

## Words From A Messy Desk

12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

To my Noranda Uniting family,

It's Tuesday afternoon and I'm trying to get back into the groove for the week. I was privileged to spend Friday evening at Floreat UC to partake in the installation of Ian Tozer as our new Moderator; and then I got to spend the weekend at Synod where we made some important decisions for the church and talked about how the church might be structured into the future to better resource local congregations. Meanwhile I got to spend time with a host of other people in active ministry across our state. It was an insightful and enjoyable weekend but also heavy going at times.

We also held some elections for various Synod committees, and other appointments. As part of this, I was elected as one of ten ministers to attend the meeting of the national Uniting Church Assembly next year in July. The Assembly meets every three years and each year WA sends ten ministers and ten lay people along. This will be my first time being part of WA's delegation to Assembly, and I'm looking forward to the experience.

Over the course of the weekend, I also had a few people from Trinity North UC wanting to have a chat with me about what's happening in that patch. It was tricky because I'm trying very hard to not think about them until I start there next year. I really want to make sure that I do my best over these next four months to finish this year well here at Noranda, rather than investing my heart and mind into next year. It's natural for them to want to share their anticipation for what could happen, so I had to work hard to be polite in telling them that I would love to hear what they've got to tell me ... next year.

Yesterday I was honoured to be able to lead the funeral for **Carol Graham**. Carol and James were members of Bedford and Noranda before Carol had to move into Ella Williams, which is where I got to know her. I have to confess that there were a couple of moments in the Synod discussions where I turned my attention to writing the homily for Carol rather than giving my full attention to discussions about finances. In the end, though, yesterday was a beautiful celebration of life and a loving farewell from family and friends. She will be missed.

Meanwhile, I've also been informed that **Mary Cross** has passed away and that her funeral took place last week. Mary was an important part of our Tuesday Fellowship group, always gentle and caring, and I am saddened that I didn't hear about her funeral until after it had happened.

So that's some of what's been happening. Now I need to talk about what's coming up in the coming weeks. This coming Sunday, we'll be back into our exploration of the **Exodus**, the story of the Israelites leaving Egypt to claim the promised land of Canaan. The readings for this week are Exodus 12:1-14 and Romans 13:8-14.

Being the third Sunday of the month, it's also **Soup Sunday**. Please hang around and share in the simple and fulfilling meal of soup and bread. So far, no one has put their hand up so there's an opportunity before everyone dives in. If you haven't made a pot of soup for us and you'd like to have a crack, then please let me know. I can even drop a pot off for you if you don't have one big enough. Otherwise I know that our usual potager chefs (*I had to look that one up*) will provide plenty of soupy goodness for us.

After the service this Sunday, before we dive into the soup, there's a meeting of all those who have volunteered to be **Pastoral Carers**. We're going to divvy up our directory to make sure that everyone is being cared for. Of course, there's nothing to stop you from showing your care and support for others even if you're not an assigned Carer.

Then the following Sunday, I'm disappearing again, and **Elaine Ledgerwood** is taking the service here. Elaine has been providing supply ministry for Claremont UC while they look for a new minister, and I have been chairing that JNC process to help the congregation in that search. On that Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> Sept), the congregation are meeting to consider a name, and as the chair of the JNC, I should be at that meeting. So, rather than racing from here to Claremont in record time after our service, Elaine has agreed to do a pulpit swap with me, so that I'm already at Claremont for their meeting.

That Sunday will also be the fourth Sunday of the month and we've recently decided to start our service on those Sundays with some **choruses**. If you have any choruses that you haven't sung in a while and would like us to sing together, please let me know. Hopefully I'll get bombarded with requests and we can store them up for the next few months.

At the end of this month, on 30<sup>th</sup> September, will be the **ordination of Reuben Edmonds**. Reuben was a student with us for a while and then he offered supply ministry during May this year while I was on long service leave. So it's wonderful news that his journey has finally reached this next stage and I know quite a few of you will want to join him in celebrating that. The ordination service will be at Wesley UC in the city at 2pm. A few of us are planning to catch a Transperth bus in for it, rather than having to wrestle with parking and traffic. There'll be more details closer to the date.

I also need to mention our **Kids & Seniors Lego Challenge** which is exactly three weeks away. We've got our judges sorted and our tubs of Lego are washed and sorted. I'll be looking for a couple of volunteers on the day to man the bbq and to help with setting up. But more importantly, it would be great if you could advertise this to your neighbours. This is something that we would love for our local community to really be involved in. I'll make sure there's some flyers available on Sunday.

Then it's only a few short weeks after that until our **Church Fete** on 21<sup>st</sup> October. There's a whiteboard up in the hall for you to volunteer for any of the stands and there'll be a call out for some help setting up on the day beforehand, but once again the best thing you can do to help the fete is to advertise it to our local neighbourhood.

I think they're the main things coming up for us. But of course, as the church, our main business is not just in running events. Our primary call is to extend Jesus' love to this world. We do that through our prayers, our acts of kindness, and our generosity. This week, as you spend time in prayer, I ask that you pray especially for our indigenous brothers and sisters. During this time of debate around the upcoming referendum, I know that many of them are feeling especially vulnerable, being bounced around like a football with little regard for them as people. I would ask that you also pray for the families of Carol and Mary as they continue to grieve their loss, and also for Joyce M as she spends more time in hospital, and for Neville & Maureen L and Denise B as they continue to struggle with illness. I would also ask for prayers for Inez B, Thelma & Bob F, Vera & Steven K, Josephine M, Eris S, Chantelle T and her kids, Fabian, Prosper, and Mikaela. Please remember to support and encourage each other along the way.

There's probably lots more I need to talk about. But I'll leave it there for now, praying that you continue in God's love and grace, whatever you're up to.

With love and hope,

Your minister,  
your brother in Christ,  
Ivan

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Late Notice:

On Monday night, I received the sad news that Carol Graham has passed away. Carol was part of the Bedford UC mob and then part of us here at Noranda for a little bit after that. Over the past several years, Carol has been a resident at Ella Williams, where I got to meet her. Her funeral will be here at Noranda next Monday morning at 10am. There will be a morning tea after the funeral in the hall and if anyone is able to contribute something toward that, it would be greatly appreciated.