

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

16 – 18 NOVEMBER 2007

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

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Bos, Rob Brown, Kevin Davis, Kay Dowling, Anita Monro, Paul Swadling, Jenny Tymms.

WORSHIP On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, Terence Corkin presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion and Dean Drayton preached. On the Saturday Mata Havea led morning worship and Rob Brown led evening prayers. On the Sunday Kevin Davis led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Dean Drayton.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Anita Monro as the Theological Listener for the whole meeting; Chris Walker as Theological Listener for Friday evening; Graham Vawser for Friday evening and the request from the Synod of SA regarding exemption to the Regulations; Kerry Enright for matters related to UIM; Tony Floyd for matters related to Multicultural and Cross cultural ministry; Mark Hillis for matters related to Elders and Church Councils; Jim Fraser for matters related to the 2008 budget and John Rickard for matters related to the renewal of the Covenant.

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

07.47 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Jim Mein and Shayne Blackman for the whole meeting; of Sue Gormann for Friday and Saturday and of Chris Budden for Saturday afternoon.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The President reported the death of Rosemary Young's mother and Robert Watson's sickness and recovery. He also shared about the hospitalisation of Glenda Blakefield's husband and the sickness of Bev Fabb's partner. The participants were also advised that Lin Hatfield Dodds has been declared ACT Australian of the Year and that Graham Humphris was reappointed for a full 5-year term as General Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1.

07.48 **It was resolved to:**

07.48.01 consider in accordance with Minute 02.08.05 whether the content and emphasis of the agenda reflects an appropriate level of focus on matters of contemporary

significance to the Church; and

- 07.48.02 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

07.49 It was resolved to:

- 07.49.01 confirm the minutes of the meeting held July 20 - 22 2007 with the correction in Pastoral Matters changing "David Thiem" to "David Thiem's mother".

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 night the President began his report by sharing about the question that is frequently asked of him. "What is your impression of the state of the Church?" In response he told the Standing Committee about his visits to Congregations in various Synods and his attendance at recent Synod meetings. He said he often sees congregations at their best and he comes back elated from these visits. Questions about justice issues have been overwhelmingly affirming of the Church's position, and in recent months he has received not more than one question about sexuality. Therefore, by and large, the word 'contentment' can be used in this context. He emphasized that we need to take advantage of this peacefulness and go ahead with the mission of the Church. He thinks that a couple of Synods are doing better than the others, partly because they have a greater number of young ministers and that the Synods would benefit from learning more about each other. The growth some congregations are experiencing is only small but it is coming mostly from young families. He was happy to share that he hears about more adult baptisms than ever and this has to be an encouraging sign. Our community service agencies are serving as effectively as ever and Synods have been working hard on relations with communities and schools. He also shared about the ecumenical activities he has participated in over the past three months, including the Pacific Conference of Churches Assembly in American Samoa, the World Methodist Council Executive meeting in Sydney, the Anglican General Synod in Canberra and the recent NCCA meetings. He finished his report by thanking the Assembly Standing Committee and the Church for the enormous support extended to him this year.

07.50 It was resolved to receive the report.

SYNOD SHARING – NORTHERN SYNOD

Kevin Davis from the Northern Synod was 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. AGENCY S.M.A.R.T. GOALS IN RELATION TO THE KEY DIRECTIONS (ASC MINUTE 07.33.03)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 17, consisting of lists of S.M.A.R.T. goals from various Assembly Agencies, grouped around the relevant Key Direction.

07.51 It was resolved to:

- 07.51.01 receive the report;

- 07.51.02
- i. find time on the agenda of the next meeting (preferably early in the meeting) to explore two Key Directions and their associated goals;
 - ii. shape the discussion around two questions: (a) are the goals that are being suggested sufficient to cover strategy, or does more need to be done?, and (b) how does the work being done under the strategic direction help the UCA to be the kind of church it wishes to be?

2. ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL (ASC MINUTE 03.14(e))

Mark Hillis spoke to Document 16, consisting of a report on a survey 'of what is working, not working, proving helpful etc. in the lives of those who are called Elders or leaders in the UCA'. Table group discussion ensued.

07.52 It was resolved to:

07.52.01 receive the report; and

07.52.02 request Mark Hillis, in the light of the discussion, to consider whether any further advice is needed from the Assembly Standing Committee on this matter and to bring any recommendations to a future meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

3. FOLLOW UP ON PROPOSAL #70 FROM THE 11TH ASSEMBLY (ASC MINUTE 06.92.02(b))

The General Secretary introduced document 19, consisting of a progress report from the Task Group on Assembly 2006 Proposal #70, Regulation Change – Missional Use of Property.

07.53 It was resolved to:

07.53.01 receive the report; and

07.53.02 authorise the Task Group to:

- a) approach to the Assembly Polity Reference Group, and
- b) engage an appropriate theologian for a theological rationale for the ultimate proposal to be presented by the Task Group for consideration by the synods and presbyteries.

4. NATIONAL CONFERENCES TASK GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT (ASC MINUTE 06.105.05)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 21, consisting of a progress report on the Task Group's work.

07.54 It was resolved to receive the report.

5. POLITY / GOVERNANCE TASK GROUP (ASC MINUTE 06.38.01)

Chris Budden presented Document 11, consisting of a report on the six proposals that were referred to the Task Group. Debate followed.

07.55 It was resolved to:

07.55.01 receive the report;

07.55.02 take no action on Proposal 60, and inform the NSW Synod that it already has the power (in Regulation 3.4.15 (d) (ii)) to take this action in relation the Presbyteries within its bounds;

07.55.03 refer the following discussion to Presbyteries, Synods and the Assembly Legal Reference Committee for comment:

The membership of the Assembly from the 13th Assembly onwards be determined as follows:

- that a set number of people be appointed to membership of the Assembly from within the bounds of each Synod (rather than a formula based on presbytery numbers and/or membership)
- this number be as it was for the 11th Assembly
- the synod in session determine the number of people to be appointed by each presbytery (bring a minimum of 1) and how many to be appointed by the Synod
- the Moderator and General Secretary of the Synod be ex-officio part of the representation from within the synod bounds
- the outgoing ASC have the authority to co-opt an extra 20 people based on the particular gifts and wisdom needed by the Assembly
- a set of guidelines for the role of the Assembly and gifts, graces, skills, wisdom and experiences needed by members be prepared to guide the appointment of people;

- 07.55.04 refer the following proposal to the Assembly Legal Reference Committee for comment:
approve the following changes and guidelines in relation to membership of the ASC (Proposal 79), and amend Regulation 3.6.25 (c) and (f) to reflect the changes.
- that the maximum number of persons to be elected from any one synod be five (5). Tasmania be guaranteed one person as part of the 5 members from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania;
 - up to four (4) co-options, and ensure youthful or migrant-ethnic appointments and such other gifts, graces, skills, wisdom and experience as are needed;
 - that members of the Assembly be encouraged to consider nominating people beyond their own synod for appointment to the Assembly Standing Committee;
 - that the ASC offer guidance on the way it sees the particular role of the ASC for the next three years, and the gifts needed in the members
 - that attention be drawn to the way the Northern Synod includes ASC members within their standing committee;
 - that it be made clear that Synod General Secretaries and Assembly staff can participate fully in the deliberative sessions, and should be provided with cards to facilitate this participation, but are not to participate in the decision session;
- 07.55.05 a) amend Regulation 3.4.15(e) to read:
“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”;
and
b) effective date 1 January 2008;
- 07.55.06 a) establish a Task Group to prepare a paper that explores the possibility of synods / presbyteries determining that inadequate consultation has occurred prior to a decision taken by the Assembly and, if enough councils agree, then action on the resolution be stopped until further consultation occurs. In effect refocus Clause 39 of the Constitution so that it reflects the need for consultation rather than being a pseudo-Barrier Act style of wording; and
b) appoint Andrew Johnson (Convenor), Keith Maynard, Elise Honey and Graham Humphris to the Task Group;
- 07.55.07. a) determine that a review of the Constitution is required that takes account of the issues raised in the report of the Polity / Governance Task Group;

- b)
 - i) appoint a Task Group to develop recommendations in the light of the paper and discussion at the Assembly Standing Committee meeting;
 - ii) explore the way in which a preamble could impact on the interpretation of the Constitution; and
 - iii) refer their recommendations to the Assembly Legal Reference Committee for drafting
- c) appoint Chris Budden (Convenor), John Evans, Heidi Stabb and John Rickard to the Task Group; and
- d) determine that, subsequent to the Constitutional revision there be a review of the Regulations with a view to simplifying the structures and processes of, in particular, the work of the councils of the church. This review to concentrate on ensuring that Regulations are less concerned for saying what must be done than defining the boundaries within which the Church has freedom to operate; and

07.55.08 thank and discharge the Task Group

6. REPORT ON FUTURE FINANCIAL OPTIONS (ASC MINUTE 07.34)

Bruce Binnie spoke to Document 6, consisting of a report of the Task Group that was established by the Assembly Standing Committee to consider various matters relating to the current and future financial arrangements between the Assembly and Synods and to explore alternative sources of income for the Assembly with a view to reducing the level of reliance on recurrent Synod grants.

07.56 It was resolved to:

07.56.01 receive the report; and

07.56.02 request that a further report be presented to the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

7. REPORT ON THE SPECIAL MEETING WITH CONGRESS RE INDIGECARE AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION (ASC MINUTE 07.36.03)

The General Secretary introduced Document 2, consisting of a report on the summit between representatives of UnitingCare, the Synods and the UAICC.

07.57 It was resolved to receive the report.

8. REVIEW OF COOLAMON COLLEGE (ASC MINUTE 07.42)

Isabel Thomas Dobson, Kevin Davis and Jason Kioa spoke to Document 10, consisting of a report of the Task Group.

07.58 It was resolved to:

07.58.01 receive the report;

- 07.58.02
 - a) affirm the importance of the VET sector programs in the ongoing work of Coolamon College;
 - b) instruct Coolamon College to participate in the process of VET sector re-accreditation; and
 - c) focus on programs for lay preachers, lay presiders at the Sacraments and the core competencies for the Ministry of Pastor;

07.58.03 amend the Mandate of Coolamon College to remove the expectation that Coolamon College will be involved in the delivery of non-award courses; and

- 07.58.04 request the General Secretary to provide a report on the longer term resourcing needs of Coolamon College to the Assembly Standing Committee meeting in July 2008.

9. TASK GROUP LOOKING AT PASTOR REMUNERATION (ASC MINUTE 07.12.02)

The General Secretary introduced Document 13, consisting of a report of the Task Group appointed to consider various HR issues in relation to the ministry of Pastor.

07.59 It was resolved to

- 07.59.01 receive the report;
- 07.59.02 request the General Secretary to provide advice to the Task Group on the nature of their task; and
- 07.59.03 a) refer the work back to the Task Group; and
b) request a report for the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. ASSEMBLY AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Binnie and Jim Fraser introduced Documents 5, 5A and 5B, consisting of the budget proposal for 2008 for the Assembly agencies and the year end accounts for Frontier Services at 30 June 2007.

07.60 It was resolved to:

- 07.60.01 receive the reports in Documents 5 and 5A;
- 07.60.02 record appreciation and commendation for the work of Jim Fraser as Chief Financial Officer;
- 07.60.03 note with gratitude the contributions from Synods to the Assembly budget for 2008;
- 07.60.04 approve the 2008 budgets for
- Assembly Fund
 - Uniting International Mission
 - Uniting Church Overseas Aid
 - Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
 - Coolamon College
 - UnitingCare Australia; and
- 07.60.05 receive the year end accounts for Frontier Services and table a copy at the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

2. BENEFICIARY FUND

The General Secretary spoke to Document 20, consisting of a report on the election of trustee directors and a nomination for Assembly Director

07.61 It was resolved to:

- 07.61.01 receive the report;
- 07.61.02 appoint Graham Dunstan to fill the temporary vacancy as an Assembly Director; and

07.61.03 express thanks to Sue Norman for the eighteen year service as an Assembly Director of the Fund.

3. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary introduced Document 18, consisting of a report on various matters.

07.62 It was resolved to receive the report.

4. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 14, 14A, 14B and 14C, consisting of a report on the work the Legal Reference Committee has done since the March 2007 Standing Committee meeting.

07.63 It was resolved to:

07.63.01 receive the report in Document 14;

07.63.02 a) receive the 4th draft of the proposed regulations for the Specified Ministry of Pastor;
b) refer them to the Legal Reference Committee; and
c) request that the final draft be brought back to the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee;

07.63.03 a) receive the discussion paper in Document 14B and the report in Document 14C;
b) encourage the General Secretaries to distribute the discussion paper in Document 14B to the appropriate bodies; and
c) request a final report on changes to Appeals regulations to the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

5. MULTICULTURAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

Tony Floyd gave a presentation on the ministry of the Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, focusing on the second generation of young adults, relationship with UAICC, the intention to explore synergies, the National Gatherings to be held in 2009 and the attendance to Assembly Key Directions.

07.64 It was resolved to receive the report.

6. RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT TASK GROUP

The General Secretary and John Rickard spoke to Document 4, consisting of a report of the 'Renewing the Covenant' Task Group.

07.65 It was resolved to:

07.65.01 receive the report; and

07.65.02 commend and encourage Congress and the Task Group in their ongoing work.

7. TASK GROUP CO-ORDINATING ISSUES ON THE SPECIFIED MINISTRY OF PASTOR

The General Secretary spoke to Document 12, consisting of a report of the Task Group.

07.66 It was resolved to:

07.66.01 receive the report;

- 07.66.02 defer the implementation of the Ministry of Pastor until July 1 2008, and advise the 12th Assembly accordingly; and
- 07.66.03 request all Task Groups to complete their work by the March 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee.

8. UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Kerry Enright spoke to Document 7, consisting of a report on the developments in Uniting International Mission, including Uniting Church Overseas Aid. Much debate followed about the theology of mission.

07.67 It was resolved to:

- 07.67.01 receive the report;
- 07.67.02 ask National Consultant of Theology and Discipleship in consultation with the National Working Group on Doctrine and the National Working Group on Missiology and others to draft a clearly written brief statement outlining a broad theology of mission in terms of the mission of God in the world and the place of the church within that, followed by suggestions about how Congregations and agencies might see the implications of that theology in their current contexts; and
- 07.67.03 authorise the sale of the Westmead flats.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. ASSEMBLY RESPONSE TO “FOR THE SAKE OF THE PLANET”

The General Secretary introduced Documents 15 and 15A, consisting of a report and the executive summary of the audit of the Assembly’s environmental footprint which was undertaken by Carbon Planet.

07.68 It was resolved to:

- 07.68.01 receive the report;
- 07.68.02 request UnitingJustice to bring a proposal for an Assembly Sustainability Policy to the ASC as soon as possible;
- 07.68.03 request the General Secretary to provide advice to the ASC at that time on the most effective way to manage the cost implications of a sustainability policy; and
- 07.68.04 defer consideration of Assembly investments in the fossil fuel industry until decisions are taken about an Assembly Sustainability Policy.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 3, 3A and 3B, consisting of a report on various matters; correspondence from Reforming Alliance and the Pastor Commissioning Service.

07.69 It was resolved to:

- 07.69.01 receive the report;
- 07.69.02 note that UnitingCare Australia is no longer requesting permission to set levies for the UnitingCare network;

- 07.69.03 a) note the resignation of Rev Dr Geoff Scott as a member of the UnitingCare Australia National Committee;
- b) appoint Rev Don Catford as a member of the UnitingCare Australia National Committee;
- 07.69.04 a) receive the report from UnitingCare Australia on the reasons why it has not yet been possible to undertake the task assigned in ASC minute 06.100.03; and
- b) request that a disability action plan be brought to the July 2008 meeting of the ASC;
- 07.69.05 (a) note that by email ballot the Standing Committee agreed
- “That the Assembly Standing Committee acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34 resolve to suspend the operation of Regulation 7.7.2 (a) to the extent necessary to allow the Synod of NSW to appoint up to twelve people to the Committee for Counselling, for the balance of 2007”; and
- b) acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34 resolve to suspend the operation of Regulation 7.7.2 (a) to the extent necessary to allow the Synod of NSW to appoint up to twelve people to the Committee for Counselling, for 2008;
- 07.69.06 a) receive the correspondence from the NSW Synod requesting the suspension of Regulation 3.5.14;
- b) note that the Synod has changed the frequency of its meetings to every 18 months; and
- c) acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34(a) grant exemption to the operation of Regulation 3.5.14 to the extent necessary to allow the current Moderator of the Synod of NSW to serve a four year term;
- 07.69.07 a) endorse ‘Living Water – Thirsty Land’ as the theme for the 12th Assembly;
- b) appoint Terence Corkin (Convenor), Glenda Blakefield, Bui Chi Ai, Alistair Macrae and a Congress nominee to the Design Team for the 12th Assembly; and
- c) note that the 12th Assembly will be held at the University of NSW from July 15 – 21 2009;
- 07.69.08 receive the correspondence from the Reforming Alliance;
- 07.69.09 a) refer the Service for the Commissioning of a Pastor back to the National Working Group on Worship; and
- b) request a revised draft be brought to the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee in the light of the discussion;
- 07.69.10 a) i) receive the report on common liturgical texts and the Revised Common Lectionary; and
- ii) reaffirm the use of the common liturgical texts and the Revised Common Lectionary as found in *Uniting in Worship 2*;
- b) request the General Secretary and the Convenor of the Working Group on Worship to co-sign a letter to all Presbyteries, asking them to forward the proposed Easter readings to all Congregations and Faith Communities with a view to the suggested readings being trialled in Easter 2008, with feedback to the National Working Group on Worship;
- c) i) receive the resignation of Rev Dr Paul Walton from the National Working Group on Doctrine and convey to Paul the sincere appreciation of the Assembly Standing Committee for his thoughtful contribution over a number of years;

- ii) note that the National Working Group on Doctrine requests that opportunity to be given at an Assembly Standing Committee meeting for a member of that group to present some "big picture" issues facing the Uniting Church at this stage of its history; and
 - iii) invite the National Working Group on Doctrine to liaise with the General Secretary on a date when this can be done;
- 07.69.11
- a) offer the Principal of Coolamon College, Rev Dr Lee Levett-Olson, an extension of placement until December 31 2008; and
 - b) appoint a Review Group to review the Principal and report to the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee;
 - c) appoint the General Secretary and Kevin Davis to the Review Group, and
 - d) authorise the Assembly Officers to finalise the membership of the Task Group;
- 07.69.12
- a) receive the request of the Synod of South Australia for an exemption to aspects of the operation of Regulation 3.4.15(d)(i);
 - b) acknowledge the challenges being faced by the Presbytery of South Australia in meeting the quorum requirements for meetings of the Presbytery;
 - c) refer the request back to the Synod of South Australia with the encouragement that it consult with the Church Polity Reference Committee about the polity implications of not requiring congregations to appoint members to the Presbytery and the rationale for requiring a quorum for meetings of the Synod and Presbytery; and
 - d) invite the Synod to consider bringing proposals to the 12th Assembly for amendments to the Regulations in the light of its further deliberations;
- 07.69.13
- resolve that at the ballot for the members of the Assembly Standing Committee at the 12th Assembly provision be made for at least one member of the Presbytery of Tasmania to be elected;
- 07.69.14
- a) receive the correspondence from the MEC;
 - b) establish a consultative group to facilitate a discussion between representatives of the Synod / Presbytery of Western Australia and the Perth Theological Hall to
 - resolve the differences between them;
 - identify together the needs and priorities of the Synod and Presbytery; and
 - explore ways of working co-operatively on those needs and priorities
 - c) appoint Rev Dean Drayton (Convenor) and Pam Kerr as the facilitation team; and
 - d) request a report from the facilitation team as soon as possible;
- 07.69.15
- a) request the Executive of the Ministerial Education Commission, in consultation with the Assembly Legal Reference Committee, to revise the Guidelines for the Period of Discernment to include that:
 - the Period of Discernment is a gift to the whole Church, and is intended to be an opportunity for affirmation of gifts and discernment for participation in the one ministry of Christ, rather than simply a process on the way to candidature;
 - the Period of Discernment therefore be no longer described as Phase 1 in Ministerial Education;
 - that the Period of Discernment and its outcomes remain part of the process for all seeking candidature for a specified ministry;
 - Presbyteries be encouraged to apply the flexibility inherent in the current guidelines, especially with regard to section 3.6 (Current Guidelines: "The Period of Discernment will normally

be for a minimum of one year. Variations in recognition of prior learning and/or ministry experience may be made at the discretion of the Presbytery”).

- a modified form of the Period of Discernment be devised for experienced leaders seeking to enter ministry in the Uniting Church from traditions that do not ordain.
- b) refer the request from the Ministerial Education Commission and the College Principals on a statement about ordination to the National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship for development of a brief statement and suggestions on additional tasks that may be required; and
- c) seek further information from the Ministerial Education Commission in relation to their request re the Guidelines for the Intern Phase;
- 07.69.16 a) note the report of the General Secretary re Minute 07.34.03 and take no further action; and
- b) request the General Secretary to provide to the ASC, at its March 2008 meeting, a rationale for the optimal future location of each Assembly function as an aid to future planning; and
- 07.69.17 note the following dates for the 2008 and March 2009 Assembly Standing Committee meetings; 28 – 30 March 2008; 25 – 27 July 2008; 14 – 16 November 2008 and 20 – 22 March 2009.

3. REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTANT – THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP

Glenda Blakefield and Liva Tukutama spoke to Document 8, consisting of a report of the Review Group.

07.70 It was resolved to:

- 07.70.01 receive the report;
- 07.70.02 a) affirm Rob Bos' leadership and ministry as National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship over the past three years; and
- b) note that Rob Bos is being considered for a new placement and so it is not appropriate to resolve on an extension of his placement at this time;
- 07.70.03 review:
- a) the position description for the National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship, and the number and purpose of the working groups; and
- b) the mandate of Uniting Faith and Justice, consulting with the staff team and the various reference committees;
- 07.70.04 appoint Andrew Johnson (Convener), Alan Thompson, Wes Campbell and Glenda Blakefield to the Review Group established by minute 07.70.03(a);
- 07.70.05 appoint Glenda Blakefield (Convenor), Bev Fabb, Chris Budden and Mark Lawrence to the Review Group established by 07.70.03(b); and
- 07.70.06 request that the reports be brought to the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee and authorise Assembly Officers to fill any vacancies in the Review Group membership.

4. REVIEW OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR – UNITINGJUSTICE AUSTRALIA

Alistair Macrae presented Document 9, consisting of a report of the Review Group.

07.71 It was resolved to:

07.71.01 receive the report;

07.71.02 affirm with thanks the leadership of Rev Elenie Poulos as the National Director, UnitingJustice Australia over the past 3 years and to extend her placement for a further term of five years from Jan 1 2008; and

07.71.03 request the Reference Committee for Uniting Justice to review the Position description of the National Director, Uniting Justice and submit any amendments for consideration at the March 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Dean Drayton.

2008 MEETING DATES:
28 – 30 March 2008
25 – 27 July 2008
14 – 16 November 2008

MARCH 2009 MEETING DATE:
20 – 22 March 2009

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President

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Date