



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

15 - 17 March 2024

DOCUMENT 14C

Title	President-Elect Nomination Committee
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For Information and Decision
Assembly or ASC Minute	ASC Meeting July 2023, Document 14 ASC approved the final version of the Terms of Reference for the Committee
Consultation	General Secretary and Members of the Nomination Committee
Purpose	To report on the progress of the President-Elect Nomination Committee. <i>The purpose of the Committee is “to encourage, receive and process nominations of UCA leaders with appropriate gifts and skills to undertake the role of President of the Assembly; and to ensure all nominees for President (both identified by the committee or nominated by UCA Councils or Assembly members) are in good standing with the UCA and able to undertake the role of President.”</i>
Rationale & Findings Summary	See the Terms of Reference in Attachment A
Attachments	Attachment A: President-Elect Nomination Committee Terms of Reference
Proposal/s	That the Standing Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• receives the report• gives advice to the Committee on identifying nominees and the process of conversation with nominees.
Submitted by	Deidre Palmer, Convenor, President-Elect Nomination Committee 0419851719 palmer4c@bigpond.com

The President-Elect Nomination Committee was established by the Assembly Standing Committee *“To encourage, receive and process nominations of UCA leaders with appropriate gifts and skills to undertake the role of President of the Assembly and to ensure all nominees for President (both identified by the committee or nominated by the UCA Councils or Assembly members) are in good standing with the UCA and able to undertake the role of President.”*

The Terms of Reference of the Committee were approved by the ASC at its July 2023 meeting.

The President-Elect Nomination Committee has met once and has planned three subsequent meetings:

- at the ASC March 2024 meeting
- on Zoom, prior to close of nominations. – possibly in the week of April 2nd.
- on Zoom after nominations have closed, possibly in the week beginning April 29.

Members of the Committee: Deidre Palmer (Convenor), David Fotheringham, Alison Overeem and Kerry Wilson

KEY AREAS OF WORK:

Receiving nominations

One of the tasks of the Committee is *to “receive nominations from people and entities as per Regulation 3.6.4.1 (c).”* The EA to the General Secretary, Jenny Bertalan will send through to the Committee any names of nominees, as they come into the Assembly office

Ensuring that any nominations are in good standing

The Committee has outlined the processes for identifying those in good standing. In relation to nominees who are ordained, the Committee would approach the Associate General Secretary (or equivalent) of the Synod in which the nominee is located, and the Chairperson of the Presbytery which has oversight of the nominee to ask:

1. Is this person in good standing, with the capacity to fulfill the role of President of the Assembly?
2. Are there any complaints (past or present) against this person, which would give rise to concerns regarding this person’s capacity to exercise the ministry of President of the Assembly?

If the nominee is a lay person: the Committee would approach the Synod and/or Presbytery which has oversight of the nominee and the Chairperson of the Church Council of the congregation attended by the nominee, to ask:

1. Is this person in good standing, with the capacity to fulfill the role of President of the Assembly?
2. Are there any complaints (past or present) against this person, which would give rise to concerns regarding this person’s capacity to exercise the ministry of President of the Assembly?

The President-Elect Nomination Committee would investigate further in the case of a response which signaled concerns.

Seeking further nominations:

The cut-off date for nominations is currently April 12. The ASC at this March meeting has before it in Document 14, a request to consider an extension on the date for submission of names to April 26. We will await the decision of the ASC on this matter. One of the tasks of the Committee is: 2. *“May also work with a Council of the Church or Assembly members to enable nomination of people with appropriate gifts and skills as per Regulation 3.6.4.1. (c)*

Before the cut-off date for nominations – the Committee may work with Councils of the Church and Assembly members to encourage consideration of nominations for President-elect.

The Committee understands that from its Terms of Reference, it is also able to identify nominees.

We are asking the ASC to discuss how this process would work, given that nominations come from Councils of the Church, the UAICC, or two members of the Assembly.

Report to the ASC

The Reporting Arrangements for this Committee are:

“Reporting to the Assembly Standing Committee that work has been carried out, not for ASC approval of nominations.”

The Nomination Committee will bring the report to the ASC after the nominations have closed. We would report the names of the nominees and confirmation of their good standing. We understand this report would be brought to an online meeting of the ASC.

Support people for the President-elect nominees prior to and at the Assembly meeting.

In the past, the ex-President has met with and prayed with nominees and supported them through the process at the Assembly meeting. The ex-President has conveyed to the candidates the result of the ballot. The Committee supports this process for the upcoming Assembly.

FOR DISCUSSION WITH ASC:

Identifying Nominees

The Committee understands that from its Terms of Reference, it is also able to identify nominees. We are asking the ASC to discuss how this process would work, given that nominations come from Councils of the Church, the UAICC, or two members of the Assembly.

Does the Committee speak with the nominees?

In some Synods, where there are Moderator Nomination Committees, the Nomination Committee meets with nominees. Our Committee does not see this in the Terms of Reference for this Assembly Committee. We seek the mind of the ASC, regarding the Committee meeting (online) with nominees and the nature of any conversation with nominees.