



PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINATION COMMITTEE

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. (See attached)

Members of the Committee are: Dr Deidre Palmer (Convenor), Rev David Fotheringham, Ms Alison Overeem and Ms Kerry Wilson (all members of the Assembly Standing Committee)

1. KEY AREAS OF WORK:

1.1 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 sent through to the Committee any names of nominees, as they were received by the Assembly office.

1.2 Ensuring that any nominations are in good standing

The Assembly Standing Committee approved the processes for identifying those in good standing. In relation to nominees who are ordained, the Committee approaches the General Secretary or 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?

In relation to nominees who are lay people: the Committee approaches the General Secretary or Associate General Secretary (or equivalent) of the Synod in which the nominee is located and/or the Chairperson of 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?

In the case of a response signalling concern, the President-Elect Nomination Committee investigates further and seeks advice from the President and General Secretary.



1.3 Nominations received:

Nominations for President-Elect can come from Councils of the Church, the UAICC or two members of the Assembly.

1.4 Report to the ASC

The Reporting Arrangements for this Committee are:
“Reporting to the Assembly Standing Committee that work has been carried out, not seeking ASC approval of nominations.”

The ASC has asked that the President-Elect Nomination Committee report to the August 2024 ASC to review the work of the Committee and any changes that need to be made to its Terms of Reference for future Assemblies.

2. NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Through the Assembly General Secretary, the President-Elect Nomination Committee received the names of three Nominees for President-Elect.

The Committee contacted the three relevant Synods and Presbyteries and Church Council in relation to the lay nominee.

2.1 Rev Dr Paul Goh

The Synod of South Australia reports that Rev Dr Paul Goh is a Minister of the Word in good standing.

The Presbytery that has oversight of Rev Dr Paul Goh, the Presbytery of Southern South Australia, reports that Rev Dr Paul Goh is a Minister in good standing.

2.2 Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray

The Synod of Queensland reports that Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray is in good standing.

Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray is currently between congregations and therefore the Committee were not able to put the questions regarding good standing to a current local church or Presbytery. Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray was a member of the Beaudesert Uniting Church congregation until June 2021, where she was a member in good standing. At the time of her membership at Beaudesert Uniting Church, Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray was in good standing with South Moreton Presbytery.

2.3 Rev Radhika Sukumar-White

The Synod of NSW/ACT reports that Rev Radhika Sukumar-White is a Minister of the Word in good standing.

The Presbytery that has oversight of Rev Radhika Sukumar-White, the Sydney Presbytery, reports that Rev Radhika Sukumar-White is a Minister of the Word in good standing.

3. PROPOSAL

That the Assembly receive the report of the President-Elect Nomination Committee





PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

[Date of approval – ASC – JULY 2023]

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.

Background:

1. The duties of President are set out in the Regulations 3.6.4.2
2. The election of a President-elect is set out in the Regulations (3.6.4(b)(c)(d))
3. Nominations for President-elect can be made by Councils of the Church, and by two Assembly members
4. It is essential that people nominated for President-elect are in good standing with the Church in order that they can fulfil the role of President if they are elected
5. Nominations for President-elect have to be received by the General Secretary 90 days prior to the commencement of the Triennial Assembly meeting where the nomination will be considered

Task Required:

The Committee:

1. Will receive nominations from people and entities as per Regulation 3.6.4.1 (c);
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);
3. Will determine if the nominees are in good standing with the Uniting Church and undertake relevant screenings;
4. Will present all eligible nominations to the meeting of the Assembly.

Expected Outcomes:

The Assembly has nominations of people for the role of President of the Assembly with appropriate gifts and skills

How the Committee will work:

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

This Terms of Reference is ongoing, with review by the ASC within each triennium. As determined by the ASC

1. Be grounded in the gospel and build upon the tradition of the Uniting Church in Australia, being cognisant of, inter-alia, the breadth of the Church's activities, the many demands on scarce resources, and guided by the issues identified by the Standing Committee. (See Appendix A)
2. Ensure that the activities of the Committee are consistent with the Basis of Union of the UCA, the Constitution and Regulations, and align with the current strategic priorities of the Assembly.



3. Be mindful of the “Background” and “Task Required” as articulated above. 4. The Committee will work collaboratively.

Establishment: The Committee shall be established by the ASC, no later than the July in the year prior to that when the Triennial Assembly meets.

Membership:

Membership for the Committee will be appointed by the ASC once a triennium.

1. Convenor (ASC member)
2. Three other members (if possible, these are ASC members)

Casual vacancies will be filled as required by the General Secretary and communicated to the ASC. Support for the work of the Committee will be provided by the office of the General Secretary.

