



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

27-29 August 2021

DOCUMENT 8G

Title	Assembly Legal Reference Committee
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For information
Assembly or ASC Minute	Not applicable
Consultation	Not applicable
Purpose	To appoint members of the Assembly Legal Reference Committee
Rationale & Findings Summary	
Attachments	
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee appoint the members of the Assembly Legal Reference Committee: 1. Malcolm Gledhill 2. Peter Butt 3. Cathy Williamson 4. Alan Ray
Submitted by	Warwick van Ede, Chair, Assembly Legal Reference Committee

LEGAL

- Responsible to:** The Assembly
- Reporting arrangements:** The Assembly and the Standing Committee
- Mission Statement:** To provide advice to the Church, especially the Assembly, on legal and constitutional matters, including the Regulations.
- Mandate:**
1. To advise the Assembly and its officers and agencies in legal and constitutional matters.
 2. To assist the Assembly in matters of drafting, checking and interpretation of legal aspects of documents;
 3. To recommend to the Assembly and the Standing Committee the wording of amendments to the Constitution and the Regulations.
 4. To advise other Councils of the Church, when requested by the General Secretary, on matters relating to the Constitution and the Regulations.
 5. To advise the President on requests for Presidential Rulings.
- General:** The responsibilities include:
- focusing the activities of the agency on the vision of the Assembly as a whole;
 - advising the Assembly and/or the Standing Committee on policy matters within their area of responsibility;
 - making policy decisions where the Assembly or the Standing Committee has delegated authority for certain policy areas, either through the agency mandate or by resolution;
 - assisting the General Secretary and any other Secretariat staff in the implementation of policies determined by the Assembly and/or the Standing Committee;
 - ensuring that appropriate pastoral support is offered to agency staff members;
 - participating in cross-agency projects and teams established by the Assembly.
- Power to appoint:**
- To establish working groups for special tasks related specifically to the mandate.
 - To make recommendations to the Standing Committee to establish other working groups for special tasks related to but not part of the mandate.
- Membership of the Reference Committee:**
- Chairperson (appointed by the Assembly);
 - up to six persons appointed by the Standing Committee;
 - power to co-opt up to two additional persons to ensure appropriate competencies, representation and development of new leadership.

Approved by Assembly Standing Committee, July 1998

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 Legal Reference Committee

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body: To provide legal advice to the Assembly

Personal Information:

Affix photo here



Name: Alan Wallis Ray
(Please complete as relevant)
Congregation: Highfield Road Uniting Church, Canterbury, Victoria
Presbytery: Yarra Yarra
Synod: Victoria and Tasmania

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

I will bring my skills as a lawyer who was admitted to practise in 1972 and who has worked as a Registrar in the Family Court, as a lecturer in the Law Faculty at Monash University, in the Legal Aid Office and as an Adjunct Lecturer in the College of Law.

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

I am currently an Elder at Highfield Road Canterbury, and have been on the Church Council of Surrey Hills Uniting Church. I have been a member of the Uniting Church since its inception and before that in the Presbyterian Church.

What if any relevant qualifications do you have?

I hold the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from Melbourne University and have been a mediator for many years. I was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Australia and of the Supreme Court of Victoria in March 1972.

Age range

60+

Ministry category

Lay

Location

City

What cultural and linguistic background do you have? English speaker, Anglo – Irish heritage.

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

1. Rev. Rob Gotch, Surrey Hills Uniting Church Tel: 9898 1097
2. Rev. Ross Pearce, Highfield Road Uniting Church Tel: 0437 561 833

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

Signature: _____

Alan Wallis Ray

Date: _____

11-8-21

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Name of the Committee / Task Group: Assembly Legal Reference Committee

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body: To advise on legal matters referred to it by the Assembly or the President

Personal Information:

Affix photo here

Name: Peter Butt

(Please complete as relevant)

Congregation: Crows Nest UC

Presbytery: Sydney North and Central Coast

Synod: NSW



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

Many years' experience as lawyer and lecturer-in-law

What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? Member of UC since 1977; member and chair of church council

What if any relevant qualifications do you have?

Degrees in Arts and Law.

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


What cultural and linguistic background do you have?

Australian; English

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

1. Mr Warwick van Ede – warwickvanede@gmail.com
2. Rev Michael Thomas – thomasmichael310@gmail.com

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: 11/8/21

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Name of the Committee / Task Group: Assembly Legal Reference Committee (ALRC)

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

Personal Information:

<i>Affix photo here</i>	Name: Malcolm C Gledhill <i>(Please complete as relevant)</i> Congregation: Eastwood Presbytery: Sydney Central Coast Synod: NSW				
What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? I have very recently retired from practice as a solicitor after 57 years. I am a long term member and former chairperson for many terms of the ALRC, a member of the 16 th Assembly and many previous National Assemblies of the UCA, a member of the Assembly Standing Committee for 3 terms, a member of the NSW Synod for many past terms but not in recent years, a member for many years of the Commission for World Mission, a member of the UnitingWorld Relief and Development Committee for many years but not recently, a Uniting World volunteer to assist the Methodist Church in Fiji to revise the Church constitution involving visits totalling 5-6 months over a period of 3 years and in the distant past a lay lawyer missionary with Methodist Overseas Missions in PNG,. I have held various positions in my local congregation and have been leading English conversation classes in our diverse ethnic community for Eastwood UCA for over 20 years. My long experience and reasonably good memory enable me to be part of the corporate memory of the Church and provide information and recollection that are relevant to issues that come before the ALRC.					
What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? See above. – an important part of experience tht I bring to the ALRC					
What if any relevant qualifications do you have? BA, LLB Hons (Sydney)					
Age range	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Under 30</td> <td style="width: 25%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">30-59</td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">60+Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Under 30	30-59	60+Yes	
Under 30	30-59	60+Yes			
Ministry category	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">LayYes</td> <td style="width: 40%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">OrdainedNo</td> </tr> </table>	LayYes	OrdainedNo		
LayYes	OrdainedNo				
Location	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Remote No</td> <td style="width: 25%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Rural No</td> <td style="width: 25%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Regional Centre</td> <td style="width: 25%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">CityYes</td> </tr> </table>	Remote No	Rural No	Regional Centre	CityYes
Remote No	Rural No	Regional Centre	CityYes		
What cultural and linguistic background do you have? Anglo Australian – English					

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

Warwick Van Ede, Chairperson ALRC.

I have worked closely over a number of years with each of the Assembly General Secretaries, commencing with Rev David Gill. I have not asked them to be referee but am happy to take the risk of any of them being asked about my qualification/capacity to continue to make a worthwhile contribution

- 1.
- 2.

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? A qualified YES I would need to consider whether it is practical for me to be appointed to another task group

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Name of the Committee / Task Group: Assembly Legal Reference Committee

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

Provide advice to the President of the Assembly / legal views and counsel, on legal issues raised through Synods and Assembly

Personal Information:

<i>Affix photo here</i>	Name: Cathy Williamson <i>(Please complete as relevant)</i> Congregation: Pitt Street Uniting Church Presbytery: Sydney Synod: NSW		
What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? 30 years of advisory and legal experience, life long church membership.			
What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? See above – am involved in music and liturgy at Pitt street.			
What if any relevant qualifications do you have? BA, LLB, LLM			
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? English			

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

1. Warwick van Ede
2. Malcolm Gledhill

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: CATHERINE WILLIAMSON (sgd)_____Date: 11 / 8 / 2021