



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

27-29 August 2021

DOCUMENT 8H

Title	Church Polity Reference Committee
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For information
Assembly or ASC Minute	Not applicable
Consultation	Not applicable
Purpose	To appoint members of the Church Polity Reference Committee
Rationale & Findings Summary	
Attachments	
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee as members of the Church Polity Reference Committee 1. Michelle Cook 2. Kerry Wilson
Submitted by	Rev Dr Chris Budden, Chair, Church Polity Reference Committee

CHURCH POLITY REFERENCE COMMITTEE MANDATE

- Responsible to:** The Assembly
- Reporting arrangements:** The Assembly and the Standing Committee
- Mission Statement:** To advise the Assembly, the Standing Committee and the General Secretary on the polity of the church, in light of the Basis of Union, the Constitution and the Regulations.
- Mandate:**
1. To provide advice on matters of polity at the request of the Assembly, the Standing Committee or the General Secretary.
 2. To initiate with the General Secretary, the Standing Committee or the Assembly consideration of issues and concerns relating to the polity of the church.
 3. To assist other Assembly agencies (eg. Theology and Discipleship, Legal Reference Committee, National Secretariat) with advice on matters concerning the polity of the church.
 4. To assist with the drafting of amendments to the Constitution and the Regulations, as requested by the Assembly, the Standing Committee, the Legal Reference Committee or the General Secretary.
- Power to appoint:** The Reference Committee has power to appoint working groups to operate within this mandate.
- Membership of the Reference Committee:**
- Chairperson, appointed by the Assembly.
Five to ten persons appointed by the Standing Committee, following receipt of nominations from the Reference Committee, including one person from each synod, plus the Assembly General Secretary (ex-officio).
 - One corresponding member from each of the other five synods, appointed by the Standing Committee.

Approved by Assembly Standing Committee August 2015

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:

Church Polity reference Committee

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


Personal Information:

<i>Affix photo here</i>	Name: Michelle Cook <i>(Please complete as relevant)</i> Congregation: Nightcliff UCA Presbytery: Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia Synod: Northern Synod		
What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters in the Basis of Union • Experience working with UAICC in two Synods • PhD in Practical theology focusing on Multicultural and Covenanting Church and ecclesiology • Presbytery minister mission in Tasmania • Pilgrim Presbytery Chair 			
What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous member of Polity reference committee • Presbytery Chair of Pilgrim Presbytery • Member of ASC 2009-2015 			
What if any relevant qualifications do you have? Masters in Theology 2009 – Thesis on Atonement and the Work of Christ in the Basis of Union Brisbane College of Theology Masters in Applied Social Science Research 2003 University of Queensland Phd Practical Theology On Being a Covenanting and Multicultural Church: Ordinary theologians in the Uniting Church reflect on what it means to be church			
Age range	Under 30	30-59	60+
Ministry category	Lay		Ordained - Deacon
Location	Remote	Rural	Regional-Centre City
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. Andrew Johnson 0424 373 713
2. Stuart McMillan 0400 831 064

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:

Church Polity Reference Committee

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

Personal Information:

Affix photo here	Name: Kerry Wilson (Please complete as relevant) Congregation: Spicer Uniting Church Presbytery: Wimala Synod: South Australia		
What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? - knowledge of how how the UCA works - been interested in polity - the ability to be find a way forward through complications.			
What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? Church Polity Reference Committee 2018-2021			
What if any relevant qualifications do you have?			
Age range	<u>Under 30</u>	30-59	60+
Ministry category	<u>Lay</u>		Ordained
Location	Remote	Rural	Regional Centre <u>City</u>
What cultural and linguistic background do you have?			

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

1. Sue Page spage@sa.uca.org.au
- 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? YES / NO

Signature: Kerry Wilson

Date: 22/8/21