

Assembly Standing Committee November 2002 - Meeting Brief

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National Covenanting Summit

The church is looking for new ways to combat the growing use of marijuana, and subsequent increase in male youth suicide, amongst aboriginal youth in the Northern Territory. ASC heard from Jane Aagaard, NT Minister for Health, Family and Children's Services, and Sealin Garlett, Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. They both reinforced the need for the Uniting Church to take a new look at its involvement in the problem pockets of the Northern Territory.

The information was provided to the ASC at the time of receiving a report on the first national Covenanting Summit from Peter Lewis, Covenanting National Director. The report suggests among other things, a recommitment to the Covenant at the National Congress Conference, the Tenth Assembly and the next round of Synod meetings

10th Assembly

Emphasis has been placed on security at next year's Assembly, following the recent shootings at Melbourne University. People will be urged to walk in groups to and from meetings and special facilities will be made available for disabled members or people with difficulties in walking from the Accommodation blocks to the University.

Also included in the design team report to ASC was notification of special events including an art exhibition and photographic display. Jim Mein, current head of NSW Synod Board of Finance and Property has been nominated for President-elect.

Uniting in Worship II

A progress report was received on the development of Uniting in Worship II. The Services for the Lord's Day, Marriage and Baptism will be ready for adoption at the 10th Assembly. A comprehensive range of other Pastoral Services are also being written. It will be published as a loose-leaf binder -

one will be sufficient for each congregation as there will be permission to copy for use in worship. It is intended that the hard copy version will be more compact and straightforward to use than the current leaders book. More substantial and less frequently used worship resources will be available on the web. A CD edition of the materials will also be available. Publication should be complete no later than advent 2004.

Guidelines for the Mission and Ministry of member churches of the World Methodist Council

The ASC endorsed the guidelines adopted at the World Methodist Council Executive Committee held in Oslo, Norway in September. The three basic principles of respect, courtesy and communication and consultation are already being followed by our Unity and International Mission agency. The ASC will continue to further develop relationships and lines of communication and encourages all other Churches to do the same.

In short

MEC - The Ministerial Education Commission will move from Victoria to NSW following ASC ratification. The ASC appointed Rev Chris Udy as chairperson from 1st January until the 10th Assembly in July 2003. Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes has been co-opted for that same period.

Membership – Rev Dr Robert Bos, National Director of Theology and Discipleship, provided a paper on changes to Membership, entitled 'Becoming Disciples'. See his [article in Update December](#) for further information.