



**The Uniting Church in Australia  
Western Australia**

**The Minutes  
of  
The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the  
Synod of Western Australia**

**8 – 10 September 2017**

**“DEEP AND WIDE”**

Ephesians 3:17 - 18

These Minutes record events and the business of those commissions and bodies which relate to the Synod of Western Australia.

The Opening Worship was conducted at Uniting Church in the City, Ross Memorial, corner Hay and Colin Street, West Perth at 7.00pm on Friday, 8 September 2017 and the business sessions of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Synod, were conducted at Scotch College on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 2017.

## **PART I CONSTITUTION**

### **1/2017 CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING OF SYNOD**

The Synod meeting was constituted by an act of public worship at 7.00pm on Friday 8 September with a congregation of approximately 150 people. The choir and musicians of the GKI (Indonesian) Uniting Church assisted the singing.

Mitchell Garlett from the Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) Regional Committee welcomed the Synod to country on behalf of the Wadjuk people of the Noongar nation.

Psalm 36:5 -10 was read by Wesley College student, Darcy Roden in English. Ephesians 3:14-21 was read in Korean by Rev David Park of the Korean Uniting Church, and Matthew 5:43 - 48 was read by Methodist Ladies' College student, Liesel Hool, in English.

Rev Cordelia Gunawan, Deputy General Secretary of the Indonesian Christian Church (GKI) Regional Synod of West Java, preached on the theme of the Synod, Deep and Wide, noting that God's love is untransactional, unconditional and unlimited.

The outgoing Moderator for the period 2014-2017, Rev Steve Francis, returned the symbols of office to the General Secretary. Rev Ken Williams then proceeded to install Rev Steve Francis as Moderator for the period 2017-2020, noting that this was not an extension of term as Moderator, but rather that one term had ended and a new term had begun.

Representatives of Uniting Church schools, First Third Ministry, UnitingCare West, UnitingCare Forum, Multicultural Ministry, Rural Ministry, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Social Justice Commission and congregations each brought forward a candle and offered prayers.

The service closed with the congregation joining in the prayer for the Uniting Church Western Australia written by the incoming Moderator, Rev Steve Francis.

*God of grace and truth,  
renew and revive your church.*

*Deepen our love for you and others.*

*Broaden our love for our church, our neighbours,  
and your mission in the world.*

*Holy Spirit breathe new life into us.*

*In the name of Christ who loves us beyond measure.*

*Amen.*

## **PART 2 WELCOME & DEVOTIONS**

### **2/2017 MODERATOR'S WELCOME**

At the first business session introductions and preliminary comments were made by the Moderator, Rev Steve Francis. He welcomed all members to the 41<sup>st</sup> Synod, and the fourth to be held at Scotch College.

### **3/2017 DEVOTIONS AND BIBLE STUDY**

The Moderator introduced Rev Claire Pickering, who was recently ordained as a Minister of the Word, to open the business meeting with devotions based on John 15:1-10.

Rev Gary van Heerden led devotions on Saturday evening, prior to the conversation on marriage, reflecting on different psychological theories of identity.

Music was provided by Rev Greg Ross, Rev Craig Collas, Rev Narelle Collas and Dr Elaine Ledgerwood.

Dr Deirdre Palmer, Uniting Church in Australia president-elect led the Bible study on Ephesians 3:14-21 on Saturday reminding Synod members that God's love knows no bounds. She said that it is out of the deep, wide, strong and powerful love of God that we engage in God's mission. On Sunday, she reflected on the mystery of Christ – the theme of the first three characters of the book of Ephesians, as well as encouragement and God's power.

#### 4/2017 **WELCOME TO COUNTRY**

Mitchell Garlett officiated at a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony and welcomed the Synod to the country of the Wadjuk Clan of the Noongar nation. He explained that the ceremony required that those present walk through the smoke from the burning of leaves of a red gum tree. This was for physical healing of those who were unwell, and also for the healing of the spirit.

#### 5/2017 **GENERAL SECRETARY'S WELCOME**

General Secretary, Rev David de Kock welcomed Assembly President, Stuart McMillan. Also Moderator, Rev Sheph Davidy Jonazh, and Deputy General Secretary, Rev Cordelia Gunawan of (GKI Regional Synod of West Java), who would be signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Synods; President Elect, Dr Deirdre Palmer, who was to lead the Bible studies; Margaret Pedler, Chair of Uniting Church Adult Fellowship; Jessica Morthorpe of the Five Leaf Eco Awards; and leaders in schools and agencies.

He thanked the Synod Staff for their diligence in preparation, and the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Group for the provision of morning tea. Also, the Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Alan Jeffrey, Synod Chaplains, Rev Claire Pickering and Rev Gary van Heerden. He noted that Robert Watson and Cindy Gorton were also available for assistance on matters of child sexual abuse.

Kalo Fotu and Amanda Badenhorst were the First Aiders for the Synod meeting.

Everyone was informed of general housekeeping matters.

### **PART 3 MODERATOR'S REPORT**

6/2017 Rev Ken Williams, Past Moderator took the chair for the Moderator's report.

The Moderator, Rev Steve Francis, presented his report, noting that over the last three years, he had seen much faith, hope and love as he visited with many congregations and faith communities in suburban, rural and remote areas, schools and colleges and agencies, sharing his theme 'Towards healing and wholeness through faith, hope and love'. He thanked the Synod for the confidence in electing him for a second term and thanked a number of people, including his wife, Rev Kim Francis.

He spoke on the Moderatorial theme for the next triennium 2017-2020, Deep and Wide, noting that his hope and prayer was that our faith in Christ and our appreciation of what it means to be part of the body of Christ and the mission of God will deepen and broaden. He urged members to go deeper in prayer and the exploration of Scripture, and wider in the understanding of what it means to be the church and part of a secular society. He also said that we should go deeper into discipleship and mission, and wider in our practice of worship and witness. He encouraged all to:

1. "Turn-up" to worship services, Synod and Presbytery events, and to never underestimate the ministry of presence;
2. "Tune-in" to listen to the Spirit to hear what God is saying to the Church; and
3. "Take-care" of ourselves, for others and to seek rest, renew and refreshment.

Above all, our love must be genuine. (Romans 12:9).

At the conclusion of his report, Rev Steve Francis received a standing ovation as acknowledgement of his faithful service to the Uniting Church Western Australia as Moderator from 2014 to 2017.

## **PART 4 BUSINESS SESSION**

### **7/2017 REPORTS**

The Synod **agreed by consensus** to receive the following reports:

- Moderator
- Synod Standing Committee  
(with the following amendment – remove the words Constitution Tranby College from Para 2.7 Church Law)
- Nominating Committee
- Covenanting Commission
- Methodist Ladies College
- Penrhos Ladies College
- Scotch College
- Presbyterian Ladies College
- Tranby College
- St Stephen's School
- Wesley College
- Trinity Residential College
- UnitingCare WA Forum
- Good Samaritan Industries
- Juniper
- UnitingCare West
- Uniting Church Adult Fellowship WA
- Beananging Kwuurt Institute
- Presbytery of Western Australia
- Perth College of Divinity
- General Secretary
- Resources Commission
- Property Trust
- Royal Commission Task Group
- Ecumenical Affairs
- Placements Commission
- Committee for Counselling
- Bridging Entities
- Uniting Church Archives Research Centre
- Pastoral Network of Evangelicals Uniting in Mission Action (PNEUMA)
- UnitingWorld WA
- Social Justice
- Church Law

### **8/2017 PRESENTATIONS**

#### **I. National Uniting Church Adult Fellowship**

Margaret Pedler, National Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Chairperson spoke on 'Who we are and where we fit'. She said that the UCAF has links at all levels of the church, from local groups, to Synod, Assembly and internationally as a voting member of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. The purpose of UCAF is to communicate and share God's love within the church family and to those outside the church. The motivation behind UCAF is for the purpose of serving and giving. Therefore, UCAF gives special attention to the

following major areas of ministry:

- providing fellowship opportunities for men and women of all ages and ensuring that those with pastoral care needs are given priority.
- encouraging one another to recognise, develop and use their gifts in ministries of service.
- stimulating one another in spiritual growth and discipleship.
- developing an awareness of the importance of faith sharing in local communities and nationally.
- providing a network for adult groups within the Uniting Church.

## 2. Covenanting Commission

Des Lawson and Rev Steve Francis, Co-Chairs of the Covenanting Commission presented their report to the Synod, encouraging members to think seriously about how their congregations, schools and agencies could get involved in covenanting. They encouraged members to get involved in events which support this covenantal relationship, such as Sorry Day, held each year on 26 May. The report also mentioned collaborations with the Bringing Them Home Committee WA, Reconciliation WA and Social Reinvestment WA, as well as involvement in various social justice campaigns.

## 3. Assembly

Stuart McMillan, President of the Uniting Church in Australia presented the Assembly Report noting some of the work of the Assembly.

- 40 Days of Prayer to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church was a time to revisit who we are and where we go together.
- The President's National Conference in Darwin which addressed the matter of sovereignty for First Peoples; recognising those who were here first and seeking a new way for us to occupy the land together.
- The work on a revised Climate Statement was underway.
- The commitment of the Uniting Church to work with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

## 4. Uniting Church Schools

The General Secretary, Rev David de Kock presented a report on behalf of the seven Uniting Church Schools in Western Australia: MLC, Penrhos College, PLC, Scotch College, St Stephen's School, Tranby College and Wesley College, as well as Trinity Residential College and Conference Centre, which provides accommodation and conference facilities near the University of Western Australia.

He noted that the Moderator had sought to build closer relationships with the schools and had convened a Schools Forum in March to address the Uniting Church appearance before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, noting the processes now in place to ensure that we avoid, as far as we are possibly able, any child sexual abuse in the future. A second Forum was planned for November with a focus on Christian spirituality and worship in our schools. Nationally, Dr Alec O'Connell, Scotch College headmaster and the General Secretary will attend the National Schools Consultative Forum, a gathering of those involved in Uniting Church Schools, to share wisdom and to develop working relationships, to be held in Adelaide in October.

In the 2017 reports, the schools focused on the way they are contributing to the mission of God by addressing Guideline 1 of the National Education Charter of the Uniting Church focusing on 'A Theology of Education' which highlighted examples of how our schools are holding fast to their ethos as Christian schools and as Uniting

Church schools.

“The Uniting Church is preparing thousands of Western Australian leaders for the future. This has been a driving force in the initiatives this past year, and will be, in the years to come, to foster an even closer relationship between the Church and the schools.”

5. UnitingCare Agencies

Amanda Hunt, the new CEO of UnitingCare West, presented a report on behalf of the three caring agencies in WA, noting that they stand with the Church in serving the community in the areas of age care, homelessness, disability and many other areas of community need.

6. Strategic Plan

The General Secretary, Rev David de Kock, presented the Strategic Plan for the Synod 2017-2020 which had been in preparation over the past sixteen months and had been approved by the Synod Standing Committee in August 2017. He thanked the many people who had contributed to its development, and in particular, the members of the Strategic Advisory Group comprising representatives of the Church, schools and agencies.

The Strategic Plan builds on the four Strategic Directions agreed in 2015: open communication; faith formation and faith sharing; training for ministry leadership; and community engagement.

The three main drivers for the Strategic Plan are: resourcing and strengthening our congregational footprint mainly through community engagement; education and training for ministry leadership; and creating a missional approach to resource management.

The Plan anticipates the development of Networks of Collaborating Communities which could comprise congregations, schools, agencies, commissions or other focus groups, which would reach out to re-engage communities with the work of the gospel.

Training in new ways of ministry leadership was already underway with new initiatives under the guidance of the Director of Education and Formation.

Rev de Kock explained that Resource Management was critical and that a new Foundation Trust will be established, with a corpus of \$20 million. Approximately \$1 million will be made available each year for the purpose of

1. new work,
2. revitalisation of existing work and
3. education and training.

Applications for funding projects in these fields can be made to a Council of Mission who will discern the long-term viability of each Collaborating Community project. The Strategy and Mission Planning Committee (SMPC) would continue to be able to make grants for individual mission projects. There is no provision for funding ministry agents in the SMPC grants. Initially, the Plan will bring the Uniting Church WA into a budget deficit in 2018 and this would be funded from the Synod Fund.

A Senior Property Manager will be appointed to oversee the strategic use of property. The Presbytery Property Committee has also been reformed to be the interface between church councils and the Resources Commission.

The Strategic Plan was met with applause from the members of Synod, and congratulated on its innovation.

The Synod endorsed the Strategic Plan as presented and agreed to review it at the next meeting of the Synod.

The opportunity to discuss the Strategic Plan in table groups was lost because of a

lack of time.

The General Secretary suggested that Synod members take the Strategic Plan (flyer, Powerpoint and Discussion Guidelines) back to their congregations for discussion. These resources would be made available on the Synod website.

#### 7. Budget Presentation

Resources Board chair, Rev John Dunn presented the Uniting Church Western Australia's first 'mission shaped' budget for 2018 with a projected operating deficit of \$1.426 million.

He acknowledged that the budget has been framed around the WA Synod Strategic Plan which calls for a considerable injection of funds towards implementing the Strategic Plan. This is achievable due to funds made available to the Synod from the sale of its former church centre, Westminster House.

"The underlying deficit to this budget, after acknowledging the new initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan, is in line with expectations and still shows a deficit, slightly less than budgeted for in 2017."

The Chief Financial Officer, Michael Patchell, spoke to the detail of the budget and noted that the Synod expects to move to three-year rolling budgets from Synod 2018 with the aim to achieve a balanced budget as soon as practical.

It was **agreed by consensus** to adopt the budget as presented. (See Proposal 5 below).

### **PROPOSALS**

#### 9/2017 **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

##### **PROPOSAL I**

The Synod agreed by consensus to:

1. Adopt the Order of Business and the timetable, noting that decisions to vary the order of business and timetable can be taken by the Synod at any time.
2. Approve the roll of members (See 2017 Synod Membership List).
3. Approve the following persons as members of the Business Committee for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia: Rev Steve Francis (Moderator), Rev David de Kock (General Secretary), Rev Dr Ian Tozer, Rev Bev Fabb, Rev Lorraine Stokes and Maggie Johns.
4. Appoint Ms Justine Woodward as Minute Secretary.
5. Appoint Mr Bruce Wilson as Timekeeper.
6. Appoint Ms Cindy Gorton as Screen Manager
7. Authorise the following persons to confirm the minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> Synod: Rev David de Kock, Ms Margaret Johnston, Rev Bev Fabb and Ms Maggie Johns.
8. Appoint Ms Margaret Martin as Returning Officer and Ms Maree Kemp as Assistant Returning Officer;
  - a. appoint Ms Margaret Martin, Rev David de Kock, Rev Dr Ian Tozer, Tom Stokes, Ian Passmore and Rev Mark Illingworth as members of the Nominating Committee,
  - b. appoint the following persons as scrutineers: Tom Stokes, Maree Kemp and Ian Passmore; and
  - c. determine that the closing time for nominations is 1.30pm Saturday 9 September.

9. Co-opt the following persons to the Synod with the right to participate and to vote:
  - a. Confirmed members representing bodies responsible to Synod (Reg 3.3.7 (a) (v)):
    - i. Property Trust – Rev Raymond Clee
    - ii. Disaster Relief & Community Recovery Committee - Rev David Jackson
    - iii. Committee for Counselling – Rev Harry Lucas
    - iv. Committee for Discipline – Rev Dr Alan Stubbs
    - v. Beananging Kwuurt Institute – Rev Dr Keith Truscott
    - vi. UnitingCare Forum & Royal Commission Task Group – Robert Watson
    - vii. Bridging Entities – Bruce Wilson
    - viii. Uniting Church Adult Fellowship – Aladina Foster
    - ix. Nominating Committee – Margaret Martin
    - x. Juniper – John Jeffreys
    - xi. Presbyterian Ladies' College – Fiona Crowe
    - xii. Trinity Residential College – Margaret Thomas
    - xiii. Ministerial Benefits Committee – Tom Stokes
  - b. Candidates for ministry (Reg 3.3.7 (a) (vi))
    - i. Sophie Lizares
  - c. Co-options in terms of Reg 3.3.7 (c)
    - i. Kay Dowling – alternate, Margaret River
    - ii. Robert Gregory
    - iii. Rev Elizabeth Raine
    - iv. Rev Mervyn Anderson
    - v. Elizabeth Burns - Albany
    - vi. Gaye Goddard – alternate, Noranda
    - vii. Andrew Sproul – St Andrews
    - viii. Rev Claire Pickering
    - ix. Paul Montague - Student
    - x. Ps Desmond Lawson – Chair, WA Regional Committee Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)
    - xi. Cheryl Lawson – Resource Worker, UAICC
    - xii. Len Yarran – WA Regional Committee, UAICC
    - xiii. Mitchell Garlett – Regional Committee, UAICC
  - d. Youthful persons (under 30 years old) (By-law S2.1.2 (b))
    - xiv. Jordan Gibbs
    - xv. Reuben Edmonds
  
10. Associate the following persons with the Synod for the business as listed, with the right to participate but not to vote:
  - a. Ecumenical Guests
    - i. Rev Sheph Davidy Jonazh – Moderator, Indonesian Christian Church (GKI) Regional Synod of West Java
    - ii. Rev Cordelia Gunawan – Deputy General Secretary, GKI, Regional Synod of West Java
  - b. Guests representing National Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) bodies:
    - i. Dr Deidre Palmer – UCA President-Elect

- ii. Margaret Pedler – Chairperson, Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF)
  - iii. Jessica Morthorpe – Director, Five Leaf Eco-Awards
  - c. Guests representing Synod Schools and Colleges:
    - i. Methodist Ladies' College (MLC):
      - 1. Dr Penny Flett – Chair
      - 2. Rebecca Cody - Principal
    - ii. Penrhos College:
      - 1. Paul Owen – Chair
      - 2. Meg Melville - Principal
    - iii. Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC):
      - 1. Emeritus Prof Tracey Horton – Chair
      - 2. Dr Kate Hadwen - Principal
    - iv. Scotch College:
      - 1. Mark Paganin – Chair
      - 2. Dr Alec O'Connell - Headmaster
    - v. St Stephen's School:
      - 1. Kevin Smout – Chair
      - 2. Donella Beare - Principal
    - vi. Tranby College
      - 1. Lynne Woolfenden – Chair
      - 2. Dr Clayton Massey - Principal
    - vii. Trinity Residential College:
      - Michael Shearer - CEO
    - viii. Wesley College:
      - 1. Jim Walker – Chair
      - 2. David Gee - Principal
  - d. Guests representing Synod Agencies:
    - i. Good Samaritan Industries
      - 1. Trent Bartlett – Chair
      - 2. John Knowles - CEO
    - ii. Juniper:
      - 1. Fred Boshart – Chair
      - 2. Bill McDonald - Executive Manager Human Resources
    - iii. UnitingCare West:
      - 1. Peter Fitzpatrick AO – Chair
      - 2. Amanda Hunt - CEO
11. Associate the following person who will assist in resourcing the Synod, with the right to participate but not to vote:
- For the whole of Synod:
- a. Geoffrey Bice – Social Justice Unit
12. Note that the following staff will resource the Synod:
- a.
    - i. Amanda Badenhorst – Secretariat / First Aider
    - i. Frances Conchie-Stanley – Staff
    - ii. Heather Dowling – Media & Communications
    - iii. Cindy Gorton – Secretariat

- iv. Maree Kemp – Secretariat
- v. Ian Passmore – Staff
- vi. Elsa Samuel – Media & Communications
- vii. Justine Woodward – Secretariat
- viii. Kalo Fotu – First Aider
- b. For specific business of the Synod:
  - i. Robert Locke – General Manager (Resources) for Resources Commission Report
  - ii. Michael Patchell – Chief Financial Officer for Resources Commission Report
  - iii. Graham Reynolds – for Resources Commission Report
  - iv. Ian Healey – Property Manager for Resources Commission Report

## 10/2017 **SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **PROPOSAL 2**

- a) That the Synod decrease the frequency of Synod meetings from annually to twice within each triennium between Assembly meetings at approximately 18 month intervals, such that in 2018 (an Assembly year) there is no meeting, in 2019 a meeting is held in the first half of the year, and in 2020 a meeting is held in the second half of the year;
- b) request the General Secretary to arrange for a review of the By-Laws of the Synod in relation to a changed frequency of meetings.

**The Proposal was not approved**

## 11/2017 **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION/UNITINGCARE WEST**

### **PROPOSAL 3 – NEWSTART AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE**

It was **approved by consensus** that the Synod:

- 1. Note the Uniting Church Assembly Resolution 00.97 “Australia’s Social Security System” endorses the principles for a fair and equitable social security system in Australia and that the Twelfth Assembly Resolution 09.21 “An Economy of Life: Reimagining Human Progress for a Flourishing World” at 09.21.02b (iii) calls for “the reform of the Australian tax and transfer system to make it a progressive tool for the equitable distribution of wealth, including taxing the most wealthy at an appropriate level and providing adequate income support for those people who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged.”
- 2. Acknowledge that the current rate for Newstart and Youth Allowance is significantly below the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) poverty line.
- 3. Request that the Federal Government commit to immediately begin a process of increasing the Newstart and Youth Allowance rate so that those who receive them have the resources to live above the poverty line.
- 4. Write to the Treasurer, Minister for Human Services and the Opposition Shadow Treasurer and Minister requesting their support for a change in approach to social services that is more holistic and prioritises cultural, social, and emotional wellbeing among those who are unemployed.
- 5. Encourage individual Uniting Church members, congregations, schools and agencies to support Anti-Poverty Week, to engage in practical support for people experiencing poverty, and to communicate the points above to their federal member of parliament.

## 12/2017 **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION**

### **PROPOSAL 4 – PROTECTING OUR FORESTS**

It was **agreed by consensus** that the Synod:

- Noting the long commitment of the Uniting Church to social, environmental, and intergenerational justice, which is expressed in various Assembly documents and in the Synod of WA's own resolutions on the care of creation and the addressing of climate change and
- reaffirming the importance of resolution 29/2001, which encouraged and challenged individuals and congregations to become advocates for sustainable environmental policies and practices which protect, honour and care for our natural resources.
  1. Request the Western Australian State Government to:
    - a. adequately monitor land clearing activities across the state and make records publicly available, including related greenhouse gas emissions,
    - b. regenerate degraded forests as Future Forests where their ecological values can be restored over time and opportunities for research and education can be provided,
  2. Request the Social Justice Commission to facilitate an information forum in the South West.

## 13/2017 **RESOURCES COMMISSION**

### **PROPOSAL 5**

It was **agreed by consensus** that the Synod:

Adopt the Budget 2018 as presented and approved by consensus at the Synod Standing Committee Meeting on 14 August 2017.

## 14/2017 **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### **PROPOSAL 6**

#### **Committee Membership Extension beyond 10 years**

It was **agreed by consensus** that the Synod:

#### **Juniper**

Accept the proposal from the Board of Juniper 2017 to appoint two members for a further three years beyond the 10-years period as follows:

- Chris Etherton-Ber who has served for 10 years
- Jeremy Hudson whose service exceeds 10 years within the three-year term provided in the Juniper constitution

#### **Ecumenical Affairs**

Accept the proposal from the Ecumenical Affairs Committee to extend the term of Rev Marie Wilson who has served for more than 10 years for a further year.

## 15/2017 **CHURCH LAW**

### **PROPOSAL 7**

It was **agreed by consensus** that the Synod:

1. confirms the amendment of the following Bylaws by Synod Standing Committee under SI.2.5:

- S2.8 Resources Commission - The removal of clause (d) from Bylaw S2.8.46 as the insurance service is no longer offered to ministers, church centre staff and full-time workers.
- S 3.1 Placements Commission - The main changes to Bylaw S3.1 was that no Church Centre staff, other than the General Secretary, may vote and the Commission is to act in conjunction with Strategy and Mission Planning Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee.
- S3.4 Covenanting Commission - As approved at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia in September 2016, amendments to Bylaw S3.4 to enable the co-chairing of the Covenanting Commission by the Moderator and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress WA Regional Committee chair.
- S5.2 Standing Committee - New Bylaw S5.2.10 Legal Advisory Group, a new permanent subcommittee of S5.2 Synod Standing Committee. Bylaw S5.2 Synod Standing Committee also increased its ordinary membership to six members of Synod and two members from the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress WA Regional Committee. As well as enabling Presbytery Standing Committee to appoint one person to Synod Standing Committee.
- S5.4 Nominating Committee - Added to S5.4 the Secretary of each Presbytery in the Synod, or nominees, to the membership of the Committee and introduced reporting requirements to Presbyteries.
- S5.5 Church Law - Added to S5.5 the Secretary of each Presbytery in the Synod, or nominees, to the membership of the Committee and introduced reporting requirements to Presbyteries.
- S9.3 Penrhos College Constitution – Changes finalised.

16/2017 **RESULTS OF BALLOTS** (Complete list of Commission members is attached)

**Social Justice Chairperson**

Dr Alison Atkinson-Phillips was elected by the Synod as the Social Justice Commission chairperson.

**Synod Standing Committee**

The following persons were elected by the Synod to the Synod Standing Committee:

Rev Craig Collas  
 Rev Bev Fabb  
 Heather Hamblin  
 Steve Higgins  
 Julie Ridden  
 Alison Xamon.

The following persons are ex-officio members of the Synod Standing Committee:

Rev Steve Francis, Moderator  
 Rev Ken Williams, Acting Ex-Moderator  
 Rev David de Kock, General Secretary.

The following persons will be appointed by their respective bodies:

Presbytery Standing Committee Nominee,

Two Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Congress) WA Regional Committee Nominees.

Two other members may be co-opted to ensure ordained/lay balance, gender balance and skills provision.

## **Western Australia members to 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The following members were elected by the Synod to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia to be held in Melbourne from Sunday 8 to Saturday 14 July 2018.

### Ordained

Rev Craig Collas  
Rev Mark Illingworth  
Rev Nalin Perera  
Rev Lorraine Stokes  
Rev Dr John Squires  
Rev Dr Ian Tozer  
Rev Luke Williams

### Reserves

1. Rev Ken Devereux
2. Rev Ivan Clark
3. Rev John McKane

### Lay People

Merenaite Aiafi  
Dr Alison Atkinson-Phillips  
Funaki Fotu  
Naomi Haslam  
Cameron Harries  
Maggie Johns  
Dr Elaine Ledgerwood  
Clare Ligtermoet  
Yuko Tonai-Moore

### Reserves

1. Kay Dowling
2. Kalo Fotu
3. David Gray
4. Jordan Gibbs
5. Reuben Edmonds

The following persons will attend the Assembly in their role capacity

Rev Steve Francis – Moderator  
Rev David de Kock – General Secretary

## **17/2017 AWARDS**

The following presentations were made over 9 – 10 September 2017.

### Ecumenical Affairs Award

The Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Award, an initiative of the Ecumenical Affairs Committee, was jointly awarded to South Perth and Swan View Uniting Churches for their ecumenical and interfaith work on the Women's Weekend Away by Rev Marie Wilson.

### Five Leaf Eco Awards Presentation

Jessica Morthorpe, Director of the Five Leaf Eco-awards presented the Basic Certificate in Eco-Worship Award, to Uniting Church in the City.

### Australian Religious Press Association Awards

Heather Dowling was congratulated on her gold award in the ' Best Feature, Single Author' category for her article, 'Embracing Weirdness as a Disciple of the Way' and

Elaenor Nield for her bronze award in the 'Best News Story' category for her article "Medicinal Cannabis: new legislation a helpful step".

## 18/2017 **RECOGNITION OF MINISTRY**

A service for the recognition of retirement of ministers of the word and deacons was held on the Saturday afternoon at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Synod of WA. Members heard a short profile of each retiree and shared thanks for their ministries.

Rev Steve Francis, Moderator of the Uniting Church WA led the Synod in prayer.

"God of the past, the present and the future, God of time and space. A God who calls us in the name of Christ to serve, as we come in this special service to honour those whose ministry, in a formal way has come to an end.

"We pray that you'll direct us in all our doings with your most gracious favour."

Members then took part in a service to recognise the ministry of people who had died over the past year.

Rev Allan Jeffrey, chaplain to the Moderator, prayed: "God, we thank you for the lives and ministry you created. We pray that we will continue in faithfulness to the ministries that have gone before us; that we too will serve as they served."

### **Retirements**

The Synod noted the following retirements:

Rev John Barendrecht, Rev Zak Cronje, Rev Frances Hadfield, Rev Mike Fawcett, Rev Peter Johnstone, Rev Brian Thorpe, Rev Sealin Garlett, Rev Robert Dummermuth and Rev Sam Dinah.

### **Deaths**

The Synod noted the following deaths:

Rev Nicol Milne, Rev Jessie Allen-Williams, Rev Les Renshaw, Rev Barry Angus and Rev James (Jim) Reid.

## 19/2017 **MOTIONS OF APPRECIATION**

### **SCHOOLS**

#### **1. Presbyterian Ladies College.**

On behalf of Presbyterian Ladies' College, the Synod acknowledged the significant contribution to Presbyterian Ladies' College Council over nine years, as well as Deputy Chair and a member of the Audit Committee by retiring member Mrs Katrina Burton.

#### **2. Methodist Ladies College (MLC).**

On behalf of Methodist Ladies College, the Synod acknowledged the work of the principal, Rebecca Cody who was leaving to take up the role as Principal at Geelong Grammar School in 2018. The Synod noted that Rebecca has been an inspiring role model for MLC's students. She is a purposeful, progressive and motivating leader, educator, mother and mentor who has demonstrated integrity, professionalism, resilience and kindness in her relationships with students, staff and the broader MLC community.

### **CARING AGENCIES**

#### **3. UnitingCare West.**

On behalf of the UnitingCare West Board, the Synod thanked:

- a. David Thomas for his contribution over the past ten years as a member of the UnitingCare West Board and as Chair of the Strategic Property and Asset Committee from 2013 to 2017;

- b. Ian Jackson for his contribution over the past nine years as a member of the UnitingCare West Board and as Chair of Human Resources Committee from 2013 to 2015; and
- c. Anton Ferreira for his contribution over the past four years as a member of the UnitingCare West Board.

## **SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **4. Resources Commission**

The Synod acknowledged and gave thanks to:

Rev John Dunn for his significant contribution to the life of the Church over a long period and as Resources Commission chairperson for the last eight years. The Resources Commission under John's leadership, has achieved much in securing the assets of the Synod and Presbytery, and putting into place the policies and practices which will ensure that we can support the ministry and mission for the Church in Western Australia in the years ahead.

### **5. Property Trust**

The Synod acknowledged and gave thanks to:

Rev Raymond Clee for his contribution to the Church, both as a Minister of the Word and as Chairperson of the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (WA). Raymond has served both on the Synod Property Board and the Property Trust since Synod 2007. He has been Chairperson of the Property Trust since Synod 2011.

### **6. Archives**

The Synod acknowledged and gave thanks to:

The volunteers who give regularly of their time to further the work of the Archives section in preserving the history and records of the Uniting Church Western Australia.

## **20/2017 SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Memorandum of Understanding – Indonesian Christian Church (GKI) Regional Synod of West Java and Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Western Australia**

The two Moderators, Rev Sheph Davidy Jonazh and Rev Steve Francis, together with the Deputy General Secretary of the Regional Synod of West Java, Rev Cordelia Gunawan and General Secretary of the Synod of Western Australia, Rev David de Kock, resigned the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based on our common understanding of God's love for the whole world, revealed in Jesus Christ. In terms of the MOU we have reconfirmed our commitment until 2020 to deepen our fellowship in Christ through the exchange of information in our spiritual life and missional activities and to discover new ways of being faithful to our calling, as we stand alongside each other under all circumstances. Inherent in this is the strengthening of each other's theological and faith resources for the shared mission.

### **A Space for Grace on marriage**

Members of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Synod of WA took part in respectful conversations about marriage in a space for grace. The Moderator noted that the nature of grace is that it reaches out, and that was our hope and prayer for this conversation.

In pairs, Synod members were guided by two questions: What does marriage mean to you? And how would you like the Uniting Church to proceed on the issue of same gender marriage?

The pairs then joined with another pair to share what they had discussed, and each member had the opportunity to write a statement on this issue and place it in a bowl provided. The comments will be provided to Assembly.

Stuart McMillan, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, ended the session with prayer.

### **Sunday morning worship**

On Sunday morning, 10 September, members of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia were encouraged to visit and worship with a congregation in the Perth metropolitan area. Congregations around Perth were asked to open their hearts and welcome Synod visitors.

Synod members brought news about what had been happening at Synod and they shared a prayer with the congregation.

They carried news of their visit back to the Synod and some stories were shared at the beginning of the business session on Sunday afternoon.

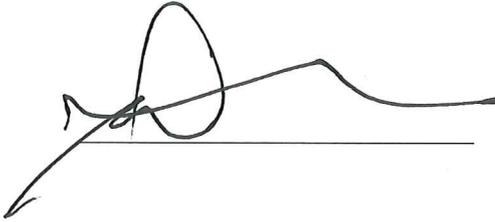
## **21/2017 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Moderator thanked everyone for attending the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia. Rev Alan Jeffrey closed the meeting with the blessing, finishing at 3.30pm on Sunday 10 September 2017.

Rev Steve Francis  
Moderator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Steve Francis', written over a horizontal line.

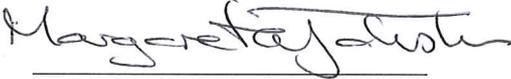
Rev David de Kock  
General Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David de Kock', written over a horizontal line.

Rev Bev Fabb

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bev Fabb', written over a horizontal line.

Margaret Johnson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Maggie Johns

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Maggie Johns', written over a horizontal line.