

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT
SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES for the meeting of the Synod Standing Committee held at Centre for Ministry on 7th and 8th April, 2017

DECISIONS Decisions recorded in these Minutes were reached by consensus unless otherwise indicated

**TIMES OF
SESSION
SESSIONS**

1. 2.45pm - 3.30pm
2. 4.00pm - 6.00pm
3. 7.00pm - 8.30pm
4. 9.00am - 10.45am

AGENDA

29/17SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee adopt the Order of Business as printed subject to changes suggested by the General Secretary and alterations made by the Synod Standing Committee

APOLOGIES Rev. Myung Hwa Park, Ms Rebekah Allcroft, Rev. Grant Bilbey, Rev. Simon Hansford, Mr Warren Bird, Mr Michael Anderson, Mrs Jacki Watts, Miss Katelyn Stevenson, Mrs Lillian Pene

ATTENDANCE

SESSIONS

Rev. Jane Fry	All
Mr Paul Ballard	All
Mr Kevin Barrington	All
Rev. Christine Bayliss Kelly	1,2,3
Mr David Barrow	2
Rev. Glenys Biddle	All
Rev. Dr Brian Brown	All
Rev. Karyn Burchell-Thomas	All
Mr Craig Corby	All
Mr Paul Creek	All
Rev. Lindsay Cullen	All
Rev. Kevin Dilks	All
Rev. Tara Curlewis	2,3,4
Rev. Garry Dronfield	1,2,3
Rev. Salesi Faupula	All

Mrs Sue Graves	All
Rev. Robert Griffith	All
Mrs Robyn Harvey	All
Mr Bruce Lyon	All
Mr Ian Lawrence	All
Rev. Darren Liepold	1,2,3
Rev. Stephen de Plater	All
Mr John K Martin	All
Rev. Stephen Mathews	All
Rev. Graham Perry	1,2,4
Rev. Ivan Roberts	All
Rev. Stephen Robinson	All
Mr Graeme Tolson	All
Mrs Diane Torrens	4
Mrs Heather Watson	All

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs Karyn Warner All

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Mr John Collins	All
Mr John Kitchener	All
Mr Peter Worland	All
Rev. John Thornton	1,2,4
Mr Peter Andrews	All
Rev. Rhonda White	All
Dr Iain Brown	3,4
Mr Jonathon Rea	All
Mr Ross Johnson	2
Mr Ian Gray	2

MINUTES

30/17SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee confirm the Minutes of the Synod Standing Committee held 3rd and 4th February, 2017

CONSENT AGENDA

31/17SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee determine that matters listed in the agenda be adopted

**ACTING
GENERAL
SECRETARY
REPORT**

Reference - Working Paper 1

32/17SC

Resolved

That Synod Standing Committee

(i) note the report

(ii) approve an increase to the current maximum Interim
Redress amount from \$100,000 to \$150,000

**SYNOD
PATHWAYS
PROJECT**

Reference - Working Paper 2, 2A

33/17SC

Resolved

That Synod Standing Committee

note the report of the Project Team

**SYNOD BUDGET
STEERING
COMMITTEE –
FUTURE INCOME
STREAMS**

Reference - Working Paper 3

34/17SC

Resolved

That Synod Standing Committee approve:

- (i) the introduction of a contribution program consisting of a land based levy on Institutions and Schools and a budgeted contribution program for other entities to be phased in from 1 July 2017 for three years or until the Synod's 10 year plan is completed inclusive of a long term funding approach
- (ii) the annualised target for the contribution program in FY18 of \$5M
- (iii) subject to legal advice and appropriate communications, the commencement date for the contribution program being:
 - a. Institutions: 1 July 2017
 - b. Schools: 1 January 2018
 - c. Church: 1 July 2018
- (iv) the levy for Institutions and Schools in year one (FY18) be set at 0.3% of unimproved land value and there-after indexed annually at the lower of CPI or 3%

That Synod Standing Committee:

- (i) request Presbyteries to engage with and support the budgeted contribution program, providing guidance to the appropriate request from each Congregation based on the understanding of the life of each Congregation
- (ii) authorise the General Secretary to approve the Communications Plan as referred to the General Secretary by the Budget Steering Committee
- (iii) request that the Communications Plan be tabled at the June SSC

**BUDGET
FY 2018**

Reference - Working Paper 3A

35/17SC

Resolved
That Synod Standing Committee
note the report

**UNITING
RESOURCES
REPORT**

Reference - Working Paper 4

36/17SC

Resolved
That Synod Standing Committee
note the report

**SYNOD OVERSIGHT
AND RISK
COMMITTEE**

Reference – Working Paper 5

37/17SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee (SSC)
approve the following SROC recommendations (superseding 3 February
2017 SSC Resolutions)

1. That SSC require:
 - (i) Wesley Community Services (WCS) to ensure that the Sanction Working Group meets more regularly to support the next stage of WCS reaccreditation process and post implementation;
 - (ii) Copies of the Sanction Working Group minutes are to be provided to SROC for review, comment on and observations and any recommendations to be included in SROC's reports to SSC in June 2017 and onwards (as directed by SSC);

- (iii) WCS to ensure that the Sanction Working Group reviews its Terms of Reference and ensure it provides for the extended work required by SSC and reporting undertakings to both WCS and Uniting Boards as well as to SROC;
 - (iv) SROC to review the amended Terms of Reference and recommend any changes to WCS and Uniting Boards;
 - (v) WCS to ensure that the Sanction Working Group can present a report on action taken and underway to SROC at its June 2017 meeting for SROC review and comment and/or recommendations;
 - (vi) The revised Terms of Reference to be endorsed by the WCS Board at its earliest convenience.
2. SSC requires WCS to prepare a more detailed 'root cause' analysis and a timeline of improvements to be in place and to be reviewed by WCS's Board for comment, directives and/or recommendations. SROC is to incorporate an update in its June 2017 report to SSC.
 3. SROC is to continue to report to SSC at each of its meetings until SSC is satisfied that outcomes and work completed can now be left for the WCS Board to report in their own capacity.

**LIFELINE
AUSTRALIA
UPDATE**

Reference Working Paper 11

38/17SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

notes the decision of Lifeline Northern Rivers, Lifeline Newcastle & Hunter, and Lifeline Central Coast to Lifeline Direct (supported by the decision of the Uniting board) to each transfer their operations to Lifeline Direct, subject to the following terms;

- (i) the Transaction can only occur when Lifeline Direct has been established, and endorsed as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) in order to be an eligible recipient of assets and operations under the respective and currently operating constitutions, but no later than 1 July 2017;
- (ii) the Transaction be subject to terms and conditions to be incorporated into the required Transaction documents (including, but not limited to, the Lifeline Direct Operational Framework and satisfactory lease terms being entered into for any real property held by the Property Trust);
- (iii) the Transaction will involve the transfer of all staff, volunteers, liabilities and assets of Lifeline Northern Rivers, Lifeline Newcastle & Hunter, and Lifeline Central Coast to Lifeline Direct. Such transfer will not include any real property of The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW);

- (iv) further work is to be undertaken to determine the future arrangements for the real property, including lease arrangements for the continued occupation of Lifeline Direct.

determines that:

- (i) to the extent that the Synod has authority to authorise the transaction in the absence of the relevant board being in a position to do so, then the Standing Committee delegates to Uniting the authority to authorise the transaction for the purpose of executing the agreement to give effect to the transaction;
- (ii) upon completion of the Transaction:
 - a. Lifeline Northern Rivers, Lifeline Newcastle & Hunter, and Lifeline Central Coast operations will cease to be recognised as an Institution of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod NSW and the ACT (as contemplated in the Regulations); and
 - b. the current constitutions and unincorporated bodies of Lifeline Northern Rivers, Lifeline Newcastle & Hunter, and Lifeline Central Coast will be wound up, contemplating that the role of current Board members will cease

**UNITING MISSION
AND EDUCATION
- UPDATES**

Reference Working Paper 10

39/17SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee
receive the report

(by agreement)

**GOVERNANCE
NOMINATION
AND REMUNERATION
COMMITTEE
(GNRC)**

Reference Working Paper 7

40/17SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) endorse the proposed changes to the composition of the Synod Standing Committee; (agreement) Refer Appendix B

and as a separate matter

- (ii) note that the process to be followed to identify the General Secretary will be based on interview and not JNC protocols

**ACTING
ASSOCIATE
SECRETARY
REPORT**

Reference Working Paper 8

41/17SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the report

**WALKING
ON BUNDJALUNG
COUNTRY**

42/17SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the presentation

RETIREMENTS

43/17SC

(a) Rev. Stephen De Plater

Reference – Presbytery letter dated 20 March, 2017

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the retirement of Rev. Stephen De Plater in accordance with Regulation
2.6.1(d)(i)(1) effective 31 December, 2017

44/17SC

(b) Rev. Darrell McKeough

Reference - letter dated 12 March, 2017 and email dated 29 March, 2017

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the retirement of Rev Darrell McKeough in accordance with
Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1) effective 3 September, 2017

45/17SC

(c) Rev. Mark Hillis

Reference – Letter dated 10 February, 2017

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee note the retirement of Rev. Mark Hillis in accordance with Regulation 2 6.1(d)(i)(1) effective 31 August, 2017

APPOINTMENTS

a) Wesley College Council

46/17SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee on the recommendation of the Uniting Mission and Education Board approve affirm the nomination of Ms Catherine Hallgath to the Wesley College Council

b) Synod 2017

47/17SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee appoint Mr Ian Lawrence as Returning Officer and Mr Scott Stanton as Assistant Returning Officer .

ADMISSION OF MINISTERS

Rev. Andrew Cunningham

48/17SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) note that the Rev. Andrew Cunningham has fulfilled all requirements as set by the Admission of Ministers Committee including the following studies;
 - a. THL 319 Uniting Church Studies
 - b. THL 230 Practice of Cross Cultural Ministry
 - c. A Literature Review on UCA Sexuality and Leadership Documents
 - d. Ethical Ministry
 - e. Cross Cultural Orientation
 - f. Living our Values
 - g. Polity 2
- (ii) endorse the recommendation received from the Admission of Ministers Committee that Rev. Andrew Cunningham be admitted as a Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia.

(iii) refer this application to the Assembly AOM for final approval for the recognition of Rev. Andrew Cunningham as a Minister of the Word of the Uniting Church in Australia.

ACTION ITEMS

Reference – Working Paper 9

49/17SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee note the report

LOCALLY MANAGED CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Reference – Working Paper 13

50/17SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee note the report

WESLEY COLLEGE

Reference – Working Paper 15

51/17SC

Resolved
That the Standing Committee approve the new By-Laws as proposed by Wesley College (refer Appendix A).

OBITUARIES

Mrs Margaret Goodwin, wife of Rev. Martin Goodwin tragically passed away 23 February 2017

CLOSE: 10.45am

NEXT MEETING: 2-3 June, 2017 at Centre for Ministry

.....
Chairperson

.....
Date

GNRC Proposal approved by Synod Standing Committee April 2017 Minute 40/17SC

While conceding there is no 'absolute science' attaching to the composition of SSC, GNRC has concluded that there would be benefit in recommending to the Synod that the structure and size of the SSC be varied along the following lines

Ex-Officio 8 -9

Moderator

Past Moderator

Moderator Elect - when position exists

General Secretary

Chairs of Synod Boards

Nominee of UAICC

Elected 12

12 persons by the Synod with no categorisation or qualification beyond the necessity to meet the requirements of the Regulations

In total the SSC would comprise 20 or 21 persons.

The By-Laws would specify that no presbytery may have more than 3 elected members.

Each person elected would be required to receive no less than 50% of the votes cast - as measured by the number of Synod members who actually voted.

Prior to the Synod meeting an 'Invitation to nominate for the SSC' would be published – including details of the likely skills and experience of SSC members together with background material on the role and responsibility and expectation of SSC members.

Interested persons would be required to lodge their Nomination form in advance of the Synod – thereby allowing for conversation between the Nominations Committee and each nominee. It would be intended to publicise the details of the SSC nominees on the Synod meeting 'App' in advance of the Synod meeting to assist the discernment by Synod members of the candidate pool.

Careful attention to the nature and extent of the published details should allow the Synod to make a discernment of the prospective SSC membership on an objective basis and without the necessity to rely upon quotas for individual categories of membership.