

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

28 – 30 MARCH 2008

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

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Brown, Kay Dowling, Graham Humphris, Douglas Jones, Peter Jones, Anita Monro, Mary Pearson, Paul Swadling.

WORSHIP On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, Gregor Henderson presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion and Shayne Blackman preached. On the Saturday Jim Mein led morning worship and Sue Gormann led evening prayers. On the Sunday Kate Fraser led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Isabel Thomas Dobson.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Anita Monro and Mary Pearson as Theological Listeners for the whole meeting; Paul Walton for matters related to Statement on Ordination, Guidelines for Funerals and Commissioning of a Pastor, Elenie Poulos for matters related to UnitingJustice Australia, Malcolm Gledhill for matters related to Presidential Ruling No. 26 and the Appeals Regulations.

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

08.01 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Mata Havea, Vince Ross and Jan Trengove for the whole meeting; Paul Swadling for the first session after lunch on the Saturday, Jim Mein for Sunday morning sessions, Jason Kioa and Kay Dowling for Sunday, Liva Tukutama for Friday night, Graham Humphris for Friday and Saturday.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The General Secretary reported the death of Bev Fabb's partner and the illness of Mata Havea's mother. It was reported that Rev Corinus Berotabui from the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua has cancer. The Assembly Standing Committee was also informed that a few members have moved to new positions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 10, 33 and 34 were distributed at the meeting.

08.02 **It was resolved to:**

08.02.01 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

- 08.02.02 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

- 08.03** It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held November 16 – 18 2007.

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 reported on his activities since the Assembly Standing Committee meeting in November 2007. He emphasised that it is an enormous privilege to visit the church across the country and overseas. He spoke of his visit to Jesmond Park, in Newcastle, where he took part in the opening of a new worship and community centre. The average attendance is 130 on Sundays, up from 50 ten years ago, and people from different backgrounds offer blessings in their own language. He was glad to report that there are some very healthy, growing congregations in the Newcastle region. He also spent time in Mary Burnett Presbytery, which is the strongest growing region in Australia. He said that he was impressed by the leadership and the youthfulness of the congregations there. In the Presbytery of Western Victoria he saw struggling small rural congregations, yet there was a tremendous sense of excitement for the church is taking on the issues in a very healthy positive way. The President also shared something about his three recent overseas experiences, the first being a trip to visit the Methodist Church of Fiji. The purpose of the visit was to offer solidarity and fellowship with the Church. The second trip was to the Church of South India where he was invited to speak at the opening of their national Synod. The Church of South India has 22 dioceses with 4 million members. He also made mention of the World Council of Churches Central Committee meeting in Geneva where he was one of the 10 people elected to the committee to search for a General Secretary. He concluded by saying there’s good reason to be confident about the future of the UCA.

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

SYNOD SHARING – QUEENSLAND

Bruce Binnie, Douglas Jones and Andrew Jones from the Queensland Synod shared something of the life of their synod as an expression of our inter-councilar sharing.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

- 1. CONSTITUTION REVIEW TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT (ASC MINUTE 07.55.07)**

Chris Budden spoke to Document 19, consisting of a report of the Task Group charged with consideration of the Constitution. The purpose of the report was to signal the directions the Task Group was moving in and to get some guidance from the ASC. Table group discussion followed.

- 08.05** It was resolved to receive the report;

2. DISCUSSION OF ASSEMBLY KEY DIRECTIONS (ASC MINUTE 07.51.02)

The General Secretary presented Document 2, consisting of lists of S.M.A.R.T. goals from various Assembly Agencies, grouped around the relevant Key Direction. Table group discussion ensued.

08.06 It was resolved to:

- 08.06.01 receive the report;
- 08.06.02 request the General Secretary to
 - a) provide feed back to agencies;
 - b) report back to the Assembly Standing Committee on subsequent actions and responses; and
 - c) allocate time at the next meeting to consider tow more options.

3. PROGRESS REPORT FROM 'CLAUSE 39' TASK GROUP (ASC MINUTE 07.55.06)

Andrew Johnson introduced Document 31, consisting of an interim report from the Task Group

08.07 It was resolved to:

- 08.07.01 receive the report;
- 08.07.02 approve in principle the approach outlined and the proposed constitutional provision;
- 08.07.03 request the Legal Reference Committee to:
 - a) advise on the meaning of "seek concurrence" as it is used in clause 39, and
 - b) determine if the intention of the proposal can be achieved by simpler means, eg by a change in the Regulations;
- 08.07.04 request the Task Group to:
 - a) continue its work in the light of the Assembly Standing Committee discussion and the advice from the Legal Reference Committee; and
 - b) bring a final report to the July 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

4. REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE RESOURCE NEEDS FOR COOLAMON COLLEGE (ASC MINUTE 07.58.04)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 9, consisting of a report on the resourcing needs of Coolamon College.

It was resolved to:

- 08.08** receive the report;
- 08.08.01 request the General Secretary to:
 - a) as a matter of urgency enter into negotiations with Parkin Wesley College about the ways in which the goals of Coolamon College can be delivered through a partnership between the Assembly and Parkin Wesley College; and
 - b) bring a report to the July 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

5. REVIEW OF COOLAMON COLLEGE PRINCIPAL (ASC MINUTE 07.69.110)

08.09 It was resolved to defer the discussion to the July 2008 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

6. REVIEW OF THE POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE NATIONAL CONSULTANT, THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP (ASC MINUTE 07.70.03(a))

Glenda Blakefield, Andrew Johnson and Allan Thompson spoke to Document 15, consisting of a report of the Task Group.

08.10 It was resolved to:

08.10.01 receive the report;

08.10.02 approve the revised Position Description for the National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship (Attachment A);

08.10.03 approve the revised structure as outlined in the report;

08.10.04 request Glenda Blakefield, Allan Thompson and Andrew Johnson to develop a "Ways of Working" document for Theology and Discipleship which is forwarded to the Uniting Faith and Justice Review Group; and

08.10.05 thank and discharge the Task Group.

7. UNITING FAITH AND JUSTICE MANDATE REVIEW (ASC MINUTE 07.70.03(b))

Colleen Geyer spoke to Documents 16 and 16A, consisting of a progress report of the Review Group.

08.11 It was resolved to:

08.11.01 receive the report;

08.11.02 affirm the directions proposed by the Review Group; and

08.11.03 request the Review Group to present a final report to the July Assembly Standing Committee meeting.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. ASSEMBLY AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Binnie delivered a verbal report on the various activities of the Assembly Audit and Finance Committee, including the receipt of the Auditor's Statement, an interview with the investment advisor as well as the meeting with Frontier Services, representatives to discuss the roles of the prospective Audit Committees.

08.12 It was resolved to receive the report.

2. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary introduced Document 28, consisting of a report on various matters.

08.13 It was resolved to receive the report.

3. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TASK GROUP

Glenda Blakefield presented Document 32, consisting of a report on the ethos the Uniting Church as employer as well as some key theological affirmations guiding Uniting Church employment practices.

08.14 It was resolved to:

- 08.14.01 receive the report;
- 08.14.02 adopt the Assembly Uniting Church as Employer, Principles and the Appendix (Attachment B); and
- 08.14.03 request the General Secretary to distribute the documents throughout the church.

4. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

Malcolm Gledhill and the General Secretary spoke to Documents 11, 11A and 11B, consisting of a report on the work the Legal Reference Committee has done since the November 2007 Standing Committee meeting.

08.15 It was resolved to:

- 08.15.01 receive the report in Document 11;
- 08.15.02
 - a) approve the Regulations for the Ministry of Pastor (Attachment C); and
 - b) the effective date be July 1 2008;
- 08.15.03
 - a) approve the revised Regulations for Appeals and consequential amendments (Attachment D); and
 - b) the effective date be July 1 2008; and
- 08.15.04 request the Assembly Legal Reference Committee after consultation with the Church Polity Reference Committee to develop a paper addressing the regulatory and other issues raised in the request for a Synod to be able to delegate its authority in relation to property matters to a UnitingCare Board or other bodies, with a view to this paper being the basis for a wider discussion in the church.

5. RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT TASK GROUP

The General Secretary spoke to Document 3, consisting of a report of the 'Renewing the Covenant' Task Group.

08.16 It was resolved to receive the report.

6. TASK GROUP ON PASTOR REMUNERATION

The General Secretary introduced Document 8, consisting of a report of the Task Group on Pastor Remuneration.

08.17 It was resolved to:

- 08.17.01 receive the report; and
- 08.17.02 refer the final HR kit and guidelines provided by the Task Group to Synods and Presbyteries for implementation.

7. TASK GROUP ON THE SPECIFIED MINISTRY OF PASTOR

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 7 and 7A, consisting of a report of the Task Group and the provisional Guidelines on Procedures for the Appointment of Pastors.

08.18 It was resolved to:

- 08.18.01 receive the report;
- 08.18.02 adopt the Guidelines for the operation of the Regulations on the Ministry of Pastor (Attachment E);
- 08.18.03 noting Regulation 2.2.17(b), request the MEC Executive to:
 - a) approve the provisional Rules for the Ministry of Pastor by 1 July 2008;
 - b) provide a copy of the Rules to the July Assembly Standing Committee meeting; and
 - c) report on the decisions taken by the full MEC when it meets in August;
- 08.18.04 thank and discharge the Task Group.

8. THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP

1. Commissioning of a Pastor

Paul Walton presented Document 34, consisting of a service to be used when a Pastor is commissioned. Several changes were proposed to the written document in order to reinforce the Church's understanding that a person is only a Pastor while serving in a particular ministry location.

08.19 It was resolved to approve the Service for Commissioning a Pastor.

2. Guidelines for Funerals

Paul Walton spoke to Document 5, consisting of the proposed Guidelines for Funerals.

08.20 It was resolved to refer the Guidelines back to the Working Group on Doctrine and the Working Group on Worship and request that a revised set of Guidelines be brought to a later meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee after consultation with Congress and representatives from Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry.

3. Report on 'A Church of Passionate Disciples'

The General Secretary spoke to Document 13, consisting of a report on the responses to the discussion paper entitled 'A Church of Passionate Disciples', prepared by Theology and Discipleship.

08.21 It was resolved to:

- 08.21.01 receive the report;
- 08.21.02 ensure that there is appropriate feedback to those who responded to "A Church of Passionate Disciples";
- 08.21.03 request the General Secretary to facilitate the preparation of a resource that helps people explore the following matters:
 - a) what church membership means, and why it matters;
 - b) how membership of the church impacts on our relationship to Christ, our faith journey, and the church we might join;

- c) how membership helps us belong to Christ and decide who helps us hear the voice of Christ in our life.
and to do so drawing on the insights about membership and covenant community that is part of “A Church of Passionate Disciples”, and

08.21.04 request Theology and Discipleship to monitor this process and report back to the ASC on possible next steps in due course.

4. Statement on Ordination

Paul Walton presented Document 4, consisting of a brief statement on ordination.

08.22 It was resolved to:

08.22.01 receive the Brief Statement on Ordination;

08.22.02 refer the Brief Statement on Ordination to the MEC, Christian Unity Working Group, Working Group on Doctrine and the Principals of Theological Colleges and request comments be made to Theology and Discipleship; and

08.22.03 request Theology and Discipleship to bring a revised Statement on Ordination to the July meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

5. That We May Not Lose the Way

The General Secretary spoke to Document 6, consisting of a report on some ‘big issues’ the Uniting Church faces in the area of doctrine.

08.23 It was resolved to:

- a) receive the report; and
b) note that it will provide the basis for ongoing work by the Working Group on Doctrine which will bring a further report to a later meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

9. UNITINGJUSTICE AUSTRALIA

1. A Uniting Church Response to Human Rights Legislation

Elenie Poulos introduced Document 23, consisting of a national charter for human rights.

08.24 It was resolved to:

08.24.01 communicate to the Commonwealth Government its support for a national human rights charter that is born from widespread and effective community and stakeholder consultation;

08.24.02 call on the Australian Government to develop a national human rights charter which

- 08.24.03
- a) implements Australia’s commitment to human rights outlined in
 - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and
 - the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
 - b) holds public institutions and officials accountable for upholding and promoting human rights in the creation and administration of public policy and practice;
 - c) takes account of Indigenous Australians as the first peoples of this land and the long history of rights being denied to them; and

- d) is supported and policed by properly funded, independent mechanisms; and

08.24.04 affirm support for relevant campaigns for a national human rights charter with these aims

2. A Uniting Church Response to the Citizenship Test

Elenie Poulos spoke to Document 26, consisting of a report on the Australian Citizenship Test.

08.25 It was resolved to:

08.25.01 express to the Commonwealth Government its opposition to the continued use of the Australia Citizenship Test; and

08.25.02 request the General Secretary to include the grounds for the Church's opposition to the citizenship test in his correspondence with the Government.

3. Tabled Minute from UnitingJustice Australia

Elenie Poulos spoke to Document 24, consisting of a minute of appreciation to Rev Dr Ann Wansbrough.

08.26 It was resolved to note and affirm the Minute of Appreciation to Rev Dr Ann Wansbrough with thanks.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 27 and 27A, consisting of a various items report of General Business and correspondence from Reforming Alliance.

08.27 It was resolved to:

08.27.01 appoint Rev. Carol Bennett to the Working Group on Doctrine;

- 08.27.02
 - a) receive the resignation of Rev Pam Kerr as Chairperson of the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee and express the gratitude of the Assembly for her service in this important role; and
 - b) appoint Rev Dr Douglas Miller as Chairperson of the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee;

08.27.03 approve the change of name for the Synod of New South Wales to the "Synod of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory";

08.27.04 amend Regulation 3.4.15(d)(i) to read:

"One confirmed lay member elected by each Congregation. Where a Congregation includes more than 150 confirmed members and members-in-association in total, one additional confirmed lay member may be elected by the Congregation or where a Congregation includes more than 250 confirmed members and members-in-association in total, two additional confirmed lay members may be elected by the Congregation."

- 08.27.05
 - a) note that in a recent re-drafting of the "Alternate" Regulations for Korean Congregations the word "alternate" was replaced by "alternative"; and
 - b) authorise the changing of the word "alternate" with "alternative" wherever it appears in the special regulations provided for Church Councils in small congregations.

- 08.27.06 pursuant to Regulation 3.6.34(a)
- a) grant exemption from compliance with Regulation 3.6.2(b) and (d)(i) in respect of: appointments of members of the 12th Assembly by
- (i) the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and
- (ii) the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
- b) make the following Alternative Regulation that replaces paragraph (b) and subparagraph (d)(i) and adds subparagraph (d)(vi) to Regulation 3.6.2 with respect to appointments of members of the Assembly by the said Presbyteries and Synod only to the 12th Assembly, thereby providing for the same total number of appointments by them as they made to the 11th Assembly:-
- “(b) (i) *three Ministers and three confirmed lay members appointed by the Presbytery of Tasmania;*
- (ii) *three members of the Assembly appointed by each of the other Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, such members to be Ministers or confirmed lay members and, in the case of each Presbytery, to include at least one Minister and one confirmed lay member;*
- (d) (i) *the members appointed by the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania pursuant to paragraph (b) above and the members of the Assembly appointed by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, pursuant to paragraph (d) of Regulation 3.6.2, as varied by this Alternative Regulation, shall comprise equal numbers of Ministers and lay members;*
- (d) (vi) *an additional five Ministers and/or lay confirmed members appointed by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania*

Regulation 3.6.2 (d)(ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) shall continue to apply to the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.”;

- 08.27.07 a) the report of Dean Drayton on the postponed visitation that was to be undertaken by the team established by ASC minute 07.69.14 be received; and
- b) request the President to approach the Acting Principal with a view to expediting the process established by ASC minute 07.69.14;
- 08.27.08 a) conduct a review of the General Secretary in order to determine whether or not an extension is appropriate beyond the end of 2009;
- b) appoint Gregor Henderson (Convenor); Sue Clarkson, Jim Mein, Jan Trengove and Liva Tukutama as the Review Group; and
- c) request the review group to bring its report to the July 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 08.27.09 request the President and President – elect to develop a process through which the Assembly Standing Committee can advise the 12th Assembly on setting Key Directions for the next triennium;
- 08.27.10 a) write to the Prime Minister requesting that he express to the Israeli Government in the strongest possible terms the Australian Government’s concern with the continuing death of civilians in Gaza caused by military and other actions by Israel. Such punishment of

civilians for the actions of a para-military group is contrary to international law, and should be stopped immediately; and

- b) request UCA members of national UCA - Jewish dialogue to explain why they do not believe they can explore the relationship between Judaism and the modern State of Israel and its actions in regard to the Palestinians;

08.27.11 appoint Kerry Pierce to the Working Group on Worship;

- 08.27.12
 - a) appoint a Nominating Committee for the National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship;
 - b) appoint Allan Thompson (Convenor), Glenda Blakefield, Andrew Johnson, Carolyn Thornley, Chris Walker and Paul Walton to the Nominating Committee;
 - c) determine that the location for the National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship is negotiable between potential appointees and the Assembly General Secretary; and
 - d) request the Nominating Committee to bring a nomination to the July meeting of the Standing Committee;

08.27.13 note and endorse the actions of the Assembly Officers in replacing Carolyn Thornley with Elizabeth Walker on the Theology and Discipleship Position Description Task Group; and Bev Fabb and Chris Budden with Stuart McMillan and Colleen Geyer on the Uniting Faith and Justice Mandate review;

08.27.14 appoint Mr Storry Walton to fill the casual vacancy on the Board of Frontier Services; and

08.27.15 request the General Secretary to enquire of the MEC about the outcome of their consideration of the 3rd Phase Guidelines and advise the ASC in July 2008; and

08.27.16 receive the correspondence from Reforming Alliance;

2. DISCERNING GIFTS AND GRACES FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Dean Drayton spoke to Document 21, consisting of a report on the issue of discerning gifts and graces from Assembly membership.

08.28 It was resolved to:

08.28.01 receive the report;

08.28.02 request the General Secretary to arrange for the production and promotion of study guides based on the book by Andrew Dutney 'Understanding the Uniting Church'.

3. ISRAEL-PALESTINE STATEMENT

Gregor Henderson presented Documents 29 and 29A, consisting of a report on the visit of Australian Church leaders to Israel and Palestine.

08.29 It was resolved to:

08.29.01 receive the report;

08.29.02 recognise the special interest of Christians in the Holy Land as the homeland of Jesus Christ and the birthplace of the Church, the special interest of Jews in the Holy Land as the Biblical "promised land", and the special interest of Muslims in the Holy Land as one of the sacred places visited by the prophet Muhammad;

- 08.29.03 note that the worldwide Christian community, especially through the World Council of Churches and the Vatican, has advocated and worked for many years for an end to the occupation of Palestine and for a just and lasting peace for the peoples of Israel and Palestine;
- 08.29.04 affirm the right of the state of Israel to exist, and to exist within secure internationally-recognised borders, without the threat of terrorist attacks from Palestinians or from any others, and without threats to its existence from any other state.
- 08.29.05 affirm the right of the people of Palestine to be freed from more than 40 years of military occupation by Israel, to live within secure internationally-recognised borders without harassment or violence perpetrated by any state or by any others, and to determine democratically their own future;
- 08.29.06 Encourage the Australian Government to:
- a) do all it can to support the current peace negotiations between Palestine and Israel, in the interests of ending the occupation and bringing a just and lasting peace to the peoples of Israel and Palestine;
 - b) increase its allocation of aid money to assist community development in Palestinian communities which have been impoverished by years of economic and social disadvantage.
- 08.29.07 encourage churches in Australia to pray for a just and lasting peace for the peoples of the Holy Land, and to support initiatives for peace between Palestine and including visits by Australian Christians to the Christians of the Holy Land;
- 08.29.08 seek advice from Christian World Service and from the Canberra Ecumenical Working Group on Palestine-Israel as to how churches in Australia and the NCCA might work for a just and lasting peace between Palestine and Israel, including Australian participation in ecumenical initiatives such as the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI), the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF), International Church Action for Peace in Palestine and Israel (ICAPPI), and Christian Peacemaker Teams.
- 08.29.09 support the principle that Jerusalem should be an “open city” for all faiths and all peoples.
- 08.29.10 support the proposal for a joint visit to Israel and Palestine in 2009 by leaders from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths in Australia.

4. PARTNER CHURCHES WITH CONGREGATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

The General Secretary introduced Document 14, which reported on the discussions with a representative of a partner church about how its congregations in Australia might have a closer link with the UCA, and exploration of possible ways forward.

08.30 It was resolved to:

- 08.30.01 receive the report;
- 08.30.02 appoint a working group to further develop the proposal for how relationships with partner church congregations in Australia, and others, can be strengthened and expressed;
- 08.30.03 appoint Terence Corkin, Tony Floyd, Kerry Enright, Tina Rendell, Kisoo Yang, Liva Tukutama and somebody from the 2nd Generation Task Group to the Task Group; and

08.30.04 request the Task Group to report back no later than November 2008.

5. PRESIDENTIAL RULING NO. 26

Gregor Henderson and Malcolm Gledhill presented Document 12, consisting of Presidential Ruling No. 26.

08.31 It was resolved to confirm Presidential Ruling No. 26 (Attachment F).

6. RATIONALE FOR LOCATION OF ASSEMBLY AGENCIES

The General Secretary spoke to Document 18, consisting of a report on the various responses the Agencies provided in relation to the location of their offices.

08.32 It was resolved to receive the report.

7. REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION ON SEXUALITY AND LEADERSHIP

Glenda Blakefield presented Document 33, consisting of a report on a consultation on Sexuality and Leadership in the Church.

08.33 It was resolved to:

08.33.01 receive the report;

08.33.02 note the steps being taken by the Working Group on Doctrine in the areas of:

- a) A Doc.Byte on Marriage: to be prepared as a statement of the Assembly's understanding and practice;
- b) The doctrine of human persons and relationships - a Theological Anthropology;
- c) Divergence of biblical hermeneutics: Work toward a combined statement;
- d) Apostasy; and
- e) The doctrine of marriage; and

08.33.03 request the General Secretary to

- a) explore with the Working Group on Doctrine the ideas raised in the report on how to strengthen the Doctrinal process of the church; and
- b) keep the church informed about the ongoing work being undertaken in the area of Sexuality and Leadership

8. ROLE OF THE ASC AND PRESIDENT-ELECT

The General Secretary spoke to Document 20, consisting of a report on the role of the Assembly Standing Committee in relation to the President.

08.34 It was resolved to:

08.34.01 receive the report;

08.34.02 request the President and President – elect to prepare a process that will enable the Standing Committee to fulfil the requirements of Regulation 3.6.26 (b).

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Isabel Thomas Dobson.

2008 MEETING DATES:

25 – 27 July 2008

14 – 16 November 2008

MARCH 2009 MEETING DATE:

20 – 22 March 2009