

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

16 – 18 July 2004

PRESENT Dean Drayton (President), Bruce Binnie, Elizabeth Burns, Dennis Chapman, Samantha Charlesworth, Sue Clarkson, Terence Corkin, Tony Davies, Bev Fabb, Susan Gormann, James Haire, Gregor Henderson, Wesley Gleeson, Geoffrey Grinton, Matthew Grudnoff, Troy Hamilton, Jason Kioa, Isabel Thomas Dobson, Allan Thompson, Liva Tukutama.

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Rob Bos, Chris Budden, Stu Cameron, Alistair Christie, John Evans, Robert Johnson, Allan Kuchler, Gavin Melvin, John Rowland, Gemmel Sherwood, Jenny Tymms, Wendie Wilkie.

WORSHIP On the Friday evening Dean Drayton led the Prayers in the new offices of Frontier Services. On the Saturday Elizabeth Burns led morning worship and evening prayers were led by Geoffrey Grinton. On the Sunday morning Liva Tukutama presided and Allan Thompson preached at the Service of Holy Communion, the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Wesley Gleeson.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the visiting Moderators. Also welcomed as visitors were Jim Fraser and Stephen Reddish for matters related to Assembly finances, Rosemary Young for matters related to Frontier Services, Sebert Ruddock for Home Endowment Fund, Robert Gribben for Christian Unity Working Group, Paul Walton and Anita Monro re *Uniting in Worship 2*, Paul Walton also for Task Group on Specified Ministries, Helen Richmond for Multicultural Ministry, Lin Hatfield Dodds for Discussion: Issues of Identity for Church and Nation, Bill Fischer for the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga report, Malcolm Gledhill for the business of Presidential Ruling 23 and Legal Reference Committee.

The members of the Assembly Standing Committee were welcomed by the staff of Frontier Services who were in attendance for the dedication of their new building where the Friday night evening session was held.

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

On behalf of Standing Committee, the President acknowledged the Gadigal people of the Eora tribe and their role as custodians of the land on which the meeting took place.

APOLOGIES

04.38 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Myffie Trudinger, Julie Watts, Sealin Garlett and Shayne Blackman for absence for the whole of the meeting; from Jason Kioa for Friday evening and from Gregor Henderson Sunday morning.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The President introduced a time of sharing on pastoral matters. The General Secretary advised the Standing Committee of the serious health problems facing Graham Humphries' daughter and Sealin Garlett's health problems that

prevented his attendance. Robert Johnson reported that Davis McCaughey, a former President of the UCA, has turned 90 and there are plans to bring his writings together. John Rowland advised that George Woodward's health condition has deteriorated. Jenny Tymms reported that David Pitman has been elected Moderator-Elect of the Queensland Synod. The President led the meeting in prayer.

The President acknowledged that it was the last meeting that Wendie Wilkie is in attendance as a member of the Assembly staff. He spoke briefly in appreciation of her contribution to the Assembly. A minute of appreciation will be prepared and appropriate opportunities for the members of the Assembly Standing Committee as the November 2004 meeting will mark the conclusion of Wendie's term as Associate General Secretary.

APPROVAL OF TIMETABLE AND AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 18, 22, 29, 30, 31 and 32 were distributed on the Friday evening.

- 04.39** **It was resolved** to 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 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 04.40** **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 12 –14 March 2004, subject to deleting reference to "ASC Minute 03.82.05" in Minute 04.05.

NOTE CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 39

Standing Committee members were reminded of the 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 the Synods and/or Presbyteries and/or Congregations as the Assembly may determine."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the Saturday evening the President reported that his first year has been one of growing into the importance of the national and international perspective of the task.

He emphasised that since the Gospel is the heart of our message, we need to find the language of today so that people can hear again the wonder of God's new possibilities in Jesus Christ. He added also that his experience in Indonesia had shown him the importance of interfaith dialogues and the way we need to express the gospel in order to speak into this issue of the twenty first century. He said that he was heartened by the number of people who had expressed support for the Church's commitment to a fair society. He listed some of the ways the Uniting Church in Australia is already involved in effective action in terms of immigration and poverty issues.

He also informed the ASC about the breakthrough covenant which was signed in Adelaide on July 11th, in which the churches of the National Council of Churches covenanted together for the fulfillment of their mission of common witness, proclamation and service to God and Australia.

- 04.41** **It was resolved** to receive the report.

SYNOD SHARING – SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Participants from the Synod of New South Wales were invited to share something of the life of their synod as an expression of our inter-councilar sharing. Chris Budden gave a PowerPoint presentation about the major goals the Synod is striving to achieve as well as the issues that are in focus: leadership; ministerial, theological and discipleship education.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. DISCUSSION: ISSUES OF IDENTITY FOR CHURCH AND NATION (ASC MINUTE 03.76.08, ASSEMBLY MINUTE 03.43(a))

Lin Hatfield-Dodds highlighted issues, including poverty, facing the Church and the nation and encouraged the attendees to reflect upon how the UCA can contribute to this discussion.

2. RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION TO COMMENT ON “PROPOSAL 84” (ASC MINUTE 03.87.03)

The General Secretary presented Document 10, consisting of a report on the communications that had been received from synods, presbyteries and other parts of the Church in reply to the invitation to consider the four parts of the Assembly decision and also to respond to the whole resolution and / or its implications.

04.42 It was resolved to:

04.42.01 receive the report;

04.42.02 note that the referral of ASC minute 03.69 to the Church has shown the following:

- there is significant division in the UCA on this subject, and deeply held convictions.
- while some congregations have found the aftermath of the 10th Assembly a positive missional opportunity, for many there has been distress and loss of energy for their ministry, and in some cases loss of members;
- that responses clearly indicate that the majority opinion opposes ordaining persons living in committed same gender relationships;
- the Church is finding this issue increasingly difficult to talk about in its congregations and councils;
- most members would prefer that the matter be brought to a close, although there are a wide variety of views on how this can be achieved;

04.42.03 authorise the Assembly Officers to release the report to the Church;

04.42.04 request the General Secretary to prepare a cover letter to be included with the release of the report which acknowledges some of the pastoral and theological issues that are present in this discussion;

04.42.05 call the Church to continue in prayer and encourage the members and Councils to show care for one another as we continue together in the body of Christ.

2. REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR – UNITINGCARE (ASC MINUTE 04.27.03)

Wendie Wilkie presented Document 11, consisting of a report on the review of the National Director of UnitingCare.

04.43 It was resolved to:

- 04.43.01 agree to continue the position of National Director, UnitingCare Australia, located in Canberra;
- 04.43.02 agree to the changes as outlined in the job description;
- 04.43.03 request the General Secretary or his nominee to work with members of the National Reference Committee, the National Director and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive protocols for the national office/ National Director/synod offices/ CEOs or equivalent of synod UnitingCare structures / advisory committees on ways of working together that embody structural integrity;
- 04.43.04 request the review committee to review the current National Director against the changed job description;
- 04.43.05 agree to give permission for a teleconference on the recommendation to re-appoint or not the current National Director, to be taken when the report is ready rather than waiting until the November ASC.

3. REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORS AND THE ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY (ASC MINUTE 03.83)

04.44 It was resolved to:

- 04.44.01 receive the report;
- 04.44.02 in acting upon the authority granted to it under Assembly Minute 03.12.03.01(c) the Assembly Standing Committee resolves to remove the designation "agency" for Covenanting, Theology and Discipleship, Uniting Education and UnitingJustice, no later than July 1 2005;
- 04.44.03 resolve, in respect of the areas under review, that the Assembly requires the following insights, knowledge and skills:

a) National leadership and vision in a variety of areas

In order that the Assembly is able to sustain its own corporate life, effectively carry forward its particular responsibilities and offer general leadership and support to the church it will require the capacity to offer leadership and vision in the following areas.

- liturgical awareness
- justice, peace and the integrity of creation
- a prophetic voice advocating appropriate changes in public policy in respect of indigenous issues and wider matters of social justice of a national and international nature
- contribute to the public debate on directions for Australia
- theological competence
- missiology and discipleship formation
- educational theory and practice
- sensitivity to other world religions

b) Offering advice and support to the President and General Secretary across a number of areas of expertise

- theology and ecclesiology
- national social justice issues
- indigenous issues

- c) Developing national policy in a variety of fields for the consideration and decision-making of Assembly and ASC
 - doctrine (including responses to invitations for comment from the WCC, WARC, etc)
 - national social justice issues
 - liturgical issues / worship resources
- d) Support for the General Secretary in the exercise of management responsibilities and in relating the Assembly to the UCA and external bodies
 - share with the General Secretary in developing the vision for, and leadership of, the work of the Assembly and the Church's national life with particular reference to the internal relationships of the Assembly
 - share with the General Secretary in the co-ordination, management and leadership of Assembly agencies and staff
 - be the Acting General Secretary in the absence of the General Secretary on leave or overseas or when designated by the President
- e) Supporting and resourcing Working Groups involved with particular tasks in their field
- f) Representing various areas of ministry to the wider Church and community;

04.44.04 resolve that in order to most effectively advance the Assembly's work in these areas that a team be established with the following features:

- a) a common mandate
- b) a single budget
- c) three full time executive staff which includes a specialist in theology, a specialist in social justice, and a person with significant educational expertise
- d) an Associate General Secretary
- e) the designated team leader will be the Associate General Secretary
- f) support staff for the team be provided in an integrated way

04.44.05 determines that the existing position of National Director of Theology and Discipleship be redesignated National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship and the existing position of National Director of Uniting Justice be redesignated National Consultant for Uniting Justice;

04.44.06 request the Review Group, in consultation with the current National Directors of agencies affected by this review, agency representatives and the Associate General Secretary to prepare proposals for

- a) the mandate for the Consultant Team;
- b) the position descriptions for the consultant positions for Theology and Discipleship, for Uniting Justice and for a third consultant position;
- c) the position description for the Associate General Secretary;

04.44.07 authorise the President and General Secretary to convene a meeting of the ASC by teleconference to consider proposals under 04.44.06 above;

04.44.08 extend the terms of the National Directors of Covenanting, Theology and Discipleship, Uniting Education and Uniting *Justice*, until June 30 2005 in order to facilitate the necessary planning and implementation;

4. NUNGALINYA COLLEGE (ASC MINUTE 04.14.02)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 13, consisting of a report on the dialogue that has been conducted by the parties involved with Nungalinya College.

04.45 It was resolved to:

04.45.01 receive the report

04.45.02 refer this report to the MEC and request it to continue to monitor Nungalinya College and to bring recommendations at an appropriate time as to whether Nungalinya College should continue to be a college that is recognised under Regulation 2.2.18 (a)

5. PROTOCOLS FOR PLACEMENT CONVERSATIONS (ASC MINUTE 03.12.04 AND 03.69.03.04)

The General Secretary presented Document 15, consisting of a report on protocols for discussions related to candidacy, placements and sexuality.

04.46 It was resolved to:

04.46.01 refer the draft Protocols for discussions related to candidacy, placements and sexuality to the Legal Reference Committee and Synod Placement Committees for comment;

04.46.02 request the Assembly Officers to amend the protocols in light of the comments received and bring them back to the November Assembly Standing Committee for approval.

6. DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINS (ASC MINUTE 03.86.02 (a) AND (b))

04.47 It was resolved to note the current list of UCA Ministers serving in Assembly Placements with the Defence Forces.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. (FINANCIAL REPORT) - ASSEMBLY AND FRONTIER SERVICES

Jim Fraser presented Document 2, consisting of a financial report for the Assembly and Frontier Services.

04.48 It was resolved to receive the report.

Bruce Binne spoke to Document 2A, which raised the issue of changing Assembly auditors.

04.49 It was resolved to:

04.49.01 receive the report on Assembly Auditors;

04.49.02 note the assessment of the current auditors;

04.49.03 authorise (as possible in its Charter) the Audit and Finance Committee to expedite a process for replacement of the current auditors at the earliest opportunity.

2. CHRISTIAN UNITY WORKING GROUP

The General Secretary introduced Document 27, consisting of advice about the UCA nominations for appointment to the World Council of Churches Assembly in 2006.

04.50 It was resolved to:

04.50.01 appoint Gregor Henderson and Elenie Poulos to represent the UCA at the WCC Assembly in 2006;

04.50.02 support a proposal to request the WCC to consider Dean Drayton and Terence Corkin as possible additional participants.

Robert Gribben spoke to Documents 6, 6A, 8 and 9. Document 6 consisted of a statement made for the UCA by the National Working Groups on Doctrine and Christian Unity; Document 6A included the proposals by CUWG; Document 8 contained the agreed statement of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches – Oriental Orthodox Churches; Document 9 contained a paper on the World Methodist Council and the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

1. World Alliance of Reformed Churches – Oriental Orthodox Churches International Dialogue: Agreed Statement on Christology 1994

04.51 It was resolved to:

04.51.01 receive the WARC and Oriental Orthodox Churches Agreed Statement on Christology;

04.51.02 adopt the WARC and Oriental Orthodox Churches Agreed Statement on Christology as a doctrinal statement acceptable to the Uniting Church, indicating that the interpretations in clauses 14-18 are in accord with the Christological doctrines of our traditions;

04.51.03 communicate this to the WARC, the National Council of Churches in Australia, and to the Armenian Apostolic Church in Australia and New Zealand, the Coptic and Syrian Orthodox Churches;

2. The World Methodist Council and the Joint Declaration [Roman Catholic – Lutheran World Federation] on the Doctrine of Justification.

04.52 It was resolved to:

04.52.01 welcome and receive this Methodist Response;

04.52.02 endorse it in terms of the ongoing discussion of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification;

04.52.03 seek responses from the UCA teams involved in dialogue with Roman Catholics and Lutherans in Australia;

04.52.04 request the World Methodist Council to take into account the views and reality of united and uniting churches when considering acceptance of this statement.

3. The Church and its Ministry: a statement made for the Uniting Church in Australia by the Working Groups on Doctrine and Christian Unity

04.53 It was resolved to:

- 04.53.01 receive the statement made for the Uniting Church by the National Working Groups on Doctrine and Christian Unity;
- 04.53.02 adopt the statement as an authorized statement of the Uniting Church's understanding of the relation between the Church and its ordained Ministry;
- 04.53.03 authorise the UCA members of teams in dialogue with other churches, particularly with the Anglican and Lutheran Churches, to present this statement as representing the Uniting Church's understanding of this relationship;
- 04.53.04 authorise the Assembly Officers to work further on the advice provided to the Church and to make it available as soon as possible.
- 04.53.05 Request the Legal Reference Committee to recommend changes to the Regulations, for example 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 in order to
- a) make clear that ordination is to be by prayer and the laying on of hands;
 - b) provide for the ordination to be a meeting of the Presbytery; and
 - c) make clear that the persons mentioned in Regulation 2.3.4 shall be members of the ordaining Presbytery.

3. FRONTIER SERVICES

Rosemary Young presented Documents 3 and 3A, Document 3 being a report on Frontier Services' growing role as a national agency of the Church, Document 2A consisting of a proposed governance model for Frontier Services. Extensive discussion followed.

04.54 It was resolved to:

- 04.54.01 receive the report,
- 04.54.02 establish a Frontier Services Board to act on behalf of the Assembly in fulfilling the mandate of Frontier Services established by the Assembly;
- 04.54.03 adopt the revised Mandate for Frontier Services;
- 04.54.04 adopt the following terms of reference for the Frontier Services Board:

Terms of Reference

Within the broad parameters and policies established by the Assembly or its Standing Committee:

1. engage in theological reflection on the life and mission of Frontier Services;
2. provide leadership by establishing and reviewing the strategic goals and directions of Frontier Services;
3. ensure the overall performance of Frontier Services meets established objectives of service delivery, quality assurance and management practice;
4. ensure the financial integrity of Frontier Services, establishing key financial objectives and ensuring that appropriate financial and audit processes are in place;
5. ensure legislative compliance and high ethical standards of operation;

6. ensure appropriate risk management strategies are in place;
7. encourage effective communication between Frontier Services and all its stakeholders and actively seek to promote the purpose and vision and assist the fundraising and public relations effort;
8. participate significantly in the selection of the National Director and Associate National Director, and in regular performance reviews;
9. provide support and encouragement to the National Director. Affirm and encourage all Frontier Services staff;
10. maintain an overview of life and issues in remote Australia and within the Uniting Church to reflect on the place of each within the other;
11. appoint a Finance Committee and other Committees as appropriate.

04.54.05

determine that

- a) the membership of the Board comprise:
 - 11 persons
 - a chairperson appointed by the Assembly
 - eight others appointed by the ASC from a list compiled by a Nominations Committee as a result of a selection process following a call for expressions of interest
 - the General Secretary or his/her nominee
 - the National Director of Frontier Services

The majority of whom shall be members of the UCA
- b) the selection criteria for appointment to the Board shall include:
 - passion for the mission of the Frontier Services
 - capacity to promote and represent the work of Frontier Services
 - ability to understand the mission of Frontier Services and its operating environment
- c) within the Board as a whole the following be represented:
 - a strong relationship with the UCA
 - understanding of, and commitment to, the people and issues of remote Australia
 - awareness of issues in relation to indigenous people in remote areas and trends in Australian society
 - experience at senior level in organizational management
 - connections with the corporate sector

04.54.06

- a) appoint a Nomination Committee comprising
 - the Chair of Frontier Services Reference Committee
 - General Secretary
 - Jim Mein
 - Jan Trengove
- b) request them to bring a list of names to the November ASC following a call for expressions of interest and with recommendations about length of terms and process of appointment of Board members in the future;

04.54.07

request the Board to:

- a) reconsider the vision and mission statements with a view to including more specific reference to the gospel and mission of Jesus Christ
- b) review the Frontier Services constitution in the light of these governance changes and bring recommendations to the ASC in 2005.

5. HOME ENDOWMENT FUND

Sebert Ruddock spoke to Document 17, consisting of the report on the investigations into the Home Endowment Fund by the Review Committee established by the ASC in November to assess the position of the Fund.

04.55

It was resolved to:

- 04.55.01 authorise the Fund to cease mortgage lending as soon as the NHEF Committee can:
- Secure a commercial lender, and;
 - Implement transitional arrangements, determine an agreed start date and allocate responsibility for the costs;
- 04.55.02 retain voluntary contributions, accept additional deposits but seek a period of notice of 30 days for withdrawals that exceed \$50,000;
- 04.55.03 authorise the Fund to become a lender of last resort for ministers who are unable to obtain mortgage loans on the commercial market due to financial hardship or age considerations, subject to appropriate support from the Synods;
- 04.55.04 thank and discharge the Task Group.

6. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary spoke to Document 21, consisting of a report on the matters the Assembly Legal Reference Committee has dealt with since the March Assembly Standing Committee meeting.

04.56 It was resolved to receive the report.

7. MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

Helen Richmond presented Document 4, consisting of a report on the place and status of the National Conferences in the life of the UCA.

04.57 It was resolved to:

- 04.57.01 recognise the important place of National Conferences within the life of the Uniting Church as national networks that bring together representatives of congregations of the same culture (and sometimes reaching beyond the Uniting Church) for consultation and sharing and to enable them to communicate issues and concerns to the appropriate councils of the Church;
- 04.57.02 request the General Secretary convey information about the National Conferences to Presbyteries, Synods, and the Assembly, encouraging them to consult with National Conferences, particularly when they are making decisions that may impact these communities;
- 04.57.03 request the General Secretary write to National Conferences conveying the decision of the ASC and affirming their place in the life of the Uniting Church;
- 04.57.04 request the General Secretary and the National Director of Assembly Multicultural Ministry to:
- a) give further consideration to how it may be possible to fulfill the Assembly's desire that 12 Assembly Standing Committee appointments be made from migrant communities to the Assembly, especially in the light of Regulation 3.6.2(f);
 - b) return to the November ASC with recommendations.

8. NATIONAL TASK GROUP ON SPECIFIED MINISTRIES

Paul Walton introduced Document 7, consisting of a report on the tasks that were given to the Task Group by the ASC to initiate, facilitate and analyse conversations about the nature, form and need for specified ministries within the current context of the UCA.

04.58 It was resolved to:

- 04.58.01 receive the report;
- 04.58.02 replace Jenny Byrnes with Joy Wilkins on the Task Group.

9. NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WORSHIP

Paul Walton presented Document 16, consisting of the Third Service of the Lord's Day. Extensive discussion ensued.

04.59 It was resolved to:

- 04.59.01 to thank the National Working Group on Worship for its lengthy and dedicated work in bringing Uniting in Worship 2 to its current stage;
- 04.59.02 to note that there have been a wide variety of responses to the proposed Service of the Lord's Day 3, including many which have been very affirming of the service, and others expressing deep concern about it, and its inclusion in the book component of UIW2;
- 04.59.03 to affirm the inclusion of a wider range of resources in UIW2, including feminine and wisdom imagery for God and the use of Lament;
- 04.59.04 to request the National Working Group on Worship to bring a further recommendation to the ASC
- a) as to how this inclusion can best be achieved in UIW2.
- b) on the inclusion or otherwise of the "eastern rite" in the hard copy UIW2

The General Secretary introduced Document 16A, consisting of request to revise Ordered Liberty to match the names of heading in services of worship as they appear in Uniting in Worship 2.

04.60 It was resolved to:

- 04.60.01 approve amendment to "Ordained Liberty by changing some headings as advised by the Working Group on Worship;
- 04.60.02 inclusion of services in Ordered Liberty which appear in UIW2 but not UIW1;
- 04.60.03 revision of the Introduction, plus a more general stylistic revision of Introduction.

10. UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Bill Fischer presented Document 30, consisting of an update report on the partnership relationship with the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.

- 04.61 It was resolved to** receive the report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. MAPOON

The General Secretary spoke to Document 29, consisting of the history and outline the Mapoon project. Much discussion followed.

- 04.62 It was resolved to:**

- 04.62.01 note there is insufficient support for a national appeal for a new church and community building at Mapoon;
- 04.62.02 that a consultation be held in Brisbane with the involvement of Congress to consider:
- a) the possible setting-up of a Mapoon Scholarship for the education of the Mapoon Community, through a UCA-wide appeal;
 - b) other projects for the development of the Mapoon Community;
 - c) the erection of a plaque recounting the history of Mapoon and the apology of the Church for its actions on the forced removal of the people of Mapoon in the 1960's;
- 04.62.03 the group to conduct the conversation be John Mavor, James Haire, Jenny Tymms and such persons as the national office of Congress appoints.

2. **PRESIDENTIAL RULING 23**

Malcolm Gledhill presented the reasons why it was necessary to revisit aspects of Presidential Ruling 23. He advised the ASC of the comments made by the Presbytery and the Synod and the significance of these remarks. Extensive discussion followed.

- 04.63** **It was resolved to** invite the President to consider the comments made and revisit the matter in November 2004.

3. **PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

The General Secretary and staff left while the President presented a verbal report on the performance appraisal conducted in March.

- 04.63.01** **It was resolved to:**

04.63.02 receive the report;

04.63.02 reappoint Dean Drayton, James Haire and Isabel Thomas Dobson to conduct the next performance appraisal.

4. **11TH ASSEMBLY**

The General Secretary introduced Documents 19 and 26, Document 19 consisting of a report on the preparations for the 11th Assembly and Document 26 being a discussion paper on some suggested themes for the 11th Assembly.

- 04.65** **It was resolved to:**

04.65.01 receive the report;

04.65.02 appoint the following persons to the Design Team for the 11th Assembly: the General Secretary (Convenor), Jenny Tymms, Bruce Mullan, Gregor Henderson, Rob Bos, David Pitmann.

- 04.66** **It was resolved to:**

04.66.01 receive the discussion paper;

04.66.02 authorise the Assembly Officers, should it be necessary for the work of the Design Team, to determine the theme of the 11th Assembly.

6. UNITING CHURCH INDEMNITY

Robert Johnson spoke to Document 28, consisting of a report on Uniting Church liability in relation to the UCA involvement with incorporated and unincorporated entities associated with the Church.

04.67 It was resolved to:

04.67.01 refer the correspondence from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to the Synod Property Trusts for comment;

04.67.02 request the Assembly Legal Reference Committee to consult with members of the Legal Reference Committee of the Synod of Victoria/Tasmania.

REMAINING BUSINESS

04.68 It was resolved to authorise the Assembly Officers to act on behalf of the Assembly Standing Committee in dealing with the remaining business (Attachment A).

- General Report;
- General Business;
- Declaration of Mutual Recognition by the Churches of Christ and UCA;
- Agreement between the UCA and the Churches of Christ;
- NCCA – Regional Interfaith Conferences

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Wesley Gleeson.

<p>2004 ASC MEETING:</p> <p>12 – 14 November 2004</p> <p>2005 ASC MEETING DATES:</p> <p>11 – 12 March 2005</p> <p>15 –17 July 2005</p> <p>18 – 20 November 2005</p>

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President

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Date

**REMAINING BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY STANDING
COMMITTEE
JULY 2004**

The Assembly Officers, acting under the authority of the Standing Committee minute 04.68, met on 18 – 19 July to deal with the remaining business referred for their decision.

1. Declaration of Mutual Recognition by the Churches of Christ and UCA

The General Secretary introduced Document 23, consisting of the draft agreement of the two churches.

2. Agreement between the UCA and the Churches of Christ

The General Secretary presented Document 23A, containing the draft agreement between the UCA and the Churches of Christ prepared by the Dialogue Team.

04.69 It was resolved to:

- 04.69.01 draw the attention of the documents to the Synod General Secretaries
- a) to invite their comments as to whether there are any issues, concerns or changes that they think would be appropriate to make before the UCA could endorse the documents;
 - b) to request a response by 30 August 2004;

- 04.69.02 request the General Secretary to raise any relevant issues with the Churches of Christ Dialogue Team.

3. General Report

The General Secretary spoke to Document 18, consisting of a report on the General Secretary's overseas visit, the employment of a senior communications officer, publication of "Sexuality and Leadership in the Uniting Church", appointments since the March meeting, name change for Assembly legal entity, correspondence re Presidential Ruling 23.

04.70 It was resolved to:

- 04.70.01 receive the report;

- 04.70.02 note that:

- a) Rev Judy Caldwell was appointed to the Task Group re the Code of Ethics;
- b) Dr Jill Wilson and Ms Sue Park were appointed to the Review Group for the National Director of Uniting Care; and
- c) David Greenall and Lyall Weaver were appointed to the Assembly Finance and Audit Committee.

4. General Business

The General Secretary introduced Document 22, consisting of a report on the Doctrine Working Group, National Disaster Fund, Assembly goals, request from Sydney Presbytery re suspension of Regulation 2.13.18, Commission for National Co-operation; UCCMTA matters and the National Working Group on Worship.

04.71 It was resolved to:

- 04.71.01 confirm Rev Glenda Blakefield as a member of the Doctrine Working Group;
- 04.71.02 appoint Sam Parson as a trustee of the National Disaster Fund;
- 04.71.03 approve the suspension of Regulation 2.13.18 in order to enable Sydney Presbytery to conduct a review of the ministry of Lay Pastor Brian Pinnock, with a view to a possible extension of his placement;
- 04.71.04
 - a) note the resignation of Rev Chris Budden from membership of the Task Group on the Specified Ministries and;
 - b) appoint Rev Paul Walton to take his place;
- 04.71.05 vary resolution 04.08.04 in order to appoint the General Secretary and the Ms Lin Hatfield Dodds as the Assembly members of the Commission until the end of 2005
- 04.71.06
 - a) refer the proposal to hold a theological forum on Thursday 18 November involving ASC members, General Secretaries and Moderators, assembly senior staff, and up to 15 other synod staff fm across Australia to the members of the Assembly Standing Committee, by electronic ballot;
 - b) authorise the General Secretary to decide on whether to hold the forum in light of the responses and to request the Doctrine Working Group and Theology and Discipleship National Director to convene the forum in consultation with the General Secretary;
- 04.71.07 appoint Carol Morris, Gordon Dicker and Glenda Blakefield as members of the Review Group anticipated by Assembly Minute 03.16 (g) "to request the Standing Committee to review the mandate, membership and name of the Ministerial Education Commission, including any necessary changes to the Regulations, to better implement its responsibility to include the theological education of lay persons at UCA theological colleges"
- 04.71.08 note with sincere appreciation the contribution of Rev Geraldine Wheeler to the former Commission for Liturgy and the National Working Group on Worship over a 13 year period, and convey this to her;
- 04.71.09 appoint Rev Carol Bennett to the National Working Group on Worship

5. NCCA - Regional Interfaith Conferences

The President spoke to Document 32, consisting of a recommendation that was presented at the recent NCCA Forum

04.72 It was resolved to:

- 04.72.01 receive the report of the NCCA action;
- 04.72.02 seek to support the NCCA in implementing such interfaith regional conferences.

6. Uniting Education – Task Group on Elders and Church Council

The General Secretary presented Document 25, containing an advice from Uniting Education re Task Group on Elders and Church Council regarding the request for educational resources arising from the work of the Assembly (Assembly Minute 03.14). He noted that this document had not been included in the referrals to the Assembly Officers.

04.73 It was resolved to:

- 04.73.01
- a) receive the report;
 - b) accept that Assembly Minute 03.14 is addressed in large part by Coolamon College courses;
 - c) agree that Uniting Education only deals with the outstanding matters of Assembly Minute 03.14;
- 04.73.02 bring these decisions to the Assembly Standing Committee for confirmation since this document was not referred to the Assembly Officers for determination.