

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

At 1.35pm on Saturday, 9 July 1994, the Seventh Assembly was formally constituted with prayer by the President, Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood.

OPENING ACTIONS

94.01 ROLL OF ASSEMBLY (see Appendix A)

The Assembly resolved to adopt the roll of members, subject to alteration advised to the General Secretary of the Assembly no later than 7.30pm, 11 July 1994.

94.02 PRESIDENT

The Assembly resolved that Jillian Claire Tabart be elected as President to hold office until the installation of her successor at the next ordinary meeting of the Assembly.

94.03 MINISTERS OF THE WORD, DEACONS, DEACONESSES AND YOUTH WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED (see Appendix B)

The General Secretary tabled the names of 167 Ministers of the Word, 33 Deacons, 4 Deaconesses and 27 Youth Workers who have been received by the Uniting Church since the previous Assembly. The deacons and youth workers who were present were welcomed with applause, as the first members of those two new specified ministries to participate in a meeting of the Assembly.

94.04 MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND DEACONESSES WHO HAVE DIED (see Appendix C)

The General Secretary tabled the names of 99 Ministers of the Word and 2 Deaconesses who have died since the Sixth Assembly. The Assembly observed a period of silence as a mark of respect and was led in prayer by the ex-President, Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood.

94.05 BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Introducing Business Procedures

Mr Geoff Grinton and Rev Hamish Christie-Johnston led a session introducing business procedures including *A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church* prepared as a result of discussions at the 5th Assembly.

Mr Bruce Irvine presented the report of the Business Committee.

The Assembly resolved:

94.05.01 to receive the report;

94.05.02 **Association of Persons with the Assembly**

to associate the following persons with the Assembly for the business as listed, with the right to speak but not to vote:

- Revs Dr Davis McCaughey, David Gill, Winston O'Reilly and Ian Tanner, and Sir Ronald Wilson - for the whole of the Assembly;
- Revs Graham Brookes, Brian Smith and Ann Wansbrough, Ms Kate Graham and Ms Joy Balazo - for the report of the Commission for Mission and related business;
- Rev Laurie Turner - for the report of the Beneficiary Fund and related business;
- Rev Bern Stevens - for the report of the Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths and related business;
- Rev Heather Marshall - for the report of the National Education Committee and related business;
- Rev Dr Robert Bos - for the reports of the Ministerial Education Commission and the Working Group on reception of ministers from Asia and the Pacific and related business;
- Rev Colville Crowe, Mr John Emmett and Mr Craig Mitchell - for the report of the Joint Board of Christian Education and related business;
- Mr David Lusby - for the report on Ballots and Nominating Procedures and related business;
- Rev Brian Whitlock - for the report of Community Services Australia and related business;
- Ms Robyn Richardson - for the report of the Business Committee and related business;
- Mr John Shipway - for the reports of the Development Committee, the Finance Committee, the Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths and the Task Group on UAICC and Church Assets and related business;
- Revs Bev Fabb and Joyce Wilkins for the discussion on the Commission on Doctrine's motion to rescind the Sixth Assembly decision on ordination and related business;
- Ms Nonie Wales for the report of the Commission on Women and Men and related business;

94.05.03 **Appointment of Business Committee**

to appoint the following persons as members of the Business Committee for the Seventh Assembly: Bruce Irvine (Chairperson), the President, the General Secretary, Denise Camerson, Malcolm Gledhill, Geoff Grinton, Lillian Hadley, Gale Hall, Robert Johnson, Ron Porter, Robyn Richardson and Helen Robertson;

94.05.04 **Daily Record**

to appoint the following persons as minute secretaries: Ron Porter (Convener), Joyce Acheson, Carole Brown, Carolyn Burcham, Danielle Deutscher, Iris Elgueta, Robyn Henry, Flo Laver, Lee Lowe, Elsie Messinbird, Allanah Shannon, Christine Stephens, Caitlin Stone and Gillian Stone;

94.05.05 **Order of Business**

to approve the order of business and provisional timetable as submitted by the Business Committee including changes proposed in the first session;

94.05.06 **"A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church"**

- (a) to adopt the procedures of *A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church* for the business of the Seventh Assembly from Sunday morning onwards, including the use of working groups and voting cards as outlined in paragraph 4.5 and the amended paragraph 4.6 of the report of the Business Committee;
- (b) to request the Standing Committee to:
 - (i) revise the *Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church* following evaluation of its use at this Assembly;
 - (ii) commend the *Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church*, after revision, for use by the councils of the church in place of the current Standing Orders;

94.05.07 **Motions - Financial Commitment**

to determine that any motion or amendment proposed at this Assembly which may involve a financial commitment not currently provided for in the Assembly budgets, or which may establish a priority on the use of resources of the Assembly and/or its agencies, be subject to comment by the Finance Committee and/or the Development Committee before determination by the Assembly;

94.05.08 **Confirmation of the Minutes**

to authorise the following persons to confirm the minutes of the Seventh Assembly: the President, the General Secretary, Pat Dale, Bruce Irvine, Ron Porter and D'Arcy Wood.

94.06 BALLOTS AND NOMINATING PROCEDURES

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.06.01 to appoint Mr David Lusby as Returning Officer and Mr Richard Manton as Deputy Returning Officer;
- 94.06.02 to appoint a Ballot Committee which shall be responsible for advising the Assembly on any questions relating to elections;
- 94.06.03 to appoint the following persons as the members of the Ballot Committee: David Lusby (Convener), Malcolm Gledhill, Marelle Harisun, Margaret Williams, D'Arcy Wood;
- 94.06.04 to appoint the following persons as scrutineers: Neville Campbell, Bruce Dingle, John Dolling, Robin Glover, Robin Krause, Cheryl Lawrie, Pauline Loughhead, Anne Rendell, Peter Robson, Betty Stroud, Win Ward, Matthew Wilson, Margaret Burns, Wendi Sargeant, Greg Ross, Jeff Suptut;
- 94.06.05 **Nominating & Voting Procedures**
 - (a) to adopt the nominating and voting procedures as detailed in section 4 of the report;
 - (b) to determine that nominations close at 7.30pm on Monday 11 July 1994.

94.07 RECEIPT OF OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS (see Appendix D)

The Assembly resolved to receive the listing of official communications to the Seventh Assembly distributed by the General Secretary.

94.08 COVENANTING STATEMENT (see Appendix E)

The Assembly resolved:

to insert at the commencement of paragraph 14 the following words: "The Church has already made transfers of property to Aboriginal people in recognition of our history. At this meeting, the Assembly will determine its response to the further specific request from the Congress. ...".

94.09 COMPOSITION OF ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.09.01 (a) to determine that in relation to elections for membership of Assembly bodies, this Assembly and its Standing Committee, unless the mandate of a particular body states otherwise, shall abide by the requirements of Assembly minute 91.9.1, ie:

"That all Assembly Commissions, Boards, Committees, Task Groups and Agencies be required to have a minimum representation of members of each gender:

- (a) from 1991, as nearly as practicable, at least one third of the membership;
- (b) from 1997, as nearly as practicable, 50% of membership.";

- (b) to authorise the Standing Committee to take such action as it considers appropriate to resolve any problems in applying the requirements of minute 91.9.1;

- 94.09.02 to determine that the elected membership of the Standing Committee shall include:

- at least two persons 25 years or under who shall not be taken into account for the purposes of Regulation 3.6.25(b);
- no fewer than eight persons of each gender;

- 94.09.03 to determine that the membership of the Commission on Doctrine comprise:

- (a) a Chairperson elected by the Assembly, being from the Synod of New South Wales area;
- (b) ten persons elected by the Assembly, being from the Synod of New South Wales area;
- (c) one person appointed by the Commission on Liturgy, who is a member of that Commission;
- (d) up to five additional persons co-opted by Standing Committee on the nomination of the Commission.

94.10 RETIRING PRESIDENT

Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood addressed the Assembly.

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.10.01 to receive the report of the Retiring President, Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood;

- 94.10.02 to record its warm appreciation for the sensitive and pastoral leadership given to

the church by the Revd Dr D'Arcy Wood as its President for the three years from 1991 to 1994; the Assembly gives thanks to God for his ministry, not only to the Uniting Church, but to the wider church and in the community:

Resolution of Appreciation of the Retiring President

As D'Arcy entered the Opening Service of the Sixth Assembly, led in by the Tongan Choir, the congregation sang:

Behold the servant of the Lord
who waits your guiding eye to feel,
to hear and keep your every word,
to prove and do your perfect will;
joyful from his own works to cease,
glad to fulfil all righteousness.

That hymn expresses the commitment D'Arcy has to his Lord and the commitment he has shown in all he has done during his three years as President.

D'Arcy, we thank you for the way you have given so much of yourself to the Uniting Church and for the way you, by the way you live, have led us to greater self giving.

Hymns highlight the great contribution D'Arcy has made to the use of music in the church. Not only is he intimately involved in the preparation of the revision to *The Australian Hymn Book*, he has also brought *Sing Alleluia* alive to thousands of people across Australia.

One of D'Arcy's continuing loves is liturgy. He was the first convenor of the Liturgy Commission and the Consultant on liturgy before becoming President. He has maintained these links during his time as President. Whenever he has been able he has attended Commission meetings in Brisbane and, through participation in these meetings and through his encouragement and willingness to consult and advise, he has continued to serve the Commission and the Uniting Church with his great experience and scholarship.

D'Arcy has also given his expertise to the wider church and is very highly regarded for his dedication and work in liturgy in churches of many denominations both in Australia and overseas. He is an active member and past-President of the Australian Academy of Liturgy. Until 1992 he was a Uniting Church representative on the Australian Consultation on Liturgy (ACOL) and in 1991 was one of their representatives at the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) in Toronto. The World Methodist Council appointed him, in 1991, as the Chairperson of its Worship and Liturgy Committee and in 1993 he attended the Conference of Societas Liturgica in Fribourg.

Ecumenical relationships have for many years been of considerable interest to D'Arcy and he has continued to represent the Uniting Church in many significant ways since becoming President.

Not only has he been a member of the Australian Council of Churches, he has been very involved in the inauguration of the new National Council of Churches in Australia. His ecumenical activities beyond Australia have taken him as far afield as Singapore, Toronto, Samoa, Tonga, South India, and Bulgaria. Within Australia he has been involved in dialogue with the Lutherans, the Greek Orthodox and the Jews. His insights and humility have enhanced these meetings.

One of the special contributions D'Arcy has made has been his willingness to

be involved in negotiating with politicians. With a number of other Uniting Church leaders he was responsible for both political parties modifying their economic policies before the last federal election. It is interesting to note that politicians are now seeking advice from the church. D'Arcy's settlement in a parish in Canberra has seen him well placed to speak for the church on matters of public concern. His evenhandedness, integrity and restraint in dealing with these matters have earned him the respect of the church.

D'Arcy has lived out the commitment of the church to the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. He has listened well and done all in his power to represent the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Islander people to the church, the community and the government. He took an active role in representing the views of Aboriginal people to the government when legislation on native title was being prepared. He has also been an enthusiastic supporter of Shalom College.

Those who have had the privilege of serving on the Assembly Standing Committee have come to appreciate the wise and gentle leadership of D'Arcy as President. We have not had an autocratic leader but a wise shepherd who takes a real interest in and care for the flock. He has listened carefully and always expressed concern for those feeling hurt or confused by the decisions or actions of the church. His pastoral attitude has encouraged the Standing Committee to make decisions with prayer and care.

D'Arcy has added his support to assembly commissions and committees by attending meetings whenever possible. Those who have shared in these meetings have found that his careful listening to all sides of an issue has enabled him to be meticulously fair with very balanced opinions. His quiet gentle encouragement has been much appreciated.

D'Arcy has been unstinting in his willingness to visit the church right across Australia. From east to west and from north to south, from the coast and plains to the Centre and the outback, he has been involved in conferences, presbyteries and parishes. He has visited synods and his visits have brought encouragement to the church. He has made himself equally available to all and this has had a toll on his health but not on his spirit.

And everywhere he has encouraged us to sing.

During his years as President D'Arcy has continued to serve his parish in a part time capacity. We thank them for the support they have given him, and the gift they have given to the church in their willingness to share him.

The Assembly records its appreciation of Janet Wood also. Janet has made and continues to make an enormous contribution to the church in her own right. She is one of the most remarkable women in the church in Australia. She has also been an enormous support for D'Arcy during his time as President. Janet, we thank God for you and for what you mean to our retiring President.

D'Arcy and Janet, we thank you for all you have given us. We pray that God's richest blessing will be with you both as you lay down this great responsibility.

We pray in words from Arnhem Land, versified by D'Arcy:

O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr,
all the power belongs to you.
Hold them by this power, O Lord,
You alone are king.
Now we praise you for your Word,

living, true and full of light.
Yours the hands that rest on them;
hold them for all time.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

94.11 STANDING COMMITTEE

The General Secretary presented the report of the Standing Committee.

The Assembly resolved:

94.11.01 to receive the report;

94.11.02 Reappointment of General Secretary

to reappoint Rev Gregor Henderson as General Secretary of the Assembly for a term of six years from 1 January 1995;

94.11.03 Treatment of Bequests

that:

- (a) subject to any contrary direction of the Standing Committee, all gifts made by will to the Uniting Church in Australia (or an equivalent expression) without designation of a particular council or other body of the church shall be paid initially into an Assembly Capital Fund;
- (b) the Standing Committee shall consider and may determine the claim of any council or body of the church or any other person or body to an interest in any such gift;
- (c) the initial consideration on behalf of the Assembly of any such gift (and any claims or submissions in relation thereto) shall be given by the Assembly Finance Committee which shall bring recommendations for the application of the gift to the Standing Committee;
- (d) the Standing Committee shall, after considering all questions which it regards as relevant to the application of the gift, determine the application of the gift;
- (e) the Assembly retains the right to review any such determination made by the Standing Committee;

94.11.04 Baptism

to resolve in the same terms as Standing Committee resolution 93.68.2 with the exception of the following words in paragraph 93.68.2.3(a):

"and/or the inappropriateness of remaining a minister of the Uniting Church";

viz:

"that in light of:

- (a) the Uniting Church's position on baptism:
 - "that the Uniting Church will baptise those who confess the Christian faith, and children who are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the Church takes responsibility" (Basis of Union para.

7); and

- "that baptism is unrepeatable" (Assembly minutes 79.22.4, 79.22.7, 82.53.2, Assembly Standing Committee minute 85.142);
- (b) the 1985 Assembly's decision "to require all Uniting Church Ministers, Elders' Councils and Congregations to preach, teach and administer the sacrament of Baptism in accordance with the Church's adopted position" (minute 85.39.1);
- (c) the wide discussion in the church on the question posed in the Assembly discussion paper "The water that unites" - "should the Uniting Church accommodate ordained ministers and/or councils of elders who believe that they should administer baptism only to those who personally confess the Christian faith?"; and
- (d) the responses of church councils to the above question posed in "The water that unites" which indicate that of the councils which responded an overwhelming majority of presbyteries and synods and a substantial majority of councils of elders are against such accommodation;

Standing Committee determines to act on behalf of the Assembly and resolves:

1. (a) to declare that all ministers and councils of elders are required to baptise both those unbaptised persons who confess the Christian faith and children who are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the church takes responsibility, and that therefore there is no provision for the accommodation of ministers and councils of elders who will baptise only those who personally confess the Christian faith;
- (b) to require presbyteries to ensure this decision is communicated to all ministers and councils of elders;
2. that presbyteries, in giving attention to the pastoral and administrative oversight of ministers and pastoral charges within their bounds [under Regulation 3.4.4(a)], counsel ministers and councils of elders concerning their obligation to provide for and baptise those who confess the Christian faith and children who are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the church takes responsibility;
3. (a) that presbyteries, when counselling a minister who declares he or she is unable to accept the church's position and discipline concerning the administration of baptism:
 - (i) provide a period of time in which the minister might review his or her position;
 - (ii) if a minister, after a period of time deemed appropriate by the presbytery, remains unable to accept the church's position and discipline concerning the administration of baptism, counsel the minister concerning the inappropriateness of being in a settlement involving the administration of baptism;
 - (iii) during such time of review, in conjunction with the council of elders, ensure that appropriate provision is made for the administration of baptism, according to the church's position, together with appropriate teaching, instruction and nourishment in the faith;
- (b) to request synods to provide a means whereby presbyteries can be assisted in implementing 3(a);
4. that presbyteries be required to:
 - (a) ensure that settlement is approved only after assuring themselves that the minister will baptise those who confess the Christian faith and children who

are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the church takes responsibility;

- (b) instruct candidates for ordination that the church's ordination vows involve an acceptance of the church's position on baptism and an obligation to baptise those who confess the Christian faith and children who are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the church takes responsibility;
 - (c) inform applicants for the ordained ministries that the church's ordination vows involve an acceptance of the church's position on baptism and an obligation to baptise those who confess the Christian faith and children who are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the church takes responsibility;
- 5. (a) to establish a task group to develop strategies and resources for the better understanding and practice of baptism in the Uniting Church including consideration of Appendix Two of the report and to report to a later meeting of Standing Committee;
 - (b) to authorise the President, General Secretary and Hamish Christie-Johnston to act on behalf of Standing Committee in appointing the members of the task group;
- 6. to affirm that the church will:
 - (a) continue to welcome within its membership people who have different convictions relating to baptism; and
 - (b) remain open to the possibility that these issues relating to baptism may need to be addressed in the context of future conversations regarding union with other churches;
 - 7. to communicate these decisions to all ministers, councils of elders, presbyteries and synods as soon as practicable;
 - 8. to request the task group to revise its report with a view to the revised report being distributed to all synods and presbyteries and being available to others on request."

(Paragraphs 5 and 8 of the above resolution were implemented by the Assembly prior to the Seventh Assembly)

94.12 THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary presented his report.

The Assembly resolved:

94.12.01 to receive the report;

94.12.02 to record its appreciation of the work of the Rev Rex A E Hunt as head of communications services for the Assembly since January 1986:

Rex commenced working within the Department of Office Support Services of the Commission for Mission in 1986. With the creation of the Assembly Communications Unit Rex became the first person to serve in the national position of Director of Communications, from January 1991 to December 1994.

Rex has made a vital pioneering contribution to the Assembly's and Uniting Church's communications functions. Most time has been given to production

of printed resources for the Assembly and Sydney-based Assembly agencies - the number of which has grown annually despite Rex's concerns that the print media are not the only way of communicating within and outside of the church.

Rex has been instrumental in bringing about much greater co-ordination and co-operation across the communications services of the synods, especially through the development of National Communications Group. The provision of communications and media services to meetings of the Assembly since 1988 is a superb example of the fruits of this co-operation.

Rex has also provided a general media relations service to the Assembly, especially to the President and General Secretary, although he has been much restricted in providing this service by the inability of the Assembly to provide the needed resources and staff time. Alongside his main responsibilities, Rex has made important contributions to the computerisation of the Assembly office, to the Network of Biblical Storytellers throughout the church in Australia, to the Christian Television Association in NSW, to the valued magazine "Ministry", and to maintaining Australian contact with international Christian communications bodies.

The Assembly thanks Rex for the big difference he has made to the Assembly's communications since 1986, and looks forward to his continuing contribution to the Uniting Church as he moves into the next phase of his ministry in the service of Jesus Christ.

94.13 BENEFICIARY FUND

Rev Clem Dickinson and Rev Laurie Turner presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report.

94.14 CATO LECTURE COMMITTEE

Rev Dr Ian Williams presented the report. The lecturer, Dr Jane Dempsey-Douglass, was presented to the Assembly.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report of the Cato Lecture Committee.

94.15 COMMISSION ON DOCTRINE

Rev Chris Mostert presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

94.15.01 to receive the report;

94.15.02 to reaffirm the mutuality and equality of the ministry of the Word and the ministry of Deacon;

94.15.03 (a) to recognise ordination as the setting apart of persons for ministry as ministers of the Word or as deacons, and understand ordination to these

two ministries as two distinct ordinations;

- (b) to declare that the provisions of sub-clause (a) above do not affect the validity of actions taken pursuant to minute 91.13.5(a) of the Sixth Assembly;
 - (c) to determine that this resolution take effect when the appropriate consequential amendments to the Constitution takes effect;
- 94.15.04 (a) to note the intention to hold regional consultations in the Synods of the Uniting Church in Australia on matters relating to ordination, open to all interested persons;
- (b) to encourage representatives of the Commission on Doctrine and representatives of deacons to meet together to discuss issues of common concern in respect of ordination and request the Standing Committee to make available travel costs for such a meeting.

94.16 COMMISSION ON ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS

Rev Dr Norman Young and Ms Hilary Christie-Johnston presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.16.01 to receive the report;
- 94.16.02 (a) to receive warmly the report of the Lutheran Church of Australia/Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue and express satisfaction at the results achieved;
- (b) to authorise the Standing Committee on the basis of advice from the Commission on Doctrine to seek comment from synods, presbyteries and relevant Assembly agencies in order to bring a recommendation to the Eighth Assembly in relation to entering into pulpit and altar fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Australia.

94.17 COMMISSION ON LITURGY

Rev Helen Mills presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report.

94.18 COMMISSION FOR MISSION

Ms Janet Wood, Rev Dr Dorothy McRae-McMahon and other members and staff of the Commission presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.18.01 to receive the report;
- 94.18.02 **Use of water in the recollection of baptism**
- (a) to ask congregations to make a greater use of the services of worship contained in *Uniting in Worship* and which are designed to assist individual

people, and the congregation as a whole, to reaffirm baptism;

- (b) to note that the Commission is continuing the process of exploring the issue of adult people coming to faith and their incorporation into the life of the church and will report further to the next assembly;

94.18.03 **Unemployment**

- (a) to recognise the serious effects of unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, on individuals, their families and the whole community and commend the report to the church for study and action, noting that the Social Responsibility and Justice Committee is developing an educational kit based on the report and suitable for parish use;
- (b) to adopt section 13 of the Report, Policy Implications, as amended, as a statement of the Assembly, under the title of "A call for justice concerning employment" (see Appendix F);
- (c) to request the Social Responsibility and Justice Committee to use this statement as the basis for continuing and more specific work, including dialogue with other churches, government and community groups;
- (d) to request the Social Responsibility and Justice Committee to continually review the policy implications and to report any significant revisions to a future Assembly or Standing Committee for decision;
- (e) to request parishes and presbyteries to share the stories of their programs and action in response to unemployment, and ask the Social Responsibility and Justice Committee to facilitate the sharing of these stories and networking;
- (f) to express the concern of the church that the urgent matter of unemployment not become an issue for point scoring within political and other agendas;

94.18.04 **Bougainville**

- (a) to express its concerns to the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island Churches, the Solomon Island Christian Association, the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in Australia about the continued struggle and suffering of the people of Bougainville;
- (b) to encourage the Commission for Mission to continue to seek ways as to how the churches in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Australia may more effectively seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict;
- (c) to send a delegation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to
 - (i) express the Assembly's concern about Australia's role in the Bougainville situation, particularly the use of Australian helicopters for military operations in Bougainville, and the alleged participation of Australian military advisers in Papua New Guinea military operations in Bougainville;
 - (ii) discuss the convening of a meeting of government and church representatives from Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Australia and the Bougainville Interim Government with the aim of seeking a peaceful and just solution to the Bougainville conflict;

94.18.05 **East Timor**

- (a) in light of the ongoing repression and human rights violations inflicted on the East Timorese people by the Indonesian government, to call on the Australian Government to recognise the right of self-determination of the East Timorese people and to work to ensure the presence of East Timorese representatives at any international talks on the future of East Timor;
- (b) that the Assembly request the National Council of Churches in Australia to:
 - (i) call on the Prime Minister of Australia to ensure that human rights principles are included in the conduct of foreign policy with the Indonesian Government in relation to trade, military and economic aid, and weapons sales;
 - (ii) call on the Australian Government to halt military aid and weapons sales to Indonesia until the Indonesian Government ends all forms of inhumane treatment of persons in East Timor including torture, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment; and until the Indonesian Government allows unrestricted access to East Timor by such organisations as Amnesty International and Asia Watch; and until it complies with the United Nations Security Council resolutions in relation to East Timor;
 - (iii) encourage the leaders of the Catholic and Protestant Churches in East Timor in their desire to work for social justice, and in their efforts to achieve meaningful participation by East Timorese indigenous people in decisions that affect their future;
 - (iv) communicate resolutions (a) and (b) to the leaders of the Protestant and Catholic churches in East Timor;

94.18.06 End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT)

given the large involvement of Australians in child prostitution

- (a) to strongly support the ECPAT campaign;
- (b) to encourage church members to use ECPAT information to become fully aware of the serious effects of child prostitution in tourism and to facilitate public discussion on the issues;
- (c) to encourage church members to be active in bringing about just changes by working with the proper authorities to change structures and bring individuals, travel agencies, sporting and social clubs to be accountable before the law in relation to child prostitution in tourism;
- (d) to encourage the Australian Government to ensure that sufficient resources are provided for enforcement of the Crime (Child Sex Tourism) Amendment Act 1994 to make it effective;

94.18.07 Consultation on Ministry in Remote Areas

- (a) to reaffirm the commitment of the 1982 Assembly “that the Uniting Church in Australia has an ongoing responsibility to provide ministry and mission to the people in remote and isolated areas of Australia.” (minute 82.61.3(a));
- (b) to acknowledge the vital roles of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and of Frontier Services in ministry and mission with people in remote areas of Australia;
- (c) to welcome new partnerships emerging between Frontier Services and congregations, presbyteries and synods which enable the further

development of ministries in remote and rural remote areas;

- (d) to welcome the development of closer working relationships between Frontier Services and the UAICC;
- (e) to authorise the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Commission for Mission, its Committees and the UAICC, to determine any changes in the mission structures of the Assembly which may arise from any further developments in the relationships referred to in (c) and (d) above;

Appreciation

- 94.18.08 to record its appreciation for the work of the Rev Dr John Brown who served as Director for Mission from the inauguration of the Commission in 1986 until December 1992:

When the Rev Dr John Brown left the Commission for Mission to take an appointment as Co-ordinator of the National Covenanting Program, he ended more than two decades of direct connection with the national mission work of the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches. He still continues to exercise leadership in mission internationally through his membership of the World Mission and Evangelism Commission of the World Council of Churches.

In his work for the UCA Assembly, John was originally Secretary for World Mission and then, at the time of the formation of the Commission for Mission, became part-time Secretary for National Mission and Evangelism and part-time Director of the Commission. Finally, he was appointed full-time Director of the Commission and ended his term in this position in 1992.

John's work in mission has always been underpinned by a commitment to work theologically in understanding the call of Christ to the church to take up its task in working towards the reign of God in the whole creation. His theological reflections on mission have been recognised internationally.

John Brown gave a lead to the church in naming itself as a multicultural church and lived out this commitment in his life and work, particularly in his relationships with the Korean community.

He was also one of the key people who took initiatives to set up the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and is widely recognised for his commitment to justice for Aboriginal people.

The Assembly celebrates the gifts which John Brown has offered to its life, to the church nationally and internationally and for modelling the mission of God in his own life.

- 94.18.09 to record its appreciation for the work of the Rev Dr Chris Budden who was Secretary for Social Responsibility and Justice from 1986-1991:

Chris will be particularly remembered in this position for his capacity for teamwork with his committee and colleagues and his informal pastoral work among them.

He brought to his work an incisive mind which offered to the church a capacity to analyse situations and critique statements. He added to this his considerable theological skills which helped members of his committee and the church to analyse and act on issues from the perspective of Christian faith. His work on documents and study materials for the church was always well-researched and set in carefully considered theological perspective.

Chris always tried to understand issues from the perspective of the vulnerable and to act in solidarity with oppressed groups both in Australia and overseas.

We give thanks for his faithful work for the Assembly and wish him well in his position as a Presbytery Officer in NSW.

- 94.18.10 to record its appreciation for the work of the Rev Ray Herrmann who served as Associate Secretary of Frontier Services from the inauguration of the Commission for Mission in 1986 until March 1994:

Throughout his time as Associate Secretary, Ray's ministry demonstrated his deep love for people, his innovative spirit and his capacity for hard work.

Ray is a person who sees problems as something to be overcome, particularly when the problem is associated with a pressing human need. His initiative led to the establishment of a range of innovative programs for young children and their parents, school students who needed accommodation and frail elderly people in isolated places.

Ray is a hard worker. To keep in touch with isolated communities and Frontier Services' staff he was constantly travelling, his extensive itineraries becoming something of a legend. On the way, in whatever mode of travelling, to whatever place, Ray would tell the story of Frontier Services and its work.

Above all, Ray is someone who has a genuine love for people. His humour, compassion and generosity quickly put people at ease and enabled him to relate to a wide range of people across the outback and to make real friends for himself and the church wherever he went.

We give thanks for the contribution Ray Herrmann has made to the church and to the people of outback Australia during his time as Associate Secretary of Frontier Services. We wish him well in his work as a parish minister in Brisbane and celebrate the gifts he offers to God's mission in the world.

94.19 COMMISSION ON WOMEN AND MEN

Ms Nonie Wales, Ms Helen Robertson and Rev Anne Ryan presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.19.01 to receive the report;
- 94.19.02 to add an Appendix on "Romantic Relationships within the parish" to the "Procedures for use when complaints of sexual abuse are made against ministers" and to refer the paper "Romantic Relationships within the parish" as circulated with the Assembly papers to the Commission for Women and Men for consideration and report to the Standing Committee, noting that members of the Assembly may comment on the paper to the Commission.

94.20 COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES

Rev Dr Charles Biggs introduced the report.

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.20.01 to receive the report;

94.20.02 to request the Assembly Standing Committee to continue the Committee on Ministries for a further three years;

94.20.03 **Community Ministry**

- (a) to rescind the resolutions of the Sixth Assembly contained in minutes 91.13.6(a), (b) and (c);
- (b) to establish the ministry of community ministry as a lay specified ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia;
- (c) to request the Standing Committee to implement this ministry as soon as possible in terms of Appendix C of the report, subject to the Standing Committee approving those aspects of the proposal not fully determined, including
 - the relationship of the ministry of community minister to lay pastor, lay preacher and elder;
 - procedures for termination and the pastoral care of a congregation in the event of such termination.

94.21 **COMMUNITY SERVICES AUSTRALIA**

Rev Brian Whitlock and Rev Harry Herbert presented the report. The newly appointed Executive Director, Mrs Libby Davies, was introduced to the Assembly.

The Assembly resolved:

94.21.01 to receive the report.

94.22 **COVENANT STEERING COMMITTEE**

Rev Shayne Blackman, Rev Gregor Henderson and Rev Dr John Brown presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

94.22.01 to receive the report;

94.22.02 to declare its hope that local covenant groups will develop solidarity relationships with groups of Aboriginal people and Islander people in their locality, and will inform the rest of the church when supportive actions are required for that group from the wider church;

94.22.03 to request synods to collaborate with the UAICC to develop solidarity links with Aboriginal and Islander organisations with a national or regional office in their area, and to inform the rest of the church of when and what action is required from the wider church in solidarity;

94.22.04 to authorise the Covenant Steering Committee to arrange regional workshops on covenanting for the purpose of encouraging local covenanting activity, and to plan for further steps to be taken in covenanting at the Eighth Assembly in 1997;

94.22.05 to encourage the Covenant Steering Committee to consider arranging a national workshop on covenanting to reflect on the implications of being a covenanting Church, and to plan further steps to be taken in covenanting over the next three years.

94.23 **DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE**

Rev Des Smith and Chaplains Gareth Clayton (Navy), Bob Heathwood (RAAF), and Bruce Roy (Army) presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report.

94.24 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

Rev John Kellett, Rev Allan Thompson, Rev Merle Pearce and Mr John Shipway presented the report of the Development Committee on the review of the distribution of resources of the Uniting Church.

The Assembly resolved:

94.24.01 to receive the report;

94.24.02 Imperatives

noting the key issues arising from the Research Report, to affirm the following imperatives as the basis for improving the resourcing of the life and mission of the Uniting Church in Australia;

- a church having as its goal and focus the mission of Christ, locally, ecumenically, nationally and internationally;
- a church enabling the formation of lay and ordained people in the Spirit for life and ministry in the world;
- a church building community in its own life and in society;
- a church recognising and developing gifts of leadership within the one ministry of Christ;
- a church exercising accountability, providing pastoral oversight of congregations and those in specified ministries;
- a church using effective models of communication in the church and with society;
- a church ordering its life with simplicity and flexibility of structure to enable effective response to the different social patterns throughout Australia;
- a church receiving its finance and property as gift to resource the life and ministry of the church;

94.24.03 Oversight and networking

- (a) to authorise the Development Committee in its further consideration of priorities and the effective use of resources across the sectors of the Uniting Church, to consult with councils of the church to identify and explore practices of oversight and networking, including those currently in use, in order to develop and trial practices of oversight and networking which will enable the church to better respond to imperatives for improving the resourcing of the life and mission of the Uniting Church as adopted by the Assembly;
- (b) to request the Standing Committee to monitor initiatives of the Development Committee as in (a) above with a view to insights and outcomes of their work on oversight and networking being shared widely within the life of the Uniting Church;

- (c) to request the Standing Committee to report to the Eighth Assembly on any matters relating to oversight and networking within the Uniting Church requiring consideration by the Assembly;

94.24.04 **Church Structures**

- (a) because all councils/sectors (congregation, presbytery, synod and Assembly) share in responsibility for enabling, resourcing and engaging in the life and mission of the whole church, and because of the requirement for each of them to give heed to other councils of the church,

to declare that:

- (i) the congregation, as 'the embodiment in one place of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church' has primary responsibility, under the oversight of the presbytery, for determining the nature of the life and mission of the church locally, and for engaging in, enabling and resourcing that life and mission; at the same time, this responsibility may be shared with other congregations in a joint structure, as approved by the Presbytery;
- (ii) the presbytery is the council with primary responsibility, in consultation with congregations and as guided by the synod and Assembly, for oversight of the life and mission of the church in its area, particularly oversight of congregations and of those in the specified ministries;
- (iii) the synod is the council with primary responsibility, in consultation with presbyteries and as guided by the Assembly, for administration and co-ordination of the church's resources of property, finance, human and other resources in order to increase the effectiveness of the life and mission of the whole church, including
 - the development, with presbyteries, of a vision for mission within the Synod area;
 - taking account of the need of the presbyteries, the Assembly and the ecumenical church;
- (iv) the Assembly is the council with primary responsibility, in consultation with presbyteries and synods, for determining policy in doctrine, worship, government and discipline, and for oversight of the life and mission of the whole church;

- (b) in light of (a) above,

to request the Standing Committee, in consultation with appropriate persons representative of all sections of the Uniting Church, to develop proposals for simpler and more flexible church structures, including investigation of:

- (i) the different situations in which flexibility is currently being exercised;
- (ii) the particular needs in the Uniting Church that require alternative models of pastoral and administrative oversight, and which may require amendment to the regulations;
- (iii) the advisability of one local council having responsibility for oversight and resourcing of the life and mission of the congregation;
- (iv) alternatives to the parish for administrative and other relationships between the congregation and the presbytery;
- (v) the difficulties created by functions being duplicated across councils/sectors of the Uniting Church and ways of resolving these

difficulties;

- (vi) changes in the deployment of ministers so their gifts can be more widely available within the church;
- (vii) ways of encouraging and nurturing accountability between councils of the church; and
- (viii) implications for the allocation of resources across councils/sectors of the Uniting Church, with particular reference to improved resourcing of presbyteries so they can better fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with the Basis of Union para. 15(c) and the Constitution clause 26;

and to report with recommendations to the Eighth Assembly;

94.24.05 Ministerial Education

- (a) recognising
 - that there is increased diversity and expectation of choice in the community
 - that a variety of models of theological education are being developed to meet the diversity of mission contexts being met by the church
 - the importance of personal and professional formation as well as growth in awareness of and understanding of the evangelical word taught and proclaimed by the church (ie. the apostolic faith)
 - the increased age of people at ordination

to request the Standing Committee to investigate and report to the Eighth Assembly with recommendations on the future provision of ministerial education for Ministers of the Word, Deacons and Youth Workers, such investigation to involve reception of submissions from members and councils of the church. The report shall give particular attention to:

- (i) an evaluation of:
 - (a) the effectiveness of current education for the varying demands of ministry in the Australian setting, and the capacity of theological graduates to minister in ways that empower the people of God for life and ministry in the world;
 - (b) the ecumenical relationships of Uniting Church colleges;
 - (c) recent changes in education for ministry which are taking place in Uniting Church colleges;
 - (d) whether pre-candidating studies should be obligatory for all people;
 - (e) an action-reflection apprenticeship model;
 - (f) whether theological education could occur more effectively if there were less emphasis on a central location or institution;
 - (g) the use of Distance Theological Education training for Ministers of the Word, Deacons and Youth Workers;
 - (h) the adequacy of the spiritual formation of candidates as persons of faith upheld by creative spiritual disciplines;
- (ii) a consideration of the appropriate number and location of theological

colleges of the Uniting Church, including the suggestion that different colleges might be developed as centres of expertise or excellence in education for a distinctive aspect of or setting for ministry;

- (iii) consideration of the appropriateness, ability and willingness of the church to continue to allocate the current proportion of Mission and Service revenue to ministerial education;
 - (iv) the need or otherwise for a uniform system across Australia for education assistance grants for candidates;
 - (v) the desirability of the Uniting Church having a national policy in relation to the number of candidates accepted in any one year, including the criteria by which applicants are selected and the processes followed by Selection Panels;
 - (vi) the appropriateness and adequacy of present Uniting Church policies and practices in continuing education and formation of ministers in the context of their accountability to the church;
 - (vii) the desirability of settling newly ordained ministers in appointments where they will receive adequate supervision, mentoring and peer support;
 - (viii) an evaluation of the present academic and professional standing of theological colleges of the Uniting Church, including the provision of continuing and advanced training and research;
 - (ix) consideration of a uniform system of staff classifications and conditions of employment for theological college staff;
- (b) to request that membership of any task group established by Standing Committee in relation to (a) above be drawn from three synods, and consist of a chairperson plus seven other members, and include at least one member from a theological faculty, one from the Ministerial Education Commission (not being a faculty member), and one from a synod Ministerial Education Board (not being a faculty member);

94.24.06 **Media relations**

to request the Standing Committee to consult with synods on the desirability of upgrading the church's capacity to relate positively to the media, including establishment of a national media co-ordination unit based in the Assembly to promote and facilitate media relations, and authorise Standing Committee to act in light of its findings;

94.24.07 **Property**

- (a) to affirm that retention of Uniting Church property no longer used effectively by the church is a failure to account to God for the acquisition and use of such gifts and hinders the movement of a pilgrim people and church;
- (b) in response to (a) above, request synods, in consultation with presbyteries, to continue to review Uniting Church property holdings in order to identify property assets which could be transformed for greater missional use, either by alternative use or disposal, and take appropriate action which maximises the use of such assets;
- (c) to request the Standing Committee to facilitate communication between synods to foster information exchange and initiatives in the better use of property;

94.24.08 **Financial policy**

- (a) to note and affirm the financial support and assistance which is readily shared among sectors and agencies of the Uniting Church in response to stories of mission need across the Australian community and in the life and ministry of the Uniting Church;
- (b) to recognise that geographical and historical factors can operate to cause financial disadvantage within the Uniting Church and, in response, request the Standing Committee in consultation with synods and the Finance Committee, to review present policies and practices for:
 - (i) grants-in-aid to parishes/presbyteries across synods;
 - (ii) investment strategies across synods, including the desirability and possibility of establishing a national investment fund;
 - (iii) the basis of determining priority between the expenditure of reserves and capital maintenance;
 - (iv) other areas of Uniting Church financial activity which Standing Committee wishes to include in the review;
- (c) to request the Standing Committee, in response to (b) above, to develop guidelines with a view to variation of present policies and practices where the allocation and/or investment of resources can be achieved on a more equitable and effective basis.

94.25 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr Jim Mein and Mr Bruce Binnie presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report.

94.26 **JOINT BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Ms Helen Rodd and Rev Dr David Merritt presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

94.26.01 to receive the report;

94.26.02 to recognise the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship movement as a significant part of the Uniting Church's life and recognise the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship - National Committee as a national entity within the Uniting Church.

94.27 **MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION**

Dr Howard Buchan presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

94.27.01 to receive the report;

94.27.02 (a) to amend Regulation 2.2.16 to read:

“2.2.16 The Assembly shall establish a Ministerial Education Commission which shall consist of:

- (a) a Chairperson and a Secretary appointed by the Assembly. The Commission shall submit nominations to the Assembly for each position;
- (b) the principal (or an alternate appointed by the principal) and one other faculty member (appointed by the faculty) of each theological college recognised by the Assembly;
- (c) two persons appointed by each synod;
- (d) two persons appointed by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress;
- (e) if not already a member of the Commission in another capacity, the chairperson of each advisory committee appointed by the Commission, provided that a committee may appoint another of its members active in the ministry concerned to serve as a member of the Commission in the place of the chairperson of the committee.”

(b) to amend Regulation 2.2.17 to read:

“2.2.17 Persons appointed under the provisions of Regulation 2.2.16 shall hold office for the three year period between consecutive meetings of the Assembly. Any vacancies occurring in such appointments within that period shall be filled by the relevant appointing body or principal.”

(c) to delete existing Regulation 2.2.18.

(d) to renumber existing Regulation 2.2.19 to read 2.2.18 and amend to read:

“2.2.18 (a) There shall be an executive committee of the Commission which shall consist of the chairperson and secretary of the Commission as appointed under Regulation 2.2.16; the other members of the Commission resident within a synod designated by the Assembly; not more than four additional persons (who need not be members of the Commission but who shall be resident in the designated synod) appointed by the Commission for a term of not more than three years and under such conditions as the Commission shall determine; not more than two additional persons (who need not be members of the Commission but who shall be resident in the designated synod) co-opted by the above members of the executive committee for a term of not more than three years and under such conditions as the committee shall determine.

(b) the executive committee may act for and on behalf of the Commission between its meetings in all matters except as may be specifically precluded by the Commission.”

(e) to renumber Regulation 2.2.20 to read 2.2.19.

(f) to determine that on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee the amendments to Regulations 2.2.16, 2.2.17, 2.2.18 and 2.2.19 take effect on 16 July 1994.

94.27.03 to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to delete Regulation 2.2.1(c) and replace it with the following:

“2.2.1 (c) Experience - In dealing with an application the presbytery shall have regard to the principles that prospective candidates for the ministry will normally be expected to have had some experience of life beyond a solely academic context (school, institution of tertiary education, etc) before final acceptance by the presbytery.”

94.28 NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rev Heather Marshall and Rev Dr David Merritt presented the report of the National Education Committee.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report.

94.29 STEWARDSHIP AUSTRALIA

Mr Graham McKern presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report.

94.30 TASK GROUP ON THE UAICC AND CHURCH ASSETS

Rev Dr Dorothy McRae-McMahon and Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

94.30.01 to receive the report;

94.30.02 (a) to determine to make a one-off transfer of 10% of unearmarked and other appropriate funds of the reserves of the Assembly Fund to the UAICC by 30 September 1994;

(b) to request the Assembly Finance Committee to examine the reserves of the Assembly Fund and the Commission for Mission with a view to bringing to the Standing Committee meeting in September 1994 a proposal relating to a further transfer of funds from those sources to the UAICC;

(c) to authorise the Standing Committee to make a decision in relation to the above proposal;

94.30.03 (a) to transfer to the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress a minimum of one third of any bequests received by the Assembly, where no particular agency or purpose of the Assembly is specified in the will;

(b) to authorise the Standing Committee to consider and determine in each case

(i) the extent to which (if at all) any other claims and submissions properly made to the Standing Committee should be provided from the bequest prior to determining the amount of which a minimum one third shall be so transferred;

(ii) whether and to what extent more than one third of the bequest should be so transferred;

- (c) to explore whether any other current bequests received by the Assembly either could or should be so transferred to the UAICC;
- (d) to review the above procedures at the Ninth Assembly to confirm that they are still effective and appropriate;

94.30.04 to request each synod to

- (a) strengthen the work of the Synod Covenant Committees, recognising that the sharing of assets is closely related to education in congregations and the building of reconciling relationships;
- (b) establish a task group on the UAICC and church assets:
 - membership of the task group to include representatives from the mission, property and finance sections of the synod and from the UAICC;
 - purpose of the task group is to take initiatives in response to the request of the UAICC, with the synod, presbyteries and parishes, including the suggestions for possible action contained in the report, and to liaise with the Assembly Covenant Steering Committee and Synod Covenant Committees;
- (c) report annually on its task group's activities to the Standing Committee over the next three years.

94.31 TASK GROUP ON SEXUALITY

Mrs Nancy Bomford, Rev Dr Chris Budden and Rev Robert Stringer presented the report.

The Assembly resolved:

to receive the report.

94.32 WORKING GROUP ON THE RECEPTION OF MINISTERS FROM PARTNER CHURCHES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AS MINISTERS OF THE UNITING CHURCH

Rev Dr Robert Bos presented the report of the Working Group.

The Assembly resolved:

94.32.01 to receive the report;

94.32.02 to request the Standing Committee to:

- (a) consult with synods on
 - (i) ways of increasing the number of ministers and candidates for ministry who are bi-lingual;
 - (ii) the feasibility of broadening the responsibility of the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee, including the possibility of the Assembly committee taking over the functions of synod Reception of

Ministers committees;

- (iii) ways of assisting ministers of other churches who are serving within the Uniting Church on temporary resident visas with the higher costs of income tax and educational and medical services;
 - (iv) the desirability of making new Regulations to provide an appeal process against a synod decision taken in accord with Regulation 2.3.7;
 - (v) the desirability of regarding a congregation and minister as a unit where a congregation applies to become part of the Uniting Church and where that congregation has a minister from a partner church;
- (b) include at least two members who have come from partner churches in the membership of the Reception of Ministers Committee;
 - (c) consider the matters raised in section 9 of the report;

and authorise the Standing Committee to act in these matters, including any necessary amendments to Regulations;

94.32.03 to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 2.3.5(b)(iii) by the addition of the words “and attained competency” and “ministers and” so that the Regulation will read:

“unless there are special circumstances the applicant shall have received an education and attained competency comparable to that required of ministers or candidates for the corresponding ministry in the Church;”

94.32.04 to request presbyteries to:

- (a) provide a mentor for each migrant-ethnic minister;
- (b) ensure that migrant-ethnic ministers have time to attend English classes;
- (c) enable migrant-ethnic ministers to undertake a course of orientation to the Uniting Church;
- (d) provide encouragement and support to migrant-ethnic ministers as they adapt to the Uniting Church and Australian society;

94.32.05 to request the National Network for Distance Theological Education to prepare a course of orientation as outlined in the report and make this available to ministers and congregations seeking to join the Uniting Church;

94.32.06 to request synods to provide financial support for migrant-ethnic ministers towards the costs of English courses, orientation courses to the Uniting Church, and courses of formal theological education required by the Reception of Ministers Committee;

94.32.07 to determine that no decision for the recognition of a minister from another church as a minister of the Uniting Church will be made until the applicant has permanent residency status, except in very exceptional circumstances.

94.33 WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH OTHER FAITHS

Rev Bern Stevens and Rev Michael Barnes presented the report. Greetings were brought by Rabbi Raymond Apple and Mr Jeremy Jones from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry; and by Mr Ibrahim Abdullah from the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils.

The Assembly resolved:

94.33.01 to receive the report;

94.33.02 in the light of:

- the commitment of the Uniting Church in Australia to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to “constant reform under his Word”;
- the sharing of Jews and Christians in the distinctive testimony of the Hebrew Scriptures to the One God, Creator and Redeemer;
- the presence of anti-semitism in church history and the need for the church to reinterpret its own history;
- the immense suffering caused to Jewish people over the centuries by anti-semitism, expressed this century in the horror of the Holocaust;
- the presence of anti-semitism in the world today, including Australia;
- the contacts and conversations which take place between Christian and Jewish people including the ongoing national dialogue between the Uniting Church and the Jewish Community in Australia,

to request the Standing Committee to:

- (a) initiate a process throughout the church of developing understanding, relationship and common action between Jewish and Christian people towards a better world, including attention to matters such as:
 - understanding the foundation of anti-Judaism which is present in the New Testament;
 - the development of anti-semitism since the foundation of the church;
 - understanding Jewish history and the contemporary Jewish faith;
 - issues of justice in Australia and internationally in which Christians and Jews both have legitimate interests;
- (b) bring to the 1997 Assembly a proposed policy statement on relations between Jewish and Christian people.

94.34 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Assembly resolved:

94.34.01 to amend the Constitution by:

- (a) amending clause 13 to read:

"ORDINATION

Ordination (being the setting apart of persons for ministry as Ministers of the Word or Deacons) shall be conducted by the Presbytery by prayer and laying on of hands, and in accordance with requirements and procedures determined by the Assembly.";

- (b) amending the definition of "Deacon" in clause 2 to read:

"Deacon is a person recognised by the Church and set apart by ordination as a Deacon or a person who was set apart by commissioning or ordination as a Deaconess and was accredited as a Deacon in accordance with decisions of the Assembly or a person who was set apart

by ordination and accredited as a Deacon in accordance with decisions of the Assembly.";

- (c) amending the definition of "Minister of the Word" in clause 2 to read:

"Minister of the Word is a person recognised by the Church and set apart by ordination as a Minister of the Word or a person who was set apart by ordination and accredited as a Minister of the Word in accordance with decisions of the Assembly.";

- (d) amending the definition of "Deaconess" in clause 2 of the Constitution to read:

"Deaconess is a person recognised by the Church and set apart by commissioning or ordination for the specified form of service known as Ministry of Deaconess in accordance with decisions of the Assembly.";

94.34.02 **Lay membership of Synod and Assembly**

to amend the Constitution by:

- (a) amending line 1 of clause 33(d) of the Constitution by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after "such other members";
- (b) amending clause 33(e) of the Constitution by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "such other members";
- (c) amending line 1 of clause 40(a) of the Constitution by the insertion of the word "confirmed" before the word "lay";
- (d) amending line 1 of clause 40(c) of the Constitution by the insertion of the word "confirmed" before the word "lay";
- (e) amending line 1 of clause 40(e) of the Constitution by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "other members";

94.34.03 to determine that in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (clauses 72 and 73), the deadline for responses to the proposed amendments to the Constitution by synods and presbyteries be 30 June 1995;

94.34.04 to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend the Regulations to effect the changes arising from the resolutions of the Assembly relating to proposed amendments to the Constitution, and to take other necessary action, subject to the amendments to the Constitution becoming effective under the provisions of clauses 72 and 73 of the Constitution.

AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS

94.35 REGULATION 5.5.9

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to:

(a) amend Regulation 5.5.9(a) to read:

"5.5.9(a) A Synod may establish a body or bodies authorised to:

- (i) invest and manage funds on behalf of the Synod or on behalf of any Presbytery, Parish or activity of any Presbytery or Parish within the bounds of the Synod;
- (ii) accept money on deposit;
- (iii) borrow raise or otherwise obtain financial accommodation , including by the issue of debentures, bonds or other securities;
- (iv) advance or lend money or otherwise make financial accommodation available or enter into financial arrangements with or without security, at such rate of interest (if any) or for such other consideration (if any) and on such terms as to repayment and otherwise as the Synod may authorise;
- (v) issue, draw, accept, endorse or discount bills of exchange, promissory notes, payment orders or other negotiable instruments;
- (vi) enter into any transaction for the purpose of managing or varying financial returns or financial or currency risks or obligations or returning a gain or avoiding a loss by reference to currency exchange rate movements, interest or discount rate movements or any other risk management transaction or agreement;
- (vii) investments and transactions under the above are to be made in the name of the Property Trust and within such guidelines as the Synod shall determine.";

(b) amend the heading to Regulation 5.5.9 to read:
"INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS".

94.36 REGULATION 3.3.7

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 3.3.7(b) by deleting the words 'a Congregation of the Parish' and replacing them with the words 'the Congregation which elected the member'.

94.37 REGULATION 2.7.5(c)

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to delete Regulation 2.7.5(c).

94.38 REGULATION 2.5.2

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend line 1 of Regulation 2.5.2 to read:

"A Minister in settlement in an approved placement under the jurisdiction of the Church shall be paid a stipend not less than the minimum...".

94.39 REGULATION 2.3.5

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 2.3.5(b(ii)) to read:

"If the applicant be seeking admission to the ministry of Deacon, the applicant shall have been admitted to a recognised ministry of service or diaconal ministry in a denomination of the Church Catholic recognised by the Church for the purpose of this Regulation."

94.40 REGULATION 2.7.20

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 2.7.20(b) to effect the following changes and to make any consequential amendments:

"to provide that Ministers in a settlement other than in a Parish be included in the list under the provisions of Regulation 2.7.20(a) in the final year of the first term and subsequent year of the settlement."

94.41 DISBANDING OF ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to

- (a) amend Regulation 3.6.27(c) by the deletion of the words "the senior staff member of Assembly Management Services";
- (b) amend Regulation 3.6.31(a)(iii) to read:
"a member of the Assembly staff designated by the General Secretary;"

94.42 REGULATION 3.1.11

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to substitute the word "Congregation" for the word "Parish" in Regulation 3.1.11(a)(iii).

94.43 MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference

Committee, to make a new regulation, to be numbered 2.7.26, to read:

“MINISTER FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION

- 2.7.26 (a) A person who is ordained or recognised as a minister in a church of another denomination recognised by the Church, and who
- (i) has been seconded, commissioned, released or otherwise authorised by that other denomination to work in the Church; and
 - (ii) is serving in an approved placement to fulfil substantially the responsibilities of a Minister shall be eligible to be elected or appointed to membership of any body or council of the Church (including but not limited to, a Parish Council, a Council of Elders, a Synod or the Assembly).
- (b) If such body or council is so constituted that any member must be counted as either a lay or a ministerial member, then a person so appointed or elected shall be counted as a ministerial member.
- (c) A person who satisfies the provisions of Regulation 2.7.26 (a) and who would if a Minister of the Church be, ex officio, a member of any council of the Church shall, while so serving, be a member ex officio of such council.
- (d) Except as may have been otherwise arranged by the Church with a person serving in accordance with this Regulation such a person shall (except in respect of any matter affecting the status of the person as a minister in a church of another denomination) as far as possible enjoy all the rights and privileges and be subject to the same responsibilities and obligations as would apply to a Minister of the Church.”

94.44 SYNOD COMMITTEES FOR COUNSELLING AND DISCIPLINE

The Assembly resolved:

94.44.01 to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 7.8.4 to read:

- "(a) A quorum of the Committee shall be five members present during the whole the proceedings.
- (b) Where at any stage after the hearing of the proceedings before the Committee have actually commenced and before the Committee's report on the proceedings has been presented to the Standing Committee, a member of the Committee, engaged in considering the complaint, withdraws from the proceedings for any reason, the remaining members of the Committee may continue to act, so long as at least three members are present and participating. Unless the Minister agrees, there must be at least one member of the Committee hearing the matter who is a Minister and at least one who is a lay person.
- (c) A person shall be taken to have withdrawn for the purposes of this Regulation, if that person, for any reason, be unwilling or unable to continue to participate.
- (d) Where the term of office of a member of the Committee expires and is not renewed, such member may, notwithstanding that membership of the

Committee has ceased, continue to act as a member in any proceedings in which the member is participating and which had been commenced but not finalised before that cessation.

- (e) The members of the Committee who shall constitute the Committee for the purposes of dealing with a particular complaint shall be determined by the chairperson of the Committee."

94.44.02 to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to:

- (a) amend Regulation 7.7.2(c) to read:

"Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The members of the Committee who shall constitute the Committee for the purposes of dealing with a particular complaint shall be determined by the Moderator."

- (b) make a new Regulation 7.7.2(d) to the effect that:

- "(d) (i) where at any stage a member of the Committee, who is one of the Committee dealing with a complaint, withdraws, the remaining members of the Committee may continue to act, so long as at least three members are present and participating;
- (ii) a person shall be taken to have withdrawn for the purposes of this Regulation, if that person, for any reason, be unwilling or unable to continue to participate;
- (iii) where the term of office of a member of the Committee expires and is not renewed, such member may, notwithstanding that membership of the Committee has ceased, continue to act as a member of the Committee dealing with a particular complaint with which the Committee had been dealing prior to that cessation but which had not been finalised prior thereto."

94.45 REGULATIONS 1.1.13 AND 1.1.23(a)

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to:

- (a) amend Regulation 1.1.13 to read:

"All confirmed members and members-in-association shall have the right to vote:

- (a) at meetings of the Congregation in respect of which they are enrolled;
- (b) at Parish Meetings;
- (c) in any committee, council or other body to which they, being eligible, have been appointed."

- (b) amend Regulation 1.1.23(a) by the insertion of the words "and the Parish" after the words "meetings of the Congregation".

94.46 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS - REGULATION 5.5.10(d)

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend Regulation 5.5.10(d) from the commencement of line 8, to the effect that the remainder of the Regulation reads:

"For the purpose of this Regulation a qualified accountant shall mean a person who is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia or the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or any other person who has qualifications and experience requisite for registration as a company auditor under the Corporations Law."

94.47 READMISSION OF FORMER MINISTERS AND FORMER CERTIFICATED CANDIDATES

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to:

- (a) amend Regulation 2.3.8 to read:

"Any former Minister of the Church may apply for readmission pursuant to Regulations 2.3.5-2.3.7."

- (b) amend Regulation 2.3.1(a)(iii) by the insertion of the word "current" before the word "requirements";

- (c) make a new Regulation to read:

"ADMISSION OF A FORMER CERTIFICATED CANDIDATE
2.3.9A. Any former certificated candidate of the Church may apply to a Presbytery for readmission as a candidate, in which case Regulations 2.2.1-2.2.15 shall apply."

94.48 MEMBERSHIP OF SYNODS

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, in consultation with Synods, to consider changes to the Regulations on synod membership (Regulations 3.5.2-3.5.6) with reference to:

- (a) simplifying the election process for synod members;
- (b) providing that a person must be elected/appointed as a member of the synod and must attend the synod meeting in order to be regarded as a member of Synod;
- (c) amendment to the last sentence of Regulation 3.5.6 to provide that members of a special meeting of the Synod be the members of the last ordinary meeting of the Synod;
- (d) other matters which the Standing Committee feels deserve consideration;

with a view to a report and recommendations to the 1997 Assembly.

94.49 LAY MEMBERSHIP OF PRESBYTERY, SYNOD AND ASSEMBLY

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend the Regulations as follows, subject in the case of clauses (b) to (i) below to the approval of proposed amendments to the Constitution in relation to membership of synods and the Assembly:

- (a) amend Regulation 3.4.15(d) by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "Two representatives" in line 1;
- (b) amend Regulation 3.5.2(a)(vii) by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "such representatives" in line 1;
- (c) amend Regulation 3.5.2(a)(viii) by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "two representatives" in line 1;
- (d) amend Regulation 3.5.2(a)(ix) by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "co-opted members" in line 1;
- (e) amend Regulation 3.5.3(a) by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "lay members" in line 3;
- (f) amend Regulation 3.6.2(b)(i) by the insertion of the word "confirmed" before the words "lay member" in line 1;
- (g) amend Regulation 3.6.2(b)(iii) by the insertion of the word "confirmed" before the words "lay members" in line 1;
- (h) amend Regulation 3.6.2(c) by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "such representatives" in line 1;
- (i) amend Regulation 3.6.2(d) by the insertion of the words "being confirmed members of the Church" after the words "such other persons" in line 1.

94.50 COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

The Assembly resolved:

to request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to amend the Regulations by adding the following after Regulation 7.7.3:

"SYNOD SEXUAL ABUSE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

- 7.7.4 (a) Where a complaint of sexual abuse is made against a Minister with regard to a person with whom the Minister is in a pastoral relationship, the procedures in this section shall apply to the exclusion of the procedures contained in Regulations 7.6.3 to 7.7.3 inclusive.
- (b) Any question, whether the complaint is one of sexual abuse, shall be determined by the Moderator, on the advice of the chairperson of the Synod Sexual Abuse Complaints Committee.

DEFINITIONS

7.7.5 In this section, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:

Adviser means the person appointed to assist the complainant in processing a complaint or the respondent in facing a complaint through Church procedures and/or criminal or civil proceedings.

Chairperson means the chairperson of the committee and whenever the chairperson is unavailable, includes the deputy chairperson or other person acting as chairperson.

Commission means the Assembly Commission on Women and Men.

Committee means the Synod Sexual Abuse Complaints Committee appointed by the Synod pursuant to Regulation 7.7.6.

Complaint means a complaint of sexual abuse made against a Minister with regard to a person with whom the Minister is in a pastoral relationship.

Convenor of Advisers means the person appointed to be the Synod Convenor of Advisers.

Minister includes a Minister, Lay Pastor, Lay Chaplain, Youth Worker, Synod Secretary and Presbytery Minister.

Mutual Resolution means the resolution of a complaint by a mutual arrangement or understanding to which the complainant and the respondent have freely and genuinely agreed and which they both accept as settling the complaint.

Pastoral Relationship means the relationship between a Minister and a parishioner or other person where the Minister is involved in the spiritual welfare of such parishioner or person who has looked to the Minister for guidance, protection or care. It may be between people of the same or opposite sex.

Presbytery Minister means the Presbytery Minister appointed to that position or any other person appointed to act in such capacity by whatever name known.

Respondent means the Minister who is the subject of a complaint.

Section means the section of the Regulations headed "SYNOD SEXUAL ABUSE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE".

Sexual Abuse includes sexual assault (not limited to sexual intercourse) and any unwelcome sexual behaviour or any threat thereof which makes the person feel threatened or afraid.

Synod means the Synod of the Church, within the bounds of which the Presbytery, in which the Minister is enrolled, falls.

COMMITTEE^Δ

- 7.7.6 (a) The Synod Standing Committee shall appoint a committee to be known as the Synod Sexual Abuse Complaints Committee and shall appoint its chairperson. Appointments shall be for a term of up to three years.
- (b) The committee shall consist of a panel of persons not fewer than three and not more than 12:

- (i) at least one member with expertise in sexual abuse issues;
 - (ii) at least one member with legal expertise;
 - (iii) members who are considered to be skilled in mediation and conciliation, to have general knowledge of sexual abuse issues and knowledge and understanding of pastoral ethics and appropriate behaviour for Ministers.
- (c) The members of the committee need not be members of the Church but the number of non-Church members must be fewer than the number of members of the Church.
- (d) The majority of the committee shall be women.
- (e) The chairperson shall preferably be a woman.
- (f) The quorum of the committee to deal with a particular complaint shall be three, of whom normally the majority shall be women. The members of the committee to deal with such complaint shall be determined by the chairperson.
- (g) Where any member withdraws the provisions of Reg. 7.7.2 (as proposed by a separate notice of motion from the Legal Reference Committee to the Seventh Assembly) insofar as they are appropriate shall apply.
- (h) No member shall serve for more than nine years consecutively.
- (i) Neither the Moderator nor the Synod Secretary shall be a member of the committee.

ADVISERS

- 7.7.7 (a) The Synod Standing Committee shall appoint a panel of advisers. The Commission shall arrange for such training for the advisers as the Commission deems appropriate.
- (b) To be eligible for appointment an adviser shall have appropriate skills and/or knowledge such as:
- (i) counselling and support skills;
 - (ii) advocacy skills;
 - (iii) knowledge of sexual abuse issues;
 - (iv) knowledge of the processes and structures of the Church;
 - (v) knowledge of the options available to complainants including legal and community resources.
- (d) At least one adviser in the panel shall have expertise in the area of child sexual abuse and at least one adviser shall have expertise in working with male victims.
- (e) The adviser shall seek to:
- (i) assist the complainant in processing a complaint or the respondent in facing a complaint through Church procedures and/or criminal or civil proceedings;
 - (ii) ensure that the complainant or respondent is properly advised and is fully aware of the available community resources;
 - (iii) assist the complainant or respondent in gaining access to any

necessary legal advice;

- (iv) ensure that the complainant or respondent is adequately informed at all stages of the progress of the complaint;
- (v) be available, if the complainant or respondent so wishes, to speak at any meeting regarding the complaint that the complainant or respondent is required to attend.
- (f) The appropriate Presbytery, Synod or other officer concerned, shall provide the adviser with access to all information regarding the complaint, unless such information is confidential to the officer concerned.
- (g) The Synod Standing Committee, on the recommendation of the Commission, may withdraw the appointment of any adviser.

CONVENOR OF ADVISERS

7.7.8 The Synod shall appoint, from among the advisers, a convenor who shall be responsible for allocating an adviser to the complainant and an adviser to the respondent in respect of each complaint.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

- 7.7.9 (a) Anyone who wishes to make a complaint may do so to the chairperson of the Presbytery, the Presbytery Minister, the Moderator, the Synod Secretary, or directly to the chairperson of the committee.
- (b) A complaint must be put in writing and signed and if made orally shall not be processed until so put and signed.

RECEIVING A COMPLAINT

- 7.7.10 (a) Within 24 hours or such longer time as is required in the circumstances of the receipt of a written complaint, it together with all relevant information, shall be referred (orally, in the first instance, if necessary) to the chairperson, the convenor of advisers, the Synod Secretary, the Moderator, the chairperson of the Presbytery and the Presbytery Minister.
- (b) As soon as possible after receiving the complaint, the chairperson shall inform the respondent of the particulars of the complaint, initially in person or by telephone, followed by a letter outlining the particulars of the complaint, including, if necessary, quotes from the written complaint. A copy of the complainant's letter shall not be forwarded to the Respondent.

SUPPORT

- 7.7.11 (a) The complainant and the respondent, attending any meeting within the Church which relates to the complaint, may be accompanied by their adviser and by a person to provide emotional support.
- (b) The person providing emotional support shall not have the right to speak at any meeting unless invited to do so by the chairperson thereof.

INVESTIGATION AND RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS

- 7.7.12 (a) A complaint shall be investigated and dealt with by the committee with a view to facilitating a mutual resolution, to which end it may exercise mediation and counselling functions.
- (b) At any stage of its investigation the committee may determine that the

complaint warrants no further action or that it be referred to the Synod Committee for Discipline to be dealt with as a complaint that the Minister has engaged in grave conduct unworthy of a Minister.

- (c) The investigation may proceed without both parties being present as the committee sees fit.
- (d) The nature of the investigation shall be inquisitorial and not adversarial and the committee may inform itself in such manner as it sees fit.

NATURAL JUSTICE

- 7.7.13 (a) Subject to the nature of the investigation and the endeavour to find a mutual resolution, the ordinary rules of natural justice shall apply.
- (b) Any member of the committee about whom a complaint has been made or who is closely associated with the complainant or respondent shall not participate as a member of the committee in relation to that complaint.
 - (c) Nothing, which is said in the course of the investigation, mediation or counselling, shall be given in evidence or used in any way in any proceedings before the Synod Committee for Discipline, or before any court or other tribunal whatsoever, except to the extent compellable by law.

WHEN A COMPLAINT IS NOT RESOLVED

- 7.7.14 Where there is not any mutual resolution of the matter and the committee determines the complaint warrants further action, the committee shall as soon as possible refer it to the Synod Committee for Discipline as a complaint that the Minister has engaged in grave conduct unworthy of a Minister.

RESIGNATION

- 7.7.15 (a) A respondent, whose settlement has been concluded, shall normally remain under the pastoral and administrative oversight of the Presbytery in which the respondent was enrolled at the time of the complaint and, subject to these Regulations, that Presbytery shall be responsible for the counselling and discipline of the respondent with reference to the complaint and for the processing thereof.
- (b) Where such a complaint is unresolved, unless the Presbytery determines that there are special circumstances, which have been approved by the chairperson:
 - (i) a Presbytery shall not accept the resignation from the ministry by a respondent;
 - (ii) the Presbytery and the Synod shall refuse any application by a respondent (except for health or family reasons) for permission to retire permanently pursuant to Regulation 2.4.5(c), or to be given leave of absence.
 - (c) Where matters associated with such a complaint are involved in or included with the reasons for the conclusion or termination of a settlement, or a resignation, or with the reasons for granting permission for a respondent to retire, the synod may declare that the operation of Regulation 2.4.5(d) is, on such terms as it may think appropriate, excluded with regard to the respondent.
 - (d) A complaint may continue to be processed under this section,

notwithstanding the conclusion or termination of the settlement, the resignation of a respondent from the ministry, the retirement of the respondent or the granting to the respondent of leave of absence.

COSTS

- 7.7.16 (a) If a complaint be shown to have substance, consideration shall be given to payment of the complainant's therapy costs which relate directly to the sexual abuse.
- (b) If the complaint not be shown to have substance, consideration shall be given to the payment of the respondent's therapy costs which relate directly to the complaint.
- (c) Each request for such costs shall be considered on its merits by the Moderator, who may consult with the chairperson and others, as the Moderator thinks appropriate.
- (d) Such costs shall be met from Synod funds.

PRIVACY

- 7.7.17 (a) Confidentiality and the right to privacy shall be observed.
- (b) Proceedings before the committee shall be held in camera but the committee may permit such persons as it thinks fit to attend meetings of the committee.
- (c) Unless otherwise determined by the committee no member of it or any person attending a meeting thereof shall divulge outside the committee any information concerning the complaint or the proceedings.
- (d) The committee may make reports to such persons as it thinks fit, at any time, but shall consider carefully whether it is at that time fair to all and in the best interests of the Church.
- (e) The Chairperson may make such public statement concerning the proceedings as the committee considers appropriate.
- (f) Appropriate information may, with the approval of the parties, be made available to a Congregation and to a Parish regarding the handling of any complaint.

APPEAL

- 7.7.18 The complainant or respondent may appeal against a decision or the conduct of the committee. The appeal shall be made to the Moderator and the ex-Moderator who shall appoint a committee of three persons to consider it. That committee may direct that the complaint be further dealt with by the Committee for Discipline as a complaint that the Minister has engaged in conduct unworthy of a Minister or may dismiss the appeal.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

- 7.7.19 (a) If criminal or civil legal proceedings are commenced against the respondent the convenor of advisers when informed may nominate advisers for a complainant or respondent desiring the same.
- (b) The Moderator when informed of such proceedings shall consider suspension of the Minister.
- (c) No further action regarding the complaint shall be taken within the Church, until such time as any legal proceedings are concluded.

BENEFICIAL CONSTRUCTION

- 7.7.20 (a) In the exercise of their respective functions under this section the chairperson of the Presbytery, the committee and others involved shall, to the extent to which the same are not included in these Regulations, pay due regard to the "Procedures for use when complaints of Sexual Abuse are made against Ministers", which have been or may from time to time be approved by the Standing Committee.
- (b) This section of the Regulations shall be read and applied in a way which will, so far as possible, facilitate a fair and adequate resolution of a complaint.

PUTATIVE ABUSE

- 7.7.21 (a) Where, although no complaint has been made, the Moderator, the Synod Secretary, the Chairperson of a Presbytery or the chairperson receives information which provides reasonable grounds for believing that there has been sexual abuse by a Minister but no complaint has been made, that person shall seek to take whatever steps are reasonable to clarify the matter.
- (b) If, thereafter, that person considers that there are reasonable grounds for believing that sexual abuse has occurred, that person shall seek to ensure that a complaint is made.
- (c) If that person considers there are no reasonable grounds for such a belief, that person shall, after consultation with the Minister, seek to ensure that the Minister's name is cleared.

NEW SETTLEMENT

- 7.7.22 Except in special circumstances approved by the chairperson a new settlement of a respondent shall not be made nor shall a call to a respondent be sustained, nor an appointment of a respondent be made while the complaint has not been resolved or determined."

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

7.8.2 (a) to read:

"referred to it by the Committee for Counselling or the Synod Sexual Abuse Complaints Committee; or"

new 7.12.6 to read:

"When the determination made by the Committee for Discipline relates to a complaint as defined in Regulation 7.7.5 the complainant shall have the same right of appeal, appearance or representation, payment of expenses and stay of proceedings as is given to a Minister in Regulations 7.12.1 - 7.13.2."

7.14.1 to read:

"A Synod may appoint members of the Church who are members of a Parish beyond the bounds of the Synod as members of its Committee for Counselling, its Synod Sexual Abuse Complaints Committee or its Committee for Discipline."

94.51 EXTENSIONS OF SETTLEMENT - REGULATION 2.7.11

The Assembly resolved:

to refer the following motion to the Standing Committee for determination, following consultation with presbyteries, Joint Presbyteries Settlements Advisory Committees and the Commission for Mission:

"To request the Standing Committee, on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee, to:

1. amend Regulation 2.7.11(a)(i) by deleting the words 'if there are circumstances of a special or exceptional nature that warrant such an extension';
2. amend Regulation 2.7.11(b) by deleting the words 'such extensions may be for periods of up to three years at a time', and by inserting the words 'the terms and conditions of such extensions shall be determined by the Presbytery.' "

94.52 ELECTIONS

On the advice of the Returning Officer the President declared the following results of elections:

President-elect John Mavor

Standing Committee

Felicity Amery	Avril Hannah-Jones
Charles Biggs	Carolyn Kitto
Nancy Bomford	Shirley Maddox
Chris Budden	Jim Mein
Hamish Christie-Johnston	John Minchin
Peter Cotterell	Chris Mostert
Dean Drayton	Helen Robertson
Malcolm Gledhill	Wendi Sargeant
Lillian Hadley	Janet Wood

Joint Board of Christian Education

Rowena Allen	Grant Nichol
Peter Batten	Ian Parton
Brian Carey	Robin Pryor
Louise Harms	Helen Rodd
Wendy McKenzie	Morris Williams
Heather Marshall	Lorraine Woolley

Commission on Doctrine

Chris Mostert (Chairperson)	Shirley Maddox
Gordon Dicker	Christine Moimoi
Susan Emilsen	Judith Nelson-Clegg
David Gill	Graham Perry
Harry Herbert	Ian Tanner
Ross Kingham	

Commission on Ecumenical Affairs

Norman Young (Chairperson)
Rowena Allen
Peter Bentley
Robin Boyd
Peter Butler
Richard Chapman
Rob Gallacher
Jennette Johnstone

Jane Monro
Rebecca Purling
Robyn Schmid
Eric Smith
Jan Taylor
Jack West
Joan Wright

Commission on Liturgy

Helen Mills (Chairperson)
Ian Gillman
Kimberly Halter
Ruth Hill
David Lowry
David MacGregor

Lola Mavor
Anita Monro
David Pitman
Angela Sobyra
Geraldine Wheeler

Commission for Mission

Janet Wood (Chairperson)
Anne Amos
Ken Anderson
Diane Bos
Dean Brookes
Dean Drayton
John Emmett
Bev Fabb
Wali Fejo
Kate Graham
Colleen Grieve
James Haire
Avril Hannah-Jones

Ros Harper
Velvy Holden
Bill Hollingsworth
Andrew King
Carolyn Kitto
James Latu
Cheryl Lawrie
Sang-Jin Lee
Subramanian Manopavan
Jill Monks
Bruce Mullan
Dennis Robinson
Fatai Slender

Commission on Women and Men

Lisa Addley
Deidre Bicknell
Lurleen Blackman
Glenda Blakefield
Warwick Cadenhead
Paul Drury
Wendy Eccleston

Judi Fisher
Jayne Harriman
Marjorie Roberts
Neola Savage
Robyn Schmid
Lesley Watson
Andrew Williams

Finance Committee

Jim Mein (Chairperson)
Robin Dyer
Gordon Ewin
David Greenall
John Preston
Leonie Walker

Ministerial Education Commission

Howard Buchan (Chairperson)
Val Canty (Secretary)

GENERAL BUSINESS

94.53 CATO LECTURE

Dr Jane Dempsey-Douglass, Professor of Historical Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, presented the Cato Lecture "Reform and Renewal".

94.54 CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION

The children participating in the Children at Assembly Program made a presentation to the Assembly.

94.55 VISITORS PROGRAM

Andrew Williams, Chairperson of the Assembly Visitors Program, presented a brief report and song.

94.56 GLOBAL LINKS

The Commission for Mission led a special evening session on "Risking the Way of Jesus - the Global Links".

94.57 STIPENDS

The Assembly resolved:

to affirm the parity of stipends within synods for all stipended specified ministries.

94.58 STRUCTURE OF SYNOD OF TASMANIA

The Assembly resolved:

in light of the decisions of the Synod of Tasmania:

- (a) to establish only one presbytery within the bounds of the synod, and
- (b) to request the new presbytery to refer all its powers and responsibilities to the Synod of Tasmania,

to authorise the Standing Committee to exercise the powers of the Assembly for such purposes as will assist the synod and presbytery to deal with issues related to those decisions.

94.59 SYNOD REPRESENTATION AT ASSEMBLY

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.59.01 that it is no longer appropriate to maintain the nexus between the number of representatives elected to Assembly by a synod and the number of presbyteries in that synod;
- 94.59.02 to request the Standing Committee, in consultation with the synods, to consider alternative bases for determining the number of representatives to be elected by each of the synods, including the proposal from the Synod of Victoria, and report, with recommendations, to the Eighth Assembly;
- 94.59.03 that the minimum representation of any synod at the Eighth Assembly be three ministers and three lay members.

94.60 LOCATION OF 1997 ASSEMBLY

The Assembly resolved:

- 94.60.01 to receive with thanks the invitations from the Synods of South Australia and Western Australia to host the 1997 Assembly;
- 94.60.02 to express a preference for holding the next Assembly in Perth in mid-1997;
- 94.60.03 to authorise the Standing Committee to determine the date and venue of the 1997 Assembly, following consideration of both invitations and particularly of the financial implications of meeting in Western Australia;
- 94.60.04 to request the Standing Committee to arrange for appropriate involvement of children in the 1997 Assembly;
- 94.60.05 to authorise the Standing Committee also to give consideration to the date and venue of the 2000 Assembly.

CLOSING ACTIONS

The Assembly resolved:

94.61 REMAINING BUSINESS

To refer the remaining matters to the Standing Committee to deal with as it may determine:

- Missionary outreach
- Ministers-in-association
- Parish representatives to Presbytery
- Assembly membership - deacons
- Amalgamation/division of congregations
- Role of presbytery ministers
- Ecumenical Affairs - ACC to NCCA
- Retiring age of ministers
- Ex-officio membership of Assembly

94.62 APPRECIATION

On behalf of all members, the youthful members of the Assembly expressed in song the Assembly's appreciation for all who had contributed to the presentation, conduct and functioning of the Seventh Assembly.

The Seventh Assembly concluded at 12.45pm on Saturday 16 July 1994 with worship, including Holy Communion.