

Profile Form for Nominees for President-elect

Regulation 3.7.5.1 requires that the Assembly Standing Committee provide advice to the Church on the challenges and issues which may be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years. This is to assist the discernment process as the Church nominates and elects the President – elect.

In November 2020 the ASC addressed itself to this responsibility and offers this guidance to the Church.

“As the Uniting Church continues to move through a season of significant change, the ASC believes that the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years will include:

Promoting the joys, passion and hope of who we are as the Uniting Church as we walk together in our diversity

The Covenant

- Living out the Covenant and relationship to First Peoples

Our Foundations of being the Uniting Church

- Evolving and growing as a Church bearing witness to the Kingdom of God - modelling a countercultural way of living in the world
- Growing discipleship
- Enhancing the church’s capacity for theological conversations by encouraging familiarity with the Bible, and how to use it according to Uniting Church’s understanding of the Bible
- Confidence in the Gospel - in the context of a declining Church and a multifaith context

Future of the Church

- Changing face of the church as worshipping communities
- Helping the church to respond effectively to rapidly changing contexts and ongoing marginalisation in society
- The church in a digital age
- Guiding the church through significant structural and regulatory change towards a sustainable future

Leadership

- The nature of ministry for the future
- Encouraging young leaders, listening to their voices for how they see the future of the Uniting Church

Oriented Towards Justice

- Resourcing the complex issues of life
- Climate justice - the impact of climate change
- Racial justice



Name:

Rev Viniana Ravetali

Nominated by:

Sydney Presbytery

Synod of residence:

Age range:

**Personal
Interests**

Placement / employment:

NSW and ACT

50-59

Exercise, swimming, gardening, reading, cooking and travelling

Administration & Client Services Manager (Insurance & Investment Industry)

From April 1988 – March 2004

Reason for Leaving: To pursue the 'Call' of the church

Administration & Office Manager

Alan Walker College of Evangelism

From April 2004 – December 2006

There were 4 direct reports in this role with more than 100 volunteers

Minister of the Word

Blakehurst-South Hurstville Congregation

From February 2012 – April 2016

Minister of the Word

Chaplain MLC School, Burwood

From May 201 – to current

Education, Training and Courses

- UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC: Diploma in Admin Management & Leadership (Graduated 1981).
- UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES: Diploma in Management & Life Insurance (Graduated 1987)
- TAFE – MEADOWBANK: Advanced Certificate in Management (Graduated 1993)
- UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: Lay Preachers Certificate (Graduated 1995)
- CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY: Bachelor of Theology (Graduated 2011)
- Many other continuing education programs, intensive courses and training were taken over the years!

Volunteer Experience of Leadership

- Current Chairperson – Sydney Presbytery
- Current Executive Vice Chair – Fiji National Conference
- Chairperson – Synod Multicultural Advisory Group
- 2012 - 2015
- Chairperson – Synod Admission of Ministers Committee 2014 – 2017
- Facilitator – Ethical Ministry Training, Sacramental Course, Living Our Values & Authorized Professional Supervisor
- Director of Community Care Board of Parramatta Mission 2000 – 2005.
- Director of Pacific Peacebuilding Initiatives & Peacebuilders International; 2003-2008.
- Vakatawa (Lay Pastor) – Ermington Fijian Congregation
- 2002-2006
- SBS Radio Announcer – Weekly Fijian Program 1997-2012
- Translator – Language Professionals International Aust Pty Ltd; 2000 to present.

- Served in other Committees & Councils such as JNC, PRC, Church Councils, Synod Standing Committee & Synod Selection Panel.

Passion:

Multicultural Cross-cultural Ministry
Leadership
Future of the Church.

Vision for the UCA

Being thrown into the lives of young people daily, as I go about my work of School Chaplaincy is a joyful but also terrifying reminder of how our world is in a state of unprecedented change. Their natural use of technology and its gadgets is a reminder that we now live in an era where there's been a huge shift with communication and advancements in technology. Social and cultural norms have changed and for Churches around the world, this has become a challenge. The question of *'how do we do church in this highly technical and advance changing world...how can we be risk-takers in God's mission?'* continue to reverberate around us!

The Issues, Challenges and Opportunities as defined by the ASC for the role of President-Elect of the 16th Assembly promotes the joys, passion, and hope of who we are as the Uniting Church, as we walk together in our *diversity!*

The word *DIVERSITY* has captured my eyes as the 'buzz word' for my vision of the church. It reinforces the statement that 'We are a Multicultural Church' as adopted by the 4th Assembly of July 1985. *Diversity*, according to dictionary.com means "the inclusion of individuals representing more than one national origin, colour, religion, socioeconomic stratum, sexual orientation, etc." To be included is important, yet there are still communities, especially minority ethnic groups who feel excluded in the church!

To be a Multicultural Church' requires 'RE-ORDERING' of the church's life to be cross-cultural in every sense of the word – that is my dream and vision!

I acknowledge the intentional and great work done by Multicultural Consultants and passionate of cross-culturalism over the years. Many books and studies have been published, many events and projects have been held, many conversations and dialogues have taken place, many councils and committees have been formed, many insights and experiences have emerged, yet... the *Diversity* still must be witnessed in the Structures, Leadership, Governance, Ministry, and Mission of the UCA.

CALD communities as the various ethnic groups are a significant part of the life of the church, as growth and vitality are commonly seen and experienced in their existence...they are a gift and asset to the church! My vision is a practical one – *Recognise and Utilise our Diversity for issues, challenges, and opportunities in the areas of the 'Covenant, Foundations, Future, Leadership and Justice!'*

In light of the advice provided by the ASC on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years I can/will

It is indeed humbling to be considered for the role of President-Elect of the UCA. These last two weeks have been a period of discernment, deep reflection, and prayers as I put together the required response for consideration of this important role. I have struggled!

My love for the church, its people, ministry, and mission has never wavered. Mission is God's heart for the world, and I'm constantly reminded of that quote; *"It's not so much that the Church of God has a mission, but*

that the mission of God has a church". Within the Uniting Church we have always reminded one another that God's mission, God's purpose, God's method, and God's intention is the reconciliation and renewal of all Creation. Reconciliation and renewal are God's 'end in view' towards which all of us and all things are being moved in Christ.

Diversity as the 'buzz word' for my vision for the church brings a beauty of difference. It reminds me that this is a world created by God as an expression of the life of God, the dream of God – one whole, interconnected, creative, alive world, tracking on the path of love...but we lose the path. Love is lost. The evidence of crisis in God's creation is all around us!

To this world, God speaks. God still speaks and still comes. Those who have heard a word from or experienced the touch of God know something of the possibilities of God's dream for love and hope in this fast-changing world.

Acknowledging our inheritance of *diverse* and *diversity* in the UCA, **I will actively 'Engage, Consult, Articulate, Participate, Lead and Represent Assembly - to Synods, Stakeholders, Partners Churches, Conferences, Agencies and the Public,**

- In fostering a 'welcoming and inclusive heart' across the nation that includes building stronger links and living out the Covenant and relationship to First Peoples, the displaced, refugees and matters that orients towards justice.
- A new expression & discovery of faith journey through Discipleship, Theological Conversations, Worship, Witness Service, Ecumenical & Inter-Faith Relationships that is creative, relevant, and countercultural.
- Develop plans for the future that responds to the rapidly changing world, high technology and digital world.
- Dialogue with Emerging Generation & Listen to their voices on some of the big issues facing them such as: Mental Health, Education & Job Security, Climate Change, Affordable Housing and Fighting the good fight against "the voices that by"... The discrimination, the racism, the sexism, and the privilege.
- Work within the polity and ethos guiding the church through significant structural and regulatory change towards a sustainable future!
- Any other responsibilities that may call the President-Elect to healing and reconciliation in the life of the Assembly.