

**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE**

**12 – 14 March 2004**

**PRESENT** Dean Drayton (President), Bruce Binnie, Shayne Blackman, Elizabeth Burns, Dennis Chapman, Samantha Charlesworth, Sue Clarkson, Terence Corkin, Tony Davies, Bev Fabb, Susan Gormann, James Haire, Gregor Henderson, Wesley Gleeson, Geoffrey Grinton, Matthew Grudnoff, Troy Hamilton, Jason Kioa, Isabel Thomas Dobson, Allan Thompson, Liva Tukutama, Julie Watts

**In attendance:** Jenny Bertalan, Rob Bos, Chris Budden, Kim Cain, Stu Cameron, Alistair Christie, John Evans, Graham Humphris, Robert Johnson, Allan Kuchler, John Rowland, Gemmel Sherwood, Jenny Tymms, George Woodward

**WORSHIP** On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, Jason Kioa presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion and Isabel Thomas Dobson preached. On the Saturday Tony Davies led morning worship and Matthew Grudnoff led evening prayers. On the Sunday Liva Tukutama led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Troy Hamilton.

**WELCOMES** The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the visiting Moderators, Michael Thawley from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa / New Zealand and Dale Rominger from International Ministry Exchanges and the United Reformed Church who brought a greeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Rev Elenie Poulos for business related to UnitingJustice, Mr Jim Fraser for business related to finance, Rev Dr Sandy Yule for the Christian Unity Working Group report discussion and Rev Bill Fischer for business related to the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.

**RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND**

On behalf of Standing Committee, the President acknowledged the local Oreo and Dharug people and their role as custodians of the land on which the meeting took place.

**APOLOGIES**

**04.01** **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Myffie Trudinger, Wendie Wilkie and Sealín Garlett for absence for the whole of the meeting; from Sue Gormann for Friday evening, from Geoffrey Grinton for Friday evening and Saturday morning; Stu Cameron and Graham Humphris for Saturday night and Sunday, from James Haire for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

**PASTORAL MATTERS**

The President introduced a time of sharing on pastoral matters. The General Secretary advised the Standing Committee of the heart bypass surgery of Geoff Barnes and Alistair Christie reported that Geoff Barnes is progressing and was transferred to a rehabilitation centre the previous day. The President sent greetings from the Assembly Standing Committee to Geoff Barnes. Graham Humphris reported that Nairn Kerr in South Australia had major surgery for a

brain tumor. Congratulations were extended to Matthew Grudnoff on becoming a father. The President led the meeting in prayer.

## **APPROVAL OF TIMETABLE AND AGENDA**

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 11B, 16, 19A, 22 and 23 were distributed on the Friday evening.

- 04.02**      **It was resolved** to approve the timetable and agenda of the meeting as outlined in Document 1, noting that the committee is free to vary the agenda at any time.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- 04.03**      **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 14 –16 November 2003, subject to adding James Haire to those in attendance and adding the that the Draft Constitution of the National Disaster Fund was referred to the Assembly Legal Reference Committee for comment.

## **NOTE CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 39**

Standing Committee members were reminded of the Constitution clause 39, as per ASC minute 00.71:

*“On matters which, by a two thirds majority vote, the Assembly deems to be vital to the life of the Church, the Assembly shall seek the concurrence of the Synods and/or Presbyteries and/or Congregations as the Assembly may determine.”*

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

On the Saturday evening the President reported his activities since the last meeting of the Standing Committee. He referred to the theme of his installation service in Melbourne of God's way of speaking to Elijah, 'beyond his knowing' only now to find himself in the land of fire and earthquakes, waiting for God to speak beyond our way of knowing once more. He was very appreciative of the meeting held prior to the ASC with the Moderators. He highlighted the difficulty of convincing the media to be involved with matters like poverty and the plight of asylum seekers. He shared the story of an Iranian asylum seeker and the actions that were taken to prevent the man from being deported. He reported his visit to Ambon and depicted the terrible devastation that the Christian – Muslim confrontation had caused as well as the efforts both religions are now making to live peacefully together. He had also spent some time with the Northern Synod in a retreat. He advised ASC that he had restarted the President's Table and had a great one in Darwin. He shared with ASC that he has nearly finished writing a book on the Gospel and he is excited by how that is coming along. He affirmed the importance and the support of being part of the community of the ASC.

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

## **SYNOD SHARING – NORTHERN SYNOD**

Participants from the Northern Synod shared something of the life of their Synod as an expression of our inter conciliar sharing. Some highlights:

- ministry in the North;
- Northern Regional Council of Congress meeting in August 2003
- the President's visit;

- ordination of Rev Felicity Amery;
- issues of concern;
- cooperation in Ministry;
- property developments.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **1. DISCUSSION OF THEOLOGICAL ISSUES RELATED TO MINISTRY (ASC MINUTE 03.76.08)**

The General Secretary and Rob Bos introduced Document 2, containing an edited version of a paper Rev Dr Rob Bos prepared considering theological education. Discussion in table groups followed.

### **2. ACTION TAKEN ON ASC MINUTE 03.87 (RE PROPOSAL 84) AND RESPONSE IN THE CHURCH (ASC MINUTE 03.82.05)**

Sue Gormann presented Document 20, containing a report prepared by the working group that has been set up at the November 2003 ASC meeting.

#### **04.05 It was resolved to:**

- 04.05.01 receive the report;
- 04.05.02 adopt the general recommendations and the suggested framework for the development of resources and processes based on the 5 Key Issues as identified by the working group, being
  - The Gospel and Jesus (alt: The Gospel and Who is Jesus Christ for us today?)
  - The Bible
  - The Uniting Church
  - Sexuality and leadership
  - How do we live together - what are our options for the future?
- 04.05.03 a) note the report on the conversations held with Reforming Alliance, Congress, representatives of Migrant Ethnic Congregations and Uniting Network ;
  - b) confirm that the process be invitational, but strong encouragement be given to Synods and Presbyteries to provide opportunity for discussion on the key issues;
- 04.05.04 provide all congregations and Ministers with a copy of the primary resource;
- 04.05.05 establish a working group of appropriately skilled persons to see the project through to completion by July 2004;
- 04.05.06 the terms of reference for this group be as follows:

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- a) In light of the discussions at the March 04 ASC, further develop resources for Stage 2 of the church's discussions on sexuality and leadership, with particular reference to:
  - determining the content of the primary resource document;
  - soliciting articles representing a variety of viewpoints;
  - determining format and publication style (including internet);
  - undertake final editing;
  - suggesting possible processes for discussion of this issue

04.05.07 appoint Sue Gormann (Convenor), Chris Budden, Bev Fabb, Gregor Henderson, Graham Humphris, Isabel Thomas-Dobson to the Task Group.

**3. HOME ENDOWMENT FUND (ASC MINUTE 03.80)**

Jim Fraser presented Document 9, consisting of a report on the progress since the November 2003 ASC meeting.

**04.06 It was resolved to:**

04.06.01 receive the report;

04.06.02 express concern at the slow progress and the pastoral implications arising from the advice that the Fund's situation had not been sent to the members, and;

04.06.03 indicate the expectation to the Review Group of a final report being available at the July ASC meeting.

**4. FREE WESLEYAN CHURCH OF TONGA (ASC MINUTE 03.89)**

Bill Fischer spoke to Documents 11, 11A and 11B, consisting of reports on the consultations with Tongan Congregations in Australia and the history of the partnership relationship with the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. (Jason Kioa spoke to the proposals.)

**04.07 It was resolved to:**

04.07.01 receive documents 11, 11A and 11B;

04.07.02 a) note

(i) the deferral of the consideration of the confirmation of the FWCT District in Australia at the 2002 and 2003 FWCT Conferences;

(ii) the FWCT's continued commitment to a process of consultation with the UCA; and

(iii) the level of cooperation and mutual sharing that has occurred between the UCA and the FWCT;

b) affirm that the partnership relationship has been placed on a solid basis of trust and respect;

04.07.03 a) endorse the partnership agreement and authorise the Assembly Officers plus Jason Kioa to make amendments in the light of continuing discussions with the FWCT prior to their June 2004 Conference, that are within the spirit and intent of this agreement (Attachment A);

(b) authorise the President to sign the partnership agreement at the June 2004 FWCT Conference;

04.07.04. a) acknowledge with regret that the UCA has been unable to include all people from the FWCT under the Multicultural umbrella of the UCA

b) agree to the FWCT Conference recognising a District of the FWCT in Australia in accordance with the agreement between the two churches concerning the establishment of a District (Attachment B);

c) endorse the agreement between the UCA and the FWCT concerning the District in Australia and authorise the Assembly Officers plus Jason Kioa to make amendments that are in the spirit and intent of the agreement

that may arise in continuing discussions with the FWCT prior to the June 2004 Conference (Attachment A); and

d) authorise the President to sign the agreement at the June 2004 FWCT Conference;

- 04.07.05 request the General Secretary and the National Director of UIM to agree on a memorandum of understanding with the FWCT Secretariat that will provide general guidelines on the expression of the partnership agreement;
- 04.07.06 request the President to invite the President of the FWCT to attend the Tongan National Conference meeting in June;
- 04.07.07 (a) request Multicultural Ministry and UIM to organise a retreat for Tongan ministers of the UCA and the FWCT District in Australia in the second half of 2004;
- (b) invite two representatives of the FWCT to participate in this retreat;
- 04.07.08 request the National Director of UIM to bring a report to the July ASC meeting, on actions taken in response to these decisions.

**5. COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL CO-OPERATION (ASC MINUTE 03.82.05)**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 4, consisting of a report on the discussions between Synods and Assembly on how to encourage closer cooperation and better coordination of undertakings that have either national implications or benefit from being done nationally. The document also included the draft Charter for "Commission for National Co-operation".

**04.08 It was resolved to:**

- 04.08.01 receive the report;
- 04.08.02 affirm the concept of a Commission for National Co-operation;
- 04.08.03 approve the Charter for the Commission for National Co-operation (Attachment C);
- 04.08.04 appoint the General Secretary and the CFO / Administration Manager as the Assembly members of the Commission until the end of 2005

**6. TASK GROUP ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION MANDATE, MEMBERSHIP AND NAME (AS MINUTE 03.44)**

The General Secretary spoke to the previous ASC decision to establish a Task Group.

- 04.09 **It was resolved to** request the General Secretary to consult with Allan Thompson and the Chairperson of the Ministerial Education Commission clarify the issues that the Assembly referral seeks to address and bring a report to the next meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

**7. AGENCY REPORTS TO THE ASC (REFERENCE: NOVEMBER 2003 ASC DISCUSSION ON KEY DIRECTIONS)**

The General Secretary presented Document 7, consisting of a brief report on the work of some of the agencies.

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

## FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

### 1. ASSEMBLY FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Bruce Binnie presented Document 15 and 15A, consisting of a brief report on the establishment of an Assembly Finance and Audit Committee. Document 15A included the draft Charter for the "Assembly Finance and Audit Committee".

#### 04.11 It was resolved to:

04.11.01 adopt the Charter for the Assembly Finance and Audit Committee (Attachment D);

04.11.02 appoint Mr Bruce Binnie as chairperson of the Assembly Finance & Audit Committee in accordance with Regulation 3.6.31(a)(i);

04.11.03 authorise the President, Chairperson and General Secretary to appoint the other members of the Committee under Regulation 3.6.31(a)(ii).

### 2. CHRISTIAN UNITY WORKING GROUP

Sandy Yule spoke to Document 21, consisting of a document that has arisen from work done through a combined meeting of the Christian Unity Working Group and the Doctrine Working Group. The material on aspects of "ministry" will be introduced to the July meeting.

### 3. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary spoke to Document 12, consisting of report on various matters including a short overview of the Assembly Officers' Meeting, task groups, assembly placements, a request from the NSW Synod re the number of members on the Committee for Counselling, Multicultural Ministry representation at the meeting of the Assembly, Publications Action Committee, media officer, human resources policies and procedures and trademark registration, purchase of office space by Frontier Services and the invitation to attend the Methodist Conference in the UK.

04.12 It was resolved to receive the report.

### 4. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary introduced Document 17, consisting of a report on proposed regulation changes as advised by the Assembly Legal Reference Committee.

#### 04.13 It was resolved to:

04.13.01 receive the report;

04.13.02 amend the Regulations as follows:

#### 04.13.02.01 UNSAFE BUILDINGS

Insert a new Regulation

##### a) Regulation 4.11.1

Notwithstanding any Regulation or By-law, a Synod Property Officer or Synod Secretary shall have the power, in respect of any property within the bounds of a Synod, owned by the Property Trust of that Synod or any body of the

Church, which does not comply with any governmental regulation or requirement or is reported to the Synod Property Officer as being in an unsafe or dangerous condition, to do any or all of the following:

- a) temporarily or permanently close any building;
- b) obtain a professional audit or report in relation to the state of the property or any activity conducted thereon;
- c) ensure that work is undertaken to make safe or obtain compliance;
- d) require repayment by the body having oversight of the property of any amount expended by the Synod pursuant to this Regulation;
- e) after consultation with the body having the oversight of the property recommend to the Standing Committee of the Synod:
  - i) disposal of the property where it is impossible or impracticable to make the property safe or to rectify the non-compliance;
  - ii) demolition of any building, or;
  - iii) future use of the property.

b) Regulation 4.11.2

The Standing Committee of the Synod shall have power to determine, or to delegate to its Property Board the right to determine, matters relating to the use or disposal of property or demolition of any building when a recommendation is made pursuant to Regulation 4.11.1

c) Renumber Regulations 4.11.1 – 4.11.7 as 4.12.1 – 4.12.7

#### 04.13.02.02 **ASSEMBLY PROPERTY REGULATIONS**

Amend Regulation 4.10.1 to read:

All real property acquired or held for or on behalf of the Assembly or any agency of the Assembly (hereinafter called Assembly property) shall be managed and administered by

- a) the governing body of the agency concerned; or
- b) such officer or body as the Assembly or its Standing Committee designates;

#### 04.13.02.03 **FIRST PLACEMENT (PHASE III) MINISTERIAL**

Amend the Definitions at the commencement of the Regulations by inserting:

**Intern** means a Certificated Candidate undertaking the Licensed Year within the meaning of Regulation 2.1.1.

*Re Church Council membership*

Amend Regulation 3.1.12 (a) (i) to read:

“the Ministers, Interns, Youth Workers and Lay Pastors who are serving in approved placements in the Congregation;

*Re Presbytery membership*

Amend Regulation 3.4.15(c) by the addition of a new clause (v), to read;

Interns for whom the Presbytery has pastoral care and oversight in accordance with Regulation 2.2.25

*Re Synod membership*

Amend Regulation 3.5.2(c) to read:

“Ministers of the Word, Deaconesses, Deacons, Interns, Community Ministers....”

04.13.02.04 **AMENDMENT TO REGULATION 2.3.5**

Amend Regulation 2.3.5(b) (iii) so that the Regulation reads:

“unless there are special circumstances the applicant shall have received an education (academic study and ministerial formation) comparable to that required of certificated candidates for the corresponding ministry in the Church or attained competency comparable to that required of Ministers.”

04.13.02.05 **ASSEMBLY FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Amend Regulations 3.6.31 – 3.6.33 by replacing the existing Regulations with the following:

- 3.6.31** (a) The Standing Committee shall establish a Finance and Audit Committee consisting of:
- (i) a chairperson appointed by the Standing Committee from the membership of the Standing Committee;
  - (ii) four other persons at least two of whom are not employees of the Church or Ministers;
  - (iii) the General Secretary and chief financial officer of the Assembly who shall be ex officio non-voting members.
- (b) The members shall be appointed by the Standing Committee at its first meeting after each ordinary meeting of the Assembly.
- (c) All members shall hold office until a new committee is appointed according to Regulation 3.6.31(b);
- (d) Casual vacancies may be filled by appointment of the Standing Committee.
- 3.6.32** The Finance and Audit Committee shall:
- (a) be accountable to the Assembly and its Standing Committee;
  - (b) make to the Assembly such reports and recommendations on financial matters and policies as the Assembly may require or the Finance and Audit Committee considers appropriate.
- 3.6.33** The Finance and Audit Committee shall:
- (a) assist the Standing Committee to discharge its responsibility to exercise due care, diligence and skill in relation to:
    - (i) selection and application of accounting policies;
    - (ii) financial budgeting, recording, monitoring and reporting;
    - (iii) management and internal controls;
    - (iv) business policies and practices;
    - (v) compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and best practices.
  - (b) review and if necessary initiate improvements in the quality of internal and external financial reporting by the Assembly and its agencies;



- (c) review and if necessary initiate improvements in the effectiveness of internal and external audit functions and advise regarding auditors;
- (d) provide a formal forum for communication between the Standing Committee, senior financial management and the external auditor;
- (e) monitor audit and risk management systems put in place by the various agencies;
- (f) initiate action to investigate or intervene in any agency/activity of the Assembly where such action is warranted by an audit finding or risk situation.

04.13.02.06

**MEMBERSHIP OF PRESBYTERY – MINISTERS-IN-ASSOCIATION AND RETIRED MINISTERS**

Amend Regulation 3.4.15 by the addition of a new paragraph (g) and the addition of the words “lay members and three ministerial members” at the end of the next paragraph.

- (g) Ministers who are not otherwise members of the Presbytery as co-opted persons up to a maximum of one for each five ministerial members of Presbytery (Ministers of the Word, Deacons and Deaconesses, such co-options being made for such reasons as the Presbytery considers appropriate, including the following:

to include persons with special gifts not otherwise available to the Presbytery and engaged in a significant ministry within the bounds of the Presbytery

Co-options shall be for a period of one year. A co-opted member is eligible for further co-option, without limit to the number of years of consecutive service. Co-opted members shall have the right to vote. The number of co-opted members from any one Congregation shall not exceed three lay members and three ministerial members.

04.13.02.07

**CHANGE TO COUNSELLING PROCEDURES REFERRAL – REGULATION 7.5.1(a) (i)**

Amend Regulation 7.5.1(a) (i) to read:

“A complaint may be made:

- a) to the chairperson of the Presbytery:
  - (i) by any member of the Church, provided that in the case of a complaint regarding the chairperson of the Presbytery (being a Minister), it shall be made to the secretary of the Presbytery who shall refer ~~it to~~ the complaint to the Synod Committee for Counselling and report the referral to the Pastoral Relations Committee; or”

04.13.03

the effective date for the changes to the Regulations be May 1 2004, with the exception of the Assembly Finance and Audit Committee which shall be April 1st.

**5. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMISSION**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 5 and 5A, Document5 being a report on the developments that have affected Nungalinya and Document 5A being a report on the visit

by the Ministerial Education Commission. Shayne Blackman made a presentation on the Congress' new leadership development program.

**04.14 It was resolved to:**

04.14.01 receive the report;

04.14.02 receive the report of the MEC review of Nungalinga College and note their request that the ASC convene a consultation with the national office of the UAICC, the NRCC and representatives of Nungalinga College;

- a) note the UAICC's plans for a new leadership training program;
- b) invite the UAICC to discuss with the General Secretary, Chris Budden and the Northern Synod General Secretary about the issues that have arisen from the UAICC's decision regarding its national leadership training program;
- c) request the General Secretary to have discussions with the bodies related to Nungalinga College as appropriate, and
- d) bring report to the next meeting of the ASC.

**6. THEOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP**

Rob Bos presented Document 14, consisting of a progress report on the "Becoming Disciples" process.

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

**7. UNITINGCARE**

Bruce Binnie presented Document 23, consisting of a report on actions by Lifeline Australia. The report covered the history of Lifeline and the current developments affecting the Lifeline Centres.

**04.16 It was resolved to:**

04.16.01 express concern about the proposed Lifeline Australia governance framework to Lifeline Australia;

04.16.02 endorse the response of UnitingCare Australia to Lifeline Australia;

04.16.03 encourage each Synod with Lifeline Centres under its direct or indirect control to vote against the proposed constitutional changes.

**8. UNITINGJUSTICE**

Elenie Poulos spoke to Documents 6 and 22, Document 6 being a report on the unethical marketing of breast-milk substitutes, Point 1 in Document 22 including the proposals from UnitingJustice. She also gave a presentation on the work of the agency.

**04.17 It was resolved to:**

04.17.01 receive the report;

04.17.02 note

- a. the World Health Organisation *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes* (WHO Code) and subsequent World Health Assembly Resolutions (WHA Resolutions) seek to protect all mothers and babies from aggressive company practices;

- b. unethical marketing of breast-milk substitutes leads to sickness and death of babies and exploits some of the world's poorest women;
  - c. there is evidence of systemic violations of the WHO Code and WHA Resolutions in the international activities of companies who operate within Australia.
- 04.17.03 call on all companies to fully comply with the World Health Organisation *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes* (WHO Code) and subsequent World Health Assembly Resolutions relating to marketing of breast-milk substitutes (WHA Resolutions).
- 04.17.04 urge
  - a. all companies that sell breast-milk substitutes to provide for independent and transparent monitoring of their marketing practices to ensure compliance with the WHO Code and subsequent WHA Resolutions;
  - b. governments to implement the WHO Code and WHA Resolutions into legislation and ensure that the WHO Code and WHA Resolutions are upheld in their states.
- 04.17.05 encourage members, councils, agencies, congregations and groups of the Uniting Church to:
  - a. raise alleged breaches of the WHO Code and WHA Resolutions with companies and lobby for changes to company policies and practices so that the WHO Code and WHA Resolutions are complied with;
  - b. consider the policies and practices of companies that market breast-milk substitutes when making decisions about the purchase and consumption of their products.

## 9. UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION / UNITING CHURCH OVERSEAS AID

Bill Fischer presented Documents 19 and 19A, containing a revised mandate for Uniting International Mission and Uniting Church Overseas Aid, respectively.

- 04.18 **It was resolved to** approve the revised mandates for UIM and UCOA (Attachments E and F).

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### 1. APPRECIATION REV GRAHAM McANALLEY

- 04.19 **It was resolved to:**

- 04.19.01 note with regret that the Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly failed to record the decision of the Assembly "to express its deep appreciation to Rev Graham McAnalley for his long and effective service as Chairperson of the Reference Committee on Church Polity";
- 04.19.02 convey apologies to Mr McAnalley for this oversight, and the appreciation of the Assembly for his 25 years of service;
- 04.19.03 append a copy of this minute to the Minutes of the Tenth Assembly

### 2. APPRECIATION REV DR ROBERT GRIBBEN

- 04.20 **It was resolved to** express to Rev Dr Robert Gribben warm appreciation for his outstanding contribution to the worship life of the Uniting Church.

### 3. ASSEMBLY YEAR END ACCOUNTS

Jim Fraser spoke to Document 8, consisting of a report on the status of the end of year accounts of the Assembly.

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

**4. MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY**

**04.22** It was resolved to request the National Director of Multicultural Ministry to prepare a paper for the next meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee that will enable a discussion on the place and status of the National Conferences and their relation with the structures of the UCA with particular reference to the Assembly.

**5. PRESIDENTIAL RULING 23**

The President spoke to Document 16, consisting of a Presidential ruling in reply to a request from a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly and the Moderator of the Synod of South Australia regarding actions taken by the Mount Lofty Presbytery.

**04.23** It was resolved to:

04.23.01 note that the President has consulted with various bodies, including the Assembly Standing Committee, prior to the issuing of Presidential Ruling 23;

04.23.02 note that the President has released Presidential Ruling 23;

04.23.03 confirm Presidential Ruling 23.

**6. PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

**04.24** It was resolved to appoint Dean Drayton (Convenor), Isabel Thomas Dobson and James Haire to conduct a performance appraisal of the General Secretary and to bring a report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

**7. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY**

The General Secretary brought a brief report on actions that will be required from the Standing Committee in preparation for the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

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

**8. REPORT ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN UAICC AND GENERAL SECRETARIES**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 13, consisting of a report on the conversations between the UAICC and the Synod and the Assembly General Secretaries. The report represents part of a long discussion between Congress and other parts of the Church. This discussion is a priority for the ASC as it relates to Assembly Key Direction (viii) "Continuing to walk together with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, ..." Extensive discussion took place in table groups. Responses to the direction of the report and the key principles were made and some written responses were provided. There was some concern at the proposed timetable. It was recognised that this is a work in progress and the comments will be taken into account by the General Secretaries' continuation group.

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

**9. REVIEW OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR – UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA**

- 04.27 It was resolved to:**
- 04.27.01 note the guideline for the membership of review groups for National Directors  
 “The review group appointed by the ASC shall include:
- a representative of the agency;
  - a representative of the ASC;
  - a person with skills and expertise in reviews and /or staff human resources;
  - the Assembly General Secretary or Associate General Secretary,
  - up to two other members to bring balance and / or expertise to the group;”
- 04.27.02 a) appoint Wendie Wilkie, James Haire, and Richard Miller to the Review Group for the National Director, Uniting Care Australia;
- b) authorise the Assembly Officers to finalise the list;
- 04.27.03 request that a report on the first phase of the review (as per ASC guidelines Minute 02.10.02) be brought to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

**10. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REGULATION REVIEW TASK GROUP**

- 04.28 It was resolved to** authorise the Task Group appointed to review sexual misconduct regulations to bring recommendations regarding any consequential amendments to any regulation in Chapter 7 arising from their work.

**11. TRUSTEE FOR THE NATIONAL DISASTER FUND**

The General Secretary advised of the retirement of Mrs Eryvn Whitehead as a Trustee of the National Disaster Fund.

- 04.29 It was resolved to:**

- 04.29.01 write and thank Mrs Whitehead and Mr Tom Plaizier for their long and effective service as Trustees of the National Disaster Fund;
- 04.29.02 request the Trustees to bring a name of a prospective replacement Trustee for consideration by the Standing Committee to its next meeting.

**12. UCA PARTICIPATION AT THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES COUNCIL MEETING**

The General Secretary indicated that he had receive a letter from Rev Chris Budden.

- 04.30 It was resolved to:**

- 04.30.01 accept the withdrawal of Rev Dr Chris Budden as a UCA representative to the meeting of the General Council of WARC in Accra in August 2004;
- 04.30.02 appoint Rev Terence Corkin as the replacement UCA representative.

**13. UCA MEMBER OF THE NCCA EXECUTIVE**

The retirement of Rev Dr Rob Gallacher as Christian Unity Secretary has left a vacancy on the NCCA Executive.

- 04.31 It was resolved to** appoint Rev Dr Sandy Yule as a UCA representative to the Executive of the National Council of Churches.

## **14. UCCMTA CONSTITUTION**

The General Secretary presented Document 10, consisting of a brief report on the UCCMTA and its draft Constitution.

### **04.32 It was resolved to:**

- 04.32.01 receive the report;
- 04.32.02 approve the amendment of the UCCMTA constitution (Attachment G);
- 04.32.03 request the Directors to provide to the next meeting of the ASC a list of directors and shareholders.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE TENTH ASSEMBLY**

### **1. COSTS OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (ASSEMBLY MINUTE 03.49 – REFERRAL FROM THE TENTH ASSEMBLY)**

Bruce Binnie introduced this referral from the Tenth Assembly.

### **04.33 It was resolved to:**

- 04.33.01 encourage conversation between theological colleges and synods to ascertain the comparative costs of theological education to assist synods in delivering services in the most effective, efficient and economic way;
- 04.33.02 note the offers from the synods of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria / Tasmania to share the cost of resourcing the project;
- 04.33.03 requests Bruce Binnie, in consultation with Jim Mein, to negotiate with the synods of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria / Tasmania to
  - a) identify the mechanism that will be used to undertake this task;
  - b) determine the way the cost of resourcing the project will be shared between them; and
  - c) bring a progress report to the next meeting of the ASC and a final report on the work to the November 2004 meeting of the ASC

### **2. AMENDMENT TO PROPOSAL 48 (ASSEMBLY MINUTE 03.49 – REFERRAL FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY)**

Chris Budden introduced this referral from the Tenth Assembly.

### **04.34 It was resolved to:**

- 04.34.01 request Theology and Discipleship to
  - (a) prepare a report on how the Basis of Union's commitment to remain open both to "constant reform under his Word" (Para 1) and to tradition, shapes the way in which we are to be "Church" in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;
  - (b) include in the report reflection on the ways in which the church may continue to be guided and inspired by the Basis of Union and on the ways in which the church is acting in accordance with the Basis of Union, including but not limited to the Constitution, Regulations and working relationships between councils;

- (c) consult as it sees fit with synods, presbyteries, congregations and other Assembly bodies as it prepares the report;
- (d) bring a report to the November 2005 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

**3. CATO VISITOR (ASSEMBLY MINUTE 03.49 – REFERRAL FROM THE TENTH ASSEMBLY)**

The General Secretary introduced this referral from the Tenth Assembly.

**04.35 It was resolved to:**

- 04.35.01 note that the Cato Trustees have appointed Rev Norman Young and Rev Robert Gribben as their appointees to a Cato Visitor Committee;
- 04.35.02 appoint Terence Corkin as convenor and request the Assembly Officers to appoint three others as the Assembly members of the Cato Visitor Committee; and
- 04.35.03 request the Committee to take into account the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly theme when considering a person to invite, and to consult with the Design Team for the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly as appropriate.

**4. CHANGE TO COUNSELLING PROCEDURES REFERRAL (ASSEMBLY MINUTE 03.49, ASC 03.51.01)**

The General Secretary introduced the issue, consisting of a referral from the Tenth Assembly. There was extensive discussion.

- 04.36 It was resolved to** refer the original proposal back to the Reception of Ministers Committee and to request them to reconsider their submission re Regulations 2.3.5, 2.3.7 and 2.39 in the light of the points raised in the Assembly Standing Committee.

**APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEES**

- 04.37 it was resolved** to appoint the following members of Reference Committees and Working Groups:

- 04.37.01 **UNITINGJUSTICE**  
Dr Derek McDougall  
Dr Colin Cargill  
Ms Janeen Barker
- 04.37.02 **CHURCH POLITY COMMITTEE**  
Charles Biggs  
Stuart Cameron  
Kylie Holland  
Ian Price  
Karen Hunt (corresponding member)  
Jan Trengove (corresponding member)
- 04.37.03 **DOCTRINE WORKING GROUP**  
Chris Budden (Convenor)  
Peter Butler  
Wes Campbell  
Sef Carroll  
John Hirt  
Clive Pearson  
Elenie Poulos

Yang Rae Son  
Chris Walker  
Elizabeth Walker  
Andrew Dutney (corresponding member)  
Member appointed by Worship Working Group  
Member appointed by Christian Unity Working Group

## **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Troy Hamilton.

### **2004 ASC MEETINGS:**

**16 – 18 July 2004**

**12 – 14 November 2004**