



# Uniting Church in Australia

## ASSEMBLY

Assembly Standing Committee

15 – 17 July 2022

DOCUMENT 14

Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	Decision	
Title	UnitingCare Australia Board Member Nominations	
Assembly or ASC Minute		
Consultation	N/A	
Purpose	To seek approval for the appointment of John Berger and Bronte Wilson to the UnitingCare Australia Board.	
Rationale & Findings Summary		
Attachments	Attachment A: Expression of Interest from John Berger Attachment B: Expression of Interest from Bronte Wilson	
Recommendations	That the Assembly Standing Committee: 1. Approve the appointment of John Berger and Bronte Wilson to the UnitingCare Australia Board for a period of three years, to take effect from the July 2022 ASC meeting.	
Submitted by	Geoff Batkin, Chair, UnitingCare Australia Board	

## Expression of Interest Form for Assembly Committees or Task Groups

**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 Committee / Task Group:** Board, UnitingCare Australia

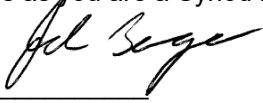
**Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:** Governing body of UnitingCare Australia which is an agency of the Assembly

**Personal Information:**

	<p>Name: John Berger</p> <p><i>(Please complete as relevant)</i></p> <p>Congregation: n/a</p> <p>Presbytery: n/a</p> <p>Synod: WA Synod</p>				
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group?</p> <p>I have over 30 years experience as a Social Worker and Senior Management including CEO in delivering social services both in Government and NFP's. I am a Graduate of the AICD and Leadership WA.</p>					
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?</p> <p>I have been a member of the Uniting Church for 30 years and have undertaken a variety of roles including lay preaching, Manager of a Uniting Church Camp and now hold the role of Executive Manager Caring Agencies in WA.</p>					
<p>What if any relevant qualifications do you have?</p> <p>Bachelor of Social Work</p>					
Age range	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">Under 30</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">30-59 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">60+</td> </tr> </table>	Under 30	30-59 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	60+	
Under 30	30-59 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	60+			
Ministry category	n/a				
Location WA	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">Remote</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">Rural</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">Regional Centre</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">City Perth</td> </tr> </table>	Remote	Rural	Regional Centre	City Perth
Remote	Rural	Regional Centre	City Perth		
<p>What cultural and linguistic background do you have?</p>					

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

No need for this as you are a Synod nomination

Signature: 

Date: 24-6-2022

**Expression of Interest Form  
for  
Assembly Committees or Task Groups**

**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 Committee / Task Group:** Board, UnitingCare Australia

**Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:** Governing body of UnitingCare Australia which is an agency of the Assembly

**Personal Information:**

	<p>Mr Bronte Wilson:</p> <p><i>(Please complete as relevant)</i></p> <p>Congregation: n/a</p> <p>Presbytery: n/a</p> <p>Synod: Synod of South Australia</p>		
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group?</p>			
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?</p>			
<p>What if any relevant qualifications do you have?</p>			
Age range	Under 30	30-59	60+
Ministry category	n/a		
Location	Remote	Rural	City

What cultural and linguistic background do you have?

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

No need for this as you are a Synod nomination

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 29 June 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

# Profile for Moderator Elect

---

## BRONTE WILSON

---



Bronte is currently acting as the Region Minister, Rural and Remote South Australia for the Pastoral Relations and Mission Planning Team. He attends Ascot Community Uniting Church where his wife Cheryl is the Minister. They have three teenage/young adult children who all live with them.

### EARLY LIFE

Although now living in Adelaide, Bronte has spent most of his life in the country. He was born in Mount Gambier and grew up in the Uniting Church, while dairy and beef cattle farming. After his wife Cheryl was ordained, the family moved to Maitland on the Yorke Peninsula, where Bronte did farm work with involvement in the local and wider church. They moved to Marion in 2015 but Bronte has continued to maintain his rural links with contract farm work on the Yorke Peninsula.

### WIDER CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Over the years Bronte has served the Church through a variety of roles both locally and further afield. These include being secretary of Elders Council, Chair of Congregation, Secretary and Treasurer of Church Council, Secretary and Chair of Presbytery Youth Council, member of Gulf Mission Network Executive, member of Pastoral Relations and Placements Committees, member of several Assemblies and a member of Standing Committee.

Bronte's involvement in organisations outside the Uniting Church includes Treasurer of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association, member of Lions International, member of the Limestone Coast Regional Development Council and a member of the South East Water Resources Committee.

Along with his current part time role with Pastoral Relations, Bronte is also employed 2 days a week doing maintenance/grounds work at Nunyara Conference centre, and enjoys the balance of practical and outdoor work that this brings. He is a member of the Finance and Property committees in his local congregation, and involved in worship leading and preaching. He chairs the Pastoral Relations and Placements Committees and is a member of Standing Committee.

Working as Regional Minister and with the Pastoral Relations and Placement Committees has brought him into contact with a large number of people across the Uniting Church in South Australia, giving him some understanding of the issues that matter to those in our congregations. He has come to value the diversity of the Uniting Church and seeks to find ways in which we can work together. Bronte believes God has called us to be a Uniting Church in the true sense of those words. Being "uniting" means bringing people together: bringing people from outside the church into a closer

relationship with God; bringing congregations closer together as they engage in mission and ministry; bringing different parts of the church into a closer working relationship. Bronte takes to heart the words expressed in the Basis of Union paragraph 2 where it says about the church, “She

believes that Christians in Australia are called to bear witness to a unity of faith and life which transcends cultural and economic, national and racial boundaries.”

## **WHAT BRONTE BRINGS TO THE MINISTRY ROLE OF MODERATOR**

In the current restructure, Bronte’s hope is that the presbyteries established will celebrate their differences and continually work together to the glory of God. During the term of the next Moderator, the presbyteries will evolve their identities, and he sees the role of Moderator to be a conduit between the various groups – not part of one but part of all, helping facilitate the flow of ideas and ways to increase connections. As our identities in the new structure become clearer, we can then look further at the questions of purpose, “What is God calling us to do?” and context, “Who is our neighbour?” This is not a quick process and requires patience and perseverance. As Moderator, Bronte would hope to be able to facilitate some of this.

## **A VISION FOR THE UNITING CHURCH IN SA**

Bronte’s dream is of a church that identifies the different aspects of mission and values them all. To Bronte, mission is about God’s love in action, caring for each other, forming disciples and advocating for justice and truth. Mission is about who we are and what we do, as well as what we say. It is a response to, and participation in, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our world. Mission is about our ministry, how we serve God, serve others, and use our gifts in the church and in the world. We need to ask ourselves, about everything we do “how does this further the mission of God?” We can also ask ourselves of every action and word “how does this affect our connection – our relationship with both our church neighbour and the wider community?” In this we are all disciples of Jesus with particular gifts and abilities to do his work.

If elected as Moderator, Bronte brings the gifts of listening and reflecting on what God is saying through the Spirit and the people of the church. It is by listening and sharing we can all make the important connections with each other and together discover the next exciting thing God has in store for us.

Bronte’s hope for the church in the next three years is that we seek connection, with God, each other and the wider community as the Uniting Church in South Australia, as we discern God’s purposes for us and for our church at this time.

**Bronte Wilson**

*May 2019*