

PROPOSAL 4

PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE – Principles regarding 2019 budget

1. That the Synod of Western Australia endorses the principle that the Synod will continue to provide financial support to the Presbytery in order for it to continue its work of resourcing congregations
2. That the Synod of Western Australia commits its Standing Committee and staff to working with the Presbytery of Western Australia, its Standing Committee and staff toward a fair distribution of income to enable the Presbytery to adequately carry out its responsibilities of resourcing congregations in Western Australia.

Rationale

The Uniting Church in Australia in Western Australia is blessed by the faithfulness of both earlier and present church members in developing a strong property portfolio to enable our participation in the mission of God and through congregational giving, bequests and current business opportunities which make funds available for Synod, Presbytery and Congregation responsibilities and mission opportunities. The Standing Committee of the Presbytery of Western Australia is keen to continue open discussions with the Synod and its Standing Committee and office bearers with the view to developing a fairer sharing of the multi-million dollar income between Synod and Presbytery.

Presbytery Standing Committee rejects the unstated principle embedded in the 2019 draft budget which is that in future the main income source for Presbytery will be Mission and Service contributions from congregations, but that the Synod will no longer provide any funding towards the work of the Presbytery in resourcing congregations. Since union, the Synod of WA has always contributed funds, over and above Mission and Service contributions from congregations, to enable staff to be employed to resource congregations through the Presbytery or Presbyteries. Yet, in the 2019 budget, the only funds contributed by the Synod to the Presbytery is \$83,900 to top up income from trust funds for the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee (SMPC) Mission Grants scheme. Synod is not making any contribution to the costs of any staff employed by the Presbytery to resource congregations. So, there is major cost shifting going on here - instead of Synod contributing towards the cost of staff who resource congregations through the Presbytery, the congregations, through Mission and Service, are being asked to cover the full costs of these staff. Presbytery therefore brings this proposal to the Synod to adopt the principle that the Synod will continue to provide financial support to the work of the Presbytery in resourcing congregations. This amount will be negotiated on a yearly basis as part of the Budget negotiations.

Mover: Rev Greg Ross

Secunder: Travis Windsor