

D3 CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES AND ADVOCATES NOMINATIONS

Nominee – Frontier Services Chairperson

Rev Will Pearson

Retired Minister of the Word with lifelong association and interest in rural Australia. 20 years' experience as Wool and Portfolio Manager for Elders Ltd. in NSW. Spent five and half years in Far Western NSW, half time Presbytery Minister with Macquarie Darling Presbytery and half time with Broken Hill Congregation. Member of 10th and 11th Assemblies, various NSW.ACT Synod meetings and a member of NSW ACT Governance Nomination Remuneration Committee before joining Board of Frontier Services. Chair of New England North West Presbytery.

Nominee – UnitingWorld Chairperson

Dr Andrew Glenn

Work History:

1975 Lecturer in Microbiology and Biochemistry at Murdoch University in Perth
1979 Senior Lecturer
1985 Associate Professor
1993 Personal Chair as Professor
1994 Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research)
1998 Vice President (Research) and Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Tasmania
2007 Retired and made Emeritus Professor by the University of Tasmania

Governance / Consulting Experience:

Member of twenty company boards in the research and technology or educational services sectors
Chaired company boards
Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
Consultant advising universities or state governments around the country on research management

Uniting Church involvement (historical):

Confirmed in the Methodist Church in Adelaide
Commissioned as a lay preacher in the Uniting Church in 1990
Member of the Uniting Church in Australia since the time of union
Chair of the Ministerial Education Board in Western Australia
Past Chairperson of the Presbytery of Tasmania
Member of the Assembly Standing Committee
Member of the Major Strategic Review team of the Synod of Vic/Tas
Member of the National Reference Committee of Uniting Justice
Member of the Hobart North congregation in Tasmania.

UnitingWorld Experience:

Chaired the Church Connections National Committee for over five years

Nominee – Assembly Legal Reference Committee Chairperson

Mr Warwick van Ede

Warwick has been a member of the Assembly Legal Reference Committee for 20 years, is a previous member of the NSW/ACT Property Trust, was formerly the legal adviser to the NSW/ACT Committee for Discipline, and was the founding Convenor of Appeal Panels for the NSW/ACT Synod. He is currently the National Convenor of Appeal Panels. He is a lawyer of over 25 years' experience, currently practising with JS Mueller & Co, a specialist Strata Law firm.

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Nominee – Defence Force Chaplaincy

Rev David Thiem

David is an ordained minister in the Uniting Church with 39 plus years of experience. He has served in Parishes / Congregations and Assembly placements during this time. He has been associated with the Navy for over 30 years both full-time and as a reservist, including service overseas. He has chaired Defence Force Chaplaincy for the past six years.

Nominee – Church Polity Chairperson

Rev Gordon Ramsay

Gordon is a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, member for Ginninderra. He is the ACT Attorney-General, and Minister for Regulatory Services, Arts & Community Events, Veterans and Seniors. He was elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly in October 2016.

Gordon was a finalist in the 2014 Australian of the Year Awards ACT Local Hero category.

Gordon was the Executive Minister at Kippax Uniting Church from 1997 to 2016. He formerly chaired the Board of Uniting (previously known as UnitingCare NSW.ACT). He is a former Chairperson of the Presbytery of Canberra Region.

He was a member of the 13th Assembly, associated with the 10th Assembly and a Member of the 7th Assembly Worship Committee.

He has been a member of the Assembly Church Polity Reference Committee since 2006. He is a former member of the Assembly Development Committee and the UnitingWorld National Committee.

Gordon served on the General Committee of ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) from 2005-2010. He was a member of the ACT Community Inclusion Board from 2008-2009, and an ACT Community Inclusion Advocate in 2009-10. Gordon was invited to be part of the Canberra 2020 summit held in 2008, and in 2010-11 Gordon was one of the Community Champions of the “Canberra 2030 Time to Talk” process and a member of ACT Anti Poverty Week from 2006-2010. He co-convened the body in 2009. He was the author of Living on the Edge – an Overview of the community of West Belconnen and the services and service gaps of the area in October 2007.

In 2011-12 Gordon chaired the ACT Targeted Assistance Strategy Panel, commissioned by the ACT Government to bring recommendations on ways to redesign support for people on low incomes. He was a member of the ACT Better Practice Better Service Advisory Group to the ACT Government in 2012.

He has conducted consultancy work with community organisations for over a decade regarding their governance structures and leadership. He has been instrumental in the governance and leadership reviews of the national body of the Uniting Church’s community services network – UnitingCare Australia. He has worked in a national advocacy project with the national office of UnitingCare Australia.

Nominee – UnitingCare Australia Chairperson

Ms Bronwyn Pike

Following an early teaching career, Bronwyn joined the Victorian Uniting Church as Director of Justice and Social Responsibility. She managed the delivery of a broad range of health, social and educational services through more than 100 UnitingCare agencies.

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Bronwyn was elected to the Victorian Parliament in 1999 and held the portfolios of Housing, Aged Care, Community Services, Health and Education.

Bronwyn is also Chair of Western Health; Chair of Uniting in Vic.Tas; and Chair of UnitingCare Australia. Bronwyn is also president of the Australian College of Educators.

Bronwyn joined the Uniting Board in July 2015 and is Chairperson of the Board's Governance and Church Collaboration Committee.

Nominee – Standards for Ministries Committee

Dr Kaye Roberts-Thomson

Kaye is a distinguished academic in the field of dentistry and an active member of the UCA.

Her involvement in the Uniting Church's education for ministry includes:

2016-present	Chair Education for Ministry Working Group
2012-present	Chair Adelaide College of Divinity Council
2000–2007	Convenor, Selection Panel (for applicants for ministry) Uniting Church in Australia SA Synod
1995–2005	Chair, Committee for Discipline Uniting Church in Australia SA Synod
1994–1998	Chairperson, Education for Ministry Commission, SA Synod, Uniting Church in Australia
1991–1994	Chairperson, Planning and Coordinating Team, SA Synod, Uniting Church in Australia
1985–1998	Council member of Parkin Wesley College for Theological Education
1985–1998	Member of National Executive of the Ministerial Education Commission, Uniting Church in Australia
1987–1991	Chairperson, Educational Services Committee, SA Synod, Uniting Church in Australia
1982–1984	Chairperson, Board of Ministerial Education, Victorian Synod, Uniting Church in Australia

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Advocates – Assembly Circles of Interest

The Assembly is introducing seven Circles of Interest, each representing a broad area of the Assembly's mission and ministry. Together, the seven circles encompass some of the core values of the Uniting Church and how we contribute to God's mission in the world.

Each circle is a platform for learning and sharing among its members and provides a mechanism to offer input into the Assembly's work. Circles will be a sharing and learning space where we are stretched, faith is deepened and together we listen to where God is leading the Church.

The Circles of Interest are:

- Walking together as First and Second Peoples
- Being a Multicultural Church
- Seeking Common Ground
- Working for Justice
- Discipling the Next Generations
- Growing in Faith
- Transforming Worship

Each Circle will have an Advocate who works with Assembly staff in leading the Circles.

The role of Advocates is to:

- Engage, inspire, resource and communicate with their Circle
- Gather input from their Circle to feed into policy development and future priorities
- Monitor the health and vitality of their Circle and of Panel members
- Regularly communicate with other Advocates and Assembly staff to determine possibilities for sharing and collaboration.
- Suggest to ASC possible membership and Terms of Reference for specific Task Groups

Nominee – Advocate Growing in Faith Circle

Rev Ann Perrin

Ann is a Minister in the UCA in the Synod of Victoria/Tasmania where she is in placement with the Clarence UCA, Hobart and is the current Chairperson of the Presbytery of Tasmania. Ann has been in ministry leadership for 18 years- ordained for eight.

Ann has served the church in many roles including:

- Member of the Doctrine Working Group since 2010
- Chairperson of *With Love to the World* Management Committee 2010-2013
- Convener of the Organising Committee *Basis of Union Conference* 2014
- Convened the NSWACT Interim Music Development Committee to write Terms of Reference for Music in the life of the Synod

Ann has been a Lecturer in Double Bass (Part Time) at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney University.

Ann has contributed to a number of Publications and Conference Papers including:

- *The Call of Leadership and the Imagination of Woman Wisdom*
- *Worship as Communitas – recovering immanent understandings*

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- *Hope is our Song – Singing through our Hope – the eschatological importance of reviving corporate singing*
- *Board of Mission Writers Group “Rural Theology of Hope” a resource for congregations*
- *Contributor, Words for Today 2012- International Bible Readers Association*
- *Out And About – 2010 No. 21 April 10 – “Fresh Music”*
- *Transit Lounge – 2009 Edition 34: What does God look like? “Reflections on femalegod”*
- *Insights – April 2009 “Beyond Words”*

Ann describes herself as a post Christendom convert, who believes that discipleship, formation, ministry, and mission happen best when integrated and contextualised. In this, Ann’s continuing discipleship, formation, ministry, and mission, have lived in the tension of being a member of the Doctrine Working Group and her congregational ministry placements.

Ann indicates that what gives her life is integrating her experiences and learning into her life as a leader in the church, as she also looks to resource emerging leaders in their wondering about calls to specified ministry, to theologically grounded resources that are needed to disciple and educate a congregation, to developing resources for intergenerational ministry, and those worship attending but unengaged folk who often sit on the edges of our congregations.

She believes in the importance of the role of doctrine and theological discernment and articulation in our church. Yet, she is always asking the question: how do we make this thinking available into the life of congregations and promote the development of contextual resources. Also how do we then “package” discipling and formation resources so that they are easily accessible to congregations, CALD and Indigenous communities for our mutual learning?

Nominee – Advocate Seeking Common Ground Circle

Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler

Amelia is both an accredited Youth Worker and Minister of the Word currently working for Parramatta Mission in the Synod of NSWACT, where she is an Interfaith Chaplain at Western Sydney University.

Amelia has served the church nationally in many roles including:

- Assembly Standing Committee
- Multicultural Reference Group
- Education for Ministry Working Group
- Worship Working Group
- Children’s, Families, Youth and Young Adults Coalition
- National Youth & Young Adults and Children & Families Coalition

Amelia is currently the Worship and Liturgy Chairperson for the World Methodist Council with a primary focus on multicultural and intercultural expressions of worship. She is currently a member of the Western Sydney Indigenous Advisory Group and participates in Interfaith events, such as Affinity’s Abraham conference (Muslim, Jewish, Christian Dialogue).

Amelia has served in a variety of Congregational, Educational and Community Placements. She has served in the Congregations of Lindfield, Turramurra, Hamilton-Broadmeadow (Newcastle), ELM Associate and ELM Director (NSW-ACT Synod) and Executive Officer-Mission (SA Synod). She has taught for Sydney Conservatorium, Sydney University, Charles Sturt University, Hillsong College, Wesley Institute (now Excelsior College), Flinders University and Western Sydney University.

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In Newcastle, she was part of the midwifing team that experimented with The Commons (a Fresh Expression community). Her research focused on building 'communitas' through sharing sacred stories. In that setting, Amelia developed a passion for finding what God is calling all people to do together in the world... whatever their experience of faith or cultural background.

Amelia has broad experience across the church that she is keen to offer and use. She feels called to make a difference nationally, continuing to believe that there needs to be a greater connect between what happens in the real ministry experience and what people write and talk about. She wants to push innovation and creative thinking wherever possible.

Nominee – Advocate Discipling the Next Generations Circle

Mr Steve Molkentin

Steve currently works for the Qld Synod as Mission Officer (Generation Next), formerly the Digital Youth Discipleship Project.

An IT professional of 25 years, Steve has been engaged in ministry with young people (particularly through music) throughout his church life. He worked in Laidley/Hatton Vale Parish with Rev's Ian and Margaret Stehbens in 1994 under the Order of St Stephen, developing a deep understanding of pastoral life, dynamic church planting and the importance of lay ministry. Steve has also led a team on short-term mission to Tonga through the Alan Walker College of Evangelism. Across his IT career Steve has worked in a number of different environments including manufacturing, global mining and education.

Steve is interested in building online communities of faith, encouraging youth and young adults to take their online expression of faith seriously. He is interested in intergenerational ministry and developing leadership within the life of the church.

Steve describes himself as deeply passionate about engaging young people in their faith and encouraging them not only to develop as disciples but also to share their faith with their friends. He believes it's important to not just encourage young people into positions of leadership and responsibility within the life of the church – we should also be engaging them to consider how the mission of the church applies in their situation.

He believes that an intergenerational church is (ideally) a healthy, growing church, and it's what we are called to be. Becoming involved in this panel/circle allows him to take an active part in encouraging and developing the wider church as we take seriously the opportunity to invest and release into ministry and mission the next generation.

Nominee – Advocate Working for Justice Circle

Rev Loni Vaitohi

Born and raised in Tonga, Loni has undertaken all his theological and ministerial training in Australia and has served in a number of Uniting Church congregations for over 20 years.

Is currently in placement in Shepparton Uniting Church in the Synod of Victoria/Tasmania. He describes this placement as a multicultural Christian community in a very complex and diverse wider socio-political environment. The region is involved in hosting refugees in the government 'pilot' program and is also a provider of employment to low-and semi-skilled migrant labourers, including Seasonal Workers from the Pacific Islands. Loni is actively involved with both of these groups and the issues of justice that arise for them.

Loni is familiar with justice issues for First Peoples in Australia and is interested in our responses as individuals, church and nationally to the issue of Climate Change.

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Loni understands that social Justice is at the heart of the Gospel and unless we care and advocate justice for all people we as individuals and community become poorer for it. He is passionate about justice for the whole of creation as a sign and witness, “God was reconciling the world to himself” (2 Corinthians 5: 19 RSV).

He is also passionate to work together with the whole church as stated in the Basis of Union ‘The Church as the fellowship of the Holy Spirit confesses that Jesus is Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation, of a new humanity. God in Christ has given to all people in the Church the Holy Spirit as a pledge and foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation’. (Paragraph 3).

Having worked with migrants and refugees and engaging First Peoples with/and their struggles has given Loni a clearer perspective on issues of dispossession, slavery, assimilation, racism, sexual exploitation of the poor and the powerless, climate change, drug abuse and domestic violence.

Nominee – Advocate Transforming Worship Circle

Rev Alexandra Sangster

A minister in the UCA for over 12 years, Alex is committed to opening up worship to all people and finding ways to connect people into God’s story incarnated in Jesus Christ. She has been working creatively with liturgy for many years including exploring ways to create sacred space. Alex has lead worship in Iona and Portland USA and worked with a number of networks in Australia and the USA on worship.

She has played a significant role in the organisation of the 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church as part of the organising group, and the author of the 40 Days of Prayer leading up to the Assembly. Alex is also active in a number of spheres within the church and beyond including in justice and environmental issues.

Alex would love to explore with others what it means to worship across our wide land and how we can continue to be open to the movement of the Spirit as we walk on our Way, with Jesus, together. She sees this as an incredible opportunity to be able to be part of sharing the wisdom of the ‘circle’ with the wider church.

Nominee – Advocate Being a Multicultural Church Circle

Rev Matagi Vilitama

Trained in Niue and New Zealand, Matagi then served as a minister in the Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue (EKN) for 12 years. During this period Matagi served for several years as President and was also a member of the Pacific Conference of Churches for five years, involved in cross-cultural, multi-cultural and ecumenical issues and programs.

Moving to Australia, Matagi has served in the UCA for nine years, also completing a PhD in ecclesiology. Matagi is a member of the Christ and Cultures gathering and has run workshops and training on in the area of cross/multi-cultural ministry across his Synod.

Matagi believes that the church is the Body of Christ that is made up of God's people from all cultures and languages that includes God's creation. The UCA has made statements to that nature yet we still find ourselves a long way from being who we are called to be. He believes he has the experience and tools to share with others on the journey of becoming God's Multi-Cross cultural Church.

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Nominee – Advocate Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle

Mr Stuart McMillan

Stuart McMillan is the outgoing national President of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA). He served in that role from 2015-2018.

Trained as an accountant initially, Stuart and his family moved to the Northern Territory in 1982 to serve in the Northern Synod of the UCA as an accountant.

Stuart has had many roles in the Northern Synod and associated organisations including accountant, operations manager, general manager of the Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) - now the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation, pastor, cultural awareness trainer, resource worker, community developer, and Moderator.

Stuart was adopted into the Gupapuyngu clan of the Yolngu nation with the skin name bulany meaning red kangaroo.

He worked as an advisor to the former Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia's Northern Synod, the Rev. Djiniyini Gondarra, for 12 years through the period after the High Court's Mabo case decision established native title. He was involved in researching the claimants' situations, and making trips to Canberra to assist Gondarra and others as they gave their input on the drafting of the Native Title Act. Stuart took on the role of pastor at the Humpty Doo Uniting Church, a role he served in for around 11 years.

He brings a depth and breadth of experience to this role and is passionate about the helping people to walk together as First and Second Peoples, living out the Covenant that the uniting Church has with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Work History

1974-1982 Parsonage Group of Companies; Accountant Black Stump Restaurant Group, Sydney
1982 -1992 Northern Synod; Accountant – then Arnhemland Progress Association Inc, Accountant, Operations Manager, Marketing Manager, General Manager
1992- 2004 Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc and Northern Regional Council of Congress; Community Worker/Administration Manager, Resource Support Worker
1993-2010 Board Member, including 2 years as Chair and 2 years as Deputy Chair, Somerville Community Services (part of Uniting Care Australia Network)
2004-2015 Living Water Uniting Church (congregation) Pastor and School Chaplain
2010-2015 Moderator Northern Synod
2015-2018 President