

# ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

## VIA ZOOM

21 April 2024

**PRESENT** Sharon Hollis (President), James Aaron, Sandy Boyce, David Busch, Lindsay Cullen, Michael Dobson, Linda Driver, David Fotheringham, Mark Kickett, Richard La'Brooy, Nicole Mugford, Alison Overeem, Catherine Pepper, Charissa Suli, Geoff Tompson, Ayla Williams, Anna Wilson, Kerry Wilson, Stuart Woodward.

**In attendance:** Jenny Bertalan, Philip Gardner, Mark Lawrence, Adam McIntosh, Janet Staines

### WELCOME AND WORSHIP

The President and the members of the Committee acknowledged the First Peoples of their respective land. The President welcomed all the members who attended this extraordinary meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee, with a special welcome extended to Janes Staines in her role as the General Secretary of the Northern Synod.

**Apologies:** Jane Fry, Andrew Williams and Lilliani Tahaafe-Williams for the whole meeting, Linda Driver, Janet Staines and Sandy Boyce for the first agenda items

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The General Secretary spoke to the agenda and timetable as listed in Document 1.

**24.25** **It was resolved to** approve the timetable and agenda of the meeting as outlined in Document 1, noting that the committee is free to vary the agenda at any time.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was submitted.

### BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE AND FROM ASSEMBLY AGENCIES

#### 1. Act2 Report, Constitutional Change

Andrew Johnson introduced Document 3, consisting of a report and proposals for the Assembly Standing Committee to recommend to the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly in relation to Stream A (Life Giving Communities of Faith and Discipleship) of the proposals in *Act2: The Gift of the Spirit*.

**24.26** **It was resolved to:**

24.26.01 authorise that the amendments to Clauses 24, 3, 10(b) and 19 to the Uniting Church in Australia Constitution contained in the report be included as part of the proposals from the Act2 Project to the 17th Assembly; and

24.26.02 authorise the President (Chair, Steering Committee), General Secretary and the Act2 Project Lead to finalise the Act2 Project report to the 17th Assembly including incorporating the proposed constitutional amendments.

## **2. Appointment to Religious Advisory Committee to the Services**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 2, consisting of a nomination for the Uniting Church in Australia member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (RACS).

- 24.27**      **It was resolved to** on the recommendation of the Uniting Church Defense Force Chaplaincy Committee, appoint Rev Kaye Ronalds as the Uniting Church member for Religious Advisory Committee to the Services for a further five-year term.

## **3. Assembly General Secretary Nomination Committee Proposal**

The President presented Document 7, consisting of a report and a proposal from the Assembly General Secretary Nomination Committee to establish an Assembly General Secretary Oversight Group.

- 24.28**      **It was resolved to:**

- 24.28.01      receive the report;
- 24.28.02      a)      establish an Assembly General Secretary Oversight group; and  
                  b)      adopt the Terms of Reference for the Assembly General Secretary Oversight Group; and
- 24.28.03      request the President to bring nominations for the Assembly General Secretary Oversight Group to the August 2024 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.

## **4. Disability Royal Commission National Task Group Report to Assembly**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 4, consisting of a report on the Overarching Principles developed by the National Task Group and the final report of the National Task Group to be sent to the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly as part of the UnitingCare Australia report.

- 24.29**      **It was resolved to:**

- 24.29.01      receive the report;
- 24.29.02      approve the adoption of the Overarching Principles;
- 24.29.03      request the General Secretary to communicate the Overarching Principles to Assembly Agencies and to Synod General Secretaries and commend their use in shaping the processes of Assembly, Assembly Agencies, Synods and Synod institutions;
- 24.29.04      approve the attached report to the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to be included as part of the UnitingCare Australia report;
- 24.29.05      authorise the General Secretary, in consultation with the National Task Group to identify appropriate people to present any verbal report to the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly; and
- 24.29.06      thank and discharge the Disability Royal Commission National Task Group.

## **5. LGBTQIA+ Apology Task group Report to Assembly**

The General Secretary and James Aaron introduced Document 5, consisting of the Task Group's final report, both a full version and a summary version.

- 24.30**            **It was resolved to:**
- 24.30.01        receive the Task Group report to the Assembly Standing Committee, noting that it is not for distribution beyond the Assembly Standing Committee;
- 24.30.02        request 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly Standing Committee to review the confidential report of the Task Group at their last meeting;
- 24.30.03        a)     receive the report of Task Group to the Assembly through the Assembly Standing Committee; and
- b)     authorise the General Secretary to incorporate any supporting comments into the Assembly Standing Committee report; and
- 24.30.04        thank and discharge the Task Group.

**6. Preventing Harm from Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts (SOGICE) Resource**

The General Secretary spoke to Document 6, consisting of a national resource titled 'Welcome and safety for all - A resource for the Uniting Church on preventing harm from Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts (SOGICE)' for congregations, agencies, and individuals to learn how they can help prevent harm from Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity Change Efforts (SOGICE), ideology and practice.

- 24.31**            **It was resolved to** receive the draft resource as a valuable contribution to assist the Uniting Church in understanding and implementing the decisions of the 16th Assembly to prevent harm from Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Change Efforts (SOGICE).

**The meeting finished at pm 1.15pm AEDT with prayer led by the President.**

**DATES FOR 2024**

**29 APRIL 2024 (EXTRAORDINARY MEETING)**

**30 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**22 - 24 NOVEMBER 2024**