

Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

VIA ZOOM

5 September 2020

PRESENT Deidre Palmer (President), David Baker, Steve Francis, Colleen Geyer, Geoffrey Grinton, Sharon Hollis, Andrew Johnson, Elaine Ledgerwood, Clare Ligtermoet, Stuart McMillan, Kath Merrifield, Nicole Mugford, Helen Paine, Catherine Pepper, Geoff Thompson, Yuko Tonai-Moore, Ian Tozer, Stuart Woodward.

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, David de Kock, Heather den Houting, Rob Floyd, Mark Lawrence, Matt Pulford and Ji Zhang.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The President acknowledged the First Peoples of the land.

WORSHIP

The President lead worship. We opened with a prayer from the Pacific Conference of Churches focused on Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice during this Season of Creation. The President led a reflection on 1 Corinthians 12:4-31 – being the body of Christ, working together, recognizing the gifts each member brings for the common good and the solidarity we share with those who are suffering throughout our world.

WELCOMES

The President welcomed all participants to the meeting. Also welcomed was Leo Iosifidis for matters related to the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

APOLOGIES

20.56 **It was resolved** to receive the apology from Ayla Williams, Mark Kickett, Haloti Kailahi, Jason Kioa, Felicity Amery, Rob Brown, Hayden Charles and Jane Fry for the whole meeting,

PASTORAL MATTERS

During worship the President led the meeting in prayer for Ji Zhang, Aunty Dorrie's family, Matagi Vilitama, Alison Overeem and Kendall Trudgen, and the Synods of WA and Queensland, who will be meeting in the coming weeks. We offered prayers for Steve Francis and David Baker, as they conclude their ministries as Moderators, and for Susy Thomas – beginning as the Moderator of the Synod of WA and Andrew Gunton, beginning as the Moderator of the Queensland Synod.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1.

20.57 **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

20.58 **It was resolved to:**

20.58.01 confirm the minutes of the meeting held 18 – 19 July 2020 with the addition of Ian Tozer's name to those present.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was submitted.

NOTE CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 39

The 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.”

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Decision re Final Dates of the 16th Assembly

The General Secretary spoke to Document 8, consisting of a proposal regarding dates for the 16th Assembly.

20.59 **It was resolved to** approve the dates for the 16th Assembly to be Thursday 15 July to Monday 19 July 2021.

2. Scope of National Meeting re Stipends and Related Matters (ASC Minutes 20.29.02-03)

The General Secretary presented Document 7, consisting of a report on the issues that will be considered at a national meeting and discussion in relation to stipends and related matters.

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

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Assembly and its Agencies – Financial Position Update

Leo Iosifidis presented Document 4, consisting of an update on the financial performance and position of the Assembly and its Agencies.

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

2. Assembly Risk Register

Leo Iosifidis and Rob Floyd introduced Documents 5 and 5A, consisting of an update on the Risk Management System and the Risk Register of the Assembly, which has been updated to be reflective of the categories as set out in the recent Assembly Standing Committee endorsed Assembly Risk Appetite Statement, and the actual Risk Register September 2020. Table Group discussion followed.

20.62 **It was resolved to:**

20.62.01 note, receive and review the updated Risk Register; and

20.62.02 endorse the updated Risk Register.

3. Assembly Strategic Plan 2020-2023 Implementation Plan

Rob Floyd presented Document 3, consisting of a report on the process for implementing the Assembly Strategic Plan 2020-2023 prior to the first detailed Business Plan being presented to the November 2020 ASC meeting

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

4. LGBTIQ Apology Task Group Convenor Nomination

Rob Floyd spoke to Document 9, consisting of a report on the establishment of the Task Group and a nomination to replace the convenor who resigned.

20.64 **It was resolved to:**

20.64.01 receive the report; and

20.64.02 appoint Lin Hatfield-Dodds as Convenor of the Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

The General Secretary presented Document 2, consisting of a report on the issues identified in the evaluation of the July 2020 ASC meeting.

20.65 **It was resolved to** receive the Evaluation of the July 2020 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm with prayer led by the President.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: 6 – 8 November 2020