

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

25 – 27 AUGUST 2006

PRESENT Gregor Henderson (President), Chris Budden, Sue Clarkson, Terence Corkin, Isabel Thomas Dobson, Dean Drayton, Bev Fabb, Kate Fraser, Sue Gormann, Elise Honey, Andrew Johnson, Jason Kioa, Stuart McMillan, Alistair Macrae, Jim Mein, Vince Ross, Heidi Stabb, Allan Thompson, Liva Tukutama, Robert Watson.

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Bos, Rob Brown, Kevin Davis, John Evans, Graham Humphris, Gavin Melvin, Paul Swadling, Jenny Tymms, Robert Watson.

WORSHIP On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, the President presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion and Kate Fraser preached. On the Saturday Elise Honey led morning worship and Stuart McMillan led evening worship. On the Sunday Glenda Blakefield led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Robert Watson.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all who will be regular participants in the Standing Committee meetings over the next three years, especially those who are newly-elected members. The participants introduced themselves to one another in small groups. Also welcomed as visitors were Marelle Harisun, Lee Levett-Olson and Jim Fraser, to present reports on Coolamon College and the National Audit and Finance Committee, respectively.

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

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

APOLOGIES

06.32 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Jan Trengove, Mata Havea, Bruce Binnie and Shayne Blackman for absence from the whole of the meeting, and from Dean Drayton for absence from the Saturday evening session.

PASTORAL MATTERS

Robert Watson referred to the sudden death of the Rev Herman Awom's wife (Evangelical Church in the Land of Papua). The President informed the Standing Committee about the serious illness of the King of Tonga and the major operation Ian Tanner (past President) had undergone. He also reported John Mavor's (past President) pacemaker operation. The General Secretary advised of James Haire's continuing ill-health. The President also reported that the son of Rev Roger Wiig (Presbyterian Church of Aotearo New Zealand) had been kidnapped in Gaza by the Holy Jihad Brigades. The President led the meeting in prayer.

ORIENTATION TO THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

On the Saturday morning Glenda Blakefield and Chris Budden led the Standing Committee in a time of community building which provided the participants with an introduction to a framework for reflecting theologically, for locating the discussions within the UCA's theological traditions, and for thinking about what it meant to be a member of the Assembly Standing Committee.

REFLECTIONS ON THE ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

On the Saturday morning the Committee spent time reflecting on the Eleventh Assembly with the participants sharing their experiences of the 11th Assembly. Among others, the Committee emphasised the strong sense of community and togetherness at the Assembly, praised the amount of prayer, the excellence of the Bible studies, the outstanding UAICC participation and the positive experience of new business procedures. The General Secretary presented a report by the Assembly Communications Unit, which outlined the multi-faceted communication strategy that had been implemented before and during the Eleventh Assembly. The much improved media coverage and management was appreciated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 6 and 7 were distributed on the Friday night.

06.33 **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

06.34 **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meetings held 17 - 19 March 2006 with the following addition:

15. REFERENCE COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The General Secretary spoke to Document 15, consisting of a report on the Reference Committee for National Youth Events.

06.31 **It was resolved to:**

06.31.01 receive the report;

06.31.02 appoint a Committee of eight persons to comprise the Reference Committee for National Youth Activities, ie with a focus on faith formation for young adults;

06.31.03 invite the Synods to nominate to the Standing Committee persons suited to, and appropriately skilled for, membership of the Reference Committee for National Youth Activities, to be appointed by the ASC;

06.31.04 adopt the following Terms of Reference for the Committee

- a. provide advice to the designated Assembly staff person with responsibility for oversight of national events: National Christian Youth Convention, AboutFACE and the Order of St Stephen;

- b. provide a context in which the church may reflect upon and develop policy, and supervision and accountability mechanisms that are appropriate for the current national youth events and experiences;
 - c. think strategically and theologically about ways in which the Assembly, through current opportunities along with links to overseas partners and international ecumenical groups can co-operate with synods in the faith formation of young adults;
 - d. to have responsibility to recommend to the ASC policies, requirements and guidelines for national youth events so that those proposing to operate a national event (for example National Christian Youth Convention) can reasonably cost and prepare the event proposal for consideration by the Committee;
 - e. publish these decisions as **Requirements and Guidelines**;
 - f. consider proposals submitted to operate or provide lead synod support for a national event / experience focused on faith formation of young adults. After due consideration, including a due diligence financial process, appoint the host operator of a national event;
 - g. monitor the preparation and delivery of the national events in accordance with the **Requirements and Guidelines** established;
 - h. have responsibility to review in consultation with Synod wardens / coordinators and committees, and recommend to the ASC policies, guidelines and conditions of service for the Order of St Stephen; and to maintain the national register of members of the Order of St Stephen and ensure the distribution of certificates and badges of service as required;
 - i. provide a forum in which Synods and the Assembly can discuss and create together initiatives that will provide significant faith education and discipleship opportunities for young people aged 15 years and older;
 - j. explore possible sources of funding for its areas of responsibility and bring recommendations as required to the ASC;
 - k. report to the ASC once per year;
- 06.31.05 request the General Secretary to arrange for sufficient funding for the work of this Committee to enable part time staff support for the Committee and its projects, along with appropriate funding to cover meetings of the Committee and non staff operational costs;
- 06.31.06 disband the Assembly Committee – Children, Youth and their Families; and discharge and thank the members for their service.

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 to the Standing Committee on his various activities in his short time as President. He shared with the Standing Committee that, as the mantle of presidency began to settle on him, he came to realise what an extraordinary privilege and heavy responsibility it is to be in a position of national leadership and spoke appreciatively of the enormous support for the office of the presidency. He said that his duty to provide spiritual leadership and encouragement to the Church had taken up more of his time than any other responsibilities. During his visits to, among others, various congregations in the North Queensland Presbytery, he learnt a lot about the depth of concern people had in relation to the 11th Assembly's resolution regarding sexuality and leadership but he also emphasised that the meetings were positive, very encouraging and constructive. He identified the topics that were almost universal around the Church as being sexuality and leadership, the mission of the Church and the question "What sort of church the Uniting Church in Australia is meant to be?".

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

REFERRALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FROM THE ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary introduced Document 2, consisting of all resolutions of the Eleventh Assembly which contain a referral or request to the Standing Committee.

1. Proposal 13: Renewal of the Covenant

06.36 **It was resolved** to request the General Secretary to arrange for the resource *Developing a Covenant as an expression of the relationship between the UAICC and other parts of the Uniting Church* by Chris Budden & John Rickard, to be developed into a short series of studies for use in the church.

2. Proposal 10: Task Group on the Code of Ethics

06.37 **It was resolved to:**

- 06.37.01 (a) note the decision of the 11th Assembly to establish a new Task Group to review the operation and scope of the *Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice*; and the authority given to the ASC to appoint the membership of the Task Group and add to its Terms of Reference;
- (b) appoint Lyn Burden (Convenor) and Di Bos, Jenny Byrnes, Geoffrey Grinton, Andrew Johnson, Jenny Tymms and one person on the recommendation of the Assembly Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry as members of the Task Group;
- (c) establish the following Terms of Reference for the Task Group
- assess the knowledge of the Code of Ethics within the life of the church;
 - evaluate the operation of the Code of Ethics within the church, including within different cultural backgrounds;
 - consider and recommend whether areas addressed by the Code of Ethics should be broader than professional ethics ie "ministry practice";
 - consider and recommend whether candidates for the specified ministries of Ministry of the Word, Ministry of Deacon and Ministry of Youth Worker should be included in the groups to which the *Code of Ethics* applies;

- consider and recommend whether persons serving in recognised placements, fulfilling the roles of those ministries named in the Code of Ethics, should be included in the groups to which the *Code of Ethics* applies;
 - such other matters as may be agreed in consultation with the Standing Committee; and
 - and report to the Standing Committee no later than March 2008;
- d) request the General Secretary to make appropriate resources available to support the work of the Task Group and invite the Synod General Secretaries to provide resources to enable this support.

**3. Proposal 42: Review of the Constitution of the UCA
 Proposal 60: Membership of Presbytery (Unfinished Business)
 Proposals 67/93: Membership of Future Assemblies
 Proposal 79: Membership of the Assembly Standing Committee
 Proposal 82: Operation of Regulation 3.4.15(e) (Unfinished Business)
 Proposal 101: A Review of the Constitution of the UCA**

06.38 It was resolved to:

- 06.38.01 establish a task group (Governance Task Group) in order to deal with a number of matters relating to governance and polity which have been referred by the Assembly. The Task Group is to:
- i. in collaboration with the Church Polity Reference Committee, provide a clear statement of the polity of the UCA, and its theological foundations;
 - ii. recommend ways the Assembly and/or Assembly Standing Committee should respond to the referrals in the light of that polity;
- 06.38.02 determine to refer Proposals 42, 60, 79, 67/93, 101 and the issues in proposal 82 to the Governance Task Group;
- 06.38.03 determine that the composition of the Task Group shall be:
 4 members of the ASC (including the convenor)
 2 members of the Church Polity Reference Committee
 1 Synod General Secretary
 The General Secretary
 The National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship
- Membership to be drawn from at least 3 Synods;
- 06.38.04 request the Governance Task Group to provide reports to each meeting of the ASC;
- 06.38.05 request the Governance Task Group to report by November 2007 on all referrals except Proposal 101, in order that recommendations arising from the work of the Task Group may be considered by the Church during 2008;
- 06.38.06 request the Task Group to report on Proposal 101 by November 2008;
- 06.38.07 determine that the membership of the Task group be: Chris Budden (Convenor), Isabel Thomas Dobson, Heidi Stabb, Allan Thompson, Graham Humphris, Terence Corkin, Rob Bos, Graham Humphris and two members of the Polity Reference Committee yet to be appointed;
- 06.38.08 request the General Secretary to arrange for the Convenor of the Church Polity Reference Committee to lead a discussion on the UCA's polity at the November 2006 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee

4. Proposals 71 and 72: Property Sharing in Cross-cultural settings / National Conferences

06.39 It was resolved to request Assembly Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry to bring nominations to the November 2006 meeting of the ASC of persons for appointment to the two Task Groups approved by the 11th Assembly on property sharing and National Conferences (Proposals # 71 and 72).

5. Proposal 73: Integrity and Justice in Employment Relationships

06.40 It was resolved to:

- 06.40.01
- a) appoint a Task Group to progress the development of a national approach in the area of just and ethical employment practices within the Uniting Church;
 - b) appoint Glenda Blakefield (Convenor) and Robert Watson, Raoul Spackman-Williams, John Oldmeadow and Graham Harris to the Task Group;
 - c) determine that the Task Group will convene a consultation among the synods and Assembly to
 - (i) share together the way in which each is seeking to ensure that their employment practices are consistent with Uniting Church statements on the role of employers and the rights of employees,
 - (ii) consider identifying minimum expectations of employing bodies in the church and/or guidelines by which the employment practices of the church may be measured against our commitment to social justice principles and our public statements on the role of employers and the rights of employees;
 - (iii) determine an appropriate timeframe for this undertaking, taking into account the immediate need created by the entry into effect of the *WorkChoices* legislation in March 2006; and
 - d) request that the Task Group report to the March 2007 meeting of the ASC on the results of the consultation and related actions and bring any recommendations for further action.

6. Proposal 85: Amendment to Proposal 75 (re Appeals)

06.41 It was resolved to:

- 06.41.01
- request the Assembly Legal Reference Committee to:
- (a) review the diverse Regulations that provide for appeals or reviews;
 - (b) consider whether guidelines or explanatory material should be issued to assist the Church in processing appeals and reviews;
 - (c) determine whether amendments to the Regulations are desirable and, if so, to make recommendations to the Standing Committee;
 - (d) consult with Synods and Presbyteries about any proposed amendments to the Regulations and consider their responses prior to bringing proposals to the Standing Committee;
 - (e) take into account the following issues:
 - the terminology used;

- the circumstances in which there is or should be a right of appeal or review;
- the person(s) who may appeal or apply for a review;
- the grounds for appeal or review;
- the responsibility of the person(s) or body which considers or determines the appeal or review;
- the ambit of any enquiry which should be undertaken by the appellent body or person;
- the outcomes of the appeal or review;
- possible consolidation or standardisation of some of the appeal Regulations;
- such other matters that they consider to be relevant during the course of undertaking this task;

(f) report to the Standing Committee no later than November 2007.

7. Proposal 106: Transitional Arrangement for Specified Ministries

06.42 It was resolved to:

- 06.42.01 (a) note the decision of the 11th Assembly that the ASC, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, provide guidance for the synods on the operation of certain transitional arrangements arising from the decision to establish the Specified Ministry of Pastor and to close the Specified Ministries of Community Minister, Lay Pastor and Youth Worker to new candidates;
- b) note the expectation of the Assembly that these guidelines shall facilitate
- i) flexibility;
 - ii) recognition of appropriate prior learning, training and ministry experience; and
 - iii) exemption from the requirement for a period of discernment.
- (c) appoint Dean Drayton (Convenor) and Pam Kerr, Chris Udy, Trevor Knight, Michael Jeffrey, Amelia Koh-Butler and Alison Macrae as members of the Task Group to develop the guidelines for the use of synod panels when seeking to change from one of the discontinued Specified Ministries to an ordained ministry.

06.43. Task Group for Implementation of the Specified Ministry of Pastor

06.43.01 **It was resolved to** establish the following Terms of Reference for the Task Group for Implementation of the Specified Ministry of Pastor

Terms of Reference:

- a) to monitor the work of Ministerial Education Commission and the Task Group on Transitional Arrangements for Specified Ministry of Pastor;
- b) to revisit the report of the Task Group on Specified Ministries and identify additional tasks that need to be undertaken on the way to introducing the ministry of Pastor;
- c) to identify questions and any other areas that need to be clarified;
- d) to bring reports to each meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee on the work undertaken and any advice on other decisions that need to be taken in order to implement the specified

ministry of Pastor.

06.43.02 appoint Diane Anderson (Convenor), Terence Corkin, Colleen Geyer, Bruce Mullan, Mark Lawrence, Kaye Ronalds, Richard Wallace and Mata Havea to the Task Group on the Implementation of the Ministry of Pastor;

8. Proposal 108: Sexuality and leadership in the UCA

06.44 It was resolved to:

- 06.44.01 (a) request the National Working Group on Doctrine to prepare draft Terms of Reference that will assist the Church in its ongoing consideration of the theological diversity of the Church on the issue of sexuality and leadership;
- (b) bring the draft Terms of Reference to the November 2006 meeting of the Standing Committee for determination;

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Centre for an Ethical Society (ASC Minute 06.25)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 19, consisting of a report on the possible relationship between the Centre for an Ethical Society and the Uniting Church in Australia.

06.45 It was resolved to:

- 06.45.01 note the intention to establish the Centre for an Ethical Society (CES) as a progressive Christian voice advocating and educating for justice; and
- 06.45.02 determine that no Assembly financial resources will be directed to the operation of the Centre for an Ethical Society.

2. Proposal for a Theological Listener (ASC Minute 06.16)

Rob Bos spoke to Document 14, consisting of a report on the possibility of having a theological listener at the Assembly and Assembly Standing Committee meetings.

06.46 It was resolved to:

- 06.46.01 agree to the trial presence of an additional theological listener at ASC meetings;
- 06.46.02 agree to the suggestions in this paper on the way of working;
- 06.46.03 invite the National Working Group on Doctrine to provide names of people who may be asked to serve as theological listeners; and
- 06.46.04 authorise the Assembly officers to issue invitations to persons to participate in meetings of the Standing Committee as a theological listener;
- 06.46.05 review the experience at the end of the July 2007 meeting.

3. Report of the Meeting between the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee and the General Secretaries

The General Secretary spoke to Document 15, consisting of a report on the meeting between the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee and the General Secretaries.

06.47 It was resolved to:

06.47.01 receive the report; and

06.47.02 determine that the Assembly Standing Committee will take no further action in respect of the referral of Proposal # 35 from the 10th Assembly and report this decision to the 12th Assembly.

4. Nomination for National Director – Uniting International Mission (ASC Minute 06.06.03)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 6, consisting of a report of the Nominating Committee.

06.48 It was resolved to appoint the Rev. Dr Kerry Enright to the position of National Director, UIM for a five year term to commence 1 February 2007.

5. Nomination for National Director – Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry (ASC Minute 06.09.04)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 7, consisting of a report of the Nominating Committee.

06.49 It was resolved to:

06.49.01 receive the report;

06.49.02 note that the Nominating Committee is not ready to present a final report and nomination;

06.49.03 convene a teleconference of the Assembly Standing Committee to receive the final report and recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

6. Task Group on Review of Korean Regulations

The General Secretary spoke to Document 11, consisting of a report of the Task Group on the Review of the Korean Regulations.

06.50 It was resolved to:

06.50.01 receive the report;

06.50.02 note that the Alternate Korean Regulations are extensively used within the Uniting Church Korean community and are seen as helpful by most Korean congregations;

06.50.03 note with concern that 3.1.34 (b) and 3.1.35 (c) of the Alternate Regulations relating to ensuring that one third of Elders be women has not been implemented by Korean Uniting Church congregations;

06.50.04 request Rev Dr Jason Choi, Rev Kisoo Jang and Rev Aeryon Lee to prepare a study / congregational discussion document to assist Korean congregations to reflect further on the importance of encouraging the gifts of women and women's leadership;

- 06.50.05 request the General Secretary to send the congregational study to Korean congregations along with a covering letter to remind and urge them to put into practice 3.1.34 (b) and 3.1.35 (c) of the Alternate Regulations;
- 06.50.05.01 a) note the changes recommended in Part III of the report;
- b) determine that the Alternate Regulations be amended to make it clear that men and women may equally be recognised in the *kwonsa* and *Jibsa* role and there be no further recognition of *Ansu-jibsa* and *Hangjon-jibsa*;
- c) request the General Secretary, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to prepare appropriate wording for amendments to the Alternate Korean Regulations; and bring these amendments to the March 2007 Assembly Standing Committee;
- 06.50.06 determine that Alternate Korean Regulations be reviewed again in 2011;
- 06.50.07 send a copy of this report and recommendations to the relevant Presbyteries, Synods and Korean congregations and the Chairpersonss of National Conferences;
- 06.50.08 rename these Regulations the “Alternative Korean Regulations” and make appropriate adjustments to the wording of the Regulations;
- 06.50.09 thank and discharge the Review Group.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Coolamon College

The General Secretary introduced, then Marelle Harisun, Lee Levett-Olson and Jim Fraser spoke to Documents 3, 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D, consisting of a discussion paper on the future directions for Coolamon College, its proposed business plan, budget projections and a review of its financial position. Discussion in table groups followed.

06.51 It was resolved to:

- 06.51.01 receive the Coolamon College report;
- 06.51.02 endorse the proposed ‘New Directions’ for the College and encourage the Coolamon College Council to pursue new agreements, including Licensing provisions, with all stakeholders;
- 06.51.03 urge all Synods to support the *National Network for Distance Theological Education* by negotiating new formal cooperative agreements no later than 1 January 2007.

2. Frontier Services

The General Secretary spoke to Document 4, consisting of the proposed new Frontier Services Constitution. Discussion followed.

06.52 It was resolved to:

- 06.52.01 defer the determination on this matter to the November 2006 meeting of the Standing Committee;

- 06.52.02 request the General Secretary to advise the Board of Frontier Services of the discussion and invite their comment;
- 06.52.03 invite the National Director and the Chairperson of the Board of Frontier Services to attend the November 2006 meeting of the Standing Committee.

3. General Report

The General Secretary presented Document 13, consisting of a report on various matters.

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

4. Legal Reference Committee

The General Secretary spoke to Document 16, consisting of a report on the work the Legal Reference Committee has done since the 11th Assembly.

- 06.54** It was resolved to:

- 06.54.01 receive the report;
- 06.54.02 amend the Regulations in the report as proposed by the Legal Reference Committee.

The version of the proposals provided below is the form in which they came from the 11th Assembly. New words and additional changes recommended by the Legal Reference Committee are noted in bold, deletions with a double strikethrough. The conventional underscore and strikethrough are the amendments agreed by the 11th Assembly.

- 06.54.02.01 a) **Form and Ordering of Ordinations (proposal #16)**

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.

- 06.54.02.02 **b) Joint Nominating Committee – training (proposal #18)**

Regulations 2.7.16 (c)

~~The JNC Joint Nominating Committee shall view an Assembly video describing~~ familiarise itself with the processes of placement and the appropriate ways to mutually explore ministry needs and opportunities with prospective Ministers;

- 06.54.02.03 **c) Terminating a Placement – Regulations 2.7.7 (b), 2.7.8 (c), 2.7.9 (c) (proposal #44)**

The Committee considers that the changes agreed to by the Assembly for two of these Regulations should be added to the end existing Regulations rather than being a *new section, ie at the end of 2.7.8 (c) and 2.7.9 (c)*.
Regulation 2.7.7 (b)

- (b) Any decision by a Presbytery to terminate a placement in a Congregation shall normally be made as a result of a consultation on the life and witness of the Congregation. The Presbytery shall consider any request for the termination of a placement in a Congregation made by the Church Council pursuant to a resolution carried by a two thirds majority of members present at a special meeting.

Whenever a Presbytery is considering terminating a placement in a Congregation, the Presbytery shall appoint a person to provide pastoral care and support to the Minister.

Regulation 2.7.8 (c)

Whenever a Presbytery, Synod or Assembly is considering terminating a placement ~~the appropriate body~~ it shall appoint a person to provide pastoral care and support to the Minister.

Regulation 2.7.9 (c)

Whenever a Placements Committee is considering terminating a placement ~~the Placements Committee~~ it shall ensure that a person is appointed to provide pastoral care and support to the Minister.

06.54.02.04 d) **Processes for the election of the President (proposal #53)**

METHOD OF BALLOTING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

3.6.11 Nominations for inclusion in the ballot for the President-elect may be made either by a Synod, a Presbytery, or a regional or national committee of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress ~~or by two individual members of the next Assembly~~ or by a member of the Assembly, persons who have been appointed to be members of the Assembly at which the election is to be held, it being necessary in each case that the nomination be submitted in writing on a form containing the consent of the nominee. Nominations will close ~~90~~ ninety days prior to the date of the commencement of the meeting of the Assembly at which an election is to be held.

The method of voting shall be as the Assembly determines, provided that no person shall be declared elected until that person has obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast, provided that in the first instance the inaugural Assembly may make such other provisions as it sees fit for designating the President of the next ensuing Assembly.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRESIDENT

3.6.13 ~~(a)~~ The responsibilities of the President shall be to give spiritual leadership and encouragement to the Church generally, to represent the Church as appropriate, to give counsel as occasion requires and to do such other things as may be requested or advised by the Assembly.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

3.6.26 (a) It shall be the responsibility of the Standing Committee to transact such business as may be referred to it by the Assembly and such other business as may be required or be desirable to be done on behalf of the Assembly between meetings of the Assembly, except such as may be precluded by the Assembly.

(b) To assist the Assembly in its discernment, the Standing Committee shall, at least ten months prior to an Assembly meeting, advise the Church on the challenges and issues which may be faced by the

President and the Assembly in the seven subsequent years.

- (c) From time to time the Standing Committee will offer guidance to the President on priorities to be pursued, and the way in which the responsibilities named in Regulation 3.6.13 (a) may be exercised, taking into account the particular gifts and graces of the President.

06.54.02.05 **e) Length of term for a Lay Pastor (proposal #55)**

That the Assembly authorise the Standing Committee on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 2.13.18 by the addition of a new paragraph to provide for a placement of a lay pastor to be extended for periods of up to three years to a total maximum of ten years.

2.13.18 A placement of a Lay Pastor shall normally be made for an initial period of up to three years, with the possibility of ~~yearly~~ early extensions of up to three years to a total maximum of ten years. In the final year of the initial placement and ~~in every subsequent year of the placement~~ of any extension before the tenth year, a decision shall be taken by the Presbytery as to whether or not the Lay Pastor is to be invited to continue in the placement, following consultation with the Congregation or employing body and the Placements Committee and any other Synod body designated by the Synod.

06.54.02.06 **f) MEC Membership for the Presbytery of Tasmania (proposal #62)**

Amend Regulation 2.2.15 by

- a) the addition of a new sub-clause to read:
- (d) one person appointed by the Presbytery of Tasmania; and
- b) renumber the remaining sub clauses as required

06.54.02.07 **g) Regulation 2.7.9 A (i)**

Regulation 2.7.9A(c)(i) to read:

- c) An appeal against a termination decision:
- (i) by a Presbytery or its Pastoral Relations Committee pursuant to Regulation 2.7.7 or 2.7.8(c) shall be directed to the Synod or its Standing Committee. The Synod or its Standing Committee shall appoint a committee to determine the matter. The committee shall not include any member of the ~~Presbytery or its Pastoral Relations Committee~~ body that made the termination decision;

06.54.02.07 **h) General Secretary and Placements Committee – Regulation 2.7.3 (proposal #77)**

Amend Regulation 2.7.3 b (ii) to read

The Placements Committee shall consist of:

b (ii) the Secretary of Synod (or nominee) ~~to act as secretary;~~

06.54.02.08 **i) Membership of the Synod Property Board – Regulation 4.2.3 (proposal #78)**

Amend Regulation 4.2.3 to read:

The Synod shall determine the membership and terms of appointment of members of the Synod Property Board provided that the membership shall include

- (a) the Synod Property Officer ex officio; and
- (b) at least two other members of the Property Trust.

06.54.03 determine that the effective date for the operation of the new Regulations shall be September 1 2006

4. National Audit and Finance Committee

The General Secretary introduced and Jim Fraser spoke to Document 5, consisting of a report on revised Assembly Financial and Audit Committee Charter.

06.55 It was resolved to adopt the revised Charter for the Assembly Audit and Finance Committee (Attachment A).

5. Task Group on the Basis of Union

The General Secretary introduced Document 18, consisting of a report of the Task Group on the Basis of Union.

06.56 It was resolved to defer the discussion of the matter to the November 2006 meeting of the Standing Committee.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEES

The General Secretary presented Document 8, consisting of profiles of nominees for election to Assembly committees.

06.57 It was resolved to appoint the following members of Reference Committees for a period of three years to 2009:

06.57.01 **COOLAMON COLLEGE**

College Council

David Rankin	Pam Kerr
Kevin Davis	Karyl Davison

Academic Committee

Alex Jensen	Bronwyn Morton
Jonathon Barker	Charles Biggs
Sandy Boyce	Craig Mitchell
John Oh	Anne Hewitt

06.57.02 **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Adrian Brown	Rod Dungan
Bradley Fenner	Anne Gibbons
Rosemary Johnston	Mark Lawrence
Joyce Marcon	Rick Morrell
Wendi Sargeant	

- 06.57.03 **CHRISTIAN UNITY WORKING GROUP**
Margaret Blair Rachel Kronberger
Gay Loftus Charity Majiza
Joan McRae-Benson Maureen Postma
Eric Smith Isabel Thomas Dobson
Apwee Ting Andrew Tiver
- 06.57.04 **CHURCH POLITY**
Ian Price Deirdre Palmer
Kate Trethaway Karen Hunt (corresponding member)
Kylie Holland (corresponding Member)
- 06.57.05 **DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY**
Murray Earle Peter Jenkins
Graeme Adsett Bob Heathwood
Kaye Ronalds Bert Johns
Ann Hewson Christine Digby
Peter Woodward Noel Williams
- 06.57.06 **FRONTIER SERVICES**
Bruce Cornish Gail Cresswell
Jennifer Knight Helen Mclaughlin
- 06.57.07 **LEGAL REFERENCE**
Warwick van Ede Maxine Roberts
Paula Reid Dwayne Hickman
Kath Merrifield
Philip Battye (corresponding member)
Prof Myles McGregor Lowndes (corresponding member)
- 06.57.08 **MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION**
Secretary: Karyl Davison
- 06.57.09 **MULTICULTURAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY**
Eseta Meneilly Lu Senituli
Meryl Gemo Clive Pearson
Kisoo Jang Liva Tukutama
Vince Ross Wai Hoey
Charles (Salesi) Faupula Ofa Fotu
Amelia Koh-Butler Faama Leota
Rodel Palma Mata Havea
- 06.57.10 **NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITES REFERENCE COMMITTEE**
Lauren Sheen Chris Shaw
Caitlin O'Reilly Kerryn Clarke
Sue Clarkson Rick Morrell
Ernest Sorensen
- 06.57.11 **RECEPTION OF MINISTERS**
Allan Thompson Ian Breward
Graham McAnnalley Howard Wallace
Elliott Forsyth Alison McRae
Charity Majiza Apwee Ting
Heather Cameron
- 06.57.12 **UNITINGJUSTICE**
Colin Cargill Helen Hodgson
Peter Hobson Graham Maddox
- 06.57.13 **THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP**
- 06.57.13.01 **NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON DOCTRINE**

Glenda Blakefield	Seforosa Carroll
Garry Deverell	Andrew Dutney
Lauren Fee	John Hirt
Peter Hobson	Rod Horsfield
Anita Monro	Clive Pearson
Yangrae Son	Chris Walker
Peter Walker	Paul Walton

06.57.13.02 **NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WORSHIP**

Pam Batson	Carol Bennett
David MacGregor	Anita Monro
Ray Nutley	Sue Pickering
Elenie Poulos	Lu Senituli
Bob Warrick	

06.57.13.03 **NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH OTHER FAITHS**

Wilma Viswanathan	Deb Porter
Stewart Mills	Geoff Boyce
Kevin Davis	Malcolm Homes
Marie Wilson	Joy Balazo

06.57.13.04 **NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON MISSIOLOGY**

Convener: Rev Bronwyn Murphy

06.57.13.05 **NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON EVANGELISM**

Convener: Rev Ian Robinson

06.57.14 **UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA**

Elizabeth Orr	Sue Park
Barbara Huggins	Geoff Scott
Daphne Read	Karyn Burchell
Pamela Spall	

06.57.15 **UNITING CHURCH OVERSEAS AID**

Chairperson: Malcolm Gledhill

Members:

Carolyn Thornley	Rosemary Miller
Gwen Willis	Rob Brown
Robert L Jakes	Margaret Reeson
John Mavor	Jamie Isbister
Jim Mein	Arthur G Pearce
Anthony Bellaine	Glenda Blakefield

06.57.16 **UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION**

Margaret Cargill	Sue Gormann
Guy Lambert	Tim Bose
Dennis Robinson	Kynan Brooks
Michelle Erofeyeff	Bridget Cousens
Carolyn Thornley	Olivia Rondonuwu

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. General Business

The General Secretary presented the business in Document 17.

- 06.58 It was resolved to:**
- 06.58.01 a) note that Bill Fischer (six shares), Maureen Lewis (five shares), Samuel Arulampalam (three shares) and John Shipway (two shares) are no longer shareholders in UCA Assembly Ltd;
- b) allocate shares in UCA Assembly Ltd to Kerry Enright, Carolyn Thornley, Richard Stewart and Robert Jakes; and
- c) allocate them six shares, five shares, three shares and two shares respectively;
- 06.58.02 note (a) the authorisation granted, by email ballot, to the Assembly officers to make the co-options to the 11th Assembly as necessary to fulfill the requirements of Regulation 3.6.4;
- (b) the appointment of Mrs Joan Kelley; Ms Lauren Fee and Ms Melanie Dorrington as members of the 11th Assembly;
- 06.58.03 amend paragraph two of the Mandate of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship National Committee to read:
2. To appoint representatives, as agreed with the General Secretary, ecumenical bodies such as Australian Church Women and in bodies such as World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church the World Alliance of Reformed Churches' Department of Part Women and Men, and Bridgebuilders International.
- 06.58.04 express its appreciation to Beth Hancock, Lorna Martin and Helen Rodd for the depth of wisdom, generosity of service and the valuable experience that they brought to the national work of Christian education over many years;
- 06.58.05 (a) receive the resignation of Dr Peter Michael as a member of the National Disaster Fund Management Committee, and expresses its thanks for his long service to this ministry in the life of the church; and
- (b) appoint Dr John Hayes as a member of the National Disaster Fund Management Committee;
- 06.58.06 authorise the Assembly Officers to finalise the appointment of the membership of the UnitingCare Australia Reference Committee, upon receipt of a nomination from the Synod of Western Australia and advice of the new Chairperson of the UnitingCare Australia Advisory Committee on Disability;
- 06.58.07 increase the number of members appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee to the Reference Committee of UnitingJustice Australia to four persons;
- 06.58.08 (a) defer the election/re-nomination of Trustee Directors to the November 2006 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee;
- (b) that further dialogue be undertaken by the Chairperson of Trustees of the Beneficiary Fund with Synod General Secretaries and the General Secretary of the Assembly, with a view to identifying potential candidates for appointment to the Trustee Board;
- 06.58.09 a) appoint Terence Corkin, Bev Fabb and Stuart McMillan as the Assembly Standing Committee members of the Renewing the Covenant Group;
- b) authorise the Assembly Officers to appoint persons to the national Renewing of the Covenant Group; and

- c) request the General Secretary to negotiate for a date for an initial meeting;

06.58.10 authorise Assembly Officers to make additional appointments as appropriate to the Task Group on the Specified Ministry of Pastor as required;

06.58.11 hold an email ballot to determine further appointments to the National Working Group on Doctrine.

2. Assembly Key Directions

06.59 **It was resolved to** give one session at the November 2006 Assembly Standing Committee meeting to consider how to incorporate the Key Directions into the ongoing agenda of the Assembly Standing Committee.

3. Correspondence from Reforming Alliance

The General Secretary tabled the correspondence received from Reforming Alliance. The Assembly Standing Committee members signed an undertaking and were given a copy of the legal advice provided by Reforming Alliance. Much discussion followed.

06.60. **It was resolved to:**

06.60.01 receive the report on the meeting held between representatives of EMU, Reforming Alliance, the Assembly and Synods held in Sydney on 21 August 2006;

06.60.02 receive the correspondence from Reforming Alliance dated 1 and 25 August 2006;

06.60.03 (a) note that it has received from Reforming Alliance a copy of a legal opinion obtained by Reforming Alliance which asserts that decisions of the 10th Assembly in respect of sexuality and leadership are invalid or irregular;

(b) note Reforming Alliance's request that the Assembly and Reforming Alliance make a joint approach to a court for a determination on the validity of decisions of the 10th and 11th Assemblies in respect of sexuality and leadership;

06.60.04 (a) note the advice received from the Assembly's legal advisers denies the validity of the claims made by Reforming Alliance;

(b) concur with the advice received from the Assembly's legal advisers;

(c) affirm the belief that it is not appropriate for members of the Church to take their theological differences to a civil court, nor would such action be a helpful witness to the reconciling work of Christ;

(d) decline the request of the Reforming Alliance to make a joint approach to a Court for a determination on the validity of decisions of the 10th and 11th Assemblies in respect of sexuality and leadership;

06.60.05 inform the presbyteries and wider church of this decision;

06.60.06 advise Reforming Alliance that its requests to establish a commission of inquiry to look into doctrinal questions on sexuality; to rescind ASC minute 03.69.03.01; to provide copies of video recordings and transcripts of the meetings of the 10th and 11th Assemblies; and to establish a tribunal to address disagreements about the Constitution are declined;

- 06.60.07 subject to advice from our legal advisers to offer the National Reforming Alliance Executive and other persons determined by the Assembly Officers a copy of the opinion received from the Assembly's legal advisors on the same conditions under which the ASC received a copy of their legal opinion;
- 06.60.08 invite representatives of the National Reforming Alliance to meet with ASC representatives to discuss further questions on the proposed Assembly of Confessing Congregations and this resolution;
- 06.60.09 a) advise members and councils of the UCA that the proposed Assembly of Confessing Congregations has no status within the councils of the Church; and
- b) authorise the Assembly Officers, after receiving further information from Reforming Alliance, to make a statement to guide members, congregations and presbyteries in relation to the proposed Assembly of Confessing Congregations.

4. Mandate for Church Polity

The General Secretary spoke to Document 21, consisting of the revised mandate for Church Polity Reference Committee.

- 06.61** **It was resolved** to approve the revised Mandate for the Church Polity Reference Committee (Attachment B).

5. Report on NCYC Preparations

The General Secretary presented Document 20, consisting of a report on the preparations for NCYC '07.

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

6. UCA / LCA Doxological Affirmation

The General Secretary presented Document 12, consisting of a revised Doxological Affirmation

- 06.63** **It was resolved** to adopt the Doxological Affirmation for use in joint Uniting Church in Australia and Lutheran Church of Australia celebrations (Attachment C).

7. Wesley Uniting Employment

Glenda Blakefield presented Document 10, consisting of a report on the issues related to the investigation of certain Wesley Uniting Employment activities by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE 11TH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary spoke to Document 9, consisting of proposals that had not been able to be addressed by the 11th Assembly and had been forwarded to the Assembly Standing Committee for determination.

1. Proposal 51: Guidance re Policies Related to Sexuality (Presbytery of Central Queensland)

06.65 It was resolved to:

06.65.01 note the request contained in Proposal 51; and

06.65.02 inform the Presbytery of Central Queensland that the Assembly Standing Committee will take into account the request for practical guidelines when statements about sexuality are made, as it has in the past.

2. Proposal 52: Impact of Resolution 84 on Ecumenical Relationships (Stephen Estherby and Stuart Pendlebury)

06.66 It was resolved to:

06.66.01 defer the discussion of Proposal 52 to the November 2006 Assembly Standing Committee meeting;

06.66.02 invite Stephen Estherby and Stuart Pendlebury to attend that meeting to propose and second this proposal;

06.66.03 invite a representative of Christian Unity Working Group to be present to assist the Assembly Standing Committee's consideration of the proposal.

3. Proposal 58: The New Humanity in Christ (National Working Group on Doctrine)

06.67 It was resolved to:

06.67.01 receive Document B27 'The New Humanity in Christ'; and

06.67.02 note that further work is being undertaken by the Working Group on Doctrine arising from the 11th Assembly's decision re sexuality and leadership.

4. Proposal 60: Membership of Presbytery (NSW Synod)

06.68 It was resolved to refer Proposal 60 to the Governance Task Group set up under minute 06.38.01.

5. Proposal 61: Regulations re Placement of an Intern Minister (NSW Synod)

06.69 It was resolved, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to review and amend the Regulations regarding the placement of ministers, including candidates, particularly the Regulations pertaining to the placement and / or termination of a placement in which a candidate is serving, so that they apply appropriately to intern ministers.

6. Proposal 70: Classification of Property as 'Available for Alternative' Missional Use (NSW Synod)

06.70 It was resolved to:

06.70.01 defer the discussion of Proposal 70 until the November 2006 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee;

06.70.02 invite Glen Powell, the proposer to that meeting; and

06.70.03 seek comments from the Church Polity Reference Committee and the Legal Reference Committee.

7. Proposal 74: Lay Presidency (Christian Unity Working Group)

06.71 It was resolved to:

06.71.01 defer the consideration of Proposal 74 to the November 2006 Assembly Standing Committee meeting;

06.71.02 invite a representative of the Christian Unity Working Group to the November 2006 Assembly Standing Committee meeting to be present to speak to the proposal.

8. Proposal 82: Operation of Regulation 3.4.15(e)

06.72 It was resolved to:

06.72.01 in accordance with the authority granted to the Standing Committee by Regulation 3.6.34(a), grant exemption to the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synods of Western Australia and South Australia from those parts of Regulation 3.4.15(e) necessary to allow their membership to include two confirmed members representing each of such bodies as may be determined by the Presbytery, to be appointed by those bodies, and with at least one of such representatives being a lay person;

06.72.02 refer the issues raised in Proposal 82 to the Governance Task Group set up under minute 06.38.01.

9. Proposal 91: Replacement for Proposal 69: Competency in English for Ministers from other Churches

06.73 It was resolved to:

06.73.01 defer the discussion of Proposal 91 to the November 2006 Assembly Standing Committee meeting;

06.73.02 refer Proposal 91 to the Synods for comment including on their current practices in relation to assisting Ministers from other churches to develop appropriate levels of competency in English;

06.73.03 request the General Secretary to seek advice on the costing that is anticipated for the project initiated by the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee.

10. Proposal 95: Defence Force Training Scheme

06.74 It was resolved to:

06.74.01 request the Church Polity Reference Committee and the Ministerial Education Commission to examine the implications for UCA polity of the Defence Force training scheme "that pays for the theological education of personnel who are already members of the Australian Defence Force who feel a call to ministry"; and

06.74.02 bring a report to the March 2007 Assembly Standing Committee meeting.

11. Proposal 96: Implementation of Proposal 90: Dignity in Humanity: Recognising Christ in Every Person, A Uniting Church in Australia Statement on Human Rights

06.75 It was resolved to:

06.75.01 that having adopted the statement, 'Dignity in Humanity', and understanding that this decision has particular implications, request the Australian Government:

- (i) to conform its policies and actions to the International Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Intensions or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- (ii) to ensure that torture and other such treatment does not occur within detention centres and prisons in Australia;
- (iii) to withdraw support for the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay; and
- (iv) to act urgently, in the light of Assembly Resolution 03.42 and the recent US Supreme Court decision, seeking David Hicks' immediate release from detention at Gauntanamo Bay and his repatriation to Australia, ensuring a just legal process for him.

12. Proposal 97: Joint Board of Christian Education

06.76 **It was resolved** to acknowledge and honour the rich heritage that the Joint Board of Christian Education and then Uniting Education made to the life of our Uniting Church and its former founding churches over 92 years, noting that the ministry of this former agency of the Assembly set an example of ecumenical cooperation and provision of both resources and training for Christian education, Discipleship and Mission not only in Australia and New Zealand but also for some of our partner Churches in the Pacific.

13. Proposal 100: Reception of Candidates from other Churches (Synod of Victoria and Tasmania)

06.77 **It was resolved to** authorise the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Assembly Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulations 2.3.5 – 2.3.7 to enable the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee to receive and consider an application from a person who is a candidate of another church recognised by the Uniting Church, and, upon determination of eligibility, to refer the candidate to the Faculty of the appropriate Theological College which shall decide the academic and ministry formation requirements to be completed.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Robert Watson

NEXT MEETING:

10 – 12 November 2006