

## Uniting Church in Australia

### ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

18 – 20 March 2011

**PRESENT** Alistair Macrae (President), Kim Anderson, Jenny Brecknell, Michelle Cook, Terence Corkin, Lesley De Grussa-Macaulay, Andrew Dutney, Andrew Glenn, Geoffrey Grinton, Gregor Henderson, Kisoo Jang, Andrew Johnson, Jason Kioa, Peter McDonald, Stuart McMillan, Ken Sumner, Isabel Thomas Dobson, Kendall Trudgen, Jenny Tymms, Robert Watson, Adrian White, Wendie Wilkie.

**In attendance:** Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Brown, Graham Humphris, Shirley Coulson, Peter Jones, Gabrielle Lloyd, Chris Walker and Andrew Williams.

**WORSHIP** On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, Andrew Johnson preached and the President presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion. On the Saturday Stuart McMillan led morning worship and Wendie Wilkie led evening prayers. On the Sunday Lesley De Grussa-Macaulay led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by the President.

**WELCOMES** The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Alan Robinson and Ben Meyers as theological listeners, Robert Hoskin and Robert Key for matters related to the Beneficiary Fund and Peter Andrews for matters related to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

#### 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

**11.01** **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Shayne Blackman, Kay Dowling and Fatai Tapuelulu for the whole meeting, Gregor Henderson and Jenny Brecknell for Friday night and Saturday; Jason Kioa for Friday night; Michelle Cook for Sunday; Graham Humphris for Saturday night.

#### PASTORAL MATTERS

The General Secretary informed the Standing Committee that Fatai's father passed away, her grandparents were involved in a serious car accident overseas and Isabel's father passed away.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Document 16B was distributed on the Friday night.

**11.02** **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

**11.03** It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held November 19 – 21 2010.

### NOTE

Standing Committee members were reminded of:

1. Constitution Clause 39(a) "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 Synods and/or Presbyteries and/or Congregations as the Assembly may determine."; and
2. the authority of the Standing Committee as set out in Regulation 3.6.34 and the resolutions of this Assembly on this subject (Assembly minute 09.08.07).

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the Saturday evening the President reported briefly on the following:

- NCYC
- Planning for the President/UAICC Chair's Young Leaders' Conference
- Update on National Ministers' Conferences
- Ecumenical: National Council of Churches  
EDENFEST Australian Churches Arts Festival 2012
- Advocacy: Northern Territory Intervention  
Asylum Seekers – community based detention  
Problem Gambling
- Disaster responses
- Australian National Development (Wellbeing) Index
- Role of Assembly re: future directions for church in light of declining congregational strength and stronger agencies (flagged for future conversation)

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

### SYNOD SHARING – SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lesley De Grussa-Macaulay, Robert Watson and Wendie Wilkie from the Synod of Western Australia shared something of the life of the synod as an expression of our inter-councilar sharing.

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

#### 1. AUDIT, FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE (ASC MINUTE 10.56.03)

Peter Andrews spoke to Document 2, consisting of a report from the Committee.

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

#### 2. BENEFICIARY FUND (ASC MINUTE 10.77.01(b))

Robert Hoskin and Robert Key introduced Documents 3 and 3A, consisting of a report on the formula for future pension increases, funding policy and strategic review process as well as issues related to the Trust Deed and its Directors.

- 11.06 It was resolved to:**
- 11.06.01 receive the report;
- 11.06.02 support the Board of the Beneficiary Fund decision to determine that in future the basis for pension increases (with the guidance of the Actuary) be as follows:
- a) in any year that the Fund cannot support full CPI increases going forward:  
The pension increase for the year will equal X% of CPI for the previous calendar year, where X% is the proportion determined by the Board in consultation with the actuary of all future CPI increases for current pensioners (projected over their expected lifetimes using actuarial assumptions) which would result in the Fund's measured VBI at 31 December being not less than 100%;
  - b) where the funding is in a strong position, that is, the VBI (allowing for full future CPI increases) exceeds 100%:  
The Pension increase for the year will be X% of CPI for the previous calendar year, where:
    - $X\% = 100\% + R10/3$ ; and
    - R10 is the accumulated 'hold back' over the past ten years - i.e. the excess of CPI over actual pension increases granted - expressed as a proportion of the current year's CPI, noting that it is proposed that only one third of the 'hold back' will be distributed in any given year; and
  - c) that pension increases will be effective from 1 July each year, rather than 1 January;
- 11.06.03 approve a new Funding Policy for the Church in the event that the Fund is no longer able to maintain a VBI of 100% so that one third of the VBI shortfall (grossed up by 15% for tax) be provided by the Church in the following calendar year if the VBI allowing for nil pension increase is less than 100%; with the intention of restoring the VBI to 100% within 3 years;
- 11.06.04
- a) encourage the Beneficiary Fund's Board of Directors in establishing a Working Group to consider the directions recommended in the report and other options for the future as prepared by the Beneficiary Fund; and
  - b) appoint Terence Corkin, Peter Andrews and Rob Brown as Standing Committee nominees for the Working Group
- 11.06.05 note that the
- a) Working Group's deliberations will include consultation with Synods/wider Church, and that the Working Group will make recommendations to the Fund's Board of Directors; and
  - b) Beneficiary Fund Board will bring recommendations to the November 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 11.06.06
- a) note the intention of Mr Colin Grenfell to resign as an independent Director and appoint him as an Assembly Director until the first meeting of the Standing Committee after the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly;
  - b) confirm the appointment of Rev Robert Hoskin, Bruce Binnie, Margaret Burns, Graham Dunstan, Rev Robert Elkhuisen, Colin Grenfell, Rev Anne Honey, Robert Key, Jim Mein, Rev Rick Williams as the members of Benefund Limited;

- c) appoint Robert Elkhuizen, Anne Honey and Graham Dunstan as Assembly Trustee Directors from the expiry of their previous term to November 30 2012; and
  - d) determine to conclude Jim Mein's term as a Director on November 30 2012;
- 11.06.07
- a) note the retirement of Mr Robert Runco as Executive Director of the Beneficiary Fund;
  - b) express its deep gratitude to Robert Runco for the service he has offered to the Church and the members of the Beneficiary Fund since 2001;
  - c) invite the Board to bring an appropriate Minute of Appreciation to the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly; and
  - d) note the Fund's intention not to appoint an Executive Director and the consequent reduction in the number of Directors on the Board.

### **3. CHAPLAINCY IN SCHOOLS AND AGENCIES (ASC MINUTE 09.44.01)**

Chris Walker spoke to Document 10, consisting of a discussion paper on the role and responsibilities of Ministers, Deacons or Lay persons serving as chaplains.

#### **11.07 It was resolved to:**

- 11.07.01 receive the discussion paper on Chaplaincy in Schools and Agencies;
- 11.07.02
- a) commend and distribute it as a resource paper to agencies, Presbyteries and other Councils responsible for appointing chaplains;
  - b) request the Working Group to rework the paper and provide suggested ways for recipients to make use of it;
  - c) distribute the revised paper as a resource to agencies, councils and Presbyteries and invite feedback on issues that they experience around the operation of chaplaincy in their context;
  - d) encourage these bodies to make the resource paper available to chaplains that come under their oversight so that they may be involved in any discussion and also provide feedback; and
  - e) invite the feedback to be sent to the National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship by August 31 2011.

### **4. CLARIFYING THE CONSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY OF CONGRESS IN THE UCA (ASC MINUTE 10.05)**

Andrew Dutney and Ken Sumner encouraged the meeting participants to identify key issues that need to be addressed in progressing the matter of clarifying the constitutional identity of Congress with the UCA. Table group discussion followed. Ongoing discussion will take place on these issues in the Congress National Executive and the Assembly Standing Committee.

### **5. FOSTERING UCA IDENTITY AND COMMITMENT (ASC MINUTE 10.57.03)**

The General Secretary and Gabrielle Lloyd introduced Document 7, consisting of a report on a National Church Project – 'Yesterday, today & forever'.

#### **11.08 It was resolved to receive the report.**

## **6. ISSUES AND OPTIONS RE THE MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION (ASC MINUTE 10.66.02)**

Andrew Dutney presented Document 12, consisting of a report from the Task Group on Education for Ministry.

### **11.09 It was resolved to:**

- 11.09.01 receive the paper "Task Group on Education for Ministry";
- 11.09.02
  - a) distribute the discussion paper to the MEC, MEBs, Synod General Secretaries, Principals of theological colleges, Synod lay and leadership educators and Theology and Discipleship inviting them to comment on the proposed direction and the implications for the tasks of the Ministerial Education Commission;
  - b) request that comments on the discussion paper be forwarded to the Assembly General Secretary by the 1 August 2011; and
  - c) request that the Task Group bring a report based on the responses to the November meeting of the Standing Committee.

## **7. REFLECTIONS ON THE QUEENSLAND SITUATION (ASC MINUTE 10.76)**

The General Secretary presented Document 13, consisting of a report on the polity and governance issues raised by the recent challenges facing the Queensland Synod. Discussion followed.

### **11.10 It was resolved to:**

- 11.10.01 receive the report; and
- 11.10.02 request that the General Secretary:
  - a) allocate time for a discussion of the issues raised in the paper at the July 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee; and
  - b) resource the process.

## **8. REVIEW OF THE ASSEMBLY RECEPTION OF MINISTERS PROCEDURES (ASC MINUTE 09.36)**

Isabel Thomas Dobson introduced Document 5, consisting of a report of the Task Group. Discussion ensued.

### **11.11 It was resolved to:**

- 11.11.01 receive the report; and
- 11.11.02 refer the Task Group's report, and comments made at the Standing Committee meeting, to the Legal Reference Committee and request it to prepare regulations that give effect to the directions of the report and to engage the General Secretaries and the Task Group as a reference group for its work.

## **9. REVISION OF THE REGULATIONS (ASC MINUTE 10.30.02)**

The General Secretary, Isabel Thomas Dobson and Andrew Johnson presented Documents 8 and 8A, consisting of a report on the work which was undertaken by the Task Group appointed to review the Regulations and the Regulations gathered into the proposed organisational framework.

- 11.12 It was resolved to:**
- 11.12.01 receive the report; and
  - 11.12.02 authorise the General Secretary to arrange for drafting work to be undertaken that takes into account the discussion on the report.

**10. REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THEOLOGICAL LISTENERS (ASC MINUTE 10.77.01(a))**

The General Secretary verbally introduced the matter, discussion followed.

- 11.13 It was resolved to:**
- 11.13.01 discontinue the role; and
  - 11.13.02 explore other strategies for keeping theological reflection as a key part of the Standing Committee deliberations.

**11. REVIEW OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT COMPLAINTS POLICIES (ASC MINUTES 08.47.06 AND 08.75)**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 6, consisting of a report from the Task Group charged with the review of the proposed policy for dealing with sexual misconduct made against a member, adherent or voluntary worker of the Uniting Church in Australia.

- 11.14 It was resolved to:**
- 11.14.01 receive the report;
  - 11.14.02 refer the report and the comments from this meeting to the Task Group that has provided the Draft and request that they incorporate the comments from the discussion into its next draft; and
  - 11.14.03 thank and discharge the Task Group.

## **FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES**

### **1. GENERAL REPORT**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 17, consisting of a report on various matters.

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

### **2. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE**

The General Secretary introduced Document 14, consisting of a report on the matters the Legal Reference Committee dealt with since the November 2010 Standing Committee.

- 11.16 It was resolved to:**
- 11.16.01 receive the report;
  - 11.16.02 a) adopt Regulation 4.14 Classifying Property for Alternative Missional Use (by agreement);

#### **4.14 Classifying Property for Alternative Missional Use**

##### **4.14.1 In this Regulation:**

- (a) **“Alternative Missional Use”** means use of property or the income from or proceeds of sale of property by or for
  - \* new Congregations, faith communities or new worship gatherings within existing church buildings;
  - \* future new Congregations or faith communities, as stipulated by Synod upon recommendation from the Presbytery;
  - \* Congregations with inadequate property resources;
  - \* any Congregation which in the opinion of the Presbytery has significant engagement in mission;
  - \* Synod or Presbytery approved strategic mission initiatives; or
  - \* such other missional priorities as the Synod determines;
- (b) “property” means real property and includes any building and fixed improvement and may also include any non-fixed property used in conjunction with the building if the non-fixed property is specifically included in property that is available for “Alternative Missional Use”;
- (c) “Congregational Property” means property acquired or held for the use or benefit of the Congregation and for which the Church Council is responsible for management and administration.

##### **4.14.2 Congregational property will be classified as available for “Alternative Missional Use” where**

- (a) the Congregation and Church Council resolve to make the property available for “Alternative Missional Use”; or
- (b)
  - (i) the Presbytery convenes a consultation with the Congregation and its Church Council, and the purposes of the consultation specifically include consideration of whether a recommendation should be made by the Presbytery that any of the Congregational property should be classified as available for ‘Alternative Missional Use’;
  - (ii) the Presbytery in session, after appropriate consultation with the Congregation, recommends that the Synod classify all or part of a property held for the use of that Congregation as “available for Alternative Missional Use”; and
  - (iii) the Synod or Synod Standing Committee in session resolves to make the classification.

##### **4.14.3 In any consultation between Presbytery and a Congregation as referred to in Regulation 4.14.2 (b)**

- (a) the Presbytery shall take proper account of the purpose, functions, responsibilities and rights of the Congregation as described in the Regulations;
- (b) the Presbytery and the Congregation have a responsibility to listen faithfully to one another; and
- (c) the Presbytery shall take into account any effect on an existing placement.

##### **4.14.4 (a) Where the Presbytery recommends to the Synod that the Synod classify a property as available for “Alternative Missional Use” the Presbytery shall provide to the Synod (and at the same time to the Congregation) written reasons for the recommendation.**

- (b) Before resolving to classify a property as available for “Alternative Missional Use” the Synod must give the Congregation and its Church Council an opportunity to make written submissions to the Synod regarding the proposed classification.

- 4.14.5 (a) When a property or income from or proceeds of sale of property is classified as available for "Alternative Missional Use" a Presbytery may transfer responsibility for the management and control of the property or the benefit of use or income from the property or proceeds of sale of the property to another body (which may be the Presbytery itself);
- (b) Prior to transferring the responsibility or benefit, the Presbytery shall ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for the care of the affected Congregation and its mission, and shall ensure that appropriate opportunities are made for the affected Congregation through its Church Council to make a contribution in the process that identifies the "Alternative Missional Use" to which the resources for which its Church Council was previously responsible, are put.
- 4.14.6 If, notwithstanding a resolution of the Synod referred to in Regulation 4.14.2 (b), responsibility for the management, control or benefit or use (as the case may be) has not been transferred to another body within three (3) years of the Synod or the Synod Standing Committee resolution:
- (a) the classification shall cease to operate; and
- (b) responsibility for the management and control or the benefit of use of the property shall remain with the existing Congregation and its Church Council.
- 4.14.7 (a) A Church Council may appeal against a decision pursuant to Regulation 4.14.2 (b) to classify property as available for "Alternative Missional Use" on the ground that the process was not in accordance with Regulations 4.14.1, 4.14.2, 4.14.3, and 4.14.4;
- (b) The appeal shall be heard by an appeal panel constituted under Part 8 of these Regulations;
- b) the effective date for this Regulation be 1 May 2011;
- 11.16.03 a) amend the following regulations on Assembly membership to read:

#### **MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**3.6.2** The membership of the Assembly shall consist of:

(c) Ministers and confirmed lay members 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**

NSW and ACT 54

Northern 10

Queensland 36

South Australia 34

Victoria and Tasmania 58

Western Australia 20

and in each case the Moderator and the Secretary of the Synod shall be included ex officio in the members appointed by the Synod when they are available to accept appointment;

(iii) ~~not fewer than one in every five ten of the lay members shall be a person who, in the opinion of the Synod, could reasonably be regarded as of a youthful age as determined by the Assembly or its Standing Committee;~~

(d) ~~such~~ Ministers and confirmed members appointed by bodies directly responsible to the Assembly ~~as after~~ the Standing Committee shall determine, each making its own

~~appointments specifies the bodies which may make appointments and the number of members who may be appointed by each of those bodies provided that the total number of members to be appointed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed 5% of the total number of members of the Assembly pursuant to Regulation 3.6.2 (a) - (c); Ministers and confirmed members appointed by bodies directly responsible to the Assembly after the Standing Committee~~

~~(e) 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. Ministers and confirmed members appointed by the outgoing Standing Committee having regard to the gifts, skills and experience needed by the Assembly provided that the total number of members appointed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed 8% of the total number of members appointed pursuant to Regulation 3.6.2 (a) – (c).~~

**3.6.4** The Assembly shall make provision in such manner as it shall determine to ensure that the total number of lay members is not fewer than the number of ministerial members by reason of the number of ex-officio members ~~and members appointed by the Assembly or Standing Committee who are Ministers~~ appointed pursuant to Regulation 3.6.2 (d) and (e) who are Ministers.

### **REPRESENTATIVES TO MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY**

~~**3.5.25** Within the number of persons the Synod is entitled to appoint as representatives to the Assembly, the Synod shall include:~~

- ~~(a) the Moderator of the Synod;  
(b) the Secretary of the Synod.~~

~~**3.5.26** Subject to Regulation 3.5.25, each Synod shall elect by written ballot such number of Ministers and lay persons as are necessary to comply with Regulations 3.6.2(d).~~

~~**3.5.27** Nominations of persons for election as representatives members may be by:~~

- ~~(a) any Presbytery within the bounds;  
(b) any member of the Synod immediately preceding the Assembly.~~

~~**3.5.29** In the event of any person elected representative pursuant to Regulation 3.5.26 being unable to attend the Assembly, the vacancy shall be filled by the person with the next highest number of votes to those elected in the ballot, or otherwise by a person selected by the Moderator.~~

- b) the effective date for these amendments be March 19 2011; and

### **3. TASK GROUP ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY**

Michelle Cook delivered a verbal report on the actions taken in response to the report's recommendations. A further report will be brought to a later meeting of the Standing Committee.

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

#### **4. 13<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DESIGN TEAM**

The General Secretary presented Document 4, consisting of a report on the preparations which are underway for the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**11.18** **It was resolved to:**

11.18.01 receive the report; and

- 11.18.02 refer the following proposal regarding the election of the President-elect to the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly:
- (i) that if more than two nominations are received, a first-round preferential ballot be used to identify the two candidates with the highest number of preferences;
  - (ii) that if a candidate in the preferential ballot receives more than 50% of the first preferences of those participating in the ballot, that candidate be declared elected;
  - (iii) that if there are only two nominations, or following the prior preferential ballot; the names of the two candidates shall be submitted and members shall indicate their preference for one candidate; and
  - (iv) that to be declared elected, one candidate must receive the support of more than 50% of those participating in the ballot.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. ASSEMBLY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 11, consisting of a report that identified the impact of various Assembly decisions re governance and how external factors are impacting on the way the Assembly operates. Discussion followed.

#### **11.19 It was resolved to:**

- 11.19.01 receive the report; and
- 11.19.02
- a) establish a Working Group to address the issues raised within the paper;
  - b) appoint Andrew Glenn (Convenor), Gregor Henderson, Peter Jones and Jenny Tymms to the Working Group; and
  - c) request a preliminary report to a future meeting of the Standing Committee.

### **2. DEVELOPED COUNTRY DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

The General Secretary introduced Document 18, consisting of the proposed draft Constitution for a Developed Country Disaster Relief Fund.

#### **11.20 It was resolved to:**

- 11.20.01. receive the report; and
- 11.20.02 authorise the General Secretary to:
- a) undertake the necessary steps to develop the Constitution for a Developed Country Disaster Relief Fund;
  - b) submit the Constitution to the Australian Taxation Office for approval as Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) fund; and
  - c) agree to the Standing Committee conducting an email ballot for the membership of the Management Committee.

### 3. EMMAUS AUSTRALIA – UCA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The General Secretary spoke to Document 15, consisting of a report on the UCA – Emmaus Australia relationship as well as the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

#### 11.21 It was resolved to:

- 11.21.01 receive the report; and
- 11.21.02 request that the General Secretary:
  - a) conduct negotiations with the National Lay Director of Emmaus Australia regarding some aspects of the Memorandum of Understanding; and
  - b) bring a revised agreement to the July 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee.

### 4. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Secretary presented the business in Documents 16, 16A and 16B, consisting of various matters.

#### 11.22 It was resolved to:

- 11.22.01 receive the report;
- 11.22.02
  - a) note the moves from within the current Federal Parliament to put the issue of euthanasia on the legislative agenda;
  - b) note the willingness of Ms Colleen Geyer, Director of Mission, BlueCare Queensland, to take a lead in drawing people together from across the Church who could help the Church to think through how it might respond to any legislative proposals; and
  - c) receive the offer of Ms Geyer and ask her to undertake this task and report to a later meeting of the Standing Committee with any recommendations;
- 11.22.03
  - a) establish a Review Group to undertake a review of the General Secretary with a view to considering an extension of his current term;
  - b) appoint Alistair Macrae (Convenor), Jenny Brecknell, Geoffrey Grinton and Jason Kioa, as members of the Review Group; and
  - c) request the Review Group to report to the July meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 11.22.04
  - a) establish a Review Group to undertake a review of the National Director of UnitingWorld with a view considering an extension of his current term;
- 11.22.05
  - b) appoint Wendie Wilkie (Convenor), Malcolm Gledhill, Stu Cameron, Terence Corkin and Kisoo Jang as members of the Review Group;
  - c) request the Review Group to report to the July meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 11.22.06
  - a) appoint Dr Gewa Au as a member of the Working Group on Worship; and
  - b) appoint Chris Goringe and Ann Perrin as members of the Working Group on Doctrine;

- 11.22.07 defer further consideration of the matters addressed in ASC minutes 10.55.01 to 10.55.03 re Israel – Palestine until the July meeting of the Standing Committee in order that meetings of the UCA members of the Assembly’s Jewish - Christian dialogue, augmented with a small representation from the Victorian / Tasmanian Synod Working Group on Jewish Christian Relations; and the Assembly Jewish - Christian Dialogue Group can take place; and a report on those meetings be presented to the Standing Committee in conjunction with the resolution re consideration of a boycott;
- 11.22.08 amend the Position Description of the National Director, Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry as follows (Attachment A):  
(4) To consult with the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry Reference Committee and any working groups it establishes on the development and recommendation of policies for presentation to the Assembly or its Standing Committee;
- 11.22.09 a) receive the letter from Peter Jones concerning receiving Assembly staff performance appraisals at the Standing Committee meetings;
- b) request the General Secretary and Peter Jones to work on the issue; and
- c) bring a report back to the July 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 11.22.10 a) receive the correspondence from Uniting Network;
- b) request the General Secretary to respond to the correspondence, advising that the Standing Committee will not take action on their request; and
- c) assure Uniting Network about the availability of the General Secretary and the President to meet with them to speak about their concerns and the Standing Committee’s response to their correspondence;
- 11.22.11 a) receive the correspondence for the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra;
- b) advise the Presbytery that the questions and vows as set out in the Induction Services are mandatory; and
- c) communicate this to all Presbyteries.
- 11.22.12 a) receive the email from Neville Campbell regarding alternative Australia Day celebrations;
- b) note that the issue of alternative Australia Day celebrations will be on the agenda of the UAICC National Executive; and
- c) express to the UAICC that the Standing Committee would welcome advice on the outcome of the UAICC National Executive’s consideration of this issue;
- 11.22.13 a) thank the National Committee for UnitingWorld – Relief and Development for its offer to assist in helping the Standing Committee to develop higher level of directional statements for the Assembly; and
- b) decline the offer as this kind of process is not viable given the wide diversity of agencies and the role of the Assembly in the life of the Church;

- 11.22.14 a) determine that the process of setting key directions at the triennial Assembly has not proved to be a constructive development for the Agencies or Assembly oversight of them;
- b) resolve not to continue with the process but to remain open to the ways in which appropriate oversight mechanisms can be developed; and
- 11.22.15 a) receive the letter from Frontier Services regarding their request for being able to appoint a member to the triennial Assembly under Regulation 3.6.2(d); and
- b) take this issue into account when the Standing Committee considers Assembly membership under Regulation 3.6.2 (d);
- 11.22.16 in fulfilling its responsibility under Regulation 3.6.2 (c) (iii) determine that youthful age shall be 25 years of age at the commencement of the meeting of the triennial Assembly; and
- 11.22.17 request the Assembly Officers to resource a discussion at the July 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee that will assist it to fulfil its responsibilities under Regulation 3.6.26 (b).

## **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by the President.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2011 MEETING DATES</b> <b>15 – 17 July 2011</b> <b>18– 20 November 2011</b></p>
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