



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

10-12 November 2023

DOCUMENT 18

Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	Decision
Title	Minute of Appreciation
Assembly or ASC Minute	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.
Consultation	
Purpose	To record a minute of appreciation for the Assembly General Secretary Colleen Geyer
Rationale & Findings Summary	
Attachments	
Recommendations	That the Standing Committee 1. Record its deep gratitude for the ministry of Colleen Geyer as Assembly General Secretary
Submitted by	Sharon Hollis, President

Since her appointment as Assembly General Secretary at the end of 2015, Ms. Geyer has been a creative, highly collaborative and steadfast leader for the Assembly.

Ms Geyer leaves behind a significant legacy, including her leadership across two triennial Assembly meetings and steering the Assembly through the difficult time of COVID-19.

Leading into and after the 15th Assembly meeting, the General Secretary provided leadership as the Church discerned its position on same-gender marriage and communicated its decision to the rest of the Church.

In 2017, Ms Geyer appeared on behalf of the Church at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse and led the Church's response to its recommendations, which included the establishment of UCA Redress Ltd and the National Safe Church Unit, a result of significant national collaboration between the Assembly and the Synods.

Like all parts of the Church, during the pandemic the Assembly needed to pivot and adapt to carry out its business in new ways and meet new demands. This included the decision for the 16th Assembly to initially meet online in 2021– the first time this has taken place.

During Ms Geyer's tenure, the Act2 Project was identified by the Assembly Standing Committee and continues to be one of the most comprehensive and ambitious consultation processes the Assembly has undertaken.

She has overseen the significant re-shaping of the Assembly's ways of working, both in regard to internal structures and the way Assembly connects with the wider Church. This leadership included the development of the Assembly's first strategic plan.

Ms Geyer has been deeply committed to the Uniting Church's Covenant with First Peoples and supported the development of the first Assembly Covenant Action Plan.

Alongside the President, in 2021 Ms Geyer was announced as an Ambassador for the global Thursdays in Black movement that encourages people to speak out against all forms of gender-based violence.

Throughout a period that has at times been difficult and challenging, Colleen has exhibited and nurtured the values adopted by the Assembly during her leadership – hope, justice, compassion, respect, integrity and innovation.

Colleen has shown deep commitment to work of the Assembly and the wider Church and has brought to the role a faithfulness to Christ as we seek to join God’s mission in the world.

We wish Colleen well in her new role as Director of Mission at Wesley Mission Queensland and give thanks to God for her leadership of the Assembly as General Secretary.