



19 February 2024

Rev Lindsay Cullen
Assembly General Secretary (Interim)
gensec@nat.uca.org.au

Dear Lindsay,

At its meeting in November 2023 the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (VicTas) did not have nominations to appoint five of the six 17th Assembly youthful members as provided for in the Regulations (Reg. 3.3.8(a)(iii)(3)). No presbyteries within the bounds of VicTas appointed 17th Assembly members who are of a youthful age, so it is up to the Synod to fulfil this requirement. Consequently, it was resolved by the Synod to request the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) to make these appointments. The SSC considered these appointments at its December 2023 meeting and resolved to request the Synod's younger generations team and presbyteries to consider nominations and provide them to the SSC's February 2024 meeting. These requests were made. However, owing to the period of year, etc no further youthful members nominations were received by the SSC meeting time. Consequently, on Saturday 10 February 2024, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Standing Committee resolved (SC 24.8.7B):

- (a) To authorise the Moderator and General Secretary to make appointments of 17th Assembly youthful members appointed by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, and to report these appointments to the Standing Committee, and to inform the Assembly Standing Committee of this authorisation.
- (b) That in accordance with Reg 3.10.1(a), to request the Assembly Standing Committee to grant an exemption from Reg. 3.3.8(a)(iii)(3) to allow for:
 - (i) fewer than one in ten 17th Assembly members appointed from within the bounds of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to be of a youthful age;
 - (ii) the 52 17th Assembly members beyond youthful age currently appointed, or their replacements should a current appointee become unavailable, from within the bounds of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to remain eligible to be 17th Assembly members.

After further consultation with Presbyteries and the Synod eLM Younger Generations Team I have received one additional nomination since the February SSC meeting, and it is likely some further nominations will now be forthcoming. As per clause (a) above both the Moderator and myself will continue to seek appointments to fill the remaining four vacancies. However, given the uncertainty of filling all six youthful member appointments in the available time, it may well be the case that the VicTas Synod is unable to fill some or all of these remaining four vacancies; hence the request for exemption from Reg. 3.3.8(a)(iii)(3) regarding Assembly youthful member appointments, and confirmation that those 17th Assembly members beyond youthful age who have been appointed will be eligible to attend.

Both David Fotheringham and I will be at the March 2024 ASC meeting to speak to this request, should the President and you consider this to be appropriate.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this correspondence.

Grace and peace,

Rev Dr Mark Lawrence
General Secretary

cc. Rev Sharon Hollis, Assembly President
Rev David Fotheringham, VicTas Synod Moderator

