

**Uniting Church in Australia  
National Assembly**



**ASSEMBLY STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

**12 – 14 November 2004**

**Chevalier Resource Centre  
1 Roma Avenue  
Kensington NSW 2033**

**MINUTES**

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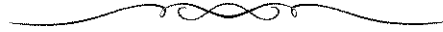
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**ATTACHMENT A**

Guidelines for Discussions related to Candidature, Placements and Sexuality

**ATTACHMENT B**

Assembly Investment Policy



## Uniting Church in Australia

### ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

12 – 14 November 2004

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

**In attendance:** Jenny Bertalan, Rob Bos, Chris Budden, Stu Cameron, John Evans, Graham Humphries, Robert Johnson, Allan Kuchler, Jim Mein, Gavin Melvin, Stephen Orme, John Rowland, Jenny Tymms.

**WORSHIP** On the Friday evening the Service of Closure for Wendi Wilkie was led by Dean Drayton. On the Saturday Wesley Gleeson led morning worship and the evening prayers were led by Liva Tukutama. On the Sunday morning Bev Fabb presided and Jason Kioa preached at the Service of Holy Communion, the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Bruce Binnie.

**WELCOMES** The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the visiting Moderators. He warmly greeted Geoffrey Grinton who had been gravely ill and had had a successful operation. Also welcomed as visitors were Jim Fraser for matters related to Assembly finances, Peter Lewis for matters related to Covenanting, Lee Levett-Olson for matters related to Coolamon College, Rob Runco and Robert Hoskin for Beneficiary Fund and Paul Walton and Anita Monro for *Uniting in Worship 2*.

#### RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

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

#### APOLOGIES

**04.79** It was resolved to receive the apology of Sealin Garlett, Troy Hamilton and Julie Watts for absence for the whole of the meeting; from James Haire for Saturday evening, from Elizabeth Burns for Sunday, from Jason Kioa for Friday evening.

#### PASTORAL MATTERS

The President introduced a time of sharing on pastoral matters. Jill Tabart's mother had passed away and the President led the prayers. The attendees were informed that Stu Cameron had been ordained. Shayne Blackman reported that Rev Dorothy Harris Gordon, the first indigenous person to be ordained in New South Wales retired. The General Secretary advised the participants that Sealin Garlett's sister, Freda, is gravely ill.

## APPROVAL OF TIMETABLE AND AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 1A, 7, 7A, 8 and 21 were distributed on the Friday evening and Saturday morning.

- 04.80**            **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

- 04.81**            **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of:
- 04.81.01        the meeting held 16 –18 July 2004;
- 04.81.02        the teleconference held 23 September 2004 subject to deleting Myffie Trudinger's name from the list of participants.

## 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."*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SERVICE OF CLOSURE FOR WENDIE WILKIE

The President welcomed Rev Dave Hoskins and other invited guests to the service. After the Service of Closure, led by the President, the Assembly Standing Committee participants and guests shared supper together.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the Saturday evening the President began his report sharing about the number of press releases that were made for the election about the theme "no security without justice". While little was picked up by the wider press, it was certainly reported by the religious press and within the UCA. He then spoke about the tremendous efforts that had followed on the creation of the Register of Uniting Church members still in detention. Much has been done to prevent baptized detainees from being deported at a time of great uncertainty for those in detention. Requests to meet the Minister for Immigration had been delayed when he wrote to seek an interview when a member of the Uniting Church had been suddenly flown to Perth, in order to be deported. When we complained he was held in Perth, and continues to be held there.

He told the ASC that after a suggestion by a Catholic group he wrote to the Prime Minister congratulating him on his re-election and asked him, as a magnanimous victor, to declare an amnesty for those who had been in detention for over a year. He asked Archbishop Carnley and Cardinal Pell to do the same. The Prime Minister in his reply indicated he cannot find time to meet the representatives of the Church before 2005 Parliamentary year. He reported that the UCA had been asked to submit names for an event that is due to take place in Jakarta, Indonesia sponsored by the Australian and Indonesian governments to build relationships between religious leaders in South East Asia. The Minister had declined to appoint the names submitted

for UCA participants. It is as though the government does not believe it has to heed religious leaders at the present time. He also mentioned the WARC General Council in Accra, Ghana, and listed the numerous conferences and events he had attended since the last ASC, including "Becoming Disciples" and "Faith on the Edge". He emphasized the fact that religion has now become more decisively politicized than ever. This only highlights then the importance of the need for religious reconciliation that is enshrined in the foundational document of the UCA, the Basis of Union.

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

## **SYNOD SHARING – SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA**

Participants from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania were invited to share something of the life of their synod as an expression of our inter-councilar sharing.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **1.    PROTOCOLS FOR PLACEMENT CONVERSATIONS (ASC MINUTE 04.46.02)**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 9, consisting of a summary of the comments made by the Synods, the Assembly Legal Reference Committee and the Church Polity Reference Committee.

**04.83**            **It was resolved** to adopt the "Guidelines for Discussions related to Candidature, Placements and Sexuality" for the guidance of the Councils and Committees of the Church (Attachment A);

### **2.    UNITING IN WORSHIP 2 – SLD #3 AND RELATED MATTERS (ASC MINUTES 04.59.02 AND 04.59.04)**

Paul Walton presented Documents 3, 3A, 3B, 3C with Document 3 consisting of a report on the inclusion of resources in UiW2; Document 3A, being the revised SLD#2; Document 3B containing 'Ordered Liberty in Worship for UiW2 and Document 3C containing the Service of Baptism with the Recollection of Baptism included.

**04.84**            **It was resolved to:**

04.84.01        receive the report;

04.84.02        endorse the proposal of the Working Group on Worship re the Services of the Lord's Day for *Uniting in Worship 2*, ie:

- a)
- to have two Services of the Lord's Day in the book, the first being substantially similar to the service already approved as SLD-1;
  - to remove SLD-3 from the book, but include it in the CD-ROM;
  - to place some of this service as alternatives in SLD-2, and include other parts with the resources for the Service of the Lord's Day in the book;
  - to include the full 'Eastern rite' in the CD-ROM, and some parts of this rite in the resources for the Service of the Lord's Day in the book.

b) approve the revised Services of the Lord's Day #2 for *Uniting in Worship 2*;

- 04.84.03 endorse the revision of *Ordered Liberty* with the removal of "Appendices to the Basis of Union" and inclusion of current Assembly decisions in relation to worship;
- 04.84.04 approve the Service for the use of water in the recollection of Baptism;
- 04.84.05 express appreciation and thanks to the National Working Group on Worship, and in particular its Chairperson, Rev Dr Paul Walton, for the work done in producing *Uniting in Worship 2*.

**3. UNITING JUSTICE – DESIGNATION AS AN AGENCY (ASC MINUTE 04.78.01 – 04.78.03)**

The General Secretary presented Document 10, consisting of a report on the issues surrounding the Assembly Standing Committee decision to remove the designation of Uniting Justice as an agency including a letter from the Reference Committee of Uniting Justice.

**04.85 It was resolved to:**

- 04.85.01 receive the correspondence from the Uniting Justice Australia Reference Committee and the Synod of Western Australia;
- 04.85.02 acknowledge that the Assembly Standing Committee did not consult specifically with the Agency about the removal of the designation of Uniting Justice as an agency, as required by Assembly Minute 03.12.01;
- 04.85.03 advise Uniting Justice Reference Committee that it regrets this oversight and apologises to the Uniting Justice Reference Committee for this omission;
- 04.85.04 request the General Secretary to communicate with the Uniting Justice Reference Committee and the Synod of Western Australia about the decisions of the Assembly Standing Committee.

**4. 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY (ASC MINUTE 04.65)**

The General Secretary and Gregor Henderson introduced Document 13, consisting of a report on the possible theme and the preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**04.86 It was resolved to:**

- 04.86.01 receive the report;
- 04.86.02 adopt "God's Word, God's World" as the theme for the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly;
- 04.86.03 appoint Rev Glenda Blakefield to the Design Team and authorize the Design Team to co-opt key Queensland members of the organizing groups as required.

**FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES**

**1. ALLOCATION OF ASSEMBLY FUNDS FOR 2005**

Jim Fraser presented Document 5, consisting of a report on the allocation of Assembly funds for 2005.

**04.87 It was resolved to:**

- 04.87.01 receive the report;

- 04.87.02 note with gratitude the contributions from Synods to the Assembly budget for 2005;
- 04.87.03 allocate from Wesley Uniting Employment funds \$35,000 towards the budget of the Communications Unit;
- 04.87.04 Approve the 2005 allocations of Assembly funds to the following bodies:
- Assembly Fund;
  - Uniting International Mission;
  - Uniting Church Overseas Aid;
  - Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress;
  - Uniting Education;
  - Coolamon College;
  - Frontier Services;
  - Northern Synod;
  - Synod of Western Australia;
- 04.87.05 request the General Secretary to bring a report on the final Synod contributions and any consequential recommendations on expenditure for 2005 to the March 2005 Assembly Standing Committee meeting.

## 2. ASSEMBLY INVESTMENT POLICY

Jim Fraser spoke to Document 6, consisting of a report on the National Assembly's current investment policy and the proposed investment strategy.

### 04.88 It was resolved to:

- 04.88.01 receive the report;
- 04.88.02 adopt the policy (Attachment B).

## 3. ASSEMBLY AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Binnie presented Document 11, consisting of a report on the operation of the National Audit and Finance Committee.

### 04.89 It was resolved to receive the report.

## 4. BENEFICIARY FUND

Rob Runco and Robert Hoskin presented Document 4, consisting of a report on the Fund's performance, the issues to be addressed, the financial perspectives and the changes adopted.

### 04.90 It was resolved to:

- 04.90.01 receive the report;
- 04.90.02 approve the proposed Contribution Management Strategy;
- 04.90.03 request the Trustee to continue its review of the Temporary and Permanent Disablement Benefits and report its findings to the Assembly Standing Committee before implementation.

## 5. COOLAMON

Lee Levett-Olson spoke to Document 2, consisting of a document on the challenges Coolamon staff encountered during relocation, the 2005 budget as well as the new directions



04.91 It was resolved to receive the report.

## 6. COVENANTING

Peter Lewis introduced Document 19, consisting of a report on issues that may assist the new Assembly team in continuing to express the Church's commitment to covenanting.

04.92 It was resolved to:

04.92.01 receive the report;

04.92.02 re-affirm the strong commitment of the Uniting Church to covenanting and reconciliation with Indigenous people;

04.92.03 request the General Secretary to ensure:

- i. that the new team maintains programs that will support reconciliation/covenanting
- ii. a National Covenanting working group is maintained and is able to meet
- iii. an appropriate relationship between Uniting Faith and Justice and the working group (e.g. a face to face meeting each year)
- iv. that the team explores the continuation of the About Face program in its present format and as a project of the team
- v. that the new team investigates, in co-operation with People in Mission, a Covenanting Interns in Mission style program which would be course-based using the soon to be released Bachelor of Theology level Coolamon College Course *Towards Reconciliation* (thus enabling funding for Interns through Aus Study);

04.92.04 commit the Uniting Church to ongoing representation and/ or support to the National Sorry Day Committee and ANTaR;

04.92.05 maintain representation and support for Faith Communities for Reconciliation;

04.92.06. request the Theological Colleges to work with the UAICC to develop a course for orientation of candidates for specified ministry to the cultural and theological experience and perspectives of Indigenous people, and also to consider the use of the *Towards Reconciliation* course.

04.92.07 invite Synods to:

- i. identify a Synod staff person who will take responsibility for the covenanting process in their synod and
- ii. provide an annual budget for the Synod Covenanting committee

## 7. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary spoke to Document 14, consisting of a report on various matters including the nominations process for the Frontier Services Board, review of the Home Endowment Fund, the decision to disband the Covenanting Agency, the Mapoon appeal, the National Disaster Fund and the Churches of Christ documents.

04.93 It was resolved to:

04.93.01 receive the report;

04.93.02 request James Haire to convene a meeting with UAICC re Mapoon (Reference ASC Minute 04.62.02 – 03);

04.93.03 confirm that the UCA Assembly Ltd is the Trustee of the National Disaster Fund;

- 04.93.03.01 request the National Disaster Fund Trustees to draft a new constitution that reflects that the UCA Assembly Ltd is the Trustee;
- 04.93.03.02 bring a new constitution to the March 2005 Assembly Standing Committee for approval;
- 04.93.04 request the General Secretary to provide the Assembly Standing Committee with a list of correspondence that is addressed to the ASC with the working papers.

## **8. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE**

The General Secretary presented Document 15, consisting of a report on the work of the Legal Reference Committee since the July 2004 ASC meeting.

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

## **9. TASK GROUP ON PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION**

Sue Clarkson with Geoffrey Grinton and Matt Grudnoff introduced Document 16, consisting of a report on the background and process of the review as well as the difficulties the Task Group encountered.

- 04.95** It was resolved to:

- 04.95.01 receive the report;
- 04.95.02 that, in general, the President be paid pro rata 50% of the NSW stipend and 20% loading;
- 04.95.03 that allowances (manse, travel, resource, etc) or the equivalent increase in salary for a non-stipended president, be paid as required following negotiation with the incumbent;
- 04.95.04 that remuneration be paid directly to the president unless alternate arrangements are negotiated;
- 04.95.05 that a new allowance (or increase in salary) be provided which recognises the out of pocket expenses that are borne by the President for which claims are not appropriate;
- 04.95.06 that Uniting Church gifts be identified and available for the president to present when visiting other churches.
- 04.95.07 appoint a Working Group to consider:
  - a) the role of the President in the light of Regulation 3.6.9 – 3.6.15 and Constitution 44 and 71;
  - b) the ways in which the role should be exercised in the current mission and ecclesial context;
  - c) the practical implications of a) and b) above;
  - d) and report to ASC by July 2005, together with any proposed changes to the Regulations and any other recommendations to the Eleventh Assembly
- 04.95.08 appoint Andrew Dutney, Stu Cameron, Sue Clarkson, Jan Trengove and Allan Thompson (Convenor) to be the Working Group.

## **10. UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION**

Jason Kioa spoke to Document 2A, consisting of a report on the Tongan ministers' retreat, which was a significant moment in the partnership between the UCA and the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.

**04.96 It was resolved to:**

**04.96.01** receive the report.

04.96.02 request the General Secretary to convene a meeting of representatives of the Church Polity Reference Committee, the Doctrine Working Group, Uniting International Mission and Multicultural Ministry to explore the issues related to, and the possibilities of, establishing a facility for there to be "congregations in association" with the UCA for migrant communities.

## **11. UNITING JUSTICE – MICAH CHALLENGE**

The General Secretary introduced Document 18, including a request to support Micah Challenge.

**04.97 It was resolved to** endorse the Micah Challenge.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. NOMINATION FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY**

Jason Kioa, as Chairperson, presented Document 8, consisting of a report of the Nomination Committee on the selection process and criteria. The report also included the name of the person the Committee nominated for the Associate General Secretary position.

**04.98 It was resolved to:**

04.98.01 issue a call to Rev. Glenda Blakefield as the Associate General Secretary of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, for a five year term, commencing March 1 2005;

04.98.02 authorise the General Secretary to negotiate the terms of placement.

04.98.03 a) authorise the General Secretary to purchase, or lease a manse for the Associate General Secretary (Regulation 4.10.3)  
b) vest the title for any property purchased in UCA Assembly Ltd; (Regulation 4.10.4(a));

### **2. REVIEW OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS – UNITING JUSTICE AND THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP**

Allan Thompson and Bruce Binnie as Chairpersons presented Documents 7 and 7A, Document 7 being a report on the review of Rev Elenie Poulos, National Director of Uniting Justice, Document 7A being a report on the review of Rev Dr Rob Bos, National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship.

**04.99 It was resolved to:**

04.99.01 reappoint Rev Elenie Poulos, as National Director, Uniting Justice, until June 30 2008;

04.99.02 reappoint Rev Dr Rob Bos, as National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship until June 30 2008.

### **3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The General Secretary presented the business in Document 17.

04.100.01

to record its thanks to God for the ministry of Ms Wendie Wilkie as Assembly Associate General Secretary, and record the following minute of appreciation:

Wendie joined the Assembly at a time of major transition in October 1998. Not only was this a time of significant organisational change – the position of Associate General Secretary was also new – but it was a time of significant pastoral need among the staff and others in the life of the Assembly. In her arriving into this demanding context Wendie came as a gift of God to the life of the Assembly and the national life of the church.

Wendie has been a person of clear vision, a passionate advocate, and a clear and persistent spokesperson for what it means to be the Assembly of the UCA. Wherever Wendie has gone she has clearly presented a vision of the national life of the church. Frequently she has called people out of their sectional interests and parochial views of the church and this has at times been welcomed and resisted.

Within the staff of the Assembly Wendie has exercised a significant pastoral ministry. In times of change when organizations are under stress the people who work in them need encouragement and support. Wendie has been an enormous blessing to National Directors, other staff and many of the people who carry the work of the Assembly as members of Reference Committees. Her warm and generous personality will be greatly missed.

Wendie has been a real team player. As Associate General Secretary she has worked with two quite different General Secretaries to whom she has always been supportive, loyal and has brought much needed complementary gifts. Wendie has exercised a unique and valuable ministry in her own right but her willingness to unselfishly work as part of the leadership team has added great value to the work of the Secretariat.

Wendie has exercised some very particular leadership through and in the Assembly -the communications area, relations with other faiths, support for the NCCA and a regular reminding that the ministry of the church includes chaplains. While it will not, and should not, be the reason for which Wendie is most remembered it is fair to say that "The Gift of Grace" project well displayed her sense of fun, grasp of the importance of encouragement and story telling, her management skills and tenacity.

As Wendie moves on to new ministries she will take with her the gifts of teacher, pastor and leader that she has exercised with great effect in the national life of the church. She goes with the thanks of the church, and with our thanksgiving to the living God whom she has faithfully and sacrificially served in this ministry for the last six years.

04.100.02

to record its thanks to God for the ministry of Mr John Emmett as National Director for Uniting Education, and record the following minute of appreciation:

John came first to the Joint Board of Christian Education in 1989 from a training officer position in Scripture Union. He joined Children's Ministry, working with all Synods and soon established an excellent record in the training field. In 1995, he joined Uniting Education as the National Director.

As a Christian educator, John has an outstanding ability to express a vision of Christian education as part of the mission of the Church in the world. He has an extraordinary ability to translate that vision into a strategy plan and a series of relevant work projects to guide staff and enthuse volunteer task group members.

Colleagues of John appreciate his scholarship and the excellence of presentation of papers in the fields of research, curriculum and training, as well as his practical wisdom in leading local congregations in Christian education endeavours. He is a lateral thinker capable of inspiring all those around him in the workplace and in the various councils of the Church.

John has maintained a network of overseas contacts and is highly respected by his international peers in Christian education. He has contributed to international curriculum development and especially has maintained contact with the Church in his beloved homeland, New Zealand.

Over the time that John has been working with the Assembly there have been profound changes. His leadership in the transition from the Joint Board of Christian Education to Uniting Education was exemplary and exhibited his vision, leadership and skill across a wide range of areas. He has cast a vision for Christian Education in the UCA that is still unfolding.

Above all else, John is a person with a devout and sincere faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of all and head of the Church. In recent years John's family members have experienced some serious health problems but his grace, faith, strength and commitment have enabled him to continue to offer a significant ministry during these demanding times.

As John leaves to join a dynamic local congregation in Canberra, he goes with the blessing of all his friends. With a refreshed vitality, he will continue to contribute to Christian education in our Church, and one can expect national implications to emerge from his work in a new role.

04.100.03 to record its thanks to God for the ministry of Mr Peter Lewis as National Director for Covenanting, and record the following minute of appreciation:

Peter Lewis has been the National Director of Covenanting since January 1999. Peter has always had a deep passion for working with indigenous people and for the profound issues and concerns around reconciliation and covenanting. This has influenced his decision to accept a position at this time with an indigenous group, the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency in Preston.

Peter has a wide range of skills which he has developed and used across the range of work in the Assembly and in his area of work with synods and congregations.

His passion that reconciliation become reality has involved him with work in the church and beyond. He has led the Assembly and the wider church's reflection and action on reconciliation over the past 6 years, in Bible studies, in courses written for Coolamon College, in Preaching and Teaching events with Uniting Education, in reports and in discussions. He has had a particular concern and passion that young people understand indigenous culture and the issues of reconciliation. NCYC 's have benefited enormously from his work and commitment to assist Aboriginal people to attend and for the whole meeting to work on reconciliation and relationships. National Youth Reconciliation events have been significant in bringing high school students together from across the country and across cultures and experiences. AboutFACE in indigenous communities has transformed the lives and understanding of many young people in our church. His work with Congress in preparing and debriefing these young people made the experiences memorable and helped the young people to benefit significantly from that exposure. He took a lead in working with Victorian synod staff on organizing and running the Unfinished Business Conference and the Eddie Mabo memorial dinner for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mabo decision, a time of celebration and reflection on the movement for reconciliation

Working in the area of reconciliation in the past 6 years both within the church and beyond has not been easy. There have been highs – millions of people marching across bridges for reconciliation and the Sea of Hands, but it also true that there is less support and less focus now in this area especially in government and broad social policy. After an initial take up of covenanting relationships in congregations it has been harder to maintain that interest. Peter's sustained resilience, persistence, humour and stoic resistance in the face of indifference and apathy in the church and community has enabled him to remain focused and optimistic. He has maintained the church's integrity in the area of reconciliation, through his involvement in a wide variety of organizations focusing on reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people. Peter has played a vital role in often being a mediator and bridge with Congress and the rest of the church.

Peter's theological reflection and grounding is broad and he has made significant contributions to the Assembly staff's thinking on a wide variety of issues. The Church is very grateful to Peter for his work and passion in this vital area of our church's life. As Peter moves to his new position he goes with the thanks and support of the Church.

- 04.100.04 to appoint the following persons to be the Review Group for the National Director of Multicultural Ministry: Terence Corkin (convenor). Liva Tukutama (Chair); Eseta Meneilly, Vernon Prowse, Myung Hwa Park, Apwe Ting;
- 04.100.05 authorise the General Secretary to arrange the sale of the Assembly property at 28 Little Oxford St Collingwood Melbourne.
- 04.100.06
- a) designate the position of National Co-ordinator for the UAICC's Leadership Development Program as an Assembly placement;
  - b) note the appointment by the UAICC of Rev Dr Richard Wallace to the position;
  - c) note that Rev Wallace is under the oversight of the Calvary Presbytery
- 04.100.07
- a) note the resignation of Rev Robert Gribben as Chair of the Christian Unity Working Group and his willingness to continue on the Working Group;
  - b) record the appreciation of the Assembly for Professor Gribben's outstanding leadership of this area of the Church's life for a very long time;
  - c) note the resignations of Morag Logan, Bert Dellosa, Alistair Macrae and Robyn French from the Christian Unity Working Group;
  - d) appoint Rev Rod Horsfield as Chairperson of the Christian Unity Working Group;
  - e) appoint Margaret Blair, Gay Loftus and Charity Majiza to the Christian Unity Working Group;
- 04.100.08 affirm the decisions taken by the Assembly Officers as recorded in ASC Minute 04.73.01;
- 04.100.09 note the following changes to Frontier Services Placements:  
 Rev John Dihm was inducted into Parkin Patrol - October 21 2004;  
 Rev Graeme Brown will commence at the Jabiru Patrol - December 1 2004;  
 Mr Wayne Dillon concludes in the Cunnamulla Patrol – October 31 2004.

- 04.100.10 invite the UAICC to appoint a person to the Nominations Committee for the Frontier Services Board;
- 04.100.11 nominate Elenie Poulos to the NCCCA - CWS Australia Board;
- 04.100.12 authorise the inclusion of the testimony (video) resource of Sy Rogers on the Assembly website created for resources for sexuality and leadership;
- 04.100.13 request the World Council of Churches to consider Ms Heidi Stabb for appointment to the WCC Assembly in 2006.

#### 4. REVIEW OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REGULATIONS

Robert Johnson introduced Documents 20 and 20A, consisting of a report of the Sexual Misconduct Review Group on the proposed changes to the sexual misconduct regulations.

##### 04.101 It was resolved to:

- 04.101.01 forward the proposed amendments to the Regulations to the Assembly Legal Reference Committee, and request comment to the July 2005 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee;
- 04.101.02 request the Synod Secretaries to arrange for national co-ordination of training and procedures for dealing with complaints of sexual misconduct as matter of urgency and importance;
- 04.101.03
  - a) appoint a Task Group to review the procedures for dealing with complaints of sexual misconduct against a lay person;
  - b) refer this matter to the General Secretary to identify ways to progress this work;
- 04.100.04 thank and discharge the members of the Task Group to review the Sexual Misconduct Regulations.

#### 5. RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT

Robert Johnson spoke to Document 21, consisting of a paper on the importance of renewing the covenant relationship, the theological foundation, principles of relationship, the structural change and the goals.

- 04.102 **It was resolved to** encourage the Joint Working Group to continue working on the basis outlined in this report and to bring a detailed report and proposals to the March 2005 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee, with a view to bringing proposals to the Eleventh Assembly so that it may renew the Covenant between the UAICC and the UCA.

#### 6. PREPARING FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY

Discussion took place on how to assist the Church to connect with the Assembly theme and

noting the decisions made by the ASC since the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly re the Church's response to Proposal 84;

##### 04.103 It was resolved to:

- 04.103.01 appoint a working group to bring recommendations on process by which proposals may come to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly to the March 2005

04.05.07 appoint Sue Gormann (Convenor), Chris Budden, Bev Fabb, Gregor Henderson, Graham Humphris, Isabel Thomas-Dobson and Terence Corkin as members of the working groups.

**Re the theme for the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

**04.104 It was resolved to:**

04.104.01 appoint a working group to identify resources and suggest processes to enable the Church to reflect theologically on the theme of *God's Word, God's World* in preparation for the next Assembly;

04.104.02 appoint Wesley Gleeson, Clive Pearson, Glenda Blakefield and the General Secretary (Convenor) as members of the working group.

**CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 3.45pm with prayer led by Bruce Binnie.

**7. SYNOD OF NSW – COMMITTEE FOR COUNSELLING**

In response to an email request from the NSW Synod that arrived just after the meeting; the Standing Committee conducted an email ballot as to whether the NSW Synod could increase the number of persons serving on its Committee for Counselling.

**04.105 It was resolved** under the powers of Regulation 3.6.34 to suspend the operation of Regulation 7.7.2 9a) within the Synod of NSW for calendar 2005 to the extent necessary to enable the Synod to appoint up to twelve people to the Committee for Counselling.

**2005 ASC MEETING DATES:**

**11 – 13 March 2005**

**15 –17 July 2005**

**11 – 13 November 2005**