

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

15 – 17 November 2013

PRESENT Andrew Dutney (President), Alison Atkinson-Phillips, Bethany Broadstock, Stu Cameron, Terence Corkin, Kate Fraser, Geoffrey Grinton, Rronang Gurrawurra, Zac Hatfield Dodds, Andrew Johnson, Jason Kioa, Stuart McMillan, Alistair Macrae, Deidre Palmer, Ian Price, Isabel Thomas-Dobson, Ian Tozer.

In attendance: Peter Andrews, Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Shirley Coulson, Kay Dowling, Peter Jones, Graham Humphris, Mark Lawrence, Matt Pulford, Chris Walker, Andrew Williams.

WORSHIP On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, the President preached and presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion. On the Saturday Kate Fraser led morning worship and the President led evening prayers. On the Sunday Peter Jones led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by the President.

WELCOMES

The President welcomed all participants to the Standing Committee meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Costa Zakis for the workshop on the Assembly Risk Register, Gregor Henderson and Alan White for matters related to Frontier Services; Jim Mein for matters related to Frontier Services and the Beneficiary Fund; Mark Neasey for the Risk Register workshop, AFARC and the 2014 Budget; Duncan Macleod for the Ministry of Pastor Review.

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

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

APOLOGIES

13.55 **It was resolved to** accept the apologies of Jenny Tymms, Michelle Cook, Craig Mitchell and Denise Champion for the whole meeting, Jason Kioa for Friday night, Stu Cameron for Saturday night and Sunday, Alistair Macrae for Saturday morning and afternoon.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The participants were informed about the death of Glenda Blakefield's son in law.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 4B, 13A, 13B, 14B and Document 20 (continued) as well as another supplementary report of the Transition Board were distributed on the Friday night.

13.56 **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

- 13.57** It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held July 19 – 21 2013 with the change of “United” to “Uniting” in Minute 13.34.02.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

13.58 It was resolved in relation to the conflicts of interest to

- a) note:
(i) the General Secretary’s conflict of interest in matters related to his review; and
(ii) request him be absent for business relating to Document 12;
- b) note:
(i) Mark Lawrence’s conflict of interest in matters relating to Presidential Ruling No. 29 and aged care services that have been asked to provide funding for a new aged care entity;
(ii) request that he be absent for the discussion of Presidential Ruling No.29;
(iii) permit him to participate in the discussion of Documents 4 and 13;
- c) note:
(i) Ian Price’s conflict of interest in aged care aged care services that have been asked to provide funding for a new aged care entity;
(ii) permit him to participate fully in the discussion and determination of Documents 4 and 13;
- c) note:
(i) Shirley Coulson’s conflict of interest in matters related to the transfer of aged care services to UnitingCare Queensland; and
(ii) permit her to participate in the discussion of Documents 13, 13A and 13B and the supplementary report;
- note:
e) (i) Andrew Dutney’s conflict of interest in matters related to the nominations for the Education for Ministry Working Group; and
(ii) request him be absent for the appointment of the Chairperson for the Education for Ministry Working Group;
- note:
f) (i) Glenda Blakefield’s and Chris Walker’s conflicts of interest in matters related to the review of the Assembly General Secretary; and
(ii) request them to be absent for business relating to Document 12.

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’s report highlighted his participation in a range of activities since the last ASC meeting. These included:

- Attending and speaking at the Frontier Services Patrol Ministers’ Conference in Darwin

- Speaking at the Queensland Synod's Young Adults' gathering in Brisbane
- Preaching at the Pitt Street UC 175th Anniversary in Sydney
- Attending and addressing the Joint Conference of the China Christian Council and the UCA in Nanjing
- Participating in the National Urban Mission Conference in Adelaide
- Participating in the National Aboriginal and Islander Youth Gathering (NAIYG) in Adelaide
- Participating in the triennial UCAF Celebration in Perth
- Visiting the Synods of WA, SA and Vic-Tas to seek financial support for remote aged care
- Attending and preaching at the opening of the Assembly of the Cook Islands Christian Church in Melbourne
- Attending the 10th Assembly of the WCC in Busan, Korea
- Addressing the forum of United and Uniting Churches at the WCC Assembly

The President reported that the data collection for the National UCA Census is not yet completed. He expects to be able to provide a final report to the next ASC meeting. He reflected on the experience of participating in the 10th Assembly of the WCC, saying that he had been encouraged to see how well placed within that fellowship the UCA is – both to contribute to and benefit from its life and work. He also shared that questions had been raised with him from a variety of sources and with increasing urgency about UCA polity. These include:

1. Is the episcopal role of Standing Committees (or their equivalent) being distorted by the demands of their governance roles in relation to church agencies?
2. Are Standing Committees (or their equivalent) constituted in such a way that they can be effective in their governance roles in relation to church agencies?
3. Can our inter-conciliar system of church government cope with the expectation that an event in one Synod is the responsibility of the UCA as a national entity?
4. The personal episcopate of Moderators, Presidents and General Secretaries is unexplained in UCA polity (except in so far as paragraph 16 of the Basis of Union is taken as a foundational statement for these roles). Should this be addressed in the context of the preceding questions?

Reflecting on strategic priorities for the UCA, the President emphasised the urgent need for the church to attend to:

1. Adult faith formation – addressing the startling decline in basic knowledge of the Bible and core Christian doctrine among the members and leaders of the church; and
2. Adult faith sharing – equipping and encouraging the members and leaders of the church to bear witness to Christ in a post-Christian, multi-faith society not only in actions but also in words.

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

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Conflict of Interest re Staff on Boards/Councils (ASC Minute 13.41.04)

Geoffrey Grinton spoke to Document 19, consisting of a report on the various practices and the concerns raised by UCA bodies in relation to conflicts of interest. Table group discussion ensued and observations provided to Geoffrey.

- 13.60 It was resolved to:**
- 13.60.01 receive the report; and
- 13.60.02 return to the matter at the March 2014 Standing Committee meeting.
- 2. Conflict Resolution in the Church (ASC Minutes 12.69.01 a)(ii), 13.16.01)**
- Alistair Macrae presented Document 18, consisting of a preliminary report on ministry agents and conflict.
- 13.61 It was resolved to receive the report.**
- 3. Developing an ASC Risk Register (ASC Minute 13.41.03)**
- Document 2, consisting of a draft risk register for the Standing Committee had been distributed prior to the meeting. In this session the members of the Standing Committee were led by an external facilitator. After the meeting the material generated through this process will be worked into a revised edition of the Risk Register and this will become the basis for ongoing work in the management of the risks that have been identified.
- 4. Education for Ministry Task Group (ASC Minutes 13.46.02 and 13.46.03)**
- Deidre Palmer introduced Documents 14, 14A and 14B, consisting of the final report of the Task Group, a summary of the responses to the questionnaire and the nominations for the membership of the Education for Ministry Working Group.
- 13.62 It was resolved to:**
- 13.62.01 approve the revised Vision Statement and the Key Responsibilities for the Education for Ministry Working Group (Attachment A)
- 13.62.02 appoint Andrew Dutney as Chairperson of the Education for Ministry Working Group;
- 13.62.03 appoint Jenny Byrnes, Seforosa Carroll, Rosemary Dewerse, Bev Fabb, Sharon Hollis, Amelia Koh-Butler, Lee Levett-Olson, Anita Munro, Jeff Savage, Steve Taylor, Denise Champion, Murray Muirhead (Grant Finlay as an alternate) as members of the Education for Ministry Working Group;
- 13.62.04 request the General Secretary to ensure that there is adequate administrative support for the new Working Group;
- 13.62.05 suspend the operation of the MEC regulations sufficient to enable the new Working Group to start on 1 January 2014;
- 13.62.06 request the Education for Ministry Working Group in consultation with the Ministerial Education Commission Executive to:
- a) identify any areas of MEC responsibility that still require reallocation and a process by which any such work of the MEC is handed over to other bodies; and
 - b) bring recommendations to the March 2014 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 13.62.07 request the Assembly Legal Reference Committee to

- a) review the Regulations in the light of the decision to disband the Ministerial Education Commission and establish the Education for Ministry Working Group; and
- b) bring any recommended changes to the Regulations to the Standing Committee as soon as possible.

5. Review of the General Secretary (ASC Minute 13.41.05(b))

Alistair Macrae spoke to Document 12, consisting on a report on the review of the General Secretary.

13.63 It was resolved to:

- 13.63.01 note that the General Secretary's annual appraisal has been completed and key goals for the next 12 months agreed;
- 13.63.02 request the appraisal group to report to the ASC meeting in March 2014 on an appropriate process to monitor the General Secretary's progress towards the agreed goals;
- 13.63.03 request the ASC governance group to consider a process to identify and review the delegations of Assembly bodies to the General Secretary and report to ASC; and
- 13.63.04 note the rationale and process for future annual appraisals.

6. Review of the Ministry of Pastor (ASC Minute 13.39.02)

Duncan McLeod introduced Documents 7, 7A and 7B, consisting of a report from the Review of the Ministry of Pastor Task Group, the pastor regulations and reading list of documents on the specified ministries and the 2006 Assembly decisions. Table group discussion followed.

13.64. It was resolved to:

- 13.64.01 receive the report;
- 13.64.02 request the Education for Ministry Working Group to:
 - a) develop training materials and related assessment requirements for the core competencies in order to ensure that quality, consistent, and comprehensive induction and continuing education are provided for Pastors;
 - b) give consideration to flexible education delivery systems that meet the educational needs of Pastors, including on-line learning modules and commend and promote their recommendations to Presbyteries and Synods;
 - c) update the Period of Discernment resources to include reference to the Ministry of Pastor as one possible outcome of the Period of Discernment; and
- 13.64.03 request the Task Group to:
 - a) clarify best practice principles for remunerated and non-remunerated persons in the "Ministry of Pastor" including employment / remuneration practices and Presbytery oversight practices;
 - b) prepare a version of the report for wider distribution, including stories of "best practice" from across the church;
 - c) undertake any necessary further conversations across the church with a view to bringing specific recommendations in relation to:
 - (i) the requirement for membership of the UCA as a pre-condition for Ministry of Pastor;
 - (ii) the appropriateness of the term "Ministry of Pastor" and the possibility of an alternative term; and

- (iii) regulation changes that will simplify the selection process for the Ministry of Pastor to one stream and to provide a uniform process applicable across the church;
 - d) consider how presbyteries may or may not use the Period of Discernment in the ongoing formation of those who have been commissioned to the specified Ministry of Pastor; and
 - e) bring a report to the July 2014 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 13.64.04 request the Assembly Secretariat to effectively promote the resources available in relation to the Ministry of Pastor and to include clear advice in relation to the current appointment process for Ministry of Pastor; and
- 13.64.05 appoint Duncan McLeod as Convenor of the Task Group.

7. Skills Matrix for Assembly Committees (ASC Minute 13.40.03)

Alison Atkinson-Phillips and Ian Tozer spoke to Document 10, consisting of a proposal on the establishment of a more structured nomination process for bodies appointed by the Standing Committee.

13.65 It was resolved to:

- 13.65.01 receive the report; and
- 13.65.02 request Alison Atkinson-Phillips and Ian Tozer to provide a revised proposal in the light of the Standing Committee discussion.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Peter Andrews spoke to Document 8, consisting of a report on the work the Committee has done since the last Standing Committee meeting.

13.66 It was resolved to:

- 13.66.01 receive the report;
- 13.66.02 note that the Frontier Services loan limit of \$3m previously approved by the Standing Committee has been exceeded; and
- 13.66.03 approve the Frontier Services loan limit from Assembly be increased from \$3m to \$8.2m.

2. Assembly Budget 2014

Mark Neasey presented Document 9, consisting of the proposed budget for the six months to June 2014 for the Assembly agencies.

13.67 It was resolved to:

- 13.67.01 receive the report; and
- 13.67.02 approve the Assembly Budget for the six months to 30 June 2014.

3. ASC Governance Group

The General Secretary spoke to Document 3, consisting of a report from the ASC Governance Task Group on how they prioritised the material for the November 2013 Standing Committee meeting and a proposal on the issue of voting percentages for the appointment or reappointment of the General Secretary.

13.68 It was resolved to:

13.68.01 receive the report; and

- 13.68.02 a) recommend to the 14th Assembly that at least two thirds of the members present and voting must support the appointment or re-appointment of the General Secretary in order for such a proposal to pass; and
- b) require that for appointments made by the Standing Committee that at least two thirds of the members present and voting must support the appointment or re-appointment of the person in order for such a proposal to pass.

4. Beneficiary Fund

Jim Mein introduced Documents 5, 5A, 5B and 5C, consisting of a report on the rules and procedures for the appointment of directors of Benefund Ltd; the changes to Fund Rule 45 and the procedural rules for the appointment and removal of member directors and for filling casual vacancies.

13.69 It was resolved to:

13.69.01 receive the report;

13.69.02 note the advice from the Board of the Beneficiary Fund in respect of the details of the model for Director representation and a Board vacancy;

13.69.03 agree to the amendments to Rule 45 of the Trust Deed/Rules of the Beneficiary Fund (Attachment B) and to agree to sign the consequential Deed Poll;

13.69.04 agree to the Benefund Ltd "Procedural Rules for the appointment and for filling casual vacancies and removal of Member Directors" and "Procedural Rules for the appointment and for filling casual vacancies and removal of Assembly Directors" (Attachments C and D);

13.69.05 agree to the transition program to introduce four year terms and to the sequence of retirement for the Directors of Benefund Ltd, as set out in the following table; and

	Terms of office expires @ 31 December							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Member Director positions (nominating Synod)		Mr Jim Mein (NSW & ACT) Mr Bruce Binnie (QLD)		Mr Robert Locke* (WA) Dr Alice McCleary (SA)		NSW & ACT and Qld		WA and SA
Assembly Director positions (nominated by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania)	Mr Graham Dunstan (Vic/Tas Position 1) Mr Colin Grenfell (Vic/Tas Position 2)		Ms Pam McAlister (Vic/Tas position 3) Rev Robert Elkhuzen (Vic/Tas position 4)		Vic/Tas Positions 1 and 2		Vic/Tas Positions 3 and 4	

* subject to appointment in 2013

Named Directors are incumbents at November 2013. For any vacancy, the replacement serves the balance of the then current term. The sequence of retirements repeats into future years.

13.69.06 appoint Mr Robert Locke, the nominee from the Synod of Western Australia, as a Member Director to fill a casual vacancy until 31 December 2013 and to commence a new term of office commencing 1 January 2014.

5. Frontier Services Interim Board

Gregor Henderson presented Documents 4 and 4A, consisting of a report on various matters regarding Frontier Services and a draft position description for National Director, Frontier Services.

13.70 It was resolved to:

13.70.01 receive the report;

13.70.02 approve the sale of the Frontier Services properties at Exmouth, Karratha & Level 5, 379 Kent Street Sydney;

- 13.70.03
- a)
 - (i) receive the draft position description for the position of Frontier Services National Director;
 - (ii) request the Nominating Committee to amend the position description in light of discussion at the Standing Committee meeting; and
 - (iii) request the Nominating Committee to submit the amended Position Description to the Standing Committee for approval;
 - b) authorize the Nominating Committee for the position of Frontier Services National Director to make all arrangements for the process of recruitment, with a view to bringing a recommendation to the Standing Committee in March 2014; and
 - c)
 - (i) appoint the General Secretary, Gregor Henderson and Rob Brown as members of the Nominating Committee; and
 - (ii) request the Assembly Officers to appoint two members of the Standing Committee, one of whom shall be the convenor.

6. General Report

The General Secretary spoke to Document 21, consisting of various matters.

13.71 It was resolved to receive the report.

7. Home Endowment Fund

The General Secretary introduced Document 22, consisting of the correspondence from the Fund seeking Rule changes.

13.72 It was resolved to:

13.72.01 receive the correspondence,

13.72.02 a) amend the Rule 1(b) of the Home Endowment Fund to read:

Rule 1(b) **Purpose**

The purposes of the Fund are:

- (a) to provide benefits to Members at retirement; and
 - (b) to assist Members in financing the purchase of a residential property for retirement.
- b) advise the Fund that it does not approve of the proposed amendment to Rule 9(e); and

13.72.03 request the General Secretary to advise the Fund of the reasons for this decision.

8. Legal Reference Committee

The General Secretary presented Document 17, consisting of a report on the work the Committee had done since the last Standing Committee meeting.

13.73 It was resolved to:

13.73.01 receive the report;

13.73.02 amend Regulations 5.2.1 and 3.3.3 to read:

PASTORAL CARE OF MEMBERS

5.2.1 (a) In cases where:

- (i) _____ in the opinion of the Church Council, any member of the Church appears to disregard the privileges and obligations of membership or to disregard the discipline of the Church; or
- (ii) a formal complaint has been received about a member by a member of the Church Council;

the Council shall endeavour by visitation and pastoral counsel to restore the relationship of the member to the life of the Church.

- (b) Any member who declines to renew a satisfactory relationship with the life of the Church shall be advised of the possibility that the name of that member may be removed from the membership roll and shall be given opportunity either in person or in writing to make a submission on the matter to the Church Council.
- (c) Should that member be a member of the Church Council, and that member declines to renew a satisfactory relationship with the life of the Church subsequent to visitation and pastoral counsel in accordance with Regulation 5.2.1 (a) that member may be requested by the Church Council to resign his or her position to that body and cease all responsibilities associated with that position prior to a decision being made regarding removal of the name of that member from the membership roll.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESBYTERY (See Para 26, Constitution)

3.1.3 Without limiting the generality of the responsibilities of a Presbytery as set out in Paragraph 26 of the Constitution, a Presbytery shall be responsible for:

Oversight of Congregations

- (d) oversight of all Congregations within the bounds, including:
 - (i) the formation of, the alteration of the bounds of and the dissolution of Congregations and other pastoral charges within the bounds; (See Reg. 3.4.1 and 3.4.3)

- (ii) conducting consultations on the life and witness of Congregations within the bounds in accordance with Regulation 3.1.4;
- (iii) receiving and dealing with matters referred to it by Congregations and Church Councils as provided for in Regulation 3.3.3 (d) and the transmission of those matters where appropriate;

TERMINATION OF OFFICE OF ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS

- 3.3.3 (b) If in the opinion of the Church Council an Elder or Church Councillor is no longer:
- (i) conforming to the standards of a member of the Church; or
 - (ii) complying with its discipline (in circumstances other than in Regulation 3.3.3 (d)); or
 - (iii) carrying out the responsibilities of the particular office, the Church Council may recommend to a meeting of the Congregation that the Elder or Church Councillor be removed from office and the Elder or Church Councillor shall be removed from office if the recommendation is supported by a determination of a meeting of the Congregation.
- (c) An Elder or Church Councillor who is removed from office by a decision of the congregation, shall have a right of appeal to the Presbytery. The decision of the Presbytery to confirm removal or re-instate the Elder or Church Councillor shall be final.
- (d) If in the opinion of the Church Council there are concerns about the behaviour of an Elder or Church Councillor whether in person or through cyber bullying (with reference to paragraph 1.6 of the Manual for Meetings) the Church Council may refer the matter to the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee to determine if the Elder or Church Councillor shall be removed from office. The decision of the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee shall be final.

13.73.03 amend Regulation 3.3.4 clause (f) (i) and (ii) and through the addition of a new sub-clause (iii) and the renumbering of the existing sub-clause (iv), as follows:

- 3.3.4(f) (i) Confirmed lay members as co-opted persons ~~up to a maximum of one for each five lay members of Presbytery~~, such co-options being made for such reasons as the Presbytery considers appropriate, including ~~to include~~ persons with special gifts not otherwise available to the Presbytery, to ensure that the number of lay members is not less than the members who are Ministers and to establish a better balance in the proportion of younger and older persons who comprise the members of the Presbytery.
- (ii) 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 ~~to include~~ persons with special gifts not otherwise available to the Presbytery and engaged in a significant ministry within the bounds of the Presbytery.
- ~~(iii) Co-options shall be for a period of one year. A co-opted member is eligible for further co-option. The number of co-opted members from any one Congregation shall not exceed three lay members and three ministerial members.~~
- (iii) The number of co-opted persons shall not exceed one for each five members of the Presbytery. Each co-option shall be for a period not exceeding one year. A co-opted member is eligible for further co-

option. The number of co-opted members from one Congregation shall not exceed three lay members and three ministerial members

13.73.04 the effective date for the changes to these Regulations, and those approved in ASC in minute 13.45.04 be 1 January 2014.

9. National Task Group re the Royal Commission

The General Secretary spoke to Document 16, consisting of a report from the National Task Group – Engagement with and Response to the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse.

13.74 It was resolved to receive the report.

10. Nomination for the Position of National Director, Formation, Education and Discipleship

Glenda Blakefield presented Document 11, consisting of a report of the Nominating Committee for National Director, Formation, Education and Discipleship.

13.75 It was resolved to:

13.75.01 receive the report; and

13.75.02 appoint Mr Craig Mitchell as National Director, Formation, Education and Discipleship for an initial period of five years from a date to be negotiated with the General Secretary.

12. Transition Board – Frontier Services Aged Care

Anne Cross and Alistair Macrae introduced Documents 13, 13A, 13B and a supplementary document, consisting of the original report from the Board, a letter from the Department of Health and Aging re the Government subsidised aged care services and two supplementary reports from the Board.

13.76 It was resolved to:

13.76.01 receive the reports;

13.76.02 note the appointment of Mr Stuart Woodward to the Transition Board;

13.76.03 a) receive the correspondence from the Department of Health and Aging of 31 July 2013 (now the Department of Social Services);
b) resolve to advise the Department of Social Services that the list of services at 11 November 2013 that UCA Assembly Ltd will seek to transfer to an alternative provider is:

Residential aged care services provided under the Aged Care Act 1997

Old Timers, Alice Springs
Flynn Lodge, Alice Springs
Hetti Perkins Home for the Aged, Alice Springs
Pulkpulkka Kari, Tennant Creek
Rocky Ridge, Katherine
Katherine Hostel
Terrace Gardens, Darwin
Tracy Aged Care, Darwin
Marlgu Village, Wyndham WA
Numbala Nunga, Derby
Ngamang Bawoona, Derby

Juninga Centre, Darwin (managed on behalf of Gwalwa Daraniki Association) is subject to discussion with the Approved Provider and the Department about the most appropriate arrangement in the future.

Community Services Northern Territory

Commonwealth Carelink Central Region	Department of Social Services NRCP Department Of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Mental Health Respite	
Carer Respite - Bougainvillea Respite Carer Respite Centre Dementia Respite	NT Government - Department of Health Department of Social Services NRCP Department of Social Services NRCP Department Of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Profound Disabilities Initiative	Department Of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Young Carers At Risk Carer Respite Respite For Children Darwin EACH R. O. S. T. Darwin R. O. S. T. Top End	Department Of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs N. T. Government - Department of Health Department of Social Services Department of Social Services NRCP Department of Social Services NRCP
R. O. S. T. Central / McNair House R. O. S. T. Central - S.V.W. Cottage School Nutrition Program - Amoonguna/Alice Town Camps School Nutrition Program - Ntaria/Hermannsburg D. B. M. A. S. School Nutrition Program - Mutitjulu	Department of Social Services NRCP Department of Social Services NRCP Department Of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Department Of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Department of Social Services Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Aged Care

<i>Kununurra HACC *</i>	<i>Government of Western Australia - Department Of Health</i>
Kununurra C. R. C.	Department of Social Services
Kununurra EACH	Department of Social Services
Kununurra C. A. C. P.	Department of Social Services
Kununurra C. R. H. C.	Department of Social Services
<i>Marlgu HACC *</i>	<i>Department of Social Services</i>
Marlgu Village C.A.C.P.	Department of Social Services
Docker River ATSI Flexible	Department of Social Services
Alice Springs CDC	Department of Social Services
Katherine CDC	Department of Social Services
Barkly CDC	Department of Social Services
Ingkerreke H. A. C. C.	Department of Social Services
Ingkerreke C. A. C. P.	Department of Social Services
F. S. Training - Indigenous Remote Service Delivery	N. T. Government - Department of Health and Families; Department of Social Services
F. S. Training - Clinical Nurse	Department of Social Services
Flynn Lodge C. A. C. P.	Department of Social Services
Alice Springs Community Care	Department of Social Services
Fred McKay Day Therapy Care Centre	Department of Social Services
Tracy Aged Care T. C. U.	Department of Social Services through Department of Health (NT)
Katherine T.C.U.	Department of Social Services through Department of Health (NT)
Old Timers TCU	Department of Social Services through Department of Health (NT)
F. S. Community Care Barkly	NT Govt - Dept of Health; Department of Social Services
F. S. Community Care Barkly EACH	NT Govt - Dept of Health; Department of Social Services
PPK H. A. C. C.	Department of Social Services
PPK Day Respite	Department of Social Services
Rocky Ridge H. A. C. C. Transport	Department of Social Services through Department of Health (NT)
Rocky Ridge - Stepping Stones	Department of Social Services through Department of Health (NT)
RR Day Respite	Department of Social Services
Katherine Community Care	NT Govt - Dept of Health; Department of Social Services

Tracy Aged Care C. A. C. P.
Tracy Aged Care EACH
Mutitjulu C. A. C. P.
Mutitjulu Community Respite

Department of Social Services
Department of Social Services
Department of Social Services
Department of Social Services
N. T. Government - Department of Health; Department of Social
Services
Department of Social Services

F. S. Mutitjulu H. A. C. C.
F. S. Juninga Centre C. A. C. P.

* *At the date of the meeting these services were still subject to final determination based on discussions being undertaken between the Frontier Services Board and the Transition Board. Subsequently it was agreed between the Boards that these services needed to be transferred to the responsibility of the Transition Board.*

- c) enter into discussions with the Department of Social Services in relation to the other services that the Department proposed to move to an alternative provider with a view to determining the responsible entity for the future;

13.76.04

note and affirm the criteria that were used by the Transition Board in identifying possible providers that could take over the management and governance of the Frontier Services Aged Care services; ie

- The highest order principles should be Community Benefit – therefore the key question is ‘who can provide the best outcome for the community?’
- Missional imperative – a commitment to the provision of services to remote and regional Australia
- Capacity to successfully acquire these services acknowledging the tradition of the services within Frontier Services and the Uniting Church
- Experience in service provision with indigenous people
- Experience in service provision in remote areas
- Specialist aged care capacity
- Service integration – continuum of care across accommodation, community and residential services
- Ability / competence to respond to what people want / need with quality services
- Size / capacity of the organization to ‘weather’ and respond to emerging issues

13.76.05

note that UnitingCare Queensland (UCQ)

- a) has reaffirmed its position that it will not accept responsibility for the Frontier Services Aged Care services if expected operational deficits during the current and the next two years, and the accumulated liabilities cannot be funded by either the Department of Social Services (DoSS) or the wider church;
- b) is not satisfied at this time that it has sufficient information to assess likely accumulated liabilities or that sufficient financial support to mitigate expected operational losses has been promised from either DoSS or the wider church;
- c) has offered to remain involved in exploring the option of UCQ (BlueCare) assuming full responsibility for the aged care services;
- d) will make a final decision about its capacity to take full responsibility for the services at its Board meeting closest to March 31st 2014; and
- e) is willing to negotiate with a view to entering into a management contract for the management of the Frontier Services Aged Care services (excluding the current corporate services) until 30 June 2014;

13.76.06

note that Juniper Aged Care (WA) is undertaking a due diligence process in relation to the Western Australian Frontier Services Aged Care services with

- a view to the management and governance of these services being transferred to it at the earliest possible date;
- 13.76.07 note that the Transition Board will continue to undertake negotiations with the Federal Government with a view to it providing sufficient funds to give Uniting Care Queensland and Juniper confidence that they can take over the services as Approved Providers;
- 13.76.08 authorize the General Secretary, in the event that such support is not achieved in the immediate future, to
- a) appoint a consultant to negotiate the management contract with UCQ, commencing early December 2013; and with the assistance of an advisory group, to sign a management agreement;
 - b) advise DoSS of the decisions taken at this meeting and to undertake any consequential negotiations with the Department;
 - c) continue to actively facilitate and manage the Synod appeal;
 - d) facilitate and otherwise support Juniper in any negotiations with the Department of Social Services, the relevant Assembly bodies and UCQ towards taking over the management and governance of the Western Australian Frontier Services Aged Care services; and
 - e) continue to identify strategies that separate the corporate services function from the Frontier Services national office as a priority even if a separate entity has not been established for the aged care services;
- 13.76.09 note that UCQ will work with the Assembly and Department of Social Services to either exit the services or find other options before June 30th 2014 should it and Juniper not take up the management and governance of the Frontier Services Aged Care services;
- 13.76.10 receive the advice of the Transition Board that it has completed the remit given to it in ASC minutes 13.21.04 (b) (ii) – (v) and 13.24.07;
- 13.76.11 receive the advice that a number of members of the Transition Board will be concluding their term on 30 November 2013;
- 13.76.12 thank Alistair Macrae for his contribution and sacrificial commitment to the Assembly through his leadership of the Transition Board and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania organisations where he has been in placement for their willingness to allow him time to respond to this call from the Church;
- 13.76.13 request the President to convey the thanks of the Standing Committee to the members of the Transition Board on the completion of their terms;
- 13.76.14 approve the following Terms of Reference for the new Transition Board:
- a) undertake the responsibilities required of UCA Assembly Limited under the Aged Care Act and as the Approved Provider;
 - b) oversee the management contract with BlueCare;
 - c) negotiate with any potential alternative provider and Department of Social Services on any conditions under which the alternative provider would be willing to take over responsibility for the aged care services; and
 - d) recommend to the Standing Committee the terms under which it should approve the transfer of the aged care services to the alternative provider;
- 13.76.15 prepare a transmission of business plan and oversee its implementation should that be required; and

- 13.76.16 appoint Isabel Thomas Dobson (Chairperson), Jim Mein, Richard Hearn, Terence Corkin, one nominee from the Northern Synod; and with Anne Cross and Peter Andrews as non-voting members to the new Transition Board.

11. Working Group on Doctrine

Alistair Macrae presented Document 23, consisting of an update on the process established by the 13th Assembly re considering the UCA view on marriage.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. General Business

The General Secretary presented the business in Document 20.

- 13.78 **It was resolved to:**

- 13.78.01 receive with regret the resignation of Jan Trengove as a member of the Standing Committee;
- 13.78.02 a) receive the correspondence from Ms Helen McLaughlan, Mr Ian Robinson, Mr Richard Stewart and Mr Storry Walton, former members of the Board of Frontier Services; and
b) request the President and the General Secretary to make themselves available to meet with them and any other former Board members to address the issues raised in their correspondence;
- 13.78.03 note:
a) the appointment by the Assembly Officers of Trish Brown to the Frontier Services Interim Board as provided for in ASC minute 13.44.03;
b) that Tim Matton-Johnson has taken up his appointment to the Frontier Services Interim Board; and
c) appoint an additional member to the Interim Frontier Services Board on the nomination of the UAICC Executive;
- 13.78.04 a) apply for membership of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (AEMVF) on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia; and
b) appoint Rev Dr Stephen Robinson as the UCA representative to the AEMVF;
- 13.78.05 a) note that Mark Lawrence (Convenor), Daryl Hawkey and Robert Ewing have been appointed to the Review of the UCA Assembly Limited Task Group; and
b) receive the advice that it is not possible for the Task Group reviewing UCA Assembly Ltd to report in November and request that its report be brought to the March 2014 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 13.78.06 a) receive the report of the Review Group undertaking the review of the Associate General Secretary; and
b) note that the final report will be brought to the March meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 13.78.07 note that the report on the Covenanting process across the church will be brought at the earliest opportunity;
- 13.78.08 a) appoint Stuart McMillan, Terence Corkin, Glenda Blakefield, Kay Dowling, Alison Atkinson Phillips, Geoffrey Grinton and a nominee of

- the WA Synod General Secretary with multicultural and cross-cultural expertise to the 14th Assembly Design Team; and
- b) appoint Stuart McMillan, Terence Corkin and a nominee of the Cato Trustees to be the Cato Lecturer Committee for the 14th Assembly;
- 13.78.09 appoint Rev Lu Senituli as a member of the Doctrine Working Group;
- 13.78.10 appoint Alan Williams, Charles Vesely, Andrew Watters, David Thiem, David Jackson, Diane Jackson, Kevin Dilks, Philip Anderson, Sandra Anderson and Geoffrey Flynn as the members of the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee until August 2015;
- 13.78.11
- a) receive the correspondence from the Synod of NSW / ACT re divestment from fossil fuel companies;
 - b) request Zac Hatfield Dodds to consult with UnitingJustice Australia as he prepares proposals on the topic of divestment from fossil fuels;
 - c) request the Synod Secretary of NSW / ACT to provide a copy of the investment policy being used by the Synod of NSW / the ACT as it implements the Synod's decisions in relation to divestment from fossil fuels; and
 - d) invite Zac Hatfield Dodds to present proposals and rationale to the March 2014 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 13.78.12 appoint Geoff Thompson as a member of the Reception of Ministers Committee;
- 13.78.13 adopt the theme "Hearts on Fire" for the 14th Assembly;
- 13.78.14
- a) receive the advice that there may be a vacancy in one of the National Director positions before the end of November;
 - b) approve the filling of any vacancy that may arise in a National Director position;
 - c) authorize the Assembly Officers to appoint a Nominating Committee with a view to it bringing a nomination to the March meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- 13.78.15 appoint Chris England to fill the casual vacancy on the UnitingCare Australia National Committee.

2. Presidential Ruling No.29

Alistair Macrae chaired the meeting while the President spoke to Document 6, consisting of Presidential Ruling No. 29.

13.79 **It was resolved to** confirm Presidential Ruling No. 29 (Attachment E)

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by the President.

DATES FOR 2014: **21 - 23 March 2014**
 18 – 20 July 2014
 14 - 16 November 2014

DATE FOR 2015 **20 – 22 March 2015**