



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

27-29 August 2021

DOCUMENT: 80

Title	Appointment of additional members to the Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group
Type of Paper	For information and decision
Assembly or ASC Minute	
Consultation	Convener of the Task Group
Purpose	To appoint additional members to the Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group to replace several members who have withdrawn.
Rationale & Findings Summary	This Document should be read alongside the Task Groups Document before the ASC which contains a section relating to this Task Group.
Attachments	
Recommendations	That the Assembly Standing Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Receive the Report2. Appoint the UCA members to the Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apelu Tielu• Gordon Ramsay• Wendy Hendry
Submitted by	Rob Floyd Assembly Associate General Secretary rob@nat.uca.org.au , 0407 944 417

Expression of Interest Form for Committees and 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.

Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group

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

To develop the wording of an official apology from the Uniting Church in Australia to LGBTIQ Australians for the Church's role in the silence, rejection, discrimination and stereotyping of LGBTIQ people, couples and families.

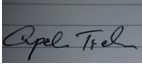
Personal Information:

<p><i>Affix photo here</i></p> 	<p>Name: Apelu Tielu</p> <p><i>(Please complete as relevant)</i></p> <p>Congregation: Queanbeyan Uniting Church Presbytery: Canberra Region Synod: NSW/ACT</p>
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Panel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific knowledge – Honours degree in applied biology, major in genetics; • Theological/Biblical knowledge – I have written articles on gender issues from the theological and biblical perspectives, especially on biblical interpretations that have been used over times to justify the denigration of members of the LGBTIQ community. • Consultant to the NZ Ministry of Justice on LGBTIQ concerns. 	
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement with the issues from a theological and biblical perspectives through journal and newspapers articles; • Participation in discussions with the NZ Ministry of Justice; • Participation in the programs of Social Justice non-government organisations in NZ. 	
<p>What if any relevant qualifications do you have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific knowledge – Honours degree in applied biology, major in genetics; • Theological/Biblical – Honours degree in theology with majors in theology and biblical studies. 	
Age range	Under 30 30-59 60+
Ministry category	Lay Ordained – Minister of the Word
Location	Remote Rural - NSW Regional Centre City
<p>What cultural and linguistic background do you have?</p> <p>I Samoan and my wife is Filipina. I am fluent in Samoan and English; I can follow conversation in two Filipino dialects (Tagalog & Cebuano), Spanish, Maori te Reo, and Tongan.</p>	

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

1. Lin Hatfield Dodds, Chair, Assembly LGBTIQ Apology Task Group
2. Rev Sani Vaeluaga, Minister in Placement, Altona Meadows/Laverton Uniting Church – 61 Central Avenue, Altona Meadows VIC 3028; Lara Uniting Church – 1A Flinders Avenue, LARA VIC 3212
Mobile: 0400990768
Email: sani.vaeluaga@victas.uca.org.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**

Signature: 

Date: 16th August 2021

Expression of Interest Form for Committees and 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.

Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group

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

To develop the wording of an official apology from the Uniting Church in Australia to LGBTIQ Australians for the Church's role in the silence, rejection, discrimination and stereotyping of LGBTIQ people, couples and families.

Personal Information:

<p><i>Affix photo here</i></p> 	<p>Name: Gordon Ramsay</p> <p><i>(Please complete as relevant)</i></p> <p>Congregation: Gungahlin Presbytery: Canberra Region Synod: NSW ACT</p>
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group?</p> <p>Theological reflective skills; Deep understanding of Church Polity; Experience in Government (ACT Attorney General 2016-2020) including involvement in national Councils of Ministers (Attorneys General, Redress Ministers and others) Recent consultant advice to ACT Government on operations of discrimination law Involvement and long history as ally of LGBTIQ community Community Engagement experience</p>	
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?</p> <p>Chair Assembly Policy Reference Committee Chair Uniting NSW.ACT Chair Canberra Region Presbytery Executive Minister Kippax Uniting Church 1997-2016</p>	
<p>What if any relevant qualifications do you have?</p> <p>Tertiary qualifications in Arts, Law (including Human Rights), Theology Extensive experience in Community Engagement, consultation</p>	
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-Celtic

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

1. Lin Hatfield Dodds, Chair, Assembly LGBTIQ Apology Task Group
2. Andrew Barr, ACT Chief Minister 6205 0011

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: _Gordon Ramsay

Date: 17 August 2021

Expression of Interest Form for Committees and 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.

Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group

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

To develop the wording of an official apology from the Uniting Church in Australia to LGBTIQ Australians for the Church's role in the silence, rejection, discrimination and stereotyping of LGBTIQ people, couples and families.

Personal Information:



Name: Wendy Hendry

(Please complete as relevant)

Congregation: Margaret River Uniting Church

Presbytery: Presbytery of WA

Synod: Synod of WA

What skills and experience will you bring to the Panel?

I feel I bring both a lived experience, in being a queer Christian, and experience in my understanding of the structure, diversity and ethos of the Uniting Church. I have been involved in the church at a congregation level, occasional lay preaching and as a member of church councils, and at a Synod level working for the Social Justice Unit, and attending many Synod meetings, and national UCA gatherings.

I have a strong connection and sense of belonging to the Uniting Church and have been proud of the way we have spoken out on matters of justice and continue to do so. As a queer Christian I have felt both pride and disappointment as the church has wrestled with matters of inclusion and equality when it comes to our LGBTIQ+ community.

As an Authorised Marriage Celebrant, I have had the opportunity to officiate many same sex weddings since the passing of marriage equality legislation. I have felt honoured to tell their stories, and truly celebrate with my couples, many of whom have shared with me their experience of discrimination and exclusion because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

My wife and I were married under the 'rites of the Uniting Church' in October 2018 when the 15th Assembly made it possible. The moment was a celebration of how far the church and community had come. There was also an awareness of the pain those years of discussion and debate around LGBTIQ inclusion had caused along the way.

I feel my experience and understanding of the history of these discussions will be a contribution to the task group as they work toward an appropriate apology to LGBTIQ Australians.

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

I've worked for the Synod of WA in various roles since 1995. My most recent work has been in the area of Social Justice and International Mission. I've worked as Social Justice Officer several times, from 2004 – 2008, then again from 2012 – 2013. I am currently working in this role again having returned in February 2021.

Between 2013 – 2020 I was involved in the Margaret River Uniting Church, where I was Secretary of the church council, and also worked in an administration support capacity for a number of years. During this time I was involved in vigorous and positive discussions around same gender marriage, and diversity and inclusion.

I have been both a state representative and co-convenor of Uniting Network Australia and played a significant role in planning and hosting the Daring Conference in Perth in 2006. I have also attended five Daring conferences as a participant and committee member. I was a nominated representative from WA to one of the Space for Grace discussions held in Sydney in the lead up to the 15th Assembly.

What if any relevant qualifications do you have?
 Bachelor of Arts (Communication and Cultural Studies)
 Commonwealth Authorised Marriage Celebrant

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. Lin Hatfield Dodds, Chair, Assembly LGBTIQ Apology Task Group
2. Geoff Bice, Executive Officer Social Justice, Synod of WA

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: W Hendry

Date: 17/08/2021