

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

11 – 13 November 2005

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

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Bos, Kevin Davis, John Evans, Graham Humphris, Jim Mein, Paul Swadling, Jenny Tymms, Graham Vawser, Robert Watson.

WORSHIP On Friday night the prayer was led by the President. On Saturday Bev Fabb led morning worship, and Isabel Thomas Dobson led the evening prayers. On Sunday the President presided and Liva Tukutama preached at the Service of Holy Communion. The closing prayer was led by Allan Thompson.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting and extended a special welcome to David Pitman, the new Moderator of the Synod of Queensland; Graham Vawser, the new Moderator of the Synod of South Australia; Robert Watson, the new Moderator of the Synod of Western Australia; and greeted Jason Kioa as the Moderator-Elect of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.; Colleen Geyer for matters relating to the Task Group on Specified Ministries; Jim Fraser for matters relating to the Assembly Audit and Finance Committee; Les Stahl for matters relating to the establishment of key directions.

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

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

APOLOGIES

05.56 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Shayne Blackman, Wesley Gleeson, Troy Hamilton, and Myffie Trudinger for absence for the whole of the meeting; Liva Tukutama for Saturday night, Jim Mein for Sunday.

APPROVAL OF TIMETABLE AND AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Documents 1 and 1A. Documents 2D, 3A, 7, 12A, 20, 21 were distributed on the Friday evening, Presidential Ruling #24 was distributed on Saturday evening.

05.57 **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 MEETING

05.58 **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 15 -17 July 2005 with the following corrections.

05.58.01 renumber minute 05.51.05 as 05.51.04;

05.58.02 a new minute 05.55.04 be added;

05.55.04 endorse the process for the President – elect as outlined in section 9 of the report

9. Some general observations

9.1 The President's membership of all Synods

The Working Group supports the provision of Reg. 3.5.2 (a), but suggests that unless there are special circumstances the President should not feel a need to visit each Synod more than once.

9.2 "Exit interview"

The Working group proposes that approx eight months before inducting the next President the retiring President meet with the President-Elect, the General Secretary and two or three other ASC members to identify aspects of the President's work that needs to continue beyond the term of the current President, and make arrangements to ensure that this work is picked up – not necessarily by the incoming President.

9.3 Framework for focusing the role of the President

The Working Group affirms that the focus should be on leadership of the Assembly as the national council, representing the mind of that council, and ruling on disputes over interpretation of Regulations. It is important that the President upholds the Constitution and Regulations, and in particular does not enter into matters which are the prerogative of another council of the church.

05.58.03 renumber minute 05.55.04 as 00.55.05.

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

The President noted that he was in Parliament on Wednesday November 2nd, which he considers a dark day for the future of Australia because the IR legislation and the Anti Terrorist legislation were brought before the lower

House. Both Acts attempt to recast the future of Australia in terms that give power to business, and power to arrest terrorist suspect in a way that threatens the very freedoms the government is responsible to uphold with processes that are not sufficiently transparent or accountable

The President indicated that he and the Assembly staff have been active with press releases, interviews, consultation with other churches, and in putting together at haste a submission to brief Senate inquiry into Workplace Relations.

The President expressed concern about the Sydney Diocese ordinance passed last month which offers incentives to any non-Anglican congregation to join the Sydney Diocese as an affiliated congregation. He was especially concerned that the UCA was mentioned in the rationale.

On October 2nd the President was privileged to attend a service at the Pilgrim Church in Adelaide in which we celebrated the release of all Uniting Church members in Detention Centres. What a joyful occasion it was. He was brought to tears when 40 or so of these Iranian Christians, who traveled from throughout Australia to be there, walked forward to the table and each lit a small candle.

The President also attended many other special occasions and events including the launch of Uniting in Worship 2, and four Synod meetings.

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

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. MATTERS VITAL TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH (ASC MINUTE 05.51.03)

The General Secretary introduced Document 14, consisting a report on the responses from Church Polity Reference Committee and the Assembly Legal Reference Committee as well as the proposal adopted by the NSW Synod that will be on the Agenda of the 11th Assembly.

05.60 **It was resolved to:**

05.60.01 receive the report;

05.60.02 refer the NSW Synod resolution to the Church Polity Reference Committee for comment.

2. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCEDURES (ASC MINUTE 05.55.04)

Allan Thompson spoke to Document 4, consisting of a report from the Working Group on the Role of the President.

05.61 **It was resolved to:**

05.61.01 receive the report;

05.61.02 subject to the advice of the Legal Reference Committee propose to the Eleventh Assembly the changes to the Regulations outlined in Section B of the report;

05.61.03 approve the contents of the Profile for Nominees for President Elect as listed in Section C of the report as amended during the discussion;

- 05.61.04 refer Section F of the report to the President-Elect;
- 05.61.05 note ASC Minute 05.55.02 and refer to the Assembly the recommendation that "the office of the President of the Assembly will normally be a full-time one and remunerated accordingly as of the 12th Assembly";
- 05.61.06 endorse the profile in Section C of the report for use in receiving nominations for President-elect at the 11th Assembly.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. AGENCY REPORTS

The General Secretary introduced Documents 6 and 6A consisting of brief reports from various Agencies, namely Christian Education, Church Polity Reference Committee, Historical Reference Committee, Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, Reception of Ministers Committee and Uniting Church Adult Fellowship National Committee.

05.62 It was resolved to:

- 05.62.01 receive the reports.

2. ASSEMBLY FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Bruce Binnie and Jim Fraser spoke to Document 7, consisting of a report on the financial matters of the various agencies, including the budget for 2006.

05.63 It was resolved to:

- 05.63.01 receive the report;
- 05.63.02 approve the budgets for the Assembly and Coolamon College for the year ended 31 December 2006;
- 05.63.03 authorise the Assembly Finance & Audit Committee to approve the budget for UnitingCare for the year ended 31 December 06 in consultation with General Secretary when a final draft with supplementary information has been prepared.

3. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary spoke to Document 5, consisting of a report on various matters.

05.64 It was resolved to receive the report.

4. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary introduced Document 9, consisting of a report on the work the Assembly Legal Reference Committee has done since the July 2005 ASC meeting.

05.65 It was resolved to:

- 05.65.01 receive the report;
- 05.65.02 a) note that it has not been possible to complete the final draft of the revised SSMC Regulations in time for this meeting;

- b) note the urgent need to produce the training materials and implement a new round of training for the SSMCC Regulations;
- c) authorise the Assembly Officers to approve the SSMCC Regulations upon advice from the Chairpersons of the Task Group of the SSMCC Regulations and the Legal Reference Committee that they have completed their work on the draft;

05.65.03 refer the proposed changes to Regulations 2.3.1 to 2.3.4 to the 11th Assembly

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND DEACONS

2.3.1 (a) A candidate for ordination shall ...

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

FORM OF ORDINATION SERVICE DETERMINED BY ASSEMBLY

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

ORDINATION IN PRESENCE OF CHURCH MEMBERS

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

CHAIRPERSON TO CONDUCT OF THE ORDINATION

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

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

5. TASK GROUP ON MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

The General Secretary introduced Document 13, consisting of a report from the Assembly Task Group on Multicultural Ministry.

05.66 It was resolved to receive the report.

6. TASK GROUP ON SPECIFIED MINISTRY

Colleen Geyer spoke to Document 17, consisting of a report from the Task Group on Specified Ministries. There was extensive discussion about a range of issues raised by the paper.

05.67 It was resolved to receive the report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Secretary presented the business in Documents 12 and 12A.

05.68 It was resolved to:

05.68.01 note the commencement of the placement of Rev Mitch Fialkowski, Rev Jenny Swanbury and Rev John Flaherty as Patrol Ministers with Frontier Services;

05.68.02 welcome the advice from the National Office of the UAICC that they affirm their commitment to continue with the Covenant Renewal process and their view that conversations should continue with the working group and sub groups on the issues involved in the Covenant Renewal process after discussion with Regional Committees has taken place;

05.68.03 appoint Mr Vince Ross as a member of the Design Team for the 11th Assembly and Rev Grant Finlay as a member of the 11th Assembly Business Committee;

05.68.04

- a) accept the resignation of Ms Janet Wood as Chairperson of the Reception of Ministers Committee and express its appreciation for the work she has undertaken in that role for almost five years and as a member of the Committee for a total of ten years;
- b) appoint Rev Pam Kerr as Chairperson of the Reception of Ministers Committee for the balance of the triennium;
- c) appoint Rev Apwee Ting as a member of the Reception of Ministers Committee for the balance of the triennium as a replacement for Rev Jason Choi;

05.68.05 note the resignation of Mr Mark Tweeddale as Secretary to the MEC and express its appreciation for the ministry he has offered in that role;

05.68.06

- a) note the advice that Rev Bill Fischer will conclude his placement as National Director of UIM on May 31 2006;
- b) record our appreciation for the ministry of Rev Bill Fischer and prepare a minute of appreciation for the March 2006 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee;
- c) note the appointment of Rev John Mavor as Acting National Director of UIM from February 1 2005 until the commencement of a new National Director;
- d) approve the position description for the UIM National Director;
- e) approve the position of the UIM National Director as an Assembly placement;

- f) appoint Rev James Haire (convenor), Rev Rob Brown, Rev Carolyn Thornley, Rev Terence Corkin and Margaret Reeson as the Joint Nominating Committee;
- 05.68.07 a) note the need to review the operation of the Alternate Regulations for Korean Congregations;
 b) establish the Terms of Reference for the review as:
 - to identify the number of congregations making use of the Alternate Regulations;
 - identify whether the operation of the Alternate Regulations has been helpful to the Korean Congregations;
 - offer advice on whether the range of issues to which the alternate regulations apply should be expanded or reduced, or other changes;
 - consult with Presbyteries and Synods on their experience and views on the helpfulness of the Alternate Regulations;
 - offer advice on whether the Alternate Regulations should continue to be available;
 - report to the March 2006 Assembly Standing Committee;
 - appoint Rev Kisoo Jang, Rev Sang-Jin Lee, Rev Jason Choi; Rev Paul Swadling and Rev Helen Richmond (Convenor) to the Review Group;
- 05.68.08 invite the National Committee of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship to provide a name for consideration for co-option to the 11th Assembly;
- 05.68.09 approve the proposed amendments to the WCC Constitution and advise the UCA members attending the WCC Assembly in 2006;
- 05.68.10 request the LRC to recommend words for regulation 2.7.16 a (ii) that will allow a Presbytery to permit a congregation or body to appoint up to ten persons to the JNC in circumstances such as when a large number of congregations comprise a placement; the complexity and size of a placement; or such other factors are present that are considered important by the presbytery;
- 05.68.11 recommend, on the advice of the LRC, to the Assembly that Regulation 2.7.16 (c) be amended to read: "The JNC shall ~~view an Assembly video describing~~ familiarize itself with the processes of placement and the appropriate ways to mutually explore ministry needs and opportunities with prospective Ministers;
- 05.68.12 a) note the resignation of Rev. Ray Richmond as the Convener of the Assembly Relations with Other Faiths Committee and convey to him the Assembly Standing Committee's sincere gratitude for his years of service to the Assembly;
 b) appoint Rev. Seferosa Carroll as Convener until the Eleventh Assembly;
- 05.68.13 In response to the request made in Assembly Standing Committee minute 05.55.03 note that an additional \$40,000 will be required to fund the President as full time position;
- 05.68.14 authorise the transfer of the funds known as Net Proceeds Arising from Sale of Uniting Education Building; Manse Designated Fund, Wesley Uniting Employment; BT Investment Fund, Continuing Education and Defence Chaplains LSL totaling \$1,445,833 (at 31 October 2005) into the Assembly Capital Fund;
- 05.68.15 appoint Mr. Jim Mein, Mr. Malcolm Gledhill, Mrs. Margaret Reeson and Rev. Dr. Arthur G. Pearce to the UCOA National Committee;
- 05.68.16 determine to:
 - a) discontinue the project established under ASC minute 04.104;
 - b) thank and discharge the Task Group.

VARIATION TO REGULATIONS FOR SYNODS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

05.69

It was resolved:

05.69.01

- a) to note:
- i) that the Synod of South Australia has reduced the number of Presbyteries from seven to one;
 - iii) each of the seven Presbyteries of South Australia has already appointed one Minister and one confirmed lay person to the 11th Assembly;
- b) the Assembly Standing Committee is of the opinion that special circumstances exist in terms of Regulation 3.6.34 in relation to the circumstances of the Synod of South Australia and that an alternative regulation should be made for the 11th Assembly in relation to the appointment of persons to that Assembly
- c) acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34, to make an alternative regulation in relation to the appointment of members to the 11th Assembly;
- d) that in relation to the operation of Regulation 3.6.2(b) this regulation shall not apply to the Presbytery of South Australia for the 11th Assembly, and that an alternative Regulation 3.6.2(b) shall operate for the 11th Assembly only, as follows:

"(b) one Minister and one confirmed lay member appointed by each Presbytery except that the Presbytery of South Australia may appoint up to seven Ministers and up to seven confirmed lay members;"

05.69.02

- a) to note:
- i) that the Synod of South Australia has reduced the number of Presbyteries from seven to one;
 - ii) that the consequence of this action is that the number of Presbytery appointed persons to the Placements Committee will be more than the number of persons appointed through other means;
 - iii) that the membership of the Presbytery be the same as the membership of the Synod;
- b) the Assembly Standing Committee of the opinion that special circumstances exist in terms of Regulation 3.6.34 in relation to the circumstances of the Synod of South Australia and that an alternative regulation should be made for the way in which the membership of the Placements Committee is established;
- c) acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34, to make an alternative regulation in relation to the way in which the membership of the Placements Committee is established;
- d) that in relation to the operation of Regulation 2.7.3(b) (iii) this regulation shall not apply to the Presbytery of South Australia and that an alternative Regulation 2.7.3(b) (iii) shall operate as follows:

"(b) (iii) sufficient persons appointed by the Presbytery, to ensure that the majority of members of the Placements Committee are persons appointed by the Presbytery;"

- e) that in relation to the operation of Regulation 3.5.2 that says “ or such other maximum number as the Assembly may approve in respect of a particular Synod” that the number of members of the Synod of South Australia shall be up to 700 persons;

SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

05.69.03

- a) to note:
 - i) that the Synod of Western Australia has resolved to reduce the number of Presbyteries from five to one;
 - ii) each of the five Presbyteries of Western Australia has already appointed one Minister and one confirmed lay person to the 11th Assembly;
 - iii) the reduction of the number of Presbyteries from five to one will occur prior to the 11th Assembly.
- b) the Assembly Standing Committee is of the opinion that special circumstances exist in terms of Regulation 3.6.34 in relation to the circumstances of the Synod of Western Australia and that an alternative regulation should be made for the 11th Assembly in relation to the appointment of persons to that Assembly
- c) acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34, to make an alternative regulation in relation to the appointment of members to the 11th Assembly;
- d) that in relation to the operation of Regulation 3.6.2(b) this regulation shall not apply to the Presbytery of Western Australia for the 11th Assembly, and that an alternative Regulation 3.6.2(b) shall operate for the 11th Assembly only, as follows:

“(b) one Minister and one confirmed lay member appointed by each Presbytery except that the Presbytery of Western Australia may appoint up to five Ministers and up to five confirmed lay members;”

05.69.04

- a) to note:
 - i) that the Synod of Western Australia has resolved to reduce the number of Presbyteries from five to one;
 - ii) the consequence of this action is that the number of Presbytery appointed persons to the Placements Committee will be less than the number of persons appointed through other means;
- b) the Assembly Standing Committee is of the opinion that special circumstances exist in terms of Regulation 3.6.34 in relation to the circumstances of the Synod of Western Australia and that an alternative regulation should be made for the way in which the membership of the Placements Committee is established;
- c) acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34, to make an alternative regulation in relation to the way in which the membership of the Placements Committee is established;
- d) that in relation to the operation of Regulation 2.7.3(b) (iii) this regulation shall not apply to the Presbytery of Western Australia and that an alternative Regulation 2.7.3(b) (iii) shall operate as follows:

“(b) (iii) sufficient persons, as determined by the synod and appointed by the Presbytery, to ensure that the majority of members of the Placements Committee are persons appointed by the Presbytery;”

- 05.69.05
- a) to note that the Synod of Western Australia has resolved to transfer its powers in relation to the Committee for Counselling to the Presbytery of Western Australia;
 - b) to authorise an exemption to the operation of Regulation 7.7.1 – 3 to the extent necessary to enable the Committee for Counselling to be appointed by the Presbytery of Western Australia;
 - a) to note that the Presbytery of Western Australia does not have Presbytery Ministers but will have roles known as “Presbytery Chapter Pastors” or such other name as designated by the Presbytery;
 - b) to note that Regulation 7.7.9 provides that complaints of sexual misconduct can be made to Presbytery Ministers;
 - c) to authorise a variation to the operation of Regulation 7.7.9 to the extent necessary to enable complaints of sexual misconduct to be received by “Presbytery Chapter Pastors” (or its equivalent) within the bounds of the Synod of Western Australia;

SYNODS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA

05.69.06 It was resolved to:

- a) note that the Presbyteries of South Australia and Western Australia have resolved to transfer their responsibility for property matters to their respective synods;
- b) exempt the Presbyteries of South Australia and Western Australia from compliance with Regulations 3.4.36 (a) (iii) and 4.3.1;

2. KEY DIRECTIONS FOR THE NEXT TRIENNIUM

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 2, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, consisting of a broad framework for ASC processes, the background documents for planning the process, strategic directions for the Assembly and a consolidated report on the current agency priorities for the next triennium. The Assembly Standing Committee spent Friday evening and Saturday until 5.00pm with an external facilitator developing a set of Key Directions that can be put before the 11th Assembly for its consideration and adoption. Five Key Directions were identified and agreed upon in the areas of Aboriginal reconciliation, evangelism, peace building, elucidating the doctrine of the Church in an accessible way, and polity/structural issues arising from changing circumstances. The draft Key Directions required some editing work for consistency of format and wording before final adoption and referral to the 11th Assembly.

05.70 It was resolved to refer the key directions that were established by the Assembly Standing Committee to the General Secretary for editing and return to the March ASC meeting.

3. QUEENSLAND SYNOD RE HANDLING PROPOSALS ON SEXUALITY AT THE 11TH ASSEMBLY

Jenny Tymms spoke to Document 15, consisting of a report from the Queensland Synod on the processes at the 11th Assembly for handling proposals on sexuality and leadership.

05.71 It was resolved to:

- 05.71.01 note the proposal submitted by the Synod of Queensland for the 11th Assembly;
- 05.71.02 note the advice that the actual process followed by the Synod of Queensland varied in a number of respects from that outlined in the request;

- 05.71.03 advise the Synod of Queensland about the concerns raised by the Assembly Standing Committee about the status, accuracy and interpretation of the document "The Uniting Church a Multicultural Church";
- 05.71.04 assure the Synod of Queensland that the agenda for the 11th Assembly will provide space to hear the voices of indigenous and migrant-ethnic members of the Assembly;
- 05.71.05 refer the proposal and the Assembly Standing Committee comments to the Design Team and the Business Committee with a request that they address the underlying concerns raised by the proposal, and incorporate elements as appropriate in their planning

4. PRESIDENTIAL RULING #24

The General Secretary introduced Presidential Ruling #24. James Haire, ex-President chaired the discussion.

05.72 It was resolved to:

- 05.72.01 note that the President has issued Presidential Ruling #24;
- 05.72.02 confirm Presidential Ruling #24 (**Attachment A**)

5. RESPONSE RE ORDINANCE OF THE SYDNEY DIOCESE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Gregor Henderson reported on an ordinance that was approved by the Diocese of Sydney, Anglican Church of Australia, in October 2005.

05.73 It was resolved to:

- 05.73.01 note the "Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005" approved by the Diocese of Sydney, Anglican Church of Australia, in October 2005;
- 05.73.02 express concern that in the documentation associated with the proposal for the Ordinance specific reference was made to the Uniting Church as a likely source of non-Anglican churches which might wish to affiliate with the Diocese of Sydney under the Ordinance;
- 05.73.03 protest to the Diocese of Sydney of the Anglican Church of Australia at the ecumenical discourtesy and impropriety inherent in such reference to the Uniting Church, particularly when there had been no prior discussion with any officer of the Uniting Church NSW Synod or Assembly;
- 05.73.04 request the President and General Secretary to seek assurance from the Diocese of Sydney that the Diocese will not target Uniting Church congregations and ministers in the application of the Ordinance;
- 05.73.05 in the event that such assurance is not given by the Diocese of Sydney, request the President and General Secretary to convey the Uniting Church's concern and protest to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, and to ask the General Synod to request the Diocese of Sydney to provide such assurance;
- 05.73.06 in the event that no assurance is received, authorise the Assembly officers to consult with the Working Group on Christian Unity and take further action, including the possibility of suspension of the national dialogue with the Anglican Church of Australia.

6. REVIEW OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS

The General Secretary presented Document 8, consisting of a report on the processes which are used for the review of persons that hold the position of National Director within the Assembly.

05.74 It was resolved to:

- 05.74.01 receive the report;
- 05.74.02 resolve to end the practice of offering fixed term contracts to lay persons serving in senior executive positions, except where this is for an initial term no longer than one year;
- 05.74.03 revise the Assembly process for the review of National Directors by removing stage one of the process;
- 05.74.04 request the General Secretary to prepare revised guidelines for lay and ministerial appointments for senior executive positions, in the light of the discussion.

REMAINING BUSINESS

05.75 It was resolved to:

- 05.75.01 authorise the Assembly Officers to act on behalf of the Assembly Standing Committee in dealing with the following business:
- Beneficiary Fund (Document 18)
 - National Working Group on Doctrine (Document 21)
 - UCOA Mandate (Document 20)
- 05.75.02 refer the following items to the March 2006 Assembly Standing Committee meeting:
- Item 12 in Document 12 (General Business)
 - Assembly "Proposal 35" (Document 11)
 - Media and the 11th Assembly (Document 16)
 - "National Events Board" (Documents 3 & 3A)
- 05.75.03 refer the following item to the General Secretaries:
- Item 11 in Document 12
 - Item 7 in Document 12A

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Allan Thompson.

<p>2006 ASC MEETINGS: 17 – 19 March 2006 25 – 27 August 2006 10 –12 November 2006</p>

President

Date

REMAINING BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 2005

The Assembly Officers, acting under the authority of the Standing Committee Minute 05.75.01, met on 13 November 2005 to deal with the remaining business referred for their decision.

1. BENEFICIARY FUND

The General Secretary introduced Document 18, consisting of a report on the Beneficiary Fund membership profile, performance, actuarial review of the fund, Superannuation Industry Supervision (SIS) regulation and the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) registrable superannuation entity licence.

05.76 It was resolved to:

- 05.76.01 receive the report;
- 05.76.02 note the findings of the Actuarial Review;
- 05.76.03 confirm that the Assembly appointed Directors of the Beneficiary Fund are: Rev Dr Peter Blackwood, Mr Keith Irvine, Mr Brian Hamley, Ms Sue Norman and Rev Anne Honey.

2. NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON DOCTRINE

The General Secretary presented Document 21, consisting of a report from the National Working Group on Doctrine.

05.77 It was resolved to:

- 05.77.01 receive the report;
- 05.77.02 note that Rev. Dr Chris Walker is Deputy Chairperson of the NWG on Doctrine;
- 05.77.03 refer the document "The Uniting Church and the Difference between Evangelism and Proselytism" back to the National Working Group on Doctrine for reconsideration and return to a later meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee, if appropriate;
- 05.77.04 note the planned colloquium and ask the Working Group to provide a report (with possible proposals) to the ASC at the March 2006 meeting.

3. UCOA MANDATE

The General Secretary spoke to Document 19, consisting of a revised mandate for UCOA.

05.78 It was resolved to:

- 05.78.01 receive the report;
- 05.78.02 adopt the revised mandate for UCOA (Attachment B).