

Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

28 – 30 AUGUST 2009

PRESENT Alistair Macrae (President), Kim Anderson, Shayne Blackman, Jenny Brecknell, Michelle Cook, Terence Corkin, Lesley de Grussa-Macaulay, Andrew Dutney, Geoffrey Grinton, Kisoo Jang, Andrew Johnson, Jason Kioa, Peter McDonald, Stuart McMillan, Ken Sumner, Jenny Tymms, Robert Watson, Adrian White, Wendie Wilkie.

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Rob Brown, Kay Dowling, Rod Horsfield, Graham Humphris, Douglas Jones, Peter Jones, Penny Monger, Paul Swadling.

WORSHIP On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, the President preached and presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion. On the Saturday Jenny Tymms led morning worship and Andrew Johnson led evening prayers. On the Sunday Wendie Wilkie led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Geoffrey Grinton.

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. Also welcomed as visitors were Rod Horsfield as Theological Listener; Rob Hanks for matters related to Proposal 54 - Children's Youth and Family Ministry; Chris Udy for matters related to Proposal 53 – Church Schools; Rosemary Young for matters related to Frontier Services; Amelia Koh-Butler for matters related to Proposals 54 and 76.

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

09.22 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Gregor Henderson and Andrew Glenn for the whole meeting, Jason Kioa for Saturday, Andrew Dutney for Saturday evening and Sunday, Kay Dowling for Saturday evening and Sunday; Isabel Thomas Dobson for Saturday night and Sunday.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The General Secretary informed the Standing Committee about the serious illness of Glenda Blakefield's mother. Peter Jones advised that Mawunydjil Garawirtja has liver cancer. Jason Kioa reported that the site of the ferry disaster in Tonga has been declared a mass grave.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

09.23 **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

09.24 **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 20 - 22 March 2009.

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.”

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

Due to the absence of Glenda Blakefield the session on the orientation to the work of the Standing Committee was deferred to the November meeting. On the Saturday morning the President led the Standing Committee in a time of community building. Areas of conversation revolved around a series of questions: highlights and struggles of the 12th Assembly, sense of the state of the Church; who I've left to be here; my ministry context; favourite hymn / song.

REFLECTIONS ON THE TWELFTH ASSEMBLY

On the Saturday morning the Committee spent time reflecting on the Twelfth Assembly with the participants sharing their experiences of the Assembly. Among the things the Committee emphasised were 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 Document 16, consisting of a report on the feedback from the members of the Twelfth Assembly.

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 he spent a couple of days in Sydney spending time with National Directors to get familiarised with the work of the Assembly. He also had the privilege to go to Vanuatu to attend a partner church meeting. He reiterated that relationship with the UAICC is a priority for him and the last Standing Committee meeting endorsed this goal. He also reported that he is looking at hosting another series of Ministers' National Conferences in the future.

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

REFERRALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FROM THE TWELFTH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary introduced Document 4, consisting of all resolutions of the Twelfth Assembly which contain a referral or request to the Standing Committee.

- 1. Proposal 12 as amended by Proposal 80: Assembly Key Directions (Standing Committee)**

09.26 **It was resolved to:**

09.26.01 note the Key Directions established by the 12th Assembly and

- a) request that Agencies take them into consideration when prioritising work within their Mandate and when reporting to the Standing Committee; and
- b) commit itself to shape its work and priorities according the Key Directions;

2. Proposal 21: Membership of Future Assemblies (Standing Committee)

09.27 It was resolved to:

- 09.27.01 a) establish a Task Group to consider the appropriate size of, and appointment process for, the membership of the triennial Assembly;
- b) request the Task Group to bring a report, including any recommendations for changes to the Regulations, to the November 2010 meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- c) appoint Geoffrey Grinton (Convenor), Rob Brown and Graham Humphris as members of the Task Group with the power to co-opt.

3. Proposal 22: Review of the Constitution (Standing Committee) - as amended by Proposal 78

09.28 It was resolved to:

- 09.28.01 appoint Wendie Wilkie, Sue Withers and Gregor Henderson to give consideration to what kind of process will best enable the Church to participate in the discussions encouraged by the Assembly decision noted below, and bring advice to the November 2009 meeting of the Standing Committee:
 - a) to encourage members and councils of the Uniting Church to actively engage in a conversation about what sort of church God is calling us to be in the light of the Basis of Union read in the current Australian context and how this might be reflected in the Constitution of the church and the needs of the local congregation, faith communities and agencies.
 - b) to request the Assembly Standing Committee to facilitate a conversation across the Church with appropriate resources addressing the questions:
 - What are the core and essential marks of the UCA, and what can be changed to meet the new situation in which we live?
 - What are the principles and core values and beliefs which need to be enshrined in the constitution?
 - c) to request the Assembly Standing Committee to prepare proposals for the 13th Assembly that gather up the conversations which have occurred, and to make suggestions (after consultation with the Legal Reference Committee) – if appropriate – about ways in which the Constitution and Regulations might be changed to enable the Uniting Church to more faithfully share in God's mission in this time. (Unconfirmed minutes of the 12th Assembly)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Interim Report towards Developing an Assembly Sustainability Policy (ASC Minutes 07.68.02 & 03)

09.29 It was resolved to:

09.29.01 receive the report; and

09.29.02 request the General Secretary in consultation with UnitingJustice, to develop a sustainability policy that addresses National Office travel, carbon offsets, purchase and general office policies and Assembly investments, taking into account the paper produced by Dr Douglas (Doc 15A).

2. Sexuality and Leadership – Documenting the History (ASC Minute 09.10.03)

09.30 It was resolved to receive the report.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Assembly Audit and Finance Committee

The General Secretary spoke to Document 6, consisting of the final report of the current committee.

09.31 It was resolved to:

09.31.01 receive the report; and

09.31.02 record its appreciation to Bruce Binnie for his service as Chairperson of the Audit and Finance Committee for the past six years; and as a member of the National Finance Committee for another 12 years.

2. Beneficiary Fund

The General Secretary spoke to Document 11, consisting of a report on the financial situation of the Fund.

09.32 It was resolved to receive report.

3. Celebrating the Centenary of the Establishment of the Australian Inland Mission in 2012

Rosemary Young introduced Document 3, consisting of a report on planning for the celebration of the establishment of the Australian Inland Mission.

09.33 It was resolved to:

09.33.01 receive the report;

09.33.02 authorise Frontier Services to establish a planning group to progress a conversation on behalf of the Uniting Church in relation to a shared celebration with the Presbyterian Church of Australia marking the centenary of the establishment of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM);

09.33.03 request the General Secretary to participate in that planning group; and

09.33.04 approve of the planning group making approaches to the relevant bodies seeking a commemorative coin or note, and for a Centenary stamp or first day cover to mark the centenary of the commencement of the AIM.

4. General Report

The General Secretary presented Document 14, consisting of a report on various matters.

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

5. Legal Reference Committee

The General Secretary spoke to Document 12, consisting of a report on the work the Legal Reference Committee has done since the 12th Assembly.

09.35 **It was resolved to:**

09.35.01 receive the report;

09.35.02 amend the following Regulations to reflect the following changes:

09.35.03 a) 3.6.2 The membership of the Assembly shall consist of:

(a) ex-officio members:

- (i) the President of the Assembly;
- (ii) the General Secretary of the Assembly;
- (iii) the ex-President of the Assembly;
- (iv) the President-elect of the Assembly;
- (v) the Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress;
- (vi) the National Administrator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

~~(b) one Minister and one confirmed lay member appointed by each Presbytery~~

~~(e)~~ (b) sixteen members ~~appointed by~~ of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress **appointed by it**, of whom no more than eight shall be Ministers;

~~(d)~~ (c) Ministers and confirmed lay members ~~appointed by each synod~~ from within the bounds of each Synod appointed as follows:

(i) number of members to be appointed from within the bounds of each Synod:

Synod	
<u>NSW and ACT</u>	54
<u>Northern</u>	10
<u>Queensland</u>	36
<u>South Australia</u>	34
<u>Victoria and Tasmania</u>	58
<u>Western Australia</u>	20

(i) (ii) equal numbers of Ministers and lay members shall be appointed;

(#)(iii) not fewer than one in every five of the lay members shall be a person who, in the opinion of the Synod, could reasonably be regarded as of youthful age;

(iv) ~~the total minimum number of members appointed by each Synod and the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod shall be ten and the Synod shall appoint those members who are not appointed by a Presbytery;~~

(v) ~~subject to sub-paragraph (iii), each Synod shall be entitled to appoint the number of members calculated by multiplying the appropriate scale factor mentioned in the second column below by five and where the resulting number is not an even number, by adding one to the resulting number to achieve an even number of members appointed by the Synod as shown in the third column below;~~

~~members within the scale factor number of members to bounds of the synod be appointed by Synod~~

less than 5000	1	6
5,001 – 10,000	2	10
10,001 – 20,000	3	16
20,001 – 40,000	4	20
more than 40,000	5	26

(vi) ~~for the purpose of sub-paragraph (iv) “number of members” shall mean the number of confirmed members and members in association within the bounds of the Synod last notified to the General Secretary of the Assembly by the Synod no later than one year before the date on which the ordinary meeting of the Assembly is due to commence or by such other date as the Assembly Standing Committee may determine;~~

(iv) the Moderator and the Secretary of each Synod ~~ex-officio~~; and in its appointments the Synod shall take account of Regulation 3.5.25;

(v) each Presbytery within the bounds of the Synod shall appoint one Minister and one lay ~~person~~ **member** and may appoint such number of additional members as the Synod in session decides;

(vi) the Synod shall appoint the remaining members and shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with sub-paragraph (ii) and (iii) regarding the total number of members appointed from within the bounds of the Synod under this paragraph (c);

(e) (d) such confirmed members appointed by bodies directly responsible to the Assembly as the Standing Committee shall determine, each ~~such body appointing its own representative or representatives~~; making its own appointments;

- (f) ~~(e)~~ ~~up to 20 Ministers and lay~~ Ministers and confirmed members, up to 20 in total, appointed by the outgoing Standing Committee having regard to the gifts, skills and experience needed by the Assembly. ~~such other confirmed members as are appointed by either the Assembly or Standing Committee, provided that the total number of members so appointed and ex-officio members shall not exceed one-tenth of the total membership of the Assembly.~~

~~In respect of any Assembly held within six years of the inception of the Church each Synod shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that one-third of the elected lay representatives are women.~~

- 3.6.3 ~~The Synods shall appointing council or body may~~ make provision for an alternate to attend the Assembly in the place of any ~~elected~~ **appointed** member unable to be present.

- 09.35.04 3.1.14(b) The meeting shall not be obliged to fill any or all positions vacant and shall declare to be elected only such persons as receive the support of a majority of those participating in the ballot, or such higher percentage of those participating in the ballot as the Congregation may have determined prior to the call for nominations.
- 09.35.05 7.7.2(a) ~~The Committee shall consist of not more than six persons elected by the Synod.~~ The Moderator and the Secretary of the Synod shall not be eligible for membership of the Committee
- 09.35.06 4.2.2(a) A Synod Property Board may delegate to:
~~(a) — A Synod Property Board may delegate to the Property Committee of any Presbytery any of its powers of consent or approval in relation to property, provided that the financial liability involved, or the value of the property concerned, does not exceed such sum or sums as the Synod may determine from time to time.~~
- (a) A Synod Property Board may delegate to:
- (i) the Property Committee of any Presbytery, or
(ii) another body within the Synod, or
(iii) a Church Council of a congregation which is designated as a Parish Mission or a subcommittee of that congregation **Church Council, or**
(iv) the Property Officer, and / or specified positions
- any of its powers of consent or approval in relation to property, provided that the financial liability involved, or the value of the property concerned, does not exceed such sum or sums as the Synod may determine from time to time.
- (b) A Synod Property Board may withdraw such delegation, either generally or in a particular case, at any time.
- (c) The delegation shall be made subject to such conditions as the Assembly or the Synod Property Board shall determine from time to time.
- 09.35.07 2.2.15 (c) ~~one~~ two persons appointed by each Synod, one of whom shall have expertise in education for lay specified ministries;

- 09.35.08 3.4.5 (e) Any such consultation shall be conducted with such bodies and persons within the Congregation as is thought fit, and by such persons as the Presbytery appoints, and they shall report to the Presbytery and the Congregation with such recommendations regarding the life and witness of the Congregation (including matters relating to placements and property) as they think fit.;
- 09.35.09 3.6.14(a) The President shall give rulings...subject to the following provisions
- (vi) that each ruling shall be binding until confirmed, varied, ~~or disallowed~~ modified, rescinded or over-ruled by the Assembly or ~~its Standing Committee~~ by the Standing Committee on its behalf.; and
- 09.35.10 the effective date for the regulations approved at this meeting be October 1, 2009.

6. Review of Reception of Ministers Committee

The General Secretary introduced Document 9, consisting of a report from the Committee on a possible review of the Reception of Ministers Committee's way of operation.

09.36 It was resolved to:

- 09.36.01 receive the report;
- 09.36.02 appoint a Task Group to review the process of receiving Ministers from other denominations;
- 09.36.03 determine that the membership of the Task Group be John Evans (Convenor), Randall Prior, Tony Floyd, Isabel Thomas Dobson and Charity Majiza;
- 09.36.04 establish the Terms of Reference for the Task Group to be
- a) consideration of the issues raised by the Reception of Ministers Committee in its report to the Standing Committee;
- b) to consult with
- the Assembly and Synod Reception of Ministers Committees
 - Theological Colleges
 - Synod General Secretaries (or those to whom a General Secretary may have delegated responsibility under Regulation 2.3.6)
 - Ministers who have been received from other denominations and from Presbyteries that have received such Ministers
 - such other persons as it considers necessary
- 09.36.05 request the Task Group to report to the Standing Committee with any proposed changes to the functioning of the Committee, or the process of receiving ministers from other denominations, including possible changes to Regulations 2.3.5 – 2.3. 7; and
- 09.36.06 request the Task Group to bring a report and recommendations to the Standing Committee no later than November 2010.

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|-------------|--|--|
| | Dev Anandarajan
Jason Kioa | Faamatau [Faama] Leota
Elizabeth Vreugdenhill |
| 09.37.10 | NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES REFERENCE COMMITTEE | |
| | Jen Davies
Drew Hanna
Robin Yang | Nicole Fleming
Jeff Savage |
| 09.37.11 | RECEPTION OF MINISTERS | |
| | Ian Breward
Janet Munro
John Evans
Charity Majiza
Apwee Ting | Graeme McAnnalley
Heather Cameron
Howard Wallace
Sheila Bellamy |
| 09.37.12 | THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP | |
| 09.37.12.01 | NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON DOCTRINE | |
| | Rodney Horsfield
Anita Monro
Alan Robinson
Yangrae Son | Clive Pearson
John Hirt
Peter Walker
Carolyn Thornley |
| 09.37.12.02 | NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WORSHIP | |
| | Kerry Pierce
David Pitman
David Won Kim
Jenny Tymms | Bob Warrick
David Macgregor
Anita Monro
Sue Pickering |
| 09.37.13 | NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH OTHER FAITHS | |
| | Wilma Viswanathan
Geoff Boyce
David Pargeter
Matthew Wilson | Debra Porter
Heather Griffin
Marie Wilson |
| 09.37.14 | UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA | |
| | Keith Garner
Jill Wilson
Robyn Batten | Chris Hall
Jane Woodruff |
| 09.37.15 | UNITINGJUSTICE | |
| | Colin Cargill
Michelle Erofeyeff
Graham Maddox | Helen Hodgson
Andrew Johnson
John Langmore |
| 09.37.16 | UNITINGWORLD | |
| | Margaret Cargill
Tim Bose
Olivia Rondonuwu
Ji Zhang | Guy Lambert
Michelle Erofeyeff
Ed Walker
Apelu Tielu |
| 09.37.17 | UNITINGWORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT | |
| | Michelle Erofeyeff
John Mavor
Valamotu Palu
Ted Woodley
Wendy Suma | Margaret Reeson
Jim Mein
John Ruhle
Sureka Goringe |

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Budget Preparation for 2010

The General Secretary spoke to Document 5, consisting of a report on the way the 2010 budget for the Assembly Fund is prepared.

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

2. General Business

The General Secretary presented the business in Document 13.

09.39 **It was resolved to:**

- 09.39.01 determine that the closing date by which Presbyteries and Synods must respond to the proposed changes to the Preamble to the Constitution, the Definitions and Clauses 49, 71 and 39 is October 31 2010; and for Clauses 36 and 47 is December 31 2009;
- 09.39.02 establish review groups for the following Assembly staff and request that they bring reports and recommendations to the November meeting of the Standing Committee
- a) Tony Floyd: Jason Kioa (Convenor), Kisoo Jang, Apwe Ting (Immediate past Chair of reference committee) and Glenda Blakefield;
 - b) Mark Hillis: Jenny Tymms (Convenor), Geoffrey Grinton, Elizabeth Nolan (Chair of reference committee) and Glenda Blakefield; and
 - c) Glenda Blakefield: Andrew Johnson (Convenor), Isabel Thomas Dobson, Wes Cambell and Terence Corkin
- 09.39.03 determine that the effective date for the revised *Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice* be January 1 2010;
- 09.39.04 a) invite the National Executive of the UAICC to nominate three members to an Assembly Covenant Support Group; and
- b) advise the UAICC that the Standing Committee considers that the terms of reference could include to
 - (i) provide a context in which the partners to the Covenant can raise and discuss experiences and issues that cause encouragement and concern over the operation of the covenant relationship across the church; and
 - (ii) consider ways in which Congress and the wider the church can further develop their understanding of, and commitment to, the Covenant;
 - c) invite the UAICC to recommend additional Terms of Reference;
 - d) appoint the General Secretary, Stuart McMillan and Michelle Cook; and
 - e) request the General Secretary to convene the Assembly Covenant Support Group as soon as the UAICC responds to this invitation;
- 09.39.05 request Sandy Yule (Christian Unity Secretary) and the General Secretary to
- a) inquire of the other Australian members of the CCA as to their interest in supporting the hosting of the 2015 Christian Conference of Asia Assembly in Australia;
 - b) research the implications of hosting an Assembly of the CCA in Australia; and
 - c) bring a report to the November meeting of the Standing Committee.

3. Uniting Church Aboriginal Community Employment Service

The General Secretary spoke to Document 8, consisting of a report on the proposed establishment of a UCA employment service.

09.40 It was resolved to:

- 09.40.01 receive the report;
- 09.40.02 affirm the objectives of
- a) linking committed Christian people to aboriginal Christians in remote indigenous communities, in order to encourage and strengthen the witness and ministry of indigenous Christians;
 - b) providing opportunities for people of all ages to find an expression for their discipleship in the exercise of their profession as a Christian vocation; and
 - c) providing faith, discipleship and vocational formation opportunities, particularly for younger Christians, by offering work opportunities in remote aboriginal communities; and
- 09.40.03 endorse the establishment of a Uniting Church aboriginal community employment service for the recruitment of persons to work in aboriginal communities, subject to a satisfactory review of the budget and the business plan by the Assembly Finance and Audit Committee.

4. “What Sort of Church God is Calling us to Be” Discussion at Future Standing Committee Meetings

09.41 It was resolved to:

- 09.41.01 have a time of discussion at the November ASC meeting around issues relating to ministry in non-congregational settings for the purpose of resourcing ourselves to contribute to the “what sort of church God is calling us to be” discussion;
- 09.41.02 appoint Peter McDonald, Robert Watson and Wendie Wilkie to resource the discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE 12TH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary spoke to Document 4, consisting of proposals that had not been able to be addressed by the 12th Assembly and had been forwarded to the Assembly Standing Committee for determination. Chris Udy and Ian Pearson presented Proposal 53 while Douglas Jones presented Proposal 37 and 62. Amelia Koh-Butler presented Proposals 54 and 76 and Rob Hanks presented Proposal 54. Rosemary Young presented Proposal 65.

1. Proposals 37 and 62 - Theology of Stipends

- 09.42 It was resolved to** request the National Consultant of Theology and Discipleship to collate the previously written theological papers on stipend and prepare a report to the November 2009 meeting of the Standing Committee.

2. Proposal 50 - Ministerial Placements Process

- 09.43 It was resolved** not to take any further action.

3. Proposal 53 – Church Schools

09.44 It was resolved to:

- 09.44.01 note
- a) that the last major UCA paper produced on the theology of the ministry of chaplaincy was in 1986;
 - b) in the last 20 years the number of persons from non UCA backgrounds leading Agencies and Schools has increased significantly; contemporary corporate governance models have become widely applied; lay persons are filling in a larger proportion of chaplaincy positions and more ordained persons are coming from non UCA backgrounds;
 - c) the theological understanding of mission, ministry and the church has changed over the last 20 years;
 - d) this changed context in which the ministry of chaplaincy is taking place results in
 - (i) confusion and sometimes conflict, between Agencies / Schools, Ministers serving as Chaplains and / or Councils of the Church; and
 - (ii) differing expectations about how Agencies / Schools operate as sacramental communities;
- 09.44.02 request the Doctrine Working Group to prepare a paper that opens up a discussion on the role and responsibilities of Ministers serving as Chaplains with particular reference to the context and issues noted above; and
- 09.44.03 request the Working Group to consult as necessary with Mark Hillis and the network of Synod Schools liaison persons, Synod Chaplaincy Co-ordinators and other appropriate persons, before bringing a paper to the November 2010 meeting of the Standing Committee.

4. Proposal 54 - Children's Youth and Family Ministry

In light of Assembly Key Direction (c) and the contemporary significance to the Church of younger generations in the life of the Church

09.45 It was resolved to:

- 09.45.01 establish a Task Group to:
- a) identify areas of effective ministry with children, youth, young adults and family ministry across the life of the UCA;
 - b) explore what is the future of ministry and mission with younger generations in the life of the UCA; and
 - c) identify what the Assembly could usefully do to assist the Church to more effectively engage with ministry and mission with younger generations;
- 09.45.02 in doing this work consult with Christian Education (Next Gen Project), Children's and Youth National Coalition, National Youth Activities Reference Committee, Youth and Children Ministry staff in Synods and Presbyteries, people in local ministry with young people, the Second-Gen Network and Congress youth initiatives;
- 09.45.03 appoint Michelle Cook (Convenor), Kim Anderson, Fatai Tapuelulu, Adrian White, Jeff Savage and Robin Yang to the Task Group; and
- 09.45.04 request the Task Group to report to the July 2010 meeting of the Standing Committee, including any proposals for action.

5. Proposal 57- Reviewing the Ministry of Lay Preacher

09.46 It was resolved to:

- 09.46.01 a) note the report of the past Chairperson of the Ministerial Education Commission that the Ministerial Education Commission is undertaking a review of a number of aspects of the ministry of Lay Preacher; and
- b) refer Proposal 57 and its rationale to the Ministerial Education Commission and invite it to consider whether it has any significance for its review; and
- c) request the MEC to report back on any action taken in response to this referral and advise on matters that it did not address.

6. Proposal 63 - Afghanistan

09.47 It was resolved to:

- 09.47.01 a) note that the Assembly has acknowledged that God came in the crucified and risen Christ to make peace, and that same God calls the church, as a peacemaking body, to save life, to heal and to love their neighbours, working for true justice and security by non-violent means: (*Uniting for Peace (03.19.02)*; *Resolution 88.62*; *Assembly Minute 82.57*); and
- b) (i) encourage the Australian Government to increase such humanitarian and diplomatic means as will assist the people of Afghanistan to build a peaceful and just society; and
- (ii) support the Australian Government's policy to withdraw Australian troops at the earliest possible opportunity.

7. Proposal 65 - Funding of Aged Care Providers

09.48 It was resolved to:

- 09.48.01 write to the Federal Minister for Health and Aging to express serious concern over the shortfall in Commonwealth Government subsidy funding to approved aged care providers and request the Minister to consider options for increasing subsidy funding to approved aged care providers; and
- 09.48.02 request UnitingCare Australia and Frontier Services to give some guidance to the Standing Committee on how it may be able to support its concern about aged care funding.

8. Proposal 70 - Amendment to Regulations re Complaints Procedures

09.49 It was resolved to:

- 09.49.01 amend Regulations 7.6.3, 7.7.2, 7.7.3 and 7.6.4 so that each of the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee and the Synod Committee for Counselling be given the explicit power to determine at any stage after a complaint is made that the complaint warrants no further action, and
- 09.49.02 recommend to Synods that the amendments to the Regulations be supported by educating members of the committees concerning the power they have to make such determinations and the reasons for that power.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 3.00pm with prayer led by Stuart McMillan

NEXT MEETING:

20 – 22 November 2009