the day a special occasion.

There was a Go-cutter Christmas theme during this term using felt and fabric to make a raggy Christmas wreath and once again, a successful Christmas stall was held. Everyone enjoyed the break-up Christmas lunch held in the Church Hall.

On behalf of our Group, I thank the Toowong Uniting Church for its continued support for our craft group and we are very grateful for the use of its facilities.

We look forward to another year of friendship, fun and craft in 2017.

SHIRLEY HOLDEN
COORDINATOR



FINANCIAL REPORTS

ROBERT JOHNSON
TREASURER

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December, 2016, with comparative figures for the Year Ended 31 December, 2015, comprise of:

- 1 Balance Sheet as at 31 December, 2016
- 2 Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2016 (Abbreviated)

The statements are based on the cash basis of accounting. Capital expenditure is written off in the Profit and Loss Statement. A change in accounting principles occurred in 2015 by the creation of Provision for Major Maintenance of \$20,000.00 to provide for Major Repairs to the Church roof in the next three years, costing up to \$70,000.00.

A detailed Profit and Loss Statement is available on request.

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

The Net Loss for the year was \$14,330.82, after charging Provision for Major Maintenance \$20,000.00. Provision at 31 December, 2016 is \$40,000.00.

Capital Purchases totalled \$10,325.82 comprising curtains, \$2,368.09, and air conditioning, \$3,600.00 at the Manse, air conditioning \$1,309.09 at the House, cushions \$1,592.72, bench seat plaque, \$232.28, fans in the Hall, \$1,120.00 at the Church.

Offerings totalled \$200,755.75, including the Evening Plant of \$26,745.00, an increase of \$33,136.79 (19.77%) on 2015. Rental Income decreased by \$10,101.27 to \$22,577.14, mainly caused by change of usage at 11 Grove Street. Property Expenses increased by \$17,900.71 to \$63,876.27, mainly due to repairs to 16 Grove Street and Church properties.

Expenditure increased by \$78,833.19 with the main increases being administration, capital purchases, ministry, property and parish expenses.

BALANCE SHEET

Cash at bank, \$37,887.06 and on deposit at UCIS, \$539,396.77, on 31 December, 2016 was \$577,383.83 (2015 - \$574,851.63). The Net GST owing at 31 December, 2016 was \$1,410.00.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2016

	DEC 31 2016	DEC 31 2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Current/Savings		
General Parish Fund	37,887.06	30,078.40
Total Current/Savings	37,887.06	30,078.40
Other Current Assets		
11 - Term Deposit	539,396.77	544,673.23
Petty Cash Float	100.00	100.00
Total Other Current Assets	539,496.77	544,773.23
Total Current Assets	577,383.83	574,851.63
TOTAL ASSETS	577,383.83	574,851.63
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Camp Cobbold	0.00	2,591.79
Provision for Major Maintenance	40,000.00	20,000.00
Tax Payable		
GST		
Tax Collected	293.20	337.50
Tax Paid	-1,703.55	-1,202.66
Total GST	-1,410.35	-865.16
Total Tax Payable	-1,410.35	-865.16
Total Other Current Liabilities	38,589.65	21,726.63
Total Current Liabilities	38,589.65	21,726.63
Total Liabilities	38,589.65	21,726.63
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	553,125.00	550,023.94
Net Income	-14,330.82	3,101.06
Total Equity	538,794.18	553,125.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	577,383.83	574,851.63

ABBREVIATED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016



	JAN - DEC 16	JAN - DEC 15
ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE		
INCOME		
Appeals - Collections	783.55	1,055.55
Contributions/Other Income	89,445.06	56,270.64
Donations - Received	8,482.00	6,075.98
Fund Raising - Income	2,866.40	1,460.60
Offerings	200,755.75	167,618.96
Rental Income	22,577.14	32,678.41
TOTAL INCOME	324,909.90	265,160.14
EXPENSE		
Administration	60,360.76	34,448.14
Capital Purchases	10,325.82	7,309.47
Christian Education	7,309.91	6,924.96
Donations - Given	6,331.46	5,241.22
Fund Raising - Expenses	947.65	373.88
Ministry - Local	90,252.00	88,752.00
Ministry - Other	35,712.82	35,212.30
Ministry - Plant	22,869.71	0.00
Ministry - Wider Work	26,499.00	27,393.00
Parish Expenses	9,547.91	3,569.59
Property Expenses	63,876.27	45,975.56
TOTAL EXPENSE	334,033.31	255,200.12
NET ORDINARY INCOME	-9,123.41	9,960.02
OTHER INCOME/EXPENSE		
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Income	14,792.59	13,141.04
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	14,792.59	13,141.04
OTHER EXPENSE		
Other Expenses	20,000.00	20,000.00
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE	20,000.00	20,000.00
NET OTHER INCOME	-5,207.41	-6,858.96
NET INCOME	-14,330.82	3,101.06

Lead Pastor

Simon Gomersall

Pastor

Duncan Barlow

Families' Worker

Clare Hankamer

Office Manager

Louise Middleton

Relationship Manager

Lauren Murray

Chair of Church Council

Wayne Middleton

Chair of Congregation

Jane Trewern

Church Council & Congregational Secretary

Dianne Hubbard

Church Office Details

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ABN

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A sincere thank-you to everyone who contributed photos to the Annual Report, including Agi Davis, Geoff Rankin, Sarah Smith and Sheri Guyatt

