

Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

VIA ZOOM

27 – 29 AUGUST 2021

PRESENT Sharon Hollis (President), James Aaron, Sandy Boyce, David Busch, Michael Dobson, Linda Driver, David Fotheringham, Philip Gardner, Colleen Geyer, Mark Kickett, Richard La'Brooy, Nicole Mugford, Alison Overeem, Deidre Palmer, Catherine Pepper, Raul Sugunanathan, Roberta Stanley, Charissa Suli, Lilliani Tahaafe-Williams, Geoff Tompson, Yuko Tonai-Moore, Ayla Williams, Anna Wilson, Kerry Wilson.

In attendance: Felicity Amery, Jenny Bertalan, Jane Fry, Heather den Houting, Rob Floyd, Mark Lawrence, Andrew Syme, Andrew Williams.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The President and the members the President acknowledged the First Peoples of their respective land. The President welcomed all who will be regular participants in the Standing Committee meetings over the next three years, especially those who are newly-elected members. Also welcomed were Sureka Goringe, Leo Iosifidis, Jannine Jackson and Claerwen Little, National Directors for the orientation session on the Friday night, Leo Iosifidis and Stuart Woodward for matters related to the Assembly Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, Leo Iosifidis and Jason Bryan for matters related to the the Assembly Investment Advisory Committee.

ORIENTATION TO THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

On the Friday evening Sureka Goringe, Leo Iosifidis, Jannine Jackson and Claerwen Little joined the Assembly Standing Committee in a time of orientation to Assembly operations, structure and governance arrangements. The members moved into break out rooms with the National Directors who answered questions members had from the reports/conversations about the work the National Directors were responsible for, then, back in planary, the members shared their highlights from these small group conversations.

WORSHIP On the Saturday morning the President led worship and the closing prayer was offered through The Examen video, The Sunday morning worship and the closing prayers were led by Nicole Mugford and Philip Gardner, respectively.

APOLOGIES

21.32 **It was resolved** to receive the apology from Andrew Williams, General Secretary (Interim) of the Northern Synod for Friday and Saturday, Kerry Wilson for Saturday afternoon and evening; Linda Driver and Sandy Boyce for Sunday morning; Yuko Tonai-Moore for Sunday afternoon, Lilliani Tahaafe-Williams for Saturday.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1.

21.33 **It was resolved to** approve the timetable and agenda of the meeting as outlined in Document 1, noting that the committee is free to vary the agenda at any time.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

21.34 It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 12 - 14 March 2021.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

21.35 It was resolved to:

- a) note:
 - (i) Michael Dobsons conflict of interest in relation to Document Standards for Ministries Membership since one of the nominees for membership of the committee is a family member; and
 - (ii) resolve that he be in attendance for this business but not speak or vote;
- b) note:
 - (i) Kerry Wilson's conflict of interest in relation to Document 8H – Church Polity Reference Committee Membership since she is nominated to be a member; and
 - (ii) resolve that she be in attendance for this business but not vote when her nomination is under consideration.
- c) note:
 - (i) Colleen Geyer's conflict of interest in relation to Doc 9 – UCARL – Assembly Appointed Member to UCARL Board since she is nominated to be the Assembly Member to UCARL Board; and
 - (ii) resolve that she be absent for this business; and
- d) note:
 - (i) Charissa Suli's conflict of interest in relation to Doc 8I – Panels of Circles of Interest Nominations since she is the referee for two of the panel members for Being a Multicultural Church and Transforming Worship Circles of Interest; and
 - (ii) resolve that she be in attendance for this business but not vote.

NOTE CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 39

The Standing Committee members were reminded of the Constitution clause 39, as per ASC minute 00.71:

“On matters which, by a two thirds majority vote, the Assembly deems to be vital to the life of the Church, the Assembly shall seek the concurrence of the Synods and/or Presbyteries and/or Congregations as the Assembly may determine.”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The ex-President took the chair while the President spoke to Document 2, consisting of a report on her activities since her installation by the 16th Assembly on 17 July 2021.

21.36 It was resolved to receive the report (Attachment A).

UAICC REPORT

Mark Kickett presented Document 3, consisting of a report on the conversations UAICC had and the actions they took.

21.37 It was resolved to receive the report. (Attachment B)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Executive Council of Australian Jewry – Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue (ASC Minute 21.29.03)

Rob Floyd spoke to Document 8L, consisting of a summary report of the Dialogue and to approve Terms of Reference and UCA membership of the Dialogue for the new triennium.

21.38 It was resolved to:

21.38.01 receive the report;

21.38.02 adopt the Terms of Reference for the ECAJ – UCA Dialogue for the triennium (Attachment C); and

21.38.03 appoint the UCA members to the ECAJ – UCA Dialogue for the triennium:
Convener: Tara Culewis
Members:

- Alison Bleyerveen
- Rob McFarlane
- Edwin Carter

2. Lutheran Church of Australia – Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue (ASC Minute 21.20.02)

Rob Floyd presented Document 8K, consisting of a summary report of the Dialogue and to approve Terms of Reference and UCA membership of the Dialogue for the new triennium.

21.39 It was resolved to:

21.39.01 receive the report;

21.39.02 adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the LCA – UCA Dialogue for the triennium (Attachment D); and

21.39.03 appoint the UCA members to the LCA – UCA Dialogue for the triennium:

- Rev Dr Anna L. Grant-Henderson (UCA co-convener)
- Rev Denise Liersch
- Rev Paul Stephens
- Rev Dr John Adsett Evans
- Rev Dr Edward Craig Thompson

FROM ASSEMBLY BODIES

1. Act2 Task Group Report

The General Secretary presented Document 12, consisting of an update on the work and process of the Act2 project. Discussion in small groups followed.

21.40 It was resolved to receive the report.

2. Assembly Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Stuart Woodward and Leo Iosifidis spoke to Document 6, consisting of a report on the management of finance, audit and risk issues across the Assembly. Table group discussion ensued.

21.41 It was resolved to:

21.41.01 receive the report; and

21.41.02 approve the 2021/22 Budgets for the Assembly and its Agencies as submitted.

3. Assembly Investment Advisory Committee

Jason Bryan and Leo Iosifidis introduced Documents 13, 13A and 13B, consisting of a summary report and the proposed updated investment policy.

21.42 It was resolved to:

21.42.01 receive the report;

21.42.02 endorse the updated Assembly Investment Advisory Policy;

21.42.03 request the Assembly Investment Advisory Committee to incorporate the feedback from the Assembly Standing Committee into a twelve-month review of the policy, which is then brought back to the Assembly Standing Committee for consideration at the July 2022 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee; and

21.42.04 request the General Secretary, in conjunction with the Assembly Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Assembly Investment Advisory Committee, to provide an information and education session for the Assembly Standing Committee regarding investments and related matters to an Assembly Standing Committee meeting prior to the review of the policy.

4. Assembly Risk Management Report

Rob Floyd and Leo Iosifidis presented Document 7, consisting of a report aimed at introducing the Risk Management System and Framework of the Assembly to the members of the Assembly Standing Committee.

21.43. It was resolved to receive the report.

5. General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary introduced Documents 5 and 5A, consisting of a report on the Assembly's achievement against the Strategic Plan, the operations and issues relevant to its work and the Assembly Strategic and Business Plan Report. Table group discussion on the Business Plan followed.

21.44 It was resolved to receive the report.

6. UCA Redress Ltd. Assembly Board Member

Rob Floyd spoke to Documents 9, 9A and consisting of a document outlining the election process of the UCA Redress Ltd. Board members, attachments A and B describing the UCA Redress Ltd Board Responsibilities, Qualities and Skills matrix and the Director Role Description, respectively.

21.45 It was resolved to appoint the Assembly General Secretary to the UCA Redress Ltd Board as the Assembly nominee until 6 September 2024.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEES / BOARDS AND ASSEMBLY CIRCLES

The President presented Documents 8 – 8O, consisting of profiles of nominees for election to the Assembly Committees / Boards / Circles of Interest and also to the Apology to LGQTIQ Task Group.

21.46 It was resolved to:

- 21.46.01 receive the reports in Documents 8;
- 21.46.02 to appoint Apelu Tielu, Gordon Ramsay and Wendy Hendry to the Apology to LGBTIQ Australians Task Group
- 21.46.03 appoint Rev Fran Barber to the Policy Committee for the Beneficiary Fund Plan within the Mercer Super Trust
- 21.46.04 note the membership of the UnitingCare Australia Board;
- 21.46.05 appoint the following members of Committees, Boards and Circles for a period of three years to 2024:
- 21.46.06 UNITINGWORLD
Chair: Lin Hatfield Dodds
Andrew Johnson Jone Lotu
Roger Bednall
- 21.46.07 FRONTIER SERVICES
Chair: Lisa Sampson
Tim Ford Ben Cohen
Mark Kickett
- 21.46.08 STANDARDS FOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE
Chair: Robert McFarlane
Ben Gilmour Christine Sorensen
Helen Paine Isabel Thomas Dobson
Jay Robinson Joanna Drayton
Paul Jones Peter Walker
Ross Chambers Viola Leung
Fran Barber
- 21.46.09 CHURCH POLITY REFERENCE COMMITTEE
Chair: Chris Budden
Michelle Cook Kerry Wilson
- 21.46.10 ASSEMBLY LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE
Chair: Warwick van Ede
Malcolm Gledhill Peter Butt
Cathy Williams Alan Ray
- 21.46.11 ASSEMBLY FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE
Chair: Stuart Woodward
Tony Engel Geoff Kerry
Ian Thompson Julianne Ross
- 21.46.12 ASSEMBLY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
Chair: Jason Bryan
Christopher Dickman Stephen Morrow
Graeme Rough Ben Cohen
Edwin Lo

- 21.46.13 DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY
Chair: Charles Vesely
Nikki Coleman Andrew Watters
Andrew Delbridge Alan Williams
- 21.46.14 NATIONAL DISASTER FUND
Wendy Perkins David Jackson
- 21.46.15 BEING A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH CIRCLE PANEL
Advocate: Matagi Vilitama
Cyrus Kung Levon Kardashain
Paul Goh Sandy Brodine
- 21.46.16 DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATIONS CIRCLE PANEL
Advocate: Virginia Lavaki
Amanda Nicholas Jason Kioa
Joshua Harbort Melissa Neumann
Michael Ramaidama Robin Yang
Steven Molkenin
- 21.46.17 GROWING IN FAITH CIRCLE PANEL
Advocate: Liam Miller
Hee Won Chang Jon Humphries
Peter Walker Rachel Kronberger
- 21.46.18 SEEKING COMMON GROUND CIRCLE PANEL
Advocate: Matthew Wilson
Marie Wilson Roy Alexander Surjanegara
Siosi (Joyce) Tangi Tara Curlewis
- 21.46.19 TRANSFORMING WORSHIP CIRCLE PANEL
Advocate: Alexandra Sangster
David Macgregor Ellie Elia
Jennifer Hughes Mat Harry
Paul Walton Warwick Cadenhead
- 21.46.20 WALKING TOGETHER AS FIRST AND SECOND PEOPLES CIRCLE PANEL
Advocate: Alison Overeem
Jennie Gordon Joy Han
Michelle Cook Nathan Tyson
Seung Jae Steph Teh
Tim Molineux
- 21.46.21 WORKING FOR JUSTICE CIRCLE PANEL
Advocate: Loni Vaitohi
Beatriz Skippen Doug Hewitt
Emma-Louize Bovoro Geoffrey Bice
John Jegasothy Richard Arnold
Mary-Anne Hawson

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. ASC Cooptions

The General Secretary spoke to Document 14, consisting of a report on skills that the Assembly Standing Committee members bring to the Committee and the subsequent need for any further co-options

- 21.47 It was resolved to:**
- 21.47.01 receive the report; and

21.47.02 approve the co-option of Stuart Woodward (Chair, AFARC) as a member of the Standing Committee for the current triennium.

2. Consent Agenda

The General Secretary presented the various documents which constituted Document 2, Consent Agenda.

21.48 It was resolved to:

21.48.01 receive the Task Groups from the Previous Triennium Report;

21.48.02 With regard to the Sovereignty Affirmation Practical Outcomes Task Group:
a) request the Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Panel to continue the resource work in Term of Reference 3; and

b) thank and discharge the Task Group;

21.48.03 With regard to the Continuing Witness, LGBTIQ Apology, Church in the Digital Age and Chaplaincy Task Groups:
note the ongoing work of these task groups and the oversight the Assembly Standing Committee has over them;

21.48.04 receive the Disability Royal Commission National Task Group Report;

21.48.05 a) request the General Secretary, the President and Nicole Mugford, to undertake a review of the ASC Governance Reference Committee, and

b) report to the November 2021 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee regarding findings and recommendations; and

21.48.06 receive the Learnings from the Marriage Conversation Report

3. Letter from the Queensland Synod re Request for exemption from Regulations

The General Secretary presented Document 15, consisting of a request from the Queensland Synod that the Assembly Standing Committee grant an exemption pursuant to its powers under 3.10.1 from Regulation 3.7.4.1(a)(i) with respect to the term of the ex-Moderator on SSC, to limit the ex-Moderator term to 1 year.

21.49 It was resolved to grant an exemption to the Queensland Synod from Regulation 3.7.4.1(a)(i) until the 17th Assembly with respect to the ex-Moderator for the period beyond 1 year after their moderatorial term ends.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 5:00pm with prayer led by Philip Gardner.

DATE FOR 2121:

12 – 14 November 2021