

**Moderator: Rev Dr Graham Humphris**

12 January 2005

**To the Members of the Uniting Church on Lower Eyre Peninsula**

Dear Friends

As a Synod we have been shocked to hear of the devastating bushfires in your area this week and deeply saddened by the toll that it has taken on lives and properties. Knowing how close-knit the Eyre Peninsula community is, we can understand that you will be able to identify closely with many of those who have died, been injured or lost homes, property or stock through these fires.

It is in this awful situation that we, as part of your extended family known in the Uniting Church in South Australia, want you to know that we are grieving with you, praying for you and wanting to stand by you and support you in any way that we possibly can.

I will be forwarding a copy of this letter to all congregations in South Australia so that as they meet together this week you will know that congregations all over the State are lifting you up in prayer as you come to terms with the consequences of this terrible tragedy. I am also arranging through Rev Sybil Peacock, your Presbytery Chairperson, for \$10,000 to be immediately made available for any emergency expenses that you incur in supporting your congregational and wider communities at this time. This is merely a tangible symbol of the love and concern we want to express to you.

The President of the Assembly, Rev Dr Dean Drayton has also asked me to assure you all of the support and prayers of the National Church.

May you know in a very special way the comfort and peace of the Holy Spirit as well as the prayerful and practical support of your Uniting Church friends in Christ at this time.

Psalm 34:18 *'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit'.*

Grace and Peace



Rev Dr Graham Humphris  
Moderator

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