



# Uniting Church in Australia

## ASSEMBLY

Assembly Standing Committee

11 – 13 March 2022

DOCUMENT 2-CA2

Title	Appointment of Dialogue and Panel Members
Type of Paper	For information and decision
Assembly or ASC Minute	
Consultation	Advocate of Working for Justice Circle Convenor of Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) – UCA Dialogue
Purpose	To appoint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One Panel Member for Working for Justice Circle of Interest</li><li>- One member to ECAJ Dialogue</li></ul>
Rationale & Findings Summary	Appointment to Panels and Dialogues can take place across the triennium as people with particular skills, experience and interest are identified.
Attachments	Attachment A – Expression of Interest Siosiana Tangi Attachment B – Additional information Siosiana Tangi Attachment C – Expression of Interest Raul Sugunanathan
Recommendations	That the Assembly Standing Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Receive the report</li><li>2. Appoint Siosiana Joyce Tangi to the UCA – Executive Council of Australian Jewry Dialogue</li><li>3. Appoint Raul Sugunanathan to the Working for Justice Panel</li></ol>
Submitted by	Rob Floyd Assembly Associate General Secretary <a href="mailto:robfnat@nat.uca.org.au">robfnat@nat.uca.org.au</a> , 0407 944 417

## **Appointment of Panel and Dialogue Members**

### **Executive Council of Australia Jewry (ECAJ) – Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue**

#### **New member - Siosiana Joyce Tangi (see Attachments A and B)**

The Executive Council of Australia Jewry (ECAJ) – Uniting Church in Australia Dialogue has been meeting for over 30 years and has provided the foundation for a longstanding relationship between the two faith communities.

The Dialogue was established to provide a forum between the two faith communities to learn and appreciate each other's beliefs, and particularly to explore and address concerns regarding issues in the Middle East. This dialogue is particularly significant to the Uniting Church because of the unique relationship between Christianity and Judaism. Jesus was born, lived and died a faithful Jew and cannot be fully understood apart from the Jewish faith of his time.

This Task Group sits amid a range of strategies for maintaining the relationship between the Uniting Church and Jewish communities including the relationship between the UCA President, Moderators and other church leaders with Jewish leaders, other dialogues including at the Synod/State level and local community engagement and events that bring the two faith communities together.

The Terms of Reference for this Dialogue was provided to ASC at its August 2021 meeting.

One required task of the Dialogue is to explore opportunities for the dialogue to engage with and invite contribution and participation from women and younger generations.

Siosiana Joyce Tangi is a member of the Pulse Team in NSWACT and is currently engaging in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue within the wider Church. She is a current members of the Seeking Common Ground Panel.

She is part of the Steering committee of Youth PoWR (Parliament of the World's Religions) which brings together young adults from diverse religious backgrounds in a spirit of interfaith dialogue and unity to build bridges between believers of different religions.

She also has ties with Youth Cohort of the CCA (Christian Conference of Asia).

Siosiana is willing to be part of the Dialogue and will make an excellent contribution to the dialogue broadly, and in particular in regard to the required task highlighted above.

(Expression of Interest Form at Attachment A)

### **Working for Justice Panel**

#### **New member – Raul Sugunanathan (see Attachment C)**

Raul Sugunanathan brings experience Community organising, where he has organised his Uniting Church community, both local and state-wide on issues such as climate change, LGBTQI+ rights, First Nations justice, and refugee rights.

Raul also has strong connection with and involvement in Christian Students Uniting at Sydney University.

Raul identifies Communications as a strength, having experience creating written, audio and sound media.

Raul will be an excellent addition to the Working for Justice Panel.

**Attachment A**

**Siosiana (Joyce) Tangi (Siosiana's Panel Application from August 2021)**

**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: Siosi (Joyce) Tangi

*(Please complete as relevant)*

Congregation: Auburn Uniting Church  
Presbytery: Parramatta Nepean Presbytery  
Synod: NSW/ACT

What skills and experience will you bring to the Panel?

I have a passion to seek common ground and be part of stories that build bridges in different religion beliefs and interfaith dialogue. I was part of a Steering Committee that created an Interfaith charter in Sydney. *The Sydney Statement: Building Bridges Between believers from Different Religions*. In this space we gather every 6 weeks to share and learn more about possibilities of events throughout the year. I was also a representative of the UCA at the Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly. I have lead interfaith groups in

dialogue at a Christians Conference of Asia event in Indonesia where I still have connections. As I have stated this passion when I was younger, I know and understand where these gatherings of interfaith can help expand knowledge but also increase the awareness of other communities around you. In my generation it is always exciting to hear remote stories that you can either relate to, or want to respectfully grow your understanding, as well know the wondrous works around you and your community.

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

Being from Auburn, and going to Auburn Uniting Church my life, I prides myself in coming from one of the most multicultural communities in Australia, being home to a high percentage of migrants and affiliating with various religions on a daily basis. Within life of the church, I have been able to help lead ecumenical services in Auburn 5 Christian churches together town square for the community, where many would gather and witness the retelling of the stations of the cross every Easter.

I have joined wonderful Iftar dinners hosted by the Assembly and have build relationships from them, as well as a deeper understanding of what it means to break bread together. I have travelled to Indonesia and witnessed 1<sup>st</sup> hand what it means to be different part of Gods body but the same, with few 100 other youthful members at an ecumenical conference.

I have been invited to several other meetings in similar spaces where I have gained wisdom and continue to try bring more young people into this space.

What if any relevant qualifications do you have?

As a previous member of this Panel, I understand the means of being part of this circle.

Age range	Under 30	<b>30-59</b>	60+
Ministry category	<b>Lay</b>		Ordained
Location	Remote	Rural	Regional Centre <b>City</b>

What cultural and linguistic background do you have?

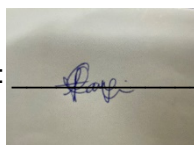
2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Tongan

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

1. Amelia Koh-Butler
2. Karen Mitchell – Lambert

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: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 3/8/21

Siosiana (Joyce) Tangi is second generation Tongan- Australian. Born and raised in the multicultural suburbs of Western Sydney. Joyce is Pastor in placement within the NSW/ACT Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Her is part of the Pulse team and her role includes ministry with young people and their leaders across the State of NSW/ACT. Connecting and supporting growing Ministries as well as having a special interest in Children's and Families, Intergenerational ministry and being multicultural.

## **Attachment B**

### **Additional Information regarding ECAJ Dialogue Application**

Joyce is currently engaging in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue within the wider Church. She is part of the Stirring committee of Youth PoWR (Parliament of the World's Religions) brings together young adults from diverse religious backgrounds in a spirit of interfaith dialogue and unity to build bridges between believers of different religions. As well as ties with Youth Cohort of the CCA (Christian Conference of Asia).

Joyce finds passion in interfaith relations to find common ground with other young adults as well as advocating for social issues that can bring peace and harmony to the Multifaith, multicultural diverse city of Sydney.

As a Mentor to the 2nd Gen team of the Tonga National Conference, she finds a desire in supporting 2nd and 3rd generation migrant young people as they continue to grow their faith.

Joyce's hobbies include finding down time to read, Tiktok and spend time with her family and Godchildren.

## 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:**

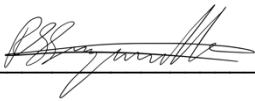
<p><i>Affix photo here</i></p> 	<p>Name: Raúl Sugunanathan</p> <p><i>(Please complete as relevant)</i></p> <p>Congregation: Leichhardt Uniting Church</p> <p>Presbytery: Sydney</p> <p>Synod: NSW/ACT</p>
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Panel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community organising – have organised my Uniting Church community, both local and state-wide on issues such as climate change, LGBTQI+ rights, First Nations justice, and refugee rights</li> <li>• Communications – have experience creating written, audio and sound media</li> </ul>	
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leichhardt Uniting Church Epworth (affordable student) House Management Committee (2022)</li> <li>• President of Christian Students Uniting at Sydney Uni (2021)</li> <li>• Leichhardt Uniting Church Council member (2021)</li> </ul>	
<p>What if any relevant qualifications do you have?</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Media and Communication)</li> <li>• Graduate of the Sydney Alliance internship</li> </ul>				
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?  My father is Sri Lankan Tamil, my mother is Chilean. I grew up in Sydney speaking English at home.				

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

1. David Barrow (Sydney Alliance) dbarrow@sydneyalliance.org.au
2. Carol Hirt (Leichhardt Uniting Church) manager@epworthhouse.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** / NO

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 18/2/2022 \_\_\_\_\_

Date: