

Rev Dr Steve Bevis
Chair, UnitingWorld Board
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Colleen Geyer
UCA General Secretary

23 February 2023

Dear Colleen and members of ASC,

Greetings to you all.

I write to you in my new role as Chair of the Board of UnitingWorld, and in particular to share with you the Board's response to the letter we received from Colleen Geyer conveying ASC's resolutions from your meeting last November.

Let me begin by sharing how I look forward to working with you on behalf of our Board to continue UnitingWorld's wonderful work of church partnerships and empowerment of those trapped in poverty, but also to furthering the mission and purposes of ASC and the Uniting Church as a whole. It is humbling to be able to play some small part in this Kingdom task and process with you.

The Board of UnitingWorld did meet last December and spent considerable time in conversation over ASC's most recent resolutions and the matter of Croker Island Mission and redress. The meeting was chaired by Lin Hatfield Dodds.

The upshot of that conversation was that there remains further work to do in terms of clarification on several fronts from the Board's perspective.

There remained strong feeling around perceived lack of detail in terms of legal issues, and a general question of the Board's necessary independence at a governance level in order to carry out our duties as Directors. There was also - very positively - a fundamental affirmation of the willingness to support Assembly to share this burden and meet this cost.

The process and decision-making pathway, however, remains to be addressed from the Board's perspective. My personal hope is that this matter can open up a fresh understanding of decision-making processes that both members of the Board and ASC are clear about, and which build mutuality of purpose and vision.



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the Uniting Church in Australia

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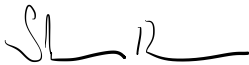
To that end, the resolution of the Board was that I meet with Sharon Hollis and Colleen Geyer so that I can get a better understanding of the history of the request and the process to this point, and talk over the Board's views. That meeting has been arranged, but not in time for the next meeting of the ASC.

I am guessing that ASC timelines might place pressure on this front, but I am very keen to do what can be done to both bring this to a happy mutual resolution as soon as is possible, and to begin building a deeper understanding between ASC and the Board in ways that will carry forward the needs, hopes and vision of both parties in this one endeavour.

I look forward to the next steps.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Bevis



Rev Dr Steve Bevis
Chair, UnitingWorld Board

I live and work on the lands of the Wangal people of the Eora nation