



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

10-12 March 2023

DOCUMENT 6

Title	Vic.Tas Synod Standing Committee Letter re A Voice to Parliament
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For information and decision
Assembly or ASC Minute	Not applicable
Consultation	The President
Purpose	To consider a response to the letter from the Vic.Tas Synod Standing Committee
Rationale & Findings Summary	<p>At its meeting on 11 February 2023, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Standing Committee resolved (SC 23.4.1B): <i>To request the Assembly Standing Committee, informed by consultation with the UAICC, and any other parties as appropriate, to provide guidance to the Church on a matter of national significance regarding responding to the proposed constitutional change to recognise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.</i></p> <p>Following consultation with the UAICC, the Assembly and the UAICC released the media statement, 'Uniting for the Voice' on 24 February 2023.</p> <p>The media statement encourages support for a 'yes' vote, as well as being 'bearers of justice, not just in our words, but in our actions and by changing systems which continue to deny the place and rights of the first Australians.' It also encourages 'Uniting Church people and communities to inform themselves about the Uluru Statement and what it asks of our nation and to create respectful spaces for yarning about the impact a First Nations Voice will make.'</p> <p>These would seem to be a helpful place to begin if the ASC was to provide guidance to the Church as requested by the Vic.Tas Synod Standing Committee.</p>
Attachments	Attachment A: Vic.Tas Synod Standing Committee letter re a voice to parliament Attachment B: Media Release, 'Uniting for the Voice'. (Uniting Church in Australia Assembly, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress). 24 March 2023
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee: 1. Notes the letter from the Vic.Tas Standing Committee.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Develops a statement to provide guidance to the Church regarding responding to the proposed constitutional change to recognise and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament; and to base the guidance on encouraging the Church to support for a 'yes' vote, to be bearers of justice as called for by UAICC, and to be informed about the Uluru Statement.3. To request the Associate General Secretary to work with relevant staff in the Assembly and Synods to develop guidelines for groups in the Uniting Church who want to host a forum/conversation to inform themselves about the Uluru Statement.
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