

**Uniting Church in Australia
National Assembly**



**ASSEMBLY STANDING
COMMITTEE**

27 - 29 July 2001

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MINUTES

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CONTENTS

	Page no.	Minute no.
PRESENT	1	
WORSHIP	1	
WELCOMES	1	
APOLOGIES	1	01.41
RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND	1	
PASTORAL MATTERS	2	
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	2	01.42
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	2	01.43
CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 39	2	
GREETINGS FROM OVERSEAS GUESTS	2	
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	3	01.44
GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT	3	01.45
SYNOD SHARING – SOUTH AUSTRALIA	3	
 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2001 STANDING COMMITTEE		
1. Report from the Task Group on the 10 th Assembly (ASC minute 01.05)	4	01.46
2. Report on Regulation 3.6.40 process (ASC minute 01.09)	4	01.47
3. Future of the Synod of Tasmania (ASC minute 01.13)	4	01.48
4. Report on the ballot for Directors of Benefund Limited (ASC minute 01.15)	4	01.49
5. Review of National Directors (ASC minute 01.16.02)	5	01.50
6. Mapoon Appeal (ASC minute 01.23)	5	01.51
7. Ministerial Education Commission re the Third Phase of Theological Education (ASC minute 01.27)	6	01.52
 FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES		
1. National Finance Committee	6	01.53
2. Uniting Church Council of Mission Trust Association	7	01.54
3. Disaster Relief Fund	7	01.55
4. UnitingCare Australia	8	01.56
5. General Secretary re Report on budget development	9	01.57
6. General Secretary re Consideration of future directions	9	01.58

7. Legal Reference Committee	10	01.59
• Amendments to Regulations:		
- Regulation 1.1.15		
- Regulation 7.2.3		
- Regulation 7.2.4		
- Regulations 2.3.10 – 2.6.1		
• Approval of “Policy for dealing with a Complaint of Sexual Misconduct made against a Member or Adherent of the Uniting Church in Australia”		
8. Ministerial Education Commission re Proposal for Regulation change	11	01.60
9. Selection process for National Directors:		
(a) Social Responsibility and Justice	11	01.61
(b) Theology and Discipleship	12	01.62
(c) UnitingCare Australia	12	01.63
10. Strategic Planning Unit	13	01.64
11. Report on the review of the General Secretary	13	01.65
12. National Social Responsibility and Justice re Refugee policy	13	01.66
13. Frontier Services re Ministry in detention centres	13	01.67
14. Historical Reference Committee re Policy on Presidential papers	14	01.68
15. Task Group on Theological Education	14	01.69
16. Assembly Working Group on Ministry with Children and Youth	14	01.70

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Interconciliar Councils	15	
2. Wesley Employment Uniting Task Group	15	01.71
3. “Current Policy on Homosexuality”	15	01.72
4. Appointment of Reference Committee members	16	01.73
5. Exchange with United Church of Canada	16	01.74
6. Proposal for National Research Unit	17	01.75
7. National Council of Churches in Australia – National Forum membership	17	01.76
8. Associate General Secretary re PR / Communications	17	01.77
9. Celebration of the Uniting Church’s 25 th Anniversary – 2002	17	01.78
10. Uniting Church/Anglican Church dialogue	17	01.79
11. 2002 dates for Assembly Standing Committee	18	01.80

THANKS 18

CLOSURE 18

DATES OF NEXT MEETING 18



ATTACHMENT A: Amendments to Regulations re Classification of Ministers

ATTACHMENT B: Position description – National Director, Theology and Discipleship

ATTACHMENT C: Position description – National Director, UnitingCare Australia

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

27 – 29 July 2001

PRESENT James Haire (President), Craig Bailey, Bruce Binnie, Robert Brown, Elizabeth Burns, Jennifer Byrnes, Dennis Chapman, Terence Corkin, Kylie Crabbe, Sealin Garlett, Jelita Gardner-Rush, Jason Kioa, Alistair Macrae, Jim Mein, Myung-Hwa Park, Julia Pitman, Fefiloi Reid, Allan Thompson, Jan Trengove, Seongja Yoo-Crowe.

In attendance: Chris Budden, Matthew Budden (part of Saturday and Sunday), Stu Cameron, Marelle Harisun, Robert Johnson (Friday evening), Betty Keep, Rosemary Miller, Ken Neill, Stephen Pearson (Friday evening), John Rowland, Gillian Stone, Elizabeth Walker, Wendie Wilkie.

WORSHIP Opening worship on the Friday evening was led by the President. On the Saturday Kylie Crabbe led morning worship, and Seongja Yoo Crowe led evening worship. On Sunday morning the General Secretary conducted the service of Holy Communion. Chris Budden preached. The closing prayer on Sunday afternoon was led by Bruce Binnie.

WELCOMES

The President welcomed the following overseas visitors:

- Rev Dr John Miller, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and Mrs Mary Miller for part of the meeting on Friday and Saturday;
- Rev Derek Poots, Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and Mrs Mildred Poots for Friday evening.

Also welcomed to the meeting were Elizabeth Walker (Chairperson of Theology and Discipleship); Matthew Budden (Assembly Communications) and Rosemary Miller (Acting National Director of Social Responsibility and Justice) attending Standing Committee for the first time; Robert Johnson and Stephen Pearson (National Finance) for Friday evening.

The President extended a special welcome to Libby Davies, National Director of UnitingCare Australia, who was concluding her position on 4 August and had been invited to attend on the Friday evening to receive a minute of appreciation. Following the conclusion of business, members of Standing Committee and invited guests adjourned to the lounge for a farewell presentation to Libby, and supper.

APOLOGIES

01.41 **It was resolved** to receive the apologies of Jane Aagaard, Shayne Blackman, Dean Drayton, Robert Johnson and John Mavor for the whole meeting; Bruce Binnie for Friday evening; Elizabeth Walker for Saturday afternoon and Myung Hwa Park for Saturday evening.

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

On behalf of Standing Committee, the President acknowledged the local Indigenous people and their role as custodians of the land on which the meeting was taking place.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The President introduced a time of sharing on pastoral matters. Congratulations were expressed to Wendie Wilkie and Kylie Crabbe on their recent marriages and to Kylie Crabbe and Jelita Gardner-Rush who were celebrating their birthday on the Friday.

It was noted that the husband of Barbara Horne, former Chairperson and current member of the Social Responsibility and Justice Reference Committee, had died in May. Members also referred to the recent deaths of Terence Corkin's father-in-law and Robert Johnson's mother. The President led the meeting in prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the proposed timetable and agenda as listed in documents 1 and 1A, noting a number of new business items. Several new documents were distributed on the Friday evening.

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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 01.43** **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 16 – 18 March 2001 with the following amendment – page 2 resolution 01.03.02 line 3 change “2001” to “2000”.

CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 39

The President and General Secretary drew attention to clause 39 of the Constitution, reminding Standing Committee members of minute 00.71 which resolved that “at the commencement of each meeting of the Assembly in session and the Standing Committee the attention of members should be drawn to clause 39 of the Constitution”.

GREETINGS FROM OVERSEAS GUESTS

On the Friday evening Rev Derek Poots, Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, addressed the Standing Committee, conveying the joyful greetings of his Church to the Uniting Church in Australia.

On the Saturday morning Rev Dr John Miller, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, brought warm greetings from the General Assembly in general terms and special greetings from Marjory MacLean, Depute Clerk, who had attended the Ninth Assembly in Adelaide last July. He then addressed the Standing Committee, sharing his experiences as a parish minister in a housing commission area in Glasgow for the past 30 years and, more recently, as Moderator. Mrs Mary Miller spoke briefly of the community organisation she had helped to establish in her local area initially to support local mothers and how it had grown to provide various other services. The President presented Dr Miller with a signed copy of the book *Where did the joy come from?* by Andrew Dutney, and offered a prayer for their ministry and work.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the Saturday afternoon the President reported to the Standing Committee on his activities since the previous meeting. He referred to the challenge of dealing with the multicultural nature of the Uniting Church – possibly the most multicultural church in the world – and relationships between migrant ethnic communities in Australia and in their country of origin. The President also spoke of his journey through Arnhem Land at the invitation of the UAICC and the way the spirit of God is clearly at work despite distressing political and social situations, and of his continuing involvement with Indonesia and its national leaders. In addition he reported on his attendance at the recent 18th World Diakonia Assembly held in Brisbane, and the challenge for deacons worldwide to find an appropriate form of expression of their particular ministry involving community care and social justice issues.

He concluded by reporting on his attendance at the triennial Anglican General Synod (similar to our triennial Assembly) where he had preached at the Opening and Closing Services and had led the daily Bible studies. He was also pleased to be present when the historic agreement was reached to continue to the next stage of exploring the relationship between the Anglican Church of Australia and the Uniting Church.

The President informed the Standing Committee that he was about to call the Church to a day of prayer for Fiji, as they face national elections.

Each day the President provided a focus for members by lighting a candle and displaying cloths from Bali and Kiribati, a plaque from West Timor presented to him at the Ninth Assembly and part of the “hem of God’s garment” from the Ninth Assembly.

01.44 **It was resolved** to receive the report.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

On the Sunday afternoon the General Secretary brought a verbal report on four matters for the information of Standing Committee:

- the 2001 edition of the Constitution and Regulations will be available in September;
- formal dialogue between the Uniting Church and the Churches of Christ will commence in early August, with a view to seeking ways of closer cooperation including the sharing of Ministers;
- an approach has been made to the Assembly by a Confederation of Reformed Churches of the Pacific, comprising a number of groupings from the Cook Islands, who are actively seeking ways to come into the Uniting Church and a meeting of representatives from NSW and presbyteries will be held in August;
- the NCCA Executive has agreed to facilitate the establishment of a group representing ecumenical and other faith bodies to take up issues relating to the content of the “Discovering Democracy” curriculum.

01.45 **It was resolved** to receive the report.

SYNOD SHARING – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Participants from the Synod of South Australia were invited to share something of the life of their Synod as an expression of our inter conciliar sharing.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2001 STANDING COMMITTEE

1. REPORT FROM THE TASK GROUP ON THE 10TH ASSEMBLY (ASC minute 01.05)

On behalf of the planning group, Wendie Wilkie presented document 5, consisting of a follow-up to the report made to the November meeting of Standing Committee, a discussion paper by John Emmett on goals and objectives to reflect the future operational style of Assembly meetings, and two diagrammatic charts. Much discussion followed.

01.46 It was resolved to:

01.46.01 receive the report;

01.46.02 agree with the directions of the planning group for the 10th Assembly and ask the group to further develop proposals for the November meeting of Standing Committee particularly in terms of processes and leadership – design team, facilitation group etc.

2. REPORT ON REGULATION 3.6.40 PROCESS (ASC minute 01.09)

The General Secretary reported that since the March meeting synods and the national office of the UAICC have been invited to share what they are doing in their context as an expression of fulfilling the intent of Regulation 3.6.40. A report is expected at the next meeting of Standing Committee arising from responses received.

01.47 It was resolved to receive the report.

3. FUTURE OF THE SYNOD OF TASMANIA (ASC minute 01.13)

The General Secretary presented document 4, consisting of a further report on the proposal to create a new synod that will include the current Synods of Tasmania and Victoria. He reported that he had met with the Tasmanian/Victorian working group in May to discuss matters requiring action by the Assembly. Thanks were expressed to the General Secretary, Sealin Garlett and the Synod of Victoria for their assistance as the working group faces the challenge of finding a preferred model to function into the future.

01.48 It was resolved to receive the report.

4. REPORT ON THE BALLOT FOR DIRECTORS OF BENEFUND LIMITED (ASC minute 01.15)

The General Secretary reported that as a result of the ballot held in accordance with ASC minute 01.15 the Rev Anne Honey had been elected as a new Director to the Board of Benefund Limited.

01.49 It was resolved to receive the report.

5. REVIEW OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS (ASC minute 01.16.02)

(a) John Emmett, National Director – Uniting Education

On behalf of the review team Jenny Byrnes presented Document 2, consisting of a confidential report of the review of the position of National Director, Uniting Education.

- 01.50** **It was resolved:**
- 01.50.01 to receive the report;
- 01.50.02 that John Emmett exercising ministry in the role of National Director of Uniting Education be affirmed and celebrated for the gifts and skills he brings to the task;
- 01.50.03 that John Emmett be appointed as National Director of Uniting Education for a further three years, until December 2004;
- 01.50.04 to request the General Secretary to prepare a process that will enable a review of how the restructure is working out in practice - for example, the adequacy of mandates, reference committee operation, how the Standing Committee is able to exercise its responsibilities in relation to setting priorities;
- 01.50.05 that the General Secretary negotiate with Synod Secretaries regarding the future of the publication function of the Church;
- 01.50.06 to request the General Secretary to bring a paper to the November Standing Committee meeting, providing guidance as to how the Assembly may develop a strategic plan for its life;
- 01.50.07 that a policy on supervision and professional development for the staff of the Assembly be established and implemented;

(b) Peter Lewis, National Director – Covenanting

On behalf of the review team, Jason Kioa presented document 2A, consisting of a confidential report of the review of the position of National Director, Covenanting.

- 01.50.08 that the National Director – Covenanting, Mr Peter Lewis, be re-appointed for another three year term, until 31 December 2004;
- 01.50.09 that the Covenanting National Reference Committee be encouraged to continue their active support of Peter's ministry and to be receptive to the enormity of the tasks involved;
- 01.50.10 to thank and discharge the Review Teams.

6. MAPOON APPEAL (ASC minute 01.23)

On behalf of the Group appointed under ASC minute 01.23, Jim Mein presented document 16, consisting of a progress report on the development of a plan to enable the Church to nationally support the funding of the proposed Mapoon Church Centre to be built as an act of reconciliation for the involvement of the Church historically and the very sorry affair that happened at Mapoon many years ago.

On receipt of a written paper from Shayne Blackman providing historical background, the current situation and the full cost of the development of this church centre, the Group with Ed Walker will develop a more detailed proposal to come to a future meeting of Standing Committee.

01.51 **It was resolved** to note the progress report.

7. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION RE THE THIRD PHASE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (ASC minute 01.27)

On behalf of the Ministerial Education Commission, Jenny Byrnes presented document 8, consisting of a final report in relation to the Third Phase of Theological Education.

01.52 **It was resolved:**

01.52.01 to receive the report;

01.52.02 to adopt the Third Phase of Theological Education as described in the MEC paper;

01.52.03 that the Third Phase be implemented across the synods from 2002 and no later than 2004;

01.52.04 that the MEC be requested to establish appropriate guidelines for the Third Phase for submission to the March 2002 Standing Committee, as well as resolution of issues re Beneficiary Fund status of those in the Third Phase.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the National Finance Committee, Stephen Pearson and Jim Mein presented Document 3, consisting of a report on several matters and three attachments – (1) Progress report on 'Voluntary National Cooperation', (2) 2001/2002 budgets for Frontier Services and UnitingCare, and (3) UAICC Community Development Training Program – request for Job Network Funds.

01.53 **It was resolved to:**

01.53.01 receive the report;

01.53.02 request the National Finance Committee to present its final report on 'Voluntary National Cooperation' to the Assembly Standing Committee Meeting on 16/18 November 2001, including development of a process of consultation to look at opportunities, processes and promotion of the decision of the NFC including detailed items such as the Church Resources trust proposal;

01.53.03 approve the 2001/2002 budget for UnitingCare Australia and Frontier Services;

01.53.04 note the report from the National Administrator of Uniting Aboriginal Islander and Christian Congress on the source of funds for conduct of the UAICC Community Development Training Program in 2002 and beyond;

- 01.53.05 approve of the allocation of the remaining \$30,000 of the 2001 Assembly Fund unearmarked Job Network funding to the UAICC Community Development Training Program;
- 01.53.06 thank Jim Mein and the National Finance Committee for negotiating participation by the Uniting Church in the Catholic Church voluntary buying cooperative;
- 01.53.07 accept with regret, the resignation of Edmund Walker as an Assembly elected member and Chairperson of the National Finance Committee, to take effect as from the close of the NFC Meeting on 2/3 November 2001;
- 01.53.08 accept with regret, the resignation of David Greenall as an Assembly elected member of the National Finance Committee, his resignation having taken effect from the close of the NFC Meeting on 25/26 May 2001;
- 01.53.09 appoint Bruce Binnie as Chairperson of the National Finance Committee for the remaining period of the triennium, with the appointment taking effect from the close of the NFC Meeting on 2/3 November 2001;
- 01.53.10 consider appointment of two Assembly elected NFC members at its meeting to be held on 16/18 November 2001 and in this regard, the General Secretary invite nominations at the appropriate time for submission to the Standing Committee.

2. UNITING CHURCH COUNCIL OF MISSION TRUST ASSOCIATION

The General Secretary presented document 3A outlining the need to appoint a replacement Director of the Trust Association.

01.54 It was resolved to:

- 01.54.01 receive the report;
- 01.54.02 appoint John Colin Shipway as a Director of the Uniting Church Council of Mission Trust Association;
- 01.54.03 make a specific determination in this instance only to vary the Assembly requirement for 40% female membership of the Uniting Church Council of Mission Trust Association, the appointment of John Shipway being made in recognition of:
- his knowledge of the UCCMTA arising from:
 - his previous employment as Executive Officer of the Assembly Secretariat
 - his previous appointment as Company Secretary of UCCMTA (1/4/87 – 16/6/98)
 - his previous appointment as Director of UCCMTA (1/4/87 – 16/6/98)
 - his closeness to the Assembly office and his availability to attend Directors' meetings often at short notice
 - the fact that he is an existing shareholder of the Uniting Church Council of Mission Trust Association.

3. DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The General Secretary presented document 3B, consisting of a report on the appointment of trustees of the Disaster Relief Fund.

01.55 It was resolved to:

- 01.55.01 receive the report;
- 01.55.02 agree to the proposal submitted by the Disaster Fund Trustees Committee providing for a rotational system of retirement of Trustees of the Fund on the basis that:
- Trustees are eligible to remain on the Trust for two x three (3) year terms, but are required to stand down at the end of their first term but retaining their right to nominate for reappointment for a second term should they so desire
 - Trustees who have served two consecutive three (3) year terms on the Trust (i.e. a total of six (6) years), are required to stand down for a period of twelve (12) months, after which time they are eligible to nominate for further appointment in terms of 1 above
 - the system commence operation from 2001 using a 'first on – first off' method with current Trustees standing down on the following basis:
- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Stand down first
ASC Meeting in 2004 | Tom Plaizier
Ervyn Whitehead | Assumed end of second term.
Eligible for further appointment
after twelve (12) months. |
| Stand down first
ASC Meeting in 2005 | Peter Michael
Bev Smith | Assumed end of first term.
Eligible for reappointment for a
second term. |
| Stand down first
ASC Meeting in 2006 | Peggy Goldsmith
New Trustee | Assumed end of first term.
Eligible for reappointment for a
second term |

and the Constitution of the Disaster Relief Fund of the Uniting Church in Australia be altered accordingly;

- 01.55.03 take no further action in relation to providing for synod representation on the Disaster Fund Trustees Committee in view of the explanation provided by the Committee;

- 01.55.04 appoint Phillip Leslie as a Trustee of the Disaster Relief of the Uniting Church in Australia with his appointment being reviewed at the first ASC Meeting in 2006.

4. UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA

The President welcomed the National Director of UnitingCare, Ms Libby Davies, and thanked her for attending this session of the Standing Committee to receive the personal thanks of the ASC for her work.

The General Secretary presented the minute of appreciation recording the high regard in which Libby is held inside and outside the Church due to her seven years of work with the Assembly.

01.56 It was resolved to:

record Standing Committee's appreciation for the work of Ms Libby Davies, National Director of UnitingCare Australia.

Community Services Australia was established in September 1994 and Libby Davies was its foundation Director. In 1998 it changed its name to Uniting Community Services Australia and in 1999 it again changed its name to UnitingCare Australia. This was successfully launched at the Assembly meeting in 2000.

Over this period of time Libby Davies has been the driving force of the national community service arm of the Church with its national badge identity of UnitingCare.

Libby has established for the Church a national identity for us as a key player in the community service field. She has developed relationships with political parties, Government and Opposition to such an extent that her advice is sought and appreciated across a wide range of issues. Within the welfare

industry she has established alliances and relationships with other peak bodies to the benefit of those who come within the welfare net.

Her work related to aged care, charities, taxation, poverty and unemployment to name a few has been of very high standard. Libby has combined her work as an advocate and lobbyist with that of ambassador for *UnitingCare* within the Synods. She has visited key people in our Synods, spoken to our agencies and made herself available as a trouble shooter throughout Australia.

Her commitment to her work has always been of the highest order. She has shaped the direction of *Uniting Church Community Service* for the future. Her skills, loyalty, dedication, research ability and high professional standards have always been available to the Church and *UnitingCare*. She has a deep spiritual faith as a member of the *Uniting Church* and has always seen her task as a part of the mission and ministry of the Church.

The *Uniting Church* and *UnitingCare* records its tremendous gratitude for the work of Libby Davies and thanks her for her dedicated and sacrificial service over the past seven years.

5. GENERAL SECRETARY RE REPORT ON BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

The General Secretary presented document 6, consisting of a report on budget development outlining action taken since the March meeting of Standing Committee, information received from synods and other sources relating to funding sources and requests, issues identified during the budget setting process, and action proposed by management in order to achieve a balanced budget over the next three years. Much discussion followed.

01.57

It was resolved:

01.57.01

to receive the report;

01.57.02

that the General Secretary and National Finance Committee continue the preparation of the budget in the light of the discussion at Standing Committee for presentation at the November meeting;

01.57.03

- (a) to note, and endorse, the intention of the General Secretary to not include funding for the National Deacon and Youth Worker National Coordinator on the basis that while it is an area of potential national co-operation it does not fall within the constitutional responsibilities of the Assembly;
- (b) to report this decision and reasons for it to the next Assembly;
- (c) to advise the Ministerial Education Commission, Theological Halls and Synod Secretaries of this decision and encourage them to find ways of fulfilling this role through national co-operation, other than through the budget of the Assembly.

6. GENERAL SECRETARY RE CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The General Secretary presented document 6A, consisting of a paper raising issues and concerns around the area of the Assembly's future financial viability. In part it recognized the need to initiate negotiations with Synods about the way in which the Assembly is to be funded in future years. Discussion followed.

01.58

It was resolved to:

01.58.01

receive the report;

- 01.58.02 encourage the General Secretary to initiate discussions with the Synods about the way Synods will fund the Assembly in the future; including consideration of what issues are important to them and to the Assembly when grant decisions are being made.

7. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary introduced document 7, consisting of a report and proposals on three matters, namely amendments to Regulations on Discipline and the Classification of Ministers, and for approval of the document “Policy for dealing with a Complaint of Sexual Misconduct made against a Member or Adherent of the Uniting Church in Australia”.

01.59 It was resolved to:

- 01.59.01 receive the report;

Amendments to Regulations

- 01.59.02 (a) **Regulation 1.1.15**
amend Regulation 1.1.15 by deleting sub -clause (c) and substitute:
- “(c) Any person who considers that their name has been wrongfully removed from the roll of members shall have the same rights of appeal as those set out in Regulation 7.2.4.”;

- (b) **Regulation 7.2.3**
amend this Regulation to read as follows:
- “7.2.3 Where the Church Council has determined that the member has failed to respond to the pastoral care and invitation to renew a satisfactory relationship with the life of the Church, the Church Council may:
- (a) suspend the rights and privileges of membership; or
 - (b) remove the name of the member from the membership roll.
- The member shall be notified in writing of any such action.”;

- (c) **Regulation 7.2.4**
amend this Regulation to read as follows:
- “7.2.4 A person whose membership rights and privileges have been suspended, or whose name has been removed from the membership roll, may within one month after receipt of the notification in writing require reconsideration by the Church Council. If not satisfied with the outcome of such reconsideration as notified in writing, the person may within one month after receipt of the notification, appeal to the Presbytery by notice in writing. The Presbytery, either itself or by a committee appointed for the purpose, shall determine the matter.
- There shall be no right of further appeal.
- The persons concerned may make a submission personally or in writing to the body considering the matter.”;

01.59.03 **Regulations 2.3.10 – 2.6.1**

- (a) delete Regulations 2.3.10 – 2.6.1 and replace with Regulations 2.4.1 – 23 (see **Attachment A**);

- (b) approve the consequential amendments (see **Attachment A**);
 - (c) request the Legal Reference Committee to search the Regulations to ensure that there are no further consequential amendments;
- 01.59.04 determine that amendments to Regulations approved at this meeting of Standing Committee will take effect on 1 August 2001;

Approval of “Policy for dealing with a Complaint of Sexual Mis-conduct made against a Member or Adherent of the Uniting Church in Australia”

- 01.59.05
- (a) approve as a policy of the Uniting Church the document “Policy for dealing with a Complaint of Sexual Misconduct made against a Member or Adherent of the Uniting Church in Australia”, to take effect on 1 October 2001;
 - (b) confirm that until the document “Policy for dealing with a Complaint of Sexual Misconduct made against a Member or Adherent of the Uniting Church in Australia” comes into effect on 1 October 2001 the interim policy is operative, noting that although the interim policy had a sunset clause coming into effect 30 December 2000 it has continued to be the basis on which matters have been addressed in the life of the church and that interim policy is the one to be applied until the new policy comes into effect on 1 October 2001.

8. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION RE PROPOSAL FOR REGULATION CHANGE

The General Secretary reported that at its recent meeting the Ministerial Education Commission had considered Regulation 2.2.18(g) and in light of recent decisions of the Assembly, proposed changes to reflect the creation of “the second phase” of ministerial education.

- 01.60** **It was resolved** to amend Regulation 2.2.18(g) by replacing the words “a certificate of satisfactory completion of studies” with “a statement certifying that the requirements of Phase Two have been fulfilled”.

9. SELECTION PROCESS FOR NATIONAL DIRECTORS

(a) Social Responsibility and Justice

Wendie Wilkie presented document 9, consisting of a report on the position of National Director, Social Responsibility and Justice, including interim arrangements to resource SR&J with staff support and a proposed process for nominating a new National Director. Discussion followed.

- 01.61** **It was resolved to:**
- 01.61.01 fill the position from 1 January 2002 for an initial term of three years;
 - 01.61.02 agree the position may be located in Melbourne or Sydney;

- 01.61.03 appoint a Nominating Committee comprising Wendie Wilkie (Convenor), John Woodley, Rob Brown, Chris Budden and Shehara Viswanathan;
- 01.61.04 request the Nominating Committee to bring a nomination to the November meeting of Standing Committee.

(b) Theology and Discipleship

The General Secretary, assisted by Elizabeth Walker, presented document 10, consisting of a report on the position of National Director, Theology and Discipleship, the current position description and a proposed new position description. The proposed new position description reflects changes arising out of consultation with the T&D Reference Committee and the Chairpersons of the Agency Working Groups in the light of their experience of the Agency over the last two years. The report also outlined a proposed process for nominating a new National Director. Much discussion followed.

01.62

It was resolved to:

- 01.62.01 adopt the revised position description for the National Director of Theology and Discipleship (see **Attachment B**);
- 01.62.02 fill the position of National Director for Theology and Discipleship from 1 January 2002 for three years;
- 01.62.03 appoint a Nominating Committee comprising the General Secretary, Terence Corkin (Convenor), the Chairperson of the Theology and Discipleship Reference Committee, Elizabeth Walker, Craig Bailey, Myung Hwa Park and, subject to their acceptance, Dennis Corowa and Deidre Palmer;
- 01.62.04 request the Nominating Committee to bring a nomination to the November meeting of Standing Committee.

(c) UnitingCare Australia

Wendie Wilkie presented document 11, consisting of a report on the position of National Director, UnitingCare Australia, following the resignation of Ms Libby Davies, including interim arrangements and a proposed process for selecting a new National Director. Much discussion followed.

01.63

It was resolved to:

- 01.63.01 fill the position of National Director, UnitingCare Australia for a period of three years;
- 01.63.02 agree to the revised position description for the National Director of UnitingCare Australia (see **Attachment C**);
- 01.63.03 appoint the following people to the Selection Panel – Jim Mein, Wendie Wilkie, John Pettman, Les McDonald and Alison Whish;
- 01.63.04 agree to a revised timetable, including advertising in church newspapers;
- 01.63.05 agree to use an email ballot to make the appointment on the recommendation of the Selection Panel.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING UNIT

Wendie Wilkie presented document 15, consisting of a report on the ongoing work of SPU as it seeks to resource the Assembly and Standing Committee on issues facing the national church and society 5 – 10 years ahead, together with a paper by Ruth Powell entitled *Glimpses of the Emerging Church* for reflection and discussion at the next meeting of Standing Committee.

01.64 It was resolved to:

01.64.01 receive the report;

01.64.02 make time available at the November meeting of Standing Committee for a fuller discussion on the work of the Strategic Planning Unit.

11. REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

On the Saturday evening the General Secretary and other staff were asked to leave when the Standing Committee, with the Synod Secretaries, received an oral report on the review of the General Secretary after six months. The review was conducted by the President, Myung Hwa Park and Allan Thompson. Items in the report had already been discussed by the President with the General Secretary.

01.65 It was resolved:

01.65.01 to receive the report;

01.65.02 that the review committee for the review of the General Secretary at the end of 2001 be the President, Myung Hwa Park and Jim Mein;

01.65.03 that the terms of employment of the General Secretary be changed to include the provision of a vehicle in place of an allowance to cover the use of a private vehicle on Assembly business.

Following the conclusion of the private sitting, the General Secretary was affirmed and encouraged in his work.

12. NATIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE RE REFUGEE POLICY

The General Secretary, assisted by Rosemary Miller, Acting National Director, presented document 12, consisting of a draft policy paper on asylum seekers and refugees.

01.66 It was resolved to:

01.66.01 adopt the document 'Asylum seekers and refugees policy paper' produced by National Social Responsibility and Justice as the Uniting Church's policy on asylum seekers and refugees;

01.66.02 endorse distribution of the policy document to synods and request them to make the Uniting Church's policy on asylum seekers and refugees known to presbyteries and congregations.

13. FRONTIER SERVICES RE MINISTRY IN DETENTION CENTRES

On behalf of Frontier Services, the General Secretary presented document 13, consisting of correspondence from the National Director on the need to address the theological, pastoral and cross-cultural issues of ministry in detention centres at a church-wide level and that this ministry be appropriately resourced.

01.67 It was resolved to request the General Secretary to:

- (a) convene a consultation with representatives from the Synod of South Australia, Western Australia, Northern, New South Wales and Victoria and the Assembly to consider the range of issues around the emerging ministry in Detention Centres. In particular consideration is to be given to issues of social justice, ecumenical and interfaith relations, support of chaplains, nurturing and financial support of the ministry and any faith communities, and relations with DIMA;
- (b) keep the National Council of Churches in Australia informed of our discussion;
- (c) bring a report to the November meeting of Standing Committee.

14. HISTORICAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE RE POLICY ON PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS

The General Secretary referred to a letter from the Chairperson of the Historical Committee of 21 June 2001 stressing the need to safeguard the proper archiving of presidential church papers.

01.68

It was resolved that all papers that come to the possession of a person by virtue of their office as President of the Church are the property of the Uniting Church and should be sent to the Assembly archives as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the President's term.

15. TASK GROUP ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

On behalf of the Task Group, Allan Thompson presented documents 14 and 14A, consisting of a progress report and an Issues Paper developed by the Task Group and sent to synods, presbyteries, MEBs, college principals and selected Assembly agencies for comment. The report also referred to the extensive consultation process required and the probability of additional Task Group meetings due to the late start of its work, and the budget implications thereof.

01.69

It was resolved to:

01.68.01

receive the report;

01.68.02

request the National Finance Committee, in developing the budget for 2002 to include an allocation for travel by Task Group members for consultation with synods, as well as for its own meetings;

01.68.03

request progress reports from the Task Group in March and July 2002, with a final report in November 2002.

16. ASSEMBLY WORKING GROUP ON MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The General Secretary presented document 17, consisting of an edited version of a report prepared by Rod Dungan (the Working Group Coordinator) on the progress of the Working Group on Ministry with Children and Youth.

01.70

It was resolved:

01.70.01

to receive the report;

01.70.02

that the role of the Working Group on Ministry with Children and Youth be expanded by the addition of the term "and their families" to the group's title.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. INTERCONCILIAR COUNCILS

Chris Budden introduced a discussion which invited members of the Standing Committee to reflect upon the processes through which matters are brought from one council of the Church to the other. Much discussion followed both in table groups and plenary session.

2. WESLEY UNITING EMPLOYMENT TASK GROUP

The General Secretary reported that the task group had been appointed and provided with terms of reference under ASC minute 01.37. The lead agency of Wesley Uniting Employment raised concerns that it was not included in the task group. They considered that their experience and responsibility as lead agency in delivering the current Jobs Network program and in underwriting the preparation of the tender was vital to the work of the task group, and differed from the equally relevant perspective of others in the Missions network.

01.71 **It was resolved** to agree to the lead agency of Wesley Uniting Employment selecting a representative to be a member of the committee set up under ASC minute 01.37 to investigate issues relating to the experience of the current Jobs Network program.

3. "CURRENT POLICY ON HOMOSEXUALITY"

Alistair Macrae as Moderator of Victoria has been asked to express a view on whether a Minister is free to conduct a ceremony that blesses same sex couples, given the current decisions of the Assembly. Discussion followed.

01.72 **It was resolved to:**

01.72.01 request the General Secretary to provide members of Standing Committee with the current policy on homosexuality;

01.72.02 request

(a) Church Polity to provide advice on the following questions:

1. Where a Minister receives a request to conduct a ceremony which blesses a same sex couple relationship, what is the appropriate method to be employed before a decision can be made given the current decisions of the Assembly?
2. Given the current determinations by the Assembly, what is the authority of the Standing Committee if it was asked to express an opinion on this subject?
3. What is the method to be used to determine the position of the Church on a matter of doctrine or practice when there has been no formal decision on that matter by the Uniting Church in Australia?

(b) the Working Group on Doctrine to consider

1. What is the method to be used to determine the position of the Church on a matter of doctrine or practice when there has been no formal decision on that matter by the Uniting Church in Australia?
2. Whether the issue of blessing same sex relationships is one of ethics or doctrine;

01.72.03 request the Synod Secretaries

- (a) at their next meeting to discuss the implications for the Church of the impact of State anti discrimination legislation upon the activities of the Church, and its Ministers in particular;
- (b) if appropriate, bring a report to a future meeting of Standing Committee.

4. APPOINTMENT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The General Secretary referred to correspondence received from the Chairperson of the Church Polity Reference Committee and the National Director of Frontier Services regarding membership of these two Reference Committees.

01.73 It was resolved to:

- 01.73.01 (a) accept the resignation of Mr Jack Kronborg and express its gratitude for his service on the Church Polity Reference Committee;
- (b) appoint Mrs Nicole Lourensz as a member of the Church Polity Reference Committee;

01.73.02 confirm the appointment of the following persons to the Frontier Services Reference Committee for the terms indicated:

One term (3 years) – Dhalganda Garrawurra, Gale Hall, Bill Hollingsworth, Jill Monks, Ken Sumner, Bruce Walker;
Two terms (6 years) – Barbara Abley, Shayne Blackman, Keith Fagg, Sealin Garlett, Colleen Grieve, Gregor Henderson, Vince Ross.

5. EXCHANGE WITH UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

On behalf of Robert Johnson, the General Secretary presented document 19, consisting of a proposal outlining mutual exchange visits between the Uniting Church and the United Church of Canada, to learn from one another about relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous parts of our churches. Discussion followed.

01.74 It was resolved to request the General Secretary, Shayne Blackman and Robert Johnson to develop the proposal for a mutual exchange between the the United Church of Canada and the Uniting Church in Australia regarding relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous parts of the churches with particular reference to funding issues after consultation with the UAICC, and to report to the November meeting of Standing Committee.

6. PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIT

Jim Mein presented document 18, consisting of a proposal for the establishment of a national research unit to assist the Uniting Church's response to, and implementation of, Federal Government policy and legislation particularly relating to taxation and related topics.

01.75 It was resolved to note the proposal is under consideration.

7. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA – NATIONAL FORUM MEMBERSHIP

The General Secretary reported that following the withdrawal of one of the representatives appointed by Standing Committee to the NCCA National Forum, Christian Unity had proposed David Reichardt as the replacement.

- 01.76** **It was resolved** to note the appointment of David Reichardt as a representative of the Uniting Church to the NCCA National Forum in July this year.

8. ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY RE PR / COMMUNICATIONS

Wendie Wilkie informed the Standing Committee that a draft copy of the 'Popular Document' referred to at the March meeting is available for viewing at the meeting. This 'in house' document is aimed at members of congregations to have as a resource to explain the Uniting Church and it is hoped to distribute it to the church before November.

- 01.77** **It was resolved to:**

01.77.01 receive the report;

01.77.02 authorise James Haire, Terence Corkin and Jan Trengove to approve the "Popular Document" before publication and its distribution throughout the church.

9. CELEBRATION OF THE UNITING CHURCH'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY – 2002

Wendie Wilkie led a discussion on ways it may be possible to celebrate the Uniting Church's 25th anniversary nationally as well as locally and regionally. Discussion followed in table groups and plenary session.

- 01.78** **It was resolved to:**

01.78.01 authorise the Assembly Secretariat to investigate ways in which it may be possible to have national as well local celebrations to celebrate the 25th anniversary, in the light of discussions at the Standing Committee;

01.78.02 request a report to the November meeting of the Standing Committee.

10. UNITING CHURCH/ANGLICAN DIALOGUE

The President reported his great pleasure in being present when the historic agreement was reached to continue to the next stage of exploring the relationship between the Anglican Church of Australia and the Uniting Church. He particularly pointed out some of the significant aspects of the Anglican decision.

- 01.79** **It was resolved:**

01.79.01 that the Uniting Church in Australia warmly welcomes the positive response of the Anglican General Synod, on July 24 2001, to the Anglican – UCA dialogue document "For the sake of the Gospel". The Uniting Church commits itself to continuing to work through the discussions that need to occur within the Uniting Church and with the Anglican Church of Australia;

01.79.02 to request the General Secretary in consultation with the Christian Unity Working Group, and the Doctrine Working Group, to prepare recommendations on the Report, and processes that will enable an appropriate progression of this matter towards the 10th Assembly in 2003;

01.79.03

to express Standing Committee's gratitude to the Uniting Church convenor of the Dialogue, Rev Dr Chris Mostert, and the other members of the team for the work that has brought the discussion to this current stage;

01.79.04

to bring the report and comments referred to above before the November meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration.

11. 2002 DATES FOR ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

01.80

It was resolved to confirm the 2002 dates for Standing Committee as follows:

- 15 – 17 March
- July (to be decided by the Assembly officers)
- 15 – 17 November.

THANKS

The General Secretary expressed appreciation to all who had led worship at various times and contributed to the preparations for the meeting.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 3.30pm with a prayer led by Bruce Binnie.

CLASSIFICATION OF MINISTERS

to take effect on 1 August 2001

A. Delete Regulations 2.3.10 - 2.6.1 and replace them with the following Regulations 2.4.1 – 23:

“RECOGNITION AND DUTIES OF A MINISTER

RECOGNITION OF A MINISTER

2.4.1 A Minister is recognised by ordination, by admission from another denomination, or by the re-admission of a former Minister. A Minister is recognised as such for the whole of life unless that recognition is withdrawn.

DUTIES OF A MINISTER

2.4.2 Within the ministry of the whole Church, Jesus Christ calls men and women to proclamation of the gospel in word and deed through the ministry of the Word and the ministry of Deacon. This calling is exercised by:

- (a) preaching of the Word;
- (b) presiding at the celebration of the sacraments;
- (c) witnessing in the community to the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- (d) guiding and instructing the members of the Church and equipping them for their ministry in the community;**
- (e) nurturing candidates for baptism and confirmation;
- (f) pastoral oversight and counsel wherever needed;
- (g) serving in the community, especially among those who are hurt, disadvantaged, oppressed or marginalised;
- (h) careful attention to administrative responsibilities;
- (i) due observance of the discipline of the Church;
- (j) the enhancement of the Minister's own gifts for the work of ministry;
- (k) pioneering new expressions of the gospel and encouraging effective ways of fulfilling the mission of the Church.

2.4.3 Every Minister shall participate fully and regularly in the public worship of God and the mission and fellowship of the Congregation with which the Minister is enrolled (Regulations 2.4.12-14).

2.4.4 Every Minister shall report annually to the Presbytery with which the Minister is enrolled on the ways in which the duties of a Minister as prescribed in Regulations 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 are being exercised.

ACTIVE SERVICE

2.4.5 A Minister shall be designated as in active service if the Minister is

- (a) in an approved placement designated by a Synod or the Assembly for the regular exercise of the duties of a Minister (Regulation 2.4.2);**
- (b) seconded to another church for a defined period by the Placements Committee of the Synod at the request of such other church for the regular exercise of the duties of a Minister (Regulation 2.4.2). Such period of secondment may be extended or varied by the Placements Committee;
- (c) serving in an ecumenical or Church-related body for a defined period with the approval of the Placements Committee of the Synod for the regular exercise of the duties of a Minister (Regulation 2.4.2). Such period of service may be extended or varied by the Placements Committee;
- (d) regularly and faithfully exercising the duties of a Minister (Regulation 2.4.2) in a situation other than those described in (a), (b) or (c) above, with the approval of the Placements Committee on the recommendation of the Presbytery. The Placements Committee may at any time, after review of the work of the Minister or on the recommendation of the Presbytery, declare that the Minister is no longer in active service.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- 2.4.6 A Minister may be granted leave of absence from active service by the Placements Committee on the recommendation of the Presbytery for a defined period
- (a) to undertake an approved course of study,
 - (b) for family or other pastoral reasons, or
 - (c) for other reasons which the Placements Committee considers sufficient.

RETIREMENT

- 2.4.7 A Minister may retire
- (a) permanently
 - (i) after reaching the age of 55,
 - (ii) on the issue of a medical certificate by the Synod's Medical Advisers that the Minister is unfit for active service and the Beneficiary Fund has determined a pension will be paid, or
 - (iii) for any other reason which the Placements Committee after consultation with the Presbytery considers sufficient;
 - (b) temporarily for a defined period with the approval of the Placements Committee of the Synod on the recommendation of or with the concurrence of the Presbytery on the issue of a medical certificate by the Synod's Medical Advisers that the Minister is temporarily unfit for active service and the Beneficiary Fund has determined a pension will be paid. Such temporary retirement may be extended or varied by the Placements Committee and at the end of the period of temporary retirement the Minister shall be available for active service or seek permanent retirement.**

NOT AVAILABLE FOR PLACEMENT

- 2.4.8 A Minister shall be designated as not available for placement
- (a) at any time when the Placements Committee on the recommendation of or with the concurrence of the Presbytery determines that for a defined period the Minister shall not be in active service for any reason which the Placements Committee and the Presbytery consider to be sufficient, and such designation may be extended or varied by the Placements Committee after consultation with and concurrence of the Presbytery;
 - (b) pursuant to any determination of the Committee for Discipline to suspend a Minister from active service (Reg 7.8.16 (c) and (e)), such designation being for the period determined by the Committee for Discipline.

AWAITING PLACEMENT

- 2.4.9 Any Minister who is not in active service and who is not on leave of absence, retired or designated not available for placement shall be designated as awaiting placement. 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, the Minister who continues in the designation of awaiting placement for more than two years may have their recognition withdrawn by the Synod in accordance with Regulation 2.4.23(b). Any Minister who ceases to be recognised under this Regulation is eligible for re-admission in accordance with Regulation 2.3.8.

PRESBYTERY ROLLS

- 2.4.10 The name of each Minister shall be listed on the roll of the Presbytery to which the Minister shall be answerable in matters of faith and discipline. A Minister shall be designated as on active service, on leave of absence, retired, not available for placement or awaiting placement. The Presbytery shall review the roll of Ministers each year to ensure that each Minister is designated correctly.
- 2.4.11 A Presbytery shall list on its roll of Ministers:-
- (a) Ministers in approved placements in the Assembly or a Synod who are placed on the roll of the Presbytery by designation of the Assembly or that Synod;
 - (b) Ministers in approved placements in the Presbytery;
 - (c) Ministers in approved placements in Congregations or other pastoral charges within the bounds of the Presbytery; and
 - (d) Ministers who are listed on the rolls of confirmed members of Congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery other than those who are on the rolls of other Presbyteries by reason of (a), (b) or (c) or by decision of the Synod.
- 2.4.12 The Presbytery shall record on its roll of Ministers, the Minister's designation and the name of the Congregation on whose roll of confirmed members the Minister is listed.

CONFIRMED MEMBERS ROLLS

- 2.4.13 A Minister in a placement in a Congregation(s) shall be listed on the roll of confirmed members of one Congregation within the pastoral charge.

- 2.4.14 In all other cases, a Minister shall be listed on the roll of confirmed members of the Congregation with which the Minister chooses to be actively involved and the Minister shall advise the Presbytery of the Congregation chosen.

MINISTERS-IN-ASSOCIATION

- 2.4.15 Any Minister who is not in an approved placement in a Congregation(s) nor designated not available for placement may on the invitation of a Church Council and with the approval of the Presbytery become a Minister-in-Association within the Congregation or Pastoral Charge to fulfil such pastoral, preaching or other responsibilities as may be agreed with the inducted Minister(s) prior to the approval by Presbytery.
- 2.4.16 (a) The term of service of a Minister-in-Association shall be not more than two years. It may be renewed with the approval of the Presbytery.
- (b) The term of service of a Minister-in-Association shall cease whenever there is a change of or within any placement in the Congregation or Pastoral Charge. A new invitation may be issued after the change in accordance with Regulation 2.4.15.**
- The Church Council shall be responsible for determining any appropriate remuneration for a Minister-in-Association.**

CHANGE OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

- 2.4.17 (a) A Minister of the Word may apply to the Presbytery to be accepted as a candidate for the ministry of Deacon. If accepted, and when all requirements for ordination to the ministry of Deacon have been satisfied, such person shall be ordained as a Deacon, and shall thereupon cease to be recognised as a Minister of the Word.
- (b) A Deacon may apply to the Presbytery to be accepted as a candidate for the ministry of the Word. If accepted, and when all requirements for ordination to the ministry of the Word have been satisfied, such person shall be ordained as a Minister of the Word, and shall thereupon cease to be recognised as a Deacon.**
- (c) Applications shall be in writing.
- (d) The Presbytery shall deal with the application in terms of Regulations 2.2.6 to 2.2.14, with the exception of requiring a report and recommendations of the Church Council and confidential report of the Minister.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES

- 2.4.18 Where within any one pastoral charge more than one Minister is placed to share the ministerial responsibilities,
- (a) they shall be recognised as colleagues of equal standing;
- (b) for the better fulfilment of the mission of the Church, the better use of gifts and graces of the Ministers and the better ordering of the life of the pastoral charge, specified responsibilities may from time to time be allocated to a particular Minister, as determined either
- (i) by the Ministers serving in the pastoral charge, with the approval of the Church Council; or
- (ii) by the Church Council, with the approval of the Ministers serving in the pastoral charge.

In the event of disagreement, then either the Church Council or any of the Ministers may refer the matter to the Presbytery which shall investigate and determine any or all of the matters in question. Any arrangements made at the time of the commencement of the placement of the Ministers shall be taken into account in any determinations made under this Regulation.

MINISTRY TEAMS

- 2.4.19 (a) Church Councils and other appropriate bodies may determine that a ministry team is to function within a pastoral charge or part of a pastoral charge, for the purpose of better enabling Christ's mission within the pastoral charge, and shall designate the members of the ministry team. A ministry team may consist of Ministers serving in placements in the pastoral charge, those in specified ministries serving in the pastoral charge, and other lay and ordained leaders, whether stipended or non-stipended.
- (b) A Church Council or other appropriate body will designate the member of the ministry team who has responsibility for convening meetings and co-ordinating ministry functions.**
- (c) In the event of disagreement on the composition of the ministry team or the designation of the person designated under (b) above, then the Church Council or any of the Ministers, Lay Pastors or Youth Workers within the pastoral charge

may refer the matter to the Presbytery, which shall investigate and determine the matter.

- (d) The composition of the ministry team and the designation of the person under (b) above may be reviewed by the Church Council or other appropriate body whenever deemed appropriate, and shall be reviewed when there is a change in a ministerial placement.

STIPENDS

[This regulation was originally amended by ASC minute 00.122.10 – November 2000. It is inserted here with its new number for your convenience]

2.4.20 (a) A Minister called to serve in an approved placement under the jurisdiction of the Church shall be paid a stipend:

- (i) if full-time, not less than the minimum rate determined by the Synod;
- (ii) if part-time, calculated on a proportionate basis of the minimum rate determined by the Synod.

(b) In exceptional circumstances a Minister serving in a particular full-time or part-time approved placement may be paid a stipend less than provided for in (a) above or no stipend subject to:

- (i) the approval of the Minister; and
- (ii) the approval of the Presbytery or other appointing body and the Placements Committee, taking into account the fairness of the arrangements in the circumstances; and
- (iii) a review at any time at the request of the Minister; and
- (iv) no less frequently than every two years, after a review initiated by the Presbytery or other appointing body, a reassessment of the stipend approved by the Minister, the Presbytery or other appointing body and the Placements Committee.

Any such arrangement shall not transfer to another Minister called to serve in the placement.”

PROVISIONS AND ALLOWANCES

2.4.21 Provision for the housing of Ministers in placement and for travelling allowances, leave entitlements, insurances and expenses of such Ministers shall be made in accordance with the determination of the Synod or other determining body.

BENEFICIARY FUNDS

2.4.22 The Assembly shall establish and maintain a retirement fund and such other beneficiary funds for Ministers as the Assembly may consider appropriate, and shall determine the conditions upon which a Minister may be required to participate or may be exempt from participation in such funds.

WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION

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

- (a) the acceptance by the Presbytery with which the Minister is enrolled of a resignation from the Ministry, or**
- (b) continuing in the designation of awaiting placement for more than two years or three years in the event of an approved extension pursuant to Regulation 2.4.9, or
- (c) a determination of the Committee for Discipline pursuant to Regulation 7.8.16(f).”

B. Consequential Amendments

1. **Delete Reg 2.7.5**

2. **Delete Reg 2.7.6(g)**

3. **Amend Reg 2.7.20 (d)** by replacing it with:

“2.7.20 (d) The Presbytery shall be responsible for, or shall participate in, any service of worship in which a Minister is inducted or commissioned.”

4. **Exercise of Ministerial Function**

- (a) **Delete Reg 2.7.22**
- (b) **Amend Regulation 2.7.23** to read:-
 - "2.7.23 Presbytery may determine from time to time, and for good and sufficient reasons, the extent to which a Minister who is designated as on leave of absence, retired or not available for placement (Regulations 2.4.6, 2.4.7 and 2.4.8) shall be limited in the exercise of all or any of the functions of ministerial office. Any such determination shall be immediately reported to the Moderator and the Secretary of the Synod."
- (c) **Amend Regulation 2.8.3(b)** by substituting "2.4.23(a)" for "2.6.1(a)".

5. Membership of Church Council

Amend Reg 3.1.12(a)(iii) by deleting "Regulation 2.5.1(g)" and inserting "2.4.15".

6. Presbytery Membership

Amend Regulation 3.4.15 (a) by replacing it with the words

"3.4.15 The Presbytery shall consist of

- (a) Ministers who are
 - (i) in active service;
 - (ii) associate members appointed officers of the Presbytery, and co-opted by Presbytery to full membership during all or part of their term of office."

Amend Regulation 3.4.16 (a) by replacing it with the words

"3.4.16 (a) Ministers who are on leave of absence, retired or awaiting placement shall be associate members of Presbytery unless they are members of the Presbytery under the provisions of Regulation 3.4.15."

7. Pastoral Relations Committee

Amend Regulation 3.4.38 (c) (viii) and (ix) by replacing them with the words

"3.4.38 (c)

- (viii) to make provision for the appropriate pastoral support and accountability of Ministers in active service who are not in approved placements;
- (ix) to review the list of Ministers under its care who are awaiting placement with a view to either assisting such Ministers to return to active service or to make other appropriate vocational decisions or suggesting to a Church Council that an invitation be extended to the Minister to become a Minister-in-Association."



POSITION DESCRIPTION

NATIONAL DIRECTOR, THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP

Location:	Sydney preferred (Melbourne and Brisbane possible)
Appointed by:	Assembly Standing Committee
Responsible to:	Assembly Standing Committee through the General Secretary
Has reporting to him/her:	Consultant for the Unit: Gospel and Gender Administrative Assistant of Theology and Discipleship
Membership:	Theology and Discipleship Reference Committee All working groups within Theology and Discipleship Staff collegial team led by the General Secretary
Committees attended:	Assembly Standing Committee Others as determined by the General Secretary
Basic purpose:	As executive officer of Theology and Discipleship, to provide leadership and vision to the Church in the areas of doctrine, evangelism, missiology, theological reflection, and worship; and to initiate, recommend and implement policies and programs within the mandate of Theology and Discipleship.
Priority responsibility:	To resource and co-ordinate the functions of all working groups within Theology and Discipleship.
Other major responsibilities:	<p>To offer theological leadership to the whole Church, in accord with the traditions of the Uniting Church as expressed in the Basis of Union.</p> <p>To consult with the Theology and Discipleship Reference Committee and its working groups on the development and recommendation of policies for presentation to the Assembly or the Standing Committee.</p> <p>Through liaison with the President, General Secretary, Assembly agencies, and with appropriate bodies assist them in the areas of theology and ecclesiology.</p> <p>To share in representing the overall life and mission of the Church to all sectors of the Church.</p> <p>To work as a member of cross-agency multi-disciplinary staff teams, as determined by the General Secretary following consultation with the Management Advisory Group.</p>

POSITION DESCRIPTION

NATIONAL DIRECTOR, UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA

Location:	Canberra
Appointed by:	Assembly Standing Committee
Responsible to:	Assembly Standing Committee through the General Secretary
Membership:	Staff collegial team led by the Associate General Secretary
Committees attended:	UnitingCare Australia Reference Committee as its executive officer All working groups of UnitingCare Australia as National Director of UnitingCare Australia Others as designated by the Assembly Standing Committee or General Secretary
Basic purpose:	To co-ordinate and provide strategic leadership to the national secretariat, UnitingCare Australia, and represent the agency in its relationships and liaison with government departments, community, other churches and within the Uniting Church in Australia on issues impacting on human services and social welfare policy and practice.
Major responsibilities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To strategically manage and coordinate the operations of the national agency of UnitingCare Australia in relation to its mandate. 2 To ensure the provision of a range of executive, administrative and management services to UnitingCare Australia and its national secretariat, including the role of executive officer of the agency. 3 To enable UnitingCare to review government policy initiatives in community services and social welfare and inform UnitingCare members of matters of significance. 4 To undertake analysis and develop policy responses on matters of human services and social welfare provision in conjunction with UnitingCare members or other appropriate Uniting Church agencies, national and synod staff. 5 To maintain an appropriate organisational profile and strategic positioning for UnitingCare Australia, incorporating liaison with Ministers of the Crown, politicians, public servants and heads of other sectors of the community, to promote views of the UCA on community service issues. 6 To represent UnitingCare Australia, including advocacy and lobby-ing, to government and its departments and agencies. 7 To maintain liaison with other national church community service organisations. 8 To maintain effective links with UnitingCare community service programs, including dissemination of appropriate information on community services operated by the UCA. 9 To work as a members of a cross agency, multi-disciplinary staff teams as determined by the General Secretary following consultation with the Management Advisory Group.