The Meeting was held at Trinity North Uniting Church, St Stephen's Worshipping Community, Duncraig on Saturday 04 November 2017.
**OPENING WORSHIP**

Des Lawson led the meeting in an Acknowledgement of past and present elders and owners of the land on which we gathered to meet.

Trinity North provided a music team to lead the meeting in worship beginning with the hymn ‘We Come to Celebrate’.

Lay preacher Dr Phil Ridden led the meeting in prayer before reflecting on the 40th anniversary theme ‘All of this is us’ and Paul’s Letter to Philemon. He reminded us that as pilgrims we all carry with us assorted baggage accumulated along the way. Those present were invited to think about their different communities, to reflect on the memories, the issues and the future; to be comfortable with acknowledging how we got to be where we are, to accept the journey for what it had been, accepting all that we have been, all that we are and all that we hope to be, individually and corporately. The opening worship was concluded with the hymn ‘We all bow down’.

Bob Hunt, Chairperson of the Trinity North Church Council, gave a brief history of the Trinity North Congregation. Trinity North began in 2011 with a vision that the Carine, Duncraig and Greenwood congregations would work together, along with St Stephen’s School, to fulfil the church’s mission in that area. As a single congregation with three worshipping communities, the average attendance at services ranged from 20 to 120. Rev Brian Thorpe and Rev Karama Ioapa, one serving at Duncraig and the other at Greenwood, led the community through a time of tensions and challenges as they sought to operate in a more united manner and to develop a common direction and focus. Later it was agreed to combine the two smaller (Duncraig and Carine) worshipping communities into one from 1 January 2017. Today the Trinity North Worshipping Community find themselves in a better place, with a successful youth group meeting on Sunday morning to discuss issues of faith, and plans to start a Messy Church in 2018. It is also with great pleasure they look forward to welcoming a new minister, Rev David Kriel, to guide their mission into the future.

**TABLE DISCUSSION ON CONGREGATIONS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES HOPES AND STRUGGLES OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS**

Members broke into small groups to discuss their congregations’ hopes and struggles over the past six months with a few sharing those experiences with the wider meeting.
CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

PROPOSAL I - BUSINESS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 1/2017/1104

The Presbytery of Western Australia (WA) resolved by consensus to:

1. Adopt the Order of Business.

2. Note that Rev Lorraine Stokes, Rev Bev Fabb, Rev Steve Francis, Bruce Wilson, Maggie Johns, Rev Dr Ian Tozer, are the Business Committee members.

3. Appoint Frances Stanley as Minute Taker.

4. Appoint Cindy Gorton as Screen Manager supported by Matt O'Donohue and Alice Boomer on IT.

5. Appoint Bruce Wilson as Timekeeper.

6. Appoint Alice Boomer and Amanda Badenhorst as First Aid Officers.

7. Appoint Margaret Martin as Convener of the Nominating Committee for the ballots, with Tom Stokes as Chief Scrutineer and Maree Kemp as administrative support.


9. Note that the Presbytery Standing Committee will be responsible for the confirmation of the minutes.

10. Re-affirm the membership of the Presbytery to include confirmed members appointed by bodies who are under the oversight of the Presbytery.

Proposal 1A – Remote and Regional Participation via Zoom

RESOLUTION 2/2017/1104

The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to:

- accept members participating in the meeting via Zoom, to be a part of the discernment process and accepting their right to indicate their responses and to vote.

- Such members must gather in the presence of at least one other member of Presbytery.

- nominate Rev Dr Ian Tozer as the person to receive and pass on the results of any secret ballot of Zoom participants to ballot scrutineers (0408 943 685).
SECRETARY OF PRESBYTERY REPORT – REV DR IAN TOZER
Special thanks were offered to Rev Mark Illingworth for producing the ‘Anticipated Demographics and Placement of WA Ministry Agents by February 2018’ (attachment 5) and the ‘Average Sunday Attendance of 4100 people in 2016’ (attachment 6)

RESOLUTION 3/2017/1104
The Presbytery resolved by consensus to receive the Secretary of Presbytery’s Report.

PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE REPORTS
The Presbytery received and discussed the reports separately (Attachment 2).

1. Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) – Rev Dr Ian Tozer
This report mentioned the request for a Presidential Ruling and it was reported that it was likely that a decision would come by the end of the following week.

RESOLUTION 4/2017/1104
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to receive the Presbytery Standing Committee Report.

Proposal 2 – Presbytery meeting dates for 2018
A rationale was offered to support changing from Saturday 10 November 2018 to Saturday 13 October 2018 as this is the Centenary Anniversary of the First World War Armistice.

The Uniting Church Assembly resolved, in 1982, to acknowledge that God came in a crucified and risen Christ to make peace; that Christ called all Christians to be peacemakers and affirmed that the Uniting Church was committed to being a peacemaking body seeking to follow the Lord of the Church by encouraging political authorities to resolve political tensions by peaceful means.

In line with that call, the Social Justice Commission and CEDAL had been working together to organise a conference on peacemaking on the weekend of November 10/11 2018. An invitation had been extended to the President-Elect (who would be President at that time), Dr Deidre Palmer to be a keynote speaker and it was understood she was hopeful of attending that event, and with a view to speaking on the issue of domestic violence.

A suggestion to designate the second meeting of the year as the Annual Meeting was noted and would be forwarded to Church Law Committee for consideration.

RESOLUTION 5/2017/1104
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus
1. to meet on Saturday 10 February 2018;
2. to meet in on Saturday 16 June 2018 and, notwithstanding the current Rules, determines that this be the designated Annual Meeting of the Presbytery for 2018;
3. to meet on Saturday 13 October 2018;
4. that the Presbytery Standing Committee continue to explore how the Presbytery will fulfil its responsibilities with a view to it meeting four times a year from 2019.
RESOLUTION 6/20171104
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus for the Presbytery Standing Committee to come to the February 2018 meeting with four proposed dates for the 2019 calendar year.

2. Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) – Role of the Presbytery – Travis Windsor

Feedback from the meeting reflected a desire to see a more holistic perspective of the relationship between Synod and Presbytery in the report; one that acknowledged the manner in which Presbytery and Synod collaborate in many areas of the work in WA, such as the Moderator’s role in relationship to the Congregations and the work of the Presbytery, ecumenical relationships, social responsibility and justice and the work of the Congress as the church sought to fulfill its covenant relationship with the First Peoples. It was reported that there are plans for a fuller report with proposals about the structures and relationships between the councils (Synod and Presbytery) to the Presbytery in June 2018.

RESOLUTION 7/20171104
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to receive the report on the Role of the Presbytery.

Proposal 2A – Role of the Presbytery

RESOLUTION 8/20171104
The Presbytery of WA approved by consensus to note the purpose and responsibilities of a Presbytery and to encourage the Presbytery Standing Committee to continue its work with the Synod Standing Committee and bring necessary proposals to the next Presbytery meeting for its consideration.

3. Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) – Rev Trevor Waters and Rev Mark Illingworth

Acknowledgement and thanks were extended to the members of the committee for all their work. It was also noted that on page 2 of the report Ps Karen Sloan is the 0.5FTE of the Wembley Downs Uniting Church not the Wembley Uniting Church.

Section 5 – Sacraments/Marriage Celebrants, page 4, refers to only those who have qualified since the last Presbytery Meeting. It is not an exhaustive list of all qualified in that congregation. Members were also reminded that The Church Council of the church where the newly qualified person attends must advise the name of the person who has newly qualified to the PRC in writing; approval is then given and the person can be formally added to the records.

With the call of Rev Corina van Oostende to the Albany Regional Council, with effect from 1 January 2018, the congregation requested information on the induction.

RESOLUTION 9/20171104
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to receive the Pastoral Relations Committee Report.
Proposal 3 – Swanbourne Uniting Church

RESOLUTION 10/20171104
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus

1. that the Swanbourne Congregation be dissolved under Reg 3.4.3. by 31 December 2017 because they can no longer fulfil the purpose, functions and responsibilities required of a congregation under Reg. 3.1.1.

2. to give thanks with deep gratitude for the faithful worship, mission and service of the people of Swanbourne Congregation;

3. that the PRC, on behalf of Presbytery, be authorised to approve details as per Reg 3.4.3 (d)
   (i) that each member and adherent of the Congregation is transferred to a roll of another Congregation;
   (ii) that all rolls and other records of the Congregation are placed in the custody of an appropriate officer of the Church; and
   (iii) that the dissolution of the congregation is reported to the Synod of WA.

4. to refer to the Presbytery Property Committee the matter of making proper arrangements to deal with any property affected and that these be reported to the Synod of WA.

The meeting was advised that the concluding service is planned for Sunday 10 December at 2.00pm and the final service on Christmas Day.


Highlights reported included the inaugural Mission Shaped Ministry Course ecumenically presented in the South West, enjoyed and appreciated by the 23 participants. There are now plans to expand the offering of this course to other areas of Presbytery in 2018. With thanks to Dr Adam McIntosh from Port Phillip West Presbytery, SMPC presented three goals to the Presbytery and with a view to discussing their implementation process at the next Presbytery meeting in February 2018. Rev McKane, on behalf of the SMPC and Presbytery, extended appreciation and thanks to Rev David Kriel for his time and work with the Committee and as Mission Planner for the Presbytery, wishing him the very best in his new ministry with Trinity North Uniting Church.

RESOLUTION 11/20171104
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to receive the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee Report.

Proposal 4 SMPC
The meeting agreed to vote on the three items listed in proposal 4 separately.

Item 1.
After discussion, clarification was sought on what it actually meant to endorse the goals under item 1. An amendment proposing the Presbytery of WA note the three Mission-Focused Strategic Goals as those of the SMPC and approve further discussion, with a view to aligning those goals with the Presbytery’s existing Strategic Directions, at the next Presbytery meeting on Saturday 10 February, was presented.
RESOLUTION 12/20171104  
The Presbytery of WA resolved by agreement not to ‘endorse the Mission-Focused Strategic Goals as only those of the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee’.

Further discussion led to the proposal being presented in an amended form.

RESOLUTION 13/20171104  
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to

1.  a) note the Mission-Focused Strategic Goals
   i) by developing fresh expressions of church,
   ii) through deliberate, wise and prayerful mission planning and
   iii) by working to be part of, and creating collaborative networks of communities of faith.

   b) hold a Presbytery Meeting on Saturday 10 February 2018 with the major focus of business to be to engage with the Mission-Focused Strategic Goals, with a view to strategically incarnating them in the life of the Presbytery.

Item 2.

RESOLUTION 14/20171104  
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus and acclamation to

2. note the Placement of the Rev. David Kriel to Trinity North Uniting Church from 01 February 2018 and thank him for the many years of faithful service to the church and to wish him God’s richest blessings in his new Placement at Trinity North Uniting Church.

Item 3

Arising from questions were concerns about the shrinking size of the church, the expense of employing another person for this role, and the size of church office. It was noted that the cost of the Mission Planner had already been factored in and approved in the budget for the next three years. Additional money was not being spent and there was no change of costs.

RESOLUTION 15/20171104  
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to

3. note that as a consequence there was a vacancy for the position of Mission Planner in the Presbytery, and taking into consideration the important stage at which the Presbytery is at in terms of developing its Strategic Plan,
   a) to create a Placement for a Presbytery Minister (Mission) for an initial period of five years as from 2018;
   b) request that the Placement be considered a Priority Placement in terms of the Regulation 2.6.4; and
   c) request the Placements Commission (in collaboration with SMPC) to proceed with the filling of this Placement as a matter of great importance and urgency.
5. **Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership – Rev Bev Fabb and Rev Dr John Squires**

Corrections in the membership of the Committee were noted. The Pastor position is not vacant and is occupied by John Tomkins. Dorothy Hortin has resigned and Randy Salmon is a member of CEDAL.

**RESOLUTION 16/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA *resolved by consensus* to receive the Committee for Education for Discipleship and Leadership Report.

6. **Presbytery Property Committee – Stephen Larkin**

Rev Stephen Larkin, Convener, apologized for no written report being available. He noted that there were comments about the work of the Property Committee in the Secretary of Presbytery’s report.

The Committee had experienced very limited powers up until October 2017, as the Synod needed to confirm that the previously-referred powers of the Presbytery needed confirmation by the Synod. Things are now different. At the last meeting held in September, the Committee remained mindful that it needed to wait for the powers to come back to the Presbytery and that they needed more people with expertise on the committee.

Since 2006, most property issues had been dealt with by a committee that operated under the oversight of the Synod Resources Board. Finding a new way of operating will now be clarified by the Committee.

A number of chairpersons of the various Presbytery Committees had been gathering and a meeting of all the Chairpersons of Committees has been held. The Property Committee sees its relationship with the SMPC as particularly important for making good decisions for the church.

There are vacancies on the Property Committee and enquiries should be forward to Rev Stephen Larkin. The Committee needs membership with knowledge of property as well as those with a heart for mission and how property can be used in mission.

**RESOLUTION 17/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA *resolved by consensus* to receive the report of the Property Committee.

7. **Congregational Community Services Committee – Yvonne Robinson and Ian Passmore**

An amendment in the membership was noted. John Talbert is no longer on the committee. The committee also wished to recognise the work John did in his years as the Chairperson, also serving on the Synod Task Force for the Royal Commission.

**RESOLUTION 18/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA *resolved by consensus* to receive the Congregational Community Services Committee Report.
Proposal 10

**RESOLUTION 19/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to recognise John Talbert for his many years of service and commitment to the Congregational Community Services Committee.

8. Candidates for Ministries Committee (CMC) – Rev Anne McAndrew

It was noted in the report that one person doing a period of discernment is going before the selection panel. Since then the selection panel has accepted that person as a candidate. He will commence next year.

The need to develop a greater ‘culture of call’ within the Presbytery of WA was emphasised. The Scriptures state that God always raises up people to serve in different areas and so there is a need to really seek out and identify people who God actually is calling.

It was noted that the period of discernment is useful not only for those who exploring a call to ordained ministry but also those called to ministries in congregations and the wider church (including the specified ministry of lay preaching).

**RESOLUTION 20/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to receive the Candidates for Ministries Committee Report.

Proposal 5 – Chairperson (CMC)

It was noted that the Presbytery itself appoints the chairs of its committees.

**RESOLUTION 21/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus and acclamation to appoint Moira Mathie as the Chair of the Candidates for the Ministries Committee.

Proposal 6 – Thanks to Rev Anne McAndrew for serving as Chairperson.

**RESOLUTION 22/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus and acclamation to thank Rev Anne McAndrew for her service as Chair of the Candidates for the Ministries Committee (CMC), particularly in the period during which a new chair for the CMC was sought.

9. Rural Ministry Committee – Yuko Tonai-Moore and Rev Ruth Vertigan

The Committee reported a desire to work with other Committees and saw Rev Ruth Vertigan in her role at the Uniting Church Centre as a key person to help to ensure this – now and in the future, particularly when it came to interacting with the Chairpersons of the other Committees.

**RESOLUTION 23/20171104**
The Presbytery of WA resolved by consensus to receive the Rural Ministry Committee Report.
10. **Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Ministries Committee – Rev Nalin Perera and Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho**

   **RESOLUTION 24/20171104**
   The Presbytery of WA **resolved by consensus** to receive the Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Ministries Committee Report.

11. **WA Synod Task Group for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

   The report dealt with issues that should not just be noted in the media. Church Safe practices need to be embedded in the Church and we need to incarnate the calling we have as followers of Jesus Christ.

   Safe Church training is something that all Presbytery members need to consider undertaking and to encourage other leaders to do the same. The Royal Commission is due to report later in the year and there is a need to be aware and remain as sensitive as possible to the needs of those who may be affected by those findings.

   **RESOLUTION 25/20171104**
   The Presbytery of WA **resolved by consensus** to receive the report from the WA Synod Task Group for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

12. **Nominating Committee (refer Secretary Report)**

13. **Church Law (refer Secretary’s Report)**

14. **Liturgy Committee (refer Secretary’s Report)**

15. **Candidates for Ministries Committee – Rev Anne McAndrew**

   **Proposal 7 – Ordination of Maria Sophia Lizares – Rev Anne McAndrew**

   Sophie shared her journey of discovery and growth in the formation programme for candidates and thanked the Uniting Church for the many fine models of ministry that she had been exposed to over her time. She expressed appreciation and joy at the sage advice and experience shared with her by Rev Luke Williams, Rev Cathie Lambert, Rev Alan Jeffrey and Rev Emma Matthews. Ministry was indeed an amazing privilege and the life-experience she felt she bought to it had helped prepare her to understand and see that theology is necessarily contextual, embodied and liberating. Sophie heard her call to the ministry of Deacon as one which provides pastoral, prophetic and missional leadership in the context of a multifaith, multicultural Australia. She walks mindfully remembering the words “ .... to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God ....” [Micah (6: 8)], and Jesus’s call “ .... to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22: 37)
RESOLUTION 26/20171104

A secret ballot was conducted and the Presbytery agreed to the ordination of Maria Sophia Lizares as a Deacon, subject to obtaining a Certificate of Completion of Studies and being called to a placement.

16. **Uniting Generations - Intergenerational Ministry Model Presentation**

Janine McDonald (First Third Officer), David Beards (Committee Chairperson) and Rev Luke Williams, (Committee Member and Minister of the Word (MOW) at The Billabong Uniting Church) presented the report.

A video produced by New Life Uniting Church on the Gold Coast for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the UCA, ‘Who is the Real Uniting Church’, (written by Michael Hands and Craig Hindman and performed by James Hunt) exhorted and challenged the meeting to remember their confession and continually develop and empower the next generation of believers (https://vimeo.com/239210351).

Intergenerational ministry, as defined by Beth Barnett, refers to “the practice of facilitating, boosting and celebrating the shared life and connections of all and any generation, together in ways that disempower generational divisions.”

The new model emphasised the concept of local champions, people with a passion for intergenerational ministry – lay and ordained – who might be volunteers in the local context, youth leaders, chaplains and pastors who were integral to building a network of collaborators. The Presbytery would seek to equip and resource these champions in a way that would facilitate growth and expansion of the collaborative network that constituted the intergenerational model.

In supporting the growth and expansion of a Christian community for everyone, the focus was redirected back to those making up congregations and worshipping communities as the people of God in the Presbytery, and the gifts they brought.

Growth came from the level of interaction and not from a particular model or program. With a limited amount of support from at least 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) Ministry Agent or Placement, the bulk of the work would happen in relationship with the locally-identified champions in particular, and across the congregations, committees and other community groups more generally.

The concrete intergenerational ministry goals, however, needed to be formed and activated alongside one another and in Christian community for everyone with one another and would provide the focus for the subsequent table group discussion.

In summary, the focus on each person to make that difference was integral to the concept underpinning the new model.

(Reference song by Needtobreathe entitled, ‘Difference maker’ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2LtB9Klf98]).
17. **TABLE GROUPS DISCUSSION**

The question considered in the table groups was

- What should the goals of intergenerational ministry for the Presbytery be?

Feedback from this discussion will be given back to the ‘First Third’ Committee for further consideration and development.

**Proposal 8 – New Intergenerational Ministry Model**

During discussion an amendment was proposed to include in (b) of the proposal the approved budget term for the 1.0 FTE appointment of three years.

**RESOLUTION 27/20171104**

The Presbytery of Western Australia **resolved by consensus** to approve

a) the implementation of the Presbytery of WA Intergenerational Ministry Model (Uniting Generations), and

b) the placement of the 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) ministry position for the Presbytery of WA Intergenerational Ministry Model for three years.

18. **BALLOT FOR ASSEMBLY**

The Nominating Convener, Margaret Martin, outlined the process for completing the ballot for the two Presbytery members (one lay and one ordained) to attend Assembly in 2018. A profile of the three ministerial members nominated was distributed. As there was only one lay nomination, a ballot for that position was not required and the nominee was declared to be elected.

**RESOLUTION 28/20171104**

After a secret ballot, Rev Cathie Lambert was elected as the Presbytery of Western Australia ordained member of the 15th Assembly in 2018.

19. **Proposal 9 – Nomination for the position of President-Elect of the Assembly**

Rev Steve Francis and Rev Bev Fabb spoke to the proposal calling for the nomination of Rev Dr Apwee Ting for the position of President-Elect of the Assembly.

Both outlined briefly the importance of the decision that is made every three years to appoint a national representation for the Uniting Church in Australia and their experience of Rev Dr Apwee Ting in bringing the proposal that the Presbytery nominate him for the role of President-Elect.

It is appropriate and timely that the church begins to think more seriously about leaders in the church who come from Multicultural backgrounds. Apwee was a gifted person able to minister across the many complex, cultural, racial, linguist and theological divides within the church and the wider community. He was a warm, pastoral, gentle and gracious person, a gifted preacher and theologian, with broad experience of how the church worked in congregations and at Assembly level.
In recent years Apwee has worked nationally in promoting cross-cultural and multicultural ministry. He was committed to the Uniting Church and had a deep respect for its theology and polity. He was aware of the church’s diversity both culturally and theologically, being one of the architects of the ‘Space for Grace’ Project which had enabled the church to have a respectful conversation about marriage.

He has a consultative leadership style and has agreed to allow his name to be brought forward for nomination because he respected the discernment processes of the church. He was commended as a person with the character, experience and competency to take on this very complex and demanding role as President-Elect.

**RESOLUTION 29/20171104**
The Presbytery approved by consensus to nominate Rev Dr Apwee Ting for the position of President-Elect of the Assembly.

20. **NOTE OF APPRECIATION – SECRETARY OF PRESBYTERY**

**RESOLUTION 27/20171104**
The Presbytery recorded its thanks to

- Des Lawson as Chair of Congress for his Acknowledgement of Country
- the Trinity North Uniting Church music team for leading us in worship
- Dr Phil Ridden for his opening words celebrating the 40th Anniversary theme of ‘All of this is us.’
- the Trinity North Uniting Church, both Greenwood and St Stephen’s Worshipping Communities, for supporting our meeting; in particular Bob Hunt, Heather Hamblin, Robert King, Lorraine Paul and other volunteers
- to the people from the office, Maree Kemp, Amanda Badenhorst, Justine Woodward, Alice Boomer, Cindy Gorton and Frances Stanley
- Bruce Wilson for timekeeping
- Kalo Fotu, Rev Lesley de Grussa and Rev Hannes Halgryn for serving as our Chaplains
- St Stephen’s School for enabling us to meet in the location; in particular expressing thanks to Helen Forgie, Suzanne Wiles and Debbie Schutte
- Maggie Johns and Elsa Samuel for providing media coverage and the production of the Special Edition of the Presbytery News and Notes
- all who serve as chairs, convenors and members of Presbytery committees and bodies
- Rev Lorraine Stokes, as Chairperson of the Presbytery

21. **Closing worship and prayer**

Rev Lorraine Stokes and Charles Babalola led the meeting in the closing worship, a prayer and meditation based on Psalm 100.
In accordance with the Rules ("P2.2.6 The Presbytery Standing Committee shall confirm the minutes of Presbytery Meetings"), the Standing Committee of the Presbytery of Western Australia confirmed these Minutes to be a true record of the meeting held on 04 November 2017 at Trinity North Uniting Church, St Stephen’s Worshipping Community, Duncraig.

Chairperson of Presbytery  ___________________________

Rev Lorraine Stokes

Secretary of Presbytery  ___________________________

Rev Dr Ian Tozer