



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

27-29 August 2021

DOCUMENT 8A

Title	Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For information
Assembly or ASC Minute	Not applicable
Consultation	Not applicable
Purpose	To appoint members of the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee
Rationale & Findings Summary	
Attachments	
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee appoint the members of the Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stuart Woodward – Reappointment as Chair for the committee2. Tony Engel – reappointment3. Geoff Kerry4. Ian Thompson5. Julianne Ross
Submitted by	Leo Iosifidis, National Director – Strategic Finance and Admin



Uniting Church in Australia ASSEMBLY

Assembly Standing Committee

ASSEMBLY FINANCE, AUDIT and RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER¹

1. Introduction

The Assembly has adopted Regulations 3.7.5.2 for the establishment of a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee). These Regulations set out the basic responsibilities and scope for the work of the Committee.

The purpose of this Charter document is to provide additional context to, and explanation of, the required activities of the Committee.

The **Role** of the Committee shall be to provide specialist expertise, support and advice to the Assembly and/or the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) by providing ongoing oversight and scrutiny of finance, audit, risk and related activities across all Assembly entities and Agencies in order to protect Assembly's interests.

At a high level, the functions and responsibilities of the Committee fall into the following key areas:

- i. External reporting, including Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and best practices;
- ii. Financial management, including accounting and business policies and practices, budgets, and management reporting;
- iii. External and internal (as applicable) audit and controls;
- iv. Implementation and oversight of risk management policies and practices; and
- v. Other activities as requested by the ASC or the President of Assembly.

A schedule of Assembly Agencies and entities that are currently subject to the scrutiny of the Committee is shown in Attachment A.

In undertaking its role, the Committee will report to each meeting of the ASC on the exercise of its responsibilities, the issues that it considers warrant the attention of the ASC, and any recommendations for decisions.

Key regulatory responsibilities under 3.7.5.2 are as follows:

- a) Accountable to Assembly and its Standing Committee
- b) Make such reports and recommendations on financial matters and policies
- c) Assist ASC
- d) Review and if necessary initiate improvements to (i) quality of internal and external financial reporting; and (ii) effectiveness of internal and external audit functions.....
- e) Provide a formal forum for communication with external auditor.
- f) Monitor and be proactive in initiating improvements in audit and risk management systems.....
- g) Initiate action to investigate or intervene in any agency.....

The Committee will heed and recognise its **Authority** outlined in this Charter as well as those powers which has been given to other Committees by the ASC.

To this end, before undertaking any action that might be thought appropriate re 'investigation and intervention', the Committee will work with the General Secretary and the relevant governance body to draw to the attention of the relevant Agency or entity the matters of concern and may propose solutions.

¹ Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee November 2019

Where delegated authority has been granted by the ASC to the governance Board or Committee of an agency, that authority cannot be countermanded or overridden by this Committee. The Committee will however operate in an advisory role to those Boards and Committees and will advise the ASC of any matters of concern which it considers are of major significance in the areas covered by the Committee's functions and responsibilities.

Where the approved mandate of an Assembly Agency or entity is silent or non-existent with respect to a particular function or responsibility then the Committee has, by necessity, a higher duty of care and oversight.

However, in any circumstance where the Committee may have been given specific and delegated powers by the ASC then, irrespective of the Mandate of an Agency Board or Committee, the Committee's authority shall prevail.

In exercising its responsibility for **Oversight**, the Committee shall receive minutes of all meetings of Assembly Agencies and entities; receive audited accounts; monitor all audit management letters; undertake an annual review of all Agency or entities Risk Registers; and oversee all audit, finance and risk management matters of those Agencies without an ASC mandate for their own governance bodies.

The Committee has the authority to write to or meet with the Executive or representatives of the governance body of an Assembly Agency or entity in order to make enquiry as to matters consistent with this Charter and to request management and/or others to provide such input and advice as is required.

The Committee has the authority to:

- a) access relevant Assembly premises, documents and records;
- b) subject to prior approval of expenditure by the Assembly General Secretary, obtain the advice of special or independent counsel, accountants or other experts; and
- c) access management and any other service providers necessary (subject to prior approval of expenditure by the Assembly General Secretary) to inform the decisions of the Committee.

2. Membership

The membership of the Committee shall be in accordance with Regulation 3.7.5.2 but the following additional criteria shall apply

Appointed Committee members must

- i. act in the interests of the Assembly as a whole;
- ii. commit to devote the time necessary for the Committee to carry out its responsibilities
- iii. be experienced in governance, strategic planning, financial management and/or risk management and decision making for entities of the size and complexity of the Assembly;
- iv. have relevant professional qualifications and/or experience; and
- v. have an understanding of the context and polity of the Assembly.

Appointed Committee members

- a. may not also be a member of the Assembly Investment Committee;
- b. may not be an employee of the Assembly or its agencies or entities;
- c. should ideally be a member of the Uniting Church but no more than two (2) non-members may be appointed;
- d. shall serve for a maximum duration of nine (9) consecutive years; and
- e. shall not derive any benefits or remuneration for their services other than the reimbursement of bona fide travel and accommodation costs incurred in attending meetings.

For reasons of continuity, every endeavour should be made to ensure that at least 50% of the Committee members are re-appointed after each Assembly [see 3.7.5.2 (b)].

The Committee may co-opt non voting members for the purposes of workload management, succession planning or to fill identified skills gaps, for periods of up to eighteen months. No more

than three co-opted members may be part of the Committee at any one time. Co-options will be advised to the ASC at the meeting following appointment.

When appointing members to the Committee, the ASC shall be cognisant of Regulation 3.8.1, especially having regard to the Basis of Union paragraph 15. Diversity of Committee membership in its broadest sense shall be sought.

3. Meetings

- 3.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Chairperson in consultation with the senior financial officer of the Assembly (or equivalent) as necessary or appropriate to ensure the satisfactory fulfilment of its responsibilities.
- 3.2 A quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be three non co-opted members other than the General Secretary or senior financial officer of the Assembly.
- 3.3 The Chairperson is required to call a meeting if asked to do so by the Standing Committee.
- 3.4 The senior financial officer of the Assembly shall be responsible for ensuring that minutes shall be kept of all meetings. Copies of minutes shall be available to members of the ASC.
- 3.5 Meetings may be held in person, by telephone or by video conference.

4. External Reporting

Within this area of responsibility, the Committee will:

- 4.1 Ensure that the Assembly, its agencies and entities have processes in place to ensure compliance with all external regulation and obligations
- 4.2 Review and assess the appropriateness of the accounting policies and principles of the Assembly, its agencies and entities.
- 4.3 Review any significant changes to the accounting policies and principles as advised or proposed by the senior financial officer of the Assembly.
- 4.4 Ensure that financial reports comply with 4.1 and 4.2
- 4.5 Review the financial statements of the Assembly and Assembly Agencies and provide advice to the ASC (including whether appropriate action has been taken in response to audit recommendations and adjustments).
- 4.6 Satisfy itself that the financial statements are supported by appropriate management signoff on the statements and on the adequacy of the systems of internal controls.
- 4.7 Review the processes in place designed to ensure that financial information included in the Assembly and Assembly Agency annual reports and Triennial Reports to Assembly is consistent with the audited financial statements.

5. Financial Management

Within this area of responsibility, the Committee will:

- 5.1 Review all annual budgets (including the processes undertaken to formulate the budget) prior to their presentation to the ASC and provide such report and recommendations to the ASC as is considered necessary.
- 5.2 Review the progressive financial performance of the Assembly during the year.
- 5.3 Provide such reports as may be necessary to the ASC on the financial performance and position of the Assembly.
- 5.4 Examine any significant financial transactions affecting the Assembly and its Agencies and entities.

In particular, all Agencies and entities must seek AFARC prior approval in circumstances when unbudgeted capital expenditure, borrowings or operational expenditure exceeds 10% of the approved budget. In such circumstances the Committee shall report the transaction to the next ASC meeting.

6. External Audit and Internal Audit and Controls

Within this area of responsibility, the Committee will:

- 6.1 Receive and monitor related party transactions and assess their propriety.
- 6.2 Oversight key areas relating to the external audit of the Assembly. In particular, the Committee should:
 - 6.2.1 report to the ASC on the appointment, reappointment or replacement, remuneration, monitoring of the effectiveness, and independence of the external auditor;
 - 6.2.2 review and assess the independence of the external auditor, including but not limited to any relationships with the Assembly or any other entity and the nature and extent (if any) of any non-audit services provided by the external auditor that may impair or appear to impair the external auditor's judgement or independence in respect of the Assembly;
 - 6.2.3 periodically (but no less than every three (3) years) review and assess the desirability for auditor replacement or rotation and make recommendations to ASC. Where a decision is made to seek a new auditor the tender process shall be undertaken by the Committee;
 - 6.2.4 review and agree on the terms of engagement for the external auditor at the start of each audit;
 - 6.2.5 review the scope of the external audit with the external auditor including identified risk areas and any additional agreed-upon procedures;
 - 6.2.6 review the external auditor's audit fee, and be satisfied that an effective, comprehensive and complete audit can be conducted for that fee;
 - 6.2.7 review and monitor management's responsiveness to the external auditor's findings and recommendations;
 - 6.2.8 review with the external auditor any significant disagreements between the external auditor and management, irrespective of whether they have been resolved;
 - 6.2.9 review all representation letters signed by management, and be satisfied that the information provided is complete and appropriate;
 - 6.2.10 at least annually, meet with the external auditor without the presence of management; and
 - 6.2.11 for those Agencies and entities which engage an external auditor independently of Assembly, the Committee shall satisfy itself that the processes outlined above have been followed by the Agency.

7. Risk Management

Within this area of responsibility, the Committee will review and assess internal processes for determining, monitoring and assessing key risk areas and the Risk Management framework in use, especially with regard to the approach to identification, analysis, mitigation and monitoring of risks and alignment with approved statement(s) of Risk Appetite. In particular the Committee should pay close attention to:

- i. non-compliance with laws, regulations, standards and best practice guidelines;
- ii. important judgements and accounting estimates;
- iii. litigation and claims;
- iv. fraud and theft; and
- v. any other business risks that are not dealt with by a specific Assembly committee.

The Committee will consider relevant assessments of risk occurrence, consequence and outcome as part of the Risk Management framework.

The Committee will report regularly to the ASC on Risk Management, including seeking approval of Risk Appetite Statement(s) and consequences, along with affording the ASC the opportunity for more detailed review of Risk Registers.

In relation to identified risk areas, the Committee should ensure (for the Assembly, its Agencies and entities):

- that there is an effective risk management system in place, including for macro risks, and that the Committee assesses this system;
- that an effective internal control system is in place, and that the Committee assesses this system;
- that there are systems in place for detecting unusual and/or high risk transactions and that the Committee assesses this system;
- that there is a clear policy and procedure for reporting, actioning and documenting breaches of laws, including fraud and theft and that the Committee receives management reports on all actual and suspected breaches of laws;
- that it meets periodically with management and external and internal auditors (if applicable) to review the internal control environment and the processes in place for continuous improvement; and
- that a sound and effective approach has been followed in establishing business continuity planning arrangements, including whether disaster recovery plans have been tested periodically.

8. Assessment and Review

The Chairperson of the Committee, in consultation with the President, will initiate a review of the performance of the Committee at least once every three years. The review will incorporate input sought from the ASC, General Secretary, National Directors and Assembly management and any other relevant stakeholders.

At least once every three years the Committee will review this Charter to ensure it remains relevant to the current needs of the Assembly and its Standing Committee. This review may include consultation with the ASC and Agencies and entities with which it has involvement in the fulfilment of this Charter. Any proposed changes to the Charter shall be approved by the ASC.

This Charter is available for distribution to the Assembly Standing Committee, Agencies or entities of the Assembly or their governance bodies.

9. Document History

- 9.1 Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee March 2013
- 9.2 Verbally reviewed to the Assembly Standing Committee August 2018 (as part of the Triennial Evaluation of the Committee's performance. No amendments proposed or made.)
- 9.3 Updated document submitted to the Assembly Standing Committee November 2019
- 9.4 Approved by the Assembly Standing Committee November 2019

November 2019

Assembly Agencies and Entities

Clause 46 of the Constitution authorises “The Assembly to establish such institutions and agencies and appoint such councils and committees for such purposes and for such time as it deems necessary or desirable”.

Regulation 3.7.5.1 (l) (i) authorises the Standing Committee to “transact...such business as may be required or be desirable to be done on behalf of the Assembly”.

The following Agencies and entities fall under the oversight of the Committee:

Agency/Entity	Governance arrangements
Beneficiary Fund	Separately incorporated with Assembly approved Constitution and Board appointed to meet APRA requirements
Frontier Services	Assembly approved Constitution with Board appointed by Assembly
Uniting World	Assembly approved mandate and Board
UnitingCare Australia	Assembly approved mandate and Board
Home Endowment Fund	Rules approved by Assembly: management delegated to Vic./Tas. Synod (NB: In the process of being wound up)
Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress	Constitution and Regulations dated 1992
Assembly Fund (including Task groups and Working parties)	Oversight by General Secretary
UCA Assembly Limited	Separately incorporated with Assembly approved Constitution and Board

Expression of Interest Form for Assembly Committees or Task Groups

Basis of Union:

The Uniting Church recognises that responsibility for government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks which God has laid upon them.

Constitution:

The Assembly shall have determining responsibility in matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline, including the promotion of the Church's mission, establishment of standards of theological education and the reception of ministers from other denominations, and is empowered to make final decisions on all matters related to the Constitution of the UCA.

Name of the Committee / Task Group:

ASSEMBLY FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:

As per the Committee Charter: *"The Role of the Committee shall be to provide specialist expertise, support and advice to the Assembly and/or the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) by providing ongoing oversight and scrutiny of finance, audit, risk and related activities across all Assembly entities and Agencies in order to protect Assembly's interests."*

Personal Information:



Name: **STUART WOODWARD**
(Chair)

(Please complete as relevant)

Congregation: Cherrybrook NSW

Presbytery: Sydney Central Coast

Synod: NSW.ACT

What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group?

I am an experienced Board Director (and Chair), and senior executive, who has a valuable contribution to make at Board level that leverages skills of financial management, governance, risk awareness, stakeholder management and general commercial acumen. Solid values of integrity, professionalism, diligence, accountability, loyalty, reliability, tolerance and respect underpin all that I do. I bring a good sense of humour and a willingness and ability to learn.

I have enjoyed a lifetime career in financial services (senior executive level, now retired) – and bring an in-depth knowledge of Australian banking, financial and payment systems. I have a proven ability to nurture strategic networks, and work effectively with stakeholders, leveraging subject matter expertise, well developed critical and strategic thinking skills, communication skills, planning and organisational abilities, attention to detail, persistence, willingness to accept accountability, and leadership / teaming capabilities.

What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?

Member - Cherrybrook NSW congregation

Former member - North Sydney Regional Aged Care Board, UnitingCare Ageing

Former Councillor - Northern Sydney UnitingCare Ageing Council

Former member - Frontier Services Transitional Aged Care Board

Member of AFARC - 2014 - to date (Chair 2017 to date)

Member – 15th and 16th Assembly (2018 to date)

Member – 15th Assembly Standing Committee (2018 – 2021)

What if any relevant qualifications do you have?

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - Economics

Graduate (with merit) Australian Institute of Company Directors

Fellow, Financial Services Institute of Australia

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division - For service to the banking and finance sector, and to the Uniting Church in Australia, June 2020)

Age range

Under 30

30-59

60+

Ministry category

Lay

Ordained

Location

Remote

Rural

Regional Centre

City

What cultural and linguistic background do you have?

Anglo - Australian

Referees: (Please list the names and contact details of two people to act as referees for you in regard to this role)

1. *Colleen Geyer, Assembly General Secretary 0411 333 167*

2. *Leo Iosifidis, National Director Strategic Finance and Administration 0427 546 100*

If you are not appointed to this body, are you willing for Assembly to retain a copy of this form, and to consider you for appointment to a relevant task group in the future? YES / NO

Signature:

Stuart Woodward

Date: *10 August 2021*

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Constitution:

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Name of the Committee / Task Group: AFARC

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:

Personal Information:

	Name: Anthony (Tony) Norman ENGEL Congregation: Turramurra Presbytery: Sydney Central Coast Synod: NSW			
What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? I am a qualified accountant with 40 years' experience in all facets of banking especially risk and performance management.				
What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? Past board member of UnitingCare CYPF, previously trustee Committee of NSW Equity Fund, UCTAL. Youth leader at Turramurra Uniting for > 20 years.				
What if any relevant qualifications do you have? Bachelor of Business				
Age range	Under 30	30-59	60+	X
Ministry category	Lay		Ordained	
Location	Remote	Rural X	Regional Centre	City
What cultural and linguistic background do you have? NA				

Referees: *(Please list the names and contact details of two people to act as referees for you in regard to this role)*

1. Peter Andrews
2. Stuart Woodward

If you are not appointed to this body, are you willing for Assembly to retain a copy of this form, and to consider you for appointment to a relevant task group in the future? YES / NO

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Expression of Interest Form for Assembly Committees or Task Groups

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Name of the Committee / Task Group:

Assembly Finance Audit & Risk Committee

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:**Personal Information:**

Name: Ian Thompson

(Please complete as relevant)

Synod: Victoria/Tasmania

What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group?

Experience gained from being an active member of other NFP's Finance, Audit & Risk committees. Aside from my membership of UCA (Vic & Tas Synod) audit & risk committee I am an independent member of two other FAR committees and chair three FAR committees for entities in which I am also a director. I have gained good all round experience on how these committees work, expectations of members and can leverage best practice. Each entity and committee is different some entities have experience financial difficulties, other growth and expansion challenges, some have needed to further develop risk infrastructure and/or address governance issues.

* Finance:- academically qualified, financially literate, over 28 years experience as a financial analyst - I am an expert in finance and credit. The recent Covid 19 pandemic has tested many entities business models and I have been extensively involved in business continuity issues.

* Audit:- as a member of various audit committees I have experience working with internal & external auditors, including reviewing the scope of strategic audit plans, audit findings and management's action plans. I have also been involved in the appointment of outsourced internal auditors.

* Risk Management, Policy & Compliance:- executive experience in developing and in monitoring risk frameworks, internal policy development, and compliance and control systems, within matrix organisations and regulated entities. I appreciate risk management is a journey of continuous improvement.

What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?

Independent member of UCA (vic & Tas) Synod's Audit & Risk Committee;

* independent member of working group - The Scots School Albury working group task with monitoring the financial performance of the school;

* independent member of a UCA (Vic & Tas) Synod's working group - Lender of Last Resort work. Work group, which completed its project in 2020.

What if any relevant qualifications do you have?

Bachelor of Business (accounting)

* Graduate Diploma Corporate Finance

* CPA

* Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors' company directors course

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Retired)

Age range	Under 30	30-59	60+ Yes
Ministry category	Lay	Ordained NA	
Location	Remote	Rural	Regional Centre City Yes

What cultural and linguistic background do you have?

Australian

Referees: *(Please list the names and contact details of two people to act as referees for you in regard to this role)*

1. Ben Cohen
2. Stuart Woodward

If you are not appointed to this body, are you willing for Assembly to retain a copy of this form, and to consider you for appointment to a relevant task group in the future? YES / ~~NO~~

Signature:

Date: 2 July 2021

	Audit, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee		The Uniting Church in Australia - National Assembly and Related Entities	
	Conflicts of Interest Declaration Form			
Date	Name	Role	Declared Conflicts	Description
	Ian Thompson	Independent member	Audit & Risk Committee - UCA Vic & Tas Synod	Potential conflict
	Ian Thompson	Independent member	The Scots School Albury Oversight Working Group	Potential conflict - oversight group monitoring the financial performance of the s

Ian Thompson

B.Bus (Accounting), Grad Dip (Corp Fin), CPA, GAICD

18 Kent Road, Surrey Hills, Vic 3127

Email: idt1960@gmail.com Mobile: 0412 709 198

Key Competencies

- Risk management & Governance;
 - Credit risk & benchmarking standards;
 - Policy development & training
 - Finance, accounting & treasury, including asset liability management and audit;
 - General management & Corporate strategy; and,
 - Economics & Global financial markets.
-

Current Non-executive board positions

- Board member Bass Coast Health (BCH) – State Govt hospital and health care group.
 - Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (BCH)
 - Committee member of Quality & Clinical Governance Committee (BCH).
 - Independent member of board Audit & Risk Committee, State Sports Centre Trust
 - Independent member, Audit & Risk Mgt Committee, Uniting Church Australia Vic & Tas Synod
 - Independent member, Finance & Risk Committee, Australian College of Optometry
 - Board member Snowdome Foundation - a charity specializing in seeking cures for blood cancers;
 - Chair of Snowdome Foundation Finance Audit & Risk Committee
 - Board member Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
 - Board member RSPCA Australia
 - Chair of RSPCA Australia's Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
-

Senior Executive Career

Standard and Poor's Ratings Services: Standard & Poor's is the leading global credit rating agency.

Senior Managing Director & Global Chief Credit Officer, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (appointed December 2011, retired 31 December 2015).

Responsible for the global criteria development and approval function, which sets out the credit methodology used to assign and review S&P Ratings' universe of credit ratings.

- Chair: Analytical Policy Board (peak analytical body of S&P Ratings);
 - Member: Criteria and Model Governance Committee;
 - Member: Policy Governance Group (corporate policy approval group);
 - Member: Global Risk Committee;
 - Member Structure Finance Quality Review Board;
 - Member: Credit Conditions Committee (America's; EMEA; Asia Pacific) – key credit and economic forum;
-

Previous senior roles with Standard & Poor's

- Managing Director & Chief Credit Officer (Asia Pacific) S&P Ratings (Regional head of Criteria, Quality, Training & Research)
 - Managing Director & Regional Practice Leader, Corporate and Government Ratings Pacific Region
 - Managing Director & Regional Practice Leader, Financial Services Rating Asia Pacific Region
 - Managing Director & Regional Practice Leader, Insurance Ratings Asia Pacific
-

Key Business Achievements

- Leading the review and update of S&P Ratings' portfolio of criteria and ratings methodologies post global financial crisis with the aim of promoting ratings excellence, analytical leadership and consistency across the global portfolio;
 - Review and approval of various regional and product rating scales, along with supporting criteria and maintenance of the global rating scale and ratings definitions;
 - Strengthened operational risk procedures, standards and control systems around the ratings process, as well as enhancing internal service standards including the establishment of an analytical helpdesk.
 - Established and chaired Asia Pacific Credit Conditions Committee (a key economic and credit forum) & regional Quality Review Boards;
 - Merged and lead the financial services analytical practices (Financial Institutions & Insurance) in Asia Pacific;
 - Established S&P Ratings' presence in insurance ratings in Asia and New Zealand building it up to a leadership position with ratings coverage spanning nine countries;
 - Developed and managed high performance analytical teams.
-

General Professional Experience

Current

- Board member Snowdome Foundation & chair of Audit & Governance Committee.
- Board member Bass Coast Health & chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee.
- Board member Australian College of Critical Care Nursing
- Board member RSPCA Australia
- Independent Member Audit & Risk Committee State Sport Centre Trust.
- Independent Member Audit & Risk Committee UCA (Vic & Tas synod)
- Independent Member Finance, Audit & Risk Committee Australian College of Optometry

Previous

- Board member of S&P Ratings' Taiwanese affiliate, Taiwan Ratings Corp (2004 – 2006);
- Strong interactions at board level - in my last role with S&P I reported to the various boards of S&P Rating's principal entities (US, Europe & Italy);
- Global & Regional (Asia Pacific, EMEA) experience and responsibilities, including posting to London (concluded July 2014);
- Experience in transitioning to, and operating in, a regulated environment, including SEC (U.S.), ESMA (EMEA); FSA (Japan), HKMA (Hong Kong);
- Seven years experience in banking sector.

Tertiary Education & Professional Development

- Bachelor of Business (Accounting)
- Graduate Diploma (Corporate Finance)

- AICD Company Directors course (GAICD)
- CPA

Management Programs

- I have participated in several executive management programs, including
 - INSEAD (operating in multicultural businesses),
 - Columbia University (executive management course),
 - Darden School of Management (change management).
- Various media training and presentation skills courses.

Professional memberships

- Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)
- Australian Society of Certified Practicing Accountants

Personal Background and Information

Interests

- Art (drawing & painting) & Antiques
- Vintage motoring - member of VSCC Vic, VSCC UK, RROC.

References

- Available upon request

Contact Details

- Mobile: 0412 709 198;
- Email: idt1960@gmail.com

Expression of Interest Form for Assembly Committees or Task Groups

Basis of Union:

The Uniting Church recognises that responsibility for government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks which God has laid upon them.


Constitution:

The Assembly shall have determining responsibility in matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline, including the promotion of the Church's mission, establishment of standards of theological education and the reception of ministers from other denominations, and is empowered to make final decisions on all matters related to the Constitution of the UCA.

Name of the Committee / Task Group:

Assembly Finance Audit & Risk Committee

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:**Personal Information:**

	Name: Julianne Ross <i>(Please complete as relevant)</i> Congregation: High Street Road/St John's Uniting Church Mt Waverley Presbytery: Port Philip East Synod: Victoria/Tasmania		
What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? Ordained UCA Minister currently in placement. Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Retired). Particular interest in governance – church, not-for-profit and corporate. Past member of the Vic/Tas Synod Audit and Risk Committee, Finance Committee and Property Board.			
What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? Cradle Presbyterian/Uniting. Served in many roles in various churches prior to ordination including Elder, Church Councillor, Treasurer, Auditor, Lay preacher, Sunday School teacher, choir member.			
What if any relevant qualifications do you have? Bachelor of Theology(Hons). Diploma of Ministry Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Retired)			
Age range	Under 30	30-59	60+ Yes
Ministry category	Lay		Ordained Yes
Location	Remote	Rural	Regional Centre City Yes
What cultural and linguistic background do you have? Australian. English speaking			

Referees: *(Please list the names and contact details of two people to act as referees for you in regard to this role)*

1. Ben Cohen
2. Stuart Woodward

If you are not appointed to this body, are you willing for Assembly to retain a copy of this form, and to consider you for appointment to a relevant task group in the future? YES / NO

Signature: J Ross

Date: 2 July 2021

Audit, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

The Uniting Church in Australia - National Assembly and Related Entities

Conflicts of Interest Declaration Form

Date	Name	Role	Declared Conflicts	Description
I do not believe I have any conflicts of interest at this point of time.				
<i>J Ross 2 July 2021</i>				

Unit 2, 30 Bruce Street, Mt Waverley, 3149

Email: julieross8@bigpond.com

Telephone: 03 9807 5078

Mobile: 0418 390 119

Ordained as a Minister of the Word on 14 February 2010

COMPETENCIES

Qualifications and Experience

1. I have extensive knowledge of the UCA, especially its procedures and practices and governance. This began with a lifetime membership in the UCA and previously the Presbyterian Church. My longstanding involvement in numerous Synod and Presbytery Committees increased this knowledge and my academic studies deepened it. My Honours Thesis was on governance in the UCA where my primary case study was the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania Standing Committee. This flowed naturally from my deep interest in excellence in governance in the corporate and non-profit sectors and enabled me to develop a model for the church that was underpinned by Biblical mandate, theological reflection, and the ethos of the UCA.
2. I am in my thirteenth year of ministry, initially at the High Street Road Mt Waverley Uniting Church (HSRUC), and now at the recently amalgamated High Street Road & St John's Mount Waverley Uniting Church. This has recently been extended by two years to 31 December 2022 after which I plan to retire.
3. I have an Honours Degree in Theology and a Diploma of Ministry.
4. I was a Chartered Accountant in public practice for some forty years prior to my retirement to enter ministry in the Uniting Church. Further details can be found under my employment history below.

Skills and Abilities

Apart from my experience in ministry and accounting, I have had considerable experience in change management in both professions. This includes the amalgamation and restructuring of various accounting partnerships, the successfully amalgamated of HSRUC with St John's Uniting Church in Mt Waverley with the almost unanimous agreement of more than 200 parishioners with diverse theologies and contrasting cultures.

My interpersonal skills are well honed by many years of working with people from all walks of life, some with different values and personalities to mine, some difficult, some a joy to know and all children of God.

I think strategically, enjoy complex problem solving and am self-aware. Psychological assessments during both my professional life and my ministry life seem to confirm this. I am very aware of the need for self-care both physically, mentally, and emotionally, and the necessity for ongoing professional development.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES, TASKS AND OUTCOMES

Having carefully read the documentation kindly provided to me regarding the role of a member of the Assembly Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (AFARC), I believe that the gifts and experience I bring from my current ministry, my theological and biblical training, the disciplines of my former profession as

a Chartered Accountant and my knowledge and love of the Uniting Church would enable me to fulfill these requirements in certain areas.

However, I feel I must point out that I have not practiced in the field of accounting, taxation, or audit for more than fifteen years and consequently my knowledge of current legislation, accounting standards and audit practices is very dated.

MINISTRY AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2006 – Present

Full time placement at HSRUC – now High Street Road & St John's Mt Waverley Uniting Church following internship, candidature and studies at the United Faculty of Theology (Now Pilgrim College) and Yarra Theological Union.

1989 – 2006

My accounting career had its origins with the firm that ultimately became Ernst Young. It culminated with my becoming a partner in CHN Herold Ross Chartered Accountants. This included working in both a professional and pro bono capacity in Uniting Church agencies and other community organisations. The nature of this work included financial restructuring, audit, tax advice, management and governance advice and investigations for Dept Human Services and for the UCA. My commercial experience was also extensive, particularly in the areas of property development, building companies, family law (property settlements), and corporate governance. In later years I was also the Staff Partner responsible for all matters relating to human resources and particularly team building.

OTHER RELEVANT MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Synod Appointments:

2012-2013 Member of Synod Interim Finance Committee
2011-2013 Member of Presbytery Review Group
2007-2012 Member of Synod Audit Committee

Other Earlier UCA Appointments:

Treasurer and Chair Audit and Risk Committee: Uniting Care Connections
Board Memberships - Harrison Community Services; Canterbury Family Services including membership of the committee to facilitate the merger of the three agencies that became Uniting Care Connections; Council for Christian Education in Schools (Now Access Ministries).

Other Appointments and Ministry involvement:

In 2016 as part of a ministry exchange programme, I was fortunate to be invited to be the minister at the Lincoln Street United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, USA. This was a six-week appointment and a highlight of my ministry. It was also a remarkable insight into American politics.

President and more recently Vice President – Mt Waverley/Chadstone Inter Church Council.

Member of Glen Waverley Uniting Church for 30+ years holding various roles over those years including Elder, Joint Treasurer, Church Council member, JNC member, worship leader, pastoral care trainer and provider.

Expression of Interest Form for Assembly Committees or Task Groups

Basis of Union:

The Uniting Church recognises that responsibility for government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks which God has laid upon them.

Constitution:

The Assembly shall have determining responsibility in matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline, including the promotion of the Church's mission, establishment of standards of theological education and the reception of ministers from other denominations, and is empowered to make final decisions on all matters related to the Constitution of the UCA.

Name of the Committee / Task Group: ASSEMBLY FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:

The Assembly Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (AFARC) is established pursuant to Regulation 3.7.5.2 and is required, inter-alia, to assist the Assembly Standing Committee, and the Assembly, on a range of matters including those relating to accounting policies, financial budgeting and accounting, management and internal controls, business policies and practices, and compliance related matters. AFARC is accountable to the Assembly and its Standing Committee.

Personal Information:

Name: Geoffrey Kerry

Congregation: Gordon, NSW

Presbytery: Sydney Central Coast

Synod: NSW/ACT

What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group?

- Financial management
- Information Technology
- Data Analytics
- Programme Management

What if any relevant experiences have you had in the life of the Church?

- Active member of the Uniting Church - Gordon NSW Congregation. Active member of the GUC "Messy Church" team. This program targets pre and primary school children in a fun and interactive manner.
- Member of the Ella Community Centre Board for many years. I'm currently Treasurer and Chair of the Board's Finance sub-committee. The Ella Centre supports adults with disabilities and people

who are aging, and their Carers, to connect with the community and lead full, happy lives. Services include provision of a wide range of services under NDIS for people with disabilities. The Ella also runs programs supports clients and their carers who have dementia including those with early onset dementia. The Ella Centre retains close relationships with St David's Uniting Church Haberfield NSW and with Uniting (NSW/ACT).

What if any relevant qualifications do you have?

- Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Law (BComm/LLB), UNSW, 1983
- Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA), 1987
- Master of Business Administration (MBA), Macquarie Graduate School of Management, 1998
- Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute, 2007

Age range	Under 30	30-59 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	60+
Ministry category	Lay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ordained	
Location	Remote	Rural	Regional Centre City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What cultural and linguistic background do you have?

Australian. I speak English.

Referees: *(Please list the names and contact details of two people to act as referees for you in regard to this role)*

1. Stuart Woodward, Chairman AFARC 0414 886 346; stuartwoodward202@gmail.com
2. Rev Michael Barnes (previous Gordon Minister) 0418 778 897 mcbarnes7@tpg.com.au

If you are not appointed to this body, are you willing for Assembly to retain a copy of this form, and to consider you for appointment to a relevant task group in the future? ☒ YES ☐ NO

Signature:



Date:

16.08.2021