

Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

VIA ZOOM

8 October 2023

PRESENT Sharon Hollis (President), Sandy Boyce, David Busch, Michael Dobson, Linda Driver, David Fotheringham, Colleen Geyer, Mark Kickett, Richard La'Brooy, Nicole Mugford, Alison Overeem, Deidre Palmer, Charissa Suli, Geoff Tompson, Ayla Williams, Anna Wilson, Kerry Wilson, Stuart Woodward.

In attendance: Jenny Bertalan

WELCOME AND WORSHIP

The President and the members acknowledged the First Peoples of their respective land. The President welcomed all the members who attended this extraordinary meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee and led worship.

BUSINESS

1. Act2 Conversation

Andrew Johnson presented Document 2, consisting of resources with links to report: Act2: In Response to God's Call and associated papers. The discussion in breakout rooms focused on the Directions (Section 5 of the report) and Key Changes and Options (Section 6 of the report).

23.44 **It was resolved to** receive the report.

2. Venue for the 17th Assembly

The General Secretary spoke to Document 3, consisting of a report on the suggested venue for the 17th Assembly.

23.45 **It was resolved to** endorse the Novotel Parramatta Hotel as the venue for the 17th Assembly.

3. General Secretary Resignation

The President introduced Document 5, consisting of the General Secretary's letter of resignation.

23.46 **It was resolved to** receive with deep regret, the resignation of Colleen Geyer, the General Secretary, with her placement concluding on 31 December 2023.

4. General Secretary Transition

The General Secretary presented Document 6, consisting of a report on the proposed arrangements for the transition of the General Secretary to her conclusion and the initial arrangements for the Assembly until the next General Secretary is elected at the 17th Assembly and begins their tenure.

23.47 **It was resolved to** receive the report.

5. Proposal from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

This item was chaired by the ex-President. Mark Lawrence introduced Documents 7, 7A and 7B, consisting of a proposal from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, correspondence from the General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to the Assembly Standing Committee and a letter from the President, requesting a change in the President's Terms of Placement as President from 1 February 2023 until the end of her term. Discussion in breakout rooms followed.

23.48 It was resolved to:

23.48.01 receive the correspondence;

23.48.02 not approve a change in the Terms of Placement for Rev Sharon Hollis as Assembly President to be 0.6 (full time equivalent) from 1 February 2024 until the conclusion of the 17th Assembly; and

23.48.03 request the General Secretary to convey the decision, and the associated discussion to the General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the President.

The meeting finished at 4.30pm AEDT with a prayer led by the ex-President.