

### INTRODUCTION

As you know I was elected Interim National Chair for the UAICC following Rev. Garry Dronfield's resignation as Congress National President in March at our National Executive planning workshop in Adelaide.

Since then Covid has taken the world by storm and made our working & worshipping lives very different.

### CONGRESS WORSHIP

On a personal level, I have enjoyed participating in the Zoom worship life of our congregation in Port Augusta. Others like Zillmere in Brisbane have streamed live on Facebook, while some of our remote communities have still been able to meet in informal ways, thanks to their isolation and the virus not reaching them.

Congress led Assembly FB worship on June 7<sup>th</sup> which was a wonderful highlight with the Port Augusta crew leading the worship with songs and dancing from the Dusty Feet Mob.

### CONGRESS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ZOOM MEETINGS

Congress National Executive has met regularly (approximately every 3 weeks) since April and we have been able to progress a number of matters. These include:

- Making the Interim National Chair role, a 3 day a week role. This way I am still able to fulfill some of my SA roles
- Extending the finishing date of President, Rev. Garry Dronfield until October, so that he could take annual leave & LSL.
- Appointing and approving the terms of reference for a Strategic Planning & Support group of 4 people for the National Office, so that we can work on our Strategic Plans, which began to take shape at our National Executive Planning Workshop in early March
- Approving the terms of reference for the National Executive NSW /ACT Task group. This group also met with the NSW Gen. Sec. by Zoom in May.
- Beginning work on re-establishing the Congress MEB

### NATIONAL MEETINGS

As Interim National Chair I have participated in a number of National meetings, some of which I was a participant prior to being elected chairperson in March. These included:

## ATTACHMENT B

- Sovereignty Task Group
- Vic Tas Walking Together & Covenanting Action Plan meeting
- Disability Royal Commission National Task Group
- Frontier Services Board, at which I am a support person for Aunty Di Torrens
- Uniting First Peoples Coalition. Through this coalition and the work of Uniting Care I have been able to co – sign letters to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- Uniting World partnership with Pacific Council of Churches
- Future of the Church meetings

I also had the blessing of working with our President to speak out about matters of racism and Deaths in Custody in support of Black Lives Matter following the death of George Floyd in the US.

### CONCLUSION

It has been a busy four months since I was elected as the National Interim Chair. The world has changed significantly in that time. I believe however that Congress has taken some significant steps in its life, working to rebuild relationships in the Uniting Church, and our ministries within the Congress.

Mark Kickett

Congress National interim Chair

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