The following information summarises avenues of pastoral care for pastors. Whilst some are specific to those pastoring churches, those involved in chaplaincy or other ministries should consider that these supports are also intended for them wherever appropriate. Many supports can be accessed via **www.buv.com.au**, under the menu item 'Supporting Pastors'.

Please note that country callers can reach the BUV reception by calling 1 800 815 821 and then be transferred to the office staff member they wish to speak to.

Pastoral Care through the BUV Ministry Team

The Director of Ministries, Daniel Bullock, carries the overall responsibility for the pastoral care of pastors and churches. Daniel's assistant Lyn maintains his calendar and will book an appointment for you, ensure Daniel receives information confidentially, and handles most enquiries.

Director of Ministries Office
Daniel Bullock

9880 6188

Lyn Williams

9880 6188

0403 321 096

lyn.williams@buv.com.au

- **The Regional Ministers**

Victoria has been divided into four major regions: East, West, North-West Metropolitan, and South-East Metropolitan. Each region has a full time Regional Minister who fulfills the varying roles of friend, pastor, consultant and general point of reference. [From mid-year 2012 a new group of regional pastors will be available to facilitate all BUV pastors in being networked, supported and accountable. Details will be advised.]

The current Regional Ministers are:

East

Grant Stewart

grant.stewart@buv.com.au

West

Geoff Leslie

geoff.leslie@buv.com.au

South-East Metro

Andrew Woff

andrew.woff@buv.com.au

North-West Metro

Anne Wilkinson-Hayes

awh@buv.com.au

- **Care of Retired Pastors, their Wives and Widows**

Special pastoral care is offered to those who are now in retirement. Rev Alan Nunn makes regular visits and phone contact. The BUV also sponsors an annual lunch in

November, which provides an opportunity for our retirees to catch up with others they know from ministry. In 2012, this lunch is planned for Friday 9 November.

2. Pastoral Care through Groups

- **Peer Support Groups**

Peer support groups, clusters and networks of pastors for mutual support and mentoring will become an increasingly important feature of BUV life. See your Regional Minister to find out if one operates in your area. If not, you could start one!

- **Local Pastor's Groups**

There are two kinds of pastors' groups that meet in various places:

1. **The Local Baptist Pastors' Groups:** These groups are active in many, but not all, areas. Check with the pastors of your nearest Baptist church or your Regional Minister to see if there is one near you.

2. **Interchurch Ministers' Groups:** In many communities there is a group for the pastors of churches of all denominations. These provide valuable community links with the people of God. Out of these groups there often develop special community projects and events. Regular prayer fellowship is a feature in many. The best way to connect is to contact pastors of other churches in your local community.

- **Baptist Ministers Victoria (BMV)**

BMV is a voluntary association of pastors to support and advocate for pastors' needs within BUV. Membership can be arranged through contacting Gary Heard, **gdh@netspace.net.au.**

1. **Email Group:** An email group supports discussion on relevant ministry issues, VBMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

2. **Nourish:** these day time gatherings for all Victorian pastors and their partners take place on the Friday prior to Saturday Gathering. The date for 2012 is May 4. Contact Alison Sharma for further details, **alison.sharma@buv.com.au.**

3. Pastoral Care through Events

- **Annual School of Ministry**

This annual three day residential event is held at Whitley College from Monday – Wednesday towards the end of June. This year it will be 25 – 27 June. This is an excellent opportunity for service training, and meeting with colleagues in ministry.

- **Rural Ministry Fellowships**

Country pastors and spouses are invited to a two day event in major centres around the State: Moe, Stawell, Bendigo and Wodonga. Overnight accommodation costs are covered by the Union. These are a combination of fellowship and training. Dates for 2012 are yet to be confirmed.

Contact Lyn Williams on **lyn.williams@buv.com.au** or phone the office 9880 6188 is direct line to Lyn) with any queries about arrangements.

- **Professional Development Process (PDP)**

Every three years on a rotating basis, pastoral leaders throughout Victoria will be invited to participate in the PDP process. The aim of the PDP process is to encourage pastoral leaders in their continued growth, both personally and in ministry. Seminars are held throughout the year at various locations, which explain the process, as well as providing opportunity for mutual support and networking. Details are on the BUV website under the 'Supporting Pastors' page.

PDP coordinator David Buesnel: **david.buesnel@buv.com.au.**

4. Pastoral Care to Meet Specific Needs

- **Personal and Marital Counselling**

Confidential arrangements are made for pastors needing special assistance. The Union provides financial assistance to agreed levels. Contact your Regional Minister.

- **Financial Counselling**

Pastors are wisely showing increased interest in financial planning, which should be given consideration well ahead of drawing close to retirement. Contact your Regional Minister for details of confidential arrangements.

- **Car Purchase Assistance**

This involves assistance with obtaining a Fleet Discount price on a new vehicle and/or leasing possibilities. Direct personal loans to a pastor are not possible at this stage. Contact our Administrator, Kylie Kendall on 9880 6111.

- **Funeral Costs**

The Union offers financial assistance when needed to assist in the funeral expenses of a pastor or a pastor's spouse.

5. Pastoral Care in times of transition

When Pastoral change is in the air the Advisory Board, your Regional Minister and the Director of Ministries are all here to help. Never hesitate to open a conversation. More; look up the BUV Website and follow the links to Advisory Board for further resources.

If you wish to obtain additional information on any of the above matters or need other assistance contact Lyn Williams, or your Regional Minister.

6. Dates for your diary

For all BUV dates please log on to the BUV calendar - http://www.buv.com.au/events/calendar