



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

10-12 March 2023

DOCUMENT 12

Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For Decision
Title	Call to Action (Net Zero Emissions) Task Group Nominations
Assembly or ASC Minute	
Consultation	ASC, ARU
Purpose	Bring Nominations to the ASC for the Call to Action (Net Zero Emissions) Task Groups
Rationale & Findings Summary	A small number of nominations have been found for this Task Group, which has seemed to many approached to be a very large and difficult project. It is recommended that one or more members of ASC join with the nominations in this report to form a Steering Group, which might work together to further refine the tasks required and find and facilitate other volunteers as needed for each of the subtasks which make up this project.
Attachments	
Recommendations	That the ASC: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the nominations of James Thom and Richard Arnold to the Call to Action (Net Zero Emissions) Task Group;2. Appoint one or more members from amongst its number to join the nominees above in forming a Steering Group for this task;3. Request the Steering group to further define the tasks required to undertake this project and empowers the Steering Group to find and facilitate further volunteers as required in order to achieve the project goals.
Submitted by	Lindsay Cullen

TASK GROUP NOMINATIONS REPORT

Introduction

After the last ASC meeting, a number of ASC members helpfully suggested names to be followed up in connection with the Call to Action (Net Zero Emissions) Task Group. Despite this, it has been difficult to locate a significant number of people willing and able to contribute to the Task Group. Nevertheless, two keen nominees have been found.

Given the importance but also the complexity of this task, and the difficulty in finding volunteers, it seems that a new approach may be necessary. In particular, it would seem that the active involvement of the ASC in this project is warranted, especially given both the difficulty in finding volunteers, along with the current Assembly staffing situation.

As a result, I am encouraging ASC members to consider before the meeting, whether any members might be willing to engage with this particular Task Group, such that one or two (or more!) members of ASC, along with the two nominees identified below might form a Steering Group for this task, further defining the individual sub-tasks which make up the wider project and finding and facilitating further volunteers as required in order to enable those sub-tasks to be achieved.

Nominations for the Call to Action Task Group

The following nominations have been received for the Call to Action Task Group:

James Thom
Richard Arnold

Recommendations

That the ASC:

- 1. Approve the nominations of James Thom and Richard Arnold to the Call to Action (Net Zero Emissions) Task Group;**
- 2. Appoint one or more members from amongst its number to join the nominees above in forming a Steering Group for this task;**
- 3. Request the Steering group to further define the tasks required to undertake this project and empowers the Steering Group to find and facilitate further volunteers as required in order to achieve the project goals.**

**Lindsay Cullen
Assembly Associate General Secretary**

Expression of Interest Form for Committees and 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.

NET ZERO EMISSIONS WORKING GROUP

Brief description of the Mandate / Terms of Reference for this body:

To gather data on commitments to emission reductions made across the life of the Church, share stories, expertise and learnings and consider how the whole of the church can move together to net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest.

Personal Information:

<p><i>Affix photo here</i></p> 	<p>Name: James Thom</p> <p><i>(Please complete as relevant)</i> Congregation: Brunswick Uniting Church <i>(also worship at Aireys Inlet Uniting Church)</i> Presbytery: Port Phillip West Synod: Victoria and Tasmania</p>
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? Research skills, for example in 2020 I contributed to the consultation paper: <i>Living in harmony with creation – What is the role of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania in addressing climate change?</i> Community organising skills, for example in 2022-2023 I am a facilitator with <i>Melbourne Move Beyond Coal</i></p>	
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church?</p> <p>Currently:</p> <p>Member of the Brunswick Uniting Church Climate Action Group Presbytery Representative for Brunswick Uniting Church on Presbytery of Port Phillip West Member of the Mission, Strategy and Education Committee of the Presbytery of Port Phillip West</p> <p>Member of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, including coordinating the Divestment Working Group</p>	
<p>What if any relevant qualifications do you have? PhD (Computer Science)</p>	
Age range	60+
Ministry category	Lay

Location	(Rural)	City
What cultural and linguistic background do you have? Australian		

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

1. Shawn Whelan, info@shawnwhelan.com.au, 0418 613 898

2. Mark Zirnsak, Mark.Zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au, 0409 166 915

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: J. A. Thom

Date: 13/01/2023

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Personal Information:

<p><i>Affix photo here</i></p> 	<p>Name: Richard Arnold <i>(Please complete as relevant)</i></p> <p>Congregation: Brunswick Uniting Church Presbytery: Port Phillip West Synod: VicTas</p>				
<p>What skills and experience will you bring to the Committee / Task Group? Some understanding of issues relating to the environment. Currently convenor of Brunswick Uniting's Climate Action Group. Also member of Presbytery of Port Phillip Climate Action Group and Synod Climate Action Taskforce. Before ordination I worked as a Chemical Engineer/Applied Chemist</p>					
<p>What if any relevant experience have you had in the life of the Church? Ordained as a Deacon (now retired). I have worked in the areas of community development, hospitality for marginalised people, asylum seekers, other social justice issues. Currently a member of a number of congregation, Presbytery and Synod committees. Member of Working for Justice Assembly Circle.</p>					
<p>What if any relevant qualifications do you have? Theology (B Theol), Community Development, B E (Chemical Engineering), Grad Diploma in Occupational Health.</p>					
Age range	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">Under 30</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">30-59</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">60+</td> </tr> </table>	Under 30	30-59	60+	
Under 30	30-59	60+			
Ministry category	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; border: none;">Lay</td> <td style="width: 40%; border: none;">Ordained Deacon (now retired)</td> </tr> </table>	Lay	Ordained Deacon (now retired)		
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Location	<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</td> </tr> </table>	Remote	Rural	Regional Centre	City
Remote	Rural	Regional Centre	City		
<p>What cultural and linguistic background do you have? Anglo background</p>					

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

1.Mark Zirsak 0409166915

2.Rev Ian Feruson 0438547842

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 *Richard A Arnold*

Date: 16/01/23