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INTRODUCTION

The Fourteenth Assembly commenced on July 12 2015 when voting members from across the country and guests from overseas and Australia, representing churches and ecumenical bodies, met at the University of Western Australia in Perth.

One of the first actions of the Assembly was to elect Mr Stuart McMillan as the 14th President which was followed soon after by an inspiring installation service held at Scotch College, a Uniting Church School. The worship was particularly enhanced by the participation of church members from Arnhem Land who led culturally significant acts in recognition of Stuart’s special relationship with the people of the region. Also present were additional representatives from other churches, faith communities and the wider membership of the church. The Assembly theme “Hearts on Fire” was evident in the occasion.

In addition to the contribution of the voting members and various guests, the Assembly was most helpfully resourced by the many people who led the community working groups, people associated for particular business and the wonderful volunteers who supported us most impressively with transport, assistance of various kinds and encouraging us in any way they could. The volunteer team and the administrative arrangements were brought together through the hard work, diligence and efficiency of the 14th Assembly Administrator, Ms Clare Ligtermoet. Behind the scenes Mr Geoffrey Grinton, the Business Manager, ensured that we stayed on track with the agenda and that we were always aware of what had been decided and what remained to be done. Once again the Facilitation Group greatly assisted the Assembly and made a significant contribution in the journey towards developing consensus.

Every Assembly is more than a business meeting. Meetings of the Assembly are gatherings of Christians called and equipped by God for the task of discernment and leadership within a specific area of the life of the Uniting Church. This life of Christian community and openness to the leading of the Spirit was resourced by early morning Holy Communion, three full services of worship including the installation of the President and the closing service with the Eucharist as well as worship and Bible study. The Bible studies followed the same text each day – explored from the perspective of Rev Denise Champion, Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho and Dr Rosemary Dewerse; and finally the members of the Assembly resourced by Dr Dewerse.

A special gift to the Assembly was the Cato Lecturer, Rev Dr Lin Manhong from the China Christian Council, who provided a stimulating reflection. The Assembly is particularly appreciative of the support of the Cato Trustees in covering the costs associated with the speaker being present at the Assembly.

Throughout the meeting the conversations and discernment process were enhanced by the participation of the overseas and ecumenical guests. Their presence, conversations and encouragement assisted us to locate our very specific work within the context of the worldwide and ecumenical life of the one holy, catholic and apostolic church.

Youthful members of the Assembly were also very prominent in their leadership and were a great encouragement to the other members of the Assembly.

The Assembly addressed itself to many issues that will have ongoing significance for the life and witness of the Church. These included receiving reports on, and affirming, the new directions for Frontier Services and the UCA’s ministry with communities located distant from the main population centres; committing to further discussion on the Church’s understanding of marriage; opening itself up to the leadership of the multicultural and cross cultural members of the church with their offering of a “space for grace” process; many proposals brought by Congress including the challenge to think about what it would mean if the Church recognised the First Peoples as Sovereign peoples; a refreshed policy in relation to asylum seekers; acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide; and ecumenical decisions with an agreement with the Anglicans and a process around the WCC paper “The Church -Towards a Common Vision”. The Assembly also farewelled a General Secretary and appointed Ms Colleen Geyer to be the fifth General Secretary of the Assembly.
Particularly significant was the presentation made by the Chief Commissioner for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - the Hon Justice Peter McClelland. This was a time for confession, commitment to provide a safer place for children and vulnerable people and for shared pain as the issue touched so many members of the Assembly at a personal level.

In the pages that follow you will find the record of the formal resolutions and actions of the Assembly. Present among these words are the prayers and the discussions that undergird them as a witness to a community that was seeking to faithfully fulfil its calling as the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. It is the hope of the members of the 14th Assembly that the service that they offered was honouring to Christ and a blessing for the Church.

Grace and Peace,

Terence Corkin
Assembly General Secretary
November 2015
MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH ASSEMBLY

The Fourteenth Assembly, meeting in Perth, Western Australia, on the grounds of the University of Western Australia, was formally constituted with a welcome to country led by Rev Sealin Garlett on behalf of the Whadjuk Clan-Nation of the Noongar people and worship led by the President, Andrew Dutney at 2.00pm on Sunday, 12 July 2015.

OPENING ACTIONS

The Assembly resolved to:

15.01 ROLL OF THE ASSEMBLY (See Appendix A)
adopt the roll of members.

15.02 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT
elect Stuart John McMillan as President of the Assembly, to hold office until the installation of his successor at the next ordinary meeting of the Assembly.

15.03 ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES
15.03.01 Membership of Business Committee
appoint the following persons as members of the Business Committee for the Fourteenth Assembly: Terence Corkin (Chairperson), Geoffrey Grinton (Business Manager), Stuart McMillan, Alison Atkinson-Phillips, Glenda Blakefield, Chris Budden, Michelle Cook, Dennis Corowa, Haloti Kailahi, Rosemary Hudson Miller and Deidre Palmer.

15.03.02 Appointment of Minute Secretaries
appoint the following persons as Minute Secretaries: Jenny Bertalan, Maree Kemp and Amanda Badenhorst.

15.03.03 Order of Business
approve the order of business and the timetable submitted by the Business Committee, noting that decisions to vary the order of business and timetable can be taken by the Assembly at any time.

15.03.04 Confirmation of the Minutes
authorise the following persons to confirm the minutes of the Fourteenth Assembly: Terence Corkin, Stuart McMillan, Geoffrey Grinton, Rosemary Hudson Miller and Jenny Bertalan.

15.03.05 Ballots and Nominating Procedures
a) appoint Warwick van Ede as Returning Officer and David Hay as Assistant Returning Officer;

b) appoint a Ballot Committee with responsibility for advising the Assembly on any questions relating to nominations and elections;

c) appoint the following persons as members of the Ballot Committee: Warwick van Ede (Convenor), David Hay (Assistant Returning Officer), Isabel Thomas Dobson and Ian Tozer;

d) appoint the following persons as scrutineers: Sue Ellis (Convenor), Penny Archer, Peter Armstrong, Robert Renton and Yuko Tonai-Moore; and

e) determine that the closing time for nominations is 6.00pm Tuesday July 14.
Association of Persons with the Assembly
associate the following persons with the Assembly for the business as listed,
with the right to speak but not to vote:
a) ecumenical guests

(i) from other Australian churches and the National Council of Churches in
Australia for the whole Assembly:

Major Grattan Savage, Salvation Army
Sr Elizabeth Delaney, National Council of Churches in Australia
Rev Greg Pfeiffer, Lutheran Church
Deacon Theodore Issa, Syrian Orthodox Church
Bishop Allan Ewing, Anglican Church
Mr Paul Martin, Society of Friends;

(ii) from overseas churches and from international ecumenical bodies for
the whole of the Assembly:

Rev Kan Baoping, China Christian Council
Bishop Pradeep Kumar Samantaroy, Church of North India
Rev Dr D R Sadananda, Church of South India
Rev Alberth Yoku, Evangelical Christian Church of Papua
Rev I Nengah Suama, Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Rev Henny Samakul, Evangelical Church in Minahasa
Mr Welem Nunuhitut, Evangelical Christian Church in Timor
Rev Dr John Ruholesin, Protestant Church in Maluku
Rev Moises da Silva, Protestant Church in Timor Leste
Rev Sudu Tada, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
Bishop Reuel Marigza, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Mr Uvenama Rova, United Church in Papua New Guinea
Pastor Allan Nafuki, Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu
Rev Kibaunimatang Robuti Rimon, Kiribati Uniting Church
Rev Amos Ndhlumbi, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Rev Peter Gai Lual Marrow, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan
Rev Bae Tae Jin, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
Rev Sungjae Kim, Korean Christian Church in Japan
Rev Sheph Davidy Jonazh, Indonesian Christian Church – Regional
Synod West Java
Rev James Bhagwan, Methodist Church in Fiji
Rev Anton Piga, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera
Very Rev Andrew Norton, Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand
Rev Tovia Aumua, Methodist Church of New Zealand.

(b) persons who will assist in resourcing the Assembly:

(i) for the whole of the Assembly:

Mr Jim Mein for Frontier Services
Ms Lin Hatfield Dodds for UnitingCare Australia
Rev Elenie Poulos for UnitingJustice Australia
Mr Rob Floyd for UnitingWorld

(ii) for specific business of the Assembly:

Mr Jim Mein for the Beneficiary Fund
Rev Murray Earl for Defence Force Chaplaincy
Mr Grahame Ryan for Frontier Services
Rev Dr Matthew Wilson for Relations with Other Faiths
Mr Robert Watson for UC Adult Fellowship
Rev Janet Dawson for UnitingJustice Australia
Rev Dr Chris Mostert for the Anglican – Uniting Church proposal
Mr Krikor Youmshajekian for the proposal on the Armenian Genocide
15.04 MINISTERIAL MATTERS (See Appendix B)
The General Secretary tabled the names of Deacons and Ministers of the
Word who have been received by the Uniting Church since the Thirteenth
Assembly, of Ministers of the Word, Deaconesses and Youth Workers who
have died since the Thirteenth Assembly, and of Ministers of the Word and
Deaconesses whose recognition has been withdrawn.

15.05 RETIRING PRESIDENT
15.05.01 receive the report of the retiring President, Andrew Dutney;
15.05.02 give thanks to God for the ministry of Andrew Dutney during his term as 13th
President of the Uniting Church in Australia (2012-2015), to place on record
its profound thanks for the ministry of Rev Prof Andrew Dutney and convey to
Andrew our sincere appreciation for his faithful leadership.

Andrew has brought a great sense of grace and dignity to the role of
President. His theological insights, good humour and steady hand were
immediately obvious in his chairing of the 2012 Assembly. Few will forget the
public prayer vigil in lament over the impact of the Intervention on our
members in northern and central Aboriginal communities that he and Rev
Rronang Garrawurra led on the steps of the South Australian Parliament
building. The decision then to hold a week of prayer and fasting for justice for
Aboriginal Australians meant that it stayed on his agenda and opened the
way for a deep, respectful and meaning relationship with the UAICC and its
leaders.

Care for the most marginalized members of the community was a feature of
Andrew’s service. This is evidenced by his efforts to get to know well the
Wayside Chapel and their extraordinary vision of what the mission of God
means with some of the most disregarded people in Australia – visiting the
chapel with NYALC twice, holding the Moderators’ Gathering there,
preaching at their 50th Anniversary service, and taking some international
guests there. Furthermore, the Ministers’ Conference that he took to
Jerusalem included a solidarity visit with the Palestinian Christian community
and remained a concern throughout his presidency, giving voice to the plight
of Christian brothers and sisters there.

Over the past three years Andrew has sought to use his position to try to
discern what kind of church God is calling the UCA to be today, in the early
21st century. The census of Congregations and Ministers was important to
explore the question of what kind of church we were as fundamental to
answering the question of what kind of church we are called to be. Coupled
with astute theological insights, these observations demonstrated very clearly
that we are not the church of the 1970s and Andrew kept calling the Uniting
Church to act out of reality rather than nostalgic memories.

Insights like these were reinforced by engaging with local communities,
conferences and overseas visits. Andrew participated in two National Young
Adult Leaders Conferences and a National Christian Youth Convention; a
UAICC National Youth Gathering; led the President’s Ministers’ Conferences
in Charleville, Sydney and Jerusalem; sponsored the National Conference on
Mission and Evangelism; attended several National Conferences –
Sudanese, Tongan, Indonesian and Samoan; as well as the historic General
Assembly of the Cook Islands Christian Church that was held in Melbourne;
and participated in the first Songwrite Conference.

Attending numerous local congregations, each of the Synods and several
Presbyteries as well as visiting national conferences of Presbytery Ministers,
Rural Ministers, Patrol Ministers, Deacons and Chaplains gave Andrew a rich awareness of the Uniting Church, enabling him to speak into our life with words of hope, compassion and the invitation to discipleship.

A prolific author, blogger and user of social media, Andrew has been one of the most engaged and engaging Presidents of the UCA. This has been an important aspect of his presidency as this has been a very demanding period for the UCA in general and the President in particular. The list of challenges he has faced include:

- Appearing at numerous private meetings and one public hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse
- Convening three National Consultations on Theological Colleges
- Convening the National Consultation on Remote Area Ministry
- Chairing the Standing Committee as it worked its way through the Frontier Services crises
- A number of Presidential rulings

And all of this was put into context by the opportunities to represent the UCA internationally – primarily in Asia and the Pacific – as he attended:

- The Centenary of the PCK Assembly (Seoul)
- The Joint Conference of the UCA and the China Christian Council-TSPM (Nanjing)
- The General Assembly of the WCC (Busan)
- The General Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia (Jakarta)
- The Funeral of the President of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma, Rev Dr Tuikilakila Waqairatu (Suva)
- The Coronation of the King of Tonga, followed by the Annual Conference of the FWCT (Nuku'alofa)
- The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (Edinburgh)

Through all of this Andrew has represented and led the Uniting Church with distinction. His ability to listen to a conversation and then weave the different strands together so that it makes sense to people is a wonderful attribute. His gentle hand in inter-faith conversations opened up dialogue and respectful encounters and one person commented that after hearing Andrew speak on the issue of the death penalty she wanted to say, “Amen – this is the faith of the church”. We are indebted to Andrew for calling us to be the authentic people of God in our times.

All of this travelling, speaking, blogging and listening would not have been possible without the fantastic support of Heather. We thank her for her care and patience. She and Andrew are looking forward to well-deserved leave and a return to the academic career in which he flourishes.

The Uniting Church is indebted to Andrew Dutney for giving so much of himself as our thirteenth President, and we commend him in his future life and ministry to the love and care of God.

BUSINESS FROM THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Assembly resolved to:

15.06  Anglican – Uniting Church Dialogue: Weaving a New Cloth
adopt the document Weaving a New Cloth as the basis for ecumenical co-operation with the Anglican Church of Australia (Appendix C).

15.07  Appointment of the General Secretary
appoint Colleen Geyer as the General Secretary of the Assembly for a period of six years from 1 January 2016.

15.08 **Covenanting Task Group**

a) determine that a significant priority for its life during the next triennium is to explore with Congress what it would mean for the practices of the Church to recognise and affirm that First Peoples are sovereign Peoples;

b) request the Standing Committee to establish a process through which this exploration can be undertaken; and

c) request the Standing Committee to facilitate the development of resources to enable all Councillors of the Church, agencies and schools to explore with Congress what it would mean for their practices to recognise and affirm that First Peoples are sovereign Peoples.

15.09 **Eldership in the Uniting Church**

a) refer proposal 49 ‘Eldership in the Uniting Church’ and the report of the Task Group to the Assembly Standing Committee; and

b) authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, should it determine it to be helpful to the Church, to amend the Regulations to define the role of Elder and amend the responsibilities of the Church Council.

15.10 **Ministry of Pastor**

authorize the Standing Committee, on advice from the Legal Reference Committee, to:

a) delete Regulations 2.3.3.a(ii) and 2.3.3(c)

**PROCESS FOR THE SELECTION OF A PASTOR**

2.3.3 (a) A person may make application for the ministry of Pastor by:

(ii) offering to serve the Church in an approved placement, through a written application to the Synod.

(c) A Synod body designated by the Synod shall have responsibility for considering and determining applications made under Regulation 2.3.3 (a)(ii). The procedures to be followed by the Synod body shall be approved by the Synod and shall include:

(i) requests for confidential testimonials from an appropriate Minister, and the Church Council of the applicant’s Congregation;

(ii) an interview with the applicant;

(iii) consideration of the applicant’s:

1) gifts and graces appropriate to the ministry of Pastor;

2) spiritual maturity and sense of call;

3) capacity for exercising this ministry and perceived potential to meet the required competencies for the ministry of Pastor;

4) personality and character; and

5) willingness to accept the doctrine, polity and discipline of the Church.

and to make any other consequential amendments; and
b) refer proposal 50 on the membership requirements of Pastors to the Standing Committee for inclusion in its ongoing work on the ministry of Pastor.

15.11 Appreciation of the Retiring General Secretary

record its thanks to God and its deep appreciation for the ministry of Terence Corkin as the fourth General Secretary of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia (2001 – 2015)

During his 15 years that he has served in this ministry Terence has exercised critical leadership in changing and challenging times within the life of the Uniting Church, and the Assembly in particular. He is the longest serving General Secretary of the Assembly. Not only has he ‘gone the distance’ he has helped navigate the ship through some extremely challenging times in the life of our church with a steady hand, meticulous attention to detail and an unwavering commitment to the health and faithfulness of the Church.

Terence has offered a calm presence, wise judgement, availability to support people and advice at any time. He has been a colleague, mentor and guide to many across the life of the church. Terence is a person of passionate convictions, great sense of humour, deep faith and a pastoral heart.

Over the past 15 years changes have been legion, not only in the relationship of the church to the wider community, but particularly within the Uniting Church itself. Terence has been at the fulcrum of change during this time, being both a change agent as he has provided guidance and advice about a wide range of issues, and also as a point of stability, reference and calm.

The skills and care which he has brought to the work of the Assembly Standing Committee have been both significant and valued as he has guided it through complex and weighty issues. He has consistently and conscientiously prepared agenda and resourcing papers to allow the group to do its work; assisted in the development of strategies and proposals to ensure that the Committee is able to make effective decisions and has always been available with wise advice to anyone who has sought it.

These aspects of the role of General Secretary happen in parallel with the responsibility to act as the Executive Officer of the Assembly, and as the ultimate line manager for the large number of staff who serve throughout Australia. Terence’s management style was shaped by his high level of trust in those appointed to the key roles through the call of the church. He has not been a micro-manager but has trusted his staff to do what they are called to do.

Terence’s contributions, true to our ecumenical foundations and identity, have reached beyond our own church. His expertise on polity and governance and his legally attuned mind were of great assistance to the Christian Conference of Asia in writing its new Constitution. He has participated actively in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and its successor the World Communion of Reformed Churches; he has served on the Executive of the National Council of Churches here in Australia for the duration of his term.

What has given him most satisfaction in the role has been working with the UAICC and growing relationships with the First Peoples. The passing of the Preamble at the 2009 Assembly was a highlight.

The Uniting Church gives thanks to God for Terence’s ministry among us and acknowledges the support and love of Julie and their family as this role has taken a big slice of him, his time, energy and attention, at a cost that has also been borne by them.
We pray that God will guide Terence and the Church in discerning future ministry paths; and that God will use his many gifts and graces for building up the church and in the service to God’s world thereby bringing honour to our God.

15.12 Remote Area Ministry

a) affirm with thanksgiving that the Uniting Church’s commitment to the people of remote Australia is expressed across the whole life of the Church; its diverse congregations, councils and agencies;

b) affirm that remote area ministry is a response to the love of God. It is a response expressed in covenant with the First Peoples, and shaped by contexts of geographical isolation. It is ministry with people and within communities that builds and supports connections that contribute to wellbeing and quality of life;

c) affirm the principles developed by the national consultation on remote area ministry:

(i) God is already present and engaged in mission in remote Australia and among the people who live there, both First and Second Peoples, whether or not the Church is delivering ministry and services;

(ii) In seeking to discern how the UCA might participate in what God is doing in remote areas, priority must be given to our covenantal relationship with the First Peoples through the UAICC and commitment to partnership between First and Second Peoples;

(iii) The Church must commit to an approach to remote area ministry that is based on consultation and engagement with local communities and contextualised by place, need and local capacity;

(iv) The Church’s ministry and services must be oriented towards building capacity and resilience in local communities.

(v) The UCA is committed to a whole-of-Church response to remote area ministry.

(vi) Partnerships should be developed between the relevant councils and/or agencies of the Church wherever possible in order to be good stewards of the Church’s resources so that remote area ministry develops in sustainable ways.

(vii) A national mechanism should be established to enable all the councils and agencies of the Church that are involved in remote area ministry to communicate and collaborate in the development and delivery of appropriate, effective, sustainable remote area ministry; and

d) (i) authorize the establishment of a national mechanism to enable each synod, each presbytery involved in remote area ministry, the UAICC, UnitingCare Australia, and Frontier Services to communicate and collaborate in the development and delivery of appropriate, effective, sustainable remote area ministry; and

(ii) request the Standing Committee to establish the appropriate mechanism.

15.13. Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse – Regulation Changes

authorise the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to make changes to the Regulations to any extent necessary to implement effective policies and practices in response to any recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

15.14 Staff of the Assembly on the Standing Committee
a) determine that any person who is Staff of the Assembly or of any of its agencies is ineligible for election to the Standing Committee. If a member of the Standing Committee accepts appointment as Staff of the Assembly or of any of its agencies then that member shall no longer be a member of the Standing Committee; and

b) that Staff of the Assembly means a person who has a direct reporting line or accountability to the General Secretary or Associate General Secretary, or who is a member of the team or support staff who has a direct reporting line to that person.

15.15 Theology of Marriage Discussion
a) receive the report on ‘The theology of marriage and same gender relationships within the Uniting Church’;

b) request the Standing Committee, in consultation with the UAICC and Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, to explore how the Uniting Church can engage in further discussions about marriage and same-gender relationships in culturally appropriate ways; and

c) request the Standing Committee to address immediately, through appropriate mechanisms, the following work:
   (i) to engage with the continuing work of the Doctrine Working Group as outlined in its report to the 14th Assembly;
   (ii) to engage with the members of the LGBTIQ community and the wider Church in discussions about marriage and same-gender relationships;
   (iii) in consultation with the relevant Assembly working groups, to prepare a report to the Fifteenth Assembly with appropriate recommendations, as well as supporting theological, liturgical, pastoral and educational resources; and
   (iv) in consultation with our ecumenical partners, where appropriate, to investigate the implications of changing the Church’s current relationship with the Commonwealth Government with respect to the conduct of marriages.

d) request the President to issue a pastoral letter to the Church affirming that the Uniting Church in Australia seeks to be an inclusive Church that embraces LGBTIQ people as full members of our Church community and is committed to active and culturally appropriate discussion about marriage; and

e) request the General Secretary, in the event that the Commonwealth Marriage Act or other relevant legislation is changed, to write to all Uniting Church marriage celebrants, advising them of their freedoms and constraints under that legislation and as celebrants authorised by the Uniting Church.

15.16 Threshold for Assembly and Standing Committee Staff Appointments
a) determine that at least two-thirds of the members present and voting must support the appointment or re-appointment of the General Secretary in order for such a proposal to pass; and

b) determine that for appointments made by the Standing Committee that at least two-thirds of the members present and voting must support the appointment or re-appointment of the person in order for such a proposal to pass.

15.17 Venue for the 15th Assembly
a) receive with thanks the invitation of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to hold the Fifteenth Assembly within the bounds of the synod; and
b) authorise the Standing Committee to determine the exact date, and to negotiate with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania as to the particular location and venues for the various Assembly functions.

BUSINESS FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

The Agency reports were received en bloc in plenary session and dealt with through a small group process of members engaging with Agency representatives. Agency representatives addressed the more frequent and wider ranging questions in two plenary sessions.

The Assembly resolved to:

15.18 ADMISSION OF MINISTERS COMMITTEE
authorise the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend the numbering, naming and setting out of the Admission of Ministers from another Denomination regulations (Regulations 2.5.1 – 2.5.3) and the Admission of Former Ministers of the Church (Regulations 2.5.3.1 – 2.5.3.4) within the Regulations of the Church.

15.19 DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

15.19.01 Support for Australian Defence Force Chaplains
courage the Federal Government in its support of Australian Defence Force Chaplains through their provision of chapels, resources and facilities appropriate to the Chaplaincy.

15.19.02 Appreciation of Rev Gale Hall
acknowledge with thanks the ministry of the Rev A. Gale Hall for ten years as convenor of the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee and as the UCA member to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services. In such service Gale has been pastoral through intent, specific in terms of direction and a friend to all. All UCA Chaplains acknowledge and give thanks to God for Rev Hall’s ministry to ADF Chaplaincy. Our prayer is that he and Mrs Phyllis Hall will know the appreciation of the Church and God's blessing for the next chapter of their ministry.

15.20 FRONTIER SERVICES

15.20.01 Appreciation of Ms Jan Trangove
record its appreciation to Jan Trengove for her leadership as Chairperson of the Board of Frontier Services from 2006 to 2013. Jan’s firsthand knowledge of rural and remote Australia and her wide experience of church leadership including as Moderator of the Synod of South Australia 2001-2003 equipped her well for the role of Chairperson. Jan brought many gifts to the role – her warmth of personality, her wisdom, her skills in facilitation of meetings, her unfailing good humour and her prayerfulness, among others. The Assembly thanks Jan for her commitment and service to Frontier Services, to the Church and to the people of remote Australia.

15.20.02 Appreciation of Ms Rosemary Young
record its appreciation to Rosemary Young for her service as National Director of Frontier Services from 2000 to 2013. Rosemary gave of herself unstintingly throughout those 13 years in service to the people of remote Australia and to the Uniting Church. She was tireless in seeking always to enhance the well-being of people and to enable Frontier Services to assist in the meeting of people’s needs.

Prior to her appointment as National Director Rosemary served for five years as the Community Services Manager of Frontier Services. In 2006 her contribution to remote Australia was recognised by the Australian community
through the award of an AM. Rosemary will be long remembered with deep appreciation and affection by the people of the outback.

On behalf of the Church, the Assembly thanks Rosemary for her dedicated and selfless service as National Director of Frontier Services.

15.21 NATIONAL HISTORICAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE
authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the National Historical Reference Committee to disband the National Historical Reference Committee and facilitate the establishment of a network of UCA Archivists and a Uniting Church History Association.

15.22 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS

15.22.01 Membership of the Assembly and Assembly Standing Committee
authorise the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend:

a) Regulation 3.3.8(a)(i) so that it reads:

3.3.8 (a) The membership of the Assembly shall consist of:
(i) ex-officio members:
• ... 
• the National Administrator Coordinator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress 
• ...;

b) Regulation 3.7.5.1(a)(ii) so that it reads: “the Chairperson and the National Administrator Deputy Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress”;

c) Regulation 3.7.5.1(j)(i) so that it reads: “Secretaries of Synods, National Coordinator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, the Associate General Secretary and the National Director, Theology and Discipleship”.

15.22.02 Indigenous Recognition in the Australian Constitution
a) note the comment in the Congress report that there is a diverse set of views within Congress regarding Recognition in the Constitution;

b) continue to support Recognition as long as the form of recognition offered can be seen as a step towards and not a blockage to the larger issues of sovereignty and treaty; and

c) commit to work with Congress to educate members of the Church about the need for a treaty. (Agreement)

15.22.03 Doctrine of Discovery
a) repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, and its theological foundations as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and religious, cultural, and racial biases that have no place in the treatment of First Peoples; and

b) affirm the World Council of Churches “Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery Impact on Indigenous Peoples”, and encourage its consideration in the Church and, in particular, in theological colleges. (Agreement)

15.22.04 Mapoon
a) request the Standing Committee to launch a new appeal for the building of a church at Mapoon; and
b) commit to work with Congress to raise the issue of compensation with the Queensland Government and the mining company for the destruction that was caused to the community.

15.22.05  
**Week of Prayer and Fasting**
request the Standing Committee, in partnership with Congress, to facilitate an annual week of Prayer and Fasting which may in some years involve a pilgrimage to the national capital, and which has the aim of the deepening the Covenant relationship rather than the event being an end in itself.

15.22.06  
**Memorial for Rev Charles Harris**
commit to work with Congress to establish a memorial for the Rev Charles Harris at a place to be determined by Congress National Committee.

15.22.07  
**Living out the Covenant**

a) commit its members and programs to work with synods and other parts of the Church to continue to highlight the issues faced by First Peoples at this time, and to developing appropriate responses in partnership with Congress;

b) request the Standing Committee to continue to give attention to the way the various Councils of the Church give authority to Congress so that Congress can exercise real control of ministry and mission among First Peoples;

c) support the Northern Regional Council of Congress’ opposition to fracking on Aboriginal land, and convey this position to the Northern Land Council;

d) request the President to work with other Heads of Churches to seek a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Premiers of Western Australia and South Australia to convey the Assembly's opposition to the closure of communities and removal of community services in WA and SA and all places where this is planned; and

e) request the Standing Committee work with National Congress to assist the National Congress budget to resource and support the employment within the UAICC of a National Youth Coordinator.

15.23  
**UNITING FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP**

**Christian Unity, Doctrine & Worship**

**Christian Unity Working Group**

15.23.01  
**Armenian Genocide**

a) acknowledge that the Armenian massacres and forced deportations of 1915-1923 constitute a Genocide;

b) commend the NSW and SA governments in acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and encourage the Federal and other state governments to do the same; and

c) affirm the value of recognising a date on or near the anniversary of the Armenian genocide, as a day of observance and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide and request the National Consultant Christian Unity, Doctrine and Worship to prepare:

(i) a prayer to be provided for all congregations of the UCA for use on the day; and

(ii) in consultation with others, educational and liturgical resources for congregations to use.
15.23.02  

**Appreciation of Ms Maureen Postma**

place on record its appreciation for the contribution to the life of the Uniting Church in Australia made by Ms Maureen Postma during her term as Chairperson of the Christian Unity working group 2009–2015.

The Christian Unity Working Group was fortunate to gain the leadership of Maureen Postma for two terms, 2009–2012 and 2012–2015. At one stage in 2014, she was both chair and secretary of the Working Group, during the selection of and practical arrangements for our Church's delegation to the WCC Busan Assembly. She became a member of the Working Group in 2001 after she had become General Secretary of the Victorian Council of Churches, a key ecumenical position she held till 2009. In that role, she was an ex officio member of the Vic/Tas Synod Ecumenical Relations Committee. She was also a member of the national Uniting-Anglican Joint Working Group from 2009 to 2014.

Maureen's experience of the ecumenical movement is wide and deep. She spent 15 years working in the overseas aid and development sector within the (now) Caritas Australia, Force Ten and (now) Act for Peace. In these roles she worked with a variety of church members, workers and leaders both nationally and internationally. These were turbulent times, following 9/11 and other bombings in the USA, working not only with churches but also with Jewish and Muslim faith communities to establish the three-way Jewish-Christian-Muslim Association of Australia. There was the churches' challenge to the invasion of Iraq, in concert with Trade Unions and other community groups, writing joint letters to Federal Parliament about the warlike language being increasingly used. She was also a Board member of the Parliament of the World's Religions, and assisted in the hosting and organization of the major interfaith event in Melbourne in December 2009. In 2010 Maureen was appointed a UCA representative to the Faith and Unity Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia, a position she still holds.

Maureen's leadership has been thoughtful, consultative and encouraging. Her chairing of meetings and conferences has always been of the highest quality. She brings an hospitable, welcoming presence to all meetings that she chairs, and has always been gracious and kind in keeping focussed on business and helping people discern direction for future work. Maureen has an informed and discerning theological mind. Acknowledging her wisdom and experience in the wider ecumenical movement, the Working Group has been enabled confidently to approach the variety of issues which comes to its table, from interpreting the Uniting Church to other churches, recognizing gifts for dialogue teams and other representatives, working constructively with a range of international ecumenical councils, drafting responses to complex reports, to the efficient administration of an Assembly working group. We thank her for her commitment to Christian unity in all its forms, and for her lifelong contribution to the ecumenical movement at home and overseas.

15.23.03  

**The Church – Towards a Common Vision**

a) receive and celebrate the achievement of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission with the production of "The Church – Towards a Common Vision";

b) commend it to all Councils of the Church for further study and reflection;

c) (i) receive the draft response document;  
(ii) request the Christian Unity Working Group to use the reflections arising from the Assembly and feedback received from the Church in developing the next draft of the UCA’s response; and  
(iii) authorise the Standing Committee to approve the final response of the Church.
National Working Group on Worship

15.23.04

Appreciation of Rev Dr David Pitman

place on record its appreciation for the contribution to the life of the Uniting Church in Australia by Rev Dr David Pitman during his term as Convenor of the Worship Working Group (May 2010–July 2015).

David has been a faithful, pro-active and hard-working convenor. There have been special requests, initiatives taken by the Working Group, and the ongoing need to add to, revise and update services. Under David’s leadership teaching resources, produced as DVDs, have been prepared on: ‘The Prayers of the People’, ‘A Guide to Worship for the People of God’ and ‘Holy Communion’. These resources have been readily picked up across the Uniting Church. The ‘Calendar of Other Commemorations’ in *Uniting in Worship* now has brief biographies for many of the people listed and is continually being added to and posted on the Worship Resources section of the Assembly website. Resources were developed in relation to the new Preamble to the Constitution and when the ‘Destiny Together’ vigil was held. David was a key person in putting together these worship resources. He has similarly found or provided other worship resources for different occasions.

Arising from his background in teaching at Trinity Theological College in Brisbane, David was concerned about the teaching of worship and preaching across the Uniting Church. Information was sought and a Colloquium proposed. This was David’s initiative and he saw it through. A very helpful Colloquium was held in Adelaide in December 2014. It included people from each synod involved in teaching at their college or involved in lay education. The outcome of the Colloquium will influence the agenda of the Working Group into the next triennium.

During his time as Convenor, David was a member of the Australian Consultation on Liturgy and has served as its president. He has brought wisdom and experience to the role of convenor having been twice the Moderator of the Queensland Synod. Members of the working group have valued the gracious and careful way he has dealt with matters and followed up on meetings. He has been a valued member of the Convenors Group in listening to and acknowledging the alternate voices, offering encouragement and sharing his wisdom. We are grateful for the service he has given to the Uniting Church in this role.

Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry

15.23.05

Appreciation of Rev Dr Tony Floyd

place on record its deep appreciation for the contribution rendered to the life of the Uniting Church by Rev Dr Tony Floyd during the 8 years in which Tony was the National Director of Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry (MCCM).

He brought a strong and passionate commitment to the work, not only to the Assembly but to all councils of the Church. Tony passionately embodied the gift of grace that the Uniting Church offers to Australia; specifically into the ongoing claims concerning the failure of the experiment of multiculturalism in this country. The heart of Tony’s leadership for the Church was his holding up strongly the gift of cultural and linguistic diversity with which God has blessed the Uniting Church. For Tony, the modelling of respectful relationships across cultural divides, and what nurtures life and hope as we live with our neighbour, genuinely matters not only the Uniting Church but for Australia.

During Tony’s time as the National Director, the Uniting Church’s National Conferences grew and were strengthened. The Chairperson of the Tongan National Conference Rev Jason Kioa said of Tony. We are reminded of what the President of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga Rev Dr ‘Ahio at a recent meeting of the Tongan National conference (TNC) said: “Tony, we do not
think of you as a visitor because in your heart you are Tongan.” This was a testament to Tony’s capacity to walk in the shoes of those from another culture and especially his participation and support in all the National Conferences.

Tony has guided and mentored many next generation Ministers and lay persons from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds in their Mission and Ministry in various contexts. He had a strong vision for the next generation of CALD Ministers and Lay Leaders for the Uniting Church. Tony’s capacity to sustain strong and trusting relationships has meant that many complex issues and problems in various councils of the Church were able to be dealt with, with wisdom, discernment and in the spirit of community.

Always mindful of what the Uniting Church is called to be, through the commitments that it has made; Tony with the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Reference Committee (MCCM) strengthened and advanced those commitments, during the time he served the Assembly.

During Tony’s ministry the Uniting Church took a further step in its understanding of what it means to be a multicultural church by the statement: ‘A Church for all God’s People’ adopted at the 11th Assembly in 2006. This built on the original statement in 1985 when the Uniting Church declared itself to be a multicultural church. The original statement included the prayer hope: The Uniting Church seeks to be open to changes that the Holy Spirit will bring to the church because of the creative contributions of people of different racial and cultural groups to its life. The statement adopted in 2006 strengthened that hope.

The statement ‘One body Many Members: Living Faith and Life Cross Culturally’ adopted by the 13th Assembly in 2012 called on all councils of the Church to live out their life and faith cross culturally and to develop benchmarks that can shape the whole life of the Uniting Church now and into the future. This statement developed with the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Reference Committee (MCCM) further strengthened and embedded the original prayer hope of cross cultural life in the Uniting Church.

At this time Tony has concluded full-time ministry and has retired. We are deeply grateful not only for his leadership, passion and vision but also for Tony’s continuing commitment to cross cultural relationships in the life of the Uniting Church.

15.23.06 Process for Respectful Consultation in the Church

a) refer the contents of Proposal 27 and its full Rationale, (found at Appendix A of the Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry Report), to the Standing Committee; and

b) request the Standing Committee to allow substantial time for its consideration, so as to better equip the whole Church to create a Space for Grace.

15.23.07 Appreciation with Other Faiths

Appreciation of Rev Seforosa Carroll

place on record its appreciation for the contribution rendered to the life of the Uniting Church by Rev Seforosa Carroll during the twelve years she served on the Working Group for Relations with other Faiths and the nine years in which she was the Convener. Sef brought a passionate commitment to the work of interfaith and cross cultural relationships. She grew up as a Fijian Rotuman woman where interfaith engagement and the Methodist Church were both a significant part of her family life. Under Sef’s leadership with the
executive, the Working Group strengthened its interfaith engagement in many areas.

Throughout her time as Convenor, the Relations with other Faiths website has become an important resource for those committed to interfaith engagement in congregations, local council government areas, universities and also interfaith networks across Australia organized by state governments. She has represented the Uniting Church on the National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews.

It was during her time as Convenor that the Assembly was able to strengthen its theological basis for interfaith dialogue. In 2007 a Theological Colloquium was held with the Working Group on Doctrine which laid the foundation for further exploration. In 2009 at the 13th Assembly the Working Group brought a second statement to the Assembly ‘Friendship in the Presence of Difference: Christian Witness in Multifaith Australia’ that built on the earlier resource ‘Living with a Neighbour who is Different.’

Sef has continued with her theological interests in interfaith and cross cultural relationships and is currently completing her PhD: ‘Making Room for the Religious Other.’ Sef is also a member of ‘Mahine Pasefika’, the Association of Oceanian Women Theologians and has published various articles in the areas of interfaith dialogue and contextual theology. Sef continues to lecture in Interfaith Dialogue and Contextual Theologies at Charles Sturt University in Sydney, where both lay members of the Church and candidates for ordination attend her lectures.

At this time Sef has taken up a position with UnitingWorld in the Assembly, managing church partnerships for the Pacific. We are deeply grateful not only for her knowledge, passion and her commitment to the work of interfaith and cross cultural relationships, but also for her many endeavours in interfaith and cross cultural theology that she has brought to the Working Group, and will continue to bring to the life of the Assembly and the Uniting Church.

**UnitingJustice Australia**

15.23.08

**Appreciation of Rev Janet Dawson**

place on record its appreciation for the service of Rev Janet Dawson as Chairperson of the UnitingJustice Australia Reference Committee from July 2012–July 2015.

Janet’s contribution to the Reference Committee and the mission of UnitingJustice has been marked by grace and strength. Her many and varied roles across the councils of the Church together with her spiritual commitment to justice issues has inspired our work.

During Janet’s tenure as Chairperson, UnitingJustice Australia managed *A Destiny Together: A week of prayer and fasting for First Peoples*, the production of the Assembly’s 2013 pre-election resource, *A Just Society*, and the Assembly Standing Committee approved guide for UCA members, *Ethical Decision Making in the Key of an Economy of Life*.

Janet has overseen a significant number of major submissions to the Australian Government in the areas of legislation for First Peoples and asylum seekers and refugees during her tenure as Chairperson.

The staff of UnitingJustice has been deftly guided by Janet’s insights and nourished and sustained by her spiritual care and support. We are thankful for Janet’s unswerving leadership during her term.

15.23.09

**Shelter from the Storm: A Uniting Church in Australia Statement on Asylum Seeker and Refugee Policy**
a) adopt the statement *Shelter from the Storm: A Uniting Church in Australia Statement on Asylum Seeker and Refugee Policy*.

b) affirm the commitment and actions of Uniting Church in Australia members, groups, congregations and agencies who have worked tirelessly to provide practical care and support, pastoral visits, chaplaincy and specialist services to asylum seekers in the community and in detention.

c) affirm the commitment and actions of Uniting Church in Australia members who have advocated for the rights and wellbeing of asylum seekers and refugees through peaceful protests, non-violent direct action, direct lobbying of politicians and education and awareness raising programs and activities.

d) commit itself and call on members, councils and agencies of the Uniting Church to:
   (i) continue to provide practical care and support to asylum seekers and refugees in the community and in detention centres as appropriate and where possible;
   (ii) continue to peacefully advocate for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees using appropriate strategies based on the 'Principles for Good Policy for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees' in the statement *Shelter from the Storm: A Uniting Church in Australia Statement on Asylum Seeker and Refugee Policy*; and
   (iii) continue to promote a more compassionate and informed response to asylum seekers within the Church and Australian society.

e) reiterate the calls on the Australian Government to:
   (i) end the policy of the mandatory and indefinite detention of asylum seekers and refugees:
      • initial health, security and identity screening should be limited to seven days, with children held for a maximum of 72 hours; and
      • asylum seekers should reside in the community in Australia with the right to work and access to education, healthcare and other social services as appropriate while their claims are processed;
   (ii) end the offshore processing of asylum seekers who arrive or attempt to arrive in Australia by boat:
      • immediately release all children and their families from detention centres including Nauru, and allow them to live in the Australian community with appropriate access to funded legal advice, medical care, social services including financial support, and education while their claims are processed; and
      • close the detention centres on Christmas Island, Manus Island and Nauru and bring all asylum seekers to Australia to have their claims processed while they reside in the community;
   (iii) revoke the excision of territories and the mainland from Australia’s migration zone;
   (iv) provide permanent protection to all refugees including access to family reunion through the Special Humanitarian Program, regardless of visa class; and
   (v) remove the link between the offshore and onshore program intakes. (Agreement)

f) call on the Australian Government to
(i) implement the recommendations of the Australian Human Rights Commission report, The Forgotten Children;
(ii) increase the humanitarian intake to at least 25,000 in 2016–17, and increase it again over the following years to reach 60,000 by 2020;
(iii) act immediately to improve conditions in detention centres in Australia, Manus Island and Nauru including:
   • the establishment of an independent monitoring committee made up of experts to regularly monitor conditions in immigration detention facilities and report publicly;
   • the provision of safe and secure accommodation and services including water, electricity and sewerage;
   • the provision of timely and adequate psychological, social and medical care and access to education and recreation; and
   • the implementation of clear regulations for the appropriate training and conduct of authorised staff in immigration detention centres, an independent complaints mechanisms for asylum seekers and refugees in detention, and pathways for unbiased legal processes if staff conduct is inappropriate or if there is unacceptable use of force;
(iv) end accelerated refugee status determination processes, except in cases of specific cohorts from source countries with recognised protection needs; and
(v) expedite a fair and transparent refugee determination process for all asylum seekers living in the community, ensuring people have work rights, education, healthcare and government assistance to support basic living needs while they wait, access to funded legal advice throughout, and access to independent and judicial review processes; (Agreement)

15.24 UnitingWorld

15.24.01 Appreciation of Rev Dr Kerry Enright

acknowledge with deep appreciation the outstanding contribution made by Rev Dr Kerry Enright to UnitingWorld and to the work of international mission across the Uniting Church in Australia and to our overseas partners, as National Director for UnitingWorld.

Since Kerry began as the National Director for UnitingWorld in 2006 he has brought considerable energy and vitality to the position. UnitingWorld is a very different place to what it was when Kerry began.
Kerry oversaw the production of theology of mission and theology of development papers that were able to clarify and focus the work of the agency.

Organisationally Kerry oversaw the bringing together of the different areas of work within the Agency under the UnitingWorld name. He was able to grow a professional and passionate team, that worked together with a strong focus and clarity.

Kerry introduced strong governance and management disciplines with an emphasis on effectiveness and collaboration. These changes positioned the Agency well, building a place for UnitingWorld alongside both Christian and secular organisations working internationally and led to Relief and Development Unit achieving full reaccreditation with the Australian Government.

Kerry’s leadership extended to strong contributions through the Australian Council for International Development and the Church Agencies Network, taking up significant leadership roles in both.

Kerry played a significant leadership role in relationships with our partners beyond Australia. Kerry’s considerable experience and expertise in the Pacific lead to important engagement in Fiji in particular, and with regional bodies including the Pacific Conference of Churches and the Methodist Consultative Committee of the Pacific. He was integral in establishing a partnership with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and expanding the Uniting Church’s engagement with the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

Kerry left UnitingWorld in April 2014 to take up a congregational ministry placement within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

For his energy, enthusiasm and passion for justice for the people whom UnitingWorld serves, and the discipline and commitment he brought to the role, the Church owes Kerry its deep respect and gratitude.

15.24.02

Appreciation of Dr Sureka Goringe

acknowledge with deep appreciation the valuable contribution made by Dr Sureka Goringe to UnitingWorld and the Uniting Church in Australia, as Chairperson of the UnitingWorld Relief and Development National Committee.

Sureka served as chairperson from August 2012 until November 2014, having previously served as a member of the National Committee since September 2009. During her period of service, the National Committee oversaw major developments within UnitingWorld, including an increase in the clarity and focus of development projects, growth in donations, maintenance of significant Government grants, achieving reaccreditation with the Australian Government, a comprehensive review of governance policies and procedures, a process leading to the development of a new Strategic Plan and also the recruitment of a new National Director.

Sureka’s abilities as a chairperson led to a more strategic and structured approach to meetings. She brought strong organisational experience, attention to detail and conscientiousness that were very highly valued.

A member of the Uniting Church herself, Sureka was a significant advocate for the work of UnitingWorld within the Uniting Church. She also regularly represented the Agency in wider sector forums including within the Australian Council for International Development.
Sureka stepped down from the role of Chairperson of the National Committee to take up the role of Associate Director for Church Connections. This is a significant leadership role within the Church Connections Unit of UnitingWorld. Whilst no longer directly involved in UnitingWorld Relief and Development National Committee, Sureka continues to provide strong and visionary leadership in UnitingWorld through this new role.

The Church expresses our thanks and gratitude to Sureka for her leadership and work as the Chairperson of the UnitingWorld Relief and Development National Committee.

15.24.02 Relations with China Christian Council
a) welcome the emerging relationship between the Uniting Church in Australia and the China Christian Council and affirm the importance of this relationship;

b) encourage UnitingCare Australia and UnitingWorld to collaborate in growing this relationship, particularly in mutual learning and support for social services provision and theological education; and

c) encourage UnitingCare Australia and UnitingWorld to use their learning and experience from this relationship to strengthen their own agencies and share them for the benefit of the wider Uniting Church.

15.24.03 Overseas Aid
a) affirm that Australian development aid, funded by government, church and individuals, is an effective and powerful way of combating poverty and injustice throughout the world, thereby addressing the root causes of conflict, instability, people displacement and disease;

b) express profound concern regarding the recent cuts that will reduce Australian government aid to the lowest levels in our history;

c) call on the Federal Government to:
(i) restore overseas aid funding cut from the 2015–16 budget; and
(ii) announce a credible timetable to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to Australia’s overseas aid program, commensurate with Australia’s international obligations;

d) recognising that striving to set people free from the oppression of poverty and injustice is core to the calling of the church, call on all members of the Uniting Church to:
(i) use their rights and privileges as citizens to advocate strongly for increases in Government aid funding, and
(ii) increase their own support for development aid through personal and church giving, and through advocacy and encouragement of their friends and community.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

The Assembly resolved to:

15.25 REGULATION 2.10.3 – WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION
authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 2.10.3(b) in the following terms:

2.10.3 The recognition of a Minister may be withdrawn by the Synod by reason of:

(b) continuing in the designation of awaiting placement or not
available for placement for more than two years unless the Placements Committee and the Presbytery both agree, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, that there are circumstances which warrant the extension of the term by a further year.

15.26 REGULATION 3.6.3.4 – DUTIES OF SYNOD SECRETARIES
a) authorize the Standing Committee, on advice from the Legal Reference Committee, to
b) to amend Regulation 3.6.3.4 (Duties of a Synod Secretary) to
   (i) bring it into line with the Duties of the General Secretary of the Assembly (Regulation 3.6.4.4); and
   (ii) not be inconsistent with the current Regulation 3.6.3.4.

15.27 REGULATION 3.7.4.1 – CO-OPTIONS TO SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE
authorise the Assembly Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 3.7.4.1(a) to read:

3.7.4.1 Membership
   (a) The membership of the Synod Standing Committee shall consist of:
       (i) the Moderator, the ex-Moderator, the Moderator-Elect and the Secretary of the Synod as ex-officio members;
       (ii) such other ex-officio members as the Synod may determine;
       (iii) other members of the Synod elected by it to serve until the next ordinary meeting of the Synod;
       (iv) no more than two persons or 10% of the number of members in sub paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) whichever is the greater co-opted by the Standing Committee.

15.28 REGULATION 4.6.3 – SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
authorise the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend the Regulations relating to Property Transactions and special circumstances (Regulation 4.6.3) to provide prescribed procedures to be followed to ensure that:

a) In making a Declaration of Special Circumstances, the Synod or its Standing Committee:
   (i) gives disclosure of the reasons for the special circumstances, and of other options to meet the circumstances which have been explored and abandoned;
   (ii) gives disclosure of the manner and extent under the Declaration of Special Circumstance to which property may be acquired, sold, mortgaged or in any other manner dealt with;

b) In the implementation of a Declaration of Special Circumstances, the Synod or its Standing Committee:
   (i) consults fully with all bodies which may be affected by the declaration, taking cognizance of the purpose, functions, responsibilities and rights of those bodies as described in the Regulations; and
   (ii) gives all affected Church Councils or other responsible bodies opportunity to respond in writing to the declaration within a defined timeframe, and gives serious consideration to those submissions.

15.29 REGULATION 5.1.3 – EXERCISE OF DISCIPLINE
authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 5.1.3 to read.
5.1.3 Discipline is to be exercised by the Church Council on behalf of the Congregation in the case of members, except in the case of allegations of sexual misconduct, and by the Presbytery and Synod in the case of Ministers.

5.1.3 Discipline is to be exercised by:

a) The Church Council on behalf of the Congregation in the case of members or adherents, except in the case of allegations of sexual misconduct;

b) The Presbytery when a Presbytery determines a Church Council has not adequately dealt with a discipline matter in relation to a member or adherent of the congregation;

c) The Presbytery upon a request of a Church Council if the Church Council considers it is not able to deal with a concern due to a member's or adherent's involvement in the congregation;

d) The Presbytery and Synod in the case of Ministers.

ELECTIONS:

15.30 The Returning Officer, Warwick van Ede, declared the following results of elections:

**President-Elect**

Deidre Palmer

**Standing Committee**

Felicity Amery

Alison Atkinson-Phillips

Bethany Broadstock

Hayden Charles

John Cox

Lindsay Cullen

Geoffrey Grinton

Zac Hatfield Dodds

Haloti Kailahi

Amelia Koh-Butler

Denise Liersch

Ian Price

Akesa Racava

Elaine Rae

Isabel Thomas Dobson

Ian Tozer

Jacki Watts

Wendie Wilkie

**Chairpersons of Reference Committees**

Admission of Ministers’ Committee

John Evans

Christian Unity Working Group

Morag Logan

Church Polity

Gordon Ramsay

Defence Force Chaplaincy

Murray Earl

Education for Ministry

Andrew Dutney

Formation, Education and Discipleship

Ian Price

Frontier Services

Jim Mein

Historical Reference Committee

Margaret Reeson

Legal Reference Committee

Warwick van Ede

Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry

Kisoo Jang

National Working Group on Doctrine

Alistair Macrae

National Working Group on Worship

Graham Vawser

Relations with Other Faiths

Michael Barnes

Theology and Discipleship Convenors’ Forum

Carolyn Thornley

UnitingJustice

Deidre Palmer

UC Adult Fellowship National Committee

Margaret Pedler

UnitingCare Australia

Peter Bicknell

UnitingWorld – Church Connections

Andrew Glenn

UnitingWorld – Relief and Development

John Ruhle

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

15.31 GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS

On behalf of the overseas guests Rev James Bhagwan from the Methodist Church in Fiji, Bishop P. K. Samantaroy from the Church of North India and
Bishop Amos Ndhlumbi from the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe brought greetings and read out the Partner Statement. The statement emphasised the importance of the mutuality of the relationship between the Uniting Church and its partners (Appendix D).

Pastor Allan Nafuki and Deaconess Martha Yamusi Kaluatman from the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu brought special thanks for emergency response to Cyclone Pam.

15.32 BIBLE STUDY
During the Assembly the Bible Studies were conducted by Rev Denise Champion, Rev Dr Emmanuel Audisho and Dr Rosemary Dewerse and the Cato lecture was delivered by Dr Lin Manhong.

The Assembly resolved to:

15.33 EXCEPTION FOR LATE ARRIVAL OF NRCC PROPOSAL
grant an exception to the requirement established by the Assembly Standing Committee through Standing Committee minute 11.43.07 that proposals submitted for consideration at the triennial Assembly need to be lodged with the Assembly General Secretary no later than 30 days before the commencement date of the Assembly for general proposals so that the 14th Assembly may give consideration to a proposal from the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) in relation to its support for a treaty.

15.34 EXCEPTION FOR LATE ARRIVAL OF A PROPOSAL
grant an exception to the requirement established by the Assembly Standing Committee through Standing Committee minute 11.43.07 that proposals submitted for consideration at the triennial Assembly need to be lodged with the Assembly General Secretary no later than 90 days before to commencement date of the Assembly for Constitutional and Regulation matters so that the 14th Assembly may give consideration to a proposal to allow for the co-option of persons who are not members of an Assembly or Synod, as the case may be, to membership of the relevant Standing Committee.

15.35 PALESTINE
a) receive the requests from the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, the Kairos Palestine movement and the World Council of Churches to act in response to the plight of the people of Palestine;

b) note the resolutions of the Assembly Standing Committee regarding Israel-Palestine in Standing Committee minute 11.33;

c) establish an awareness-raising campaign throughout the Church on the plight of Palestinian Christians and the Palestinian people, including promotion of the boycott of goods from the illegal settlements in the West Bank as part of the campaign;

d) request the Assembly Standing Committee:
   (i) in partnership with other parts of the Church, including the Relations with Other Faiths Working Group, and with other groups mentioned in Standing Committee minute 11.33.10 and with the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network, to arrange for the development of educational materials to resource the awareness-raising campaign and to enable members and congregations to determine their response;
   (ii) to receive any other requests for action from the World Council of Churches or Palestinian Christians over the next three years and determine the response of the Church;
(iii) to support another Australian church leaders visit to Palestine and Israel in the next three years, arranged either ecumenically and / or for Uniting Church leaders;
(iv) to report to the 15th Assembly on actions taken and outcomes achieved; and

e) convey these resolutions to the National Council of Churches in Australia with an invitation to respond.

15.36 YOLNGU NATIONS ASSEMBLY CALL FOR A TREATY
a) note the decision of the Northern Regional Council of Congress that it:
   (i) acknowledges that Arnhem Land was not conquered or occupied by foreigners in the colonial era, nor succeeded by a foreign jurisdiction through a treaty;
   (ii) acknowledges that the Maḏayin system of law, that pre-existed the Australian system of law, remains the properly constituted ‘law of the land’ in Arnhem Land;
   (iii) acknowledges that it is through the Maḏayin system of law that Arnhem Land has Mâgaya- peace, order, and good government;
   (iv) acknowledges that the Maḏayin system of law is dhapirrk consistent in its statutes; is guarded by the Yothu Yindi separation of powers; is stewarded through our lawful authorities and government; and is revealed by the Creator to the Givers of Law:- Djaŋ’kawu and Barama Lany’jîn;
   (v) acknowledges that although our Arnhem Land members are granted Australian citizenship at birth they are first subject to the Maḏayin system of law, and as such, will endeavour to fulfill the Maḏayin system of law in all its workings in Arnhem Land, unless morally irresponsible;
   (vi) acknowledges that the Australian system of law now plays a secondary role in Arnhem Land towns;
   (vii) will work to try and enhance collaboration between the Australian system of law and the Maḏayin system of law, within Arnhem Land;
   (vii) acknowledges that if the people of Arnhem Land are to have the freedom and scope to live, think, and develop in a way that suits them they need an internationally recognisable treaty protecting this right;
   (viii) supports the historical and continuing request for a treaty between the tribes of Arnhem Land and the Australian Government, that recognises inalienable tribal land ownership and the jurisdiction of the Maḏayin system of law, including its institutions, and its authorities; and
   (ix) will assist advocacy attempts to achieve (vii) and (viii).

b) refer the decision of NRCC in relation to the Yolngu Nations Assembly call for a treaty to the Standing Committee and request that it to work with Congress to give further consideration to the request for support for a treaty for the tribes of Arnhem Land.

CLOSING ACTIONS

The Assembly resolved to:

15.37 APPRECIATION
give thanks to all people who contributed to the smooth facilitation of the 14th Assembly, to the host Synod of Western Australia, worship leaders, facilitators and particularly the many volunteers, and to the General Secretary and President who have led us with wisdom and grace.
CLOSE

The Fourteenth Assembly concluded at 12pm on Saturday, 18 July 2015 with worship led by the President.
Roll of Assembly

A. VOTING MEMBERS

Ex-officio members [Reg. 3.6.2(a)]

Rev Alistair Macrae, past-President
Rev Dr Andrew Dutney, President
Mr Stuart McMillan, President-elect
Rev Terence Corkin, Assembly General Secretary
Mr Dennis Corowa, National Chairperson, UAICC
Rev Dr Chris Budden, National Coordinator, UAICC

Appointed by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress [Reg 3.6.2(c)]

Lay: Mr Robert Jetta, Ms Marda Pitt, Ms Candice Champion, Mr Hayden Charles, Mr Nelson Varcoe, Ms Cheryl Lawson, Ms Kirsty Burgu, Ms Rose Gurarrangi, Ms Louise Thomas, Ms Di Torrens.

Appointed by Assembly bodies, by decision of Assembly Standing Committee [Reg. 3.6.2(e)]

Church Polity
Rev Jenny Tymms
Christian Unity Working Group
Mrs Maureen Postma
Education for Ministry
Rev Bev Fabb
Christian Unity, Doctrine
and Discipleship
Rev Dr Chris Walker
UnitingWorld
Mr Rob Floyd
Secretariat
Rev Glenda Blakefield

Appointed by Assembly Standing Committee [Reg. 3.6.2(f)]

Youthful members
Jordan Crass, Sam Fangatu, Petilosa Faleta, Mr Liusem Mauboy, Jordan Gibbs

Migrant-ethnic congregations
Rev Dev Anandarajan, Rev Ki Soo Jang, Rev Do Young Kim, Rev Amelia Koh-Butler, Mr Moses Leth, Mrs Nga Ly, Mrs Akesa Racava and Ms Charissa Suli.

Appointed by Assembly Standing Committee [3.3.8(a)(v)]

Mr Peter Andrews
Mr Geoffrey Grinton
Mr Warwick van Ede

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

Rev Myung Hwa Park (Moderator)
Rev Dr Andrew Williams (General Secretary)


Lay: Ms Rebekah-Lee Allcroft, Mr Brandon French, Mr Zac Hatfield Dodds, Mr Semisi Kailahi, Ms Emma Parr, Ms Catherine Pepper, Ms Malia Puna, Ms Hannah Reeve, Mrs Radhika Sukumar-White, Mr Adrian Sukumar-White, Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams, Ms Amanda Thomson, Mrs Jacki Watts.

Presbyteries

Canberra Region
Rev Julie Furner, Mr Geoff Wellington
Far North Coast
Rev John Thornton, Mrs Sue Duncan
Georges River
Rev Grant Bilbey, Mrs Christine Gordon
Illawarra
Rev Peter Chapman, Mrs Sharon Hoogland
Korean
Rev Ju Min Hyung, Mr Jung Eun Noh
Ku-ring-gai
Rev Ann Hogan, Mr Allan West
Macquarie Darling  Rev Gareth Thomas-Burchell  Mr Kevin Barrington
Mid North Coast  Rev Elizabeth Raine  Ms Penny Archer
New England-North West  Rev Tony Winter  Mr Rob Wood
Parramatta-Nepean  Rev Ellie Elia  Mr Filikesa Kamotu
Riverina  Rev Dr Gerald Duncan  Mrs Dorothy Creek
Sydney  Rev Nicole Fleming  Mr David Hay
Sydney North  Rev Graham Perry  Ms Fiona Blair
The Hunter  Rev Rex Graham  Mr Grahame Pricter

NORTHERN SYNOD
Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara (Moderator)
Mr Peter Jones (General Secretary)
Ministers: Rev Felicity Amery, Rev Steve Orme
Lay: Ms Nancy Ngalmindjalmag, Mr Gary Lewis

Presbyteries
Pilgrim Presbytery  Rev Dr Lee Levett-Olson  Ms Jemma Whittaker
of Northern Australia
Nthn Regional Council  Rev Djawanydjawany Gondarra Mrs Gurimangu Bukulatipi
of Congress

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND
Rev David Baker (Moderator)
Mr Gary Doyle (General Secretary)
Ministers: Rev Peter Armstrong, Rev John Cox, Rev Dr Hedley Fihaki, Rev Linda Hanson, Rev David MacGregor, Rev Hohaia Matlas, Rev Viliami Mila, Rev Kaye Ronalds, Rev Lu Senituli.
Lay: Mrs Jennifer Brecknell, Mr David Busch, Ms Colleen Geyer, Mrs Elaine Rae, Mr Glenn Schweitzer.

Presbyteries
Bremer Brisbane  Rev Brian Hoole  Mr Greg Braithwaite
Calvary  Rev John Adams  Ms Roxanne Yunkaporta
Central Queensland  Rev Brian Gilbert  Ms Donna Muston
Mary Burnett  Rev David Thomas  Mr Philip Smith
Moreton Rivers  Rev Bruce Johnson  Mr David Greig
North Queensland  Rev Christy Allen  Ms Lyn Anderson
South Moreton  Rev Alan Robinson  Mrs Gaye Pitman
The Downs  Rev Faye Talatonu  Mr John Agnew

SYNOD AND PRESBTERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Dr Deidre Palmer (Moderator)
Rev Nigel Rogers (General Secretary)
Lay: Ms Pam Bartholomaeus, Mr Scott Davis, Ms Rachel Dempster, Miss Rosalie Dow, Mr Bruce Ind, Mr Craig Mitchell, Ms Jenni Morel, Ms Nicole Mugford, Mr Graeme Painter, Ms Robyn Painter, Ms Sharonne Price, Mr Kai Strobol, Ms Marian Wicks, Mr Bronte Wilson, Miss Kerry Wilson, Mr Malcolm Wilson.

SYNOD OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA
Mr Dan Wootton (Moderator)
Rev Dr Mark Lawrence (General Secretary)
Ministers: Rev Gavin Blakemore, Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes, Rev Stan Clarke, Rev Michelle Cook, Rev Greg Crowe, Rev David Fotheringham, Rev Avril Hannah-Jones, Rev Sharon Hollis, Rev Jason Koa, Rev Swee Ann-Koh, Rev Denise Liersch, Rev Lauren Mosso, Rev Allan Thompson, Rev Dr Apeewee Ting, Rev Sani Vaeluaga, Rev Sue Withers.
Lay: Mr Aaron Blakemore, Ms Sue Clarkson, Mr Adrian Greenwood, Mr Drew Hanna, Ms Anna Harrison, Ms Cheryl Lawrie, Mr Alexander Maurovic, Ms Carlynne Nunn, Ms Rachel Prewer, Mr Rohan Pryor, Mr Cameron Shields, Ms Kelly Skilton, Ms Heidi Stabb, Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson, Ms Lorraine Threlfall, Ms Wendie Wilkie.

Presbyteries
Gippsland  Rev Anne Honey  Mrs Wendy McDonald  Mr Lindsay Oates
Loddon-Mallee  Rev Cynthia Page  Mr Max Cooke  Ms Judy Berridge
North East Victoria  Rev Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt Rev Andrew Delbridge  Mrs Helen Collins
Port Phillip East  Rev Dr Paul Chalson  Rev Wendy Snook  Ms Kaylea Fern
Port Phillip West  Rev Ann Key  Rev Robert Renton  Mr David Wall

32  Minutes of the Fourteenth Assembly – The Uniting Church in Australia
Tasmania
Rev Carol Bennett Mrs Helen Geard Mr David Reeve

Western Victoria
Rev Denise Naish Mrs Joy Robinson Rev Paul Blacker

Yarra Yarra
Rev Dr Morag Logan Mrs Beth Horsfield Ms Bethany Broadstock

SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Rev Steve Francis (Moderator)
Mrs Rosemary Hudson-Miller (General Secretary)
Ministers: Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho, Rev Craig Collas, Rev Lesley de Grussa-Macaulay, Rev Mark Illingworth, Rev Alan Jeffrey, Rev Cathie Lambert, Rev Isobelle Shortreed, Rev Denise Savage, Rev Dr Ian Tozer.
Lay: Ms Merrenaite Aiaf, Ms Alison Atkinson-Phillips, Mr Jody Crothers, Ms Kalo Fotu, Ms Vivien Lee, Ms Margaret Martin, Mr Rick Morrell, Mr Richard Telfer, Ms Yuko Toai-Moore.

B. NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS

1. Guests from overseas churches
Rev Kan Baoping, China Christian Council
Bishop Pradeep Kumar Samantaroy, Church of North India
Rev Dr D R Sadananda, Church of South India
Rev Alberth Yoku, Evangelical Christian Church of Papua
Rev I Nengah Suama, Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Rev Henny Samakul, Evangelical Church in Minahasa
Mr Welem Nunuhitu, Evangelical Christian Church in Timor
Rev Dr John Ruhulessin, Protestant Church in Maluku
Rev Moises da Silva, Protestant Church in Timor Leste
Rev Sudu Tada, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
Bishop Reuel Marigza, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Mr Uvenama Rova, United Church in Papua New Guinea
Pastor Allan Nafuki, Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu
Rev Kibaunimatang Robuti Rimon, Kiribati Uniting Church
Rev Amos Ndhlumbi, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Rev Peter Gai Lual Marrow, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan
Rev Bae Tae Jin, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
Rev Sungjae Kim, Korean Christian Church in Japan
Rev Sheph Davidy Jonazh, Indonesian Christian Church - Regional Synod West Java
Rev James Bhagwan, Methodist Church in Fiji
Rev Anton Piga, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera
Very Rev Andrew Norton, Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand
Rev Tovia Aumua, Methodist Church of New Zealand.

2. Guests from Australian churches and church bodies
Major Grattan Savage, Salvation Army
Sr Elizabeth Delaney, National Council of Churches in Australia
Rev Greg Pfeiffer, Lutheran Church
Deacon Theodore Issa, Syrian Orthodox Church
Bishop Allan Ewing, Anglican Church
Mr Paul Martin, Society of Friends

3. Additional guests from Australian churches attending the Opening Service
Very Revd Fr. Molirad Soaktar, Serbian Orthodox Church
Most Rev Timothy Costelloe, Catholic Church
The Venerable Lionel Snell, Anglican Church of Australia

4. Representatives of Other Faiths attending the Opening Service
Rabbi Dovid Freilich, Chief Rabbi of Western Australia

5. Associated with Assembly:
(a) persons who will assist in resourcing the Assembly:
for the whole of the Assembly:
Mr Jim Mein for Frontier Services
Mrs Lin Hatfield Dodds for UnitingCare Australia
Rev Elenie Poulos for UnitingJustice Australia
Mr Rob Floyd for UnitingWorld

(b) for specific business of the Assembly:
Mr Jim Mein for the Beneficiary Fund
Rev Murray Earl for Defence Force Chaplaincy
Mr Grahame Ryan for Frontier Services
Rev Dr Matthew Wilson for Relations with Other Faiths
Mr Robert Watson for UC Adult Fellowship
Rev Janet Dawson for UnitingJustice Australia
Rev Dr Chris Mostert for the Anglican – Uniting Church proposal
Mr Krikor Youmshajekian for the proposal on the Armenian Genocide
Rev David Thiem for the proposal on Defence Force chaplains
Mr Ray Ray Minniecon for the proposal on Doctrine of Discovery

5. **Co-opted members:**

None
Ministerial Matters

1. DEACONS

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND THE ACT

Deaths

Lettie Ellen Abraham

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Received by ordination

Craig Batty

SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Received by ordination

Francis Bartholomeusz
Casey Lau
Lyn Leane
Albert Patrizi
Karen Paul

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND
TASMANIA

Received by ordination

James Godfrey

SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Received by ordination

Andrew Broadbent

2. MINISTERS OF THE WORD

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND THE ACT

Received by ordination

Grant Atkins
John Barker
Paul Cosier
Ellie Elia
Salesi Faupula
Do Young Kim
Hye Ja Kim
Sung Kwang (Ace) Kim
Keun-II Ko
Steve Lee
Rebecca Lindsay
Bridget Ocean
Helen Paine
Christine Palmer
Jo-Anne Smalbil
Suzanne Stanton
David Stuart
Charissa Suli
Fololei Tafokita

Received by admission or readmission

Seung Jae Yeon

Recognition has been withdrawn

Matthew McBurney

(i) Resignation

Leone Hill
Sophia Ng

Deaths

John Amery
Anthony Baker
Alastair Bathgate
Edward Alexander (Ted) Brash
Robert James Brown
Frank Butler
Russell Dancey
Gordon Dicker
Donald Drury
Robert Floyd
Maxwell Fox
Frank Glen
Cyril Goodwin
Thomas Gordon
Neville Guthrey
Elizabeth Howard
Graham Hughes
Lester James
Eric Knight
Moira Laidlaw
Semisi (James) Latu
Peter Looby
Malcolm Macleod
John McCarthy
Daniel Mistry
Gordon Moyes
Sandy Murray
Roy Nash
Robert Arthur Oakley
Shirley Parkin
Merle Pearce
Leslie Pearson
Peter Pereira
Harvey Perkins
Lloyd Phillips
Doreen Prowse
Burnel Reeve
Kelvin Russell
Jack Sharp
Rob Silver
Hendrick Smit
Marilyn Stacy
Ian Tanner
Laurie Thompson
John Thompson
Russell Thompson
Dieter Tieman
Rae Trenerry
Lloyd Vidler
Tuikilakila Waqairatu

NORTHERN SYNOD

Received by ordination
Tapera Teubiti
Timothy Wanamayku Wunuru

Deaths
Peter Nyaningu
Larry Garawirritja

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Received by ordination
Anna Ashby
Matthew Baunach
Somporn (Lek) Branjerdporn
Jennifer Coombes
John Dansie
Melissa Lipsett
Annelisifa Ngaluafe
Luke Smallwood
Catherine Solomon

Received by admission or readmission
Stephen Henderson
Darren King
Sunil Kadaparambil

Deaths
Ellis Bramley
Charles Cunningham
Allan (Ken) Cutmore
Louise Edwards
Oliver (Joe) Gunders
Donald Kassel
Moira Laidlaw
David Lowry
Donald Mackay
Ian Mavor
Ken Neill
Thomas Scarlett
Corin Nyree Svenson
Keith Thompson
Paul Trigge
John Tully
Ron Wallace
Godfrey Williams

Recognition has been withdrawn
(i) Resignation
Michael Brumpton
Johan Loots
Joseph Jang
Bob Mitchell

(ii) Withdrawal of Recognition
Victor Wolfgramm

SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Received by ordination
Adam Low
Robyn Caldicott
Denise Champion
Andrew Everson
Sherrin Jackman
Esteban Lievano
Christine Manning
Cheryl Wilson

Received by admission or readmission
Mark Butler
Phil Webber

Deaths
Tony Baker
Robert Allan Drummond
Robert Grant Dunning
Wali Fejo
Ray Harold Gifford
Oswald (Os) George Edwards
Ivan Robert Goss
Janette Maude Greig
Milton Lewis Hopkins
Bryan Lawrence Michie
Mervyn Vivian Norman
Keith Douglas Seaman
Geoffrey Donald Scott
David William Frederick Smith
George Andrew Wright

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Received by ordination
Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga
Claire Dawe
Lindell Gibson
Jenny Hayes
Tupe Ieulu
Ross Pearce
Juliette Tauta’aaso
Bruce Watson

Received by admission or readmission
Nigel Hanscamp
Jung-Ha (Andrew) Hwang
Glen O’Brien
Ulisone (Kili) Mafaufau
Brian Spencer
Alf Thistletwaite
Peter Welsh
Kevin Yeliverton

Recognition has been withdrawn
(i) **Resignation**
Paul Kruse
Steven Lewis
Nicole Lourensz
Robert McUtchen

(ii) **Committee for Discipline**
Barrie Porch

**Deaths**
Kenneth Allen
Robert Anderson
Bonnie Bradley
Graham Briscoe
Robert J Brown
Alan Collis
Graham Colquhoun
Archibald Crow
William Gillard
Kenneth Gilson
Walter Goff
Richard Golding
George (Mick) Grant
George W Grant OAM
Norman Gray
Malcolm Hay
Alexander Hodgson
Ronald Hollick
John Hudson
John (Jock) Lavender
Evan Lewis
Norman Lowe
Jack Lutge
Douglas Miller
Maxwell Morton
Peter Moonie
T Maxwell O’Connor
Alexander (Alec) Peerman
Barry Prior
Robin Pryor
Alan Reid
Jean Shadforth
Ruth Smith
Ian Steer
Ian Tennant
Keith Tinkler
Athol Wall
Robert Weatherlake
H Roy Westaway
Albert Wicks
Sylvia Widdicombe
Alfred Wilhelms
Ian Williams
John K Williams
Malcolm Williams
Pamela Wyley

**SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Received by ordination**
Rev Ruth Vertigan
Rev Corina van Oostende
Rev Luke Williams

**Deaths**
Desmond Fielding
Max Smith
John (Jack) Wilson
Jack Hutchinson
John McCarthy
William Bartlett
Val Bock
Mervyn Jay

**Recognition has been withdrawn**

(i) **Resignation**
James Matthews

3. **DEACONESES**

**SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT**

**Deaths**
Jo Clark

**SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA**

**Deaths**
Lesley McMullin
Valmai Schmidtke

4. **LAY PASTORS**

**SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT**

**Deaths**
George Chambers

**SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Deaths**
Heather Coral Willmott

5. **COMMUNITY MINISTERS**

**NORTHERN SYNOD**

**Deaths**
Kinyin McKenzie

*Information supplied by Synods July 2015*
Preamble
This document proposes a framework for local cooperation between Anglican and Uniting churches throughout Australia.

Local cooperation is the most promising avenue for ecumenism today, with growing numbers of congregations working and worshipping together. Increasingly, it is here that fruitful “ecumenical space” is to be found, in which different Christian communities can walk together in the way of Christ, and each discover the gifts the other tradition has to offer. The Joint Working Group offers this framework in the hope that it will assist both our churches to encourage and support cooperation at the local level. In doing so, we build upon the work of previous dialogues, trusting that the benefit of many years’ conversation will be more fully realized in time to come.

This document honours each church’s understanding of the relationship that can exist between us, setting out what is possible, and what is not, within current constraints. At present, this includes eucharistic hospitality but precludes formal intercommunion and the mutual recognition of ordained ministries. It seems to us that this is a constructive ecumenical step that can be taken now, in openness to whatever future directions might emerge for conversation out of a strengthened experience of locally shared worship and mission.

A Biblical Vision of Christian Unity
The unity of Christians is a gift from God before it is a task for the church. Our unity is in Christ. He is our peace, creating in himself one new humanity across humankind’s divisions, reconciling Jew and Gentile to God in one body through the cross (Eph. 2:14-16). In Christ we are built together spiritually, across our differences, into a dwelling place for God (2:22). This is a spiritual unity, grounded in the unity and mutual indwelling of the Father and the Son and in the unity of believers with the Son and the Father (John 17:20-21).

However, the unity of believers with each other, for which Jesus prays, a unity in diversity, is also a visible unity. Moreover, not an end in itself, it is a missional unity. The unity of Christians serves the mission of the triune God: that the world may believe that the Father has sent the Son (John 17:21) and the Spirit (John 14:26). To fail to make this unity visible and concrete is to dishonour the gift of God in Christ.

All Christian churches are called to give expression to this gift. Together with other churches, our two churches have pledged, through the “Covenanting Together” process of the National Council of Churches in Australia, “to explore such further steps as will be necessary to make more clearly visible the unity of all Christian people in this country”. The possibilities outlined in this document, approved by our two churches at national level, are significant steps for Anglican and Uniting parishes and congregations to consider taking together in their local worship, education and mission.

Theological Affirmations
1. Each of our churches stands in the continuity of the apostolic faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed.

2. Each of our churches is part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church. Acknowledging our failure to enact fully our calling, both our churches witness faithfully to the gospel and seek to be more fully engaged in God’s mission in the world.

3. In each of our churches the Holy Spirit gives to the whole people of God gifts for the upbuilding of the church and for its continuation in the mission of Jesus Christ.

4. The ordained ministry in both our churches is given by God as an instrument of grace, notwithstanding our different understandings of it. By this ministry, the people of God are called to faith, strengthened to witness to the gospel and empowered to serve in hope and love.

5. In each of our churches the word of God is faithfully preached and the sacraments of baptism and holy communion are duly administered in accordance with each church’s tradition.
6. Personal, communal and collegial oversight (episcope) is exercised in both our churches, albeit in different forms, to serve the church’s unity and its faithfulness to the gospel.

**Forms of Cooperation**

Local inter-church covenants across Australia give expression to the commitment of church people to make visible the unity that we have in Christ. Possibilities listed below are not sequential but have developed out of particular circumstances—some out of ecumenical commitment, others because of changed conditions. In all situations, consideration must be given to every aspect and implication of cooperating arrangements and the different approvals and agreements required for different levels of cooperation.

**Hospitality**

Hospitality can take many forms. Anglican and Uniting Church members are welcome to attend services in each other’s churches. Eucharistic hospitality may be offered to baptized and communicant members of each other’s churches. Hospitality can also include the sharing of buildings, and shared activities are encouraged as common witness and mission in local communities.

**Shared Witness**

A stronger visible expression of the unity we share as a gift from God is seen as we deepen our relationships in shared worship, bible study and fellowship groups, and these occasions give witness to the Christian faith we hold in common. Formal shared events are more meaningful when planned by representatives of both church communities.

**Shared Ministry in Mission**

In some circumstances, Anglican and Uniting churches decide to share resources to better provide ministry and pastoral services. These resources may include staff or volunteers, buildings or finances. Ministry may be for specific communities, e.g. chaplaincies in schools or aged care, or for the wider community within a specific geographic area. The vision for such shared ministry may come from the local community, or the missional imperative from the leadership of either church in a specific area. Where the impetus comes from local congregations, plans for these shared ministries are presented to the relevant Anglican Diocesan Bishop and the relevant Uniting Church Presbytery.

**Joint Congregations**

The establishment of a joint congregation, i.e. one congregation made up of members of the two ecclesial traditions, requires the agreement of local councils of both churches’ parishioners and the approval of the appropriate governance within both the Anglican and Uniting churches. Each of the original congregations retains its separate identity, membership and links (spiritual, doctrinal, sacramental, liturgical and financial) to its church, according to the provisions and degree of collaboration. They share resources such as church buildings and ministries, and unite in local mission. Agreement must be reached within the Anglican Parish Council and Uniting Church Congregation and Church Council. Approval is also required from the relevant Anglican Diocesan Bishop and the relevant Uniting Church Presbytery. Depending on circumstances, approval of the relevant Property Trusts may also be required.

**Planned Common Witness**

In areas of new growth or rejuvenation it is possible for both churches to work together to construct buildings for shared usage, common witness and ministry. Constitutional issues of both churches must be addressed, but the witness of the unity we have in Christ to the wider community presents opportunities and challenges which are invaluable.

**Conclusion**

Arguably the most significant development in the last decade or so for ecumenism has been the development of the concept of Receptive Ecumenism. At the heart of this endeavour is the conviction that the primary ecumenical responsibility is to ask not “What do the other traditions first need to learn from us?” but “What do we need to learn from them?”. If our two churches were asking this question seriously and acting upon it, then we would be moving in ways that would both deepen our authentic respective identities and draw us into more intimate relationship. The Joint Working Group offers “Weaving a New Cloth: Anglican and Uniting Churches Working Together” for the prayerful consideration of our two churches. As a further step on the journey, and
building on the work already undertaken between our respective churches, we remain convinced that the next steps outlined in this proposal will offer tangible evidence of our commitment to the relational unity which is both the desire and the command of our Lord (John 17:20-23). We commend the report to the General Synod of the Anglican Church and the National Assembly of the Uniting Church.

Rt. Rev. John Parkes
Rev. Prof. Christiaan Mostert
for the Joint Working Group

Notes

For Further Information

Covenanting
http://toorak.unitingchurch.org/about
http://saintjohnstoorkun.org/#/about-st-johns-toorak/community
More Covenants and Agreements are listed in ‘When Churches Join’ (see below).

Shared Witness
http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

Shared Ministry
http://www.pastoraljournal.findaus.com

Joint Congregations
http://www.wa.uca.org.au/mthawthorn/about
(The search for St. Peter and Emmaus Church on the Anglican website leads to this UCA link.)

Planned Ecumenical Witness
http://www.seafordecumenical.org.au
http://www.emmanuel.unitingchurch.org.au (the website listed by both the Anglican Diocese and the Uniting Presbytery)

Further Resources:

- Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity In Mission (AMICUM) Report, due to be made public in 2014. Access to this report will be publicized in due course.

- The Trinity Declaration and Code of Practice for Local Co-operation in Victoria between the Anglican Church of Australia and the Uniting Church in Australia.

- When Churches Join (a good summary of issues that arise as Christian communities begin to discuss developing ecumenical cooperating partnerships, plus listings of Covenants and Agreements).

- The Gift of Each Other; Learning From Other Christians, a Parish Workbook on Receptive Ecumenism, published by the New South Wales Ecumenical Council, 2013.
Membership of the Joint Working Group

Anglican
Rt. Rev. John Parkes (co-chair)
Helen Baddeley
Rt. Rev. Peter Danaher
Canon Dr. Colleen O’Reilly

Uniting
Rev. Prof. Christiaan Mostert (co-chair)
Rev. Margaret Blair
Maureen Postma
Rev. Martin Wright


ii The emphasis on the church’s unity as spiritual, visible and missional is borrowed from the ‘Biblical Reflection’, Section 3 of the draft report of the Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission (AMICUM), 2013.

iii The following Churches have signed the Future Pledge of the Covenanting Document: the Anglican Church of Australia, the Antiochian Orthodox Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Assyrian Church of the East, the Churches of Christ in Australia, the Congregational Federation of Australia, the Coptic Orthodox Church, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, the Indian Orthodox Church, the Lutheran Church of Australia, the Mar Thoma Church, the Religious Society of Friends, the Roman Catholic Church in Australia, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Salvation Army and the Uniting Church in Australia. www.ncca.org.au/files/Departments/Faith_and_Unity/Covenanting/2010_July_Australian_Churches_Covenanting_Together.pdf
UnitingWorld Partner Statement to the 14th Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.” Acts 4: 31-35 (Read at UCA 14th Assembly Opening Worship and Installation of President, 12th July, 2015)

We, representatives of sister churches from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, who are partners in mission with the Uniting Church of Australia; gathered here in this place and at this time, for worship, fellowship and partnership, during the 14th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia; following deep sharing with our mission partner, Uniting World and with each other on the common concerns and possibilities in the task of doing mission in the 21st century context:

- Acknowledge the first people and traditional owners of the land for their spirit of hospitality, and the whole Uniting Church in Australia for their loving kindness to us as sisters and brothers in Christ;

- Express our deep appreciation for the Uniting Church in Australia’s support, through Uniting World, in addressing the needs of our Churches and our various communities through their work in human rights and justice, capacity building, gender issues and child protection, climate change, communication, reconciliation and social and economic empowerment;

- Acknowledge the changing dynamic of mission in the context of the 21st century, and the need for mission to balance the Great Commission to “go make disciples,” with the Great Commandment, to “love your neighbour.”

Through consensus we:

- Affirm that partnership in mission is a gift of God to willingly and passionately enter into a deep relationship of mutual sharing in fulfilment of the commandment of God to love one another as parts of the same body of Jesus Christ;

- Acknowledge that partnership obligations invite us to journey together in friendship, creating respectful and reciprocal relationships of trust and honest dialogue that hold us accountable to each other;

- Commit to strengthening our partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia through Uniting World as equals by offering our resources to enhance her mission in the world.

Inspired by the 14th Assembly we discussed the need for us as partners with the Uniting Church to manifest the spirit of unity for which our host community of faith strives. With our “hearts on fire”, we:

- Affirm that our partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia, challenges us to break through the boundaries of denomination, in order to partner as God’s agents of transformation in this world;

- Commit to develop, nurture and strengthen multilateral mission relationships by making our God-given resources available to one another, sharing our needs with each other and joyfully participating in the life of our partners in a fruitful and effective manner.

To God be the glory now and forever.
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