

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

14 – 16 March 2003

MINUTES

PRESENT James Haire (President), Craig Bailey, Bruce Binnie, Robert Brown, Elizabeth Burns, Dennis Chapman, Terence Corkin, Kylie Crabbe, Dean Drayton, Jelita Gardner-Rush, Sealin Garlett, Jason Kioa, Alistair Macrae, John Mavor, Myung Hwa Park, Allan Thompson, Jan Trengove

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Rob Bos, Chris Budden, Stu Cameron, Lindsay Faulkner, John Evans, Robert Johnson, Allan Kuchler, John Rowland, Jenny Tymms, Wendie Wilkie

WORSHIP On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, the President presided and Sealin Garlett preached at the opening Service of Holy Communion. On the Saturday John Mavor led morning worship and the President led the evening prayer. On the Sunday Robert Johnson led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Craig Bailey.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all ASC participants to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the visiting Moderators, Jenny Bertalan to her first meeting as PA to the General Secretary, Mr Rob Runco and Rev Robert Hosking for business related to the Beneficiary Fund, Rev Paul Walton for business related to Uniting in Worship 2, Rev Helen Richmond for the Multicultural Ministry discussion, Mr Jim Fraser (the new CFO / Administration Manager) for part of Saturday and Bill Fischer for part of Saturday. Due to her mother's illness Elenie Poulos could not attend the meeting for part of Saturday.

APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Jane Aagaard, Shayne Blackman, Jim Mein, Julia Pitman and Seongja Yoo-Crowe for the whole of the meeting; Sealin Garlett for Saturday evening and Sunday, Wendie Wilkie for Friday evening and Jelita Gardner-Rush for Friday 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 took place.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The President invited ASC participants to share any pastoral matters. Lindsay Faulkner, NT Moderator conveyed Jane Aagaard's personal greetings and apology as her heavy workload as the Minister of Health in the Northern Territory Parliament prevented her from attending the meeting. The President expressed appreciation to Sealin Garlett for coming to the meeting despite his daughter's illness. John Mavor congratulated the President on his appointment as Executive Director of the Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra, and a related appointment as a Professor at Charles Sturt University. John Rowland reported that Rev Lee Perkins had to flee her burning house and jump from the window to escape the flames. Ongoing prayer was offered for Rev Dhalnganda Garrawurra

whose father-in-law had disappeared. Lindsay Faulkner advised that Patrol Padre Rev Rob Kirkwood had gone to hospital for a simple operation which turned into a serious one and he had been flown to the Adelaide Hospital. It was reported that Jenny Byrnes and Rob Brown had been inducted into new placements. The President informed the attendees that Rev Dr Jim Udy, Rev Dr. Sir Alan Walker and Rev George Nash had recently died. Lindsay Faulkner mentioned that Sunday 16 March 2003 will be the 50th anniversary of the Lifeline, the late Rev Alan Walker's unique creation. The President offered a pastoral prayer for the matters raised.

APPROVAL OF TIMETABLE AND AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the proposed timetable and agenda as listed in Document 1, noting some changes to the agenda and several new business items. Several new documents were distributed on the Friday evening.

03.01 It was resolved:

- (a) in accordance with Minute 02.08.05, to consider whether the content and emphasis of the agenda reflects an appropriate level of focus on matters of contemporary significance to the Church; and
- (b) approve the timetable and agenda of the meeting as outlined in Document 1, noting that the committee is free to vary the agenda at any time.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

03.02 It was resolved to:

confirm the minutes of the meeting held 15 – 17 November 2002 with correction to Minute 02.61 re the review of the Associate General Secretary to read:

- 02.61.02 request the review committee to
 - a) proceed to the review of the performance of the Associate General Secretary on the basis of the current position description; and
 - b) bring proposals to the next meeting of the ASC on the future of the role, the position description and extension for the Associate General Secretary.
- 03.02.01 delete 02.61.03 and renumber 02.61.04 as 02.61.03 and 02.61.05 as 02.61.04.

NOTE CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 39

Standing Committee members were reminded of Constitution clause 39, as per ASC minute 00.71:

“On matters which, by a two thirds majority vote, the Assembly deems to be vital to the life of the Church, the Assembly shall seek the concurrence of Synods and/or Presbyteries and/or Congregations as the Assembly may determine.”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the beginning of each day the President provided a focus for reflection by lighting a candle and displaying a cloth from West Papua presented to the UCA by the Church in West Papua. On the Saturday night he presented a report on a number of issues including his contribution to the public debate on ethical issues related to stem cell research, involvement in a government paper on the relationship with Islam. He also expressed his concern about the 'lost generation' (18-45) in our church and the need to deal with faith communities, which are the signs of future and are running ahead of our church. The

President is deeply concerned about the 'arc of instability' to Australia's North, with special emphasis on the volatile situation in Papua.

03.03 It was resolved to:

03.03.01 receive the report.

SYNOD SHARING – QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Participants from the Queensland Synod were invited to share something of the life of their synod as an expression of our inter-conciliar sharing. Jenny Tymms and Bruce Binnie gave an enthusiastic presentation outlining their goals and directions as well as the guiding values. The Queensland Synod is in good heart, there are signs of hope and encouragement despite the fact that the ever present problems continue to challenge them. The Synod is exploring models for planning and/or developing new congregations. Their presentation gave a powerful account of the challenges they face including financial ones and also of the business plan to support the Mission Strategy. They are exploring the ways to meet these challenges eg by establishing the Mission and Service Fund Review Task Group, developing new models for stewardship and helping with new worship materials.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. TASK GROUP ON GOVERNANCE (ASC Minute 02.58)

Allan Thompson, convener of the Task Group, presented Document 2, consisting of a report on issues of governance with particular reference to what can be adopted by the Standing Committee and what needs to go to the 10th Assembly. Much discussion followed in plenary session.

03.04 It was resolved to:

03.04.01 receive the report;

03.04.02 affirm the principles as amended in the report as the basis for expressing the respective roles and authority of the ASC and the General Secretary in matters of management and governance. (Attachment A);

03.04.03 submit these principles to the Tenth Assembly for endorsement.

2. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS (ASC Minute 02.59.02)

The General Secretary presented Document 9, consisting of the further development of the organisational strategy proposed at the last ASC meeting. Much discussion followed. The General Secretary also expressed his gratitude to Allan Thomson, Chris Budden, Jim Mein and Jenny Tymms who had made a significant effort in working with him since the last meeting.

03.05 It was resolved to:

03.05.01 receive the report;

03.05.02 endorse the principles that

- a) not all work of the Assembly needs to be described as an Agency;
- b) "reference committee" is not an appropriate description for the work of some areas of the Assembly and that agencies should be requested to consider whether Reference Committees are helpful to their work;
- c) boards, based on delegated responsibilities, are an appropriate governance strategy for some areas of Assembly work;

- d) mandates should be open to revision in the light of ongoing consultation with Agencies
- 03.05.03 note the Management Organization Diagram at point 17 as a working model, subject to ongoing development;
- 03.05.04 request the General Secretary, in consultation with the Assembly Officers, to bring proposals to the 10th Assembly that will give effect to the following directions:
- Agree to remove the requirement that all Agencies / areas of work have to be described as Agencies, or have a Reference Committee.
 - Determine that certain areas of work no longer need to be recognized as Agencies and authorize the ASC to implement the transition to new arrangements after appropriate negotiation.
 - Authorize the ASC to make decisions in relation to Reference Committees, including the possibility of Boards consistent with the values of the 1998 restructure.
 - Elect Chairpersons of current Reference Committees on an interim basis until the ASC acts upon its authority to address the issue of Reference Committees.
 - Authorize the ASC to remove or amend the mandates of Agencies as required in the implementation of the authority granted to it by the 10th Assembly.

3. ASSEMBLY GENERAL SECRETARY'S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

On the Saturday evening the General Secretary and other staff were asked to leave and the President gave a verbal report on the performance appraisal of the General Secretary. The performance appraisal was conducted by the President, Rev Myung Hwa Park and Mr Jim Mein on March 11 2003. Discussion followed.

03.06 It was resolved to:

03.05 receive the report.

4. REVIEW OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR, FRONTIER SERVICES AND ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY (ASC Minute 02.60.05 & 02.61.04) AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR, UNITY & INTERNATIONAL MISSION (ASC Minute 02.45. (a))

On the Sunday morning Assembly staff and the non-member Moderators were asked to leave when the Standing Committee, with the Synod Secretaries, considered this agenda item. The convenor of the Review Group, Mrs Jan Trengove, introduced Document 14 re National Director of Frontier Services. The convenor of the Review Group, Ms Jelita Gardner-Rush, introduced Document 16 re Associate General Secretary. The convenor of the Review Group, Mr Bruce Binnie introduced Document 15 re National Director of Unity & International Mission.

(a) National Director, Frontier Services

03.07 It was resolved to:

03.07.01 receive the report;

03.07.02 re-appoint Rosemary Young to the position of National Director Frontier Services to 31 December 2006.

(b) Associate General Secretary

- 03.08** **It was resolved to:**
- 03.08.01 receive the report;
- 03.08.02 express the Standing Committee's affirmation of the skills and gifts that Wendie brings to this important role in the life of the Church and of the Assembly in particular;
- 03.08.03 approve amendments to the position description as presented in the report;
- 03.08.04 affirm the need for a review of the position description of the Associate General Secretary;
- 03.08.05 offer Wendie Wilkie an extension as Associate General Secretary until December 31 2004;
- 03.08.06 establish a review of the position of Associate General Secretary in the context of the organisational review, with a new job description to be brought to the March 2004 ASC;
- 03.08.07 request the General Secretary to take appropriate steps to enable the ASC to engage in a policy discussion of equitable remuneration for lay and ministerial senior executive appointments in the Assembly.

(c) National Director, Unity & International Mission

- 03.09** **It was resolved to:**
- 03.09.01 receive the report;
- 03.09.02 affirm the ongoing need for the Agency Uniting International Mission which includes within it Uniting Church Overseas Aid;
- 03.09.03 approve the revised position description for the position of National Director, Uniting International Mission;
- 03.09.04 re-appoint the Rev Bill Fischer as National Director, UIM, to 31 December 2006.
- 03.09.05 recognise the significant challenges which Bill has accepted and resolved during his current term of office and strongly affirm him in his re-appointment.

**5. REPORT OF TASK GROUP ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
(ASC Minute 02.63.02)**

Allan Thompson presented Document 3, consisting of the Task Group's report under the heading *Theological Education: alive and well everywhere?* amended in the light of comments at the November 2002 ASC and the conclusions in Section 8 developed into proposals for the consideration of the 10th Assembly. Discussion followed.

- 03.10** **It was resolved to:**
- 03.10.01 receive the report;
- 03.10.02 authorise the Task Group to take the proposals to the 10th Assembly.

6. VILIFICATION AND HARASSMENT (ASC Minute 02.65)

Jenny Tymms introduced Document 17, consisting of a draft report on the policy to prevent vilification and harassment within the UCA.

03.11 It was resolved to:

03.11.01 receive the report;

03.11.02 adopt the policy as amended effective April 1 (Attachment B)

7. UNITY AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION RE RELATIONS WITH THE FREE WESLEYAN CHURCH IN TONGA (ASC Minute 02.39.06)

Bill Fischer introduced Document 7A, consisting of a report on the actions taken in accordance with the resolutions passed at the July 2002 ASC, development of discussions with the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, points of agreement in the continuing discussion between the two Churches and some issues for the Uniting Church to consider.

03.12 It was resolved to:

03.12.01 receive the report;

03.12.02 affirm the directions indicated in the report and

a) note ASC Minutes from March and July 2003

02.19.0 express regret that the action of establishing the Districts has effectively suspended the partnership agreement between the UCA and the FWCT;

02.39 In the light of further conversation, and the commitment to reconsider our relationship, the ASC acknowledges that while recent events have made the relationship between the UCA and the FWCT difficult, and such events are to be regretted, Standing Committee affirms that there is still an important relationship between the two churches.

b) in the light of the positive progress that has been made in understanding and addressing the matters of concern between the two Churches since July 2002 expresses the view that it does not regard the relationship with the FWCT as suspended,

c) commits itself to the important continuing relationship with the FWCT and to dealing with the serious matters concerning the FWCT "District" in Australia.

8. CHANGE OF SYNOD BOUNDARIES (ASC Minute 02.79)

The General Secretary presented the report that addresses the request from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania for the Assembly to alter the bounds of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania by transferring Apsley Congregation to the Synod of South Australia.

03.13 It was resolved to:

03.13.01 adjust the boundaries of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the Synod of South Australia by the inclusion of the Apsley Congregation within the Synod of South Australia.

9. LOCATION OF THE CHURCH POLITY REFERENCE COMMITTEE (ASC Minute 02.80.01)

The General Secretary introduced the material in Document 1A. It indicated that further inquiry had been made re availability of suitable people in Adelaide to serve on the committee.

03.14 It was resolved to:

- 03.14.01 warmly thank the members of the Church Polity Reference Committee for their work undertaken over many years;
- 03.14.02 express particular appreciation to Rev Graham MacAnalley who has been the Convenor of the Committee;
- 03.14.03 that from the 10th Assembly the Church Polity Reference Committee be located within the South Australian Synod;
- 03.14.04 invite Rev Andrew Dutney to be the Convenor of the Committee.

10. REVIEW OF THE CODE OF ETHICS (ASC Minute 02.51.02)

The General Secretary introduced the matter, consisting of a report on the inquiry sent out to all synods and presbyteries re how the Code of Ethics was operating within the life of the Church. No responses were received. The matter was raised at the meeting of the Synod Secretaries immediately prior to this ASC.

03.15 It was resolved to:

- 03.15.01 receive the report;
- 03.15.02 to take a request to the 10th Assembly to establish a review of the Code of Ethics.

11. DISCUSSION ON MEMBERSHIP (ASC Minute 02.62)

Rob Bos presented a verbal report on action taken in response to ASC minute 02.62 'that the document Becoming Disciples be amended in the light of the discussion and distributed to synods, presbyteries and members of the Assembly for their consideration and comment prior to the 10th Assembly'.

03.16 It was resolved to:

- 03.16.01 receive the report.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. TENTH ASSEMBLY DESIGN TEAM

The General Secretary presented Document 12, consisting of a progress report on the establishment of the Melbourne Assembly Office, rate of registrations, opening worship venue, nominations for the President-elect, special events, planning for the KUCA-A program.

03.17 It was resolved to:

- 03.17.01 receive the report.

2. REPORT RE “UNITING IN WORSHIP #2”

Paul Walton, convener of the Working Group on Worship, presented Documents 6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E and 6F. Document 6 being a revision and updating of the Service of the Lord's Day, 6A containing a separate service of Word and Sacrament in 'middle-register' language and 6B an 'Eastern' order" for the Service of the Lord's Day. Document 6C was an order for Baptism. 6D was the draft Marriage Service; 6E being a paper on the use of oil in Uniting Church in Australia and 6F exploring the various registers of language. Extensive discussion followed.

03.18 It was resolved to:

- 03.18.01 to receive the report of the Worship Working Group;
- 03.18.02 note that the Working Group will address the matters raised in the discussion in further revisions of the draft Services for the Lord's Day, Baptism and Marriage;
- 03.18.03 affirm the general direction of the draft services and refer them to the 10th Assembly for adoption as Services of the Uniting Church within Uniting in Worship #2.

3. UNITY & INTERNATIONAL MISSION / UNITING CHURCH OVERSEAS AID

Bill Fischer, National Director, UIM presented Document 7A, consisting of a report on a proposed reorganisation of the Assembly's international mission activities. He also expressed his gratitude for all the support he received during his illness and the chance to present this document.

03.19 It was resolved to:

- 03.19.01 receive the report;
- 03.19.02 rename Unity & International Mission – Uniting International Mission;
- 03.19.03 note that there is a division within UIM with a special mandate namely; Uniting Church Overseas Aid;
- 03.19.04 note that the National Director is making appropriate changes within the organisation to facilitate such a reorganisation;
- 03.19.05 ask the National Director to bring a revised mandate for UIM and for the division UCOA to the August ASC meeting.

4. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary presented Document 11. Among matters raised were:

- The process to enable synods and presbyteries to comment on how the Code of Ethics was working in the life of the Church (Minute 02.51.02).
- Working group dealing with matters related to sexuality that might arise prior to the 10th Assembly (ASC minute 02.64.03/04). All the persons approached accepted.
- Consultation hosted by the Reformed Church of America in New Jersey. The General Secretary attended and it was a unique ecumenical experience as the Reformed Church shared its hopes and vulnerability in a discussion about how to discern the will of God in its Assembly.
- Establishment of Assembly Audit and Financial Advisory Committee.

- The position of Administration Services Manager was declared surplus to the needs of the Secretariat and Jim Fraser was appointed to the new position of Chief Financial Officer / Administration Manager commencing February 17.
- Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP). The opportunity has arisen for Wendie to participate in one of these programs organised by Joy Balaxo in Indonesia involving Christians and Muslims.
- Council for World Mission. The UCA has been invited to send a representative to the CWM Assembly and to provide significant leadership in one of the electives. The Associate General Secretary will represent the UCA at this event.

03.20 It was resolved to:

03.20.01 receive the report

5. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary presented Document 19, consisting of a report on matters considered by the ALRC since the November ASC meeting.

03.21 It was resolved to:

03.21.01 receive the report;

03.21.02 confirm Presidential Ruling Number 22 (Attachment C)

6. NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Binnie, chairperson of the NFC, presented Document 20, consisting of a report on the Assembly's financial performance, consideration being given to changes in the property regulations, amendment of the regulations related to the National Finance Committee.

03.22 It was resolved to:

03.22.01 receive the report;

03.22.02 note that the NFC, after consultation with the Assembly Legal Reference Committee, will take the following proposal to the 10th Assembly;

- a) amend Regulation 4.10.1 by the deletion of the words "commission, council, committee or board of management of the agency concerned or such commission, council, committee or board of management" and replacing them with "agency, Assembly Secretariat or such other party", and
- b) a proposal to delete Regulation 4.10.2, and consequential renumbering of Regulations 4.10.3, 4.10.4 and 4.10.5

- 03.22.03 a) authorise payment of \$6,000 from WUE funds towards the cost of the Assembly archivist;
- c) authorise payment of \$15,000 from WUE funds towards the cost of restructuring and recruitment costs in the Secretariat.

7. THE BENEFICIARY FUND

Rob Runco and Robert Hosking introduced Document 4 including a powerpoint presentation with highlights on the membership figures, benefits the Fund provide, the Fund's performance, structural issues, key impact factors, the different options the Fund is facing.

- 03.23** **It was resolved to:**
- 03.23.01 receive the report;
- 03.23.02 note the implications of the changing profile of membership of the Fund;
- 03.23.03 note the funding issues that need to be addressed;
- 03.23.03.1 request the Beneficiary Fund to:
- a) continue conversation with the ASC Working Group;
 - b) consult with Synod Stipends Committees;
 - c) bring a specific proposal to the August ASC on how to address structural issues raised in this report.

8. MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

Helen Richmond presented Document 5A, raising several issues including the place of language, how to assist congregations who want to set up bilingual facilities, establishment of non-geographic presbyteries. Small group discussion followed.

Helen Richmond also introduced Document 5, consisting of a rewrite of the Assembly property policy adopted in September 1992. The changes can be summarised as amendments due to changes in nomenclature eg Parish to congregation and some minor editorial changes were made for clarity.

- 03.24** **It was resolved to:**
- 03.24.01 receive the report;
- 03.24.02 adopt the policy as amended, effective April 1, 2003 (Attachment D).

9. NATIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE

The General Secretary presented Document 8, consisting of a report on a proposal to change the name of National Social Responsibility and Justice to UnitingJustice Australia.

- 03.25** **It was resolved to:**
- 03.25.01 receive the report;
- 03.25.02 approve the change of the name of the Agency, National Social Responsibility and Justice, to UnitingJustice Australia, effective immediately.

10. REPORT OF THE TASK GROUP ON ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL

The General Secretary presented Document 10, consisting of a report to the 10th Assembly on the role and ministry of elders/leaders in the Congregation, nature and role of the Church Council; the responses received to the discussion paper from Presbyteries and recommendations to the 10th Assembly.

- 03.26** **It was resolved to:**
- 03.26.01 receive the report.

11. COOLAMON COLLEGE

The General Secretary introduced Document 21, consisting of a report on the proposed changes to college structure.

03.27

It was resolved to:

- 03.27.01 receive the report;
- 03.27.02 approve the appointment an Academic Committee for Coolamon College with a maximum of 9 members, in addition to existing committees related to the Reference Committee;
- 03.27.03 determine that the membership of the Academic Committee will comprise;
- six persons resident in Adelaide, appointed for their expertise and academic abilities in one of the three areas of study, namely Biblical Studies, Pastoral Studies and Historical and Theological Studies
 - the South Australian Synod representative to the Coolamon College Reference Committee
 - the Acting Principal / Principal
 - the Chairperson of the Coolamon College Reference Committee.
- 03.27.04 The Academic Committee will be responsible to the Reference Committee, and advise and assist the Principal in
- giving oversight to the processes of accrediting topics for Adelaide College of Divinity / Flinders University awards;
 - attending the ACD Board, and area of study committee meetings to represent Coolamon College's interests in the accrediting and associated processes;
 - guiding the transition of programs into the ACD / Flinders structures;
- 03.27.05 note the intention of the Coolamon College Reference Committee to develop proposals to change the way Coolamon College and its Principal relates to, is accountable and responsible to ASC for consideration at the August meeting in the light of any decisions made by Assembly about the overall structure of Assembly related bodies.

12. ASC REPORT TO THE 10TH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary presented Document 18, consisting of a draft report to the Assembly. Discussion followed.

03.28

It was resolved to:

- 03.28.01 receive the report;
- 03.28.02 request the General Secretary to amend the report in the light of Standing Committee's discussion;
- 03.28.03 forward the revised report to the 10th Assembly.

13. PROTOCOLS RE REGULATION 3.6.40 (ASC Minutes 01.86.02 and 01.86.03)

The General Secretary presented document 13, consisting of a report on protocols related to Regulation 3.6.40. Discussion followed.

03.29

It was resolved to:

- 03.29.01 receive the report;
- 03.29.02 endorse the protocols (as amended in the course of the meeting), with the addition of a preamble approved by the Assembly Officers, for use in the church (Attachment D);
- 03.29.03 adopt the protocols as guiding principles for the Church under Constitution Paragraph 38(b) (i).

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. A NATIONAL CHURCH

John Evans presented Document 22, consisting of a report on the proposed establishment of a task group to consider the implications for the Uniting Church in Australia and its various councils of being a 'national church'.

03.30 It was resolved to:

- 03.30.01 receive the report;
- 03.30.02 affirm the need to enquire into the understanding and practice of the UCA as a 'national church' and encourage the WA Synod to submit terms of reference to the 10th Assembly for this enquiry.

2. EMU CORRESPONDENCE

The General Secretary presented Document 24, consisting of a letter from the National Executive of the Evangelical Members within the Uniting Church on the position of the Uniting Church with regard to the sexual practice of its ministers and leaders. Much discussion followed.

03.31 It was resolved to:

- 03.31.01 request the General Secretary to convene a one day consultation in Adelaide with participants representing a suitable cross-section of the Church's life to assist the Assembly address issues relating to sexuality. The consulting group will consist of the Working Group as previously appointed (J. Trengove, A. Macrae, G. Humphris, T. Corkin, M. Reeson) plus J. Mavor, A. Thompson and the President;
- 03.31.02 request the Working Group, following the consultation, to develop a proposal to bring to the Assembly, to stand alongside other proposals that may be brought;
- 03.31.03 request the Assembly Officers to determine the persons who are to be invited to the consultation and give consideration to a process for the day.

3. PRESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Dean Drayton introduced Document 23, consisting of ideas for four projects that he wishes to encourage during his term as President.

03.32 It was resolved to:

- 03.32.01 receive the report;
- 03.32.02. note the proposals that are being developed.

4. REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF THE REGULATIONS

The General Secretary presented correspondence from Sydney and Far North Coast Presbyteries requesting ASC to suspend Regulation 2.13.18.

03.33 It was resolved to:

- 03.33.01 approve the suspension of Regulation 2.13.18 in order to enable Sydney and Far North Coast Presbyteries to conduct a review of the ministries of Lay Pastors David Widjaja and Jim Kidd, respectively, with a view to a possible extension of their placements.

5. CHAIRPERSON UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary advised ASC that Rev John Pettman has resigned as Chairperson of UnitingCare Australia.

03.34 It was resolved to:

- 03.34.01 request the Assembly Officers to determine the interim chairperson of UnitingCare Australia.

6. NATIONAL DISASTER FUND – APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE

The General Secretary reported that the Trustees of the National Disaster Fund had received the resignation of Rev Tom Plazier as a Trustee of the Fund. Mr Ed Walker has been approached and has agreed to act as a Trustee.

03.35 It was resolved to:

- 03.35.01 appoint Mr Ed Walker to be a Trustee of the National Disaster Fund from the next meeting of the Trustees until the first meeting of the ASC in 2007.

7. MEMBERSHIP TO THE 10TH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary presented the report, consisting of the names of those who were proposed to be the Youthful Members and the Multicultural Ministry nominees to the 10th Assembly. Discussion followed.

03.36 It was resolved to:

- 03.36.01 receive the report;
- 03.36.02 approve Ms Lydia Rogers, Ms Cara Munro, Mr Adam Cousens, Miss Phoebe Glustein, Miss Karen Hunt as Youthful Members and Rev Samata Elia, Mrs Kalo Fotu, Miss Esterina Yermias, Rev Gedeon Gakindi, Mrs Tess Diongson as the Multicultural Ministry nominees the 10th Assembly;
- 03.36.03 appoint Ms Wendie Wilkie as a member of the 10th Assembly;
- 03.36.04 authorise the Assembly Officers to approve the names of other Youthful Members still to be nominated and one more name from Multicultural Ministry;
- 03.36.05 authorise the Assembly Officers to make sufficient co-options of lay persons so that the requirements of Regulation 3.6.9 are satisfied.

8. REMOTE AREA DETENTION CENTRES

The issue of chaplaincy to remote area detention centres was raised by the General Secretary.

03.37

It was resolved to:

03.37.01

request the President to support an appeal to support the ongoing ministry to asylum seekers in the Port Headland and Baxter detention centres.

Allan Thompson expressed an appreciation to the President for presiding at the ASC meetings for 3 years. He spoke appreciatively about his exceptional ability and gift to listen carefully, to provide scholarly summaries, to treat attendees with respect and to make them stick to the agenda as well as to share his insights in international matters.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm with prayer led by Craig Bailey.

CONFIRMED:

PRESIDENT

DATE:

2003 ASC DATES:

**22 –24 August
14 – 16 November**