



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**ASSEMBLY**  
Assembly Standing Committee

12-14 November 2021

**DOCUMENT 2-CA4**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Report from the Task Group on Chaplaincy</b>
Type of Paper	For information.
Assembly or ASC Minute	(ASC, November 2020)
Consultation	Chaplaincy Task Group
Purpose	Progress report for ASC.
Rationale & Findings Summary	This report includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Summary of progress this far</li><li>2. Projected timeline for the task group</li></ol>
Attachments	None
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Receive the report.</li></ol>
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## **Report from the Task Group on Chaplaincy**

### **Meeting:**

The group has convened with the assistance and support of Lindsay Cullen and Anna Catliffe on 11 June 2021 and 30 September 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for 11 November 2021.

### **Members:**

Jean Shannon (NSW, Chair); Dave Baker (Qld, ASC appointee); Anne Wright (WA, SFM appointee); Nicole Mugford (Vic, ASC appointee); Jay Robinson (Vic, SFM appointee); Adam Macintosh (Qld); Lita Mendigorin (NSW)

Unfortunately, Deb Sorenson, who had originally been nominated to the group, due to a change of employment was unable to attend the first meeting and communicated her resignation shortly afterward. The Committee was also informed recently of the withdrawal of Dave Baker from the Task Group. I will address these membership issues below.

### **Progress:**

We have met and established a working team. The first meeting was to establish the relationships, the parameters of the project; familiarise ourselves with the terms of reference and design realistic expectations around the time-frame and outputs. We have

- Begun to pool existing papers and resources (such as the 2011 working group paper) and current literature on chaplaincy
- Build a matrix of chaplaincy contexts within the UCA
- Scope what is within UCA control and what is outside its control
- Scope oversight responsibilities (Synod, Presbyteries; Congregations & Agencies)
- Gather samples of position descriptions (PDs)
- Begun discussion about how to deal with the differences between volunteers and paid chaplains
- Begun the conversation about the relationship of Chaplaincy to the Ministry of Pastor and to the Ordained Ministries of the UCA
- Begun gathering policies; strategies & standards used within UCA & agencies
- Begun gathering education pathways & what additional training and education should be included in future development
- Begun report framework

### **Next steps:**

- Analyse PDs and look for commonalities, differences and aged or missing criteria
- Map existing education pathways
- Note outside relationships/influences (such other professional codes of practice)
- Consolidate table of chaplaincy contexts
- Draw consensus on definitions (education, spirituality, religion, chaplaincy etc)
- Define/distinguish/discuss chaplains working in multi-faith environments and multi-faith chaplains
- Identify gaps, risks & opportunities relating to the church and its governance
- Develop assumptions, comments and proposals
- Circulate draft report and proposals for Synod and Agency consultation
- Incorporate responses in further development and amendments

**Timeline:**

Given the progress thus far and the further work to be progressed, the group believes that it will be able to bring a final report to the ASC in July 2022.

**Membership:**

The group believes that it continues to have an appropriate mix of experience and skills to complete its task, even with the early withdrawal of Deb Sorenson, and the resignation of Dave Baker. Given the fact that the group has now had several meetings where complex issues were discussed at length, and given that we are now well and truly in the 'business end' of drawing together data and recommendations, we do not believe that there is the necessity at this point in time to add a further member to the Task Group.

**PROPOSALS:**

That the Assembly Standing Committee:

1. Receive the report.