

## Uniting Church in Australia

### ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

17 – 19 March 2006

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

**In attendance:** Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Bos, Rob Brown, Kevin Davis, John Evans, Graham Humphris, Jim Mein, Gavin Melvin, Steve Orme, David Pitman, Paul Swadling, Jenny Tymms, Robert Watson.

**WORSHIP** On Friday night Sue Gormann presided and the President preached at the Service of Holy Communion. On Saturday Allan Thompson led morning worship, and Sue Clarkson led the evening prayers. On Sunday Jenny Tymms led worship and the closing prayer was led by Terence Corkin.

**WELCOMES** The President welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Rob Brown, the new General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

#### 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

**06.01** **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Shayne Blackman, Sealin Garlett, Wesley Gleeson, Troy Hamilton and Myffie Trudinger for absence for the whole of the meeting; Sam Charlesworth, Bev Fabb for Friday night; Liva Tukutama for Sunday morning.

#### PASTORAL MATTERS

The President introduced a time of sharing on pastoral matters. John Evans reported that Robert Watson's mother in law had passed away. Jenny Tymms advised the Standing Committee that Rev Dr David Pitman's sister had died. The death of Pastor Bill Hollingsworth's son was also reported. It was noted that Rev Ian Tanner, past-President had a major surgery on his left shoulder and was doing well. The President led the meeting in prayers.

#### APPROVAL OF TIMETABLE AND AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 4A, 12, 14A, 16, 19, 26 and 27 were distributed on the Friday

evening.

- 06.02**        **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.

On Saturday evening the meeting adjourned business at 8.00pm for a special event to mark the end of the term of Assembly Standing Committee and on Sunday spent 30 minutes considering how to share its experience as an ASC with the incoming ASC and 30 minutes hearing from members who had been at the recent WCC General Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 06.03**        **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 11 -13 November 2005.

## **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**

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

At this last ASC rather than my tasks winding down, the pace keeps on as intense as ever. The situation in West Papua is of great concern to us, as the proposals we have passed today have indicated. I thank the ASC for sending me as an observer to the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the WCC in Porto Alegre. Our strategy of sending the President Elect as one of our delegates worked well. There it was acknowledged in many ways the tremendous contribution he has made and will continue to make to the ecumenical church. What a nexus of world relationships he brings to his future role. The Uniting Church is well known and greatly appreciated at the Assembly. What a thrill it was to see the consensus process written into the constitution of the WCC and the way it worked well this first time. The 4,000 attending showed there is still remarkable vitality in the ecumenical movement as it charts new ways to witness to a call to be the One Church, a call that has overtones of the Basis of Union. The address by Bishop Tutu, and Archbishop Rowan Williams were the highlights for me. The trip was also memorable for having my passport and tickets stolen in Madrid, and much to my relief, having them found by police the next morning. And in Dallas on the way home I found a most significant paper on the philosophical change from considering God as the object of thought, to a newer move in which God is considered as inherent in every event.

I have been encouraged by some emerging possibilities for funding a multi-purpose building at Mapoon, one of our hopes over the last two triennium.

As I consider the last nearly three years the event which keeps on coming back was the visit to a slave castle near Accra Ghana in August 2004. The chapel that was used for reformed worship Sunday by Sunday for over 200 hundred years had for its floor the wooden ceiling to the dungeons where the women held there were kept in abysmal conditions. How could the people of God be so blind to the

way of Jesus? But at the World Alliance of Reformed Churches meeting there the most disturbing question was asked. If they were blind to that, what are we blind to as the Church now? Once asked the answer seems awfully clear. We worship in nations in which our style of living depends on the poverty of billions. It is that issue that is so large but always looming ever larger. As I finish this last report my prayer is, Good Lord, deliver them and us.

## **SYNOD SHARING – SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Participants from the Synod of Western Australia shared something of the life of their Synod as an expression of our interconciliar sharing-

- From boutique to one-stop shop
- The new WA UCA
- Models for the new WA UCA
- Model adopted at Synod 2005
- What's happened
- Lessons
- Hopes

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

### **1. KEY DIRECTIONS TO GO TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY (ASC MINUTE 05.70)**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 17, consisting of a report on the drafting of Assembly key directions identified for the next triennium by the November ASC meeting.

#### **06.05 It was resolved to:**

06.05.01 receive the report;

06.05.02 refer the proposed Key Directions for the next triennium to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly for its determination;

That the Assembly resolve to

- a) commit to continuing reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the UCA and wider community by
  - (i) committing to a process leading to a renewing of the covenant with the UAICC and strengthening its expression in the congregations, councils and agencies of the church, including strengthening the capacity for good working relationships to exist between the Congress and Assembly agencies, especially Frontier Services, Uniting Justice and UnitingCare Australia;
  - (ii) working in solidarity with Congress in order to achieve reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians;
  - (iii) recognising the contribution which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality can make to the life of the UCA and take steps to ensure that this contribution is received;
- b) engage in Jesus' ministry of peacemaking within the world and the church by
  - developing resources that will assist our members and councils to develop skills and strategies to live together in peace in a multicultural and diverse UCA;
  - seeking closer unity with other churches;

- deepening relationships with churches in Asia and the Pacific and Councils of Churches;
  - working with people of other faiths to promote mutual respect and understanding;
  - countering terrorism and violence through helping our members learn to live and act as peacemakers, as taught and modelled by Jesus;
  - protecting and promoting human rights; and
  - fostering respect for God's creation and the goal of living in harmony with the environment;
- c) (i) to critically evaluate the polity and governance of the church with a view to reducing the level of prescription, increasing the level of local permission giving and enhancing the capability of Councils of the church to respond to current missional imperatives;
- (ii) refer this key direction to the Assembly Standing Committee for implementation with the advice that the bodies to be consulted should include: Legal Reference Committee, Church Polity, Secretariat, Theology and Discipleship, Ministerial Education Commission, Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry, Christian Unity Working Group, Congress and Synod Secretaries.
- (d) commit itself over the next triennium
- (i) to the articulation of our doctrine in a way that communicates clearly to our members;
- (ii) to articulating our identity as the UCA, with particular reference to the way in which our doctrine of God informs and shapes our mission in the world; and
- (iii) the education of our members to better know, own and share their faith;
- (e) (i) support and nurture the renewal of the passion for evangelism, discipleship formation and leadership development;
- (ii) request Theology and Discipleship and the Evangelism Working Group to develop key strategies including grass roots and inter-synod activity;
- (f) request agencies to develop one or two S.M.A.R.T (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely) goals where these key directions are relevant to their area of responsibility and to engage in dialogue with the ASC about them over the next triennium.

## 2. **NOMINATION FOR NATIONAL DIRECTOR – UNITING INTERNATIONAL MISSION (ASC MINUTE 04.100.04)**

James Haire introduced Document 16, consisting of a report on the process used by the Nominating Committee, and then gave a supplementary verbal report in which he indicated that the Committee was not able to bring a nomination to the ASC.

### **06.06 It was resolved to:**

- 06.06.01 receive the report;
- 06.06.02 readvertise the position;
- 06.06.03 appoint Rob Brown (Convenor), Jason Kioa, Carolyn Thornley, Gordon Dicker and Margaret Cargill to the Nominating Committee;

- 06.06.04 request the Nominating Committee and Synod Placements Committees to give consideration to possible persons for the role and to approach them;
- 06.06.05 thank John Mavor for his willingness to serve further in the role of the Acting National Director of UIM;
- 06.06.06 thank Margaret Reeson and James Haire for their service.

**2. SACRAMENTAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN UCA AGENCIES (ASC MINUTES 99.66 AND 05.37)**

Rob Bos spoke to Document 10, consisting of questions and guidelines to assist presbyteries and agencies considering new congregations and faith communities of the UCA within institutional settings.

**06.07 It was resolved to:**

- 06.07.01 receive the report;
- 06.07.02 refer the comments made at the ASC back to the Working Group and ask it to make any necessary changes to the report and bring recommendations to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly;
- 06.07.03 commend the document "Being Church Differently" to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly with a view to it being offered to the Church for its discussion and use.

**FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES**

**1. AGENCY REPORTS**

The General Secretary introduced Document 20, consisting of reports from the Church Polity Reference Committee and UnitingJustice Australia.

**06.08 It was resolved to:**

- 06.08.01 receive the reports.

**2. GENERAL REPORT**

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 14 and 14A, consisting of a report on various matters. Glenda Blakefield spoke to matters relating to Coolamon College.

**06.09 It was resolved to:**

- 06.09.01 receive the report;
- 06.09.02 note that Rev Helen Richmond, National Director of Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, has accepted a full time scholarship with Charles Sturt University to study for a PhD and will take up that scholarship from 1 August 2006;
- 06.09.03 note that Rev Helen Richmond will conclude her placement on 31 December 2006;
- 06.09.04 appoint Liva Tukutama (Convenor), Tina Rendell, Jason Kioa, Rob Bos, Terence Corkin and Kisoo Jang as the Nominating Committee for a new National Director for Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry;

- 06.09.05 pass on the advice received from the Church Polity Reference Committee on the proposal re Clause 39 of the Constitution to the NSW Synod;
- 06.09.06 note that the finalisation of the Sexual Misconduct Regulation changes was not completed in time for the Assembly Officers to act under the authority given by ASC Minute 05.65.02 c);
- 06.09.07 receive the revised copy of the SSMCC Regulations resulting from the discussions between Legal Reference Committee and the Task Group Chairperson;
- 06.09.08 adopt the amended SSMCC Regulations (Attachment A);
- 06.09.09 set the effective date at 1 September 2006;
- 06.09.10 determine that any complaints that are received prior to 1 September 2006 will be conducted under the current Regulations.

### 3. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary introduced Document 12, consisting of a report on work the Assembly Legal Reference Committee has done since the November 2005 ASC meeting.

#### 06.10 It was resolved to:

- 06.10.01 receive the report;
- 06.10.02 amend the proposals re the election of the President and related matters as recommended by the Legal Reference Committee and submit the following amendments to the Regulations to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly for adoption:

#### METHOD OF BALLOTING FOR PRESIDENT- ELECT

**3.6.11** Nominations for inclusion in the ballot for the President-elect may be made either by a Synod, or a Presbytery ~~or by a member of the Assembly~~, it being necessary in each case that the nomination be submitted in writing on a form containing the consent of the nominee. Nominations will close 90 days prior to the date of the commencement of the meeting of the Assembly at which an election is to be held.

The method of voting shall be as the Assembly determines, provided that no person shall be declared elected until that person has obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast, provided that in the first instance the inaugural Assembly may make such other provisions as it sees fit for designating the President of the next ensuing Assembly.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

- 3.6.26** (a) It shall be the responsibility of the Standing Committee to transact such business as may be referred to it by the Assembly and such other business as may be required or be desirable to be done on behalf of the Assembly between meetings of the Assembly, except such as may be precluded by the Assembly.
- (b) To assist the Assembly in its discernment, the Standing Committee shall, at least ten months prior to an Assembly

meeting, advise the church on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the seven subsequent years.

(c) From time to time the Standing Committee will provide guidance to the President on priorities to be pursued, and the way in which the responsibilities named in Regulation 3.6.13 (a) are to be exercised.

#### **4. TASK GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

The General Secretary introduced Document 5, consisting of a report from the Assembly Task Group on the Review of the Code of Ethics.

##### **06.11 It was resolved to:**

- 06.11.01 note that the report is not ready to proceed to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly;
- 06.11.02 report this to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly;
- 06.11.03 recommend to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly that
  - a) the Terms of Reference for the review of the Code of Ethics be confirmed;
  - b) request the ASC to appoint a new group;
- 06.11.04 thank and discharge the current Task Group on the Review of the Code of Ethics.

#### **5. TASK GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY POLICIES**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 7, consisting of a report from the Task Group.

##### **06.12 It was resolved to:**

- 06.12.01 receive the report;
- 06.12.02 request the General Secretary to consult with the Convenor of the Task Group regarding comments made by the ASC, especially that the report might draw out more conclusions from the data presented and evidence a closer link with the terms of reference.

#### **6. TASK GROUP ON REVIEW OF KOREAN REGULATIONS**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 22, consisting of a report from the Task Group.

##### **06.13 It was resolved to:**

- 06.13.01 receive the interim report of the Task Group on Alternate Korean Regulations;
- 06.13.02 note the need for more time to adequately process the responses received so far and to continue conversations with key groups;
- 06.13.03 request the Task Group to bring a final report with recommendations to the August meeting of the ASC.

## **7. TASK GROUP ON SPECIFIED MINISTRIES**

The General Secretary introduced Document 6, consisting of a report from the Task Group on Specified Ministries. Discussion followed.

### **06.14 It was resolved to:**

- 06.14.01 note the report;
- 06.14.02 forward the comments of the ASC to the Task Group for further consideration in preparing its report and proposals for the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

## **8. WORKING GROUP ON DOCTRINE**

### **1. Statement**

Rob Bos introduced Document 21, consisting of a statement from the Working Group on Doctrine to the Eleventh Assembly.

### **06.15 It was resolved to:**

- 06.15.01 receive and approve the document ‘Guidance for the Church’s Faithful Thinking’ as a helpful statement of a Uniting Church approach to theological reflection;
- 06.15.02 include the statement in the papers for the Eleventh Assembly for the guidance of Assembly members.

### **2. Re Theological Listener at the ASC**

Rob Bos spoke to Document 23, consisting of a letter from the Secretary of the Working Group on Doctrine.

### **06.16 It was resolved to:**

- 06.16.01 receive the letter from the Working Group on Doctrine;
- 06.16.02 recommend to the new ASC the use of a theological listener;
- 06.16.03 request Rob Bos to bring a proposal to the August 2006 ASC meeting on this matter and some guidance on how a theological listener would operate within a meeting of the ASC.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. ASSEMBLY “PROPOSAL 35”**

The General Secretary introduced Document 13, consisting of a report on a referral from the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

### **06.17 It was resolved to:**

- 06.17.01 receive the report;
- 06.17.02 request the General Secretary to convene a meeting of the Assembly Reception of Ministers Committee and a cross-section of Synod Reception of Ministers Committee members to examine:
  - the proposed changes to Regulation 2.3.5(c) and 2.3.7;
  - the respective roles of the Committees;

- the understanding of “attained competency comparable to that required of Ministers” (Regulation 2.3.5(c));
- appeal process; and
- other operational issues of the respective committees;

06.17.03 request the General Secretary to report back to the ASC.

## 2. **ASC PROPOSALS TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 9, consisting of the proposals the ASC intends to take to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

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

## 3. **ASC REPORT TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 8, consisting of the report of the ASC to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly. There was discussion on where the report could be strengthened and additional areas that should be included.

**06.19** **It was resolved to:**

06.19.01 receive the report;

06.19.02 request the General Secretary to amend the report in the light of Standing Committee’s discussion;

06.19.03 forward the revised report to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

## 4. **BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Rob Bos introduced Document 25, consisting of a report on theological and practical principles relating to baptism, confirmation and church membership.

**06.20** **It was resolved to:**

06.20.01 receive the report;

06.20.02 refer the paper back to Theology and Discipleship with a request that it be reworked in the light of the ASC discussion and be brought back to the November 2006 ASC meeting with a view to the paper brought being sent to presbyteries and synods for discussion.

## 5. **CHRISTIAN UNITY WORKING GROUP MANDATE**

The General Secretary introduced Document 26, consisting of the mandate of the Christian Unity Working Group.

**06.21** **It was resolved to** endorse the mandate with the addition of another paragraph regarding membership.

## 6. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM EMU AND REFORMING ALLIANCE**

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 4 and 4A, consisting of a report on the correspondence received from EMU and Reforming Alliance.

**06.22** **It was resolved to:**

06.22.01 receive the report;

06.22.02 note the Press Release and to receive the letter from the National Executives of The Reforming Alliance (RA) and Evangelical Members (EMU);

- 06.22.03 authorise the General Secretary to respond;
- 06.22.04 request the Working Group on Doctrine to comment on the claim that the UCA has moved outside the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Secretary presented the business in Documents 18.

### 06.23 It was resolved to:

- 06.23.01 a) receive the report of the Church Polity Reference Committee on the referral made in 03.32.01;
- b) accept the recommendation of the Church Polity Reference Committee and determine that no further action be taken in response to Assembly minute 03.32.01 and report this to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly;
- 06.23.02 appoint Robert Gribben (Vic), Ann Connan (Vic), Dorothy Demack (Qld), , Steve Francis (WA), Ken Anderson (SA), Myong Duk Yang (NSW), Andrew Tiver (Vic), John Bottomley (Vic), Jean Gunn (Vic), Alyson Madsen (Qld) and Sang Taek Lee (NSW), ) as the UCA delegation to the World Methodist Council meeting in Korea in July 2006;
- 06.23.03 appoint John Connan (Vic), Alan Demack (Qld), Hedley Fihaki (Qld), Heather Ashcroft (Vic), Paul Langkamp (Korea) as delegates to the World Methodist Conference;
- 06.23.04 a) receive the letter from Mr Ron Radford, Director of the National Gallery of Australia;
- b) gift the Richard Browne and Samuel Leigh collection to the National Gallery of Australia subject to the concurrence of Congress. This gift is subject to a commitment from them to conserve and preserve the collection and to include acknowledgement of the gift of the Uniting Church during any display or reproduction of the works;
- 06.23.06 a) receive the letter from Rev Hedley Fihaki & Rev Lu Senituli;
- b) decline their request and encourage Hedley Fihaki to participate in the Assembly process in the normal way;
- 06.23.07 receive the correspondence from Presbyteries and congregations in relation to sexuality and leadership in the Uniting Church;
- 06.23.08 authorise the General Secretary to lease a residence for the National Director of Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry;
- 06.23.09 note that the General Secretary has signed a lease for additional space for the Assembly (UIM) on level 10 of 222 Pitt St;
- 06.23.10 receive the letter from the National Working Group on Missiology;
- 06.23.11 a) receive the report of the General Secretaries on the referral of ASC minute 05.75.03;
- b) note that the Queensland Synod is developing a manual to assist all areas of the church deal with difficult behavioural questions: behaviours that would themselves be a breach the Code of Ethics;

- c) encourage the General Secretaries to co-operate in the development of a common handbook that can be applied nationally;
  - d) invite the General Secretaries, if it is appropriate at a later time, to bring recommendations to the ASC about any national training that might be necessary to facilitate the implementation of this handbook, or related matters;
- 06.23.12 a) appoint the following persons as the youthful members of the Assembly: Ms Rebecca Headland (SA), Mr Kendall Trudgeon (Northern Synod), Mr James Ellis (NSW), Mr Ian Pryor (WA), Mr Michael Dobson (VIC) and the youthful member submitted by the Queensland Synod.
- b) appoint Rev Liva Tukutama, Rev Apwee Ting, Rev Myung Duk Yang, Rev James Latu, Mr Wai Hoey, Mrs Eseta Meneilly, Mrs Temukisa Vaeluaga, Miss Ofa Fotu to membership of the Assembly under ASC decision 05.29.03;
- 06.23.13 appoint Rev Allan Thompson as a member of the Reception of Ministers Committee;
- 06.23.14 note the resignation of Rev Bill Fischer as a Director of UCA Assembly Ltd and appoint Rev John Mavor as a Director of UCA Assembly Ltd;
- 06.23.15 authorise the of Christian Education Reference Committee to receive submissions to be the host operator of NCYC 2009 and grant authority to approve the host operator for NCYC 2009;

## 8. MEDIA AT THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY

Gavin Melvin introduced Document 11, consisting of a report on the media and communication strategies on the way to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

### 06.24 It was resolved to:

- 06.24.01 receive the report;
- 06.24.02 request the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly Business Committee to implement a “covenanting process” to address the issue of members speaking with the media.

## 9. PROPOSED “CENTRE FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY”

Gregor Henderson spoke to Document 27, consisting of a report on a proposal to establish a “Centre for an Ethical Society”. Extended discussion ensued.

### 06.25 It was resolved to:

- 06.25.01 receive the report;
- 06.25.02 request Gregor Henderson to refer the paper from the Centre for an Ethical Society, on relationships with churches, to UnitingJustice Australia and UnitingCare Australia;
- 06.25.03 request UnitingJustice Australia and UnitingCare Australia to bring a report and recommendations to the August meeting of the Standing Committee on the possible relationship between the Uniting Church and the Centre for an Ethical Society.

## 10. REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary introduced Document 2, consisting of a report on preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

### 06.26 It was resolved to:

- 06.26.01 receive the report;
- 06.26.02
  - a) note the procedures that have been developed in consultation with Congress to assist Congress' participation in business sessions of the Assembly;
  - b) recommend their adoption by the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly into its business procedures;
- 06.26.03 appoint Cynthia Coghill, Gregor Henderson, Glenda Blakefield, Kate Tretheway, Kate Fraser, Ken Deveraux and Eseta Meneilly to the Business Committee of the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly;
- 06.26.04 co-opt Rev James Haire to membership of the 11th Assembly from the time he ceases to be the ex – President;
- 06.26.05 authorise the Assembly Officers to make sufficient co-options of lay persons so that the requirements of Regulation 3.6.9 are satisfied.

## 11. REPORT ON PROPOSALS RELATED TO SEXUALITY AND LEADERSHIP

The General Secretary spoke to Document 3, consisting of a report on the proposals received on the matter of sexuality and leadership.

### 06.27 It was resolved to:

- 06.27.01 receive the report;
- 06.27.02 make the report known to the church.

## 12. REPORT ON THE MEETING WITH CONGRESS

The General Secretary introduced Document 24, consisting of a report on the meeting, a booklet "Covenant as an expression of the relationship between the UAICC and other parts of the Uniting Church" and the foundational theological document.

### 06.28 It was resolved to:

- 06.28.01 receive the report;
- 06.28.02 bring a proposal to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly which enables it to:
  - a) note the work undertaken by the Standing Committee in the "renewing the covenant process";
  - b) give thanks to God for the covenantal relationship that exists between Congress and the rest of the church and to express an ongoing commitment to exploring what it means for our life together;
  - c) commend the theological resource to the church for study and exploration of its practical implications for the relationship of Congress with the wider church;
  - d) request the Standing Committee to develop the resource into a short series of studies for use in the church;
  - e) request the Standing Committee to encourage synods, presbyteries and relevant agencies to hold discussions about the way in which they can enhance the practical expression of the covenant in their

- relationship with Congress and to monitor the progress of these conversations;
- f) request the Standing Committee, as necessary, to facilitate any national discussion that needs to take place, and to bring any proposed changes to the regulations that might arise from this process to the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

06.28.03 request the General Secretary to finalise these recommendations for submission to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

### 13. WESLEY UNITING EMPLOYMENT

Glenda Blakefield introduced Document 19, consisting of a report on the investigation on Wesley Uniting Employment by the Commonwealth Government through its Department of Workplace and Industrial Relations.

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

### 14. WEST PAPUA

**06.30** It was resolved to:

06.30.01 express deep concern at recent events in Papua, especially at the killing of students and plain clothes police.

06.30.02 acknowledge the rising levels of frustration of the indigenous people of Papua as evidenced by the recent demonstrations at the University in Jayapura and at the Freeport Mine

06.30.03 express solidarity with the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua and its ecumenical partners in Papua, and strongly support their initiative to establish Papua as a "Zone of Peace"

06.30.04 in response to the approach from the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua to the Uniting Church, call on the Indonesian authorities to act responsibly and with restraint in Papua and to offer more opportunities for dialogue with Papuan religious and community leaders concerning the present situation in Papua and the future of Papua.

06.30.05 ask the Australian Government to support the above resolutions of the Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia and to convey them to the Indonesian Government

### CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 3.00pm with prayer led by Terence Corkin.

#### 2006 ASC MEETINGS:

25 – 27 August 2006  
10 –12 November 2006

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**President**

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**Date**