



# Record of Service – Rev Professor Dean Drayton

## 1. Highlights of Ministry

### 1965-1969

Attended Parkin Wesley College with Principal Arnold Hunt and Vice Principal Charles Biggs as one of first married students. It was a great privilege working for three years with the Rev Arthur Jackson at Westbourne Park, especially as his assistant during my fourth year (as a probationer), when he was President of the Conference. I was ordained in October 1969 at Kent Town.

### 1970-1973

Writing doctoral thesis, “A Christian view of Man(sic) in a Whiteheadian Perspective” at Chicago Theological Seminary, while minister at the DePue Congregational Church in Illinois, an industrial smelting town.

### 1974-1977

Appointed to Salisbury Methodist Church in South Australia while the congregation was undergoing charismatic revival - continued 2x2 visitation evangelism and small groups ministry, started by Norm Hayward. I completed my doctorate. While working with an amazing group of church and community people, started a Community Information Bureau and discovered that Jesus’ gospel is that the Kingdom of God is still at hand.

### 1977-1982

Worked as a Consultant for Evangelism in the South Australian Synod, visited widely in the state, undertook evangelistic events, and chaired the 1969 Leighton Ford Reachout. With Owen and Caryl Roberts, Sandra and I helped develop *Growing Together in Marriage*. The last two years were spent writing evangelism study resources.

### 1983-1998

Called to be General Secretary of the NSW Synod Board of Mission. The mission team was instrumental in developing the theme of “Mission Comes Home”. This led to a Workbook for Mission, the creation of the National Church Life Survey, inviting Kennon Callahan to lead Synod wide mission events, start *Living is Giving*, and continuing to resource congregations in home and world mission, as well as provide occasions for evangelism. Mediacom published “Pilgrim in the Cosmos” for me.

### 1999-2009

The final placement was as Lecturer in Systematic Theology and Missiology at the United Theological College in North Parramatta, NSW. As well as teaching a wide range of courses in theology, mission and evangelism, was actively involved in creating a post graduate course in Public Theology. Mediacom published my book “Which Gospel?” Discovered the apocalyptic dimension in Paul’s letters. It was a rich and

stimulating time with fellow members of faculty in a time of transition and restructure in theological education under the leadership of Sarah Mitchell and Clive Pearson.

### **2009-2016**

After retiring, appointed Adjunct Professor of the Charles Sturt School of Theology, and was involved in the teaching of courses for CSU and Hannam University providing a path for Korean Australians to do Masters and Doctorates. As well, supervised numbers of other candidates in their doctorates.

### **2017-2021**

Appointed Adjunct Professor to the Public and Contextual Theology Research Unit of Charles Sturt University. In 2019 Wipf and Stock published the book "Apocalyptic Good News: Christ in the Cosmos," calling for a rediscovery of the apocalyptic kingdom of God in Jesus' life and teaching.

## **2. Special Roles**

- In 1995-1996 installed as Moderator of the NSW Synod.
- Appointed to the Assembly Standing Committee at the 1985 Assembly, served on the Standing Committee until 2000 when elected as President Elect, continuing then serving in this role till 2009.
- In 1997 spent a study year as Professor for Evangelism at the Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, USA.
- 2003 - Installed as President of the Tenth Assembly 2003-2006. Caught up in overseeing the Assembly response to Resolution 84, visited detention camps giving rise to the creation of an Assembly Register for Uniting Church members in detention camps, and spoke with government on behalf of detained immigrants. In the name of the Uniting Church responded to Work Choices legislation, and visited the horrific devastation in Banda Aceh soon after the 2004 Tsunami.
- In 2016 appointed Prior of the Order of Jacobs Well Australia, after the visit of Rev Mike Endicott from the Order of Jacob's Well United Kingdom to South Australia. This is an ecumenical order providing resources for rediscovering Kingdom Healing for local 'wells'.

I am so grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Methodist Church and the Uniting Church, for the ever-deepening experience of God's grace and purpose given to us in God's love for the creation. It has been an amazing privilege to minister with Sandra in this 50 years since ordination.