

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

24 – 26 AUGUST 2012

PRESENT Andrew Dutney (President), Alison Atkinson-Phillips, Bethany Broadstock, Michelle Cook, Terence Corkin, Kate Fraser, Geoffrey Grinton, Rronang Gurrwurra, Zac Hatfield Dodds, Andrew Johnson, Stuart McMillan, Craig Mitchell, Deidre Palmer, Ian Price, Isabel Thomas-Dobson, Jenny Tymms.

In attendance: Howard Amery, Jenny Bertalan, Peter Blackwood, Glenda Blakefield, Shirley Coulson, Kay Dowling, Matt Pulford, Chris Walker, Andrew Williams.

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 Michelle Cook led morning worship and the President led evening prayers. On the Sunday Jenny Tymms led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by the President.

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 Peter Andrews for matters related to the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, Ian Glenny, Robert Hoskin and Jim Mein for matters related to the Beneficiary Fund, Kerry Enright for matters related to UnitingWorld, Nonie Wales as a resource person for the sessions on the Standing Committee and governance.

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

12.22 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Emma Davison, Graham Humphris, Cheryl Lawson, Jason Kioa, Peter Jones, Alistair Macrae, Ian Tozer and Jan Trengove for the whole meeting.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The participants were informed about the serious illness of Cheryl Lawson and Peter Jones' wife.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 8 and 11C were distributed on the Friday night.

12.23 **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

12.24 **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held March 16 – 18 2012.

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.”

ORIENTATION TO THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

On the Saturday morning Glenda Blakefield and Nonie Wales from Matrix on Board led the Standing Committee in a time of orientation to the role of the Standing Committee and Assembly structure and governance arrangements. Participants were provided with an introduction to a framework for reflecting theologically, for locating the discussions within the UCA's theological traditions, and for thinking about what it means to be a member of the Assembly Standing Committee. The orientation was undertaken in two parts. The first one looked at the work of the Agencies / areas of work and the Standing Committee more generally and the second session focused on what it means to be a governance body.

REFLECTIONS ON THE THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY

On the Friday evening the Committee spent time reflecting on the Thirteenth 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 atmosphere which was very inviting, open and supported the formation of relationships at the table groups, the outstanding UAICC participation and the positive experience of the peaceful vigil at the Parliament House. The General Secretary presented Documents 2 and 2A, consisting of a report on the feedback from the members of the Thirteenth 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 what he considered to be the stand-out achievements of the 13th Assembly, emphasizing the significance of the Preamble. He praised the participation of young leaders saying that the Young Adults' Conference built momentum, raising the bar in our multicultural relations. He also shared aspect of the public discussion around asylum seeker and the legislation, then provided feedback on UCA more generally, mentioning the outcomes of the recent NCLS survey.

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

REFERRALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FROM THE THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary introduced Documents 5 and 5A, consisting of all resolutions of the Thirteenth Assembly which contain a referral or request to the Standing Committee.

1. Proposal 19: Part 6 – Appeals Regulations

12.26 **It was resolved to:**

- 12.26.01 a) appoint Andrew Johnson (Convenor), Shirley Coulson, Jenny Tymms and Warwick van Ede to the Task Group to review the operation of Part 6 of the Regulations (Appeals);

- b) determine that the terms of reference for the Task Group be:
 - (i) to consider whether
 - an appeal under Part 6 should address the merits of the case or only matters of process
 - greater prescription is required on the process to be undertaken in relation to Part 6 Appeals; for example in relation to:
 - the nature of the evidence to be provided
 - the role of support persons
 - allocation of costs
 - the adequacy of current timelines
 - there is merit in there being a national Standing Appeals Panel; and if so how it might operate;
 - (ii) to consult widely with Synods and others who have had experience of the operation of Part 6 of the Regulations, and bring additional recommendations based on this consultation;
 - (iii) in the light of the consultation bring proposals for amendment to the Regulations; and
- c) request the Task Group to report to the Standing Committee by July 2013

2. Proposal 21: Ministry of Pastor

12.27 It was resolved to:

- 12.27.01 a) appoint Jan Trengove (Convenor), John Cox, Duncan McLeod, Neil Thorpe and Sue Withers to the Task Group to review the ministry of Pastor;
- b) determine that the terms of reference for the Task Group be to:
 - (i) evaluate the ways in which the Church has been able to implement the assessment, educational and oversight responsibilities assumed within the Regulations in relation to the ministry of Pastor
 - (ii) identify areas where the current expectations about how this ministry will be administered and supported are being achieved and where they are not
 - (iii) identify concerns related to the selection and appointment of Pastors
 - (iv) make recommendations to the ASC arising from the review; and
- c) request the Task Group to report to the Standing Committee by July 2013

3. Proposal 27: Evaluation of the Covenanting Process

12.28 It was resolved to:

- 12.28.01 a) appoint Michelle Cook, Stuart McMillan and Terence Corkin to the Task Group to evaluate the progress made in the Covenanting process by Assembly, Synods, Presbyteries, Agencies and Congregations since the renewal of the Covenant at the last Assembly;
- b) request the Task Group to report by November 2013; and
- c) request the General Secretary to seek clarification on whether the proposal from the Synod of South Australia had any particular focus in mind.

4. Proposal 38: Amendment to Regulation 2.11.1 – Ministers in Association

12.29 It was resolved to:

- 12.29.01 a) appoint Geoffrey Grinton (Convenor), Isabel Thomas Dobson and Wendie Wilkie to the Task Group to
- (i) review the Regulations with a view to determining whether any Regulations need to be amended to better serve the Church in the light of its current experience that whereas it was once the norm that there would be a Minister in placement, in many contexts there is no likelihood of there being an approved placement in the foreseeable future;
 - (ii) make recommendations to the Standing Committee about possible changes to the Regulations in the light of the review;
 - (iii) request the Task Group to report by March 2013; and
- b) refer the proposal from the Presbytery of Tasmania to change Regulation 2.11.1 to allow for a Minister in Association where there is no Minister in placement to the review group

5. Proposal 51: Discipline of Church Councillors

12.30. It was resolved to defer the discussion on this referral to the November 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee.

6. Proposal 66: Issues Arising from the Report of the Ex-President

12.31. It was resolved to defer the discussion on this referral until the Standing Committee has decided what to do with a referral from the previous Standing Committee which considers ways of addressing conflict.

7. Proposal 67: Membership of Assembly Bodies

12.32 It was resolved to:

- 12.32.01 a) (i) request the General Secretary to seek advice from the Assembly Working Groups, Committees and Commission on their current practice of recruiting nominees for their Groups, Committees and Commission; and
- (ii) report on these current practices to the March 2013 meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- b) request the General Secretary to set aside time in the agenda of the November 2012 Standing Committee to consider the process for appointing tasks groups of the Standing Committee.

8. Proposal 68: Future Directions for the Ministerial Education Commission

12.33 It was resolved to:

- 12.33.01 a) appoint Deidre Palmer (Convenor), Michelle Cook and Glenda Blakefield to consider further nominations for the Group and a process by which to undertake the tasks envisaged in Proposal 68; and
- b) return the matter to the November 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee.

9. Proposal 69: Baptism, Confirmation and Membership

12.34 It was resolved to:

- 12.34.01 a) appoint Stu Cameron (Convenor), Bethany Broadstock, Chris Budden, Zac Hatfield Dodds, Brenton Prigge and one person nominated by Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry to the Task Group on baptism, confirmation and membership;
- b) determine that the terms of reference for the Task Group on baptism, confirmation and membership be to

- (i) do further work (that builds on previous work) on the relationship between baptism, confirmation, discipleship and membership (including who should be involved in decision-making) and how these relationships might be reflected in the Constitution, Regulations and practices of the church;
 - (ii) consult with Presbyteries and congregations;
 - (iii) bring any proposals for changes to the Constitution and Regulations arising from its work to the Standing Committee; and
- c) request the Task Group to report to the Standing Committee by July 2014.

10. CALD Membership of the Assembly Standing Committee

12.35 It was resolved to co-opt Jone Lotu to the Standing Committee for the balance of the current triennium.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Mogumber (ASC Minutes 11.73.01 – 11.73.03 and 12.19)

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 7 and 7A, consisting of a summary of documents on this issue that had been before the Standing Committee but it had not been possible to finalise in the last triennium.

12.36 It was resolved to:

12.36.01 receive the report;

- 12.36.02
- a) adopt the policy for dealing with claims for financial acknowledgement of harm from former residents of Mogumber mission;
 - b) authorise the General Secretary to respond to claims from former residents of Mogumber mission based on this policy; and
 - c) report on the outcomes of the operation of this policy

12.36.03 request the Covenant Support Group to consider the range of pastoral issues which may arise in responding to claims under this policy and to offer possible ways of responding to them.

2. Review of the National Director – UnitingJustice Australia (ASC Minute 12.15.05)

Stuart McMillan introduced Document 8, consisting of a report of the Review Group.

12.37 It was resolved to:

12.37.02 receive the report;

12.37.03 agree to continue the position of the National Director UnitingJustice Australia;

12.37.04 strongly affirm Rev Elenie Poulos for her significant leadership and work as National Director UnitingJustice Australia;

12.37.05 request the Associate General Secretary to provide the November meeting with Terms of Reference for the work of UnitingJustice Australia;

- 12.37.06 request the Associate General Secretary to provide a revised Position Description that reflects the change in persons reporting to the National Director and the inclusion of the Terms of Reference;
- 12.37.07 affirm the strengthening of the direction to engage church members in the work of justice and discipleship through UnitingJustice and across the Uniting Faith and Discipleship Team;
- 12.37.08 extend the placement of Rev Elenie Poulos for a further five years to December 31 2017; and
- 12.37.09 thank and discharge the Review Group.

3. UnitingWorld - Re Recent Mandate Changes (ASC Minute 12.12.02)

Kerry Enright introduced Document 14, consisting of a report on the change made to the mandate in March 2012.

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

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Peter Andrews spoke to Document 10, consisting of a broad overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.

- 12.39 It was resolved to:**

- 12.39.01 receive the report; and
- 12.39.02 authorise the Church Connections National Committee to act as Trustee for such trusts as come within its management control.

2. Assembly Investment Committee

The General Secretary presented Documents 11, 11A, 11B and 11C, consisting of a report on the operation, governance of the committee, the proposed Investment Committee Charter and proposed amendments to the Investment Charter as proposed by UnitingWorld.

- 12.40 It was resolved to:**

- 12.40.01 receive the report;
- 12.40.02 adopt the Assembly Investment Committee Charter (Attachment A);
- 12.40.03
 - a) adopt the Assembly Investment Policy (Attachment B); and
 - b) request that a copy of the Ethical Investment Policy of the Synod of NSW and the ACT be provided to members of the Standing Committee; and
- 12.40.04 delegate to the Assembly Investment Committee the responsibility to establish the investment goals for the Assembly Fund.

3. Beneficiary Fund

Introducing Document 4, Ian Glenny, Robert Hoskin and Jim Mein delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Fund and the future option of

introducing a new Defined benefit category, Category 6. Much discussion followed.

12.41 It was resolved to:

12.41.01 receive the report;

- a) note the advice of the Fund Trustees that they consider that Category 5 should be closed to new entrants and agree with this direction;
- b) support the recommendation of the Fund Trustees to establish a new Category 6 with the following features
 - Retirement age 67
 - Members contribute 6% of Notional Stipend, post tax
 - Retirement Benefit - a non-reversionary pension for 7 years term certain based on the following accrual rates:
 - 1.6% for each year of service less than or equal to 15, 2.65% after 15
 - Death Benefits of 20% of Notional Stipend for service to 67
 - Total Permanent Disablement benefit equals the Death Benefit under 55 with an adjustment between 55 and 62 to merge into the commuted Retirement Benefit
 - Temporary Total Disablement is 70% of Notional Stipend payable for 2 years with a 2 month waiting period. Ceases at 62.
 - Resignation benefits are 20% of service times Notional Stipend reduced by a factor;
- c) note that the current members of Category 5 will be offered an opportunity to transfer to the new category on terms deemed appropriate by the Trustees; and
- d) delegate to the Assembly Officers (President, Ex President, President - elect and General Secretary) the authority to approve changes to the Fund Rules that facilitate the creation of Category 6.

4. General Report

The General Secretary spoke to Document 18, consisting of various matters.

12.42 It was resolved to receive the report.

5. Legal Reference Committee

The General Secretary presented Document 16, consisting of a report on the work the Committee had done since the last Standing Committee meeting and the 13th Assembly.

12.43 It was resolved to:

12.43.01 receive the report;

12.43.02 amend Regulation 2.10.1 (j) to read:

- 2.10.1 (j) A Minister, Youth Worker or Lay Pastor whose placement has been terminated shall have a right of appeal which shall be dealt with in accordance with Part 6 of these Regulations. The appeal shall be directed to:
- (i) the Synod Secretary when the termination decision is made by a Presbytery;
 - (ii) ~~the Assembly General Secretary~~ Synod Secretary of the Synod in which the appeal arises, who on the advice of the

Convenor of the Standing Appeal Panel shall refer the appeal to another Synod for action, when the termination decision is made by a Synod, Placements Committee or Assembly; and

12.43.03 amend Regulation 3.10.2 to read:

- 3.10.2 (a) These and any other Regulations may be amended by addition, deletion or alteration by a decision of the
- (i) Assembly, ~~or~~
 - (ii) Assembly Standing Committee as the case may be where the Assembly in session has resolved to delegate the authority to amend to the Standing Committee;

provided that details of any proposed amendment have been published in the agenda of the Assembly or the Standing Committee or stated in a notice of ~~motion proposal~~ which has been duly given in accordance with standing orders and which specifically states or necessarily implies that any such proposal involves an amendment to the Regulations.

- (b) Amendments to the Regulations shall have effect from the time of passing of the relevant resolution or at such other time as the Assembly, or the Standing Committee, as the case may be may specify.
- (c) Any act or decisions made under Regulations prior to the amendment thereof shall not be rendered invalid by reason of such amendment but shall subsequently be varied to comply with the amended Regulations if so directed by the Assembly or other ~~authority~~ body concerned.
- (d) Any body within the Church affected by Regulations may request the Assembly to amend the Regulations.

12.43.04 a) refer the draft amendment to Regulation 2.5.1 (Admission of Ministers from another denomination) back to the Legal Reference Committee requesting they take into account the verbal and written comments of members in the production of the next draft.

6. UnitingWorld – New Partnerships

Kerry Enright introduced Document 15, consisting of the proposed new partnership agreements UnitingWorld recommends the Church enter into.

12.44 It was resolved to:

- 12.44.01 receive the report;
- 12.44.02 approve the agreement between the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and the Uniting Church in Australia; and
- 12.44.03 approve the agreement between the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka and the Uniting Church in Australia.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEES

The General Secretary presented Documents 9 and 9A, consisting of profiles of nominees for election to Assembly committees.

12.45 It was resolved to appoint the following members of Reference Committees for a period of three years to 2015:

- 12.45.01 **ASSEMBLY AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**
Peter Andrews Ben Cohen
Keith Fagg David Greenall
- 12.45.02 **ASSEMBLY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**
Jason Bryan Matthew Moore Sue Norman
- 12.45.03 **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
Rod Dungan Craig Mitchell
Rick Morrell Sarah Park
Wendie Sargeant
- 12.45.04 **CHRISTIAN UNITY WORKING GROUP**
Margie Dahl Gavin Faichney
Avril Hannah-Jones Jason Kioa
Morag Logan Charity Majiza
Susan Malthouse Joan McRae
Isabel Thomas Dobson Jacob Yang
- 12.45.05 **CHURCH POLITY**
Alistair Macrae Deidre Palmer
Ian Price Michaela Miller
Kate Trethaway
- Corresponding members:
Stuart Cameron Terence Corkin
Andrew Dutney Gordon Ramsay
- 12.45.06 **DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY**
Murray Earl Peter Jenkins
Graeme Adsett Bob Heathwood
Kaye Ronalds Bert Johns
Christine Digby Peter Woodward
Melissa Lipsett John Cox
- 12.45.07 **FRONTIER SERVICES**
Bruce Cornish Helen McLaughlin
Storry Walton Ian Robinson
Kirsty Bennett Richard Stewart
- 12.45.08 **HISTORICAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE**
Lorraine Macknight Patricia Curthoys
William Emilsen Gavin Glenn
Christine Gordon Jo Mar
Andrew Thornley
- 12.45.09 **LEGAL REFERENCE**
Bryce Bridges Malcolm Gledhill
Karen Keogh Paula Reid
Andrew Johnson (corresponding member)
Robert Ewing (corresponding member)
- 12.45.10 **MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION**
Sandy Boyce Phil Gardiner
Tim Hein Craig Mitchell
Steve Taylor
- 12.45.11 **MULTICULTURAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY**
Eseta Meneilly Thresi Mauboy
Rodel Palma Dev Anandarajan
Jason Kioa Amel Manyon
Apwee Ting Virginia Lavaki

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| | Gaby Kobrossi
Lu Senituli | Jone Lotu |
| 12.45.12 | NATIONAL DISASTER FUND | |
| | Paul Bartlett
Cynthia Coghill | Philip Bickerstaff
John Hayes |
| 12.45.13 | NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES REFERENCE COMMITTEE | |
| | Lauren Ash
Will Hall
Jeff Savage
Robin Yang
Jen Davis | Brandon French
Annelisifa (Fa) Ngaluafe
Drew Hannah
Chris Shaw
Rick Morrell |
| 12.45.14 | RECEPTION OF MINISTERS | |
| | Peter Blackwood
Heather Cameron
Swee-Ann Koh
Graeme McAnalley
David Symington | Ian Breward
John Evans
Charity Majiza
Janet Munro
Howard Wallace |
| 12.45.15 | NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON DOCTRINE | |
| | Avril Hannah-Jones
Rod Horsfield
Alan Robinson
Chris Goringe
John Hirt
Ann Perrin | Ben Meyers
Ockert Meyer
Wes Campbell
Geoff Thompson
Sisilia Tupou-Thomas
Rachel Kronberger |
| 12.45.16 | NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WORSHIP | |
| | David Won Kim
Jenny Tymms
John Tainton
Craig Mitchell
Wendi Sargeant
Josie Nottle | David MacGregor
Stephen Burns
Gewa Au
Peter Gador-Whyte
Sharon Kirk |
| 12.45.17 | NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH OTHER FAITHS | |
| | Wilma Viswanathan
Geoff Boyce
David Pargeter
Manas Gosh | Debra Porter
Heather Griffin
Marie Wilson |
| 12.45.18 | UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA | |
| | Sue Ash
Anna Moynihan
Liz Orr | Libby Craft
Claerwen Little |
| 12.45.19 | UNITINGJUSTICE AUSTRALIA | |
| | Louise MacDonald
Andrew Glenn
Graham Maddox | Liellie McLaughlin
Colin Cargill |
| 12.45.20 | UNITINGWORLD – CHURCH CONNECTIONS | |
| | Joan Beaumont
Apelu Tielu
Andrew Glenn
Elaine Ledgerwood
Richard LaBrooy | Ji Zhang
Tina Rendell
Colin Milner
Sherina Swan
John Manning |
| 12.45.21 | UNITINGWORLD - RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT | |
| | Michelle Erofeyeff | Malcolm Gledhill |

Valamotu Palu
Wendy Suma
Bonita Maywald
Margaret Watt
Mick Darda

John Ruhle
Ted Woodley
Max Blacker
Rohan Wolfers

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Budget Preparation for 2013

The General Secretary spoke to Document 6, consisting of a report on the way the 2013 budget for the Assembly Fund is prepared, and financial information that will impact on its preparation.

12.46 It was resolved to receive the report.

2. General Business

The General Secretary presented the business in Documents 17 and 17A.

12.47 It was resolved to:

12.47.01 receive the report;

12.47.02 note that by electronic ballot in March the Standing Committee approved the following proposals:

- a) amend the Mandate of Uniting World – Relief and Development to read

Membership of the UnitingWorld – Relief and Development National Committee:

The election of the National Committee will occur every three years at the Assembly Standing Committee meeting following the three yearly Assembly meeting; casual vacancies to be appointed by the Standing Committee as required.

In appointing members of the National Committee the Assembly Standing Committee will bear in mind the requirement that Committee members must demonstrate a commitment to issues of aid and development. Also they must have an openness to learn more in key areas of the work of the Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld such as aid and development programs, education and advocacy, and promotions and finance.

- A Chairperson appointed by the Triennial Assembly on the nomination of the National Committee
- ~~Twelve~~ Eleven persons appointed by the Standing Committee after considering recommendations made by the Director of UnitingWorld – Relief and Development. Not more than two of these twelve persons may be staff of any Assembly agency
- The Director of UnitingWorld – Relief and Development
- The Assembly General Secretary or his/her nominee.

- b) amend Appendix B – Governance and Organisational Matters of UnitingWorld – Relief and Development

- (i) at point 4 – “The Appointment of Members of the National Committee” to read

The National Committee of the Unit comprises the Chairperson who is appointed by the Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia on the Nomination of the National Committee, and other persons is appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee, which has been elected to represent the whole church and to make decisions in regard to the national life of the church. The Assembly Standing Committee may appoint people who are not members, members-in-association or adherents of the UCA where they have appropriate expertise and are prepared to serve in harmony with the ethos of the UCA and to work to achieve the objects of the Unit; and

(ii) at point 9 – “Annual General Meeting” to read:

The National Committee will hold an Annual General Meeting of its members for the purpose of:

- Electing office bearers, other than the Chairperson who shall be appointed by the triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia;
- Receiving the annual audited financial statements; and
- Supporting the appointment of an independent auditor by the Assembly Standing Committee for the subsequent year(s).

c) amend the Mandate of Uniting World – Church Connections to read

Membership of the UnitingWorld – Church Connections National Committee:

The election of the National Committee will occur every three years at the Assembly Standing Committee meeting following the three yearly Assembly meeting; casual vacancies to be appointed by the Standing Committee as required.

In appointing members of the National Committee the Assembly Standing Committee will bear in mind the requirement that Committee members must demonstrate a commitment to issues of aid and development. Also they must have an openness to learn more in key areas of the work of the Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld such as aid and development programs, education and advocacy, and promotions and finance.

- A Chairperson appointed by the Triennial Assembly on the nomination of the National Committee
- ~~Twelve~~ Eleven persons appointed by the Standing Committee after considering recommendations made by the Director of UnitingWorld – Relief and Development. Not more than two of these twelve persons may be staff of any Assembly agency
- The Director of UnitingWorld – Church Connections, and
- The Assembly General Secretary or his/her nominee.

- 12.47.03 adjourn the discussion on the ex-President’s participation at Edenfest, a major ecumenical Christian Arts Festival until the next meeting;
- 12.47.04 a) receive the correspondence from the Presbytery Leadership Team of the North Queensland Presbytery; and
b) reaffirm the Presbytery’s responsibility to ascertain the suitability of a candidate for ordination;
- 12.47.05 a) appoint Michelle Cook (Convenor), Geoffrey Grinton, Carolyn Thornley and Glenda Blakefield as the Review Group for Rev Dr Chris Walker; and
b) request the Review Group to report to the November meeting of the Standing Committee;

- 12.47.06 join the Australian Palestinian Advocacy Network as a voting member; and
- 12.47.07 amend Home Endowment Fund Rule 18(g): to read
(g) The base interest rate is variable and is calculated as the UCA Cash Portfolio Forecast Distribution Rate plus 0.55% for management costs. Ministers based in Victoria and Tasmania, will receive an interest subsidy of 1% from the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania;
- 12.47.08 record its appreciation of the substantial contribution made by Rev Dr William Emilson to the Historic Reference Committee over fifteen years, including his nine years as Chairperson;
- 12.47.09 a) note that Assembly decision 09.28 (to amend Regulation 3.6.25(e) to read "The elected membership shall include no more than ~~six~~five persons from any synod"), was not incorporated into the 2012 edition of the Regulations; and
b) authorise the General Secretary to amend the web based and other future editions, of the Regulations to reflect this decision;
- 12.47.10 amend the Mandate for UnitingCare Australia by the addition of the following underlined words.
The National Committee is the key governance body of UnitingCare Australia and is appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee.
- The role and responsibilities of the National Committee as delegated by the Assembly are to:
- develop and ensure the implementation of strategic directions for UnitingCare Australia
 - discern and determine key priorities
 - give oversight to the work of UnitingCare Australia, including the National Office and national working groups and networks
- It comprises up to nine ex-officio members as follows:
- the Chairperson, appointed by the Assembly
 - the National Director of UnitingCare Australia
 - the Assembly General Secretary or nominee
 - the Director of UnitingCare or equivalent in each Synod
 - five (5) additional persons appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee with advice provided by a nominating group comprised of the Chair, the National Director and the Assembly General Secretary or their nominee. These persons will be appointed so that the overall skills mix and composition of the Committee reflects the following experience/competencies:
 - strategic thinking across the wide range of the Church's community services;
 - research and evaluation;
 - senior executive management experience;
 - policy development and advocacy;
 - business development; and
 - theological reflection.
- Tenure of membership is for the Assembly triennium.
The National Committee can co-opt up to two additional members for all or a part of a triennium
- 12.47.11 note the discussion at the 13th Assembly regarding the possibility that the Church Polity Reference Committee become more proactive; and

- 12.47.12 not to change the mandate but note that the Standing Committee can identify developing polity issues in the Church and can refer them to the Committee for its consideration and advice.

3. Governance and the Standing Committee

The General Secretary presented Document 12, consisting of a report on the work which has been undertaken on issues of governance.

12.48 It was resolved to:

- 12.48.01 receive the report;
- 12.48.02 adopt the following terms of reference for the group appointed under ASC minute 11.56.02:

Name

Assembly Standing Committee Governance Group

Membership:

The President, President-elect, General Secretary, and three members of the Standing Committee.

Purpose:

To assist the Standing Committee in the fulfilment of its governance responsibilities by

1. ensuring that the agenda of the Standing Committee includes sufficient time for it to undertake its governance role;
2. identifying the resources required at particular meetings in order to fulfil this responsibility; and
3. undertaking other roles as directed by the Standing Committee that will assist it to be an effective governance body.

Particular Tasks:

1. Work with agencies and other bodies to develop guidelines and a timetable for them to report in a timely, informative and succinct manner on the exercise of their delegations.
 2. Identify and plan into the ASC agenda opportunities for the Assembly to engage with those areas of the Assembly's work for which no governance responsibilities have been delegated.
 3. Shape the agenda of ASC meetings with due regard to issues of strategic importance and / or urgency for the Assembly and the wider Uniting Church.
 4. Reflect upon the performance of the ASC and feed back to it how it can better undertake its responsibilities.
 5. Assist the General Secretary to identify agenda items.
 6. Enhance the capacity of the ASC in the fulfilment of its governance role by undertaking tasks referred to it from time to time; e.g. considering areas where co-options may be appropriate.
- 12.48.03 appoint Andrew Johnson as the third Standing Committees member to the group;
- 12.48.04 invite the Chairperson of the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee to attend the Standing Committee with a the right to speak but not to vote; and

- 12.48.05 request the General Secretary to prepare a proposal re the attendance of past-Presidents at the opening service and the plenary meetings of the Triennial Assembly.

BUSINESS REFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

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

- 12.49** **It was resolved to** defer the business in Documents 13 and 13A to the November 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee.

CLOSURE

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

DATE FOR 2012: 16 – 18 November 2012

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