

## Uniting Church in Australia

### ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

2 April 2020

(5.30pm ESDT)

**PRESENT** Deidre Palmer (President), David Baker, Rob Brown, Hayden Charles, Steve Francis, Colleen Geyer, Geoffrey Grinton, Sharon Hollis, Andrew Johnson, Mark Kickett, Jason Kioa, Elaine Ledgerwood, Clare Ligtermoet, Stuart McMillan, Kath Merrifield, Nicole Mugford, Catherine Pepper, Elaine Rae, Geoff Thompson, Stuart Woodward.

**In attendance:** Jenny Bertalan, Rob Floyd and Ji Zhang.

**WORSHIP** The meeting started by every member acknowledging the First Peoples on the land of their residence by paying respects for the wisdom of their elders past and present, their care of country and to all descendants of this nation. The President opened the meeting in prayer then she invited the members to offer prayers of intercession and petitions to God.

**WELCOMES** The President welcomed all participants to the Standing Committee meeting. Also welcomed was Lindsay Cullen for matters related to the Service of Holy Communion in Online Settings.

#### APOLOGIES

**20.32** **It was resolved to** accept the apologies of Garry Dronfield, Helen Paine, Yuko Tonai-Moore and Ian Tozer.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**20.33** **It was resolved to** approve the timetable and agenda of the meeting as outlined in Document 1, noting that the committee is free to vary the agenda at any time.

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION IN ON-LINE SETTINGS

Rob Floyd and Lindsay Cullen introduced Documents 2 and 2A, consisting of a report on what prompted the Assembly Resourcing Unit to seek the Assembly Standing Committee's approval for the UCA Congregations to offer the sacrament of Holy Communion in on-line settings during this period of self-isolation and physical distancing during the COVID-19 crisis; a Briefing Document which included the summary of feedback and suggested additional resources and the draft Guidelines on Holy Communion in Online Settings. Extensive discussion followed.

**20.34** **It was resolved to:**

20.34.01 receive the report;

20.34.02 give permission for UCA congregations to celebrate Holy Communion in on-line communities in accordance with the expanded guidelines that have been developed;

- 20.34.03 determine that these arrangements should be seen as a temporary pastoral measure for the period of COVID-19 isolation measures unless the Assembly Standing Committee decides otherwise;
- 20.34.04 request staff to publicise:
- Holy Communion in Online Settings (Proposed Guidelines) (Attachment A); and
  - Theological Resources for Discernment (based on the Briefing Document for the Assembly Standing Committee) to assist discernment for congregations (Attachment B);
- 20.34.05
- a) request that advocates and panels for the Transforming Worship and Growing in Faith Circles engage in further theologian reflection and work regarding Holy Communion in online communities; and
  - b) bring a report to the November 2020 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm with prayer led by the President.