



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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Rev Lindsay Cullen
Assembly General Secretary (Interim)
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Dear Lindsay,

After significant consideration regarding the reported horrors of current occurrences in Gaza, and reflection on how the Church may respond internally and in the wider community to this, at its meeting on Saturday 10 February 2024, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Standing Committee (SSC) resolved (SC 24.8.1):

To request the Assembly Standing Committee:

- (a) To provide guidance to other councils of the Church regarding responses to the Gaza-Israel War;
- (b) To express support to the Commonwealth Government advocating for a ceasefire to support the provision of humanitarian aid;
- (c) To advocate to the Commonwealth Government to continue their posture of encouragement and support for a permanent ceasefire, and to sustainable and just peace; and
- (d) To encourage the Assembly President to undertake other actions regarding the Israel-Gaza War as the Assembly President considers appropriate.

The above was resolved after prayer and discernment in response to conversations and concerns voiced regarding the Church's response to the crisis across the wider Church in the VicTas Synod. We request the Assembly Standing Committee to address this request as soon as possible.

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

