

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

14 – 16 NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT Gregor Henderson (President), Bruce Binnie, Chris Budden, 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, Robert Watson.

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Brown, Kay Dowling, Graham Humphris, Douglas Jones, Peter Jones, Penny Monger, Paul Swadling, Chris Walker.

WORSHIP The Induction Service for Chris Walker on the Friday evening was led by the President and Chris was inducted into his Assembly placement as National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship. Allan Thompson preached at the Induction Service which also included Holy Communion led by Glenda Blakefield and Terence Corkin. On the Saturday Robert Watson led morning worship, and Douglas Jones led evening prayers. On Sunday morning Glenda Blakefield led the worship. The closing prayer was led by Chris Budden.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Wes Campbell and John Hirt as Theological Listeners for the whole meeting; Paul Walton for matters related to the Working Group on Worship; Jim Fraser for matters related to the budget, Chris Udy for matters related to the Ministerial Education Commission; Kerry Enright for matters related to UIM; Sandy Boyce, Caitlin O'Reilly and Chris Shaw for matters related to National Youth Activities Reference Committee (NYARC); Michael Barnes, John Squires and Elizabeth Raine for matters related to the Jewish - UCA dialogue. Alan White for matters related to the report of the Task Group on Property Sharing.

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

08.62 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Paul Swadling for Saturday afternoon and evening; Jim Mein and Bruce Binnie for Friday night; Shayne Blackman, Jan Trengove, Sue Clarkson and Liva Tukutama for the whole meeting and Kay Dowling for a short time on Saturday afternoon.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The President reported that Jan Trengove could not attend the meeting as she was involved pastorally as a young farmer committed suicide in her community. It was also reported that Ken Cornwell is seriously ill, he has a brain tumor. The participants also learnt the good news that Isabel Thomas Dobson was elected Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. The General Secretary brought the good news about Lucy Lynette – a daughter for Sue Clarkson and Geoff Jackson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 32 and 35 were distributed at the meeting.

08.63 It was resolved to:

- 08.63.01 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
- 08.63.02 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

- 08.64 It was resolved to** confirm the minutes of the meeting held July 25 - 27 2008.

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 main focus of the President’s report was on the National Ministers Conferences, which have been a resounding success for the UCA. The largest conference by far was on the Sunshine Coast in October, with 138 attendees. This third and final conference had very similar content to the previous two conferences (Bali and Darwin), but with a focus on excellence in local ministry: regional congregations, emerging church, rural ministry, and suburban ministry. Rev Henderson said, “There was extraordinary value in having ministers get together from across synod boundaries at the conferences; meeting with peers and colleagues provided great stimulus to those relationships”. He also witnessed a sense of hope in the future of the church, because of the younger ministers that are coming up through the ministry of the Uniting Church.

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

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. “A BRIEF STATEMENT ON ORDINATION” (ASC MINUTES 08.22.02 AND 08.22.03)

Paul Walton spoke to Document 2, consisting of a brief statement on ordination.

08.66 It was resolved to:

- 08.66.01 receive the document “A Brief Statement on Ordination” as amended, and commend it to the Church for guidance; (Attachment A)
- 08.66.02 request the National Director for Christian Education and National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship, in consultation with others, to develop a study guide for the “Brief Statement on Ordination”;
- 08.66.03 request the National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship to prepare a Doc.byte on ordination drawing on the paper; and
- 08.66.04 distribute the “Brief Statement on Ordination” through the councils of the church by sending it to Synods, theological colleges, lay education centres, continuing education centres, and presbyteries recommending they make it available to PRCs, JNCs, interns, ministers and Church Council secretaries

in order to assist the people of the Uniting Church to better understand the meaning of ordination.

2. COOLAMON COLLEGE PROGRESS REPORT (ASC MINUTE 08.43)

The General Secretary introduced Document 12, consisting of a report on Coolamon College.

08.67 It was resolved to receive the report.

3. GUIDELINES FOR MINISTER'S BENEFIT ACCOUNTS (ASC MINUTE 08.56)

The General Secretary introduced document 19, consisting of an issues paper on the guidelines for the use of Minister's Benefit Accounts.

08.68 It was resolved to:

08.68.01 receive the report;

08.68.02 refer the report to the Commission for National Cooperation;

08.68.03 request that the Commission for National Cooperation provide a report to the March 2009 meeting of the ASC on the development of guidelines and procedures for remuneration arrangements and procedures for all specified ministries; and

08.68.04 authorise the General Secretary in consultation with the Synod General Secretaries to issue a revised list of approved items of expenditure consistent with the relevant legislation, or alternatively, a list of prescribed non-approved items for expenditure.

4. GUIDELINES FOR THE PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT (ASC MINUTE 07.69.15)

Chris Udy presented Document 5, consisting of the revised Guidelines for the Period of Discernment.

08.69 It was resolved to:

08.69.01 receive the report; and

08.69.02 approve the revised Guidelines for the Period of Discernment, effective 1 January 2009. (Attachment B)

5. JEWISH – UCA DIALOGUE (ASC MINUTES 08.39.02 AND 08.39.03)

Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Raine and John Squires introduced Document 11, consisting of a report of the Jewish – UCA Dialogue members.

08.70 It was resolved to:

08.70.01 receive the report; and

08.70.02 express the appreciation of the Assembly Standing Committee for the work of the UCA members of the Jewish – UCA Dialogue.

6. PARTNER CHURCHES WITH CONGREGATIONS IN AUSTRALIA (ASC MINUTE 08.30)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 33, consisting of a report of the Task Group.

08.71 It was resolved to:

08.71.01 receive the report;

08.71.02 request the General Secretary to continue conversations with the Korean Methodist Church on their proposal to share a staff person to facilitate closer working relationships between the Korean Methodist Church in Australia and the UCA, subject to a formal letter requesting such a negotiation; and

08.71.03 invite Rev Kisoo Jang to discuss the principle of such a position with appropriate people in the UCA Korean community, once an official request is received.

7. PREPARING FOR THE 12TH ASSEMBLY – KEY DIRECTIONS (ASC MINUTE 08.42.02)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 31, consisting of the revised Assembly Key Directions.

08.72 It was resolved to recommend the revised Key Directions to the 12th Assembly for its determination.

8. REPORT FROM THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW TASK GROUP (ASC MINUTES 08.39.02 AND 08.39.03)

Chris Budden introduced Document 13, consisting of a report from the Task Group. Table group discussion ensued.

08.73 It was resolved to:

08.73.01 receive the report;

08.73.02 send the proposed preamble and opening paragraphs of the Constitution, and resources to assist discussion to Presbyteries and Synods requesting comment back to the Task Group by 1 May 2009;

08.73.03 (a) request the Task Group to continue the preparation of resources for the 2nd stage of the review of the Constitution;
(b) allocate time at the March meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee to address the proposed preamble and opening paragraphs of the Constitution; and
(c) allocate time at the 12th Assembly to commence conversations and to trial the process for the 2nd stage of the review of the Constitution.

9. REPORT ON AGENCY S.M.A.R.T GOALS

The General Secretary spoke to Document 20 and Document 35 # 6, consisting of lists of S.M.A.R.T. goals from various Assembly Agencies, grouped around the relevant Key Direction.

08.74 It was resolved to receive the report

10. REVIEW OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT COMPLAINTS POLICIES (ASC MINUTE 08.47.06)

The General Secretary presented Document 30, consisting of a report of the Task Group reviewing the policies for complaints of sexual misconduct against lay workers and members and adherents.

08.75 It was resolved to:

08.75.01 receive the report;

- 08.75.02 request the General Secretary to refer the draft version of the policy, once finalized, to synods and presbyteries for comment by 31 March 2009; and
- 08.75.03 request the Task Group to bring a proposed new policy to the August 2009 meeting of the ASC.

11. ROLES OF PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY RE VISION AND LEADERSHIP (ASC MINUTE 08.60.03)

The Ex-President took the Chair while the President introduced Document 36, consisting of a discussion paper on the roles of the President and the General Secretary. Table group discussion followed.

08.76 It was resolved to

- 08.76.01 receive the report; and
- 08.76.02 determine that no further action is necessary.

12. "THEOLOGY AND MISSION" (ASC MINUTE 07.67.02)

Kerry Enright spoke to Document 24, consisting of a progress report from the National Director of Uniting International Mission.

08.77 It was resolved to:

- 08.77.01 receive the report; and
- 08.77.02 note that the discussion will be progressed by the National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship, who will bring a further discussion paper to a later meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. ASSEMBLY AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Binnie and Jim Fraser introduced Documents 25, 25A and 25B, consisting of the budget proposal for 2009 for the Assembly agencies and the year end accounts for Frontier Services at 30 June 2008.

08.78 It was resolved to:

- 08.78.01 receive the report in Document 25;
- 08.78.02 receive the year end accounts for Frontier Services;
- 08.78.03 approve the 2009 budgets for
- Assembly Fund
 - Uniting International Mission
 - Uniting Church Overseas Aid
 - Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
 - UnitingCare Australia; and
- 08.78.04 note with gratitude the contributions from Synods to the Assembly budget for 2008; and
- 08.78.05 record appreciation and commendation for the work of Jim Fraser as Chief Financial Officer.

2. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary introduced Document 35, consisting of a report on various matters.

08.79 It was resolved to receive the report.

3. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 28 and 29, Document 28 consisting of a report on the work of the Legal Reference Committee and Document 29 consisting of an issues paper regarding who has authority to make decisions and delegations regarding property matters.

08.80 It was resolved to:

08.80.01 receive the report in of the Legal Reference Committee;

08.80.02 recommend to the 12th Assembly the following changes to the Constitution and Regulations

CONSTITUTION

(SYNOD) STANDING COMMITTEE

36. The Synod shall appoint from among its members a Standing Committee which shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Synod between meetings of the Synod in respect of any of the responsibilities of the Synod except such as the Synod may determine. The Standing Committee may co-opt additional members of the Synod to act on the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall consist of no fewer lay members than ministerial members.

~~(ASSEMBLY) STANDING COMMITTEE~~

47. Each Assembly shall appoint from among its members a Standing Committee which shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Assembly between meetings of the Assembly in respect of any of the responsibilities of the Assembly except such as the Assembly may determine. The Standing Committee may co-opt additional members of the Assembly to act on the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall consist of no fewer lay members than ministerial members.

REGULATIONS

~~3.6.25 (a) The Standing Committee shall consist of the President, President elect, ex-President and General Secretary of the Assembly, the Chairperson and the National Administrator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (all ex officio) and 18 members of the Assembly elected by the Assembly.~~

- (a) The Standing Committee shall consist of
- the President, President-elect, ex-President and General Secretary of the Assembly (ex-officio);
 - the Chairperson and the National Administrator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (ex officio);
 - 18 members of the Assembly elected by the Assembly; and

- no more than four persons co-opted by the Standing Committee.

Only members of the Assembly are eligible for membership of the Standing Committee.

08.80.03 receive the report in Document 29; and

08.80.04 refer the report to synods for information and guidance as they consider preparing proposals for submission to the 12th Assembly re possible changes to the Regulations regarding who has authority to make decisions and delegations regarding property matters.

4. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION

Chris Udy spoke to Documents 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, consisting of various reports and proposals from the Ministerial Education Commission.

4.1 Proposals Regarding the Ministry Intern Phase

08.81 It was resolved to:

- 08.81.01 note the intention of the Ministerial Education Commission to submit the following proposals to the 12th Assembly
1. Ordination take place at the end of the Core Phase upon acceptance of a call;
 2. Request the MEC to develop Guidelines to ensure that appropriate continuing education, supervision, collegiality and support arrangements are put in place for Ministers from the beginning of their first placement; and
 3. The Third Phase (Ministry Intern Phase) be discontinued.

4.2 Membership of Ministerial Education Commission

08.82 It was resolved to:

- 08.82.01 note the intention of the Ministerial Education Commission to submit the following proposal to the 12th Assembly.
Authorise the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee to amend Regulation 2.2.15 to allow for
- a) two appointments from each Synod to the MEC; and
 - b) participation by representatives of UCA bodies that contribute to education for the church's Specified Ministries.

4.3 Rules for Ministers of the Word and Deacons

08.83 It was resolved to approve the revised rules for Minister of the Word and Deacon. (Attachment C)

4.4 Rules for the Ministry of Pastor

08.84 It was resolved to approve the rules for Ministry of Pastor. (Attachment D)

4.5 Nungalinya College

08.85 It was resolved to:

- 08.85.01 receive the report;
- 08.85.02 note

- (a) the significant reduction in funding support for Nungalinga College;
- (b) the urgency of harnessing financial support for Nungalinga College so that the expected quality of delivery of theological education and ministry formation is achievable (including an appropriate level of support for administration, a librarian, the Principal and Assistant Principal);
- (c) that conversations are taking place between the Northern Synod, NRCC and the National UAICC regarding Nungalinga College on issues of funding; and
- (d) express willingness to receiving an invitation to participate in the discussions at any time.

5. NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WORSHIP

Paul Walton spoke to Document 3, consisting of the revised Ordination Services. Discussion followed.

08.86 It was resolved to:

- 08.86.01 receive the report; and
- 08.86.02 approve the changes to the Services of Ordination and Induction for Minister of the Word and the Ministry of Deacon, effective January 1 2009. (Attachments E and F)

6. NYARC ANNUAL REPORT

Sandy Boyce, Caitlin O'Reilly and Chris Shaw presented Document 14, consisting of a report of the National Youth Activities Reference Committee.

08.87 It was resolved to receive the report.

7. TASK GROUP ON NATIONAL CONFERENCES

The General Secretary spoke to Document 16, consisting of a report from the Task Group on National Conferences.

08.88 It was resolved to:

- 08.88.01 receive the report; and
- 08.88.02 note that a final report and proposals will be taken to the 12th Assembly.

8. TASK GROUP ON PROPERTY SHARING IN CROSS-CULTURAL SETTINGS

Allan White presented Document 15, consisting of a report of the Task Group on Property Sharing in Cross-cultural Settings.

08.89 It was resolved to:

- 08.89.01 receive the report; and
- 08.89.02 request the Task Group to finalise its report and proposals to the 12th Assembly in the light of the discussion at the ASC.

9. TASK GROUP ON THE RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT

The General Secretary spoke to Document 17, consisting of a report of the Task Group on the Renewal of the Covenant.

08.90 It was resolved to receive the report.

10. TASK GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF THE CODE OF ETHICS

Andrew Johnson spoke to Document 26, consisting of a report of the Task Group on the Review of the Code of Ethics. Discussion followed.

08.91 It was resolved to:

- 08.91.01 receive the report;
- 08.91.02 affirm the importance of the Code of Ethics for the life of the Church;
- 08.91.03 request the General Secretary to arrange for a redrafting of the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice that takes up the following points
 - internet and other technology that provides the basis for establishing, or behaving inappropriately, in relationships that are covered by the Code of Ethics;
 - bullying;
 - the way power is used and abused;
 - the way the Code of Ethics allows for situations where Ministers are in a workplace setting that introduces other types of relationship and accountabilities;
 - ensures the application of the Code of Ethics to Ministers of other denominations serving in the UCA, retired Ministers and candidates for ordination from the commencement of the Core Phase of training;
 - more effectively addresses differing cultural expectations related to the giving and receiving of gifts;
 - other matters arising from the work of the Task Group;
- 08.91.04 request that the revised Code of Ethics be brought to the March Assembly Standing Committee meeting with a view to submitting it to the 12th Assembly; and
- 08.91.05 thank and discharge the Task Group.

11. UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Kerry Enright spoke to Documents 21, 22 and 23, with Document 21 consisting of a discussion paper on trade justice, Document 22 consisting of a report on UIM's developing directions and mandate revisions, Document 23 consisting of a report on the future of UIM and UCOA.

11.1 Discussion Paper – Trade Justice

08.92 It was resolved to:

- 08.92.01 receive the report; and
- 08.92.02 authorise the use of the Trade Paper as a provisional UCA position on international trade with a final adoption to be considered at the 12th Assembly.

11.2 Developing Directions and Mandate Revisions

08.93 It was resolved to:

- 08.93.01 receive the report;
- 08.93.02 note the resignation from the Uniting Church Overseas Aid National Committee of Mr Jamie Isbister, Mr Bob Jakes, Rev Carolyn Thornley and Mrs Gwen Willis and receive it with regret;
- 08.93.03 appoint Rev Valamotu Palu and Mrs Michelle Erofeyeff to the UCOA National Committee;

- 08.93.04 amend the mandates of UIM and UCOA to remove the word “southern” before “Africa” in point 4 of the Mandate for UIM and in the third dot-point of the UCOA Mandate;
- 08.93.05 (a) approve the agreement between the Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue and the Uniting Church in Australia and authorise the President to sign it; and
(b) authorise UIM, in consultation with the General Secretary, to make any necessary amendments following consultation with the EKN.

11.3 Future of UIM and UCOA

08.94 It was resolved to:

- 08.94.01 receive the report;
- 08.94.02 amend the Mandates of Uniting International Mission and Uniting Church Overseas Aid to change the names of both organisations to “UnitingWorld”;
- 08.94.03 note that the decision be confidential until communication of it can be coordinated through UIM; and
- 08.94.04 determine that Uniting Church Overseas Aid retain its existing governance, structure and policies, as previously approved by the Assembly Standing Committee, and used as a basis for gaining AusAID accreditation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Secretary spoke to Document 32, consisting of various matters.

08.95 It was resolved to:

- 08.95.01 receive the report;
- 08.95.02 suspend the Task Group looking at alternative sources for Assembly funding and agree to re-activate it a more opportune time;
- 08.05.03 appoint Jim Mein as a Director of the Beneficiary Fund Board of Directors;
- 08.95.04 (a) note the response of the National Committee of UnitingCare Australia to minute 08.52.02;
(b) accept the view of the National Committee, but express regret, that the current resources of the Agency do not enable it to make this a particular area of work within the Mandate;
- 08.95.05 note that by email ballot the Assembly Standing Committee resolved "That the Assembly acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34, suspend the operation of Regulation 7.7.2 (a) to the extent necessary to allow the Synod of Queensland to appoint up to twelve persons to the Committee for Counselling, for the balance of 2008 and 2009”;
- 08.95.06 acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34 suspend the operation of Regulation 7.7.2 (a) to the extent necessary to allow the Synod of NSW and the ACT to appoint up to twelve people to the Committee for Counselling, for 2009;
- 08.95.07 (a) note that
(i) there has not been a systematic review of the Regulations since 1977;
(ii) there are redundant provisions; style and language inconsistencies; and numbering problems in the current edition;

- (iii) the 11th Assembly supported a Key Direction “to critically evaluate the polity and governance of the church with a view to reducing the level of prescription, increasing the level of local permission giving and enhancing the capability of Councils of the church to hear and respond to current missional imperatives” (Assembly minute 06.08 (e) (i));
 - (iv) notwithstanding that the Assembly has taken responsibility to approve changes to the Regulations, or authorised the Standing Committee to finalise new regulations in accordance with its directions; expecting a full meeting of the Assembly to approve a major revision of the Regulations is impractical and would delay any significant revision;
- (b) bring a proposal, and rationale to the 12th Assembly that will authorise the Assembly Standing Committee to amend the Regulations to achieve the following outcomes:
- removal of redundant provisions;
 - standardising of language and style;
 - addressing the numbering of sections;
 - simplifying the Regulations so that they are only prescriptive where it is deemed to be essential, and simplified to enhance the capacity of Councils to be adaptive and missional in their particular contexts; and
 - include provision for the establishment of binding policies and / or by laws that can be established and amended by the Assembly Standing Committee.
- 08.95.08 (a) receive the correspondence from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania 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 next Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to serve a term from September 2009 to June 2013;
- 08.95.09 (a) receive the resignation of Rev Allan Thompson from the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee from 31 December 2008; and
- (b) appoint Rev Dr Peter Blackwood to the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee from 1 January until August 2009;

2. REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE 12TH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary introduced Document 4, consisting of a report on the preparations that have been done and will need to be done for the 12th Assembly.

08.96 It was resolved to:

08.96.01 receive the report;

08.96.02 recommend to the 12th Assembly

- (a) that the Assembly amend its standing orders to the extent necessary to enable the following process in respect of the UAICC:
 - allowing a representative of Congress to present the UAICC perspective on a proposal immediately after any movers and seconders, provided that they have indicated this intention ahead of time to either the General Secretary or the Business Manager;
 - there will be no specific time limit applied to the Congress speaker(s) in this situation;

- in the deliberative phase Congress members will not be expected to show cards or to join a queue at the microphones to explain why they are not able to support a proposal. The President will not interpret this lack of showing cards as support for, or opposition to, any proposal;
 - Congress shall be provided with a briefing from the Facilitation Group upon request to the General Secretary;
 - Congress members will meet together as a Community Working Group;
 - Congress, as a group, may request the President that a discussion cease for a time and opportunity will be provided for Congress members to meet together in order to discuss their position. Such business will return to the agenda at the discretion of the President and Congress will have the opportunity to speak at that time.
- (b) these arrangements remain in place until further decisions are taken by the Assembly;

08.96.03 not take a proposal like 06.03.05 – re Proposals Involving Financial Commitment to the 12th Assembly; and

08.96.04 appoint Karyn Burchell – Thomas, Cynthia Coghill, David Peters and Anne Hogan to the Assembly Business Committee, and as members of the proposals sub committee.

3. REVISED MANDATE FOR FRONTIER SERVICES

The General Secretary spoke to Document 37, consisting of the revised mandate incorporating minor changes.

08.97 **It was resolved to** approve the revised mandate for Frontier Services. (Attachment G)

4. “SEXUALITY AND LEADERSHIP” COLLOQUIUM

Wes Campbell presented Document 27, consisting of a report on the second colloquium on sexuality and leadership.

08.98 **It was resolved to:**

08.98.01 receive the report;

08.98.02 note that the consultation concluded without any agreement on the way forward because on the central question of the same-gender relationships fundamental theological differences of opinion remain;

- 08.98.03 (a) note that the Assembly Standing Committee report to the 12th Assembly will report on the action taken under ASC minute 06.105.03; and
- (b) note that the Working Group on Doctrine will provide a brief summary to the General Secretary to assist in the development of that report.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Chris Budden.

<p>2009 MEETING DATES: 20 - 22 March 28 - 30 August 20 - 22 November</p>
