



# Profile Form for Nominees for President-elect

Regulation 3.7.5.1 requires that the Assembly Standing Committee provide advice to the Church on the issues, challenges and opportunities which may be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years. This is to assist the discernment process as the Church nominates and elects the President – elect.

In July 2023 the ASC addressed itself to this responsibility and offers this guidance to the Church.

“As the Uniting Church continues to move through a season of significant change, the ASC believes that the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years will include:

## ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNITING CHURCH

*This information is provided by the Assembly Standing Committee to nominees for the role of President-Elect at the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly*

### Living out the Covenant

- Living out the covenant and building relationships with First Peoples
- Ongoing support of and engagement with UAICC

### Identity of the UCA

- Being clear about our story as the UCA: our mission and purpose in witness and advocacy in Australia
- Understanding our significance in a secular age/world
- Navigating the potential disconnect between wider institutional life and smaller congregational life
- Being inclusive while in unity (continuing the weaving)
- Telling stories of growth and God at work in the UCA: being courageous about the future while acknowledging the reality of declining membership and resources
- Articulating UCA commitment to reconciliation in the face of separation and siloism
- Rebuilding trust in the Church and its institutions

### Gospel, Mission and Discipleship

- Strengthening discipleship and witness to our faith within the UCA
- Sharing the Gospel (story of God) individually and collectively as the UCA
- Attending to the spiritual health and resilience within the UCA
- Seeking innovative and transformative ways of engaging in God’s ministry and mission
- Embracing new technologies and how we are church in a fast-changing and digital world

### Youth and young adults

- Importance of investment in young people
- Encouraging and engaging youth and young adults in their discipleship and leadership, including national gatherings

### Sustainability, particularly financial sustainability

- Acknowledging declining resources across the Church, while attending to corporate and financial sustainability
- Sustainability in governance and leadership
- Impact of redress





### **Advocating for justice issues**

- Advocacy for justice issues – climate change, forced migration, effects on regional/remote communities; finding sustainable ways of operating;
- Strengthening our voice in advocacy on justice issues
- Attending to our own issues: redress and the support of survivors of abuse in the institutions to which we are connected

### **Leadership**

- Effective leadership and oversight in Church institutions
- Developing leadership capacity for the changing dynamics of the Church and all of its councils
- Emerging leadership – recognising the changing cultural identity of Church leadership and sharing the journey of the UCA
- Supporting the succession planning of key leadership roles within our church.

### **Act2**

- Continuing the implementation of resolutions from the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly
- Communicating resolutions and next steps to the UCA

### **Safety**

- Making the Church a safe place, with a culture of respect
- Navigating a culturally safe Church that is inclusive, and that allows for safe ways for people from diverse backgrounds to engage in the work of the Church
- Seeking to address and bring healing to continuing hurts



# SEVENTEENTH ASSEMBLY - NOMINATION FORM

This form is to be used in making nominations for President-elect.

1. **Name of nominee:** Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray

Synod: Queensland

Minister/Lay: Lay  
(note which specified ministry, if any)

Male/female: Female

2. **Profile of nominee** [no more than 80 words, to cover the nominee's personal and church experience relevant to the position and qualifications. Please note that marital status, age and number of children are not relevant criteria.]

Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray is Head of the School of Indigenous Studies, University of Divinity and a recognised leader, theologian, scholar, and author. With a Ph.D. in Studies of Religion (University of Sydney) and a Doctor of Divinity (India), Professor Anne leverages her experience and transformative leadership to raise organisational profile and deliver strategic outcomes aligned to the vision. A dedicated UCA member, she has excelled in leadership roles within the NCCA, WCC, UCA National Assembly and National Office of the UIACC.



4. **Consent of nominee** – signature:

*Anne Pattel-Gray*

5. **Nominators:** Name of Council or individuals:

*Rev. Javiera Lopez Angdalen*

Signatures:

*[Signature]*

*Rev Dr Katalina Tahapp-William*

*[Signature]*

**Notes:**

1. Nominations for President-elect require two nominators who have been appointed to be members of the Assembly at which the election is to be held.
2. Nominators must obtain the consent of nominees.
3. **Nomination forms are to be lodged with the General Secretary (Interim) (Rev Lindsay Cullen) no later than 26 April 2024.**

# Nominees for President-elect

(Please note that a recent electronic photograph would be appreciated with this profile)

## PROFILES

**Name:**

Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray

**Nominated by:**

Rev Dr Katalina Tahaaafe-Williams and  
Rev Tau'alofa Anga'aelangi

**Synod of residence:**

Queensland

**Age range:**

(under 30, 30-39, 40-49,  
50-59, 60-69)

60-69 years.

**Personal Interests:**

Reading, Rock n Roll dancing, networking, connecting to  
Country and spending time with Mob.

**Personal****Placement / employment:**

(relevant church experience)

National Administrator with the Uniting Aboriginal and  
Islander Christian Congress, Executive Secretary of the  
Aboriginal & Islander Commission of the Australian Council  
of Churches/ National Council of Churches in Australia,  
Member of local church councils.

**Passion:**

(Name up to three things you  
feel passionate about)

Justice, mission/evangelism, and UCA.

**Vision for the UCA:**

(limit of 400 words,  
can be provided on separate sheet)

Please see attached sheet.

This includes the vision and response to the anticipated  
challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President  
and the Assembly in the next seven years.

In light of the advice provided by the  
ASC at its July 2023 meeting on the  
challenges and issues likely to be  
faced by the President and the  
Assembly in the next seven years I  
can/will ..... (Limit of 400 words  
which can be provided on a  
separate sheet.)

**Signature of the Nominee:**

## **Vision**

The vision for the Uniting Church in Australia is to be united by faith, following Christ, walking together with all peoples, seeking community, compassion, and justice for all creation. To achieve this vision, my strategy includes raising the profile of UCA, reviewing the brand and producing an action plan leveraging digital technology, social media platforms and existing relationships to reinvigorate the UCA profile and image within Australia. UCA need to address its importance within Australia and drive its relevance within a changing society. By drawing upon its strengths and highlighting its integrity and commitment to the poor, the oppressed, the downtrodden and the marginalized. The members of UCA are called by God to be Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) and this requires us to be bold and take a prophetic stance against injustice, calling it out when we see it. Social justice is an extension of God's love and work in protecting those who cannot defend themselves.

UCA has so much to offer to the community and broader society. There are challenges before us that we need to address such as: the continuing injustices faced by our First Nations peoples; the need to embrace our cultural diversity; the Church response to ecological issues; pivoting the diminishing congregational numbers; providing a secure financial future for the Church and ensuring a safe faith community for all.

The UCA has the opportunity of taking a leadership position by first addressing these hard issues internally which will give us integrity to lead by example to bring a transformative witness to the entire nation. Australia needs Christian leaders who are prepared to bare witness to the nation. We are Christ led and by their deeds show we are followers of Jesus. We need to reflect a Christian faith (Galatians 3:28) that encompasses all peoples regardless of their financial status, sexual preference, or cultural ancestry, because we are all one through our union with Jesus Christ. We are to extend the grace of God that is given to us freely.

In doing the above we will reinstate the nation's trust in the UCA. We will make it relevant and appealing to our next generation of Christian leaders, bringing new meaning to our concept of radical discipleship in shaping the future of UCA. By investing in the next generation through revolutionising youth ministries and engaging meaningfully with a contemporary focus, this will secure congregational growth as we develop champions to evangelise within their peer groups. Once the strategic direction is agreed upon with pillars of action, this will require a robust communication strategy to disseminate the information to our congregations.

# SEVENTEENTH ASSEMBLY - NOMINATION FORM

This form is to be used in making nominations for President-elect.

1. Name of nominee: Rev Dr Paul Goh

Synod: South Australia

Minister/Lay: Minister of the Word  
(note which specified ministry, if any)

Male/female: Male

2. Profile of nominee [no more than 80 words, to cover the nominee's personal and church experience relevant to the position and qualifications. Please note that marital status, age and number of children are not relevant criteria.]

Paul has served as Justice & CALD Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Officer in the Mission Resourcing team of the SA Synod for over five years, where he has offered leadership in congregations, presbyteries, Synod and the Assembly. Paul is Interim Advocate for the Assembly Being a Multicultural Church Circle and has served on the Assembly Act2 Steering Committee. He has had extensive intercultural experiences in Korea, the USA, and Australia including ministry with Korean, Anglo and Fijian congregations in Melbourne.

Qualifications:

Ph. D. in Practical Theology (Concentration on Mission, Evangelism & Spirituality, Boston University School of Theology, 2012)

M. Div. (Presbyterian University & Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea, 1997)

B.A. in Theology & Sociology of Religion (Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea, 1991)



4. Consent of nominee – signature:

*Paul Goh*

Nominators: Name of Council: Synod Standing Committee, Synod of South Australia

5. Signatures

*Philip Gardner*

*General secretary.*

*P.J. Ward*

*MODERATOR*

*23/4/24*

# Nominees for President-elect

(Please note that a recent electronic photograph would be appreciated with this profile)

## PROFILES

<b>Name:</b>	Paul Goh
<b>Nominated by:</b>	SA Synod Standing Committee
<b>Synod of residence:</b>	Synod of South Australia
<b>Age range:</b>	50-59
<b>Personal Interests:</b>	<p>I like to listen to classical music and take photos of flowers and nature with my mobile phone. When I visit new cities and towns, I am interested in local history, so I enjoy visiting local libraries, museums, and galleries. I also enjoy swimming, bushwalking, and hiking in National Parks. It is there I often feel my imagination stirred and my soul restored. Although I am usually busy, my family is very important to me, and the times we can spend together are precious. We also all love to travel together. Recently I started to play golf. Like fishing, playing golf reminds me of one of my favourite movie scripts: "all good things, trout as well as eternal salvation, come by grace. And grace comes by art, and art does not come easy." ("A River Runs Through It")</p>
<b>Personal Placement / employment:</b>	<p>I have served as Justice &amp; CALD Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Officer in the Mission Resourcing team of the SA Synod for over five years, where I have offered leadership in congregations, presbyteries, Synod and the Assembly. In the SA Synod, I have served on the following Committees: Placements Committee, Public Theology and Mission Sub-Committee of the Mission and Leadership Development Board, Ethical Investment Working Group and Synod Climate Action Group.</p> <p>In the Vic/Tas Synod, while ministering with Korean, Anglo and Fijian Congregations, I served on the Port Philip East Presbytery Standing Committee over six years and was Deputy Chair for the Synod Intercultural Forum. As Associate Teacher at Pilgrim Theological College, I also contributed to the formation and theological education.</p> <p>For the Assembly, I am Interim Advocate for the Being a Multicultural Church Circle and have served on the Act2 Steering Committee. Also, I am working with Australian Churches Ecological Taskforce of the National Council of Churches in Australia and serving on Australian Association for Mission Studies Executive Committee.</p> <p>Before immigrating to Australia in 2010, in South Korea and the USA, I had various ministry experiences including chaplaincy, international medical mission, migrant ministry and church planting.</p>
<b>Passion:</b>	<p>I am passionate about preaching and sharing the Gospel, confident that it has the power to heal and transform lives, communities, and creation. For me the Gospel is all about reconciliation, and reconciliation is what the Uniting Church is all about, as articulated in its foundational document, the Basis of Union, and the Revised Preamble to the Constitution.</p>

I am passionate about drinking from deep spiritual wells God has given us across history, cultures, and religions, including Sayings of Desert Mothers and Fathers, Asian, and Aboriginal-indigenous spiritualities.

I am passionate about people intentionally investing in intercultural, interfaith friendship as a way of building community, pursuing justice, and making peace. Throughout my life-journey, encountering with the others have transformed my life and faith leading me back to a fresh encounter with Christ who calls His disciples “friends.” (John 15:15). Friendship seeds fellowship, and fellowship points to the truth That we are all beloved of God and “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

### **Vision for the UCA:**

My vision for the UCA is to be a Jesus-shaped community of God, which is characterised by grace, inclusivity, welcome, hospitality, and unity in diversity. As a follower of Jesus, we are called to join God’s mission of reconciliation and renewal of the whole creation through the power of the Spirit. As a pilgrim people, always on the way towards this promised goal, renewed by Christ, The Uniting Church of Australia is:

- A church for all God’s people across ages, abilities, gender identification, social status, races, cultures and theological differences united in God’s reconciling love, faith and hope in Christ;
- A life-giving, mission-shaped community of disciples, boldly proclaiming and living out the gospel of Jesus Christ through acts of compassion, justice and service to others and making courageous disciples of all nations;
- A fellowship of reconciliation as a covenanting, multicultural Church, living faith and life interculturally with First Peoples and those “...from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages...” (Rev. 7:9). Through deepening and personalising our relationships with UAICC, CALD communities and international partner churches in the spirit of mutual partnership, we will be witnesses to the hope of reconciliation in a broken and divided world;
- A Spirit-filled innovative, intergenerational, and intercultural Church where every generation and culture is engaged in lifelong and transforming discipleship;
- Places where youth and young adults are intentionally invested in their discipleship and leadership; where seniors are empowered to use their gifts and wisdom; Communities which honour the legacies of those who have gone before;
- An interconnected network of Congregations, Councils, and Agencies, joyfully celebrating our shared identity, relentlessly seeking collaborations and gracefully sharing our life and common wealth for the sake of the Gospel;
- A prophetic, public witness for a just Australia and peaceful world, where each person and all creation can flourish and enjoy abundant life. As a justice-seeking church, we speak truth to power, advocate for the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

In light of the advice provided by the ASC at its November 2020 meeting on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years I can/will ...

Over the two and half decades of the ordained ministry, I experienced what Andrew Purves called “the crucifixion of ministry”: “Ministers can’t forgive sinners, raise the dead or bring in the kingdom of God. Neither can we grow congregations, convert sinners or heal the dying.” And I learned the divine power of vulnerability and weakness: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Now I am leading in the resurrection hope of the Risen and Crucified Lord.

Dwelling in the Word and being empowered by the Spirit, I will serve the Church as a spiritual leader listening and telling people what the Spirit is doing among and around us and what a new future we are invited to reimagine. I have seen what God is doing not only in our congregations and service-agencies but also at the margins with First



Peoples, refugees, and immigrants across country. My joy has overflowed when young CALD leaders are stepping into various leadership roles in the church and wider society; my South Australian Synod welcomed five new thriving CALD faith communities into the life of the Uniting Church; eight congregations from three different presbyteries are passionately participating in an Intercultural Congregation Pilot Cohort experience to learn a new way of being a missional church in an increasingly multicultural and secular context.

Having served on the Assembly Act2 Project Steering Committee over the two years, I have taken a long, loving look at the reality of the Uniting Church along with its challenges and opportunities. As expressed in its final report, "Act2: The Gift of the Spirit," now is the time to reshape our life so we may better live into God's call in our time and place. The Spirit is calling us into a new imagination. As we move towards 2027, the Jubilee year of the inauguration of the UCA, now is a Kairos moment to reclaim, reform, renew and revive! With a humble boldness and audacious hope in Christ who rules and renews the Church, I will bring my theological wisdom, engaged spirituality and public leadership, a deep passion for the Gospel and justice, extensive experience in multicultural and cross-cultural ministry and intercultural-global insights into this important leadership role for the future of the Uniting Church to be a life-giving, sustainable and flourishing community of discipleship and mission.

Signature of the Nominee: 

# SEVENTEENTH ASSEMBLY - NOMINATION FORM

This form is to be used in making nominations for President-elect.

1. Name of nominee: Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White

Synod: NSW/ACT


Minister/Lay: **MoW**  
(note which specified ministry, if any)

Male/female: **Female**

2. **Profile of nominee** [no more than 80 words, to cover the nominee's personal and church experience relevant to the position and qualifications. Please note that marital status, age and number of children are not relevant criteria.]

Radhika is a second-generation Sri Lankan Tamil Australian who has grown up within the life and mission of the Uniting Church. Radhika was ordained in 2016, completed 3 years of ministry at West Epping Uniting Church, and is now in her sixth year at Leichhardt Uniting Church. Radhika is a gifted and generous leader and disciple and has served in a number of responsibilities within the church including being a member of SSC, Assembly, and as Sydney Presbytery PRC chairperson.



4. **Consent of nominee** – signature: 

5. **Nominators**: Name of Council or individuals: Sydney Presbytery

Signatures: 

**Notes:**

1. Nominations for President-elect require two nominators who have been appointed to be members of the Assembly at which the election is to be held.
2. Nominators must obtain the consent of nominees.
3. Nomination forms are to be lodged with the General Secretary (Interim) (Rev Lindsay Cullen) no later than 90 days prior to the commencement of the Assembly, ie 12 April 2024.

# Nominees for President-elect

(Please note that a recent electronic photograph would be appreciated with this profile)

## PROFILES

**Name:**

Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White

**Nominated by:**

Sydney Presbytery

**Synod of residence:**

NSW/ACT

**Age range:**  
(under 30, 30-39, 40-49,  
50-59, 60-69)

30-39

**Personal Interests:**

singing, piano, songwriting, needlework, The West Wing (not in that order)

**Personal Placement / employment:**  
(relevant church experience)

I'm a second-generation Sri Lankan Tamil Australian woman, and I've lived my whole life in the Uniting Church, serving on various Presbytery, Synod and Assembly councils over the years. I was ordained in 2016, completed 3 years of ministry at West Epping Uniting Church, and am now in my sixth year at Leichhardt Uniting Church - a young, vibrant, musical, justice-oriented, extraordinary community of faith.

**Passion:**  
(Name up to three things you feel passionate about)

- 1) People - their stories, their inherent belovedness, their vocation
- 2) Advocating and agitating for the world to be more of God - loving, compassionate, just, communal
- 3) Preaching the Gospel in a way that transforms and transfigures

**Vision for the UCA:**  
(limit of 400 words, can be provided on separate sheet)

In light of the advice provided by the ASC at its November 2020 meeting on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years I can/will ..... (Limit of 400 words which can be provided on a separate sheet.)

**Signature of the Nominee:**



## Nomination for President-Elect:

Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White

### **Vision for the UCA:**

The Uniting Church has been my home my whole life, and I so love its story, polity and values. At a National Young Adults Leaders Conference in 2012, attendees were presented the 1977 Statement to the Nation – and that was a moment of commitment and inspiration for me. What a prophetic, hope-filled, missional, public statement to Australia!

I think that the Uniting Church began with a desire to be a movement, but very quickly settled into institutional habits and practices that have meant: we are scared of change, scared of the future, scared of death. And we needn't be. We worship a crucified and risen Lord Jesus, and we are a small part of the body of Christ, a body that has lived through many deaths and resurrections in its time. If we truly believe that Christ rose from the dead, then surely we must remind ourselves that the body of Christ too will rise from the dead, scarred but thriving.

I pray for a Uniting Church that rediscovers and then lives into the vision of our founders – a movement, a pilgrim people, following the guidance of the Spirit, a uniquely Australian church that actively lives into covenantal relationship with First Peoples, and that prioritises church relationships with Asia and the Pacific.

I pray for a Uniting Church that values and celebrates many forms of diversity, but does not worship diversity as an idol, but prayerfully takes a stand on some basic gospel truths: there is no room for discrimination in the Realm of God; there can be no forgiveness without truth-telling and accountability; *all* people are made in the image of God; and in God's Realm, no one is turned away.

I pray for a Uniting Church that does not look upon other parts of itself with suspicion, distrust, cynicism and fear, but that operates as a web of collaboration, where each part of the Body contributes to the functioning of the *whole*.

And I pray for a Uniting Church that re-embraces its call to evangelism – invitational, loving, dialogical, but also confidently – because the News is *so* Good, and so needed in our aching world.

**In light of the advice provided by the ASC at its November 2023 meeting on the challenges and issues likely to be faced by the President and the Assembly in the next seven years, I can/will...**

- Engage in deep listening to the UAICC and First Peoples around how we might move forward in justice and truth after 2023's Referendum result, and follow their lead, as together we discern how to be a Church on stolen land
- Champion and communicate clearly the impending changes (i.e. Act2) as well as the ongoing, core ethos and values of the Uniting Church to the Church and to the country

- Speak into the public sphere (through various forms of media) about who the Uniting Church is, what we stand for, its unique space in this country, and a call to join this movement
- Use digital/social media tools to continue to build bridges between communities of faith and other Councils of the Church
- Advocate and agitate for more justice, more equality, more rights for all – recognising I am particularly passionate about climate action, anti-racism, LGBTIQ+ affirmation, feminism and non-violence – but these are not the only areas of justice that require advocacy
- Continue the Uniting Church’s posture of repentance and standing with victims of institutional abuse, as we continue the journey of redress, and actively take steps to ensure all our spaces are trauma-informed and safe
- Nudge, challenge and inspire churches and ministry agents to “go out into the world” – not being bound by status quo, but using their strengths (which everyone has) for gospel work in their community (geographical and digital)
- Prioritise the leadership development and entrusting of young adult disciples (particularly of CALD background) as leaders and prophets today (absolutely including national gatherings)
- Build kinder relationships between Councils to promote more of a culture of “common wealth” and radical generosity
- Be a trusted voice in the public square around issues of justice and advocacy
- Lead authentically, transparently, pastorally, and with a view towards flourishing life for the Church (recognising I will need trusted advisors, mentors and prayer partners)
- Adopt a posture that is keen to apologise, repent, make amends and rebuild trust.