

**Canberra Region Presbytery meeting 15 July 2017**  
**Presentation of Rev Jane Fry, Acting General Secretary of the UCA Synod of NSW/ACT**

In looking at the next 40 years for the Uniting Church, Rev Jane Fry spoke of :

**A church living at the edge of hope (eg the story of Sarah in Genesis)** which introduced us to PATHWAYS – an experimental project that seeks to develop a grass-roots mission plan for the Synod and which is being piloted in two presbyteries.

**We are called to be relational, interconciliar**, but there is a conciliar disconnect – a lack of trust, lack of confidence compared with what the Basis of Union describes.

**How to work in the context we are in?**

Leadership Culture formed by ministers and leaders requires effective oversight.  
The culture of individualism in which we sit plays out in the

- placement process
- engagement with wider community
- sense of entitlement
- behaviour which ends in disciplinary processes

**How much energy goes into managing business?**

It gets in the way of the gospel – telling the story – affects placements.  
We must let go.

**What are we calling ministers into?**

We are not good at telling the truth to each other.

We are suspicious of the new.

In the UCA we don't talk about repentance; celebrating we do well.

We need to look at things we have not done well.

**What is the story for the future?**

Strategic planning for Synod which invests in

- Resourcing the church to be a safe church to regain trust of community
- Ministry in 1<sup>st</sup> third of life

PATHWAYS will discover congregations know this, churches know how to do church. We cannot be amateurish regarding ministers and leaders.

**How open to radical change are we?**

Change needs to be on the agenda but at the grass roots.

Synod is the umbrella – it manages and is responsive to congregation/presbytery-led plans.

[Responding to a question re Synod and being seen and speaking to the whole country about what do we do and how to get there – it is the Moderator's job to advocate. Also every minister needs to be able to build relationship with the local media.]