

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

20 – 22 JULY 2007

PRESENT Gregor Henderson (President), Shayne Blackman, Chris Budden, Sue Clarkson, Terence Corkin, Isabel Thomas Dobson, Bev Fabb, Sue Gormann, Elise Honey, Andrew Johnson, Jason Kioa, Stuart McMillan, Alistair Macrae, Jim Mein, Vince Ross, Heidi Stabb, Allan Thompson, Jan Trengove, Liva Tukutama, Robert Watson.

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Rob Bos, Rob Brown, Kevin Davis, John Evans, Paul Swadling, Jenny Tymms, Chris Walker

WORSHIP On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, Chris Budden presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion and Jenny Tymms preached. On the Saturday Liva Tukutama led morning worship and Sue Clarkson led evening prayers. On the Sunday Paul Swadling led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Rob Bos.

WELCOMES

The Chairperson welcomed all Assembly Standing Committee participants to the meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Chris Walker as the Theological Listener; Jim Fraser for matters related to Assembly finances; Elenie Poulos and Janeen Barker for matters related to UnitingJustice Australia.

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

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

APOLOGIES

07.25 **It was resolved** to receive the apology of Kate Fraser, Bruce Binnie, Dean Drayton and Mata Havea for the whole meeting; Liva Tukutama for Sunday; Gregor Henderson for the whole meeting except Sunday afternoon; Jason Kioa and Shayne Blackman for Friday night.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The General Secretary reported the death of Alison, Gregor's wife and Niall Reid's surgery. The participants were also advised that Rev Djiniyini Gondarra's wife died on June 26 at Galiwinku. The General Secretary shared about the death of David Thiem's mother and his own father. The time of pastoral sharing closed with prayer led by the Chairperson.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

07.26 **It was resolved to** appoint Alistair Macrae as Chairperson of this meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 19 and 20 were distributed on the Friday night.

- 07.27 It was resolved to:**
- 07.27.01 consider in accordance with Minute 02.08.05 whether the content and emphasis of the agenda reflects an appropriate level of focus on matters of contemporary significance to the Church; and
- 07.27.02 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 MEETING

- 07.28 It was resolved to:**
- 07.28.01 confirm the minutes of the meeting held March 16 - 18 2007;
- 07.28.02 a) approve the action of the General Secretary in altering the minutes (Attachment B) to read "Rather each person recognised in one of the Specified Ministries (which will no longer be available for new candidates as from Dec 31st 2007) ..." in replacement for "... (which will no longer be available for new candidates as from Dec 31st 2008) ..." even though this was the decision of the Standing Committee, and
b) distribution of the corrected minutes; and
- 07.28.03 incorporate this correction into the minutes of the March 2007 ASC.

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."

SYNOD SHARING – SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Rob Brown, Sue Gormann, Alistair Macrae and Allan Thompson from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania were invited to share something of the life of their synod as an expression of our inter-councilar sharing.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR THE ASSOCIATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR – FRONTIER SERVICES (ASC MINUTE 07.14)

The General Secretary spoke to Document 11, consisting of a report on the appointment process, past and present, for the Associate National Director – Frontier Services.

- 07.29 It was resolved to:**
- 07.29.01 receive the report; and
- 07.29.02 delegate the authority to appoint the Associate National Director of Frontier Services to the Frontier Services Board. (Agreement)

2. POLITY / GOVERNANCE TASK GROUP (ASC MINUTE 06.38.01)

Chris Budden spoke to Document 2, consisting of a report of the Polity / Governance Task Group.

07.30 It was resolved to receive the report.

3. REFORMING ALLIANCE CORRESPONDENCE (ASC MINUTE 07.21)

The General Secretary introduced Documents 10, 10A, 10B and 10C, consisting of correspondence from and to Reforming Alliance and their legal advice.

07.31 It was resolved to:

07.31.01 note that the Standing Committee has been provided with legal advice dated 14 March 2007, from Reforming Alliance;

07.31.02 note the advice received from the Assembly's legal advisors;

07.31.03 concur with the advice received from the Assembly's legal advisors that Resolution 06.41 and the earlier Resolution 03.12.04 as varied by the ASC resolution 03.69.02 are valid; and

07.31.04 determine no further action is required.

4. REVIEW PROCESS FOR NATIONAL DIRECTORS (ASC MINUTE 05.74.04)

The General Secretary presented Document 7, consisting of a report on the review of the National Directors of UnitingJustice Australia and Theology and Discipleship.

07.32 It was resolved to:

07.32.01 receive the report;

07.32.02 approve the following Terms of Reference and Process Guidelines for the review of Ministers serving as National Directors or Associate General Secretary in Assembly placements:

Terms of Reference

Through written submissions and conversations with recipients of the ministry, observers from the wider life of the church and people who work with the National Director (including the Reference Committee) explore with the National Director:

- her / his ongoing sense of call to the ministry;
- the directions that are developing for the agency / area of work in the next period of time, including what this means for the type of gifts required from a National Director; and
- whether the person's gifts and sense of call match the role that is anticipated for the next period of time.

Process

- Approximately 12 months before the conclusion of the Minister's term the ASC appoints a Review Group of three persons plus the relevant line manager (ie the General Secretary or Associate General Secretary), the Convenor of which shall be a member of the Standing Committee;
- The Review Group prepares a written instrument that can be used to guide a conversation about the issues relevant to the Terms of Reference;
- The Review Group provides feedback to the National Director, preferably through a face to face meeting, on the responses that are being received and explores with the National Director whether there is an ongoing sense of call to the ministry;
- A report and recommendations are prepared for the ASC meeting held approximately six months before the conclusion of the term; and

- The Review Group shares the content of this report with the National Director prior to the meeting of the ASC and invites any comment;
 - The ASC resolves whether an extension will be offered to the Minister for a designated term.
- 07.32.03 appoint Alistair Macrae (Convenor) and Janeen Barker plus the Associate General Secretary as the Review Group for Rev Elenie Poulos, and request a report to the November meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- 07.32.04 appoint Liva Tukutama (Convenor), Chris Budden and Elizabeth Walker plus the Associate General Secretary as the Review Group for Rev Dr Rob Bos, and request a report to the November meeting of the Standing Committee.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. AGENCY “S.M.A.R.T” GOALS

The General Secretary presented Document 14, consisting of lists of S.M.A.R.T. goals from various Assembly Agencies, grouped around the relevant Key Direction.

07.33 It was resolved to:

- 07.33.01 receive the report;
- 07.33.02 request the General Secretary to ask Christian Education to be more specific about their goals; and
- 07.33.03 request the General Secretary to provide some time in the next agenda to allow the Standing Committee to consider more closely how the S.M.A.R.T. goals and the Assembly Key Directions fit together.

2. ASSEMBLY BUDGET PREPARATION 2008

The General Secretary spoke to Document 4, consisting of a report on the budgeting process for 2008.

07.34 It was resolved to:

- 07.34.01 receive the report;
- 07.34.02 (a) appoint a Working Group of three persons plus the General Secretary to
- consider whether the current financial arrangements with the synods adequately provide for the Assembly’s long term financial needs;
 - consider alternative financial arrangements with the synods that might better address the need of the Assembly to have a funding mechanism that at least consistently meets inflation based cost increases, noting that one model will not work in all situations;
 - hold preliminary conversations with representatives of synods in the light of options that are generated;
 - generate ideas for alternative income sources for the Assembly so as to reduce the Assembly’s reliance on Synod grants from the current level of more than 80%, with authority to develop proposals for consideration by the ASC; and
 - bring a progress report to the November meeting of the Standing Committee;
- b) appoint Bruce Binnie (Convenor), Jim Mein Sue Clarkson and Siebert Ruddock as members of the Task Group; and

- 07.34.03 request the General Secretary to compile a report exploring the cost effectiveness of relocating the Assembly offices to another Australian city where the office and housing costs are lower.

3. ASSEMBLY AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jim Fraser, CFO, presented Documents 5 and 5A, consisting of a report on the audit of the financial accounts of the Assembly for the year ending 31 December 2006 and the Frontier Services budget for the year ended 30 June 2008.

07.35 It was resolved to:

- 07.35.01 receive the report; and
07.35.02 adopt the Frontier Services budget for the year ended 30 June 2008.

4. GENERAL REPORT

The General Secretary introduced Document 15, consisting of a report on various matters.

07.36 It was resolved to:

- 07.36.01 receive the report;
07.36.02 request the General Secretary to allocate time in the agenda of the next meeting to consider the theme for the 12th Assembly; and
07.36.03 as a matter of urgency convene a meeting between representatives of UnitingCare, the Synods and the UAICC to consider responses that the Church might make in the light of recent decisions by the Commonwealth Government in respect of aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, including advocacy and the provision of community services in collaboration with Congress.

5. LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The General Secretary spoke to Document 9, consisting of a report on the work the Legal Reference Committee has done since the March 2007 Standing Committee meeting.

07.37 It was resolved to:

- 07.37.01 receive the report;
07.37.02 request the Legal Reference Committee to provide a form of words to the ASC that will enable it to resolve in such a way that the church within the bounds of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania may appoint, in total, the same number of persons to the 12th Assembly as it did to the 11th Assembly, and that the basis for the wording be:
(i) The Presbytery of Tasmania appoint six members, and each of the (seven) Victorian presbyteries elect three persons at least one of whom shall be a minister and one of whom shall be a lay person. The requirement to have at least as many lay persons as ministers would be met in the count of the synod ballot.
07.37.03 (a) amend the regulations as follows:

Re Youth Workers

ACCREDITATION

- 2.9.2 (a)** When a candidate has fulfilled all the requirements for accreditation to the ministry of Youth Worker, including the satisfactory completion of the required course of studies and in the Presbytery's opinion readiness to exercise the ministry of Youth Worker, the Presbytery which had pastoral care and oversight of the candidate during the period of core theological education shall, following consideration of an appraisal from and consultation with the Presbytery in which the candidate exercised ministry in the licensed year, determine whether or not the candidate is to be accredited. The Presbytery shall then arrange for a service of commissioning, such service to be in accordance with a form authorised by the Assembly;
- (b) Subject to Regulation 2.9.3, the accreditation of a Youth Worker shall continue:
- (i) while the Youth Worker is in a placement;
 - (ii) while the Youth Worker is awaiting an initial or new placement; or
 - (iii) where the Placements Committee, on the recommendation of the relevant Presbytery, has granted a leave of absence for a defined period for the Youth Worker to undertake a course of study approved by the Placements Committee, or for family or other pastoral reasons, or for other reasons which the Placements Committee considers sufficient.

Re Lay Pastors

WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION

- 2.13.11 The recognition of a Lay Pastor shall cease upon:
- (b) the termination of the placement of, or expiry of a leave of absence granted to, a Lay Pastor where the Lay Pastor does not immediately commence a new placement or other ministry position recognised by a Presbytery;

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.13.22 The Placements Committee may, on the recommendation of the relevant Presbytery, grant a leave of absence for a defined period for the Lay Pastor to undertake a course of study approved by Committee, or for family or other pastoral reasons, or for other reasons which the placements Committee considers sufficient.

- b) determine that the effective date shall be 1 January 2008;
- 07.37.04 a) amend the Alternate Regulations for Korean Congregations (Attachment A) as follows:

ALTERNATE REGULATIONS FOR KOREAN CONGREGATIONS

~~Approved by Assembly Standing Committee March 1999~~

~~Amendments approved by Assembly Standing Committee March 2000~~

1. **REGULATION 2.1.1**

Add new definitions in Regulation 2.1.1:

“For the purpose of these alternate Regulations, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates:

(Note: wherever “alternate” appears it has been changed to “alternative” but not every example is included in this paper)

5. **KWONSAS AND JIBSAS**

Alternate Regulations 3.1.36 – 3.1.40

“KWONSAS AND JIBSAS

3.1.36 Kwonsas are members appointed by Korean Congregations to fulfil a pastoral role within the Congregation. Jibsas are members appointed by Korean Congregations to administrative or management roles within the Congregation. ~~Hangjon jibsas are jibsas appointed with lifetime tenure. Both men and women may be appointed kwonsas and jibsas.~~

3.1.37 Korean Congregations shall continue to recognise those kwonsas and ~~hangjon~~ jibsas who are serving in those roles in the Congregation, as at the date on which these alternate Regulations come into effect. A meeting of the Congregation may determine that some or all such kwonsas and ~~hangjon~~ jibsas shall be members of the Church Council, in addition to those listed in Regulation 3.1.12(a).

3.1.38 Korean Congregations are free to determine whether or not the congregation elects new kwonsas or ~~hangjon~~ jibsas. The term of office of kwonsas and the method of election of kwonsas and ~~hangjon~~ jibsas shall be as determined by the Church Council.

3.1.39 ~~The term of office of jibsas and the method of election shall be as determined by the Church Council.~~ A meeting of the Congregation may determine that some or all jibsas shall be members of the Church Council, within the number of persons to be elected under Regulation 3.1.12(a)(v).”

7. **DECISION TO FOLLOW THESE ALTERNATE REGULATIONS**

Alternate Regulations 3.1.42 – 3.1.45

“DECISION BY KOREAN CONGREGATIONS CONCERNING THE ~~KONG-DONG KYU-JUNG~~ THESE REGULATIONS

3.1.42 Korean Congregations which have chosen to follow ~~the Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung (Uniting Church Regulations varied by alternate Regulations approved by the Assembly or the Assembly Standing Committee)~~ these alternative Regulations shall automatically transfer to ~~the revised Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung (Uniting Church Regulations varied by these alternate Regulations approved by the Assembly Standing Committee)~~ these alternative Regulations on the date on which these alternate Regulations come into effect.

3.1.43 A Korean Congregation which is following ~~the revised Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung~~ these alternative Regulations may decide at any time, by a simple majority vote at a meeting of the Congregation, that it no longer wishes to follow ~~the revised Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung~~ these alternative Regulations. Such a Congregation shall then follow the Uniting Church Regulations unvaried by these

alternate Regulations. The Uniting Church Regulations shall not apply retrospectively to decisions previously taken under the original or revised Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung. The Congregation shall immediately notify the Presbytery in writing of its decision.

3.1.44 A Korean Congregation which is following the Uniting Church Regulations unvaried by these ~~alternate~~ive Regulations may decide, by a simple majority vote at a meeting of the Congregation, that it shall follow ~~the revised Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung these alternative Regulations. The revised Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung~~ These alternative Regulations shall not apply retrospectively to decisions taken under the Uniting Church Regulations. The Congregation shall immediately notify the Presbytery in writing of its decision.

~~**3.1.45** Within two months of the date on which these alternate Regulations come into effect, each Korean Congregation shall notify the Presbytery and the Synod in writing as to whether they are following the Uniting Church Regulations unvaried by these alternate Regulations or the revised Kong-Dong Kyu-Jung."~~

REVIEW OF THE KONG-DONG KYU-JUNG THESE REGULATIONS

3.6.47 The Assembly shall review these ~~alternate~~ive Regulations no later than ~~2005~~ 2012."; and

- b) determine that the effective date shall be September 1 2007;
- 07.37.05 a) receive the advice of the Legal Reference Committee on ASC Minute 06.77;
- b) in the light of the advice and further discussion at this ASC meeting resolve not to amend Regulations 2.3.5 – 2.3.7; and
- c) advise the 12th Assembly accordingly.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TASK GROUP

Glenda Blakefield spoke to Document 19, consisting of a report on the work the Industrial Relations Task Group has done.

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

7. RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT TASK GROUP

The General Secretary spoke to Document 3, consisting of a report of the 'Renewing the Covenant' Task Group.

07.39 **It was resolved to:**

- 07.39.01 receive the report;
- 07.39.02 determine that the terms for reference for the Renewing the Covenant Task Group be to
- a) provide a context in which the partners to the Covenant can raise and discuss experiences and issues that cause encouragement and concern over the operation of the covenant relationship across the church;
- b) consider ways in which Congress and the wider the church can further develop their understanding of, and commitment to, the Covenant; and
- c) continue the unfinished work from the previous General Secretaries' based Task Group on the Covenant; and

- 07.39.03 request the synods to
- a) encourage the use of the Covenanting study resource in their congregations, presbyteries and agencies, including by making use of the resource during a meeting of the synod;
 - b) invite congregations, presbyteries and agencies to report back to the Renewing the Covenant Task Group on the way they have used the resource and any decisions that have arisen from it;
 - c) include an opportunity for engaging in the covenanting relationship with Congress as a major component of their Synod meeting in 2008; and
 - d) report back to the Assembly Standing Committee on what they have done in response to these requests.

8. TASK GROUP CO-ORDINATING THE ISSUES ON THE SPECIFIED MINISTRY OF PASTOR

The General Secretary presented Document 12, consisting of a report on the work the task group has done.

07.40 It was resolved to:

07.40.01 receive the report;

07.40.02 determine that with respect to the ministry of Pastor:

- a) unless the Presbytery decides that exceptional circumstances exist, the applicant should have been a confirmed member or member in association, and active in, of the Uniting Church for a period of twelve months prior to being appointed as a Pastor;
- b) a Pastor will be a member of the appropriate Church Council and of other bodies defined in the position description, a member of presbytery and eligible for election as a lay member of the Synod and the Assembly;

07.40.03 determine that all requirements for ordination that are required by Synod Panels of Applicants under the provisions of the church's transitional arrangements are to be completed no later than December 31 2014, otherwise the Applicant will have to recommence the ordination process under the normal regulations;

07.40.04 on the advice of the Legal Reference Committee determine that the scope of the ministry of Pastor shall be:

"A person exercises the ministry of Pastor

1. a) when the position description of the role the person undertakes within their ministry location includes:
 - teaching the beliefs and practices of the Uniting Church; and / or
 - pastoral oversight of members of and / or groups operating under the auspices of the Uniting Church; and / or
 - leadership of worship of congregations or faith communities of the Uniting Church; and / or
 - evangelism or service beyond a gathered congregation but which is exercised under the auspices of the Uniting Church.

And the Presbytery designates that the Position Description and ministry location are appropriate for the exercise of the ministry of Pastor; or

2. b) when a lay person is appointed to fill a ministry position that has been designated as a placement under the Regulations;

07.40.05 refer the decisions in relation to the ministry of Pastor to the Legal Reference Committee and request that draft regulations be returned to the November 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee; and

- 07.40.06 delete "in consultation with the Ministerial Education Commission;" from the Guidelines for the Transitional Arrangements to Ordination for Persons in Specified Ministries (See Attachment B of the March 2007 ASC Minutes).

9. UNITINGJUSTICE AUSTRALIA

The National Director and Chairperson were in attendance to engage in conversation with members of the ASC about current work and priorities. They also distributed Document 6 at the meeting, consisting of a PowerPoint presentation.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. BOARD OF EDUCATION RE COOLAMON COLLEGE

Jim Mein spoke to Document 18, consisting of a proposal from the NSW Synod Board of Education regarding a review on the future of Coolamon College.

- 07.42** It was resolved to:

- 07.42.01 review the relevance of the mandate of Coolamon College with particular reference to the current needs of the Church for distance theological education and the other options available to meet these needs;
- 07.42.02 assess the operation, capacity and ongoing role of Coolamon College in the light of the review undertaken in 07.42.01;
- 07.42.03 bring any necessary recommendations to the November meeting of the ASC; and
- 07.42.04 appoint Isabel Thomas Dobson (Convenor), Jason Kioa, Kevin Davis and Terence Corkin to the Review Group.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Secretary spoke to Document 13, consisting of a report on various matters.

- 07.43** It was resolved to:

- 07.43.01 receive the report;
- 07.43.02 appoint Rev Alan White to the Assembly Task Group on Property Sharing;
- 07.43.03
- a) receive the resignation of Dr Peggy Goldsmith as a member of the National Disaster Fund Committee of Management, and express its appreciation for her many years of service;
 - b) appoint Rev Paul Bartlett to the National Disaster Fund Management Committee for two years; and
 - c) appoint Ms Cynthia Coghill and Mr Philip Bickerstaff to the National Disaster Fund Management Committee for three years;
- 07.43.04 appoint Winiy [Uinese] Tovo to the Reference Committee of Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry;
- 07.43.05 (a) receive the resignation of Rev Elizabeth Walker as Chairperson of Theology and Discipleship and record its profound gratitude to Rev. Elizabeth Walker for her wonderful service over many years, and forward to her the following minute of appreciation;

“Rev. Elizabeth Walker has been the Chairperson of Theology and Discipleship for seven years. She saw the agency through difficult times soon after taking on the role. During 2001 she served as the honorary National Director. Since the appointment of Rev. Robert Bos as National Consultant, she has worked closely with Rob, taking a keen interest in each of the five Working Groups and the Spirituality Network and providing pastoral support to the staff, Conveners and members of the various groups. Elizabeth has sensitively and wisely led the Reference Committee in its endeavours. She has a gift for knowing when to draw out others and when to make a contribution herself. Her careful preparation of worship for the Reference Committee has been deeply enriching to its work.

Rev. Walker has served very capably and efficiently as Secretary of the National Working Group on Doctrine, and again as Acting National Director whilst the National Consultant was on long service leave in 2007. The Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Assemblies showed their confidence in Elizabeth by re-electing her as Chair. That confidence was well placed. Her deep knowledge of and love for the church and her considerable gifts have been amply demonstrated. The Assembly owes a great debt of gratitude to Elizabeth for her wise guidance and selfless contribution to Theology and Discipleship over many years.”

- (b) appoint Rev. Carolyn Thornley as Chairperson of Theology and Discipleship; and
- (c) appoint Rev. Shane Kammermann as a corresponding member of the National Working Group on Doctrine;

07.43.06 approve the actions of the General Secretary in making the following grammatical changes to the Code of Ethics for Lay Preachers, 2.1, last full line: change 'live' to 'life'; and 6.3, line 1: Minister or Presbytery Officer – change 'are' to 'is'; Add at the end of the document: ' Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee, March 2007'; and incorporating the changes into the official record of the March meeting of the ASC;

07.43.07 amend the Constitution of Frontier Services by renumbering clause 5 as 5.1 and inserting an additional clause 5.2

5.2 All real and personal property of Frontier Services and all income received by Frontier Services shall be applied solely in furtherance of its objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of Frontier Services except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

The full revised constitution appears as Attachment B;

07.43.08 a) receive the resignation of Anne Gibbons as a member of the Reference Committee of Christian Education and express its appreciation for the years she has offered to the church through her work with the Assembly Reference Committees; and

b) appoint Craig Mitchell and Mata Havea-Kolomatangi as members of the Christian Education Reference Committee;

07.43.09 a) defer the decision on UnitingCare Australia’s authority to set any levy or guideline for funding for UnitingCare Australia to the November ASC meeting;

b) invite the Chairperson and National Director of UnitingCare Australia to resource the Assembly Standing Committee on the nature of the work of UnitingCare Australia with reference to:

- the history of the setting of the original levy; and
- UCA strategic directions in regards to resourcing the future funding.

and

07.43.10 refer the advice of the Church Polity Reference Committee and the MEC Executive in relation to receiving Defence Force funding for Ministerial Education to the Synods for their information.

3. HOUSING FOR UNITINGJUSTICE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL DIRECTOR

The General Secretary spoke to Document 16, consisting of a report on the purchase of a residence for the National Director of UnitingJustice Australia.

07.44 It was resolved to:

07.44.01 receive the report;

07.44.02 a) note the action of the General Secretary in purchasing a residence for the National Director of Uniting Justice Australia;
b) endorse the action of the General Secretary in purchasing a residence for the National Director (Regulation 4.10.3); and
c) note that the title of the property was vested in UCA Assembly Ltd (Regulation 4.10.4 (a)); and

07.44.03 determine that all residences purchased for use by the Assembly, except those purchased by Frontier Services and Uniting International Mission, shall be managed and administered by the General Secretary (Regulation 4.10.1);

4. PRESIDENTIAL RULING #25

The President presented Documents 8 and 8A, consisting of Presidential Ruling #25 and the issues arising from it. Much discussion followed.

07.45 It was resolved to:

07.45.01 affirm Presidential Ruling #25 (Agreement); (Attachment C) (Shayne Blackman and Vince Ross recorded their dissent.);

07.45.02 receive the report in Document 8A; and

07.45.03 refer the issues in Document 8A to the Renewal of the Covenant Task Group as an agenda item for the next meeting and general conversation.

5. SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA RE REGULATION 3.5.17(j)

John Evans spoke to Document 20, consisting of a request from the Synod of Western Australia regarding the operation of Regulation 3.5.17(j).

07.46 It was resolved to:

07.46.01 note that the Synod of Western Australia, in conjunction with the WA Regional Committee of Congress, has agreed to establish an aboriginal controlled agency to undertake community service, educational and employment programs to be incorporated under the provisions of the Uniting Church in Australia Act 1976 (WA); and to note that in keeping with the covenant between the Congress and the Church the Synod has agreed not to act in regard to the control of the proposed corporation without the advice or consent of the Regional Committee, save from retaining its statutory power (which cannot be surrendered) of terminating the incorporation; and

07.46.02 acting under the authority granted by Regulation 3.6.34(a) grant exemption to the operation of the Regulations to the extent necessary to allow the Synod of Western Australia to approve a constitution for Beanganing Kwuurt Institute such that the Moderator's powers under Regulation 3.5.17(j) are referred to the national chairperson of the Uniting and Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Rob Bos.

NEXT MEETING:
16 – 18 November 2007

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President

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Date