

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

The Eleventh Assembly was formally constituted with a welcome to country led by the General Secretary, Terence Corkin on behalf of the Queensland Indigenous Elders and worship led by the President, Dean Drayton at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 5 July 2006.

OPENING ACTIONS

The Assembly resolved:

- 06.01 ROLL OF THE ASSEMBLY (See Appendix A)**
to adopt the roll of members.
- 06.02 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**
to elect Gregor Sutherland Henderson as President of the Assembly, to hold office until the installation of his successor at the next ordinary meeting of the Assembly.
- 06.03 ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES**
- 06.03.01 **Membership of Business Committee**
to appoint the following persons as members of the Business Committee for the Eleventh Assembly: Terence Corkin (Chairperson), Geoffrey Grinton (Business Manager), Glenda Blakefield, Cynthia Coghill, Ken Devereux, Grant Finlay, Kate Fraser, Gregor Henderson, Jim Mein, Eseta Meneilly, Kate Tretheway and Jenny Tymms.
- 06.03.02 **Appointment of Minute Secretaries**
to appoint the following persons as Minute Secretaries: Jenny Bertalan, Shayne Hearley and Ana Mila.
- 06.03.03 **Order of Business**
to 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.
- 06.03.04 **Confirmation of the Minutes**
to authorise the following persons to confirm the minutes of the Eleventh Assembly: Terence Corkin, Gregor Henderson, Geoffrey Grinton, Jenny Tymms and Jenny Bertalan.
- 06.03.05 **Proposals Involving Financial Commitment**
to determine that any proposal submitted at this Assembly which may involve a financial commitment not currently provided for in Assembly budgets or which seeks to establish a priority on the use of resources of the Assembly and/or its agencies or which may involve a financial commitment for synods, be subject to comment before determination by the Assembly as follows:
- by the Finance Committee and the General Secretary in the case of a financial commitment not currently provided for in Assembly budgets;
 - by the General Secretary in the case of seeking to establish a priority on the use of Assembly resources;
 - by the General Secretary, after consultations with Synod Secretaries, in the case of a financial commitment for synods.
- 06.03.06 **Ballots and Nominating Procedures**
- a) to appoint Malcolm Gledhill as Returning Officer and Warwick van Ede as Assistant Returning Officer;
 - b) to appoint a Ballot Committee with responsibility for advising the Assembly on any questions relating to nominations and elections;
 - c) to appoint the following persons as members of the Ballot Committee: Malcolm Gledhill (Convenor), Bruce Cornish, Elizabeth Burns, Isabel Thomas Dobson and Warwick van Ede;
 - d) to appoint the following persons as scrutineers: Terry Trewavas, Kisoo Jang, Beth Horsfield, Joan Wilcox, Sybil Peacock, Lorraine Threlfall, Swee-Ann Koh, Dan Aubrey, Marie Wilson, Brian Mowbray;

- e) to determine that the closing time for nominations and the submission of proposals on new matters is 6.00pm Friday July 7.

06.03.07

Business Procedures Involving Congress

to amend its standing orders to the extent necessary to enable the following process in respect of the UAICC:

- allowing a representative of Congress to present the UAICC perspective on a proposal immediately after any movers and seconders, provided that they have indicated this intention ahead of time to either the General Secretary or the Business Manager;
- there will be no specific time limit applied to the Congress speaker(s) in this situation;
- in the deliberative phase Congress members will not be expected to show cards or to join a queue at the microphones to explain why they are not able to support a proposal. The President will not interpret this lack of showing cards as support for, or opposition to, any proposal;
- Congress shall be provided with a briefing from the Facilitation Group upon request to the General Secretary;
- Congress members will not be allocated to the Community Working Groups;
- Congress, as a group, may request the President that a discussion cease for a time and opportunity will be provided for Congress members to meet together in order to discuss their position. Such business will return to the agenda at the discretion of the President and Congress will have the opportunity to speak at that time.

06.03.08

Association of Persons with the Assembly

to 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:
 - Ms Glenine Hamlyn, National Council of Churches in Australia
 - Rev Father John Abdel-Karim, Antiochian Orthodox Church in Australia and New Zealand
 - Dr Bevan Wiltshire, Religious Society of Friends
 - Rev Tim Jaensch, Lutheran Church of Australia
 - (ii) from overseas churches and from international ecumenical bodies for the whole of the Assembly:
 - Rev Ivan McElhinney, Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland
 - Rev An Young Ro, The Presbyterian Church of Korea
 - Rev Dr Bruce Gregersen, The United Church of Canada
 - Rev Garry Marquand, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
 - Rev Dr Andrew Williams, Council for World Mission
 - Mrs Judith Fisher, World Alliance of Reformed Churches
 - Rev Dr John Salmon, Methodist Church of New Zealand
 - Dr Pauline Sathiamurthy, Church of South India
 - Rev Yoon Kil-Soo, The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
 - Rev Soo kil Park, Korean Christian Church in Japan
 - Mr Iaveta Short, Cook Islands Christian Church
 - Pastor Wete Hnojia Jean, Evangelical Church in New Caledonia
 - Bishop Elmer M Bolocon, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
 - Rev Finau P. Ahio, Free Wesleyan Church in Tonga
 - Rev Dr Johnny Chr. Ruhulestin, The Protestant Church of Mollucas

- Rev Samson Lowa, United Church in Papua New Guinea
 - Rev David Havea, United Church in the Solomon Islands
 - Rev Osa Nanai, Congregational Christian Church in Samoa
 - Rev Epineri Vakadewavosa, Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma
 - Dr Margaretha Hendricks, World Council of Churches
 - Rev Dr Albert O Supit, Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa
 - Ms Shona Thangavel, Church of South India
 - Mr James Komengi, Young Ambassadors for Peace, Papua New Guinea
 - Ms (Prof) Norkaya S. Mohamad, Young Ambassadors for Peace, Phillipines
 - Rev Jeff Japinga, Reformed Church in America
 - Rev Herman Awom, Evangelical Church in the Land of Papua
 - Rev Teeruro leuti, Kiribati Protestant Church
- b) persons who will assist in resourcing the Assembly:
- (i) for the whole of the Assembly:
- Rev Elenie Poulos, UnitingJustice Australia
 - Rev Dr Lee Levett-Olson, Coolamon College
 - Mrs Rosemary Young, Frontier Services
 - Mrs Lin Hatfield Dodds, UnitingCare Australia
 - Mr Warwick van Ede, Legal Reference Committee
 - Rev Mark Hillis, Christian Education
 - Rev Helen Richmond, Multicultural Ministry
- (ii) for specific business of the Assembly:
- Rev Dr Robert Hoskin, Beneficiary Fund
 - Rev Gale Hall, Defence Force Chaplaincy
 - Mrs Christine Gordon, Historical Reference Committee
 - Ms Wilma Viswanathan, Relations with Other Faiths
 - Rev Lorraine Parkinson, Task Group on Christian-Jewish Relations
 - Ms Colleen Geyer, Task Group on Specified Ministries
 - Rev Dr Clive Pearson, Task Group on Multicultural Ministry Policies and their Operation in the Church
 - Rev Dr Sandy Yule, Christian Unity Working Group
 - Rev Laurie Fitzgerald, Uniting International Mission
 - Rev John Barr, Uniting International Mission
 - Ms Joy Balazo, Uniting International Mission
 - Jim Fraser, Assembly Audit and Finance Committee

06.04 MINISTERIAL MATTERS (See Appendix B)

The General Secretary tabled the names of Deacons, Ministers of the Word, Youth Workers, Lay Pastors and Community Ministers who have been received by the Uniting Church since the Tenth Assembly, of Ministers of the Word, Deaconesses and Youth Workers who have died since the Tenth Assembly, and of Ministers of the Word, Deaconesses and Lay Pastors whose recognition has been withdrawn.

06.05 RETIRING PRESIDENT

06.05.01 to receive the report of the retiring President, Dean Drayton;

06.05.02 to place on record its profound thanks for the ministry of Rev Dr Dean Drayton who has served the Uniting Church as the tenth president of the Assembly (2003–2006), and convey to Dean our sincere appreciation for his faithful leadership during a period in the Uniting Church's history that required a leader of deep integrity, strength and wisdom.

It would be undisputed that the period immediately following the Tenth Assembly was a particularly difficult time for many Uniting Church members

as they responded to decisions made in regards to sexuality and leadership. When Dean was elected President at the Ninth Assembly he primarily saw his gifts lying in the field of mission and evangelism, yet it seemed to be a very different church landscape that awaited him when he began his term of office. Yet it was soon clear to Dean that this did not alter how he would minister and live out his Christian discipleship.

Dean was the recipient of many letters and emails from his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ after the Tenth Assembly. Many of them were directly critical of the Assembly Officers and appealing for him to intervene. Dean understood clearly the Councils of the Church and his role as President within those councils. Whether observing as a member of Assembly Standing Committee or from the vantage point of a Synod over the entire period of Dean's Presidency, Dean's faithfulness, strength and deep love for all people no matter what was swirling around him could be consistently observed. Dean listened deeply to what the church was saying in all her differences of opinion. Dean at many times was the Still Point. The responsibility of the office of President has undoubtedly at times been a weight for him and yet Dean has always had a spring in his step. And not just a little spring – a mighty life giving spring!

His world has opened up by having the opportunity to serve as our President. He has travelled widely on our behalf throughout the Pacific, Indonesia, Brazil, East Timor and Australia. Dean has observed and made known to us the God of Grace at work in many of these hidden places. He has always returned from his travels with a renewed passion for Christian discipleship and a resolve to make a stand in the face of injustice. Dean's visit to Aceh after the Boxing Day Tsunami 2004 left an indelible imprint on him.

Dean's fight for justice for the asylum seeker and refugee will not stop after his term of presidency has concluded. This is a man of great compassion in the true sense of the word, the compassion of Christ as he understands the crucified and risen Christ among us. The compassion that knows the Christian story has a great deal to say by way of contrast into a prevailing culture of fear, isolation of the outcast and rampant materialism.

When first encountered Dean seems to be such a 'nice' gentle sort of man. While this is true, this is also a man of steely resolve. Perhaps he is the true 'Man of Steel'. He is a strong man who thinks deeply and looks you in the eye.

Dean is a man of prayer and this clearly has sustained him. Dean just seemed to make the right phone call or take part in the right action at the right time.

Having travelled extensively it goes without saying that at times separation from Sandra has not been easy. There is a cost to these ministries of leadership.

Dean has chaired the Assembly Standing Committee for this triennium of the Assembly with wisdom and grace. As a chairperson Dean was a deep listener, exceptionally good-humoured and encouraged all participants to make their point of view heard.

Dean will now return to his full-time teaching position at the United Theological College where over the past three years he has continued to supervise his load of Ph D students and taught intensives.

The Uniting Church is indebted to Dean Drayton for giving so much of himself as our tenth President, and we commend him in his future life and ministry to the love of the triune God.

BUSINESS FROM THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Assembly resolved:

06.06

Task Group on the Code of Ethics

- a) to establish a Task Group to review the operation and scope of the *Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice*;
- b) that the terms of reference for the Task Group shall be:
 - the knowledge of the Code of Ethics within the life of the church;
 - the operation of the Code of Ethics within the church, including within different cultural backgrounds;
 - whether areas addressed by the Code of Ethics should be broader than professional ethics ie “ministry practice”;
 - the inclusion of candidates for the specified ministries of Ministry of the Word, Ministry of Deacon and Ministry of Youth Worker;
 - consideration of including persons in recognised placements fulfilling the roles of those ministries named in the Code of Ethics; and
 - such other matters as may be agreed in consultation with the Standing Committee;
- c) to request the Standing Committee to appoint the membership of the Task Group;
- d) that a report and recommendations be brought to the 12th Assembly.

06.07

Renewal of the Covenant

- a) to note the work undertaken by the Assembly Standing Committee in the “renewing the covenant process”;
- b) to give thanks to God for the covenantal relationship that exists between Congress and the rest of the church;
- c) to express its ongoing commitment to exploring what the covenant between the UAICC and the rest of the church means for our life together;
- d) to commend the booklet “Covenant as an expression of the relationship between the UAICC and other parts of the Uniting Church”, and the foundational theological document on which it is based, to the church for study and exploration of its practical implications for the relationship between Congress with the wider church;
- e) to request the Standing Committee to arrange for the resource to be developed into a short series of studies for use in the church;
- f) to encourage synods, presbyteries and relevant agencies to hold discussions about the way in which they can enhance the practical expression of the covenant in their relationship with Congress and to monitor the progress of these conversations;
- g) to request the Standing Committee, as necessary, to facilitate any national discussion that needs to take place, and to bring any proposed changes to the regulations that might arise from this process to the 12th Assembly.

06.08

Assembly Key Directions

In the coming triennium:

- a) to commit to continuing reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the UCA and wider community by:
 - (i) committing to a process leading to a renewing of the covenant with the UAICC and strengthening its expression in the congregations, councils and agencies of the church, including strengthening the capacity for good working relationships to exist

- between the Congress and Assembly agencies, especially Frontier Services, Uniting Justice and UnitingCare Australia;
 - (ii) working in solidarity with Congress in order to achieve reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians;
 - (iii) recognizing the contribution which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality can make to the life of the UCA and take steps to ensure that this contribution is received;
 - (iv) encouraging individual members of the Uniting Church to develop long term working relationships alongside indigenous people; and
 - (v) engaging with the UAICC in community services as an act of practical reconciliation;
 - b) to engage in Jesus' ministry of peacemaking within the world and the church by:
 - (i) developing resources that will assist our members and councils to develop skills and strategies to live together in peace in a multicultural, cross-cultural and diverse UCA;
 - (ii) seeking closer unity with other churches;
 - (iii) deepening relationships with churches in Asia, the Pacific, Southern Africa and Councils of Churches;
 - (iv) working with people of other faiths to promote mutual respect and understanding;
 - (v) countering terrorism and violence through helping our members learn to live and act as peacemakers, as taught and modelled by Jesus;
 - (vi) protecting and promoting human rights;
 - (vii) fostering respect for God's creation and the goal of living in harmony with the environment;
 - (viii) encouraging dialogue with leaders and peoples of other faiths; and
 - (ix) fostering equity and reconciliation within the Australian community;
 - c) in consultation with other Councils of the Church:
 - (i) support and nurture the renewal of the passion for evangelism, discipleship formation and leadership development with an emphasis on spiritual development and faith sharing; and
 - (ii) request Theology and Discipleship and the Evangelism Working Group to develop key strategies including grass roots and inter-synod activity;
 - d) to commit to:
 - (i) the articulation of our doctrine in a way that communicates clearly to our members;
 - (ii) articulate and celebrate our identity as the Uniting Church in Australia, with particular reference to the way in which our doctrine of God informs and shapes our mission in the world; and
 - (iii) the education of our members to better know, own and share their faith;
 - e)
 - (i) to critically evaluate the polity and governance of the church with a view to reducing the level of prescription, increasing the level of local permission giving and enhancing the capability of Councils of the church to hear and respond to current missional imperatives; and
 - (ii) to refer this key direction to the Assembly Standing Committee for implementation with the advice that the bodies to be consulted should include: Legal Reference Committee, Church Polity, Secretariat, Theology and Discipleship, Ministerial Education Commission, Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry, Christian Unity Working Group, Congress and Synods;

- f) to request agencies to develop one or two specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely goals where these key directions are relevant to their area of responsibility and to engage in dialogue with the ASC about them over the next triennium.

06.09 Reappointment of the General Secretary

to reappoint the Reverend Terence Corkin as General Secretary of the Assembly for a further 3 year term from 1 January 2007 until 31 December 2009.

06.10 Option of a Full-time President

that the office of the President of the Assembly will normally be a full-time position and remunerated accordingly as of the 12th Assembly.

BUSINESS FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

The Agency reports were received en bloc in plenary session and dealt with in working groups. Questions were put to the National Directors and answers were provided in a plenary session.

The Assembly resolved:

06.11 BENEFICIARY FUND

The report was presented by Mr Robert Runco (Executive Director) and Rev Dr Robert Hoskin (Chairperson).

06.11.01 The Assembly resolved to receive the report.

06.12 HISTORICAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

- a) to endorse the Assembly Historical Reference Committee strategy on electronic archiving; and
- b) to request the Assembly Archivist, in consultation with the Assembly Historical Reference Committee Executive, to convene a Working Group to continue developing and implementing an electronic archival system.

06.13 MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION

to recognise Yalga-binbi Institute as an approved centre for training for ministry in the Uniting Church in Australia (Regulation 2.2.18(a)).

06.14 MULTICULTURAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

06.14.01 Appreciation of Rev Helen Richmond

to acknowledge with deep appreciation the outstanding contribution made by Rev Helen Richmond to multi-cultural and cross-cultural ministry across the Uniting Church in Australia, as National Director for Multi-cultural Ministry.

Since Helen started as the National Director for multicultural ministry in 2001 she has brought new energy and vitality to the position. Her cross-cultural experiences acquired in Indonesia as a student and at Selly Oak College of the University of Birmingham equipped her well for her role and enabled her to move into it smoothly. Helen's amazing ability to work cross-culturally and to offer a listening ear to many migrants who sought her advice and expertise helped her build close relationships with so many people.

She worked hard at building relationships and raising the profile of multi-cultural ministry in all areas of the Church. Helen continues to remind the Church through her work of our calling and witness as the wider church to build an inclusive faith community. Helen was one of the people instrumental in helping put together the Korean Commission concept for New South Wales Synod which was widely debated and was adopted. She has written articles for synod papers and Church newsletters; developed cross-cultural workshops (such as *Confronting Racism: Celebrating Diversity*); led intensive courses at Theological Colleges; assisted in developing the curriculum for the MA cultural studies degree now taught at UTC, and wrote a course for

Coolamon College, *Exploring Cross-cultural Ministry*. Helen has led retreats at various Presbyteries and preached in a wide variety of congregations. She helped develop a number of cross-cultural resources such as the book *Snapshots of Multicultural Ministry* as an educational tool for those who want to establish multi-cultural or cross-cultural congregations. She contributed a chapter for the book *30 years of Korean Ministry* and has co-edited the new book, *Crossing Borders: Shaping Faith, Ministry and Identity in Multicultural Australia*.

Helen has sought to resource the wider church through materials such as the paper *Designing a Presbytery Strategy for Multi-cultural Ministry* for use in Presbyteries; and the workshop "Living together as God's people in this place" - aimed at helping people from different ethnic backgrounds live together as Christians using one property. The Multicultural Newsletter was an excellent accomplishment in bringing cross-cultural stories to the attention of the Church.

She has enabled national networking in the area of second-generation ministry which is helping to raise the profile of the issues that these young people are currently facing (identity and belonging, caught in between cultures, new ways of ministry and worship, drug and alcohol, law and order employment and education, etc).

Helen is a very passionate worker, especially in promoting cross-cultural initiatives and supporting newly formed migrant congregations and leaders. She has competently resourced some of these congregations and their leaders. The Sudanese community is a new community in the Uniting Church and Helen had been developing important links with new emerging communities, including Arabic speaking and other African communities. She has been a great support for the National Conferences and there are now nine communities in the life of the Uniting Church that have these national networks.

Helen is a very pastoral person who has worked unfailingly to advocate for and encourage others to be more sympathetic and understanding of the issues migrants face in the Church. For example in the mentoring of ministers coming from overseas, sharing of church properties and resources, orientation of migrant ministers, highlighting issues facing the second generation, etc. Helen is a very thoughtful and skilful liturgist and worship leader especially in putting together cross-cultural worship services (One Great Sunday of Sharing services and services used in seminars and workshops). She has been an advocate for UCA resources to be made available in community languages.

Helen is a good enabler, helping others to develop their own skills and ideas. She has also established a strong network of multicultural workers and services in the Church, community and governments. She is a visionary, instrumental in putting together the document *A Church for All God's People*. She has provided great leadership for those involved in cross-cultural ministries in the areas of theological and cultural education and worship.

She has developed a new structure in dealing with multicultural work at the national level which is proving very effective; the establishment of four working groups working at developing intentional multicultural congregations, second-generation issues, cross-cultural education and national conferences.

The Assembly, and those she has worked with, will miss Helen's presence and her amazing skills. She had taken the presence of multicultural and cross-cultural ministry into the life of the whole Church and to new levels, and so we thank her sincerely for a job well done.

- 06.14.02 **National Conferences**
- a) to recognise the significant role National Conferences have in the life of the Church in providing national networks for migrant communities;
 - b) to request Councils of the Church, where possible, to work together with National Conferences in mutually supportive and collaborative ways; consulting with National Conferences as appropriate, working together when ministry consultations take place, finding ways to address issues of conflict and enhance the mission of migrant congregations; and
 - c) on advice from Assembly Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry, to appoint a National Conferences Task Group to have discussions with the National Conferences and other bodies or Councils as appropriate, and report, including bringing any proposals, to the 12th Assembly on how the voice of migrant communities expressed through the National Conferences may be strengthened in the life of the Church.
- 06.14.03 **Property Sharing in Cross-cultural Settings**
- a) to reaffirm its understanding that all property belongs to God and we are called to be its stewards;
 - b) to encourage congregations that share property to undertake a 'Living together as God's people in this place' workshop and to explore ways in which their life together can reflect the love, justice and hospitality of God and ensure that the sharing of property promotes the ministry and mission of the people of God;
 - c) to request the Standing Committee, with advice from Assembly Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry, to appoint a Property Sharing Task Group to explore and report, including bringing any proposals to the 12th Assembly on the state of property sharing in the UCA;
 - d) to call on presbyteries to assist the Task Group on property sharing by facilitating the survey of all situations where two or more Uniting Church congregations are sharing property;
 - e) to request presbyteries and synods to explore how they can promote joint custodial responsibility and joint 'beneficial interest' where two or more Uniting Church congregations are sharing property and report to the ASC on their response to this request, through the Property Sharing Task Group.
- 06.14.04 **Renewing our Vision of Being a Cross-cultural Community**
- a) to endorse the Vision Statement 'A Church for All God's People' (See Appendix C);
 - b) to distribute the Statement widely across the life of the Church;
 - c) to encourage congregations and presbyteries to consider how they can make the affirmation a reality in their setting.
- 06.15 TASK GROUP ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS**
- a) to express warm appreciation to the Working Group on Christian-Jewish Relations of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania for its long commitment to dialogue between Jews and Christians and for its thoughtful and careful work on the statement "Jews and Judaism: A Statement by the Uniting Church in Australia"; and
 - b) to note the statement "Jews and Judaism: A Statement by the Uniting Church in Australia", and to request Theology and Discipleship to confer with the Working Group, Uniting International

Mission, UnitingJustice Australia and other interested parties with a view to bringing to the 12th Assembly a clear biblical and theological statement on the relationship between Christianity and Judaism, making particular reference to issues related to evangelism.

06.16

TASK GROUP ON REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF MULTICULTURAL POLICIES

- a) to receive the report;
- b) to commend Assembly Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry in their ongoing practice of updating documents relevant to Cross-cultural Ministry, for its Guidelines for National Conferences and for the new workshop to assist congregations with property issues;
- c) to request synods to commend all the documents that are the subject of this review, especially the 'Guidelines for the Use of Property', to presbyteries and congregations;
- d)
 - (i) to remind synods of Assembly minute 03.10.02(d) "urge members of the Uniting Church, particularly those in leadership, to attend a *Confronting Racism* or *Looking with New Eyes* workshop to explore ways of working to eradicate racism"; and
 - (ii) to encourage synods to make the Cross-Cultural Relationship Workshop mandatory for all Uniting Church Ministry Agents;
- e) to request the Ministerial Education Commission to encourage all recognised Theological Colleges to include Cross-Cultural education in their core curriculum;
- f) to request Assembly Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry to monitor the use of these documents and update the documents every five years in order that they reflect the changing circumstances of the church.

06.17

TASK GROUP ON SPECIFIED MINISTRIES

- a) to receive the report of the Specified Ministries Task Group, "*From time to time, and place to place*";
- b) to establish the specified ministry of Pastor by 1 January 2008;
- c) to request the Assembly Legal Reference Committee to draw up regulations regarding the specified ministry of Pastor for approval by the Assembly Standing Committee;
- d) to request the Ministerial Education Commission to facilitate the preparation of national schedules of competency, associated rules and guidelines for training, formation and continuing education for the specified ministry of Pastor;
- e) to request the Ministerial Education Commission to distribute interim schedules to all presbyteries by 1st July 2007;
- f) to close the specified ministries of Lay Pastor, Community Minister and Accredited Youth Worker to new applications as of 31 December 2007;
- g) to request Synods to appoint panels to receive and process applications for ordination from those currently serving in the specified ministries of Lay Pastor, Community Minister and Youth Worker who discern a call to the ordained specified ministries by 31 December 2009;
- h) to request presbyteries to provide opportunities for those in the specified ministries of Youth Worker, Lay Pastor and Community Minister to be commissioned as Pastors from 1 January 2008 providing they are currently in placement and not seeking ordination;

- i) to recognise the specified ministries of Youth Worker and Lay Pastor only for those currently in this ministry and who choose to continue under the current regulations until such time as they cease their continuous ministry in the Uniting Church;
- j) to recognise those in the current specified ministry of Community Minister only until the conclusion of their current placement;
- k) to request the National Working Group on Worship to prepare a service of commissioning for the specified ministry of Pastor; and
- l) to thank and discharge the Specified Ministries Task Group.

06.18 THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP

06.18.01 Sacramental Communities in Uniting Church Agencies

- a) to note that the Assembly Standing Committee "commend(s) the document 'Being Church Differently' to the 11th Assembly with a view to it being offered to the Church for its discussion and use" (ASC minute 06.07.03); and
- b) to request the Standing Committee to circulate the document widely, asking Presbyteries, Congregations, schools, community service agencies and other interested groups to consider it carefully and take action to establish new congregations or faith communities wherever appropriate.

06.18.02 The Nature of Doctrine and the Role of the Assembly

- a) to welcome the interim statement, "*The nature of doctrine and the role of the Assembly – three kinds of theological statements*";
- b) to ask the Assembly Standing Committee, Synods and Presbyteries to test its usefulness and offer feedback to the National Working Group on Doctrine; and
- c) to ask the Working Group on Doctrine to receive comments and to continue working towards a statement to guide the Assembly in its task of determining doctrine.

06.19 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS

06.19.01 Lake View Transient Accommodation

to request the President:

- a) to lead a delegation to Port Augusta to view and investigate the appalling living conditions of Aboriginal people at the Lake View Transient Accommodation site, as a matter of urgency; and
- b) in consultation with the National Executive of the UAICC, to take appropriate action.

06.19.02 Indigenous Community Services

to request UnitingCare Australia to organise a covenanting summit with the UAICC, with a view to establishing an Indigenous Community Service arm of the UAICC and strengthening the partnership between the UAICC and UnitingCare Agencies.

06.20 UNITING JUSTICE AUSTRALIA

06.20.01 Dignity in Humanity: Recognising Christ in Every Person, A Uniting Church in Australia Statement on Human Rights

to adopt the statement 'Dignity in Humanity' as amended by the Assembly (See Appendix D).

06.20.02 Integrity and Justice in Employment Relationships

- a) to affirm that all people are entitled to just remuneration and equitable conditions of employment in their working lives, and dignity in unemployment;

- b) to note the Inaugural Assembly's 1977 Statement to the Nation, which committed the Church
- “to challenge values which emphasise acquisitiveness and greed in disregard of the needs of others and which encourage a higher standard of living for the privileged in the face of the daily widening gap between the rich and poor”;
- c) to affirm Assembly Resolution 91.14.17 which stated that trade unions are of importance in the overall democratic process and play a role in protecting those who are vulnerable in society, and to remind members of its statement that
- “synods, Assembly agencies, and other Church bodies be requested to encourage employees to join and be active in an appropriate trade union and/or professional association”;
- d) to affirm the importance of bearing witness to the Uniting Church's public role in the life of the nation by conducting our actions as an employer in line with our public affirmations of principle;
- e) to request the Assembly Standing Committee to appoint a task group to progress the development of a national approach in the area of just and ethical employment within the Uniting Church by
- (i) convening a consultation among the synods and Assembly to
 - share together the way in which each is seeking to ensure that their employment practices are consistent with Uniting Church statements on the role of employers and the rights of employees,
 - consider identifying minimum expectations of employing bodies in the church and/or guidelines by which the employment practices of the church may be measured against our commitment to social justice principles and our public statements on the role of employers and the rights of employees;
 - determine an appropriate timeframe for this undertaking, taking into account the immediate need created by the entry into effect of the *WorkChoices* legislation in March 2006; and
 - (ii) reporting to the ASC on the results of the consultation and related actions and bringing any recommendations for further action.

06.21 UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION

06.21.01 Appreciation of Rev Bill Fischer

to place on record its appreciation for the work of the Reverend Bill Fischer.

Bill has been a most significant leader of the work of Uniting International Mission (UIM) and of Uniting Church Overseas Aid (UCOA), and of its predecessors, for the past seven years. He was appointed as National Director for this work, at that time named Unity and International Mission, in 1998, and served with distinction in that capacity until 31 January 2006.

This period of service, has, in fact, been the culmination of Bill's service to the overseas mission of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Bill joined the Methodist Church while he was undertaking an honours degree in economics at the University of Newcastle and here, he became deeply involved in Hamilton Methodist Church. From there, he felt a deep call to the mission field, and from 1973 to 1977, he served as Church Accountant in the Church Offices of the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, in Suva. After the year of 1978 in Australia, he again served in Fiji from 1978 to 1981. During those years, he married Iva, who had been a deaconess in the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, and indeed came herself from the Island of Rotuma.

In February 1981, Bill returned from Fiji and from then until the end of 1986, served as Accountant, in the offices of the Commission for World Mission of the newly formed Uniting Church in Australia. During those years he also felt the call to the Ministry of the Word and so went as a full time student, to the United Theological College in North Parramatta from 1987-1990. After ordination, he served as parish minister at Queanbeyan near Canberra, and then Alstonville, in far north New South Wales.

Bill came into the role of National Director of UIM at a difficult time, after a restructure of the Assembly. He strengthened the financial base and developed the Department of Promotion and Communication. Under his leadership, the whole response to the difficult situations in Indonesia, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea was dealt with in a remarkable way. He also led the response to the Asian tsunami. Under his leadership, the Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP) Program came into being and UCOA developed tremendously.

Bill has been a person of deep personal faith, strong ability to manage the finances of UIM and UCOA, and a person of great friendships with leaders of our partner churches. His devotion, especially to the Pacific, resulting in the reformation of the Methodist Consultative Council of the Pacific (MCCP), and the revitalisation of the finances of the United Church in Papua New Guinea, has been of immense significance.

We thank Bill and Iva most sincerely, as Bill moves into placement at Tamworth City Church, New South Wales.

06.21.02

Appreciation of Rev. Professor James Haire AM

to acknowledge with deep appreciation the major contribution made by the Rev Professor Dr James Haire AM.

James became chairperson of what was then the World Mission Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia at the 1994 Assembly and, in addition to his other work, has served the Church in this capacity continuously ever since. As he now retires from this position, the UIM Reference Committee, UIM staff and the Assembly, wish to record their deep appreciation for all that he has contributed to UIM and our Partner Churches in this office.

James brought to this position a real passion for, and considerable experience in international mission, having worked with the Halmahera Evangelical Christian Church in Indonesia from 1972 to 1984 and kept up to date with missiology ever since. In addition, he brought to the task a clear and comprehensive grasp of Christian theology and outstanding skill in biblical exposition. Staff and committee members have always been edified by, and greatly appreciative of the expositions of Scripture that James included in the opening of every meeting.

In meetings James has been a pleasant and effective chairperson, giving members adequate freedom to have their say, yet not allowing the business to languish for want of proper control. His keen sense of humour and ability to tell an amusing story has been an added bonus.

However, James has been much more than a chairman of meetings. He has given great support to the Directors with whom he has worked, bringing his experience, his sharp mind and trusted judgments to their aid when difficult problems arose. All the staff have appreciated his friendliness, encouragement and support. Even during his term as President of the Assembly he was readily available for UIM business.

James has also been a "hands-on" chairperson, accompanying staff to Indonesia and the Pacific and sometimes representing them on overseas visits. In communicating with people for whom English is a second language his ability to express unfamiliar ideas clearly and simply has been a valuable asset.

For all this and much more the UIM staff, the members of the committee and the Assembly record their gratitude and appreciation.

- 06.21.03 **Contribution to Christian-Muslim Relationships within Australia**
- a) to note that many of the Uniting Church Partner Churches in Asia have significant experience in inter-religious dialogue and particularly Christian-Muslim relationships; and
 - b) to request UIM to develop a process with other relevant Assembly agencies to make these insights available to the Uniting Church in Australia.
- 06.21.04 **Global Warming and its Impact on Pacific Nations**
- a) to reaffirm the decision of the Tenth Assembly (Minute 03.18.01) which called on the Australian Government to ratify the Kyoto Protocols in relation to global warming because of the impact of rising sea levels on the nations of the Pacific; and
 - b) to call upon the people of the Uniting Church to adopt lifestyles which have a minimal impact on global warming.
- 06.21.05 **Support for the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua**
to offer maximum support to the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua through prayer, advocacy with the Australian Government and the people of Australia, and in such other ways as are appropriate.
- 06.21.06 **Response to the Tsunami Relief Appeal**
to express great appreciation to the people, congregations and other Councils of the Uniting Church for the very generous response to the Tsunami Relief Appeal which was conducted on behalf of the church through Uniting Church Overseas Aid.
- 06.21.07 **The Importance of International Mission of the Church**
to call upon the Councils of the Uniting Church to give a strong emphasis to the international mission work of the Uniting Church as a way of strengthening the life of the Church.
- 06.21.08 **United Church of Christ in the Philippines**
to support the ministry of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), our Partner Church, as it defends the rights of the poor, deprived and oppressed communities; as it calls for a proper investigation into death threats and murders; and as it addresses the underlying issues that lead to violence and injustice throughout the Philippines.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

The Assembly resolved:

- 06.22 **REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**
to request the Assembly Standing Committee:
- a) to establish a task group to review the Constitution so that it may
 - (i) be simplified and made more clearly understandable;
 - (ii) not only enshrine the principles, ideals and ethos of the Basis of Union, but also allow a greater flexibility in structure; and
 - (iii) be not prescriptive, but rather permission-giving within a broad framework of shared values and beliefs so that there may be new structures for being the Church as it engages in the mission of God in the 21st century;
 - b) to determine the Terms of Reference for the review, after consultation with the Legal Reference Committee; and
 - c) to report to the 12th Assembly on the results of the review.

06.23

CONSTITUTION, CLAUSE 39 – MATTERS VITAL TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

- a) to review the appropriateness of Section 39 of the Constitution with particular regard to:
 - (i) the development of flexible ways of involving the Church in processes leading to broadly based agreed courses of action on matters of vital importance to the life of the church ; and
 - (ii) the potential for including in Section 39 alternative mechanisms for triggering the obligation of the Assembly to seek the concurrence of other councils of the church on matters vital to the life of the church;.
- b) to request the Assembly Standing Committee to establish a process through which this review will be undertaken and its terms of reference; and
- c) to direct that the review shall include wide consultation across the life of the church.

06.24

REGULATION 2.2.15 – MEC MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF TASMANIA

to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 2.2.15:

- a) by the addition of a new sub-clause to read:
 - (d) one person appointed by the Presbytery of Tasmania; and
- b) by renumbering the remaining sub-clauses as required.

06.25

REGULATIONS 2.3.1–2.3.4 – FORM AND ORDERING OF ORDINATIONS

to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulations 2.3.1 to 2.3.4 to read:

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND DEACONS

- 2.3.1**
- (a) A candidate for ordination shall ...
 - (b) The ordaining Presbytery shall be satisfied as to the suitability of the character and abilities of the candidate for ministry as a Minister of the Word or a Deacon as the case may be. In the case where the ordaining Presbytery has not previously had pastoral care of the candidate, it shall be guided in its decision by the report of that Presbytery which last had pastoral care of the candidate.
 - (c) A person who fulfils the requirements for ordination shall be ordained, ~~by prayer and the laying on of hands,~~ provided that such ordinand has accepted a call made or approved by a Presbytery, Synod or the Assembly. The Presbytery with the pastoral responsibility for the ordinand may itself perform the ordination or, if the ordinand is to minister within another Presbytery, may arrange for that other Presbytery to ordain the ordinand.
 - (d) If a candidate has fulfilled all other requirements for ordination and, with the prior approval of the Presbytery and Synod, has accepted a call to a pastoral charge overseas, the Presbytery may ordain that person.

FORM OF ORDINATION SERVICE DETERMINED BY ASSEMBLY

- 2.3.2** The ordination service shall be ~~conducted by the Presbytery arranged~~ conducted in accordance with a form authorised by the Assembly.

ORDINATION IN PRESENCE OF CHURCH MEMBERS

2.3.3 The ordination shall take place at such time as the Presbytery may arrange and shall normally be in the presence of a Congregation, though not necessarily the Congregation among whom the ordinand is to minister.

CHAIRPERSON TO CONDUCT OF THE ORDINATION

2.3.4 ~~The ordination shall be presided over by the chairperson of the Presbytery or the chairperson's appointee and at least two Ministers and two lay persons shall take part in the ordination.~~

- (a) Ordination shall be by prayer and the laying on of hands;
- (b) The ordination shall be presided over by the chairperson of the Presbytery or the chairperson's appointee;
- (c) At least four members of the ordaining Presbytery (at least two of whom shall be Ministers and at least two of whom shall be lay persons) shall take part in the ordination.

06.26 **REGULATION 2.7.3(b)(ii) – GENERAL SECRETARY AND PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE**

to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation Reg 2.7.3(b)(ii) to read

- (b) (ii) the Secretary of Synod (or nominee) ~~to act as secretary;~~

06.27 **REGULATIONS 2.7.7(b), 2.7.8(c) AND 2.7.9(c) – TERMINATING A PLACEMENT – PASTORAL CARE**

to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee:

- a) to amend Regulation 2.7.7(b) by the addition of a new paragraph to read:
 - (b) Any decision by a Presbytery to terminate a placement in a Congregation shall normally be made as a result of a consultation on the life and witness of the Congregation. The Presbytery shall consider any request for the termination of a placement in a Congregation made by the Church Council pursuant to a resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of members present at a special meeting.

Whenever a Presbytery is considering terminating a placement in a Congregation, the Presbytery shall appoint a person to provide pastoral care and support to the Minister.
- b) to amend Regulation 2.7.8(c) by the addition of a new paragraph to read:

Whenever a Presbytery, Synod or Assembly is considering terminating a placement the appropriate body shall appoint a person to provide pastoral care and support to the Minister.
- c) to amend Regulation 2.7.9(c) by the addition of a new paragraph to read:

Whenever a Placements Committee is considering terminating a placement the Placements Committee shall ensure that a person is appointed to provide pastoral care and support to the Minister.

06.28 **REGULATION 2.7.9A(c)(i) – APPEAL AGAINST TERMINATION DECISION**
to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 2.7.9A(c)(i) to read:

- c) An appeal against a termination decision:
 - (i) by a Presbytery or its Pastoral Relations Committee pursuant to Regulation 2.7.7 or 2.7.8(c) shall be directed to the Synod or its Standing Committee. The Synod or its Standing Committee shall appoint a committee to determine the matter. The committee shall not include any member of the ~~Presbytery or its Pastoral Relations Committee~~ body that made the termination decision.

06.29 **REGULATION 2.7.16(a) – JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE – NUMBER OF MEMBERS**
to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulations 2.7.16(a) by the addition of a new clause (iii) to read:

CONGREGATION AND PRESBYTERY PLACEMENTS

2.7.16 (a) For a placement to be filled by call of the Congregation, a Joint Nominating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

- (i) at least two persons appointed by the Presbytery, one of whom shall be appointed by the Presbytery as chairperson, and preferably at least one of whom shall be a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee;
- (ii) two to six persons appointed by the Congregation or other body; and
- (iii) in circumstances where the Presbytery considers a larger Joint Nominating Committee advisable, up to four additional persons appointed by the Congregation or other body.

06.30 **REGULATION 2.7.16(c) – JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE TRAINING**
to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 2.7.16(c) to read:

- (c) The JNC shall ~~view an Assembly video describing~~ familiarise itself with the processes of placement and the appropriate ways to mutually explore ministry needs and opportunities with prospective Ministers;

06.31 **REGULATION 2.13.18 – LENGTH OF TERM FOR A LAY PASTOR**
to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 2.13.18 by the addition of a new paragraph to provide for a placement of a lay pastor to be extended for periods of up to three years to a total maximum of ten years.

06.32 **REGULATIONS 3.6.11 AND 3.6.26 – PROCESSES FOR THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**
to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulations 3.6.11 and 3.6.26 to read:

METHOD OF BALLOTING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

3.6.11 Nominations for inclusion in the ballot for the President-elect may be made either by a Synod, or a Presbytery, or

a regional or national committee of Congress or by two individual members of the next Assembly, it being necessary in each case that the nomination be submitted in writing on a form containing the consent of the nominee. Nominations will close 90 days prior to the date of the commencement of the meeting of the Assembly at which an election is to be held.

The method of voting shall be as the Assembly determines, provided that no person shall be declared elected until that person has obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast, provided that in the first instance the inaugural Assembly may make such other provisions as it sees fit for designating the President of the next ensuing Assembly.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

3.6.26 (a) It shall be the responsibility of the Standing Committee to transact such business as may be referred to it by the Assembly and such other business as may be required or be desirable to be done on behalf of the Assembly between meetings of the Assembly, except such as may be precluded by the Assembly.

(b) To assist the Assembly in its discernment, the Standing Committee shall, at least ten months prior to an Assembly meeting, advise the church on the challenges and issues which may be faced by the President and the Assembly in the seven subsequent years.

(c) From time to time the Standing Committee will offer guidance to the President on priorities to be pursued, and the way in which the responsibilities named in Regulation 3.6.13 may be exercised taking into account the particular gifts and graces of the President.

06.33 REGULATION 4.2.3 – MEMBERSHIP OF THE SYNOD PROPERTY BOARD

to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 4.2.3. to read:

4.2.3 The Synod shall determine the membership and term of appointment of members of the Synod Property Board, provided that the at least two members of the Property Trust shall be included and the Synod Property Officer shall be a members ex officio.

06.34 REGULATIONS RE THE NATURE AND CONTENT OF AN APPEAL

to authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee:

- a) to review the diverse Regulations provided for appeals or reviews;
- b) to consider whether guidelines or explanatory material should be issued to assist the Church in processing appeals and reviews;
- c) to determine whether amendments to the Regulations are desirable and if so, to make amending Regulations after giving notice of proposed amendments to Synods and Presbyteries and considering responses received from them; and
- d) to report to the next Assembly on progress.

- 06.35 REGULATION 3.6.23 – QUORUM FOR ASSEMBLY**
to refer Proposal 49 to the Task Group to be set up under Minute 06.39 – Membership of Future Assemblies:

Proposal 49: That the Assembly authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee amend Regulation 3.6.23 to read:

A quorum shall consist of not less than half of the members of the Assembly representing at least half the number of the Synods and at least two-thirds of the number of Presbyteries.

ELECTIONS:

- 06.36** The Returning Officer, Malcolm Gledhill, declared the following results of elections:

President-Elect	Alistair Macrae
Standing Committee	
Bruce Binnie	Chris Budden
Sue Clarkson	Isabel Thomas Dobson
Bev Fabb	Kate Fraser
Sue Gormann	Mata Havea
Elise Honey	Andrew Johnson
Jason Kioa	Stuart McMillan
Jim Mein	Heidi Stabb
Allan Thompson	Jan Trengove
Liva Tukutama	Robert Watson
Chairpersons of Reference Committees	
Christian Education Reference Committee	Elizabeth Nolan
Christian Unity Working Group	Rodney Horsfield
Church Polity	Andrew Dutney
Coolamon College	Marelle Harisun
Defence Force Chaplaincy	A. Gale Hall
Frontier Services	Jan Trengove
Historical Reference Committee	William Emilsen
Legal Reference Committee	Malcolm Gledhill
Ministerial Education Commission	Christopher Udy
Multicultural Ministry	Apwee Ting
National Working Group on Doctrine	Wes Campbell
National Working Group on Worship	Paul Walton
Reception of Ministers Committee	Pam Kerr
Relations with Other Faiths	Seforosa Carroll
Theology and Discipleship	Elizabeth Walker
UnitingJustice	Janeen Barker
UC Adult Fellowship National Committee	Alyson Madsen
UnitingCare Australia	Peter Bicknell
Uniting International Mission	Stuart Cameron

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 06.37 GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS**
On behalf of the overseas guests Rev Yoon Kil-Soo, Rev Dr Johnny Chr. Ruhlessin, Rev David Havea, Rev Garry Marquand, Rev Hermann Awom, Rev Ivan McElhinney and Bishop Elmer Bolocon participated in bringing greetings to the Assembly.
- 06.38 BIBLE STUDY**
During the Assembly the Bible Studies were conducted by Rev Dr Mvume Dandala, the Cato Visitor, and General Secretary of the All Africa Council of Churches.
- The Assembly resolved:

06.39**MEMBERSHIP OF FUTURE ASSEMBLIES**

- a) to note the changes that have occurred in a number of Synods in the past five years and, in particular, the moves in the South Australian and West Australian Synods to a one Presbytery, one Synod structure and the amalgamation of the Synods of Victoria and Tasmania;
- b) to request the Standing Committee to appoint a task group to consider issues surrounding Assembly membership and bring back recommendations to the 12th Assembly; with particular consideration to the following matters:
 - (i) the need to ensure that the proportional representation from within Synods (including the Presbyteries in those Synods) is not adversely affected by any structural changes that occur within that Synod and in particular any reduction in the number of Presbyteries within a particular Synod;
 - (ii) the need to ensure an appropriate balance of representation from Presbyteries, Synods and Assembly agencies, including the possibility of taking into account factors such as membership numbers and the number of placements within presbyteries;
 - (iii) the appropriate size for an Assembly; and
- c) to determine that for the 12th Assembly the number of members appointed to the Assembly from the Presbyteries of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania shall be the same number as were appointed by those Presbyteries to the 11th Assembly.

06.40**NUNGALINYA COLLEGE**

- a) to note that Nungalinya College continues to be an approved centre for training for ministry in the UCA; and
- b) to consult with Congress with regard to matters of continuing funding to Nungalinya College.

06.41**SEXUALITY AND LEADERSHIP****Preamble**

In the struggle to be the Uniting Church in Australia, we affirm that our unity is our oneness in Jesus Christ; we acknowledge a variety of theological perspectives and biblical understandings which we maintain in tension within our life as a church, recognising that variety is a gift to the Church which allows most people to find a spiritual home amongst our many congregations and faith communities:

1. to acknowledge and lament that even though the decision of the 10th Assembly regarding Sexuality and Leadership (*Assembly Minute 03.12.04, varied by Assembly Standing Committee Minute 03.69.03*) was made prayerfully and in good faith and according to UCA polity, it was a catalyst for the deep concern and disquiet present in some parts of the UCA.
2. to express its regret that following the 10th Assembly there were some faithful ministers and members of the church who believed that because of the decision of the 10th Assembly regarding Sexuality and Leadership (*Assembly Minute 03.12.04, varied by Assembly Standing Committee Minute 03.69.03*) they had no option but to withdraw from the Uniting Church altogether.
3. to express its regret that faithful Christian gay and lesbian people, on whose lives the Assembly deliberations have impacted, have continued to experience pain in our church.
4. to declare that the matter of Sexuality and Leadership is at heart a matter of faith and concerns our humanity in Christ.

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5. to acknowledge:
 - a) that Assembly members are not of one mind regarding the issue of the acceptance into the specified ministries of those living in committed same-gender relationships; and
 - b) that some members of the Assembly adhere to the traditional teaching and practice of Reformed and Evangelical churches in this matter, while others who also adhere to the Reformed and Evangelical tradition believe that God may be leading this tradition to a different understanding and practice; and
 - c) and therefore, notwithstanding the hopes of many in the Church, that the 11th Assembly, having prayerfully sought to discern God's will and after much deliberation, is not prepared to exercise further its determining responsibility in this matter.

The Next Steps

6. Pursuant to clause 38 of the Constitution, to advise Synods and Presbyteries;
 - a) that congregations who resolve that they are unable in conscience to receive into ministry placement a person living in a committed same-gender relationship, shall not be compelled to do so; and
 - b) to respect the decision of a congregation indicating its willingness to consider calling a minister in a committed same-gender relationship.
7. to encourage Congregations:
 - a) to be aware that within many Congregations there is a diversity of belief on matters of sexuality and leadership and that some members do not feel free to express their beliefs;
 - b) to become safe communities where people may hold diverse beliefs on these matters and work together as the Body of Christ; and
 - c) to recognise that the possibility of living with difference is a gift which Christ offers to the world.
8. to encourage the whole church:
 - a) to commit itself to continue to grapple with the implications of the gospel of God's grace for our humanity, the church's life, and participation in God's mission in the world;
 - b) to call on all members of the church who hold different views to work at living together in peace as members of the Body of Christ; and
 - c) to hope, pray and work for that common mind in faith which is Jesus Christ's gift and will.
9. to request the Assembly Working Group on Doctrine to engage in further work that assists the Church in our ongoing consideration of the theological diversity of the Church on this issue and to authorise the Assembly Standing Committee to determine the terms of reference for such work.
10. to acknowledge:
 - a) that the Uniting Church is committed "to bear witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and will for the Church"; and
 - b) that Christ continues to feed us with word and sacrament as we wait on God's living Word;

and to call the Uniting Church to re-commit itself to its primary purpose of “worship, witness and service” (Quotes are from the *Basis of Union*, Paragraph 1).

11. to request that the President consult with the Moderators in relation to a pastoral letter to the whole church.

06.42 VENUE FOR THE 12TH ASSEMBLY

- a) to receive with thanks the invitation of the Synod of NSW to hold the Twelfth Assembly within the bounds of the synod, and the recommendation that it be in Canberra; and
- b) to authorise the Standing Committee to determine the exact date, and to negotiate with the Synod of NSW as to the particular location and venues for the various Assembly functions.

CLOSING ACTIONS

The Assembly resolved:

06.43 REMAINING BUSINESS

to refer the following proposals to the Standing Committee, with power to act:

- Proposal 51: Guidance re Policies Related to Sexuality (Presbytery of Central Queensland)
- Proposal 52: Impact of “Resolution 84” on Ecumenical Relationships (Stephen Estherby and Stuart Pendlebury)
- Proposal 58: The New Humanity in Christ (National Working Group on Doctrine)
- Proposal 60: Presbytery Membership (NSW Synod)
- Proposal 61: Placement of an Intern (NSW Synod)
- Proposal 70: Classification of Property as ‘Available for Alternative Missional Use’ (NSW Synod)
- Proposal 74: Lay Presidency (Christian Unity Working Group)
- Proposal 79: Membership of the Assembly Standing Committee (Synod of Western Australia)
- Proposal 82: Membership of Presbytery (Presbytery of South Australia)
- Proposal 91: Competency in English for Ministers from other Churches (Reception of Ministers Committee)
- Proposal 95: Defence Force Training Scheme
- Proposal 96: Implementation of Proposal 90: Dignity in Humanity: Recognising Christ in Every Person, A Uniting Church in Australia Statement on Human Rights (Wes Campbell, David Pargeter)
- Proposal 97: Joint Board of Christian Education (Dean Drayton, John Mavor)
- Proposal 100: Reception of Candidates from Other Churches (Synod of Victoria and Tasmania)
- Proposal 105 (Clauses 6 and 7): Changes to the Specified Ministries (Task Group on Specified Ministries)
- Proposal 106: Transitional Arrangement for Specified Ministries (Task Group on Specified Ministries)

06.44 APPRECIATION

to give thanks to all people who contributed to the smooth facilitation of the 11th Assembly, to the host Synod of Queensland, 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 Eleventh Assembly concluded at 1pm on Tuesday 11 July with worship led by the President.