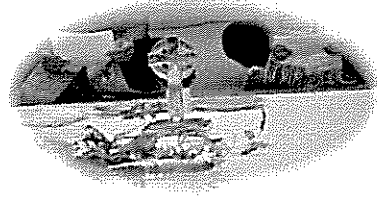


## **One Great Sunday of Sharing 2009 – 2010**



### ***“Guest and Host – Hospitality and God”***

The declaration that the Uniting Church in Australia is a multicultural church for all God's people sets us on a journey of continual discovery and renewal. As one way of keeping this focus at the heart of our common life in the UCA we celebrate *One Great Sunday of Sharing* on or after the 3rd Sunday in July.

The theme for 2009 is *Guest and Host – Hospitality and God* and is based around our experiences of experiencing hospitality both as hosts to someone else, but also as guest – sometimes deliberately chosen and sometimes happening unexpectedly to us. The theme and resources arise from conversations within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Working Group. Communities, small groups and individuals are invited to share stories of experiences of being both *Guest and Host* in personal life, in relationships with other cultures, and in our experience of being a Christian in a multicultural church and a nation that is both multicultural and multi-faith.

*One Great Sunday of Sharing* provides an opportunity for Uniting Church Congregations, Faith Communities and Fellowship Groups to share time together as both *Guest and Host* and to reflect on and to celebrate *Hospitality and God*.

- *Be a host – but not all the time – by spending time together with peoples whose culture and background is different from your own. Remember that for all of us, all of the time God is host!*
- *Be a guest and let others embrace you into their world, experiences, stories of journey and faith. Remember too that powerful image of Jesus in Revelation standing at the door of all of our hearts knocking and awaiting our invitation for him to be our guest.*
- *As both host and guest - worship together and share fellowship with neighbours from cultures and languages different from our own.*
- *As both guest and host - discover what it means to live together as people from different cultures and languages in our worship, witness and service*
- *As both host and guest - celebrate the richness of our diversity as God's people and the wondrous hospitality of God*
- *As both guest and host - share faith and fellowship with language, image, songs, dance and artefacts that speak across our cultures*

*One Great Sunday of Sharing* is also an opportunity for us to recommit to the vision of actually being a multicultural church where we are, and to celebrate what might be life giving and reassuring about that for Australian society.

While the third Sunday in July has been the suggested date for the *One Great Sunday of Sharing* for some years, if that is not suitable for your local calendar, then please feel free to choose a day that best fits your planning between now and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010!

**Resources** are for local adaptation and use. It is our prayer that these will encourage members of local congregations and faith communities to develop and share their own stories and resources. They can be used whole, or those parts that are most useful or as a means to develop local ideas.

In the deluge of God's grace, may we celebrate the wonder and gift of racial, cultural and linguistic diversity. In the living presence of Christ – both *guest* and *host* – may we continue to be made 'one' as Jesus and God are One. Under the creative care of the hovering Holy Spirit may we be led as guests and hosts into the *hospitality of God*. And on the journey to God's promised end may we grow into new understanding and new places and opportunities of refreshment, blessing and service!

*Revd Dr Antony [Tony] Floyd: National Director and Revd Dr Apwee Ting:  
Chairperson*