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PRESIDENTS AND GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
1. June 1977 <i>Sydney</i>	J Davis McCaughey	Winston O'Reilly
2. May 1979 <i>Melbourne</i>	Winston O'Reilly	Winston O'Reilly <i>to December 1979</i>
3. May 1982 <i>Adelaide</i>	Rollie Busch	David Gill <i>from January 1980</i>
4. May 1985 <i>Sydney</i>	Ian Tanner	David Gill
5. May 1988 <i>Melbourne</i>	Ronald Wilson	David Gill <i>to July 1988</i>
6. July 1991 <i>Brisbane</i>	H D'Arcy Wood	Gregor Henderson <i>from January 1989</i>
7. July 1994 <i>Sydney</i>	Jill Tabart	Gregor Henderson
8. July 1997 <i>Perth</i>	John E Mavor	Gregor Henderson
9. July 2000 <i>Adelaide</i>	James Haire	Gregor Henderson
10. July 2003 <i>Melbourne</i>	Dean Drayton	Terence Corkin <i>from January 2001</i>
11. July 2006 <i>Brisbane</i>	Gregor Henderson	Terence Corkin
12. July 2009 <i>Sydney</i>	Alistair Macrae	Terence Corkin
13. July 2012 <i>Adelaide</i>	Andrew Dutney	Terence Corkin

INTRODUCTION

The Thirteenth Assembly commenced on July 15 2012 when voting members from across the country and guests from overseas and Australia, representing churches and ecumenical bodies, met at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Adelaide.

One of the first actions of the Assembly was to elect Rev Professor Andrew Dutney as the 13th President which was followed soon after by an inspiring installation service attended by additional representatives from other churches, faith communities and the wider membership of the church. The Assembly theme of “Life Overflowing” was explored visually as well as through the worship and preaching.

In addition to the contribution of the voting members and various guests, the Assembly was most helpfully resourced by the many people who led the community working groups, people associated for particular business and the wonderful volunteers who supported us most impressively with transport, assistance of various kinds and encouraging us in any way they could. The volunteer team and the administrative arrangements were brought together through the hard work, diligence and efficiency of the 13th Assembly Administrator, Mrs Gwenda Kerley. Behind the scenes Mr Geoffrey Grinton, the Business Manager, ensured that we stayed on track with the agenda and that we were always aware of what had been decided and what remained to be done. Once again the Facilitation Group greatly assisted the Assembly and made a significant contribution in the journey towards developing consensus.

Every Assembly is more than a business meeting. Meetings of the Assembly are gatherings of Christians called and equipped by God for the task of discernment and leadership within a specific area of the life of the Uniting Church. This life of Christian community and openness to the leading of the Spirit was resourced by early morning Holy Communion, three full services of worship including the installation of the President and the closing service with the Eucharist as well as worship and Bible study. The Bible studies were led by Rev Dr Luna Dingayan, from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

A special gift to the Assembly was the Cato Lecturer, Dr Kirsteen Kim, who provided a stimulating paper arising from her extensive study and reflection on mission. The Assembly is particularly appreciative of the support of the Cato Trustees in making this internationally renowned speaker available to the Assembly.

One of the memorable and important features of the 13th Assembly was the decision to suspend the business of the Assembly to allow the members and guests to hold a prayer vigil in response to the decision by the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the so called “Stronger Futures” legislation. This action came in response to the report to the Assembly by the UAICC.

Throughout the meeting the conversations and discernment process were enhanced by the participation of the overseas and ecumenical guests. Their presence, conversations and encouragement assisted us to locate our very specific work within the context of the world wide and ecumenical life of the one holy, catholic and apostolic church. Of particular significance was the opportunity to acknowledge the special relationship with Korean Christians on the occasion of the centenary of the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

For the first time the Assembly provided some interpretation into Korean. It is hoped that the provision of this facility will enhance the involvement of people from the culturally and linguistically diverse communities of the UCA. Youthful members of the Assembly were also very prominent in their leadership and were a great encouragement to the other members of the Assembly.

The Assembly addressed itself to many issues that will have ongoing significance for the life and witness of the Church. These included changes to the way the Assembly will exercise its responsibilities in the area of theological education for the church’s Specified Ministries; new processes for the placement and admission of Ministers from other churches; on the occasion

of the centenary of the establishment of the Australian Inland Mission (now Frontier Services) we recommitted ourselves to the people of remote Australia; agreed to support the Congress in its response to the community discussion about the recognition of indigenous people in the Australian Constitution; and set in train a process to articulate the UCA view on marriage.

In the pages that follow you will find the record of the formal resolutions and actions of the Assembly. Present among these words are the prayers and the discussions that undergird them as a witness to a community that was seeking to faithfully fulfil its calling as the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terence Corkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terence Corkin
Assembly General Secretary
November 2012

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY

The Thirteenth Assembly was formally constituted with a welcome to country led by Uncle Stephen Goldsmith on behalf of the Kaurua Elders and worship led by the President, Alistair Macrae at 2.30pm on Sunday, 15 July 2012.

OPENING ACTIONS

The Assembly resolved to:

- 12.01 ROLL OF THE ASSEMBLY (See Appendix A)**
adopt the roll of members.
- 12.02 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**
elect Andrew Fergus Dutney as President of the Assembly, to hold office until the installation of his successor at the next ordinary meeting of the Assembly.
- 12.03 ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES**
- 12.03.01 **Membership of Business Committee**
appoint the following persons as members of the Business Committee for the Thirteenth Assembly: Terence Corkin (Chairperson), Geoffrey Grinton (Business Manager), Glenda Blakefield, Andrew Dutney, Grant Finlay, Andrew Johnson, Graham Humphris, Swee Ann Koh, Emma Parr and Rads Sukumar.
- 12.03.02 **Appointment of Minute Secretaries**
appoint the following persons as Minute Secretaries: Jenny Bertalan, Lois Manolakos and Annette Latham.
- 12.03.03 **Order of Business**
approve the order of business and the timetable submitted by the Business Committee, noting that decisions to vary the order of business and timetable can be taken by the Assembly at any time.
- 12.03.04 **Confirmation of the Minutes**
authorise the following persons to confirm the minutes of the Thirteenth Assembly: Terence Corkin, Andrew Dutney, Geoffrey Grinton, Graham Humphris and Jenny Bertalan.
- 12.03.05 **Ballots and Nominating Procedures**
- a) appoint Warwick van Ede as Returning Officer and Bruce Cornish as Assistant Returning Officer;
 - b) appoint a Ballot Committee with responsibility for advising the Assembly on any questions relating to nominations and elections;
 - c) appoint the following persons as members of the Ballot Committee: Warwick van Ede (Convenor), Bruce Cornish; Vivien Larkin, Joan Macrae, Alan White;
 - d) appoint the following persons as scrutineers: Ian Lawrence (Convenor), Ki-Soo Jang, Sharon Kirk, Joan Macrae, Rob Stoner; and
 - e) determine that the closing time for nominations is 6.00pm Tuesday July 17.
- 12.03.06 **Association of Persons with the Assembly**
associate the following persons with the Assembly for the business as listed, with the right to speak but not to vote:
- a) ecumenical guests

- (i) from other Australian churches and the National Council of Churches in Australia for the whole Assembly:

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Haddad, Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Dr Jeffrey Driver, Anglican Church of Australia
Rev Tara Curlewis, National Council of Churches in Australia
Lt Colonel Graham Durston, The Salvation Army, Eastern Territory
Sr. Elizabeth Delaney, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Fr Shenouda Mansour, Coptic Church; and

- (ii) from overseas churches and from international ecumenical bodies for the whole of the Assembly:

Mrs Olive Tanielu, Methodist Church of New Zealand
Very Rev Dr David Lunan, Church of Scotland
Rev Fei Taue'ale'asumai, Council for World Mission
Dr Kobus Gerber, Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa
Rev. Prince Devanandan, Christian Conference of Asia
Rev David Bush, World Methodist Council
Rev Martin Baker, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
Mr Ngatokorua (Nga) Mataio, Cook Islands Christian Church
Pastor Obed Moses, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu
Rev Bernard Siai, United Church in Papua New Guinea
Rev Kibaunimatang Robuti Rimon, Kiribati Protestant Church
Rev Wilfred Kurepitu, United Church in Solomon Islands
Rev Teleke Lauiti, Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, Tuvalu Congregational Church
Rev'd Dr. Tevita H. Palefau, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
Rev Arthur Pihigia, Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue
Mr M.M.Philip, The Church of South India Synod
Rev Yoo Jung – Sung, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
Bishop P.K.Samantaroy, Church of North India
Bishop Dr Wayan Sudira Husada, Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Rev. Dong-Hwa Tae, Korean Methodist Church
Rev Sayam Muangsak, The Church of Christ in Thailand
Rev Robert Pitronela Sayuna, Protestant Evangelical Church in Timor
Rev Dr Pusin Tali, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
Mr Jan Rumbrar, Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua
Dr John Chr Ruhulestin, Protestant Church in the Maluccas
Rev Moises Da Silva, Protestant Church in East Timor
Bishop Roel Mendoza, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Rev Dr Albert Wilfred Jebanesan, The Methodist Church in Sri Lanka
Rev Amos Ndhumbi, The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Ms Pah Zesly, Tanaoba Lais Manekat ("Serving with Love")
Foundation, West Timor
Rev. Gao Feng, China Christian Council (CCC)
Rev Seong Gi Cho, Presbyterian Church of Korea

- b) persons who will assist in resourcing the Assembly:

- (i) for the whole of the Assembly
Mrs Rosemary Young for Frontier Services
Mr Warwick van Ede for Legal Reference Committee
Ms Lin Hatfield Dodds for UnitingCare Australia
Rev Elenie Poulos for UnitingJustice Australia
Rev Dr Kerry Enright for UnitingWorld

- (ii) for specific business of the Assembly:
Mr Peter Andrews and Mr Mark Neasey for Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Rev Dr Robert Hoskin, Mr Ian Glenny and Mr Jim Mein for the Beneficiary Fund
 Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan for Christian Education
 Rev Dr Sandy Yule for Christian Unity Working Group
 Rev Gale Hall for Defence Force Chaplaincy
 Rev Sef Carroll for Relations with Other Faiths
 Rev Carolyn Thornley for Theology and Discipleship
 Rev Alistair Christie for UC Adult Fellowship
 Dr Jill Tabart for Introduction to the Manual for Meetings
 Dr Andrew Thornley for Historical Reference Committee
 Ms Janeen Barker, Mr Colin Cargill and Dr Richard Dennis for UnitingJustice
 Rev Dr Keith Rowe for the proposal from the Relations with Other Faiths Reference Group
 Rev Dr Mike Semmler, Lutheran Church of Australia for the UCA-Lutheran Dialogue

12.03.07 Ballot Process for President-elect

approve that the process for the ballot for the President elect be:

- a) if more than two nominations are received for President - Elect, a first-round preferential ballot be used to identify the two candidates with the highest number of preferences;
- b) 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;
- c) if there are only two nominations, or following a prior preferential ballot in which no candidate received more than 50% of first preferences, the names of the two candidates who, after the distribution of preferences, received the most votes shall be submitted and members shall indicate their preference for one candidate; and
- d) to be declared elected, a candidate must receive the support of more than 50% of those participating in the ballot.

12.04 MINISTERIAL MATTERS (See Appendix B)

The General Secretary tabled the names of Deacons, Ministers of the Word, Youth Workers, Lay Pastors and Community Ministers who have been received by the Uniting Church since the Twelfth Assembly, of Ministers of the Word, Deaconesses and Youth Workers who have died since the Twelfth Assembly, and of Ministers of the Word, Deaconesses and Lay Pastors whose recognition has been withdrawn.

12.05 RETIRING PRESIDENT

12.05.01 receive the report of the retiring President, Alistair Macrae;

12.05.02 give thanks to God for the ministry of Alistair Macrae during his term as 12th President of the Uniting Church in Australia (2009-2012).

Alistair brought to the role of President a deep warmth and pastoral concern coupled with a passion for the call to discipleship in all areas of life. From the very start of his presidency he acted on the UCA commitment to the covenant with the UAICC through his able chairing of the 12th Assembly and his subsequent work in resourcing and supporting discussion on the new Preamble to the UCA constitution. His commitment to the Preamble was demonstrated in his extensive travelling to many councils of the church to encourage conversations on the meaning of the Preamble for the whole church. In addition, Alistair travelled to many indigenous communities around

Australia, sharing in their worship, witness and service and is warmly remembered for his engaging sermons and insightful bible studies.

Another passion that Alistair brought to this role was the discipling of young people. He participated in many UCA youth events across the Church, no matter how large or small. He was also integral to the re-establishing of a National Young Leaders' Conference which took place in February 2012. Such was the success of this conference that another is planned for late January 2013.

Alistair participated fully and enthusiastically in various National Conferences, dancing, praying and singing his way through the diverse family of the Uniting Church. His own family link with the establishment of the Australian Mission to Korea provided a great connection with the centenary celebrations of the establishment of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

Alistair has visited various partner churches around the world and was part of the Christian Conference of Asia delegation to Jeju Island, Korea, as well as a UCA delegation to the China Christian Council. Alistair was also part of a National Council of Churches delegation to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Alistair's concern with the living out of the Christian gospel is also evident in his participation in both the National Gambling Task Force and advocacy for Asylum Seekers. In the latter case, this commitment was not only through advocacy for just and compassionate treatment of asylum seekers but also in the establishment of an ecumenical chaplaincy at the Christmas Island Detention Centre.

The success of the National Ministers' Conferences was continued under Alistair's leadership with "Ministry in a time of transition" being explored in Vanuatu, Alice Springs and Adelaide. Again, these conferences provided a great opportunity for ministers from around Australia to share, learn and grow together.

All of this travelling, speaking, blogging and listening would not have been possible without the fantastic support of Clare and the whole family. Alistair has thoroughly enjoyed this incredible ministry and he is looking forward to some much deserved long service leave before commencing his next placement.

Alistair has never shied away from the challenges facing our church. Yet, in the face of this, he has responded with humour, dignity and enthusiasm. Alistair's reflections on our mission as church show respect for our heritage while at the same time declaring the gospel in fresh words and deeds. His careful listening and honest conversations have been a gift and example to us, and his commitment, in words and actions, to the Christian gospel as well as the vision of the Uniting Church has been an inspiration. We give thanks to God for Alistair's ministry and pray that the Great Redeemer will continue to guide both him and us.

BUSINESS FROM THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Assembly resolved to:

- 12.06 Authority for the Assembly Standing Committee to Amend Regulations** authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee and after appropriate consultation, to amend the following parts of the Regulations, as and when the Standing Committee deems it necessary
- The Code of Ethics

- The Alternative Regulations for Korean Congregations, and
- Part 5 - the Discipline Regulations

12.07

Electronic Decision Making

authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to

- remove current references in the Regulations to electronic ballots or decision making; and
- amend the “Conduct of Business” Regulations to provide for electronic decision making consistent with the Manual for Meetings.

12.08

Future Directions for the Ministerial Education Commission

- determine that the Ministerial Education Commission be replaced by an Education for Ministry Working Group, at a date to be determined by the Standing Committee, to advise the Assembly on the standards of formation, education and training for the ministry of the Word, ministry of Deacon, ministry of Pastor and ministry of Lay Preacher;
- approve the Mandate for the Education for Ministry Working Group to be:

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY WORKING GROUP

RESPONSIBLE TO:

The Assembly

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS:

The Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee

VISION STATEMENT:

All education for ministry in the Uniting Church will foster:

- participation of the whole people of God in the mission of God revealed in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit;
- the centrality of the Scriptures in the life of the Church and the work of ministry; as described in the Basis of Union
- the importance of lifelong learning and formation in the Christian life for all people;
- the shared ministry of the people of God.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To advise the Assembly and the Assembly Standing Committee on the standards of formation, education and training for the ministry of the Word, ministry of Deacon, ministry of Pastor, and ministry of Lay Preacher in the Uniting Church.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Advise the Assembly on:
 - policies relating to standards of formation, education and training for the specified ministries in the Uniting Church, including continuing education, professional development and supervision;
 - requirements for the recognition of an approved centre for training for ministry.
2. Facilitate regular national consultations of the faculties of approved centres for training for ministry and synod lay education and leadership development agencies, including maintaining awareness of federal government requirements

for the higher and vocational education sector and how Synods manage the relationship for the sake of ministry

3. Facilitate cooperation and the sharing of expertise and resources for education for ministry between the synods.
4. Encourage regular national networking of key leaders in formation, theological education, continuing education for ministry, lay education and leadership development, including MEBs.

MEMBERSHIP

- A Chairperson appointed by the Assembly
- 10 people, appointed by the Standing Committee, who have a balance of academic and practical experience and with specific expertise in
 - Strategic, innovative thinking about the future of the church
 - Theology
 - Missiology
 - Ministry Practice
 - Formation for Discipleship and Ministry
 - Higher Education
 - Vocational Education and Training
 - Distance Education
 - Culturally contextual education
 - Practice of theological education

including one person from each Synod, and reflecting the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Uniting Church.

- Two persons appointed by the UAICC
- Up to 4 co options;

(c) authorise the Standing Committee

- (i) to appoint a Task Group, to undertake the following tasks:
 - to draft and recommend to the Standing Committee a Vision Statement for education for ministry in the Uniting Church today, taking account of the vision and commitments of the Basis of Union in the contemporary context and noting that the Assembly's current vision for all education for ministry in the Uniting Church was initially affirmed by the Eighth Assembly (1997);
 - to consult widely across the Church as the task group reviews the current work of the Ministerial Education Commission and make recommendations to the Standing Committee on how that work should be continued, reformed, or discontinued; including what resources will be necessary to carry out the work of the Education for Ministry Working Groups;
 - to recommend to the Standing Committee any changes to the mandate that arise from these consultations;
 - to consult with the Synods and review the regulations concerning Ministerial Education Boards, Theological Colleges and Candidates and make recommendations to the Assembly Standing Committee including recommendations concerning the relationship of MEBs and Theological Colleges to the Working Group;
- (ii) on the advice of the Assembly Legal Reference Committee, to approve new Regulations to achieve these outcomes; and

- (iii) appoint the membership of Education for Ministry Working Group.

12.09 Reappointment of the General Secretary

reappoint Terence Corkin as General Secretary of the Assembly for a further 3 year term from 1/1/2013 until 31/12/2015.

12.10 Reconciliation People: A Statement from The National Young Adult Leaders' Conference of The UCA (February 2012)

- (a) receive the statement "Reconciliation People"

We, young leaders in the Uniting Church in Australia, believe in a God of love, whose will for the world is justice, reconciliation and peace. As "pilgrim people", we are called to continually discern where God calls us to act. We feel passionately about these issues and we commit ourselves to action.

We are concerned by domestic policies that punish already vulnerable people, such as compulsory income management in Northern Territory Indigenous communities, and the indefinite, mandatory detention of asylum seekers who arrive by boat. With God's help, we choose to be foolish enough to attempt what many see as impossible: we stand in solidarity with the victims of injustice and discrimination, in particular the First Peoples of this land, refugees and asylum seekers. We do this following the example of Jesus, who teaches that non-violent action is the path to peace.

As future caretakers of the land that we live in, we are upset at the misuse of the natural environment for greed and consumerism and the lack of compassion towards those affected. Our country is not responding enough. Knowing that our country is positioned to make a significant international commitment to climate change, we will act responsibly by advocating for investment in renewable energy and endeavouring to make responsible, ethical decisions in our day to day living.

We believe in a God who seeks for the reconciliation of all people; we are also members of a church that is still "Uniting". We challenge our church, our government and our nation to listen deeply to the knowledge and cultures of our First Peoples. The continued displacement and oppression of the Indigenous people of Australia must stop. We believe that recognition of the Indigenous peoples as the First Peoples in the Australian Constitution is essential for the continued reconciliation journey for all Australians. We must be open to continued conversation and dialogue, if we are serious about pursuing genuine relationships with the First Peoples. In Christ, we are sisters and brothers, and we commit ourselves to stand alongside each other in love and friendship.

We believe that we were all created equal and are one people in the eyes of God. We encourage our country to embrace and celebrate our diversity. We challenge our government to welcome, with empathy, those who seek refuge in our land. There is no supremacy of any culture or gender; rather, when we work together as a united people, in recognition of, but regardless of difference, we will bring about change.

As young leaders of the Uniting Church in Australia, we will continue to be daring in decisions, to push boundaries, and to take pride in achievements of those past and present, while continually discerning how to be God's Church in a 21st century multicultural and multi-faith Australia. We, too, are part of the problems of the world, but we commit ourselves to work towards God's promised goal of the reconciliation of all things by working for justice and for peace in our nation and beyond.

- (b) express support for young leaders to find their voice and welcome their leadership in the life of the Church; and

- (c) commend the statement to Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations for study, reflection and action

BUSINESS FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

The Agency reports were received en bloc in plenary session and dealt with through a small group process of members engaging with Agency representatives. Agency representatives addressed the more frequent and wider ranging questions in two plenary sessions.

The Assembly resolved to:

12.11 BENEFICIARY FUND

12.11.01 Appreciation of Mr Robert Runco

place on record its appreciation for the service of Mr Robert Runco as Executive Director of the Uniting Church in Australia Beneficiary Fund.

Robert Runco was appointed to the position of Executive Director of the Beneficiary Fund on 1 December 2000 after the retirement of the Rev Clem Dickinson.

As the first Executive Director of the Fund and its predecessors who was not a Minister of the Church, Robert's pastoral approach and deep respect for the Church enabled a smooth transition during what many saw as a major break with the past. Robert brought extensive experience in the superannuation and the investment industry together with a legal background.

As a practising member of the Roman Catholic Church, Robert brought an ecumenical concern and awareness to his work with the Fund and with the Uniting Church.

The Board and staff of the Beneficiary Fund acknowledge and affirm his extensive contribution to the Fund and to the Uniting Church. He helped steer the Fund through a time of significant change. Together with the Board, he addressed the complex issues that marked a new era in superannuation for a fund such as the Beneficiary Fund.

Robert was keen to be involved in the wider Church, and was a member of the National Director's group.

Robert is a gifted person and related well to the members of the Fund, both individually and in public occasions. His humour served him well, together with his ability to help the Church and members understand and relate to the complexity of a fund such as ours.

Robert served the Fund and the Church with faithfulness and integrity despite serious health issues immediately prior to his retirement. We wish him every blessing for the future in his recovery from life threatening surgery.

12.11.02 Appreciation of Rev Dr Robert Hoskin

place on record its appreciation for outstanding contribution of the Reverend Dr Robert Hoskin as a member director of Benefund Limited, Trustee of the Uniting Church in Australia Beneficiary Fund from 1992 to 2012, and Chair of that Board for eleven years from 2001 to 2012.

Robert has provided the Fund members and the Church with his extraordinary leadership, drawing on his actuarial background and his experience as a Uniting Church Minister of the Word from 1980 to 2005. Additionally, through the marriage of his actuarial skills with his deep understanding of his Trustee responsibilities and the philosophy and needs of

the Church, Robert has complemented the skills and the extensive superannuation knowledge of the previous Executive Director and the current Chief Executive Officer.

The significance of Robert's leadership and service to the Fund and the Church is evidenced in the major issues the Fund has faced during Robert's time in the Chair, including:

- The licensing of the Fund.
- The impact of the Global Financial Crisis on investments and the actuarial viability of the Fund. He also chaired the Fund's Investment Committee from 2000 to 2012.
- The return of the Fund to a 100% vested benefits index, the regulatory test of solvency and actuarial viability of the Fund, which work included negotiating with the Church to top up the fund at minimal exposure.
- The introduction of a new pension increase policy linking annual pension increases to the impact of investment returns, mortality and costs on the level of the vested benefit benefits index (VBI), thereby significantly reducing the probability of extra Church funding being required.
- The proposed re-opening of the Defined Benefit section of the Fund to new members and members who joined the fund from 2004. This proposal followed an intensive strategic review of the Fund undertaken by the Board's Strategy Task Force which Robert chaired; a move that goes against general trends in the market towards accumulation approaches to retirement savings.
- The major revision of the Constitution of Benefund Ltd and the Rules of the Fund.
- Significant legislative and regulatory changes in superannuation which required many presentations to the Assembly Standing Committee and Synods on superannuation challenges and changes.

Whilst Robert has stepped down as Chair, we are delighted that he will continue as Deputy Chair until his retirement as a Trustee Director in November 2012, completing twenty distinguished years of service with the Fund.

In addition to the time he has generously devoted to the Fund, Robert has found time in retirement to work on a PhD, bringing together his skills as an artist with his passion for the Mowanjumb Aboriginal Community and their art. He has been anything but retired!

We wish Robert every blessing for the future, wait with interest for the awarding of a PhD, and trust that he can slow down!

12.12

DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

Remembrance, Prayer and Peacemaking

- (a) request the Working group on Worship, in consultation with other Assembly agencies, to provide resources for the church's remembrance, prayer and peacemaking on the Sunday nearest to Remembrance Day 11th November; and
- (b) remembering the hopes for peace associated with the 'War to End All Wars', pray that those resources will assist congregations to:
 - (iv) give thanks to God for the reconciliation won in Jesus Christ,
 - (v) confess our failure to demonstrate that reconciliation;
 - (vi) pray for all people caught up in warfare, especially those who grieve the deaths of loved ones;
 - (vii) recall the various ways in which Christian people contribute to the making of peace, and
 - (viii) assist Uniting Church congregations and people to offer special prayers for our chaplains and other defence force personnel.

12.13

FRONTIER SERVICES

Commitment to Remote Australia

- (a) commit the Uniting Church in Australia anew to the people of remote Australia.
- (b) In the belief that:
Reconciliation will become reality
Hope will replace anxiety and despair
Justice and equity will build community, and
Everyone will have access to the services they need
As we journey together,
to pledge the Church to be an agent of reconciliation and renewal, a sign of the Kingdom and of the transforming power of God's love.

12.14

LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

Appreciation of Mr Malcolm Gledhill

place on record its appreciation for the service of Mr Malcolm Gledhill as chairperson of the Assembly's Legal Reference Committee for the last 15 years.

Malcolm has brought to the role a great depth of knowledge regarding the Uniting Church and its various arms and agencies, informed as much as anything by his personal involvement in the UCA in many and varied contexts. This personal experience and knowledge has proved invaluable on many occasions and has helped steer the Committee when what sometimes appear to be entirely abstract questions arise from one UCA body or another.

Malcolm has seen his role as Chairperson as being far more than just chairing a meeting. Malcolm has led by example in the way he has prepared for the agenda of meetings and undertaken major tasks of drafting and preparation for the many and varied tasks that have been placed before the Committee.

Apart from this wealth of personal knowledge and experience, Malcolm is above all a careful and diligent lawyer, and in his role as chairperson of the Legal Reference Committee has always been concerned that proper attention and consideration be given to the work which the committee has before it. Malcolm has usually been the first person to remind the members of the Committee of the need to consider the Constitution when thinking about the options in front of it. Malcolm has always been a person who attends to the full range of issues and is not prepared to rush onwards if care is needed in the service of a better result.

In addition to serving on the Assembly's Legal Reference Committee he has also often been the nominated member to attend meetings of the Assembly. Those members of the Assembly who are long-term attendees will be able to testify to Malcolm's insistence that the "i's are dotted and the t's crossed", not in some mechanical or pedantic way, but with the church's purposes and mission firmly in his sights.

Malcolm has always understood his contribution to the "law of the church" to be a ministry of service to its mission. He has always acted with grace and generosity towards those who serve with him even when their legal skills were no match for his own. In addition Malcolm has been a most caring and thoughtful leader, attuned to the various pressures and personal circumstances faced by the committee members.

Malcolm, in his typically humble fashion, leaves the chairperson role, but not the committee itself, where he will continue to serve. The Church is grateful

for his wisdom, knowledge and grace; and his ongoing commitment to the service of the Church and its Lord.

12.15 MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION

Ministry of Pastor

- (a) establish a review of the ministry of Pastor with a view to achieving the following outcomes:
 - (i) evaluation of 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) identification of the areas where the current expectations about how this ministry will be administered and supported are being achieved and where they are not;
 - (ii) identification of concerns related to the selection and appointment of Pastors; and
 - (iv) make recommendations to the Assembly Standing Committee arising from the review;
- (b) authorise the Assembly Standing Committee to
 - (i) appoint the Review Group;
 - (ii) finalise its terms of reference;
 - (iii) receive the report and take action, including amending the Regulations, in the light of the report; and
- (c) request the Standing Committee to report to the 14th Assembly on the outcome of the review.

12.16 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS

12.16.01 Recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the Australian Constitution

- (a) note the resolution of the 9th Assembly (2000) minute 00.11.05(d) which called on the Federal Government to provide constitutional acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples as the 'First Peoples' and for the removal of racist provisions in the Constitution;
- (b) welcome the support of Australia's major political parties for the constitutional recognition of Australia's First Peoples and the commitment of the Federal Government to proceed towards a referendum to acknowledge in the Australian Constitution the special place of Australia's First Peoples;
- (c) welcome the findings of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians and the key recommendations contained in the report of January 2012;
- (d) encourage Uniting Church councils, groups and members to engage with education campaigns that serve to highlight the importance of constitutional change for all Australians, reflecting on and sharing our own story of constitutional change as a positive contribution to the public conversation; and
- (e) call on all Uniting Church councils, boards, agencies and members to support the views of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) on the proposal for changes which will be determined by the Federal Government and taken to the Australian people, acknowledging that a less than satisfactory proposal may not be supported by the UAICC. (Agreement)

12.16.02 Ordination and Commissioning Questions

- (a) authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Working Group on Worship, to
 - (i) include in the Charge to newly ordained ministers the requirement to work within the Covenant between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and the Uniting Church, and
 - (ii) add a new question to induction and commissioning services in which the respondent affirms the covenant between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and the Uniting Church and the obligation to serve First and Second Peoples. (Agreement)

12.16.03

Support for Indigenous People

- (a) work in partnership with the leadership of the First Nations Assemblies living under the “Stronger Futures” legislative regime and assure them that we stand with them in the name of justice;
- (b) affirm the work of many leaders of First and Second Peoples in protesting against those elements of the “Stronger Futures” legislation which were implemented without meaningful and effective negotiations with those people most affected by the legislation;
- (c) lament the ill health, cultural disintegration and social dysfunction that exists among communities in remote areas;
- (d) express our support for those actions which empower indigenous peoples to take control of their own lives and destinies and ensure appropriate resourcing in the areas of health, housing, education, employment and well-being support;
- (e) welcome those unconditional financial commitments of the Commonwealth Government that address the needs of indigenous peoples;
- (f) condemn the imposition and extension of the harmful and discriminatory aspects of the “Stronger Futures” legislation and those elements that disempower local communities and impose compulsory income management;
- (g) affirm the right of First Peoples to develop positive local alternatives and reject a ‘one size fits all’ approach;
- (h) call upon the Commonwealth Government to repeal the harmful and discriminatory aspects of the “Stronger Futures” legislation;
- (i) call upon the Commonwealth Government to engage in:
 - (i) respectful and genuine negotiation with the leadership of First Nations Assemblies;
 - (ii) meaningful negotiation in regard to the provision of sufficient and appropriate resources; and
 - (iii) effective implementation of negotiated action plans with those communities;
- (j) encourage all people, councils and bodies of the Uniting Church and ecumenical partners:
 - (i) to continue informing themselves about the personal and community stories of those living with the “Intervention”; and
 - (ii) to public advocacy of policies that are being promoted by Indigenous leaders that build long-term prosperous and harmonious lives and empower Indigenous peoples to take responsibility and deliver the changes that are needed;

- (k) support the call of members of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) for continuing national action about the “Stronger Futures” legislation and to contribute to resourcing such action; and
- (l) request the World Council of Churches Central Committee, at its coming meeting in August–September 2012, to issue a public statement of concern about the Australian Government’s “Stronger Futures” legislation and to mobilise the world church to act in support of the indigenous peoples of Australia.

In response to the concerns raised by the UAICC regarding the enactment of the “Stronger Futures” legislation by the Commonwealth Parliament, the 13th Assembly adjourned to hold a prayer vigil on the steps of the South Australian Parliament House.

12.17 UNITING FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP

12.17.01 UnitingJustice Australia

Appreciation of Ms Janeen Barker

place on record its appreciation for the service of Ms Janeen Barker as Chairperson of the UnitingJustice Australia Reference Committee from July 2006 – July 2012.

Janeen’s contribution to the Reference Committee and the mission of UnitingJustice has been marked by wisdom, integrity, grace, passion and clarity of purpose. Her experience of the life of the Church across congregational and committee life, her skills as a gifted chairperson and facilitator, and her lifelong personal commitment to the gospel call for justice have helped to shape the nature and the quality of the work of the unit.

Under Janeen’s leadership, UnitingJustice Australia has developed an approach to determining and prioritising its work which ensures that all it does remains deeply grounded in both the gospel call for reconciliation, justice and peace and in the history, tradition and experience of the Uniting Church, especially its history of speaking and acting for justice and equity. It is an approach which has enabled the small staff team to respond nimbly and confidently to the changing issues of public debate and policy development while resisting the almost constant temptation to be drawn too thinly across too many disparate issues.

During Janeen’s tenure as Chairperson, she has overseen the development of a number of major social justice statements and resolutions prepared by UnitingJustice and adopted by the Assembly and Assembly Standing Committee:

- For the Sake of the Planet and All its People (the Assembly statement on climate change, ASC November 2006)
- the resolution in support of the development of a Human Act for Australia (ASC, March 2008)
- An Economy of Life: Re-imagining human progress for a flourishing world (Twelfth Assembly 2009)

She has helped develop the unit’s public engagement and advocacy, and the resourcing of the Assembly and church members, on such issues as asylum seekers and refugee policies, justice for Indigenous Australians (especially in our work with the Northern Synod on the Northern Territory Intervention), human rights and anti-discrimination, a just economy and human wellbeing, action against climate change and peacemaking. The ‘Living a Different Story’ resource project which arises out of *An Economy of Life* owes much of its heart to Janeen’s vision.

The staff of UnitingJustice have been inspired by Janeen's integrity, upheld by her care and encouragement and challenged by her extraordinary insight and wisdom into the plight of people who suffer injustice, prejudice, violence and oppression. We are thankful for Janeen's commitment to and leadership of UnitingJustice over the years. We have been truly blessed by her presence among us.

12.17.02

Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry

One Body, Many Members – Living Faith and Life Cross Culturally

- (a) adopt the Statement, "One Body, many members - Living faith and life cross-culturally" (Appendix A to the Report of Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry)
- (b) commit its Officers, Staff, Agencies, Task Groups, and Committees, and calls upon all members and leaders, Councils and Agencies of the Uniting Church in Australia to live out our common faith and life cross-culturally by using the characteristics outlined in the document "One Body, many members – Living faith and life cross-culturally" as benchmarks to shape the whole life of the UCA in:
 - (i) acts of public worship, witness and service in multicultural, multiracial and multifaith Australia;
 - (ii) celebrating and using God's gifts of theological, biblical and liturgical richness that arises from our cultural and linguistic diversity;
 - (iii) intentionally seeking ways to represent the genuine cultural and linguistic diversity of the church and not particular cultural or language groups in elections for and appointments to Councils, Task Groups and Committees;
 - (iv) using culturally sensitive, inclusive and equitable procedures for the recognition of calling, determination of placement and standing of those in designated ministries of the Uniting Church in Australia;
 - (v) continuing to support the development and dissemination of multilingual resources in first languages and thought forms for use throughout the UCA, including Church signs;
 - (vi) continuing to engage in effective prophetic advocacy and public policy development on the issues of racial, social, economic and environmental justice;
 - (vii) expanding curriculum development and educational programs to include awareness and knowledge concerning the diversity of cultural heritages, theological and biblical traditions and insights, teaching and learning styles, and in-language assessment of our multicultural and multiracial world: for discipleship education and training, formation of candidates for specified ministries, in-service/continuing education programs for leaders, ministers and elders;
 - (viii) encouraging ministers and leaders in the UCA to acquire a second language and to participate in immersion experiences in another culture/language community in order to make their ministry gifts and leadership available more widely and equitably across the UCA;
 - (ix) exploring, developing, supporting and implementing culturally and contextually appropriate strategies concerning evangelism and resourcing for new church establishment, development and ministry support in racially, culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
 - (x) planning and implementing strategies to help ensure and promote a faithful, equitable and just stewardship and sharing of the financial and property resources of the UCA for the empowerment of all local congregations and faith communities;
 - (xi) the racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of the writers, content

of articles and photo and other images used in UCA publications and publicity materials; and

- (c) urge the whole church to accept an ethic of accountability in our relationships with each other in all settings of the UCA in these matters by reporting progress and areas of difficulty in regular reporting to one another.

12.17.03 Theology and Discipleship

12.17.03.01 National Working Group on Doctrine

A Season of Teaching and Learning

- (a) invite all congregations and faith communities to participate in a shared season of teaching and learning on Christian faith and discipleship in 2014; and
- (b) request Theology and Discipleship, in consultation with other appropriate agencies, councils of the church and people to:
- coordinate the provision of creative, flexible and diverse resources suitable for the season of teaching and learning; and
 - recommend worship resources to support the season of teaching and learning.

12.17.03.02 National Working Group on Worship

Appreciation of Rev Dr Paul Walton

place on record its appreciation for the contribution rendered to the life of the Uniting Church in Australia by the Rev Dr Paul Walton during the 15 years he served as Convener of the Assembly Working Group on Worship and, in particular, his oversight of and personal contribution to, the development and publication of *Uniting in Worship 2*.

Paul served as Convener of the Working Group during a particularly demanding period. The time and effort involved in the preparation for publication of *Uniting in Worship 2* was extraordinary, particularly as the process involved some strong differences of opinion and required careful and even-handed judgment and negotiation. *Uniting in Worship 2* represents an invaluable contribution to the Uniting Church and it has been warmly commended ecumenically.

In addition, under Paul's leadership, the Working Group developed a wide range of other worship resources, as well as a number of papers aimed at helping the Church understand the nature, purpose and structure of worship within the reformed and evangelical tradition, culture and theology of the Uniting Church. Much of this work was Paul's own personal contribution.

Throughout his time as Convener, Paul represented the Working Group at Assembly Meetings, was (and still is) a member of the Australian Consultation on Liturgy, and has been a member of the Australian Academy of Liturgy and the international liturgical body, *Societas Liturgica*. He is widely known and respected for the breadth and depth of his knowledge.

At this time Paul continues as a member of the Working Group. We are deeply grateful for his wisdom, knowledge and experience and his ongoing commitment to enrich the worshipping life of the Uniting Church.

12.17.04.01 Christian Education

Appreciation of Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan

place on record its appreciation for the contribution of Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan during her term as Chairperson of the Assembly Christian Education

Reference Committee (CERC) (2006–2012) Elizabeth is passionate about Christian Education. It is her life's work. Elizabeth's commitment to Christian Education is ably expressed in her own words. "Our Christian growth in faith and witness throughout our lives depends on the very process of Christian Education as we study the scriptures, explore new and old church doctrines and learn to communicate with God in richer ways."

Elizabeth began her commitment to Christian Education with the Assembly with the National Education Committee (ANEC) in 1991 as a member. She worked for the Joint Board of Christian Education (JBCE) from 1991 -1996; and went onto to be a member of the Uniting Education Reference Committee. She took up the role of Chairperson of the CERC in the latter part of 2006.

Whilst serving as a Minister of the Word in various congregations, Elizabeth has continued her broader Christian Education commitments. Elizabeth is a life member of the Australian Religious Education Association (AREA). She has been a board member of the international body, the Association of Professors and Practitioners of Religious Educators (APRE) and continues that commitment by presenting various workshop papers to international conferences. Elizabeth has up to 2011 been the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania's representative to the Victorian Council of Christian Education (VCCE) that concluded in 2011 with her appointment in 2012 as a Minister of the Word to the Indooroopilly congregation in the Queensland Synod. Elizabeth has brought this rich experience of education to the role of Chairperson of the Christian Education Reference Committee. (CERC)

There have been many changes in Christian Education over the last twenty years and as such, recognition that within the Uniting Church Christian Education has changed markedly. There continues to be a growing diversity of language concerning Christian Education including formation, discipleship, spiritual growth and faith development. These changes have led to their own demands upon the CERC during the period of Elizabeth being Chairperson. In 2010 the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) assisted by the CERC gave approval for a two year Christian Education Research fellowship for the purposes of undertaking research regarding the future role and priorities of the Assembly in Christian Education. The CERC prepared a research proposal which was approved by the Assembly Standing Committee. The Assembly gives thanks to Elizabeth for working with the committee in the formation of this proposal especially from her expertise in Christian Education theory and practice.

Elizabeth has brought a long and rich experience in Christian Education to the life of the Assembly as the Chairperson of the CERC. Her commitment to the body of knowledge known as Christian Education is marked her sustained contribution to the various committees in the life of the Assembly over a long period of time. We give thanks for the commitment, expertise and passion for Christian Education that Elizabeth has brought to her role as Chairperson of the Assembly's Christian Education Reference Committee and her ongoing commitment as a Minister of the Word to enrich the educational life of the Uniting Church.

12.17.04.02 Appreciation of Rev Dr Mark Hillis

place on record appreciation for the service of Rev. Dr. Mark Hillis as National Director of Christian Education for the Uniting Church Assembly. Mark served the church in this role from 2005 to 2010. Mark brought the rich experience of his work as a Regional Education Officer for the Hunter Presbytery in the NSW Synod prior to his commencement at the Assembly in 2005. Mark has also served on a number of Synod committees including the previous NSW Synod Board of Education. He was also a member of the Assembly's Joint Board of Christian Education (JBCE) before it became Uniting Education.

Mark's breadth and depth of experience, commitment and expertise were in evidence across a wide range of projects and forums. He acted as the liaison between the Uniting Church and the publishers and distributors of the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum, providing advice both to the curriculum providers and to its users. Godly Play was one of his keen interests, and Mark was instrumental in raising its profile nationally as a Christian education approach. In collaboration with the Assembly Christian Education Reference Committee (CERC), Mark explored a range of possible futures for Christian Education curriculum in the life of the Uniting Church. The "Next Generations" Project, aimed at fostering initiatives in educational ministry with children and young people, emerged from this. Mark had a particular gift for uncovering and encouraging people with fresh insights and promising projects.

Mark initiated and coordinated an annual gathering of Synod and Assembly Lay and Leadership Educators, which continues as a vital forum for sharing strategies, resources and ideas. He also participated in the work of the National Youth Affairs Reference Committee (NYARC) and the Synod Children's and Youth ministry Network (CHYNC) often giving encouragement and advice that enabled people to move forward in exciting and creative ways.

Mark was key in establishing the UCA National Schools' Consultative Group in late 2008, and was the Uniting Church representative on the Consultative Group of the Independent Schools Council of Australia. He undertook the initial development work on school-based interfaith education guidelines for the Uniting Church.

Mark was a valued member of the Assembly staff team, regularly providing advice and assistance on educational matters across a number of projects relating to social justice, covenanting, spirituality, multicultural education, theology and discipleship. Mark's warmth, care for persons, and easy-going humour enabled him to move with ease in many different settings.

Mark continues as a member of the International Seminar on Religious Education and Values (ISREV) and the Board of Network of Biblical Storytellers. (Australia & New Zealand) Mark continues to be committed to Christian education as a Minister of the Word in the Epping Congregation in the NSW ACT Synod, especially in enabling Biblical studies and Theology to come alive for people in formative and insightful ways. The Assembly is grateful for the significant contribution of Rev. Dr Mark Hillis to its life.

12.17.05

Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths Friendship in the Presence of Difference: Christian Witness in Multifaith Australia

- (a) note that "We are a Multicultural Church" (Assembly, 1985) that embraces cultural diversity as a gift from the Creator;
- (b) note that the church lives in a multicultural and cross cultural society and therefore reaches out to people of different cultures and faiths (*Living with a Neighbour who is Different: Christian Vocation in Multifaith Australia*, 9th Assembly 2000);
- (c) receive the paper *Friendship in the Presence of Difference: Christian Witness in Multifaith Australia* (Relations with Other Faiths report Appendix 1) as an update to the resource, *Living with a Neighbour who is Different: Christian Vocation in Multifaith Australia*, 9th Assembly 2000);
- (d) request the Working Group on Relations with other Faiths to develop resources associated with the paper; and

- (e) commend the paper *Friendship in the Presence of Difference: Christian Witness in Multifaith Australia* and the associated study resources to presbyteries and congregations for their use.
(Agreement)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

The Assembly resolved to:

12.18 REGULATION 2.5.1 - ADMISSION OF MINISTERS FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION

authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to 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 approved 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
- (i) x.x.1 (h) applies; or
 - (ii) the Synod or the Assembly (in the case of an Assembly placement) determines to extend the placement beyond three years where it is determined that the applicant has engaged in the process for admission in good faith and that process has or will not be completed within the three year period, and it considers it reasonable to do so;
- (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) The Synod or the Assembly (in the case of an Assembly placement), may at the time of approval of an applicant or at any other time after application is made, decide that the requirement of Regulation x.x.2(b) shall not apply in the case of the minister.
- (i) In determining whether this Regulation applies, or in making the decision provided for in Regulation x.x.1(h), among other factors to which the Synod or Assembly shall have full regard is any mutual understanding, written or unwritten, between the Uniting Church and its international and / or ecumenical Partners concerning the admission of Ministers from such Partners.
- (j) 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) A minister of another denomination whose ordination to ministry is recognised by the Assembly and who serves in a placement in the Church for three years shall apply to the Synod for admission as a Minister of the Church unless the Synod, or the Assembly in the case of Assembly placements decides otherwise.
 - (c) 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.
 - (d) 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.
 - (e) 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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.

OTHER

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.

12.19 REGULATION 2.5.2 - ADMISSION OF FORMER MINISTERS

authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 2.5.2 (Admission of a Former Minister) such that the application shall be dealt with in a similar manner to an application from a person to be a candidate for one of the ordained ministries of the Church.

12.20 REGULATION 2.10.1(j) - APPEAL PROCESS AGAINST THE TERMINATION OF SYNOD PLACEMENTS

authorise the Assembly Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to 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; or
 - (ii) the Synod Secretary 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

12.21 REGULATION 2.11.1 - MINISTERS IN ASSOCIATION

- (a) authorise the Assembly Standing Committee 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; and
 - (ii) amend those Regulations, in the light of this review, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee.
- (b) request the Assembly Standing Committee to refer the proposal from the Presbytery of Tasmania to change Regulation 2.11.1 to allow for the appointment of a Minister in Association where there is no Minister in placement to the review group established under this minute.

12.22 ALTERNATIVE REGULATION 3.1.7 IN PART 8 OF THE ALTERNATIVE REGULATIONS FOR KOREAN CHURCHES

delete Alternative Regulation 3.1.7, in Part 8 of the Alternative Regulations for Korean Churches, with immediate effect.

12.23 REGULATION 3.10.2 - ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE AND AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS

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 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 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, 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.

12.24 REGULATION 4.10.1(e) - VESTING OF ASSEMBLY PROPERTY

- (a) delete Regulation 4.10.1 (e) with immediate effect; and
- (b) make consequential amendments to renumber clauses (f) and (g).

12.25 REVIEW OF PART 6 – APPEALS REGULATIONS

authorise the Assembly Standing Committee to:

- (a) establish a Task Group to review the operation of Part 6 of the Regulations (Appeals) with particular reference to
 - whether the appeal should address the merits of the case or only matters of process
 - whether 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
 - whether there is merit in there being a national Standing Appeals Panel; and if so how it might operate; and
- (b) on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, amend Part 6 – Appeals Regulations in the light of the report of the Task Group.

ELECTIONS:

12.26 The Returning Officer, Warwick van Ede, declared the following results of elections:

President-Elect	Stuart McMillan
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Standing Committee

Alison Atkinson-Phillips
 Stu Cameron
 Emma Davison
 Geoffrey Grinton
 Andrew Johnson
 Cheryl Lawson
 Deidre Palmer
 Isabel Thomas Dobson
 Jan Trengove

Bethany Broadstock
 Michelle Cook
 Kate Fraser
 Zac Hatfield Dodds
 Jason Kioa
 Craig Mitchell
 Ian Price
 Ian Tozer
 Jenny Tymms

Chairpersons of Reference Committees

Christian Education Reference Committee
 Christian Unity Working Group
 Church Polity
 Defence Force Chaplaincy

Elizabeth Nolan
 Maureen Postma
 Jenny Tymms
 A. Gale Hall
 Murray Earl
 (from 1 July 2013)

Frontier Services
 Historical Reference Committee
 Legal Reference Committee
 Ministerial Education Commission
 Multicultural Ministry
 National Working Group on Doctrine
 National Working Group on Worship
 Reception of Ministers Committee
 Relations with Other Faiths
 Theology and Discipleship
 UnitingJustice
 UC Adult Fellowship National Committee
 UnitingCare Australia
 UnitingWorld – Church Connections
 UnitingWorld – Relief and Development

Jan Trengove
 Margaret Reeson
 Warwick van Ede
 Deidre Palmer
 Eseta Meneilly
 Wes Campbell
 David Pitman
 Douglas Miller
 Seforosa Carroll
 Carolyn Thornley
 Janet Dawson
 Robert Watson
 Peter Bicknell
 Stuart Cameron
 Dr Sureka Goringe

GENERAL BUSINESS**12.27 GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS**

On behalf of the overseas guests Rev Wilfred Kurepitu, Moderator of the United Church of Solomon Islands; Rev Bobbie Litelnoni, Moderator of GMIT (Evangelical Christian Church in Timor); Rev Amos Ndhumbi, Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe; Rev. Prince Devanandan from Methodist Church of New Zealand, representative of the Christian Conference of Asia, Nga Mataio, General Secretary, Cook Islands Christian Church and Rev Dr A.W. Jebanesan, President of the Methodist Church Sri Lanka participated in bringing greetings and feedback to the Assembly.

12.28 BIBLE STUDY

During the Assembly the Bible Studies were conducted by Rev Dr Luna Dingayan and the Cato lecture was delivered by Dr Kirsteen Kim.

The Assembly resolved to:

12.29 BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- (a) strongly encourage congregations to hold annual covenanting services and regular affirmations of baptism (both through confirmation services and other reaffirmation of baptism services, namely *A congregational reaffirmation of baptism* and *A personal reaffirmation of baptism*) as a way of strengthening the understanding of baptism and discipleship;
- (b) request the Assembly Standing Committee to

- (i) appoint a task group to:
 - 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;
 - consult with Presbyteries and congregations;
 - bring a report and any proposals for changes to the Constitution and Regulations in relationship to membership to the Assembly Standing Committee by mid-2014; and
- (c) bring a report and any proposals for changes to the Constitution and Regulations in relationship to membership and any other related practical matters to the 14th Assembly.

12.30

DISCIPLINE OF CHURCH COUNCILLORS

refer Proposal 51 to the Standing Committee with the power to act.

12.31

DISCUSSION PAPER ON MARRIAGE

- (a) acknowledge that the current position on marriage is provided in the 8th Assembly Minute 97.31.12:

97.31.12 The Assembly resolved to approve the following policy Statement on Marriage:

“The Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia declares that

1. Marriage

Marriage for Christians is the freely given consent and commitment in public and before God of a man and a woman to live together for life.

It is intended to be the mutually faithful lifelong union of a woman and man expressed in every part of their life together.

In marriage the man and the woman seek to encourage and enrich each other through love and companionship.

In the marriage service

- the woman and man make a public covenant with each other and with God, in the company of family and friends;
- the couple affirm their trust in each other and in God;
- the Church affirms the sanctity of marriage and nurtures those who pledge themselves to each other in marriage and calls upon all people to support, uphold and nurture those who pledge themselves to each other in marriage.

Where sexual union takes place the partners seek to express mutual delight, pleasure and tenderness, thus strengthening the union of their lives together.

In marriage, children may be born and are to be brought up in love and security, thus providing a firm foundation for society.

2. Separation, Divorce and Re-marriage

- An inability to sustain the marriage relationship breaks the commitment to be together for life and may be painful for the couple, the children in their care, as well as for parents, friends and the Church community.
- In cases of the irretrievable breakdown of marriage, the Church acknowledges that divorce may be the only creative and life giving direction to take.
- The Church has a responsibility to:
 - (a) care for people, including children, through the trauma of the ending of a marriage;

- (b) help people where appropriate to grieve, repent, grow in self-understanding, receive affirmation, grace and forgiveness;
 - (c) support them as they hear God's call for new life.
 - The grace and healing of God are available to people who are divorced, which may free them to marry again.”
- (b) noting the desire for respectful conversation within the diverse community of the church and the current public debate about same-gender marriage to ask the Doctrine Working Group, after appropriate consultation across the Church and with ongoing liaison with the Standing Committee:
- to prepare a discussion paper on the theology of marriage within the Uniting Church, and explore its implications for public covenants for same-gender relationships;
 - to circulate the paper widely, and specifically to UAICC National Committee, synods, Chairpersons of National Conferences, presbyteries, UAICC Regions, Uniting Network, the Assembly of Confessing Congregations, congregations, agencies and institutions of the Uniting Church, requesting responses to the Working Group by a date to be determined by the Standing Committee; and
 - to summarise responses and bring recommendations to the Standing Committee by November 2014, to enable the Standing Committee to bring a report to the 14th Assembly in 2015.
(Agreement)

12.32 EVALUATION OF COVENANTING

- (a) request the Standing Committee to appoint a 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; and
- (b) request the Task Group to bring a report and any recommendations to the 14th Assembly.

12.33 RENEWAL OF THE DIACONATE

- (a) note the 20th anniversary of the renewal of the diaconate in the UCA as foreshadowed in paragraphs 13 and 14c of the *Basis of Union*;
- (b) give thanks to God for the ways Deacons have broadened the Church's understanding of ministry and led the Uniting Church in new missional directions; and
- (c) ask the Ministerial Education Commission (MEC) and the Synods' MEB's to review the materials provided to applicants and mentors in the Period of Discernment and in the selection process to ensure that the Ministry of Deacon is presented accurately and fully.

12.34 ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE EX-PRESIDENT

- request the Standing Committee to ensure that the following matters in the Ex-President's report are properly considered and progressed, or referred to the appropriate councils of the Church:
- Resources for mediation;
 - Early intervention strategies to resolve conflict;
 - The role of restorative justice proposals; and
 - The placement of ministry resources where they are needed most, rather than where they can be afforded.

- 12.35 MEMBERSHIP OF ASSEMBLY BODIES**
request the Standing Committee to consider a process of calling for expressions of interest as part of the process for recruiting people to Assembly Working Groups, Task Groups, Commissions and Committees.
- 12.36 VENUE FOR THE 14TH ASSEMBLY**
- (a) receive with thanks the invitation of the Synod of Western Australia to hold the Fourteenth Assembly within the bounds of the synod; and
 - (b) authorise the Standing Committee to determine the exact date, and to negotiate with the Synod of Western Australia as to the particular location and venues for the various Assembly functions.
- 12.37 WEEK OF PRAYER AND FASTING**
- (a) call the members of the Uniting Church to a week of prayer and fasting for justice for indigenous Australians, culminating in a public prayer vigil at Parliament House in Canberra to be led by the UAICC Chairperson and the President;
 - (b) request UnitingJustice Australia to work with UAICC and UnitingCare Australia to determine the most appropriate date, and to resource and enable members to participate in this action;
 - (c) encourage every presbytery to send at least two representatives to the vigil; and
 - (d) invite other Christian Churches to participate in this activity.
- 12.38 WEST PAPUA**
- (a) continue to express solidarity with the people of Papua by resourcing and supporting our partner church, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua, in its ministry of peace and reconciliation, and in its call to for all Papuans to have an effective voice in determining their future;
 - (b) welcome President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's stated commitment to working with the churches in Papua to end violence, and, with our partner church, call on the Indonesian Government to withdraw military forces from a security role among local communities in Papua, to hand all these responsibilities to the police, and to bring perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice;
 - (c) affirm initiatives taken by the Synod of Western Australia, the Synod of South Australia and Uniting Church congregations and communities with UnitingWorld as the Uniting Church in Australia engages in Papua;
 - (d) encourage more Uniting Church communities to engage in similar actions; and
 - (e) express to the Australian Government our concerns for Papua and call on the Australian Government to support initiatives that involve peace, reconciliation and the development of an effective voice for all Papuans regarding their future.

CLOSING ACTIONS

The Assembly resolved to:

- 12.39 APPRECIATION**
give thanks to all people who contributed to the smooth facilitation of the 13th Assembly, to the host Synod of South Australia, worship leaders, facilitators

and particularly the many volunteers, and to the General Secretary and President who have led us with wisdom and grace.

CLOSE

The Thirteenth Assembly concluded at 1pm on Saturday, 21 July 2012 with worship led by the President.

Roll of Assembly

A. VOTING MEMBERS

Ex-officio members [Reg. 3.6.2(a)]

Rev Gregor Henderson, past-President
Rev Alistair Macrae, President
Rev Dr Andrew Dutney, President-elect
Rev Terence Corkin, Assembly General Secretary
Rronang Garrawurra, Chairperson, UAICC
Rev Shayne Blackman, National Administrator, UAICC

Appointed by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress [Reg 3.6.2(c)]

Ministers: Rev Rrorang Garrawurra, Rev Sealin Garlett, Rev Dorothy Harris-Gordon, Rev Tim Matton-Johnson, Rev Will Pickett.

Lay: Ms Lurleen Blackman; Mr Maratja Dhamarrandji, Mr Sam Dinah, Mr Robert Jetta, Miss Rhanee Lester, Mr Rodney Minniecon, Ms Diane Torrens, Mr Robert Hoosan

Appointed by Assembly bodies, by decision of Assembly Standing Committee [Reg. 3.6.2(e)]

Church Polity	Dr Deirdre Palmer
Christian Unity Working Group	Ms Maureen Postma
Theology and Discipleship	Rev Dr Chris Walker
Doctrine Working Group	Rev Dr Wes Campbell
Working Group on Worship	Rev Dr David Pitman
UnitingWorld	Dr Sureka Goringe
Secretariat	Rev Glenda Blakefield

Appointed by Assembly Standing Committee [Reg. 3.6.2(f)]

Youthful members Ms Jen Davies, Mr Zac Hatfield Dodds, Miss Bethany Hewitt, Mr To'ikoula Jesse Jacob-Fotu, Rev Monique Mawbey.

Migrant-ethnic congregations Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho, Mrs Kalo Fotu, Miss Virginia Lavaki, Rev Eseta Meneilly, Mr Jone Lotu, Dr Tangi Moimoi-Steen, Ms Fa Ngaluafe, Rev Rodel Palma, Rev Dr Apwee Ting.

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

Rev Dr Brian Brown (Moderator)
Rev Dr Andrew Williams (General Secretary)
Ministers: Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly, Rev Lindsay Cullen, Rev Ki Soo Jang, Rev Amelia Koh-Butler, Rev Duncan Macleod, Rev Bronwyn Murphy, Rev Clive Pearson, Rev Ian Pearson, Rev Viniana Ravetali, Rev Sue Scott, Rev Alimoni Taumoepeau.
Lay: Ms Laura Baird, Ms Emma Davison, Mr James Ellis, Mr Bradon French, Mr Richard La'Brooy, Ms Rebecca Lindsay, Mr Ross Neville, Ms Emma Parr, Ms Radhika Sukumar, Ms Jacki Watts, Mr Geoff Wellington, Ms Pearl Wymarra, Ms Belinda Lotherington.

Presbyteries

<i>Canberra Region</i>	Rev Gordon Ramsay	Ms Natalie Willis
<i>Far North Coast</i>	Rev Ken Day	Mr Bruce Robinson
<i>Georges River</i>	Rev Grant Bilbey	Mr Ian Lawrence
<i>Illawarra</i>	Rev Mark Greenlees	Mrs Meredith Yabsley
<i>Ku-ring-gai</i>	Rev Dr Christopher Goringe	Ms Hannah Reeve
<i>Korean</i>	Rev Hyo Jin Choi	Mrs Kum Ran Chung
<i>Macquarie Darling</i>	Rev Jorge Rebolledo	Mr Brian Mowbray
<i>Mid North Coast</i>	Rev Dr Jason John	Mrs Valerie Moase
<i>New England-North West</i>	Rev Russell Morris	Mr Bob Minton
<i>Parramatta-Nepean</i>	Rev David Reichardt	Ms Leanne Hutcheson
<i>Riverina</i>	Rev Geoff Flynn	Mrs Holly Wright
<i>Sydney</i>	Rev Niall Reid	Mr David Hay
<i>Sydney North</i>	Rev Alan White	Ms Jo Drayton
<i>The Hunter</i>	Rev Haloti Kailahi	Mr Chris Hargreaves

NORTHERN SYNOD

Mr Stuart McMillan (Moderator)
Mr Peter Jones (General Secretary)
Ministers: Rev Kate Fraser, Rev Thresi Mauboy, Rev Helen Richmond
Lay: Mr Kevin Kadrigamar

Presbyteries

<i>Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia Nthn Regional Council of Congress</i>	Rev Jenny Tymms	Mr Alan Cross
	Mrs Yanyi Bandicha	Rev Teubiti Tapera

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Rev Kaye Ronalds (Moderator)
 Dr Shirley Coulson (General Secretary)
 Ministers: Rev Lynett Burden, Rev Stu Cameron, Rev Michelle Cook, Rev Heather Griffin, Rev Peter Lockhart, Rev David MacGregor, Rev Viliami Mila, Rev Josie Nottle, Rev Lu Sentuli.
 Lay: Mr John Agnew, Mrs Jenny Brecknell, Mr Matt Gees, Mr Andrew Johnson, Miss Anna Mulcahy, Mrs Elaine Rae, Miss Lauren Ash, Mr Hayden Gaffel, Miss Tegan Gaffel.

Presbyteries

<i>Bremer Brisbane Calvary Central Queensland Mary Burnett Moreton Rivers North Queensland South Moreton The Downs</i>	Rev David Baker Rev Dennis Corowa Rev Brian Gilbert Rev Robert Harriman Rev John Cox Rev Bruce Cornish Rev Gwen Fisher Rev John Case	Mr Grahame Kroll Ms Roberta Stanley Mr Wayne Davidson Mrs Jenny Coombes Mr Peter Webb Mr Ian Savage Mr Glen Schweitzer Mrs Sharon Kirk
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SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Rev Rob Williams (Moderator)
 Rev Dr Graham Humphris (General Secretary)
 Ministers: Rev Sarah Agnew, Rev Sandy Boyce, Rev Ian Dow, Rev Tim Hein, Rev Anne Hewitt, Rev Jenni Hughes, Rev Jane McDonald, Rev Beatrice Panne, Rev Dr Julia Pitman, Rev Michaela Tiller, Rev Jonathan Button, Rev Peter McDonald, Rev Dr Ian Price, Rev Rob Stoner, Rev Dean Whittaker.
 Lay: Dr Liz Boase, Ms Denise Champion, Ms Susan Doughty, Mr Andrew Ducker, Mr Alan Dutton, Mr Max Howland, Mr Bruce Ind, Mr Campbell Menzies, Mr Craig Mitchell, Mrs Robyn Painter, Miss Joanna Palmer, Ms Sharonne Price, Ms Jasmine Schutz, Mr Kai Strobel, Mrs Jan Trengove, Mr Bronte Wilson, Dr Cheryl Wilson.

SYNOD OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA

Mrs Isabel Thomas Dobson (Moderator)
 Rev Dr Peter Blackwood (General Secretary)
 Ministers: Rev Deacon Jeanne Beale, Rev Deacon Gavin Blackmore, Rev John Cranmer, Rev David Fotheringham, Rev Dr John Evans, Rev Sharon Hollis, Rev Anne Honey, Rev Anne Key, Rev Jason Kioa, Rev Swee-Ann Koh, Rev Cynthia Page, Rev Rod Peppiatt, Rev Alison Whish.
 Lay: Mr Chris Begg, Mr Aron Blakemore, Ms Bethany Broadstock, Ms Sue Clarkson, Ms Beth Donnelly, Ms Emily Evans, Mr Drew Hanna, Mr Geoffrey Grinton, Ms Cheryl Lawrie, Ms Susan Karoly, Mr David Rowe, Ms Heidi Stabb, Ms Kelly Skilton, Ms Lorraine Threlfall, Mr Dan Wootton.

Presbyteries

<i>Gippsland Loddon-Mallee North East Victoria Port Phillip East Port Phillip West Tasmania Western Victoria Yarra Yarra</i>	Rev Philip Liebelt Rev Gordon Bannon Rev Judy Redman Rev Dr Mark Lawrence Rev Robert Renton Mr Ivan Badcock Rev Brian Cole Rev Geoff Barker Rev Kevin Dobson	Ms Helen Day Rev Kevin Barton Mrs Heather McKean Ms Hannah Dungan Ms Jenny Hayes Rev Carol Bennett Mr Scott Guyatt Rev Jeff Dart Mr Robert Elkhuisen	Mrs Wendy McDonald Mrs Lupe Tauoefolau Ms Joan McRae Rev Jay Robinson Rev Dr Avril Hannah-Jones Mrs Merril Clayton Rev Gi Won Kang Mrs Jenny Clark Ms Jean Gador-Whyte
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SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Rev Ron Larkin (Moderator)
 Mrs Kay Dowling (General Secretary)
 Ministers: Rev Raymond Clee, Rev John Dunn, Rev Steve Francis, Rev Vivien Larkin, Rev Brenton Prigge, Rev Lorraine Stokes, Rev Ken Williams, Rev Marie Wilson.
 Lay: Ms Sophia Lizares Bodegon, Mr Doug Burtenshaw, Ms Gail Cresswell, Mr Geoff Ebell, Ms Cheryl Lawson, Mr Robert Watson, Mr Jordan Gibbs, Ms Belinda Morrell.

Presbytery of Western Australia

Rev Dr Ian Tozer
 Ms Alison Atkinson-Phillips

Co-opted members:

Rev Dr Anita Munro	Ms Capri O'Malley	Ms Amanda Thomson
Mr Nick Patselis	Mrs Danica Patselis	

B. NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS

1. Guests from overseas churches

Mrs Olive Tanielu, Methodist Church of New Zealand
Very Rev Dr David Lunan, Church of Scotland
Rev Fei Taue'ale'asumai, Council for World Mission
Dr Kobus Gerber, Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa
Rev. Prince Devanandan, Christian Conference of Asia
Rev David Bush, World Methodist Council
Rev Martin Baker, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
Mr Ngatokorua (Nga) Mataio, Cook Islands Christian Church
Pastor Obed Moses, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu
Rev Bernard Siai, United Church in Papua New Guinea
Rev Kibaunimatang Robuti Rimon, Kiribati Protestant Church
Rev Wilfred Kurepitu, United Church in Solomon Islands
Rev Teleke Lauiti, Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, Tuvalu Congregational Church
Rev'd Dr. Tevita H. Palefau, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
Rev Arthur Pihigia, Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue
Mr M.M.Philip, The Church of South India Synod
Rev Yoo Jung – Sung, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
Bishop P.K.Samantaroy, Church of North India
Bishop Dr Wayan Sudira Husada, Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Rev. Dong-Hwa Tae, Korean Methodist Church
Rev Sayam Muangsak, The Church of Christ in Thailand
Rev Robert Pitronela Sayuna, Protestant Evangelical Church in Timor
Rev Dr Pusin Tali, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
Mr Jan Rumbrar, Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua
Dr John Chr Ruhlessin, Protestant Church in the Maluccas
Rev Moises Da Silva, Protestant Church in East Timor
Bishop Roel Mendoza, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Rev Dr Albert Wilfred Jebanesan, The Methodist Church in Sri Lanka
Rev Amos Ndhlumbi, The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Ms Pah Zesly, Tanaoba Lais Manekat ("Serving with Love") Foundation, West Timor
Rev. Gao Feng, China Christian Council (CCC)
Rev Seong Gi Cho, Presbyterian Church of Korea

2. Guests from Australian churches and church bodies

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Haddad, Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Dr Jeffrey Driver, Anglican Church of Australia
Rev Dr Mike Semmler, Lutheran Church of Australia
Rev Tara Curlewis, National Council of Churches in Australia
Lt Colonel Graham Durston, The Salvation Army, Eastern Territory
Sr. Elizabeth Delaney, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Fr Shenouda Mansour, Coptic Church

3. Additional guests from Australian churches attending the Opening Service

Pastor David Helyard, Australian Christian Churches
Rev Fr. Strahinja Janjic, Serbian Orthodox Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand

4. Representatives of Other Faiths attending the Opening Service

Mr Siva Selvakulalingam, Hindu Society of South Australia

5. Associated with Assembly:

Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee	Mr Peter Andrews Mr Mark Neasy
Beneficiary Fund	Rev Dr Robert Hoskin, Mr Ian Glenny Mr Jim Mein
Christian Unity Working Group	Rev Dr Sandy Yule
Frontier Services	Mrs Rosemary Young
Defence Force Chaplaincy	Rev Gale Hall
Historical Reference Committee	Dr Andrew Thornley
Legal Reference Committee	Mr Warwick van Ede
UnitingCare Australia	Mrs Lin Hatfield Dodds
UnitingJustice Australia	Rev Elenie Poulos Ms Janeen Barker Mr Colin Cargill
Relations with Other Faiths	Dr Richard Dennis
Theology and Discipleship	Rev Sef Carroll Rev Carolyn Thornley

UC Adult Fellowship
UnitingWorld
Introduction to Manual for Meetings
Proposal from the Relations with
Other Faiths Reference Group

Rev Alistair Christie
Rev Dr Kerry Enright
Dr Jill Tabart
Rev Dr Keith Rowe

Ministerial Matters

1. DEACONS

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

Received by ordination

John Brentnall
Sharon Cutts
Nigel Hawken
Aimee Kent

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Received by ordination

Craig Batty
Jenny Busch
Heather den Houting
Louise Edwards
Peter Harvey
Tom Kerr
Monique Mawbey
Bob Mitchell
Sue Pickering
Rosalyn Smail

SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Received by ordination

Christa Megaw
Naomi Rosenberg
Juleen Villis
Peter Wait

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Received by ordination

Gavin Blakemore
Bronwyn Morton

Received by admission or readmission

Darryn Hickling

Recognition has been withdrawn

Peggy Kruse
Paul Teusner

Deaths

Malcolm Scott

SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Received by ordination

Emma Matthews

2. MINISTERS OF THE WORD

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

Received by ordination

Grahame Abrahams
Mary Bryceson
Robert Buchan
Jennifer Burns
Mark Collins
Judith Dalton
Robin Davies
Nicole Fleming
Mary-Jane French
Chris Goringe
Rob Hanks
Mata Hiliau
Raymond Joso
Haloti Taasi Kailahi
Esther Kim
Kwang Min Kim
Junmo Koo
Ronald Law
Shingoo Lee
Matthew McBurney
Raymond Leslie McIlwraith
Kerrie Needham
Steven Parker
William Pearson
Ann Perrin
Mel Pouvalu
Viniana Ravetali
Jorge Rebolledo
David Riethmuller
Elizabeth Richardson
Nigel Rogers
Martin Schulzer
Apelu Tielu
Ian Tucker

Received by admission or readmission

Ron Brookman
Sam Yeol Cho
Gabby Kobrossi
Ockert Meyer
Mark Muss
Alex Thomas

Recognition has been withdrawn

(i) Resignation

Ruth Sandiford-Phelan
Esther Smart
Peter Walker
W Gordon Watson

Deaths

Eric Atkin
Harold Allsopp
Philip Chan
Garland Dillon
Wilbur Dundas
Peter Elliott
Ken Fox
Euan Fry
John Garrett
Cyril Goodwin
Harry Graves
Brian Harvey
Eric Hewer
Peter Holden
Geoffrey Jones

Maxwell Ernest Kelly
Semisi (James) Latu
John Mallison
Kenyon McDowell
Frank McInnes
Victor Neideck
Brian Nicholls
Robert O'Sullivan
James Peter
Gordon Price
Raymond Pritchard
Robert R Smith
George Stewart
Gradon Clement Swain
Keith Sweeting
David Taylor
Gordon Trickett
Rudolf Versloot
Eric Bruce Wright

NORTHERN SYNOD

Received by ordination

Salomo Bangun
Timothy Wanamayku

Deaths

Rev Mawandjil Garrawirtja

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Received by ordination

Heather Allison
Suzie Castle
Lin Chew
Narelle Collas
Harlee Cooper
Dennis Cousens
John Dansie
Kate Dix
Jock Dunbar
Moses Fangupo
David Ferguson
Rod Fisher
Leonie Gaffel
Jim Haak
Linda Hamill
Sandra Jebb
Euan McDonald
Joanne Nottle
Melanie Perkins
Kerry Pierce
Gregory Rankin
John Saunders
Keren Seto
Suzy Sitton
Luke Smallwood
Dona Spencer
Dave Thomas
Melanie Wheeley
Victor Wolfgramm
Paul Yarrow

Received by admission or readmission

Rev Bruce Bartleet
Rev Orrell Battersby
Rev Brian Nagel
Rev Peter Overton

Rev Leva Pat
Rev Dr Schalk Pienaar
Rev Costa Stathakis

Deaths

Roland Barnes
Robert Fulcher
John Gillingham
Frank Harmon
Alton Roy Hilderbrand
Evan Jones
Colin Kay
Noel Kidd
Laumua Kofe
Roderick Lugton
Scott McPheat
Charles Noller
Keith Pearson
Eric Linford (Lin) Reilly
Des Rienecker
Ian Russell
John Thiesfield
Carl Thompson
Leslie (Les) Wyer

Recognition has been withdrawn

(i) Resignation

Paul Jensen
Michael Skinner
Stephen Templeton

SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Received by ordination

Sarah Agnew
Vicky Balabanski
Dianna Bartlett
Matthew Bond
Kynan Brookes
Benji Callen
Matthew Carratt
Michael Dowling
Naomi Duke
Dieter Engler
Coralie Evans
Tim Hein
David Hoffman
Jenni Hughes
John Hughes
David Kowalick
Douglas Manaham
Amel Manyon
Liellie McLaughlin
Roger Modra
Stephen Monaghan
Titus Ng
Beatrice Panne
Julia Pitman
Peter Riggs
Andrew Robertson
Martin Rosenberg
Ernest Sorensen
Matthew Stuart
Peter Trudinger
Nathan Whillas

Received by admission or readmission

Ian Hunter

Deaths

Tony Baker
John Donald Bentley
Edgar V P (Ted) Bray
Alan Ernest Davis
Jeff Henry Drake
Os Edwards
Wali Fejo
Frederick Angus Alexander Foley
Douglas James Gibson
Francis Verdun Hansen
Don John Howland
George Robert Iles
Dennis Maxwell Kowalick
Robert John Miller
Clive Wyndham Morey
David Carscadden Muirhead
Harold Dean Pitman
Geoffrey Weston Pope
George William Potter
Desmond Charles Smith
Peter Donald Stephens
Brian Garth Tossell
L Trelawney Ugalde
Peter Rowland Whittington

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Received by ordination

Sandy Brodine
Brendan Byrne
Kylie Crabbe
Caro Field
Tony Lai
Michele Lees
Denise Liersch
Linley Liersch
Tina Lyndon Ng
David Manzoney
Lauren Mosso
Amanda Nicholas
Susan Pearse
Julianne Ross
Lorraine Saultry
Jan Sebastian
Susan Stott
David Thompson
Ikani Vaitohi
Joanna Wierenga
Martin Wright
Robin Yang

Received by admission or readmission

Heather Marshall

Tony Johnson
Peter Cannon
Andrew Gall
Iose Tuigamala

Recognition has been withdrawn

(i) Resignation

Neil Povey

(ii) Committee for Discipline

Christopher Lawson

Deaths

Marilyn Boatman
Ernest Cass
Graham Clark
Murray Coombe
Alan Coulson
Ian Crouch
J Edwin Davies
James Drysdale
Horace Dunkin
W Kenneth Elliott
M Helen Feeney
Jack Flentje
Elsie French
Graeme Griffin
Wilfred Griffiths
Graeme Hawkins
David Hodges
William Howden
Bernadette Hurley
C John Hutton
Garry Jacobs
John Jebb
Arthur Jones
Don Kube
Ronald Lawton
Wesley Lutton
Robert Maclachlan
Norman Marshall
James Martin
Gordon McGregor
Charles McLeod
A Melville McMaster
William McMillan
Robert Mitchell
J Stuart Murray
John Newnham
David Ryrie
G Rex Sharrad
C Keith Shuey
Sijbren Sijbranda
Denis Simmons
Douglas Tasker
Frederik Van Emmerik
Aminiasi Qalo Volau
J Stan Waite
Allan Wendelken
Matthew Willicombe
Duncan Watson
Nigel Watson

SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Received by ordination

Catherine Lambert
Dean Clark
Jeff Savage
Toby Keva
Ruth Vertigan

Received by admission or readmission

Emanuel Audisho
Jeremy Kim

Deaths

J. Chris Buys
Inoke Nabulivou
Harold Cox
Frank (Jock) Drysdale
Allan Rankine
Maxwell Smith
Desmond Fielding

3. DEACONESSES

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

Deaths

Jo Clark
Winifred Hilliard
Marjorie Alice Somerville
Thora Thomas

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Deaths

Margaret Henderson

SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Deaths

Ruth Ramsay

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Deaths

Mary Bates
Virginia Davey
Doreen Galbraith
Joan (Poppy) Mawhinney
Shirley McRae
Nancy Rouse

4. YOUTH WORKERS

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Who have been recognised

Joanne Nottle
Faye Talatonu

5. LAY PASTORS

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

Who have been recognised

Lorraine Fenemore
Darren Wright

SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Deaths

Col Amos

Ralph Swain
Ralph Peinkinna

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

No longer recognised

Don Cracknell
Lyn Fowler
Wendy Groot
Dulcie Loats
Jack Loats
Elwyn Pedersen
Joy Robinson
Walter Sholl

6. COMMUNITY MINISTERS

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

Death

Anne McPherson

NORTHERN SYNOD

Who have been commissioned

Richard Dhangalangal
Joseph Wanydjung Dhurrkay
Timothy Buthimany Dhurrkay
Kevin Buwathay Munyarr'yan

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

No longer recognised

Frances Seen

Information supplied by Synods June 2012

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