

## Uniting Church in Australia

### ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

28 – 30 AUGUST 2015

**PRESENT** Stuart McMillan (President), Felicity Amery, Alison Atkinson-Phillips, Bethany Broadstock, Hayden Charles, Terence Corkin, Dennis Corowa, John Cox, Lindsay Cullen, Garry Dronfield, Geoffrey Grinton, Zac Hatfield Dodds, Haloti Kailahi, Amelia Koh-Butler, Deidre Palmer, Ian Price, Akesa Racava, Elaine Rae, Isabel Thomas-Dobson, Ian Tozer, Wendie Wilkie.

**In attendance:** Peter Andrews, Jenny Bertalan, Glenda Blakefield, Chris Budden, Gary Doyle, Colleen Geyer, Rosemary Hudson-Miller, Peter Jones, Mark Lawrence, Matt Pulford, Nigel Rogers, Chris Walker, Andrew Williams.

**WORSHIP** On the Friday evening, as part of the formation of the community, the President preached and Felicity Amery presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion. On the Saturday Haloti Kailahi led morning worship and the President led evening prayers. On the Sunday Amelia Koh-Butler led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Ian Tozer.

#### WELCOMES

The President welcomed all who will be regular participants in the Standing Committee meetings over the next three years, especially those who are newly-elected members. Also welcomed were Peter Andrews who was associated with the meeting until such time as a decision is taken whether to invite him to attend all meetings of the Standing Committee or co-opt him at a later stage in the meeting; Jim Mein and Grahame Ryan for the Frontier Services business and Jim Mein and Robert Elkhuzian for the business of Beneficiary Fund. Colleen Geyer as the General Secretary elect was particularly welcomed.

#### RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

On behalf of Standing Committee, as part of the Friday worship, the President acknowledged Cadigal Clan Nation of the Eora people. We pay our respects for the wisdom of their elders past and their care of country and to all descendants of this nation.

#### APOLOGIES

**15.40** **It was resolved** to receive the apology from Andrew Dutney for the whole meeting, Chris Budden for Friday night, Chris Walker for Sunday, Jenny Bertalan for Saturday night, Haloti Kailahi for Saturday night and Sunday, Bethany Broadstock for Saturday night and Sunday, Jacki Watts for the whole meeting, Amelia Koh-Butler for Saturday night and Sunday.

#### PASTORAL MATTERS

The pastoral matters also formed part of the worship led by the President and Felicity Amery on Friday night. The participants were informed that the mothers of Terence Corkin and Deidre Palmer passed away. Allan Thompson had major surgery, Jacki Watts also requires surgery. It was also shared that the mother of Stephen Robinson died.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Document 18A was distributed on the Friday night.

- 15.41**            **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

- 15.42**            **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held March 20 - 23 2015.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 15.43**            **It was resolved to:**

15.43.12           allow persons nominated for Committees to stay in the meeting and vote unless there is to be a discussion on their name in which case they will absent themselves; and

15.43.02           note that Ministers are covered by the Code of Ethics when discussion of the Beneficiary Fund and Ministers' Benefit Account related matters take place.

## 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."*

## ORIENTATION TO THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

On the Saturday morning Glenda Blakefield led the Standing Committee in a time of orientation to the role of the Standing Committee and Assembly structure and governance arrangements. Participants were provided with an introduction to a framework for thinking about what it means to be a member of the Assembly Standing Committee. The first session on Saturday looked at the work of the Agencies / areas of work and the Standing Committee more generally and the second session will focus on what it means to be a governance body.

## REFLECTIONS ON FOURTEENTH ASSEMBLY

On the Friday evening the Committee formed table groups and spent time reflecting on the Fourteenth Assembly with the participants sharing their experiences of the Assembly. The General Secretary presented Document 2, consisting of a report on the feedback from the members of the Fourteenth Assembly.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the Saturday evening the President reported to the Standing Committee on his various activities in his short time as President. His time since the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly has primarily been taken up with matters flowing from the meeting and preparations for this meeting.

- 15.44**            **It was resolved** to receive the report (Attachment A).

## REFERRALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FROM THE FOURTEENTH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary introduced Document 8, consisting of all resolutions of the Fourteenth Assembly which contain a referral or request to the Standing Committee.

### 15.45 It was resolved to:

- 15.45.01 appoint Chris Budden (Convenor), Alison Atkinson Phillips and Hayden Charles to a task group that will provide advice to the November meeting of the Standing Committee on the most appropriate way to address the responsibilities given to the Standing Committee in Assembly proposals 22, 23, 24, 25 and 65;
- 15.45.02 appoint Wendie Wilkie (Convenor), Lindsay Cullan and Haloti Kailahi to a task group that in consultation with the proposers of Proposal 49, and in the light of discussion at the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly will scope out the task by:
- a) preparing a paper that identifies the issues that the Standing Committee needs to consider in taking up Proposal 68;
  - b) bringing proposals for how the referral might be addressed; and
  - c) reporting back to the Standing Committee in March 2016;
- 15.45.03 appoint Amelia Koh-Butler (Convenor), Geoffrey Grinton and Garry Dronfield to a task group that in consultation with the proposers of Proposal 50, and in the light of discussion at the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, will scope out the task by:
- a) preparing a paper that identifies the issues that the Standing Committee needs to consider;
  - b) brings proposals for how the referral might be addressed; and
  - c) report back to the Standing Committee in March 2016;
- 15.45.04 request the General Secretary, Colleen Geyer, Peter Jones, John Cox and Carol Bennett to bring a report to the November 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee which will
- a) identify persons whose task will be to bring to the July 2016 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee a recommended national mechanism that will enable collaboration between all groups involved in Remote Area Ministry in the Uniting Church; and
  - b) provide an initial brief for the work of the Remote Area Ministry group
- 15.45.05 a) appoint a working group to:
- (i) identify strategies that will support an awareness-raising campaign throughout the Church on the plight of Palestinian Christians and the Palestinian people, including the promotion of the boycott of goods from the illegal settlements in the West Bank as part of the campaign; and
  - (ii) work in partnership with other parts of the Church, including the Relations with other Faiths Working Group, and with other groups mentioned in Standing Committee minute 11.33.10 and with the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network, to arrange for the development of educational materials to resource the awareness-raising campaign and to enable members and congregations to determine their response;

- b) appoint Andrew Dutney (Convenor), Felicity Amery and Gregor Henderson as members of the Working Group; and
  - c) request the Working Group to bring a report on progress to the March 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 15.45.06 request the General Secretary to allow time in the agenda of the November meeting of the Standing Committee to begin an exploration of how the ASC might fulfill the Assembly's expectations for a fresh way of consultation with Congress, CALD communities and the LGBTIQ community as expressed in Proposal #71; and to begin to engage with the "Space for Grace" process offered to the church by Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry; and
- 15.45.07 request the President, General Secretary and the National Consultant Christian Unity, Doctrine and Worship to seek appropriate opportunities to consult with our ecumenical partners re investigating the implications of changing the Church's current relationship with the Commonwealth Government with respect to the conduct of marriages, and to bring a report on these discussions to a later meeting of the Standing Committee.

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

### **1. Beneficiary Fund (ASC Minute 15.09)**

Jim Mein and Robert Elkhuisen spoke to Documents 5, 6 and 6A and 7 consisting of a report on the plan to establish a Policy Committee; an Employer Committee and the Employer Committee Charter; and implementation of the transition of the Funds activities to Mercer.

#### **15.46 It was resolved to:**

- 15.46.01 receive the reports;
- 15.46.02 approve the Procedures for the Appointment of Members of the Policy Committee;
- 15.46.03 note the Transition Plan;
- 15.46.04 approve the Employer Committee Charter (Attachment B); and
- 15.46.05 note the developments in relation to the implementation by the Beneficiary Fund of decisions since the March meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

### **2. Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders (ASC Minute 15.11)**

Alison Atkinson-Phillips introduced Document 11, consisting of a redrafted Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders. Table group discussion followed.

#### **15.47 It was resolved to:**

- 15.47.01 receive the report; and
- 15.47.02 refer the comments from the discussion to a working group comprising of Alison Atkinson-Phillips (Convenor), Bethany Broadstock, Apwee Ting and Elaine Rae with a view to bringing a revised draft to the November 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee.

### **3. Complaints Processes in the Church (ASC Minutes 14.85.03 and 15.12.03)**

John Cox presented Documents 13 and 13A, consisting of the draft Terms of Reference for the National Discipline Conversation.

#### **15.48 It was resolved to:**

15.48.01 receive the report;

15.48.02 approve the Terms of Reference for the National Discipline Conversation; and

15.48.03 request the National Discipline Conversation to provide an interim report to the November 2015 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

### **4. Frontier Services (ASC Minute 15.14.08)**

Grahame Ryan and Jim Mein introduced Document 4, consisting of a report from Frontier Services.

#### **15.49 It was resolved to:**

15.49.01 receive the report;

15.49.02 note:

a) that due to the requirements of some funding bodies and the particular circumstances of services that it has not been possible for Frontier Services to exit all community services by 30 June 2015;

b) the expectation of the Board and management that it will be possible to exit these services by 31 December 2015;

c) that the National Roundtable in relation to the future management and oversight of patrol ministry has been held and was able to meet the objectives set by ASC minutes 15.14.03 and 15.14.04;

15.49.03 a) receive the advice that in order to achieve the optimal level of funding for patrol ministry from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016 there was no allocation of funds in the Frontier Services budget to repaying some of the debt to the Assembly as directed by ASC minute 15.14.07 (a); and

b) agree that the repayment to the Assembly referred to in ASC minute 15.14.07(a) will now commence in the financial year 2016/17;

15.49.04 defer the appointment of the new Frontier Services Board until the next meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee;

### **5. Induction Service for Defence Force Chaplains (ASC Minute 15.36)**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 14, consisting of an outline of an Induction Service of a Defence Force Chaplain.

**15.50 It was resolved to** approve the Order of Service for a Defence Force Chaplain subject to the service being amended to reflect that it is the Assembly that inducts the Minister (Attachment C).

### **6. National Complaints Register: Ministers and Pastors (ASC Minute 15.16.02)**

The General Secretary presented Documents 12 and 12A, consisting of a revised National Complaints Register and a draft spread sheet.

**15.51 It was resolved to:**

- 15.51.01 refer the national complaints register for ministers and pastors to the National Royal Commission Task Group to amend the document in the light of the discussion at the August meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- 15.51.02 request the National Royal Commission Task Group to bring a new draft to the November 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee.

**7. National Consultation on Theological Education (ASC Minute 15.35.08)**

The General Secretary introduced Document 15, consisting of a report on the national consultation on theological colleges.

**15.52 It was resolved to:**

- 15.52.01 receive the report;
- 15.52.03 request the next report from to consultation to:
- a) bring advice on whether there is need for the consultation to continue to be auspiced by the Assembly;
  - b) bring terms of reference for the consultation if a recommendation to continue is brought; and
  - c) recommend a person for appointment as chairperson of the consultation should it be required.

## **FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES**

### **1. Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee**

Peter Andrews spoke to Documents 20, 20A and 20B, consisting of a finance report, a report on membership of the Committee for the next triennium and the statement of net available funds.

**15.53 It was resolved to:**

- 15.53.01 receive the report;
- 15.53.02 note Assembly Fund support to Frontier Services has now exceeded the previously approved level and endorse the current figure \$9.0M as the maximum exposure it will sanction;
- 15.53.03 advise the Chair of the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee that in light of a number of projects being undertaken in relation to governance that the work anticipated in ASC minute 14.30.01 need not be undertaken at this time;
- 15.53.04 endorse the two stage approach to the review of the performance of the Committee with the first stage being a self-assessment and the second a questionnaire to representative Board members and Executive staff.
- 15.53.05 rescind the words "after repayment of the loan to UFS (Synod of NSW / ACT)" from ASC minute 14.14.07;
- 15.53.06 note the ongoing pressure on both the Frontier Services and Assembly budget and inability to reduce debt rapidly;

- 15.53.07 request the General Secretary to engage further with the Frontier Services Board with a view to:
- a) further improving the budget outcomes;
  - b) reducing the number of staff required in order to meet the business objectives identified by the Board; and
  - c) seeking ways of collaborating with other agencies of the Assembly and Synods in this matter;

and to ask the Board to report to the November 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee to identify opportunities for achieving these objectives; and

- 15.53.08 request the Board to review and update its Constitution in order to assure:
- a) compliance with decisions of the ASC; and
  - b) retention of eligibility for PBI status with the ATO.

## **2. ASC Governance Reference Committee**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 26, consisting of a report from the ASC Governance Reference Committee.

### **15.54 It was resolved to:**

- 15.54.01 receive the report;
- 15.54.02 appoint the President, President-elect, General Secretary, Bethany Broadstock, Lindsay Cullan and Geoffrey Grinton as members of the ASC Governance Reference Committee; and
- 15.54.03 invite Colleen Geyer to participate in the meetings of the ASC Governance Reference Committee until she commences as General Secretary at which point she will be a member of the Governance Reference Committee.

## **3. Benefund Limited**

Jim Mein and the General Secretary spoke to Documents 32 and 32A, consisting of the correspondence received from Benefund on the updates to the Benefund Limited Constitution and the revised Benefund Limited Constitution.

### **15.55 It was resolved to:**

- 15.55.01 receive the correspondence from the Company Secretary of Benefund; and
- 15.55.02 approve the amendments to the Constitution of Benefund Ltd as amended by the Standing Committee (Attachment D).

## **4. Christian Unity Working Group**

Chris Walker presented Document 9, consisting of a report on the proposed changes to the structure of the NCCA, the Anglican-Methodist International Dialogue and the Covenant with the Congregational Church.

### **15.56 It was resolved to:**

- 15.56.01 receive the report;
- 15.56.02 a) note the restructuring of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) and its implications; and

- b) request the Christian Unity Working Group to present the perspective of the Church and support the UCA members of the NCCA Executive in their input into the proposed changes;
- 15.56.03
- a) receive the Anglican - Methodist document "Into All the World" and commend it for consideration across the Church; and
  - b) request the Christian Unity Working Group to facilitate the sharing of this document in the Church; and
- 15.56.04
- affirm the covenant statement between the Congregational Federation of Australia and New Zealand and The Uniting Church in Australia in relation to Holy Communion "To invite and welcome members of each other's church to share in the Eucharist according to pastoral need" and communicate this to the NCCA for endorsement as another instance of Australian Churches Covenanting Together.

## 5. General Report

The General Secretary spoke to Document 18, consisting of various matters.

### 15.57 It was resolved to:

- 15.57.01 receive the report; and
- 15.57.02 note that the omission of Point 5.18 re electronic voting in the recently republished Manual for Meetings has been addressed.

## 6. Home Endowment Fund

The General Secretary presented Document 27, consisting of a request for a change in the Rules of the Fund.

### 15.58 It was resolved to:

- 15.58.01 receive the correspondence from the UCA Synod of Victoria Ministers Home Endowment Fund; and
- 15.58.02 amend Rule 8 of the Fund to read:

#### Rule 8 Membership

Membership of the Fund will be compulsory for Ministers based within the Synods of Victoria and Tasmania, ~~and South Australia and New South Wales and the ACT~~ unless an exemption is granted on evidence of home ownership.

Membership will be optional for Ministers based within the Synods of the Northern Synod, Western Australia, New South Wales and the ACT and Queensland, as well as Pastors, accredited Youth Workers, and Lay Pastors.

## 7. Legal Reference Committee

The General Secretary presented Document 28, consisting of a report on the work the Committee has done since the since the last Standing Committee meeting and the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

### 15.59 It was resolved to:

- 15.59.01 receive the report;
- 15.59.02
- a) amend Regulation 3.3.8 (a) (i) in the following way:
- 3.3.8 (a) The membership of the Assembly shall consist of:

- (i) ex-officio members:
  - ...
  - the National Administrator Coordinator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress;

b) amend Regulation 3.7.5.1 (a) (ii) in the following way: “the Chairperson and ~~the National Administrator~~ Deputy Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress”;

c) amend Regulation 3.7.5.1 (i) (i) in the following way: “Secretaries of Synods, National Coordinator of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, the Associate General Secretary and the National Director, Theology and Discipleship”;

15.59.03 amend Regulation 2.10.3(b) in the following way:

2.10.3 The recognition of a Minister may be withdrawn by the Synod by reason of:

- (b) continuing in the designation of awaiting placement, or not available for placement in each case for more than two years, unless the Placements Committee and the Presbytery both agree, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, that there are circumstances which warrant the extension of the term by a further year;

15.59.04 amend Regulation 5.1.3 in the following way:

~~5.1.3 Discipline is to be exercised by the Church Council on behalf of the Congregation in the case of members, except in the case of allegations of sexual misconduct, and by the Presbytery and Synod in the case of Ministers.~~

5.1.3 Discipline is to be exercised by:

- (a) The Church Council on behalf of the Congregation in the case of members or adherents, except in the case of allegations of sexual misconduct;
- (b) The Presbytery when a Presbytery determines a Church Council has not adequately dealt with a discipline matter in relation to a member or adherent of the Congregation;
- (c) The Presbytery upon a request of a Church Council if the Church Council considers it is not able to deal with a concern due to a member's or adherent's involvement in the Congregation;
- (d) The Presbytery and Synod in the case of Ministers. ; and

15.59.05 determine that the effective date be 1 September 2015.

## **8. National Royal Commission Task Group**

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 10, 10A and 10B, consisting of a report on the work of the national Task Group, revised Terms of Reference for national and Synod Task Groups and the draft National Child Safe Policy Framework.

**15.60 It was resolved to:**

15.60.01 receive the report;

15.60.02 a) approve the revised terms of reference for the National Task Group; and

- b) recommend that Synods approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Synod Task Groups;
- 15.60.03 determine that the composition of the National Task Group shall be  
The Assembly General Secretary (Chairperson)  
Six persons appointed by Synods (i.e. one from each Synod)  
Six persons appointed by the ASC  
One person appointed by the National Committee of UAICC;
- 15.60.04 note that the Synods have appointed the following persons to be members of the National Task Group Chris Headland (SA), Jane Fry (NSW/ACT), Peter Jones (Northern), David Munro (Queensland), David Pargeter (Vic/Tas) and Robert Watson (WA);
- 15.60.05 appoint to the National Task Group Ms Anne Cross, Ms Lin Hatfield Dodds, Dr Deidre Palmer, Mr Howard Packer, Ms Elaine Rae and Mr Peter Shepherd; and
- 15.60.06 adopt the National Child Safe Policy Framework (Attachment E)

## **9. UCA Assembly Limited**

The General Secretary presented Document 23, consisting of a report on what had been done in response to a number of continuing task.

### **15.61 It was resolved to:**

- 15.61.01 receive the report;
- 15.61.02 refer the proposed course of action identified in ASC minute 15.21.02 (b) to the new Directors of UCA Assembly Ltd and commend it to them for action; ie  
15.21.02 request the Company Secretary and the General Secretary  
...  
b) in consultation with Agencies that utilize the Assembly body corporate and the current Directors, develop the supporting documents and procedures that will enable the Directors to function as anticipated in the decisions expressed in ASC minute 14.13;
- 15.61.03 a) note the intention of the current Independent Directors, John Kitchener and Paula Reid to resign upon the appointment of the new Directors; and  
b) record the appreciation of the Assembly for their service as Directors of UCA Assembly Ltd;
- 15.61.04 a) receive the report of the Company Secretary that the members of the UCA Assembly Limited propose for appointment as Directors of the UCA Assembly Ltd Stephen Capelin, Terence Corkin, Colleen Geyer, John Graves and Jonathon Rea; and  
b) appoint Stephen Capelin, Terence Corkin, Colleen Geyer, John Graves and Jonathon Rea as Directors of UCA Assembly Ltd.

## **10. UnitingJustice Australia**

### **10.1 Shelter from the Storm**

The General Secretary introduced Document 16, consisting of a request to amend section 10 of *Shelter from the Storm*.

- 15.62 It was resolved** to amend section 10 of *Shelter from the Storm* by amending 10.1 and 10.3 to read:



|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
|          | Avril Hannah-Jones<br>Margie Dahl  | Jacob Sungdae Yang   |
| 15.65.05 | <b>CHURCH POLITY</b><br>Andrew Dutney<br>Ian Price<br>Jenny Tymms  | Deidre Palmer<br>Michaela Tiller   |
| 15.65.06 | <b>DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY</b><br>David Thiem<br>Gary Whelband<br>Sandy Anderson<br>Charles Vesely<br>Alan Delbridge  | Robyn Kidd<br>Phil Anderson<br>Maumau Monu<br>Alan Williams  |
| 15.65.07 | <b>EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY</b><br>Jennifer Byrnes<br>Sharon Hollis<br>Lee Levett-Olson<br>Gewa Au   | Bev Fabb<br>Amelia Koh-Butler<br>Jeff Savage<br>Ross Chambers  |
| 15.65.08 | <b>FORMATION, EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP</b><br>Rohan Pryor<br><br>Sue Ellis<br>Adam McIntosh<br>Neil Thorpe<br>Rick Morrell   | Susan Burt<br><br>Robin Yang<br>Deidre Palmer<br>Duncan Macleod  |
| 15.65.09 | <b>HISTORICAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE</b><br>Lorraine Macknight<br>William Emilsen<br>Christine Gordon<br>Andrew Thornley  | Patricia Curthoys<br>Gavin Glenn<br>Jo Mar   |
| 15.65.10 | <b>LEGAL REFERENCE</b><br>Malcolm Gledhill<br>Karen Keogh<br>Andrew Johnson (corresponding member)<br>Robert Ewing (corresponding member)                                      | Peter Butt<br>Fiona Hanlon   |
| 15.65.11 | <b>MULTICULTURAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY</b><br>Jason Kioa<br>Eseta Meneilly<br>Angie Griffin<br>Emmanuel Audisho<br>Beatriz Skippen<br>Nga Luu<br>Thresi Mauboy Wohangara | Amelia Koh-Butler<br>Moses Leth<br>Bom Wook Choi<br>Jan Alvin Gunawan<br>Charissa Suli<br>Gabi Kobrossi<br>Viniana T. Ravetali |
| 15.65.12 | <b>NATIONAL DISASTER FUND</b><br>Marjorie Lake<br>Cynthia Coghill  | Philip Bickerstaff<br>John Hayes   |
| 15.65.13 | <b>NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON DOCTRINE</b><br>Avril Hannah-Jones<br>Geoff Thompson<br>Rachel Kronberger<br>Ben Cross  | Ben Myers<br>Ann Perrin<br>Vicky Balabanski<br>Jason Kioa  |
| 15.65.14 | <b>NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON WORSHIP</b><br>Peter Kador-White  | David MacGregor  |

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Craig Mitchell    | John Howland      |
| Susan Doughty     | Christine Gilbert |
| Sean Gilbert      | Do Young Kim      |
| Amelia Koh-Butler | Matthew Stuart    |
| Wendy Perkins     | Alison Whish      |

- 15.65.15      **RELATIONS WITH OTHER FAITHS**  
Wilma Viswanathan      Debra Porter  
April Robinson      Heather Griffin  
Manas Kumar Ghosh      Marie Wilson  
Matthew Wilson      Neil Smith  
Geoff Boyce      Helen Richmond
- 15.65.16      **UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA**  
Craig Hodges      Claerwen Little  
Chris England      Libby Craft  
Kevin Klose
- 15.65.17      **UNITINGJUSTICE AUSTRALIA**  
Bek Christensen      Simon Hansford  
Michael Hewson      John Langmore  
Susan Pickering      Tim Senior  
Frances Voon      Jemma Whittaker
- 15.65.18      **UNITING CHURCH ADULT FELLOWSHIP**  
Pamela Grant (secretary)      Dot Teague  
Ross Stanford      Rhonda Heather  
Lencie Harding      Mary Dunnachie  
Barrie French      Dulcie French
- 15.65.19      **UNITINGWORLD – CHURCH CONNECTIONS**  
Christopher Clarke      Andrew Corish  
Hannah Jackson      Richard La’Brooy  
Elaine Ledgerwood      Hew Luscombe  
Tina Rendell-Thorton      Paul Swadling  
Sherina Swan
- 15.65.20      **UNITINGWORLD - RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT**  
James Batley      Max Blacker  
Alison Cooke      Margaret Harvie  
David Hodges      Wendy Suma  
Peter Uhlman      Paul Wait  
Margaret Watt      Ted Woodley

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. General Business**

The General Secretary presented the business in Document 29.

#### **15.66 It was resolved to:**

- 15.66.01      note that the report anticipated from UnitingCare Australia in ASC minute 15.28.07 will be brought to the November meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 15.66.02      a)      receive the report of the Task Group working on possible changes to Regulation 5.5, and
- b)      thank and discharge the Task Group;

- 15.66.03 note that Warwick van Ede was appointed as the Convenor of the national Standing Appeal Panel and that Geoffrey Grinton was appointed to the membership of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly under Regulation 3.3.8 (a) (iv) by electronic ballot;
- 15.66.04
- a) receive the advice from Rev Glenda Blakefield that she will be concluding her placement as Associate General Secretary on 31 December 2015 with an effective last day of 2 October; and
  - b) express the sincere gratitude of the Church to Glenda for her exemplary, committed, skilled and generous service to the Assembly in the role of Associate General Secretary;
  - c) give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Glenda Blakefield as Associate General Secretary. Glenda commenced the role in March 2005 and throughout exercised her ministry out of a deep sense of her vocation as a Minister of the Word. In undertaking her very broad, complex and demanding role Glenda always did so with diligence, skill, profound theological awareness and commitment to the church. Glenda had a significant number of direct reports and management responsibilities. Her development of the Uniting Faith and Discipleship team and leadership of it enabled those areas of ministry to have clear direction and for the senior staff to flourish with the support and leadership that they received. In addition to a ministry supporting others Glenda held leadership responsibility for the Assembly's work in the area of Relations with other Faiths for which she had a particular gift and commitment. Glenda's ministry at the Assembly has been rich and beneficial to all who have worked with her and we pray God's blessing on her in the next phase of her ministry.
- 15.66.05
- a) receive the report on the prospective sale of 87 Woods St Darwin; and
  - b) authorize the President, General Secretary, Haloti Kailahi, Ian Price and Peter Andrews in consultation with Wal Edgell, AFARC, ARRCS and Juniper to determine an acceptable price and strategy for the sale of 87 Woods Street, Darwin;
- 15.66.06 receive the report on the actions taken by the Assembly officers under the delegations received in ASC minutes 15.10.05, 15.10.06, 15.10.07, 15.10.10, 15.15.01 and 15.17.07;
- 15.66.07 appoint Michael Anderson and Michelle Cook to the membership of the Beneficiary Fund Policy Committee;
- 15.66.08 amend the Mandate of the Church Polity reference Committee to read:
- Chairperson, appointed by the Assembly.
- Five to ~~nine~~ ten persons appointed by the Standing Committee, following receipt of nominations from the Reference Committee, ~~including One corresponding member~~ one person from each of ~~the other five~~ the other five synods, plus the Assembly General Secretary (ex-officio) ~~appointed by the Standing Committee.~~
- ~~Chairperson and attending members to be resident within the Synod of South Australia.~~
- 15.66.09 receive the report on the national conversation on governance;
- 15.66.10 receive the report of the General Secretaries on the actions taken in support of the establishment of the National Standing Appeal Panel (ASC minute 15.35.12);

- 15.66.11 a) authorise the General Secretary to sell the Assembly manse at 11 Dickson Avenue West Ryde; and
- b) authorise the President, General Secretary and Haloti Kailahi in consultation with Wal Edgell to either accept a sale price or set a reserve for the West Ryde manse auction;
- 15.66.12 receive the report that it has not been possible to institute the review of the Assembly Risk Register as anticipated by ASC minute 15.23.02 (a) and request that Isabel Thomas Dobson, Akesa Racava and Peter Andrews to complete the work in time for the November meeting;
- 15.66.13 launch and support the Mapoon Appeal by:
- a) requesting the Secretariat to work with Calvary Presbytery to co-ordinate and manage the Mapoon Church Building Appeal;
- b) requesting the President to write to Synods and Presbyteries indicating that the Appeal has been launched with the support of the Assembly, and asking them to consider ways they can publicise and support the appeal;
- c) placing the Presidents letter on the Assembly website and Facebook page;
- d) requesting the Assembly Communications Unit to:
- (i) provide a media release which can be distributed to Uniting Church papers;
- (ii) make a short publicity video for the appeal, in a format that will allow the clip to be shared on the web site and face book, and through links in other information documents; and
- (iii) produce other publicity material as required; and
- e) requesting the General Secretary to explore with agencies such as Frontier Services and UnitingWorld whether it would be appropriate to access their donor base for the purpose of this appeal and, if so, work with Calvary Presbytery to appeal through those sources;
- 15.66.14 a) receive the report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly discussion on Assembly finances; and
- b) refer the report to the Working Group appointed under ASC minute 15.22.03;
- 15.66.15 a) advise the National Committee of UnitingCare Australia that it is the view of the Standing Committee that it is not within the Mandate of UnitingCare Australia to promote a national brand for the Uniting Church's community services without prior approval of the Assembly Standing Committee;
- b) request the Synod of NSW / ACT to discontinue promotion of "Uniting" as a national brand for the Church's community services until the ASC can address a number of issues;
- c) request the General Secretary to:
- i) provide advice on trademark and legal issues in relation to the development of a "Uniting" brand
- ii) take all possible measures to secure the legal rights to the name "Uniting";
- d) request the Church Polity Reference Committee to provide a paper on the theological and polity considerations embedded in the possibility of

- “Uniting” becoming a national brand for the Church’s community services; and
- e) invite the Chair and the National Director of UnitingCare Australia to attend the November meeting of the ASC to participate in discussion on these matters.

## **2. Presidential Ruling No. 31**

The General Secretary presented Documents 21, 21A and 21B, consisting of Presidential Ruling No. 31, correspondence from Sydney Presbytery and advice from the Assembly Legal Reference Committee re Sydney Presbytery comments on Presidential Ruling No.31.

**15.67**            **It was resolved to** confirm Presidential Ruling No. 31.

## **3. Skills Matrix / Co-options**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 22, consisting of a report on the skills of the Standing Committee members based on the form they completed.

**15.68**            **It was resolved to:**

15.68.01        receive the report; and

15.68.02        invite Peter Andrews to continue to attend meetings of the Standing Committee with the right to speak and not to vote, noting that a decision re co-options will be made at a later meeting.

## **5. Summary of 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly Community Working Group Responses on Membership**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 31, consisting of a collation of the responses of the Working Group discussion on membership.

**15.69**            **It was resolved to:**

15.69.01        receive the report;

- 15.69.02        a)    establish a Task Group to write a definitive paper in response to the Assembly feedback on membership in the Uniting Church;
- b)    appoint Ian Price, Craig Mitchell, Adam McIntosh, Amelia Koh-Butler and Duncan McLeod to the Task Group; and
- c)    request the Task Group to report to the March 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee.

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

The General Secretary spoke to 24, 24A, 24B, 24C and 24D, consisting of business items that were referred by the previous Standing Committee to the incoming Standing Committee.

**15.70**            **It was resolved to:**

15.70.01        request the ASC Governance Reference Committee to recommend a process to the November meeting of the Standing Committee that will enable the development of an adequate system of delegations;

15.70.02        refer the report of the Task Group on the Ministry of Pastor and related documents to the task group appointed to address Proposal 50, and request that it include recommendations on how to address this referral from the

previous Standing Committee in its report to the March 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee; and

- 15.70.03 invite the Synod of NSW / ACT to make a submission to the Standing Committee on changes to the Assembly Ministers' Benefit Account Guidelines including in the submission consideration of the legal, taxation, ethical and "changing face of ministry" issues present in the discussion.

## **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with prayer led by Ian Tozer.

**DATE FOR 2015: 13 – 15 November 2015**  
**DATES FOR 2016: 11 – 13 March 2016**  
**15 – 17 July 2016**  
**18 – 20 November 2016**