

Leadership Workshops **Friday 17 November**

Talking Circle Experience - Double Session • Rev Michael Wood

Churches of Christ are a movement of churches that recognise our Unity in Christ and our diversity in practice. To be a group of diverse churches in healthy relationships we need the skills and capacity to navigate difficult conversations. For this reason, we aim to equip church leaders with tools for facilitating effective conversations with meaningful outcomes. To support this goal we invite you to an experience of how a Talking Circle works. For the purpose of this learning experience, we are convening a Talking Circle, facilitated by Michael Wood, on the topic, ““what sustains us when ministry is hard and we are feeling tired and fatigued?”.

Michael Wood is an Anglican Priest and author of the book “Practicing Peace: Theology, Contemplation, and Action”(2022), which was shortlisted in the Sparklit Australian Christian Book of the Year Awards (2023). He has pioneered, and taught, the use of Open Space Technology, Talking Circle, and Restorative Justice processes in Australian Churches, as paradigms and practical frameworks for church leadership and community life.

Note this is a double session, which will run over both afternoon workshop time slots.

Maximum of 12 participants.

Pre-registration required for this workshop. michaelwoodconvention.pushpayevents.com

New and emerging ways of doing church - Sessions 1 & 2 • Bree Mills

Bree Mills is an ordained Anglican minister and doctoral student in the area of Missional Leadership, focusing on innovative leadership in the Australian context. Until the end of 2020, she was Senior Associate Minister at Glen Waverley Anglican Church in Melbourne where she pioneered a network of missional communities alongside a contemporary Anglican Church. Now, along with her husband and kids, they are part of a new micro church network church plant in Melbourne and help lead a community called The Village. Bree has completed a Masters of Missional Leadership, focusing on missional culture change in existing churches. Bree is passionate about spiritual formation, catalyzing change, raising leaders, and contextualized mission. She loves to read, wakeboard, and go for long walks in new places, preferably near the ocean!

GMP Stories and updates from our ministry - Sessions 1 & 2 • GMP

Global Mission Partners (GMP) has been investing in life-changing partnerships with churches, individuals and communities both overseas and within Australia for over 130 years. Formerly known as Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board Inc. our story began in 1891 as the Churches of Christ Foreign Missions Committee. Our strong history is evident in the quality and values of our partnerships, both internationally and in Australia. We want to see lives changed through relief and development, church partnerships, and Australian Indigenous ministry; and we're committed to encouraging the next generation of young people to explore issues of mission and justice. We believe that mission must work with what God is doing and in partnership with local people.

**Participate
in Renewal**

Workshops **Saturday 18 November**

The roots of conflict and ‘having the conversation’ - Session 1 • Rev Michael Wood

Every now and again we instinctively know that we need to have a conversation with someone which we have been putting off. To not have this conversation is untenable or unsustainable. This workshop will explore common sources of interpersonal conflict and provide a couple of tools which might help us get unstuck and have the conversations we need to have.

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Practicing peace in complex systems - Session 2 • Rev Michael Wood

Church leaders live and work as part of highly complex human systems. Understanding and navigating conflict in systems requires more than just having one to one conversations (as important as they are). In this workshop we will look at some of the features of complex systems and briefly touch on some of the mental paradigm shifts and group modalities which can become manifestations of Christlike peace – ‘a peace which the world cannot give’ (John 14:27). This second workshop builds on the material presented by Michael Wood in the earlier workshop, but can also be attended as a stand-alone workshop.

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Understanding the Spirituality of Young People - Sessions 2 • Adrian Blenkinsop

A large scale research project into the spirituality of young Australians currently being undertaken has shown that in the last 3 years, young people identifying as spiritual 'seekers' has grown from 8% to 21%. Whats behind this growth, and how might the church better understand and engage with them in ways that are life-giving and that respect their agency.

Adrian Blenkinsop. As well as working with Churches of Christ SA in leadership formation, Adrian also leads a regional network of youth-orientated agencies and denominations called Converge, which has been undertaking the above-mentioned research project (Your Story) for the last 2 years, seeking to better understand whats shaping young people's understanding and experience of God.