

Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

13 - 15 NOVEMBER 2015

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

In attendance: Peter Andrews, Jenny Bertalan, 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, Garry Dronfield preached and presided at the opening Service of Holy Communion and the President acknowledged Cadigal Clan Nation of the Eora people by paying respects for the wisdom of their elders past and their care of country and to all descendants of this nation. On the Saturday Lindsay Cullen led morning worship and Alison Atkinson-Phillips led evening prayers. On the Sunday Andrew Williams led morning worship and the closing prayer in the afternoon was led by Denise Liersch.

WELCOMES The President welcomed all participants to the Standing Committee meeting. Also welcomed as visitors were Noni Wales for the governance training; Lin Hatfield Dodds and Peter Bicknell for matters related to UnitingCare Australia; and Jim Mein for matters related to Frontier Services; family and other visitors for the Closure of Ministry Service for Terence Corkin at 3.00pm on Sunday

APOLOGIES

15.71 **It was resolved** to receive the apology from Ian Price, Chris Budden, Bethany Broadstock for the whole meeting, Amelia Koh-Butler for Friday night and Sunday afternoon.

PASTORAL MATTERS

The pastoral matters also formed part of the worship led by Garry Dronfield on Friday night. The President informed the participants that Allan Thompson has had major surgery but has recovered well and returned to work; Amelia Koh Butler's husband Terry has required major surgery; Bethany Broadstock has a heart condition which prevented her from attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1. Documents 16 and 25 were distributed on the Friday night.

15.72 **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

15.73 **It was resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 28 – 30 August 2015 with the amendment of the date in minute 15.48.03 to November 2016, addition

of Elaine Rae and Drew Hanna to the membership of Formation, Education and Discipleship in minute 15.65.08 and that of Denise Liersch to the list of those present.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

15.74 It was resolved to:

- a) note:
 - (i) Jacki Watts's conflict of interest in relation to the matters around "Uniting" brand of the Synod of NSW / ACT; and
 - (ii) resolve that she be in attendance for this business but not participate;
- b) note:
 - (i) Zac Hatfield Dodds' conflict of interest in relation to the reports of the UnitingCare Australia; and
 - (ii) resolve that he be absent for this business items; and
- c) note:
 - (i) Rosemary Hudson Miller's conflict of interest in relation to Presidential Ruling No. 32
 - (ii) resolve that she be absent for this business

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."

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNANCE

The Standing Committee is a Council of the church in that it functions as the Assembly between meetings of the Assembly. Councils of the church are not the same as Boards and they have different functions to a Board at many points. However there are also many of its responsibilities that require of a Standing Committee that it exercise the responsibilities of a Board and behave in a Board like manner. On the Saturday morning Noni Wales from Matrix on Board assisted members of the Standing Committee to look at what it means to be a governance body, and offered some practical questions and tools to guide its future practice.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the Saturday evening the President reported to the Standing Committee on his various activities since the August 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee.

15.75 It was resolved to receive the report (Attachment A).

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Church Polity Reference Committee re "Uniting" Branding (ASC Minute 15.66.15(d))

The General Secretary spoke to Document 3, consisting of a report on the theological and polity considerations embedded in the possibility of "Uniting" becoming a national brand for the Church's community services.

15.76 It was resolved to:

- 15.76.01 note the report of the Church Polity Reference Committee;
- 15.76.02 note the conflicts of interest identified in the report;
- 15.76.03 a) appoint a task group of three persons with experience in issues of UCA polity and without the potential for a conflict of interest to reconsider the issues raised by the ASC relating to the theological and polity considerations embedded in the possibility of “uniting” becoming a national brand for the Church’s community services;
- b) noting that Andrew Dutney and Deidre Palmer did not participate in the process of the Church Polity Reference Committee, appoint Andrew Dutney (the ex President), Rev Alistair Macrae and Dr Deidre Palmer to the task group; and
- c) request the task group to report to the March 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee.

2. Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders (ASC Minute 15.66.15)

Alison Atkinson-Phillips introduced Document 6, consisting of a redrafted Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders. Table group discussion followed.

15.77 It was resolved to:

- 15.77.01 receive the report;
- 15.77.02 adopt the Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders as amended at the meeting to be implemented throughout the Uniting Church in Australia from 1 April 2016 ; (Attachment B)
- 15.77.03 adopt the Guidelines for Councils of the Church, when implementing the Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders and commend them for use by councils of the Church; (Attachment C)
- 15.77.04 request the General Secretary to consider whether additional supporting documentation is needed for distribution with the Code of Conduct; and
- 15.77.05 encourage all Councils of the Church to adopt the practice of formally commissioning all people who take on leadership roles, either through a simple act of prayer or by using the Uniting in Worship 2 Commissioning Service liturgy in an annual worship service.

3. Congress Related Decisions from the Assembly (ASC Minute 15.45.01)

The General Secretary presented Document 10, consisting of a report on the most appropriate way to address the responsibilities given to the Standing Committee in Assembly proposals 22, 23, 24, 25 and 65.

15.78 It was resolved to:

- 15.78.01 a) establish, as a first stage, a task group to bring proposals to the March Standing Committee about what it actually means to ‘recognise and affirm that First Peoples are sovereign Peoples’; and
- b) appoint Chris Budden (Convenor), Dennis Corowa and Howard Amery with the power to co-opt to the task group;

- 15.78.02 a) request the President for an update on conversations and meetings relating to closures of communities; and
- b) seek further advice from Congress and the Synods in Western Australia and South Australia about any additional action that needs to be taken;
- 15.78.03 a) invite Congress to indicate the places where the structures and relationships in the church make it difficult for Congress to exercise real control of ministry and mission, and what would make this easier;
- b) request that this response be made in time for the July 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- c) give further attention to this matter following the response from Congress.
- 15.78.04 note that National Congress will discuss the matter of budget for a National Youth Coordinator as part of the broader issue of future staffing needs, and will bring the issue of resourcing and support for the employment of a National Youth Coordinator within the UAICC to the March 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 15.78.05 a) appoint a 'Prayer and Fasting' working group of six persons, half appointed by Standing Committee and half by Congress with the task of identifying what an annual week of Prayer and Fasting, which in some years may involve a pilgrimage to the national capital, would look like and what support would be required;
- b) appoint Alison Atkinson-Phillips (Convenor), Graham Vawser and Anne Hibbard to the Working Group and invite the National Executive of the UAICC to appoint three other persons; and
- c) request the Working Group to report in July 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 15.78.06 a) request the General Secretary to draw the Assembly commitment to work with synods and other parts of the Church to continue to highlight the issues faced by First Peoples at this time, and to developing appropriate responses in partnership with Congress (Assembly minute 15.22.07 (a)) to the attention of synods and presbyteries, with the request that they work with regional committees of Congress to develop appropriate responses to issues in their area; and
- b) encourage National Congress to continue to bring issues to the attention of the President and the Standing Committee, and to seek the assistance they need to make a response to these issues;
- 15.78.07 a) note the connection between the call of the Yolngu nations call for a treaty and the broader sovereignty conversation;
- b) request Congress to bring a more detailed suggestion about the role that Standing Committee could play in supporting the treaty and what it would mean for the UCA to support the call for treaty; and
- c) commit itself to further discussion and work on this issue once Congress has brought a more detailed suggestion.

4. Frontier Services (AC Minutes 15.14.08, 15.49.04, 15.53.06 – 15.53.08)

Jim Mein introduced Documents 2 and 2A, consisting of a report from Frontier Services and the Frontier Services organisational structure as of 1 July 2015.

- 15.79 It was resolved to:**
- 15.79.01 receive the report and the supplementary report presented to the meeting;
- 15.79.02 note that
- a) due to the requirements of some funding bodies and the specific circumstances of some services it was not possible to exit the following services by 30 June 2015:
 - Andamooka and Marla Clinics
 - Andamooka and Marla HACC Services
 - Kimberly NT Home Care
 - Murchison Financial Advocacy Service
 - Murchison Remote Area Service
 - Atherton Student Group Home
 - b) the Board expects that it will be possible to exit these services by 31 December 2015; and
 - c) the nomination of the new Board members will be brought to the March 2016 meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 15.79.03 express deep appreciation to ARRCs and Juniper for their generous decision to accept the sale proceeds of Woods St, Darwin as full settlement of the original agreement for support from the Assembly in taking over the Aged Care Services notwithstanding that these proceeds are significantly below original expectations.

5. “Respectful Conversations” (ASC Minutes 15.45.06)

Amelia Koh-Butler introduced Documents 9 and 9A, consisting of an outline of processes that the church could use when it consults with Congress, CALD communities and the LGBTIQ community in relation to the Church’s understanding of marriage and a paper “Space for Grace”. Table Group discussion followed.

15.80 It was resolved to:

- 15.80.01 receive the report; and
- 15.80.02 request the President to initiate the exploration of how the UCA can engage in the further discussions about marriage and same gender relationships in culturally appropriate ways as requested in Minutes 15.15(b) and 15.15(c)(ii) by using the process described in Proposal 27(2) from the 14th Assembly.

6. UnitingCare Australia re Royal Commission Issues (ASC Minutes 15.28.07 and 15.66.01)

Lin Hatfield Dodds and Peter Bicknell spoke to Document 4, consisting of a report on matters relating to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse.

15.81 It was resolved to receive the report.

7. UnitingCare Australia re “Uniting” Branding (ASC Minute 15.66.15)

Lin Hatfield Dodds and Peter Bicknell presented Document 5, consisting of a report on UnitingCare Australia National Brand and the UCA’s social services.

15.82 It was resolved to:

- 15.82.01 receive the report as amended at the meeting;

- 15.82.02 a) note that there will be ongoing discussion with a view to developing a unified national brand for community services agencies; and
- b) request UnitingCare Australia to progress this matter ensuring appropriate consultation with the Synods and the Standing Committee, including a report to the Standing Committee by November 2016.

8. UCA Assembly Ltd (ASC Minute 15.61.02)

The General Secretary presented Document 14, consisting of a report on possible ASC delegations to the Directors which make clear what the Directors are empowered to do.

15.83 It was resolved to:

15.83.01 receive the report;

- 15.83.02 delegate to the Directors of UCA Assembly Ltd the authority to undertake the following responsibilities on behalf of the Assembly:
- satisfying themselves as to the ability of an Agency to be able to meet all contractual and financial obligations under any contract or arrangement to be entered by the Company on behalf of an Agency;
 - establishing systems and processes that will enable the Directors to monitor the compliance of the Agency with the created obligations under any contract or arrangement entered by the Company on behalf of the Agency;
 - overseeing the work of an Agency in the areas for which the Company has entered into contracts on behalf of the Agency;
 - prescribe all capability, reporting, governance, financial, prudential and liquidity requirements and any other due diligence or performance requirements that are to be satisfied by an Agency upon whose behalf the Company may be requested to respond to tender or enter into any contract or arrangement on behalf of an Agency or in respect of any matter whereby the Company is requested to do or to refrain from doing something on behalf of the Agency;
 - prescribe any evidence or legal, accounting or other professional or consultant's advice required in order for the Board to be satisfied on any of the matters referred to in clause 11.1 (c) (1) or to assist the Board in its evaluation of the Agency's capacity to fulfil all obligations the Board deems reasonably necessary in order for the Company to enter into any contract or arrangement on behalf of the Agency;
 - develop whatever templates, forms, processes and procedures the Board deems necessary for an Agency to complete or undertake with the Company or with any third party on whose behalf the Company may enter into contract or any other agreement or arrangement with other parties whether they be office bearers, employees, or agents of, or third parties that otherwise contract with, the Agency;
 - where it is deemed appropriate negotiate with any third party as to whether the Company's response to tender or nomination as a contracting party in a contract or arrangement can include reference that the Company is responding to any such tender or entering into any such contract or arrangement on behalf of the Agency or words to that effect together with any other detail outlining the relationship between the Company and the Agency;
 - require the advice and assistance of any Agency in enacting any of the powers referred to in this clause 11.1 (c) of the Constitution or in relation to the development of co-operation and understanding between the Company and an Agency or to address any Church law, legal, commercial, accounting or other considerations as they might arise and which, in the Board's view or an Agency's view, may impact on the parties

- generally or upon any contract or other arrangement which the Company enters on behalf of an Agency as might be contemplated or enacted ;
- require adherence by an Agency with all or any of the matters referred to in clause 11.1 (c) (1) through (3) of the Constitution inclusive and anything else the Board deems reasonably necessary as a pre-condition to the Company dealing with, responding to tender, negotiating with or entering into any contract or arrangement with any party on behalf of the Agency;
 - in addition to reports to the Members in accordance with the Law, it may report to the Assembly Standing Committee on any or all matters arising from the exercise of its responsibilities with whatever confidentiality or privacy conditions it may deem necessary or commercially prudent to place on any such reports and to require confirmation from the Assembly Standing Committee that such conditions will be adhered; and
 - provide recommendations to the Assembly Standing Committee of persons who are suitable for appointment as Independent Directors of the Board;
- 15.83.03 request the General Secretary and the Company Secretary, in consultation with the Board, to
- a) provide advice to a future meeting of the Standing Committee as to the adequacy of the delegations that the Board has been given; and
 - b) recommendations on how best to address any perceived shortcomings in the authority and instructions given to the Board;
- 15.83.04 in reliance on Regulation 4.11.2 indemnify the Directors of UCA Assembly Ltd against all liability for any matter or thing done or liability incurred except in the case of fraud, criminal act, gross negligence or wilful misconduct;
- 15.83.05 determine that in fulfilling the requirement that the Board shall satisfy itself in relation to the duty described in Clause 3.1 (c) 1 of the UCA Assembly Ltd Constitution, that the Directors may satisfy themselves in relation to these matters by use of the Certificate of Correctness that they approve;
- 15.83.06 amend the Constitution of UCA Assembly Ltd in the following way:
- 12.6 Chairperson**
- (b) Despite clause ~~42.7~~ 12.6(a), the office of chairperson becomes vacant upon the chairperson:
 - (c) Despite clause ~~42.7~~ 12.6(a) the chairperson may be removed by a resolution of the Directors on no less than 14 days' notice before such resolution will be proposed at a meeting of the Directors.
 - (d) Where a meeting of the Directors is held and:
 - (1) a chairperson has not been elected as provided by Clause ~~42.7~~ 12.6(a), or
- 12.7 Delegated powers**
- (a) A delegate under Clause 12.8 12.7(a) must exercise the powers delegated in accordance with any directions of the Directors and the exercise of any of those powers is as effective as if the Directors had exercised them.
 - (b) The members of a committee delegated powers under Clause ~~42.8~~ 12.7(a) may elect one of their number as chairperson of their meetings.
 - (c) Where such a meeting is held and:
 - (1) a chairperson has not been elected as provided by Clause ~~42.8~~ 12.7(c); or
- 12.8 Passing a resolution**
- (b) For the purposes of Clause ~~42.9~~ 12.8(a), two or more separate documents containing statements in identical terms each of which is signed by one or more Directors shall together be deemed to constitute one document containing a statement in those terms signed by those directors on the

respective days on which they signed the separate documents; and

15.83.07 appoint Mr John Graves as Chairperson of the Board of UCA Assembly Ltd until the August 2018 meeting of the Standing Committee.

At 12.05pm on Sunday the meeting of the Standing Committee was adjourned and the meeting of the Members of the UCA Assembly Ltd started. The meeting of the Standing Committee resumed at 12.20pm.

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Peter Andrews spoke to Documents 8, 8A and 8B, consisting of a finance report, the statement of net available funds and correspondence from Hunt & Hunt Lawyers re the capacity to access the funds of various agencies.

15.84 It was resolved to receive the report.

2. ASC Governance Reference Committee

The General Secretary spoke to Document 17, consisting of a report from the ASC Governance Reference Committee.

15.85 It was resolved to:

15.85.01 receive the report;

15.85.02 authorise the General Secretary to:

- a) identify an appropriate consultant who can be engaged to develop a system of delegations for Assembly agencies / areas of work; and
- b) proceed with the work and report to a later meeting of the Standing Committee.

3. Education for Ministry Working Group

The General Secretary spoke to Document 25, consisting of a report from the Working Group.

15.86 It was resolved to:

15.86.01 receive the report;

15.86.02 approve the process for appointment of a new chair for the Education for Ministry Working Group; and

15.86.03 appoint Andrew Dutney and John Squires as members of the Education for Ministry Working Group.

General Report

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

15.87 It was resolved to receive the report.

4. Legal Reference Committee

The General Secretary presented Document 20, consisting of a report on the work the Committee had done since the last meeting of the Standing Committee.

15.88 It was resolved to:

15.88.01 receive the report;

15.88.02 request the General Secretary to provide feedback to the Legal Reference Committee on the draft amendment to Regulation 3.6.3.4 (Duties of Synod Secretaries) and request that a draft be brought to the March meeting of the Standing Committee;

15.88.03 amend Regulation 3.7.4.1 in the following way:

SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

3.7.4.1 Membership

- (a) The membership of the Synod Standing Committee consists of:
- (i) as ex-officio members, the Moderator, the ex-Moderator, the Moderator-Elect and the Secretary of the Synod;
 - (ii) any other members that the Synod determines;
 - (iii) other members of the Synod elected by the Synod to serve until the next ordinary meeting of the Synod; and
 - (iv) any co-opted members appointed in accordance with this Regulation.

The Standing Committee may co-opt to membership not more than 2 persons or the number of persons which is closest to 10% of the number of members under subparagraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (a), whichever shall be the greater.

Only members of the Synod are eligible for membership of the Standing Committee.

15.88.04 approve the deletion of the current Regulation 4.6.3 and replace it with a new Regulation 4.6.3

- 4.6.3 (a) Subject to paragraph (c) no transactions of the kind specified in paragraph (b) of this Regulation may be entered into without the prior approval in the required manner of:
- (i) the Church Council or other responsible body; and
 - (ii) the Presbytery; and
 - (iii) the Synod.
- (b) The transactions are:
- (i) the acquisition, sale, mortgage or (subject to Regulation 4.6.2) lease of real estate;
 - (ii) the grant, creation, assignment, or surrender, of rights, easements or other interests in real estate;
 - (iii) a contract in relation to a transaction of the kind in (i) or (ii);
 - (iv) a contract for the erection, enlargement, structural alteration, improvement, or demolition, of a substantial building;
 - (v) borrowing money.
- (c) The Synod or its Standing Committee may authorise one or more transactions mentioned in paragraph (b) by making a declaration that special circumstances exist.
- (d) When making a declaration that special circumstances exist, the Synod or its Standing Committee must:
- (i) give reasons for making the declaration;
 - (ii) explain other options it has explored and abandoned to meet the circumstances;

- (iii) give instructions about how and to what extent the transactions may take place.
 - (e) Before a transaction authorised by a declaration may take place, the Synod or its Standing Committee must:
 - (i) consult fully with all bodies that may be affected by the declaration, taking into account the purpose, functions, responsibilities and rights of those bodies as described in the Regulations; and
 - (ii) give all affected Church Councils or other responsible bodies the opportunity to make written submissions about the declaration within a specified timeframe; and
 - (iii) give serious consideration to those submissions.
 - (f) The Synod or its Standing Committee may withdraw a declaration at any time before the transaction authorised by it takes place; and
- 15.88.05 amend Regulation 3.1.6 (j) (iv) and (vii) in the following way
- (j) These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - (iv) receive annually for review from each Ministerial Education Board the faculty of each recognized theological college a report on ways in which the prescriptions specified under (iii) are being met;
 - (vii) each candidate on receipt of advice from the Ministerial Education Board faculty concerned that all requirements of the course have been satisfactorily met;
- 15.88.06 note that the 2015 edition of the Regulations omitted the underlined words in Regulation 3.7.4.3 (c) (ii) 1, and also amend Regulation 3.7.4.3 (c) (ii) 1 in the following way:
- 3.7.4.3 (c) (ii) in relation to candidates:
- (1) determining, or ensuring that a body authorised by it, determines, the appropriate courses of study for ministerial education and formation and, where the candidate is not training within the same Synod, and entering into negotiations through the Ministerial Education Board of the Synod concerned for the receiving of the candidate and the costs; and
- 15.88.07 determine that the effective date for the new Regulations will be 1 January 2016.
- 5. National Church Historical Reference Committee**
- The General Secretary presented Document 24, consisting of a report and request from the Reference Committee that the Standing Committee disband the National Church Historical Reference Committee.
- 15.89 It was resolved to:**
- 15.89.01 receive the report;
- 15.89.02 disband the National Assembly Historical Reference Committee from 1 January 2016;
- 15.89.03 establish two separate bodies or networks to be known as
- i) *UnitingArchives* (an archives network)
 - ii) *Uniting Church History Association*;
- 15.89.04 approve the terms of reference for *UnitingArchives* and the *Uniting Church History Association*; and

- 15.89.05 request the General Secretary in consultation with the representatives of the Uniting Church History Association to identify the level of financial support that is required and bring a recommendation to a later meeting of the Standing Committee.

6. National Royal Commission Task Group

The General Secretary spoke to Documents 12 and 11, consisting of a report on the work of the national Task Group and a draft framework within which the Church can operate its interim redress schemes in a consistent way.

15.90 It was resolved to:

- 15.90.01 receive the reports;
- 15.90.02 express its appreciation to Rev Allan Thompson for the skill, generosity and care he has brought into the role of Executive Officer of the Royal Commission; and
- 15.90.03 adopt the National Framework for Interim Redress Measures. (Attachment D)

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. ASC Risk Register

The task group of Peter Andrews, Akesa Racava and Isabel Thomas Dobson presented Documents 19 and 19A, consisting of a report on the need to review the ASC Risk Register and the updated Risk Register.

15.91 It was resolved to:

- 15.91.01 receive the report;
- 15.91.02 set aside time at each meeting to review in detail a portion of the Risk Register;
- 15.91.03 approve the revision of the ASC Risk Register as presented; and
- 15.91.04 request the ASC Governance Reference Group to develop a process for the regular review of the content of the Risk Register - commencing in March 2016.

2. General Business

The General Secretary presented the business in Document 21 and supplementary report on the Beneficiary Fund Sub-plan in the Mercer Super Trust.

15.92 It was resolved to:

- 15.92.01 receive the report of the General Secretary in relation to correspondence with the Synod of NSW/ACT about the national roll out of the "Uniting" brand;
- 15.92.02 a) receive the report of the General Secretary in relation to correspondence with the Synod of NSW/ACT about the national roll out of the "Uniting" brand;
- b) approve the use of the word and logo "Uniting" as developed by UnitingCare NSW/ACT for the rebranding of the Synod's community services; and

- c) noting that “UnitingCare” is currently registered as a trademark owned by UCA Assembly Ltd, request the Synod of NSW / ACT to fall from its application to register the trademark “Uniting” so that UCA Assembly Ltd can become the holder of the Trademark on behalf of the Church.
- 15.92.03 appoint Peter Jones (Convenor), Carol Bennett, John Cox, Colleen Geyer, and Robyn Batten from UnitingCare and two nominees made by the National Executive of the UAICC to undertake the tasks identified in ASC Minute 15.45.04 a) and b);
- 15.92.04 receive the correspondence of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania advising that it does not support the use of “Uniting” as a national brand for the Church’s community services;
- 15.92.05 receive the correspondence of the Turramurra Congregation and advise it that the matters raised are properly the responsibility of the Synod and not the Assembly;
- 15.92.06
- a) appoint a task group to undertake a review of the management, governance and goals for Songs that Unite with a view to
 - (i) identifying whether the resources offered by Songs that Unite address a need in the church and if so, what is required in order to enable Songs that Unite to meet those needs; and
 - (ii) recommending whether Songs that Unite can continue and if so with what objectives, governance and management arrangements and other support;
 - (b) request the General Secretary to engage Christina Cook to undertake the review; and
 - (c) appoint Amelia Koh Butler (Convenor), Haloti Kailahi and Graham Vawser as the task group to receive the report and, in consultation with the General Secretary, bring recommendations to the March meeting of the Standing Committee;
- 15.92.07
- a) receive the advice of the Task Group appointed under ASC minute 15.22.03 that it does not consider that the referral to it of the Assembly discussion on finance is appropriate; and
 - b) receive the feedback from the Assembly members and take it into account in future thinking about Assembly finances;
- 15.92.08 appoint Elaine Rae as the UCA member of the Emmaus Australia National Board until March 2018;
- 15.92.09
- a) receive the resignation of Glenda Blakefield as a Director of UCA Assembly Ltd effective November 11 2015;
 - b) receive the resignation of Terence Corkin as Company Secretary, effective November 15 2015; and as a Director of UCA Assembly Ltd effective November 20 2015; and
 - c) appoint Mr Leo Iosifidis as a staff Director of UCA Assembly Ltd and as Company Secretary, effective November 16 2015;
- 15.92.10 receive the report of the President on transition arrangements entered into with the outgoing General Secretary and endorse those decisions;
- 15.92.11 grant the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania an exemption to the operation of Regulation 3.6.3.1(c) to the extent necessary to enable the term of the current Moderator to be extended until 3 June 2016;

- 15.92.12 appoint David Pargeter as a member of the Relations with Other Faiths Reference Committee;
- 15.92.13 appoint Semisi Kailahi as a member of the Assembly Legal Reference Committee;
- 15.92.14 a) receive the report of the Chairperson of the Employer Committee of the Beneficiary Fund; and
b) request the General Secretary to write to the Minister of Social Security to convey the concerns presented in the supplementary report;
- 15.92.15 receive the resignation of Andrew Dutney as Chairperson of the Education for Ministry Working Group;
- 15.92.16 appoint Rev Graham McAnalley, David Symington, Rev Deacon Janet Munro and Rev Dr Geoff Thompson to the Admission of Ministers Committee;
- 15.92.17 note the resignation of John Cox from the Standing Committee as of 31 January 2016.

3. Presidential Ruling No. 32

The ex-President took the chair while the President introduced Document 32, consisting of Presidential Ruling No.32.

- 15.93 It was resolved to** confirm Presidential Ruling No. 32 (Attachment E).

4. Skills Matrix / Co-options

The General Secretary spoke to Document 16, consisting of a report on the skills of the Standing Committee members based on the form they completed.

- 15.94 It was resolved to:**

- 15.94.01 receive the report;
- 15.94.02 co-opt Peter Andrews to the membership of the Standing Committee; and
- 15.94.03 request the General Secretary to provide a supplementary report to the skills matrix and invite them to bring names of persons for possible cooption to the Standing Committee after seeking their approval.

5. Synod of Victoria and Tasmania re Incorporation

Mark Lawrence presented Document 13, consisting of a report from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania in relation to issues under consideration in light of legislation being developed following on from the Victorian parliament's "Betrayal of Trust" report.

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

6. Uniting Church Adult Fellowship – Working Procedures

The General Secretary spoke to Document 23, consisting of the revised Working Procedures.

- 15.96 It was resolved to:**

- 15.96.01 receive the report; and
- 15.96.02 approve the UCAF National Committee Working Procedures.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 2.30pm with prayer led by Denise Liersch.

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