

## Background

It's now nearly fifty years since Harvey Cox's groundbreaking book, *The Secular City* (1965) described the changing urban context for the church's mission and ministry. Humankind come of age. The postsecular city is now an unanticipated and pluralist setting for the church's ministry. In their introduction to "Postsecular Cities" (2011) the co-editors describe seven areas of debate in the shift from the secular to post secular context. Author and guest speaker at the conference, Dr Chris Baker, will invite participants to explore the implications this has for mainline churches today.

On the day following the conference, Friday September 27th Chris Baker will be guest of the South Australian Council of Churches and Pilgrim Church for a half day round table between church leaders and social planners from State and local governments in SA.

*Chris will also be visiting Melbourne and Sydney and information about events in these cities will be available from Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes e mail Jennifer.Byrnes@ctm.uca.edu.au Executive Director Centre for Theology and Ministry Melbourne and the Rev Dr Clive Pearson e mail cpearson@csu.edu.au Principal of the United Theological College, Sydney (Charles Sturt University).*

## Conference Organising Committee

**Rev Sandy Boyce** Pilgrim Church Adelaide (chair)

**Christine Secombe** Urban Mission Network (host)

**Rev Dr Dean Eland** (organising secretary).

**E:** djeland@bigpond.com

**P:** 0419 112 603

Partners in sponsoring this conference include the host congregation, Pilgrim Uniting Church, 12 Flinders St Adelaide; the Urban Mission Network (34 Uniting Church congregations in SA); Uniting Communities Adelaide and Scots Church, North Tce. Leaders of other churches and agencies in Adelaide are also assisting with the program.

*Religion, faith communities and spiritual values have returned to the centre of public life, especially public policy, governance, and social identity. Rapidly diversifying urban locations are the best place to witness the emergence of new spaces in which religion and spiritual traditions are creating... new alliances. Is this true for Australia?*

## Continuing Conversation

From October 2nd to 5th 2014, Adelaide will host the third National Conference of the Australian Association of Mission Studies. This conference will cover a wide range of topics and participants will be invited to present papers on the theology and practices of mission in the Australian context.



[www.pilgrim.org.au](http://www.pilgrim.org.au)  
[www.urbannetwork.org.au](http://www.urbannetwork.org.au)

# NATIONAL URBAN MISSION CONFERENCE ADELAIDE SEPTEMBER 24-26th 2013

**The Postsecular City:  
Implications for congregations  
and their community engagement**

**Speaker**

**Dr Chris Baker**



Sponsored by the **Urban Mission Network**  
and **Pilgrim Uniting Church**, 12 Flinders St Adelaide

**THIS THREE DAY CONFERENCE IS FOR  
LEADERS OF URBAN CONGREGATIONS  
AND CHURCH AGENCIES OF ALL  
DENOMINATIONS IN AUSTRALIA,  
NEW ZEALAND AND PACIFIC NATIONS**

**Dr Chris Baker** is Director of Research for the William Temple Foundation, Director of the Centre for Faiths and Public Policy and Senior Lecturer in Urban and Public Theology at the University of Chester.

He is a leading researcher and published author in the field of religion and public life with a focus on the hybrid nature of urban communities and the role of religion in public policy and social welfare. Chris has contributed to the debate about the place of religious traditions in civil society and how churches are redefining their place in the urban environment. To this end he is a leading theorist and exponent on ideas relating to the postsecular nature of the city, the place of religion and spiritual capital. His work is based on the UK experience but is also informing debates within Europe, the US and Australia.

His published works include *Postsecular Cities: Space Theory and Practice* (Continuum 2011) edited with Justin Beaumont, *Christianity and the New Social Order* (SCM 2011) *The Hybrid Church in the City-Third Space Thinking* (Ashgate 2007).

## THE PROGRAM

The conference program will begin with a welcome at 10.00am on Tuesday 24th and conclude at 4.00pm on Thursday 26th.

Pilgrim Uniting Church, 12 Flinders Street, the conference venue, overlooks Victoria Square Adelaide and is about 15 minutes from the Adelaide airport.

During the year updates about the conference program will be added to the Pilgrim and Urban Mission web sites.

[www.pilgrim.org.au](http://www.pilgrim.org.au)  
[www.urbannetwork.org.au](http://www.urbannetwork.org.au)

## THE PROGRAM WILL BE IN TWO PARTS

**Morning sessions** will explore the big picture; including the changing character of postsecular urban locations and the implications this has for the church's ministry. These sessions will include discussion about the hybrid and pluralist nature of urban places and how congregations are responding to this changing context through their mission practices and theological insights.

**Afternoon sessions**, the practicum, will draw on insights from effective community development practices. CDPs are an important medium for congregations as they engage and form partnerships with their host communities.

In 2013 Uniting Communities, Adelaide will be organising a series of one day CDPs workshops. Email Rev Peter McDonald for further information.

[PeterM@unitingcommunities.org](mailto:PeterM@unitingcommunities.org)

## REGISTRATION FORM / TAX INVOICE

Click here [www.urbannetwork.org.au](http://www.urbannetwork.org.au) and pay online with Visa, MasterCard, credit or debit cards.

Or complete the following, attach your cheque and post to c/- UMN 23A Devitt Avenue  
PAYNEHAM SOUTH 5070 SA

(Cheques payable to Uniting Church SA  
ABN 25 068 897 781)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost of the conference is \$100 including catering (\$70 inc GST, \$30 no GST).**

*Please keep a copy of this tax invoice for your records.*

*Privacy Statement: All information collected is done so in accordance with the privacy policy of the Uniting Church SA.*

### OFFICE USE ONLY –

Registration 074003-091-091

\$70.00 SNT

\$30.00 ST

