



D3 CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES AND ADVOCATES OF CIRCLES OF INTEREST NOMINATIONS

Nominee – UnitingCare Australia Chairperson

Ms Heather Watson

Heather is a lifelong and committed member of the Uniting Church, a member of the Standing Committee and Board Member of the NSW.ACT Synod. She has held governance roles in community service agencies of the Church over more than 20 years and across Queensland, NSW and ACT, Victoria and Tasmania, and in the Northern Territory.

She is a lawyer and non-executive director with more than 30 years of commercial, governance and legal experience spanning aged care, health, community services, transport, housing and First Nations communities.

Heather's other governance roles include Queensland Rail, Children's Health Queensland (Chair) and the ACNC Advisory Board (Deputy Chair).

Nominee – UnitingWorld Chairperson

Rev Dr Steve Bevis

Minister of the Word and Team leader at Burwood Croydon UCA, NSW.

UnitingWorld Board Chair 2023-present

Board member Tearfund Australia 2019-2022

Chair ITECA 2019-2022

Board member Alice Springs Meeting Place Foundation

PhD (USYD) Church's Role in International Development

PPNA Standing Committee member

Nominee – Frontier Services Chairperson

Rev Heather den Houting

Heather has been on the Frontier Services Board for some time, with a keen commitment to remote ministry. She was the General Secretary of Qld, where she assisted in facilitating Frontier Services placements. She is now a minister in a regional town in a Presbytery with Frontier Services placements. Heather has been deputy Chair for the past 18 months and has assisted the Board with organisational and strategic thinking.



Relevant experience and qualifications:
General Secretary, Qld
Director of Mission, Blue Care
Strategic planning and implementation
Appointed Interim Chair by the ASC in December 2023
Law/Economics/Theology/Management
GAICD

Nominee – Defence Force Chaplaincy Chairperson

Rev Charles Vesely

Charles trained for ministry at UTC, at North Parramatta, being ordained at Wesley Mission, Sydney, in 2002 serving in congregational ministry Grenfell, NSW. He commenced as an Army chaplain in 2006 a role he has held since, rising to senior positions in ADF Chaplaincy. His ministry in chaplaincy including numerous overseas deployments. Charles has served in various ecumenical and pastoral roles in the wider Uniting Church. Charles remains a member of the Brisbane Bremer Presbytery which is in his home location whilst working in Canberra.

Nominee – Standards for Ministries Working Group Chairperson

Rev Dr Rob McFarlane

Current chairperson of Standards for Ministry (SFM) Committee.

Current Presbytery Relations Minister, NSW/ACT Synod.

Former chairperson of NSW/ACT Commission for Specified Ministries.

Former visiting lecturer, supervisor, examiner in Biblical studies, leadership and ethics at UTC, ACD, TCQ and Pacific Theological College (Suva).

Former Director of Continuing Education, NSW/ACT Synod.

Presenter in lay education programs in presbyteries and the former Education for Lay Ministry (ELM) Centre in NSW/ACT.

Ministry placements in three congregations, university chaplaincy, and presbyteries in NSW/ACT and Queensland.



Nominee – Being A Multi-Cultural Church Circle Advocate

Rev Dr Paul Goh

Rev Dr Paul Goh is Korean-Australian Uniting Church minister and currently working with the Synod of South Australia's Mission Resourcing team in the areas of Justice and Multicultural and Cross-cultural ministry. Since 2021 Paul has been a panel member for Being a Multicultural Church Circle and is now interim Advocate until the 17th Assembly meeting in July 2024. He has had diverse ministry experience in Korea, the USA, and Australia including ministry with Korean, Anglo-multicultural, and Fijian congregations in Melbourne.

Nominee – Discipling the Next Generation Circle Advocate

Ms Virginia Lavaki

Virginia is currently the Advocate for this Circle and believes she still has skills and experience to continue in this role. If she is given the opportunity to continue as the Advocate she would work closely with the Assembly Resourcing Unit to be more effective and resourceful for the Church.

Nominee – Growing in Faith Circle Advocate

Rev Hee Won Chang

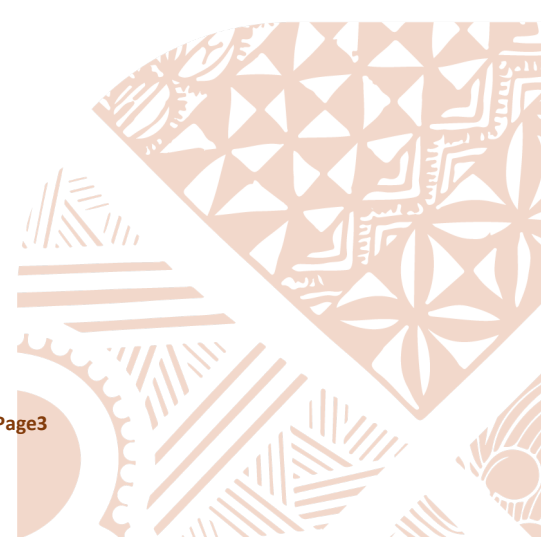
A first-generation Korean woman. Comfortable and sometimes at odds with both cultures. Lives on the land of the Bidjigal and Gadigal Peoples. Has been a member of Growing Faith for the past three years. Is a congregational minister at Hope Uniting Church in Maroubra and often contributes to theological conversations.

Deeply engaged in intergenerational and intercultural ministry in own context and often blurs the boundaries within the biblical text.

Serves on the Editorial Advisory Committee for Uniting Church Studies.

Nominee - Seeking Common Ground Circle Advocate

Vacant





Nominee - Transforming Worship Circle Advocate

Mr Matthew Julius

Writer of poetry and prayers.

A liturgical leader in his home faith community and beyond: maker of liturgy for aged care, commissionings, cafés, and living rooms.

A theology graduate, and candidate for the Ministry of the Word.

Member of the Synod Standing Committee in Vic/Tas, and the Synod Ministry & Mission Committee.

Nominee - Working for Justice Circle Advocate

Rev Alexandra Sangster

Alex has been working for Justice as a Minister of Word and activist for over 20 years. She is currently in placement at the newly formed St Kilda South Port UCA where she is chaplain to the Engagement Hub (working with severely vulnerable people experiencing homelessness and mental health complexities) and co runs a vibrant Mission Meals Program for the hungry.

She has also worked with **Love Makes A Way** as a Chaplain at **Re Gen** (Drug and Alcohol) Schools Presenter with the **Jewish, Christian, Muslim Association** and Pathways (2006-ongoing) She was a Board Member **Commission for Mission** and for the Synod of VICTAS **Ministry and Mission**.

She has been Chaplain to **In Good Faith Foundation** (working with survivors of clergy sexual assault) 2016-2017, is a core Activist with **ARRC** (Australian Religious Response To Climate Change) and is currently active in the Free Gaza movement.

Alex has held the position of Advocate for both Transforming Worship and Working for Justice.

Education

Bachelor Arts Deakin University
Bachelor Drama/ Theatre Studies WAPPA
Spiritual Direction Heart of Life and Wellsprings
Bachelor Theology United Faculty Theology
Graduate Certificate in Family & Systemic Therapy.
Masters in Narrative Therapy Melbourne University.

Nominee - Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle Advocate

Ms Alison Overeem

Current Advocate and Chair of this Circle.
Strong professional and communal history and experience living out and supporting justice for First Peoples.

UAICC National Executive member.

UAICC Strategic Planning Support Group member.

Director of Tasmanian Aboriginal Childrens Centre in Tasmania for over 25 years.



Current manager of UAICC Leprena lutruwita/Tasmania.

Palawa woman - highly recognised and respected in Aboriginal communities across Australia.

UnitingCare board member, speaking into political and government spaces of issues impacting First Peoples.

Contribution to many justice and advocacy based movements, articles and working groups across the life of the UCA and its agencies.

Strong relationship building skills, with years of networking and yarning with people from all regions in many different settings.

Heart for Culture, for Community and for Country.

