



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

From the **Moderator**

Dear Ministers and leaders of congregations

17 November 2020

As most of you will now be aware, over the last few days a number of people have tested positive for COVID-19 outside of quarantine in Adelaide. SA Health is in the process of conducting extensive contact tracing, details of which can be found [here](#).

As always, the spiritual, physical and emotional health of our church community members is paramount. We recognise our congregations comprise many vulnerable people as well as those who take a cautious approach. After experiencing restrictions for several months it is challenging to determine the best way forward at this time.

The South Australian Government has put in place some temporary restrictions for at least the next two weeks and they can be found [here](#).

The Synod Crisis Management Team met today and considered matters particularly pertaining to the Uniting Church. In line with our previous cautious approach, and in solidarity with congregations that are unable to meet in person, the following decisions were made:

- The Synod office and Uniting College Campus will be closed to all visitors from tomorrow 18th November for a 2 week period, seeking to re-open on the 1st December
- Synod staff who are able to do so will work from home for the next two weeks
- All congregations within a 50 kilometre radius of the Adelaide CBD are required to suspend face-to-face worship for the next two Sundays (22nd and 29th)
- All in-person meetings and activities in church buildings within a 50 kilometre radius of the Adelaide CBD are suspended until 1st December. Weddings, funerals and recording of online worship are permitted within the restrictions, including the density requirement of 1 person per 4 square metres.

I encourage congregations to continue to provide online worship and printed worship resources where appropriate. These are available on the Synod website [here](#). Your presbytery may also have resources for you to use.

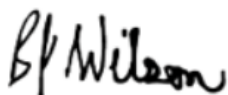
Many congregation members are feeling especially vulnerable at this time and I encourage pastoral carers to pay particular attention to the pastoral needs of all congregational members, recognising these changes may come as a shock to some people.

I thank you for your adaptability and faithfulness in God and to your congregations as we all manage the on-going ramifications of this global pandemic.

May we all remember that it is through our connections with God, our church and the wider community that we can truly fulfil the ministries to which we are called. As we prepare for Advent may we recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit leading us forward, navigating our way as we journey toward Christmas.

Blessings,

Bronte Wilson



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