



Uniting Church in Australia

ASSEMBLY

Assembly Standing Committee

12-14 November 2021

DOCUMENT 2-CA7

Title	Appointment of Panel Members for Assembly Circles of Interest
Type of Paper	For information and decision
Assembly or ASC Minute	
Consultation	Panel Members and Advocates from the last triennium
Purpose	To appoint Panel Members for Assembly Circles of Interest
Rationale & Findings Summary	Appointment to Panels can take place across the triennium as people with particular skills, experience and interest are identified. Three additional Panel Members are nominated and their CVs attached.
Attachments	
Recommendations	That the Assembly Standing Committee: 1. Appoint the following Panel Members for Assembly Circles of Interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Milise Ofa Foiakau to the <i>Being a Multicultural Church</i> Circle of Interest• Matthew Julius to the <i>Growing in Faith</i> Circle of Interest• Abi Benham-Bannon to the <i>Working for Justice</i> Circle of Interest
Submitted by	Rob Floyd Assembly Associate General Secretary robfnat@nat.uca.org.au , 0407 944 417

Panel Members for Assembly Circles of Interest

Circle	Nomination
Being a Multicultural Church	Milise Ofa Foiakau
Growing in Faith	Matthew Julius
Working for Justice	Abi Benham-Bannon

Expressions of Interest - Being a Multicultural Church



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY

Expression of Interest

Assembly Circles of Interest Panel Member

RETURN THIS FORM TO circles@nat.uca.org.au

Name: Milise Ofa
Foiakau

Email: MiliseF@nswact.uca.org.au

Phone: 0431007635

Position: I am interested in being considered for the Position of Panel Member for the Assembly Circle of Interest (select one or more):

- Walking Together as First and Second Peoples
- Growing in Faith
- Being a Multicultural Church**
- Seeking Common Ground
- Discipling the Next Generations
- Transforming Worship
- Working for Justice

Acknowledgement: I understand that this is an unpaid volunteer position focussed on supporting the work of the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly.

I have read the Description of the Circle named above, along with the matching Panel Member Position Description and believe that I have the knowledge, experience, skills and personal qualities necessary to serve the Church in the role of Panel Member.

I understand that Expressions of Interest will be acknowledged upon receipt and then will be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by the ASC. As part of the process of selection, the Committee may choose to communicate with candidates seeking further information. Candidates will be informed of the outcome of this process. The Selection Committee will determine the Panel members for each Circle, and those proposed names will then be put to the Assembly Standing Committee for approval.

Signed: Milise Ofa
Foiakau

Date: 26-08-2021

Please provide the name and contact details for at least one person who can be contacted in order to give feedback concerning your expression of interest for this position.

Referee(s): Pastor Joyce Tangi joycet@nswact.uca.org.au
Rev Clive Pearson cliverpearson@gmail.com

Statement of Qualifications, Experience and Skills:

Please list any ministry or other experience, education and training or specific skills you possess which you believe would prepare you for filling the position of Panel Member for the Circle(s) indicated above:

- Current Role – Pastor as a PULSE Field Officer in the Synod of NSW/ACT
- Fuller Youth Institute Growing Young Facilitator
- Fijian National Conference – 2012, 2014, 2020, attended as a youth member
 - Fijian National Conference 2020 – elected National Conference Youth Leader
- Tongan National Conference, attended as a representative of PULSE
- Niuean Youth Conference 2019: Focus on mental health, attended as youth leader networks
- 3 Years Youth Leadership in local congregation which provided experience with:
 - Leading multicultural worship one Sunday each month
 - Engaging youth groups from different congregations and cultural backgrounds
 - Playing a significant role in connecting and fostering a relationship between the 3 youth groups of local parish
- Member of P.I. (Pacific Island) Ignite, 2014-2015
- NCYC 2014, NCYC 2017
- 2nd Gen Conference 2017, attended as youth leader networks
- YouLEAD 2018, YouLEAD 2019
- NYALC 2016, NYALC 2019
- NSW/ACT Synod 2019, NSW/ACT Synod 2021
- Community Leader for Sydney Alliance Voices for Power 2018-2019
 - Completed Sydney Alliance 6 Day Training
- Co-chair of Worship Committee for local parish
- Member of Combined Congregational Leaders Meeting for local parish
- Currently undertaking a period of discernment
- Participated in Sydney Presbyteries *Many Cultures, One in Christ* Multicultural Event
- Attended the CALD Mission Leaders Meeting, December 2020
- Attended the CALD Leaders Conference, March 2021
- Attended the Growing Up Uniting Conference, June 2021
- Climate Action Rally
 - 2015 – Attended as member of Fijian community
 - 2019 – Attended as Youth Leader with Youth Group
 - 2021 – One of key organisers UCA group and preached at Service before rally

Personal Statement:

Please tell us why you would like to be considered as a Panel Member for this Circle of Interest.

The Church has stated in the three Assembly documents 'We are a Multicultural Church', 'A Church for all God's People' and 'One Body, Many Members' that we are a Multicultural Church. While we have these statements, where we are as a church, there is still space to grow. This is indicated by leadership at all levels, participation in committees, decision making processes, etc.

Coming into this space, I look forward to *talanoa* (share stories), to learn from existing wisdom and experiences. I would like my *talanoa* to be shared as well, from my own experiences, gifts and perspective bringing value to this Circle.

I am passionate about Being a Multicultural Church because I believe that this is what Christ calls us to be. I hope to be a witness to the statements the Church has already committed to, and hope to contribute in our continued journey in being a true multicultural church.-

[Approved by ASC, March 2018]

Expressions of Interest – Growing in Faith

Expression of Interest Form for Assembly Circles of Interest Panel Members

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 Assembly Circles of Interest:


- Walking Together as First and Second Peoples
- Growing in Faith
- Being a Multicultural Church
- Seeking Common Ground
- Discipling the Next Generations
- Transforming Worship
- Working for Justice

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

The Assembly established its seven Circles of Interest to assist people to engage with the Uniting Church's national work, providing opportunities for people to be informed, to contribute and to connect with others.

Each Circle represents a broad area of the Assembly's mission and ministry. Together, the seven circles encompass some of the core values of the Uniting Church and how we contribute to God's mission in the world.

Personal Information:

	Name: Matthew Julius <i>(Please complete as relevant)</i> Congregation: Caféchurch - Northcote Uniting Church Presbytery: Port Phillip West Synod: Tasmania / Victoria
What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? Verbal & Written communication Theological analysis Biblical exegesis Ability to work collaboratively Knowledge of UCA polity, processes, and theological inheritances Experience working in not-for-profit / social enterprise sector	
What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? Preacher and worship leader	

Expressions of Interest – Working for Justice

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Personal Information:

<p><i>Affix photo here</i></p> 	<p>Name: Abi Benham-Bannon</p> <p><i>(Please complete as relevant)</i></p> <p>Congregation: Brunswick Uniting Church/Ascot Vale Uniting Church Presbytery: Port Phillip West Synod: VicTas</p>
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Panel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Active involvement in advocacy for people seeking asylum since 2013, including involvement with Christian group Love Makes A Way since 2014/2015 (facilitating/co-facilitating Melbourne group since 2016). This has involved both nonviolent direct action (organisation and participation) and creative ways of engaging Christians in this issue.- Work as a professional dance choreographer with a focus on work in climate justice – including holding faith-based workshops engaging people in climate justice through dance.	
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Member of Brunswick UC Justice & Mission Committee since 2014/2015 (engaging church community in issues of social and environmental justice)	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of Brunswick UC Walking Together group since 2020 - Volunteer at Olive Way 'drop-in centre' (BUC) – 2013 - 2017 			
What if any relevant qualifications do you have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bachelor's degree in human geography, with a focus on climate change, disaster management and environmental justice. 			
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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary language: English. - Cultural background: English, Irish, Scottish 			

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

1. Phil Hudson (Love Makes A Way) – Email: blacksheepmusicaustralia@gmail.com Phone: 0434 840 688

2. Andrea Alvis (Love Makes A Way/Brunswick UC) – Email: andreaalvis1959@gmail.com Phone: 0413 950 619

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: _____  _____
 21 _____

Date: _____ 31-08-