



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

27-29 August 2021

DOCUMENT 15

Title	Request from the Queensland Synod for exemption from Regulations
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	Decision
Assembly or ASC Minute	ASC 19.48.02
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Queensland's 34th Synod in Session• Queensland Synod Standing Committee
Purpose	<p>At the 34th meeting of the Queensland Synod, it was resolved that a Moderator be allowed to re-nominate for a single contiguous 3-year term and the ex-Moderator serve on Synod Standing Committee (SSC) for only 1 year after their moderatorial term ends.</p> <p>Following the 34th Synod, the Queensland Synod by-laws were updated to reflect the 1 year term for the ex-Moderator on the SSC.</p> <p>Regulation 3.7.4.1(a)(i) stipulates that the ex-Moderator is a member of SSC, so the Queensland Synod sought an exemption to limit the term of this service. In July 2019, the Assembly Standing Committee granted the Queensland Synod an exemption from this Regulation for the ex-Moderator until the 16th Assembly only (ASC 19.48.02).</p> <p>The Queensland Synod now requests the Assembly Standing Committee grant an exemption pursuant to its powers under 3.10.1 from Regulation 3.7.4.1(a)(i) with respect to the term of the ex-Moderator on SSC, to limit the ex-Moderator term to 1 year.</p>
Rationale & Findings Summary	<p>To give effect to the proposal that the ex-Moderator serve on SSC for only 1 year after their moderatorial term ends, an exemption from Regulation 3.7.4.1(a)(i) with respect to length of time served by the ex-Moderator as an ex-officio member is required.</p> <p>The Regulations have been written and amended over the life of the UCA. Regulation 3.7.4.1(i) in relation to the membership of the ex-Moderator on SSC, to the best of our research, has not been changed from the time when Synods in Session were yearly, and Moderators' terms were yearly and unstipended. For the Queensland Synod, where the Moderator can serve up to a maximum of 6 years continuous total service, retaining this regulatory requirement would mean a Moderator could serve for a total of approximately 13 years – as Moderator elect, Moderator, and then ex-Moderator. This is an impractical and onerous obligation.</p> <p>Given the deeper level of processes around governance today, the continuity of membership of Synods and SSC and the longer terms of Moderatorial office, the need to regulate for a former moderator to have an ongoing governance role for the complete term of the incoming moderator is considered redundant.</p>

	A 1-year term on the SSC after the term of their office of Moderator expires provides enough time to hand over “corporate memory” and releases the ex-Moderator to other service to the church. This change would not preclude a former Moderator from being nominated, should they be eligible, for membership of SSC.
Attachments	Nil
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee grant an exemption to the Queensland Synod from Regulation 3.7.4.1(a)(i) with respect to the ex-Moderator for the period beyond 1 year after their moderatorial term ends
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