

Advice for the incoming ASC

Provided by ASC members, March 2021

ASC members

- ASC members do not represent their home community/council – they are ASC members whose role is to provide governance to the Assembly (see Basis of Union, par 15e)
- Take time to build relationships with each other as members of the ASC – build in time early in the first in-person ASC meeting for this
- Build in time before the meetings (to prepare yourself, and also to have some space) and after the meetings (to rest, reflect and move out of the space of the meeting) – attend to self-care
- Take time to read papers in plenty of time for the meeting
- Mentoring for new members can be extremely helpful – think about whether this would be helpful for you

Building community

- Start thinking now about how to ensure there is an element of true community participation/ownership of the next ASC
- The live in is really important. Online is useful but only after community has been formed. How might a virtual ASC form after a virtual Assembly?
- Who is isolated in the current ASC/new ASC and how can this be intentionally managed?

Orientation

- Orientation to governance is useful – important that this is done by a person who understands the UCA and the role of the ASC
- Provide a brief overview of what happened in the last 3 years for the new members
- It should include briefing regarding important ongoing issues and work for the ASC – for example Act2 and the reconvened meeting of the 16th Assembly
- It is important for new ASC members to have an opportunity to get their heads around the risk matrix and ASC accountabilities – orientation will be a key opportunity for this

Governance

- Find ways to get into the issues included in the papers before the meeting – do you have any questions for those who have prepared the papers that you could ask them before the meeting; what might be important for the ASC to consider etc
- Don't be afraid to ask questions in the meeting – encourage new and youthful ASC members to participate and ask questions they might have
- The ASC needs to be clear about its responsibilities
- Get creative and be open to what you are dealing with, what the solutions might be etc
- The Assembly has limited resources, and we do our work within what is available
- ASC work is hard - be patient with each other and the process
- Understand the decisions ASC makes do impact on communities

Communication

- The processes around communication regarding ASC decisions are very important. Strategies that manage how communication happens, including regular feedback from stakeholders and the wider church are important.
- It is vital that with the leadup to the next Assembly meetings, we build community with faces

ASC meeting processes

- Consider more ASC meetings, 3 physical meetings and with online meetings in between these
- ASC will meet both in person and online, both forms of meeting will contribute to how the ASC works and carries out its responsibilities, as well as the need to be flexible and use technology
- The Synod General Secretaries resource the ASC meeting