

**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE**

**16 – 18 NOVEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT** Andrew Dutney (President), Alison Atkinson-Phillips, Bethany Broadstock, Stu Cameron, Michelle Cook, Terence Corkin, Emma Davison, Kate Fraser, Geoffrey Grinton, Zac Hatfield Dodds, Andrew Johnson, Jason Kioa, Stuart McMillan, Alistair Macrae, Craig Mitchell, Deidre Palmer, Isabel Thomas-Dobson, Jan Trengove, Ian Tozer, Jenny Tymms.

**In attendance:** Peter Andrews, Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Shirley Coulson, Kay Dowling, Mark Lawrence, Matt Pulford, Chris Walker, Andrew Williams.

**WORSHIP** On the Friday evening the participants attended a reception hosted by the Governor of NSW in recognition of the centenary of Frontier Services. On Saturday morning, as part of the formation of the community, Rosemary Young, National Director of Frontier services preached and the President presided at the Service of Holy Communion. On the Saturday night the prayers were conducted by Deidre Palmer, the Sunday morning worship was conducted by the President. The closing prayer on Sunday afternoon was led by Craig Mitchell.

**WELCOMES** The President welcomed the participants in the Standing Committee meetings especially those who are newly-elected members and could not attend the August meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Rosemary Young with an invitation to share a little on the Frontier Centenary year activities, Mark Neasey for matters related to AFARC and the budget, Kerry Enright and Sureka Goringe for UnitingWorld Governance discussion.

**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**

**12.50** **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Ronang Garrawurra, Graham Humphris, Peter Jones, Cheryl Lawson and Ian Price for the whole meeting.

**PASTORAL MATTERS**

The participants were informed about the continued serious illness of Cheryl Lawson and Peter Jones' wife. Stuart McMillan shared with the participants that Ronang Garrawurra was doing very well after the operation and was grateful for prayers. The President advised the meeting that Peter Andrews and Sandy Yule lost their mothers and Craig Mitchell's brother passed away.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 11 and 18 were distributed on the Friday night.

**12.51** **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

**12.52** It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held August 24 – 26 2012, with the addition of “12.43.05 the effective date for these amended regulations be October 1<sup>st</sup> 2012” and with the correction of the name Michaela Miller to Tiller in Minute 12.45.05.

## 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.”*

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In a follow up to the discussion at the August meeting the General Secretary introduced a discussion on conflict of interest and what that might mean in the context of the Assembly Standing Committee and what appropriate responses to such conflicts might be. It was decided to provide a regular opportunity to declare conflicts of interest around any aspect of the agenda at the time the Agenda is adopted at each meeting and to record these declarations in the minutes. In addition a “running record” of these declarations will be maintained over the course of the triennium so that members do not need to keep repeating recurrent conflicts of interest. Members of the Standing Committee were invited to identify agenda items (by issue and reference to the Document number and title) where they considered that they have a conflict of interest. The following conflicts of interest were named.

- Stu Cameron: Docs 9 and 9A UnitingWorld and Doc 4 - Budget – Chairperson and UnitingWorld Church Connections National Committee
- Michelle Cook: Doc 15 - Presidential Ruling – from the Presbytery which is subject to the content of the request for a ruling
- Shirley Coulson: Doc 15 - Presidential Ruling – provided advice to the Presbytery which is subject to the request for a ruling
- Zac Hatfield Dodds: Doc 4 – Budget, related to the National Director of UnitingCare
- Andrew Johnson: Docs 9 and 9A - UnitingWorld. He works in the church relations section of another international aid agency.  
Doc 15 - Presidential Ruling. A close relative was involved in disciplinary matters with the person who requested a ruling.
- Jason Kioa: Doc 15 - Presidential Ruling – mentor to the person who made the request for a ruling
- Craig Mitchell: Doc 11- Review of the National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship – staff member
- Deidre Palmer: Doc 13 – Euthanasia. Her husband is involved in Ethics Committees which present positions on this issue.
- Jan Trengove: Doc 4 – Budget – Chairperson of Frontier Services Board

The Standing Committee revisited the declared conflicts of interest when the relevant business was before it and determined the appropriate response in each instance.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

On the Saturday evening the President reported to the Standing Committee on his various activities since the last Standing Committee meeting. He spoke about his visit to the North Queensland Presbytery and said that what stood out was the easy ecumenism of this region, involving a range of denominations. He also had the opportunity to visit Korea to honour our relationship with PCK and PROK and our partnership with the Korean Methodist Church. He attended the first National Conference of the UCA's Sudanese community and he shared the powerful and moving story of a young man. Speaking about the Royal Commission in Child Abuse, he quoted from the Basis of Union, emphasising that we define ourselves by relationship with other denominations, we need to remember that we share the pain of other denominations, we need to find the way to walk through with – we are one body of Christ.

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

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **1. Review of the Alternative Regulations for Korean Congregations – Interim Report (ASC Minute 12.15.06)**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 10, consisting of an interim report of the Task Group established at the August 2012 Standing Committee meeting.

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

### **2. Review of the National Consultant – Theology and Discipleship (ASC Minute 12.47.05)**

Michelle Cook presented Document 11, consisting of a report of the Review Group.

**12.55**            **It was resolved to:**

12.55.01        receive the report;

12.55.02        affirm that the roles undertaken by position of National Consultant, Theology and Discipleship are essential in the life of the Assembly and the wider Uniting Church;

12.55.03        recognise the need for a revision of the position description of the National Consultant and that will take into account the Interim Report and any decisions that the Standing Committee may make in regard to the Christian Education Research Project;

12.55.04        approve the timeline of Stage 1 of the Review with a position description being brought to the ASC by November 2013;

12.55.05        note the continuation of the Review Group until such time as Stage 1 of the Review is completed;

12.55.06        express its appreciation and thanks to Rev Dr Chris Walker for the way he has fulfilled the role of National Consultant, supporting the work of the

Assembly and helping the Church to engage more fully in understanding its theology; and

12.55.07 extend the placement of Rev Dr Chris Walker until 31 July 2015.(Agreement)

## FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

### 1. Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Peter Andrews spoke to Document 3, consisting of a report on the performance of the funds relative to budget, the 2013 budgeting process, external audit and governance issues. Mark Neasey presented Documents 3A and 4, consisting of Frontier Services' annual financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2012 and the Assembly budget for the year end 31 December 2013.

#### 12.56 It was resolved to:

- 12.56.01 a) receive the report;
- b) approve the appointment of Deloitte as the external auditor for a period of three (3) years;
- c) receive the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011 for UnitingCare Australia, UnitingWorld Church Connections, UnitingWorld Relief & Development, Assembly Fund, Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress, UCA Assembly Limited, UCA New Zealand Christchurch Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund and UCA Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund; and
- d) receive the year end accounts (30 June 2012) for Frontier Services;.
- 12.56.02 a) receive the report;
- b) note with gratitude the contributions from Synods to the Assembly budget for 2013; and
- c) approve the 2013 budgets for
- Assembly Fund
  - UnitingWorld Church Connections
  - UnitingWorld Relief & Development
  - Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress; and
  - UnitingCare.

### 2. Benevolent Fund

The General Secretary introduced Documents 7, 7A and 7B, consisting of a report on the Benevolent Fund review and the Rules of the Uniting Church Ministers' Benevolent Fund which is to replace the current constitution of the Ministers' Benevolent Fund.

#### 12.57 It was resolved to:

- 12.57.01 receive the report;
- 12.57.02 receive the advice of the current Ministers Benevolent Fund Committee that it wishes to relinquish responsibility for the Fund;
- 12.57.03 replace the current Constitution of the Ministers Benevolent Fund with the "Rules of the Ministers Benevolent Fund" with effect from 1 January 2013 (Attachment A);

- 12.57.04 express thanks to the outgoing Committee for the work that they have undertake in administering the Fund for many years;
- 12.57.05 appoint Paul Bartlett, Philip Bickerstaff, Cynthia Coghill and John Hayes as members of the new Ministers Benevolent Fund Committee, with the General Secretary ex officio; and
- 12. 57.06 thank and discharge the Review Task Group.

### **3. General Report**

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

#### **12.58 It was resolved to:**

- 12.58.01 receive the report; and
- 12.58.02 write and express the UCA's appreciation to the World Council of Churches Central Committee regarding its support for Indigenous Australians in the passing of the "Stronger Futures' legislation.

### **4. Legal Reference Committee**

The General Secretary presented Document 14, consisting of a report on the work the Committee had done since the since the last Standing Committee meeting.

#### **12.59 It was resolved to:**

- 12.59.01 receive the report;
- 12.59.02 delete Regulation 2.5.1 (Admission of Ministers from another denomination) and replace it with

#### **APPLICATION BY A MINISTER OF ANOTHER DENOMINATION TO SERVE IN A PLACEMENT**

- x.x.1 (a) This Regulation shall apply to any minister of another denomination
  - (i) whose ordination to ministry of that denomination is recognised by the Assembly and
  - (ii) who desires to apply to serve in a Placement in the Church.
- (b) The application shall be made to the Synod.
- (c) A placement or placements shall be for no more than three years in total unless the Synod or the Assembly (in the case of an Assembly placement) determines otherwise after considering:
  - (i) any mutual understanding, written or unwritten, between the Church and a partner church concerning the placement of Ministers from the partner church into a ministry of the Church;
  - (ii) in a case where the applicant has also applied for admission as a Minister of the Church and has engaged in the process relating to that admission in good faith, whether that process is likely to be completed within the three year period; and

- (iii) any other matters that it considers relevant.
- (d) The Synod shall assess the suitability of an applicant to serve in a ministry of the Church having regard to:
  - (i) whether the applicant is of good standing in the denomination in which he/she has been ordained and in each denomination in which the applicant has subsequently been in ministry;
  - (ii) the commitment of the applicant to the Church;
  - (iii) the educational attainments of the applicant;
  - (iv) if the applicant is not an Australian citizen, the applicant's immigration status;
  - (v) the language proficiency of the applicant relevant to the context;
  - (vi) any guidelines or requirements laid down by the Assembly; and
  - (vii) advice in relation to the previous ministry experience of the applicant.
- (e) The Synod shall seek confirmation from the Assembly that the ordination of the denomination from which the applicant comes has been previously recognised and, if not, request the Assembly to consider such approval.
- (f) The Synod shall determine whether the applicant is required to complete any ongoing education or formation.
- (g) In conjunction with the Presbytery, the Synod shall appoint a mentor who will work with the applicant to ensure any education or formation requirements under x.x.1(f) are met.
- (h) A placement shall not be extended where an application made under Regulation x.x.2 has been completed and the result of that application was that it was rejected or deferred.

#### **ADMISSION OF A MINISTER FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION**

- x.x.2 (a) Any minister of another denomination whose ordination to ministry of that denomination is recognised by the Assembly may apply to a Synod for admission as a Minister of the Word or Deacon.
- (b) The Synod will not process an application by an applicant who has had no, or limited, prior experience in the Church until the applicant has served in a placement in the Church for at least 12 months unless the Synod decides to shorten the period of prior service by reason of exceptional circumstances.
- (c) In considering an application, the Synod shall
  - (i) take account of the
    - matters referred to in Regulation x.x.1(d);
    - standards for ministerial education and formation prescribed by the Assembly;
    - experience of the applicant and the Church in a placement; and
  - (ii) determine whether the applicant is required to undertake formation for ministry in the Church.
- (d) The Synod shall then proceed to determine the application in any one of the following ways:

- (i) acceptance subject to issue of a certificate of completion by the Assembly;
  - (ii) provisional acceptance, subject to satisfactory completion of all requirements of the Assembly and the Synod within such period as the Synod shall determine;
  - (iii) deferment for further consideration; or
  - (iv) rejection.
- (e) A minister of another denomination whose admission as a Minister of the Church is approved shall be recognised as a Minister of the Word or a Deacon in a service arranged by the Presbytery in accordance with provisions laid down by the Assembly.
- (f) Any person whose application for admission has been rejected by the Synod under Regulation x.x.2(e) may appeal on the grounds that the process followed did not comply with these Regulations. The appeal shall be dealt with under Part 6 of these Regulations.

### **ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY IN THE ADMISSION OF MINISTERS FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION**

#### **x.x.3**

- (a) The Assembly shall establish guidelines for assessing the suitability of, and requirements for the education and formation of, ordained ministers of other denominations who apply to serve in a placement for a Minister in the Church or for admission as a Minister of the Word or Deacon and shall provide such guidelines to the Synods.
- (b) The guidelines referred to in Regulation x.x.3(a) shall include a requirement that, unless there are special circumstances, the applicant shall have received an education (academic study and ministerial formation) comparable to that of certified candidates for the corresponding ministry in the Church or attained competency comparable to that required of a Minister.
- (c) The Assembly shall provide oversight of the process of the application, assessment and admission, and will establish and maintain a list of ordained ministries of denominations of the church catholic that are recognised for the purposes of this Regulation.
- (d) In determining if a person's ordination to a ministry in a denomination of the church catholic shall be recognised by the Church for the purposes of this Regulation the Assembly or the body which it designates to make the decision shall consider
  - (i) if the person seeking admission as a Minister of the Word, or to serve in a placement in the Church to fulfil substantially the responsibilities of a Minister of the Word, has been ordained to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in a denomination of the church catholic.
  - (ii) if an applicant seeking admission to the ministry of Deacon or to serve in a placement in the Church to fulfil substantially the responsibilities of a Deacon, has been ordained to a ministry in a denomination of the

church catholic that is comparable to the ministry of Deacon in the Church.

- (e) On the advice of the Synod in which the application is made, the Assembly shall issue a certificate of completion of requirements for admission of an ordained minister of another denomination as a Minister of the Word or Deacon.
- (f) If the Assembly refuses to recognise the ordination of a person to ministry in another denomination in a case where the person is applying to serve in a placement in the Church or to become a Minister of the Church, the applicant may appeal against the decision of the Assembly and the appeal shall be dealt with under Part 6 of these Regulations.

- 12.59.03 the effective date for this regulation is 18 November 2012;
- 12.59.04 determine that these regulations shall not apply to persons who have already made a formal application seeking admission as a Minister of the UCA or to persons currently in placement conversations;
- 12.59.05 express thanks to the members of the Legal Reference Committee for their extensive work in relation to this regulation; and
- 12.59.06 authorise the General Secretary to make and distribute the consequential amendments to the regulations.

#### **5. UnitingJustice Australia**

Elenie Poulos and Glenda Blakefield spoke to Document 12, consisting of the draft amended Terms of Reference for UnitingJustice Australia. Table group discussion followed.

- 12.60** **It was resolved to** approve the UnitingJustice Australia Terms of Reference as amended at the meeting (Attachment B).

#### **6. UnitingWorld – Relief and Development**

Kerry Enright and Sureka Goringe introduced Documents 9 and 9A, consisting of a report on the manner in which Relief and Development fulfilled the delegations it received from the Standing Committee and the Mandate as well as other Governance and Organisational matters.

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

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **1. ASC Governance Group**

Alistair Macrae chaired the meeting while the President spoke to Document 2, consisting of a report from the ASC Governance Group. Table discussion ensued.

- 12.62** **It was resolved to:**
  - 12.62.01 receive the report; and
  - 12.62.02 request the General Secretary to provide, at the March 2013 meeting, resources that will enable a discussion on the ministry priorities and resource considerations for the Assembly over the next triennium.

## 2. General Business

The General Secretary presented the business in Document 16.

### 12.63 It was resolved to:

12.63.01 receive the report;

12.63.02 appoint Peter Andrews as Chair of the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee;

12.63.03 note that the Standing Committee resolved by electronic ballot to amend the Beneficiary Fund Rules in the following way:

(a) delete Rule 5 (g)

(b) Rule 18 - **RETIREMENT AT OR AFTER AGE 55 AND AFTER PRESERVATION AGE AND BEFORE NORMAL RETIREMENT DATE BEFORE AGE 65– MEMBERS OTHER THAN CATEGORY 6 MEMBERS**

The following provisions shall apply in relation to a Category 1 Member, Category 2 Member, Category 3 Member, Category 4 Member or Category 5 Members who retires on or after attaining the age of 55 their Preservation Age and before the Normal Retirement Dateage 65:

**(a) Category 1 Members and Category 2 Members over Preservation Age**

If a Category 1 Member or Category 2 Member to whom this provision applies permanently retires from Gainful Employment on or after the day upon which the Member attains their Preservation Age and the Trustee has determined that the permanent retirement is otherwise than from Permanent Disability, then subject to the preservation requirements of the Relevant Law:

(c) **COMMUTATION OF PENSION**

**(d) Commutation of Small Pensions**

The Trustee may, in its discretion but subject to the Relevant Law, pay out as a single capital sum the value determined by the Actuary of the whole of any Pension payable from the Fund which is not classified as a noncommutable Pension and in the opinion of the Trustee is of such a small annual amount as warrants such a procedure.

**(e) Non-commutable Pensions**

Subject to sub-rules 42(f) and 29A(c), the Trustee must not commute the whole or any part of any Pension which is classified as a non-commutable Pension according to these Rules.

**(f) Commutation of non-commutable Pensions**

A Pension that is classified as a non-commutable Pension under these Rules:

(i) that becomes payable under Rule 18 or Rule 19A to a Member before that Member reaches the Member's Preservation Age, may be commuted in whole or in part prior to the commencement date of the Pension, or within 6 months after the commencement date of the Pension, if and only if that commutation is permitted under the Relevant Law;

(ii) that becomes payable under Rule 29A, is commutable only in accordance with Rule 29A;

(iii) otherwise, may be commuted in whole or in part prior to the commencement date of the Pension, or within 6 months after the commencement date of the Pension.

The Trustee will determine the lump sum amount which is payable when a Pension is commuted under this Rule 42(f), and the adjustment required to any Benefit that remains payable when only

part of a Pension is commuted, after having sought the advice of the Actuary.

(d) **35. REDUCTION OF BENEFITS; AUGMENTATION OF BENEFITS**  
**(d) Augmentation of Benefits**

The Trustee may with the consent of the Church, and on such conditions (if any) as it considers appropriate after consultation with the Actuary including the payment of additional Contributions by the Member, augment the Benefit payable to a Member.;

- 12.63.04 (a) appoint Dr Deidre Palmer (Convenor), Rev. Dr. Jennifer Byrnes, Rev Michelle Cook, Rev Dr Murray Muirhead, Rev Dr Neil Pembroke and and Rev Dr Helen Richmond to the Task Group to establish the Education for Ministry Working Group;
- (b) confirm that the terms of reference be those established by the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Assembly minute 12.08; and
- (c) request the Task Group to bring its report to the July 2013 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 12.63.05. (a) note the resignation of the following Directors of the Beneficiary Fund: Rev Dr Robert Hoskin, Mrs Margaret Burns and Mr Robert Key (Member representatives), Rev Anne Honey (Assembly Representative);
- (b) note the transfer of Mr Jim Mein from being an Assembly representative to being a member representative; and
- (c) appoint Dr Alice McCleary as a member representative and Ms Pamela (Pam) McAlister as an Assembly representative;
- 12.63.06 appoint Bill Bovingdon, Chris Dickman and Vivienne Lee to membership of the Assembly Investment Committee;
- 12.63.07 appoint Rev Kisoo Jang and Mrs Thi Thuy Nga Luu to the Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry National Reference Committee;
- 12.63.08 determine that for triennial meetings of the Assembly that past Presidents be invited to the opening service and installation of the President but not be appointed by the Standing Committee as associate members of the Assembly;
- 12.63.09 record its appreciation for the significant contribution of Rev. Dr Wes Campbell to the life of the Uniting Church through the Doctrine Working Group;

Wes has been a Member for a number of years; in the 1980s and recently from 2004. He has been Convenor of the Doctrine Working Group for seven years.

Wes has followed his commitment to the Gospel's call to justice to the poor of the earth and his conviction that the gospel does not allow a Christian to be implicitly and explicitly supportive of violence in the way in which he has convened the DWG. His leadership has been thoughtful and considerate allowing and encouraging a variety of views. He is gentle and warm in his welcoming of new members and chairing of meetings. Wes brings a theological acumen in the way he wrestles with the truth, a life as a confessional theologian who is committed to a liturgically based discipleship and a passionate commitment to the Faith of the Church.

Wes led the DWG through a particularly demanding period. He has carried through a significant amount of work, has been gracious in meetings and debates with other groups, maintained a theological seriousness and pastoral sensitivity while retaining that doctrinal faithfulness which is part of Christian discipleship.

Members of the Doctrine Working Group have commented on his inclusion of everyone in the group, his faithfulness and keeping people to the task, his sensitive way of leading, his acknowledgement of his own vulnerability, his guidance and his desire on also being proactive.

The Church is grateful that Wes will continue as a member of the Doctrine Working Group.

The Assembly Standing Committee has valued Wes' contributions over many years, all of which have been in the best interests of the Church and its people.

The Assembly Standing Committee wishes God's continued blessing on him.

- 12.63.10
- (a) receive the correspondence from the National Director of the Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry regarding the Task Group on Baptism, Confirmation and Membership;
  - (b) refer the letter to the Task Group on Baptism, Confirmation and Membership and encourage the Task Group to take up the suggestions made by the committee; and
  - (c) appoint Amelia Koh-Butler and Lu Senituli to the Task Group on Baptism, Confirmation and Membership;

### **3. Enhancing CALD and Congress Participation in the Standing Committee**

Tony Floyd, National Director of Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry led a discussion session on how to enhance the participation of CALD communities in the life of the Standing Committee.

### **4. Lay Presidency at the Sacraments**

The General Secretary presented Document 8, consisting of a letter from the Yarra Yarra Presbytery concerning the Church's practice in relation to lay presidency at the sacraments.

#### **12.64 It was resolved to:**

- 12.64.01 receive the correspondence from the Yarra Yarra Presbytery; and
- 12.64.02 request the National Working Group on Doctrine and the Christian Unity Working Group to provide a report on the UCA's doctrine and practice regarding lay presidency at the sacraments with recommendations in relation to the current guidelines for lay presidency, education about the UCA practice and any related matters.

### **5. The Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse**

Glenda Blakefield introduced Document 18, consisting of a report on the discussions held in UnitingCare Australia on this issue and possible response from the Assembly. Table group discussion followed.

#### **12.65 It was resolved to:**

- 12.65.01 receive the report;
- 12.65.02 establish a National Response Task Group with the responsibility to develop a National Response Framework to assist the Church, its Councils, Agencies and Schools to respond openly to the Royal Commission;

- 12.65.03 request the General Secretary to develop the terms of reference for the National Response Task Group in consultation with UnitingCare Australia and the National Schools Consultative Group;
- 12.65.04 express the view that the terms of reference should include, but not be limited to:
- the development of a clear statement of UCA values;
  - identifying the range of Church bodies (ie Councils, Agencies, Schools, etc) to which the Framework will apply;
  - identifying the resources that are available to assist people with their submission; and
  - identifying and making available an audit of current practice.
- 12.65.05 authorise the Assembly Officers to approve the terms of reference for the National Response Task Group;
- 12.65.06
- (a)
    - (i) determine that the membership of the Task Group shall be Terence Corkin (Convenor), Deidre Palmer, two nominees from both UnitingCare Australia and the National Schools Consultative Group; and
    - (ii) authorise the Assembly Officers to appoint another member to the Task Group in the light of the discussion at the Standing Committee meeting;
  - (b) in consulting with these groups advise them that the skills and experience sought include:
    - the impacts of sexual abuse on survivors;
    - governance arrangements in agencies and schools;
    - governance and oversight arrangements in the Councils of the UCA; and
    - dealing with government at a very high level.

## 6. Presidential Ruling No. 27

Alistair Macrae chaired the meeting while the President introduced Document 15, consisting of Presidential Ruling No. 27. Michelle Cook, Shirley Coulson, Andrew Johnson and Jason Kioa declared conflict of interest and left the hall during the discussion.

### 12.66 It was resolved to:

12.66.01 receive the report; and

12.66.02 vary Presidential Ruling No. 27 to allow for the correction of regulation references so that references to Regulation 3.4.1(e) can be changed to 3.5.1(e) (Attachment C).

## 7. Ongoing Governance Conversations

Glenda Blakefield presented Documents 6 and 6A, consisting of a report on the orientation to the work of the Standing Committee, the cultivation of good governance and the responses and notes from the Governance Workshop. Table group discussion ensued.

12.67 It was resolved to receive the report.

## BUSINESS REFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 13, 13A and 13B consisting of business items that were referred by the previous Standing Committee to the current one.

## **1. Unfinished Business in the Area of Governance across the Assembly**

### **12.68 It was resolved to:**

- 12.68.01 note the report in Document 13A; and
- (a) request the General Secretary to provide a report after consultation with the relevant agencies and the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee on the operation, status, membership, directorship and utility of UCA Assembly Ltd;
  - (b) affirm the value of a skills audit of the Standing Committee membership and request the ASC Governance Task Group to progress this action; and
  - (c) note that the ASC Governance Group has the role of identifying priorities for the triennium and raising further governance issues.

## **2. Conflict Resolution in the Church**

Alistair Macrae spoke to this item.

### **12.69 It was resolved to:**

- 12.69.01 (a) appoint Alistair Macrae (Covenor), Glenda Blakefield, Alison Atkinson-Phillips and Andrew Johnson to a working group to:
- (i) seek advice from Synod General Secretaries on areas where they are observing significant conflict within the life of their Synods; and
  - (ii) provide a report to the March meeting of the Standing Committee on the information they have gathered and suggestions on the way in which the Standing Committee might progress into consideration of the issues raised in ASC Minute 12.17.03.

## **3. Euthanasia**

### **12.70 It was resolved to:**

- 12.70.01 receive the referral in ASC Minutes 12.18.02 and 12.18.03; and
- 12.70.02 determine not to take any action on this matter at this time.

## **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 3.45pm with prayer led by Craig Mitchell.

**DATES FOR 2013: 15 – 17 March 2013  
19 – 21 July 2013  
15 – 17 November 2013**