



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

11-13 November 2022

DOCUMENT 2-CA1

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| Title | Letter from Northern Synod re Exemption from Regulations |
| Type of Paper (Information/Decision) | For decision |
| Assembly or ASC Minute | Not applicable |
| Consultation | |
| Purpose | To seek an exemption from Regulation 3.6.3.3(a) |
| Rationale & Findings Summary | See the letter |
| Attachments | |
| Proposal/s | That the Assembly Standing Committee: 1. Grant the Northern Synod an exemption from Regulation 3.6.3.3(a) to allow the Synod Standing Committee to appoint a new General Secretary on the recommendation of the Joint Nominating Committee. |
| Submitted by | Stuart McMillan General Secretary (interim), Northern Synod stuart.mcmillan@ns.uca.org.au |



The Uniting Church in Australia
NORTHERN SYNOD

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17 October 2022

Colleen Geyer
General Secretary
National Assembly
Uniting Church in Australia
PO Box A2266
Sydney South NSW 1235

***RE: ASC November 2022 – Northern Synod request
for exemption from Regulation 3.6.3.3***

Dear Colleen,

At the recent 45th Council of Synod meeting in Darwin the Synod resolved by consensus that:

The Synod requests the General Secretary to write to the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) seeking an exemption from Regulation 3.6.3.3 (a) to allow the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) to appoint a new General Secretary on the recommendation of the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC).

For the benefit of the ASC the rationale for the proposal that was adopted included the following reasoning for requesting an exemption.

It was hoped to have a name for this Synod 2022. This has not been possible.

The General Secretary (interim) was to conclude at the end of 2022.

The SSC discussed a special meeting of Synod face to face being too costly given our cash flow problems. And an electronic meeting is too difficult for the NRCC members and some others to participate in given internet and hardware issues.

The JNC hopes to have a name for the SSC before the end of the year. The General Secretary (interim) will continue into the first part of 2023 if there is to be an appointment and a start date by the end of the first quarter.

Similarly, to the request we brought to the March 2022 ASC, we don't have people in the two other senior officer positions of Pilgrim Presbytery Minister and NRCC Resource Worker. I have been in this interim role since the 29 November 2021. It has been a very difficult year addressing all the significant issues the Synod, our two presbyteries and our congregations face. There is a lot of work still to be done in the next twelve months.

I acknowledge that I live on the lands and waters of the sovereign Gulumoerrgin - Larrakia Nations and I pay my respects to all their Elders past, present and all descendants.

The PPNA Presbytery Ministers position will not be advertised and be on hold probably until the 2023 Synod. The NRCC will be seeking to fill the Resource Workers position in the first quarter of 2023.

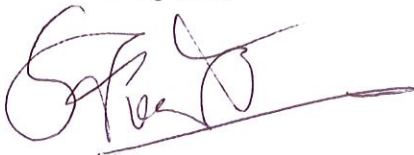
The Synod also passed a proposal to move to 18 monthly cycle for Council of Synod meetings after the 2023 Synod. This recognises we are in a significant time of transition to new ways of being Church in our vast geographic footprint. It would be idea for a new General Secretary to begin as soon as practical in 2023 to be part of the work and transition proposals which the SSC will bring to the 2023 Synod.

We ask the ASC to recognise the significant challenges ahead for the Northern Synod and to support us by granting this exemption from December 2022 to the 31 August 2023.

Personally, I want to thank the Assembly General Secretary and each of my colleagues – the general secretaries of each synod who have been an enormous support. I apologise for not being with you however I am on a much need break. Rev Dr Michelle Cook is the Acting General Secretary in my absence and is available by phone for the Assembly General Secretary should you have any questions.

Again, thank you for your consideration and I pray your meeting is a time of rich fellowship and productivity.

Grace and peace,



Stuart McMillan
General Secretary

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cc. Rev Dr Michelle Cook

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