

Circles of Care



Uniting Church in Australia
Dayboro Congregation

www.dayborouca.com.au

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What is a Circle of Care?

The “Circles of Care” model is how we will come together as a community in Christ during this period of pandemic and beyond to provide pastoral care in a more formal context. It is following Jesus’ example to love, accept, and care for one another and allowing ourselves to be open to receiving love, acceptance, and care ourselves. Jesus commanded us to “love one another” and one way we can make sure nobody is left out is through “Circles of Care”.

A “Circle of Care” is a smaller group of people from our congregation, made up of individuals, couples and families. Each person in a “Circle of Care” takes responsibility for staying in touch with the other members of that circle. Each “Circle of Care” will have a host couple (or individual) who will contact the other members at least once per week. If you or someone you are caring for has a need for additional support from your host, you simply contact them.

How do “Circles of Care” work?

Dayboro Uniting Church has a fantastic informal network of pastoral care. We already do a great job of caring for our people. “Circles of Care” give us a secondary, formal layer of pastoral care ensuring nobody is overlooked, nobody is missed, that no one is left alone. So, for the “Circles of Care” to be effective, most of us just need to keep doing what we already are doing - looking out for another and providing support where we can. There may be times when some people will need high levels of pastoral care e.g. if they experience a bereavement, job loss, etc. but for most of us, the pastoral care we need is centred around feeling genuinely cared for and having people show a real interest in our lives.

What can you do to care for the people in your “Circle of Care”? We’d like each member of the Circle to contact two people per week at least. Here are a few suggestions how you might like to keep in touch and provide each other the support we all require.

- Call another member of the Circle on your phone.
- Send them a SMS (text) or Instant Message on social media.
- Drop them an email asking how things are going.
- Pray for each other.
- Pray with each other.
- While we are still permitted, visit each other (keeping social distancing guidelines).
- It may be old school, but write a letter or card.
- The whole Circle may even decide to get together socially

Most importantly let your hosts know if any of the people or families you are contacting are experiencing particular difficulties or stress, and they will provide them with additional support. The “Circle of Care” hosts will be in contact with you at least once per week. And at least two other members of your circle will contact you as well. The hosts of each group will in turn be cared for by Pastor Dan every week, and there are other individuals with skills within the congregation we call on.



John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Galations 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.