

The Uniting Church in Australia Western Australia



**The Minutes of
the Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of WA
Held at Trinity North Uniting Church,
St Stephens School, Duncraig WA
on
18 May 2019**

**These Minutes record events and the business of those committees or
bodies that relate to the Presbytery of Western Australia**

On Saturday, 18 May 2019 the Presbytery of Western Australia met for its Annual General Meeting at St Stephens School, Duncraig.

There were thirty three (33) ministerial members and sixty four (64) lay members present. Twenty five (25) apologies were submitted from ministerial members and twenty one (21) from lay members. One (1) minister and one (1) lay person attended as Visitors. Three (3) ministerial members and nineteen (19) lay members were absent without an apology.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

At 9.00 am the Chairperson (Rev Lorraine Stokes) welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged that we were meeting on the land of the Whadjuk clan of the Noongah nation, and paid her respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

HOUSEKEEPING

The Chairperson invited Rev. David Kriel to explain the housekeeping arrangements for the day.

OPENING WORSHIP & COMMISSIONING OF CHAIRPERSON

Opening Worship was led by members of Trinity North UCA and Rev David Kriel. During the worship the new Chairperson, Mr Bob Hunt, was commissioned to this position by the past Chairperson, Rev Lorraine Stokes, and presented with a scarf of office.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

At Members of Presbytery met in Table Groups to discuss the question "What is the most exciting thing that has happened in your congregation in the last few months?"

MIC MINUTE

Several members participated in the Mic Minute

MORNING TEA

At 10:00 am Presbytery broke for Morning Tea. Presbytery reconvened at 10:20 am.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Rev. Bev Fabb moved the proposal of the Business Committee.

Proposal 1

That the Presbytery:

1. *Adopt the Order of Business for the meeting*
2. *Elect the following active Lay Preachers as members of Presbytery for 2019-2020 according to Regulation 3.3.4 (c) (ii):- Doug Burtenshaw, Anne Calverley, Jonathon Haslam, Dorothy Horton, Moira Mathie, Ben Tanner and Robert Watson.*
3. *Co-opt the following as lay members of the Presbytery 2019-2020 according to Regulation 3.3.4 (f) (i)*
 - a. *Candidates for ordained ministry- Mitchell Garlett and Sione Leaaetoa*
 - b. *Candidates for Pastor- Arnold Adrian, Chelsie Bunter*
 - c. *Youthful members- Charles Babaloa, Erin Lloyd and Basher Mageed*
 - d. *Nominee for Chair of CMC- Margaret Donovan*
 - e. *Uniting Generations staff member- Janine McDonald*
 - f. *Representing Nominations Committee- Tom Stokes*
 - g. *Chair of Church Law Committee- Bruce Wilson*
 - h. *Past member of Presbytery Standing Committee- Travis Windsor*
4. *Co-opt the following as ministerial members of the Presbytery 2019-2020 according to Regulation 3.3.4 (f) (ii)*
 - a. *Chair of CEDAL- Bev Fabb*
 - b. *Regional Pastors- Marie Wilson and Gemmel Sherwood*
 - c. *Congress ministry- Mervyn Anderson*
5. *Appoint Tom Stokes, Alison McCubbin and Ann-Brit Wasley as Scrutineers for this meeting*
6. *Appoint Rev Sophie Lizares and Rev Ken Devereux as Chaplains for this meeting*
7. *Appoint Rev Bev Fabb as Acting Secretary for this meeting.*

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

9. *Adopt the Roll of Presbytery Members for 2019-2020*

This was **approved by consensus**.

PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Rev Lorraine Stokes presented the report of the Standing Committee.

The report was **received by consensus**.

Referral of powers to PSC to appoint Presbytery staff

Rev Lorraine Stokes moved the following Proposal:

Proposal 2

That the Presbytery of WA authorizes the Presbytery Standing Committee to issue calls and make appointments to vacant approved Presbytery placements, on the recommendation of the JNC.

This was **approved by consensus**.

Appointment of Acting Secretary

Rev. Lorraine Stokes explained that since the resignation of Rev Hannes Halgryn from the position of Secretary of Presbytery in February, there had been no one in this position and this had created difficulties for PSC. No nominations for election to this position were received for this meeting and therefore it was necessary to appoint an Acting Secretary. She then moved the following Proposal:

Proposal 3

That the Presbytery of WA appoint Rev Bev Fabb as Acting Secretary until the next Presbytery meeting.

This was **approved by consensus**.

Report of Past Chairperson

Rev Lorraine Stokes reported on her two years term as Chairperson of Presbytery, outlining her vision for the Presbytery and highlighting the challenges and achievements over that period.

The report was **received by consensus**.

Minute of Appreciation for Past Chairperson

Travis Windsor moved the following Minute of Appreciation for the Past Chairperson

From May 2017, Rev Lorraine Stokes was the inaugural Chairperson newly separated Presbytery of Western Australia. As such, she took on the challenging task of leading the Presbytery through a period of reformation after its separation Synod and she has been integral to creating its own distinct identity.

Lorraine took up the position having had a rich experience in many different aspects of the life of the Uniting Church in Western Australia, both as a lay leader and as a Minister. Her experience as a past Chair of a Presbytery gave the Presbytery outstanding leadership as well as an excellent understanding of the role of the Presbytery as we have sought to re-establish the Presbytery's identity and function here in Western Australia.

Lorraine not only brought wisdom and knowledge, but she brought compassion and understanding to her role. She has been faced with difficult decisions in her time as Chair and she led the Standing Committee through making those decisions, balancing both a pastoral need to care and a strategic vision for moving forward as a Presbytery.

As a Presbytery, we thank the Willetton congregation for allowing Lorraine to serve both as their Minister and as Presbytery Chair. More importantly, as a Presbytery, we thank Lorraine for the many, many hours she has given us, for her leadership, her pastoral care and we wish Lorraine every blessing in her future ministry.

This was **approved by acclamation**.

Report of Treasurer

The Treasurer (Ps. Marilyn Price) presented her report, highlighting that the Presbytery was in a positive financial position at the end of April. She also reported that she had received two communications from the General Secretary informing her that the Synod Standing Committee had not approved the request from the Presbytery to retain any surplus from the 2019 year. Marilyn explained that she was

meeting with the Chief Financial Officer in order to resolve this issue and PSC had requested that both she and Michael present a solution to the next Synod Standing Committee meeting.

Questions were also asked about the proposed review of Mission and Service contributions from congregations.

The report was **received by consensus**.

Rural Research Project

Rev Bev Fabb presented the report of the Rural Research Project which had been undertaken by PSC in response to the priorities set by the Presbytery. The report suggests we need to take a “whole of church” response to the needs of small rural congregations and faith communities without a minister in placement.

Members of Presbytery were then asked to discuss the following question in table groups “What am I able to do to assist in implementing the directions suggested in this report and am I prepared to commit to this?” The responses were collected and will be collated.

Rev Bev Fabb then moved the following proposal.

Proposal 4

That the Presbytery:

- 1. Receives the report of the Rural Ministry Research Project.*
- 2. Acknowledges that the support and resourcing of small congregations and faith communities is the responsibility of the whole church.*
- 3. Affirms the directions suggested in the Report and requests ministers, congregations and Presbytery staff to engage actively in the process of implementing these directions.*
- 4. Affirms the need for continuing provision of staffing to co-ordinate a whole of church response to small rural congregations and faith communities and implement the directions of this report, and requests Presbytery Standing Committee to take this into account in the preparation of the 2020 and 2021 budgets.*

This was **approved by consensus**.

Presbytery Committee Re-structuring

Rev Bev Fabb explained the background to this proposal and then moved it clause by clause.

Proposal 5.1

It was explained that this proposal had the effect of disbanding these committees.

That the Presbytery:

1. *Repeals the Rules of the following Presbytery Committees*
 - a. *Congregational Community Services Committee*
 - b. *Presbytery Property Committee*
 - c. *Liturgy Committee.*
 - d. *Rural Ministry Committee*
 - e. *Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry Committee*
 - f. *First Third Committee*

Concerns were expressed about whether the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Committee fully understood what was being proposed. The Acting Secretary agreed to call a meeting of this group as soon as possible in order to get the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Network operating as soon as possible. After discussion the proposal was moved.

The proposal was **approved by consensus**.

Proposal 5.2

This proposal provides guidelines for the meetings of Networks. It was explained that membership of Networks was open and it was agreed to amend the proposal to include the word “adherents” into 2 b.ii and to include “Synod” staff in 2 b iii. The Presbytery was also informed that the guidelines were generic and while three Networks were being established now, others could be added in the future.

The amended proposal was then moved

Approves the development of Networks of common interest and adopts the following guidelines for Networks

- a. A Network is a group of people who share a common concern for a particular area of ministry within the UCA in WA.*
- b. A Network consists of*
 - i. A Co-ordinator, appointed annually by the Presbytery.*
 - ii. Any ministers, members and adherents who wish to be part of the Network (there is no limit on how many can participate)*
 - iii. Any Presbytery and Synod staff who have an interest in the area of ministry*
- c. The Purpose of Networks is to*
 - i. Promote open communication between people involved in a particular area of ministry*
 - ii. Support, encourage and share ideas and resources between those involved in a particular area of ministry*
 - iii. Identify needs, trends and opportunities for new ministry and mission development within their particular area of ministry, and communicate these to Presbytery staff and committees.*
 - iv. Ensure that their voice is heard by communicating with and participating in Presbytery committees, actively advocating for the needs of their particular area of ministry.*
 - v. May organize events which promote a particular area of ministry*
 - vi. May request provision to be made in the budget for funding for the work of the Network, and will be held accountable to the Presbytery for its budget.*
 - vii. May bring proposals to any Presbytery meeting for consideration.*
 - viii. May be asked by Presbytery or Presbytery Standing Committee to take on projects related to their particular area of ministry*
- d. A Network is to determine the frequency and length of meetings and can communicate via a range of means such as*
 - i. Face to face meetings*
 - ii. Teleconferences*
 - iii. Meetings via Zoom or other technology*
 - iv. Creating a Face Book page or email group, under the oversight of the Media and Communications team*

The proposal was **approved by consensus**.

Proposal 5.3

It was noted that there was currently no Co-ordinator for the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry Network. Questions were asked about the role of the Co-ordinator and it was confirmed that their primary role was to call and facilitate meetings and ensure that actions agreed to by the Network were undertaken. After discussion the proposal was moved.

Appoints the following Co-ordinators of Networks

- a. Rural Ministry Network- Rev Claire Pickering*
- b. Multicultural and Cross Cultural Network-*
- c. Uniting Generations Network/s- Janine McDonald*

The proposal was **approved by consensus**.

Proposal 5.4

It was explained that the change related only to membership, election procedures and term of office. There were no questions so the proposal was moved.

Approves the changes to the Rules of CEDAL

The proposal was **approved by consensus**.

Proposal 5.5

There was discussion about whether it was wise to remove the provision for sub committees even if they were not used. Bruce Wilson from the Church Law Committee informed the meeting that they were working on preparation of some generic Rules for all committees about such matters and as a result these provisions did not need to be included in the Rules of each committee. The proposal was then moved.

Approves the changes to the Rules for the Candidates for Ministries Committee

The proposal was **approved by consensus**.

Proposal 5.6

It was explained that the changes related only to membership but that a greater review of these Rules was needed and would be brought to a later Presbytery meeting. After this explanation the proposal was moved.

Approves the changes to the Rules for the Pastoral Relations Committee

The proposal was **approved by consensus**.

Proposal 5.7

It was explained that as these Rules included more substantial changes, including a change of name, it was better to repeal the Rules for SMPC and adopt the Rules for the Thrive Mission Committee. Questions were asked about the reason of the name change. After this explanation the proposal was moved.

Repeals the Rules for the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee and adopts the Rules for the Thrive Mission Committee

The proposal was **approved by agreement**.

Proposal 5.8

It was explained that the changes only related to membership. The proposal was moved.

Approves the changes to the Rules for the Presbytery Standing Committee

The proposal was **approved by consensus**.

Staff on Presbytery Committees

Travis Windsor moved the following proposal.

Proposal 10

That the Presbytery of WA adopts the following policy in relation to Church Office staff participation in Presbytery committees and requests Church Law to make changes to ensure that this policy is incorporated into the Rules for Presbytery Committees.

“Church Office staff, other than those specifically mentioned in Rules, are not eligible to stand for election as Presbytery representatives on Presbytery committees.”

There was considerable discussion about this proposal with opinions being expressed both for and against the proposal with several questions for clarification being asked. When it was clear the meeting was divided, Travis asked that the proposal be withdrawn and this was agreed to.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tom Stokes announced that ballots for the election of three chairpersons, and members of PSC, PRC and CMC would be required and would happen after the lunch break. Profiles for all those standing for election had been placed on display in the lunch area. He also announced that the deadline for nominations for the election of lay members of Synod had been extended to 4 pm today.

MIC MINUTE

Several members participated in the Mic Minute

LUNCH

At 12:30 pm Presbytery broke for Lunch, after Rev Bev Fabb led the meeting in grace. Presbytery reconvened at 1:15 pm.

BALLOTS

Ballots for vacant positions were held.

Number of Presbytery Meetings

Alison McCubbin moved the following proposal which had been deferred from the February meeting.

Proposal 6

That the UCA/WA Presbytery have three rather than four meetings each year, starting 2019

Discussion showed a variety of opinions with some preferring to stick with the four meetings planned for 2019 and that a proposal about the number and date of meetings for 2020 be brought to a later meeting. At this point Alison asked that the proposal be withdrawn and this was agreed to.

MODERATORIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Robert Watson informed the meeting that a new Moderator was to be elected at the 2019 Synod meeting and that nominations were being sought for this position. He played a video which outlined the role of the Moderator. Nominations close on June 28.

STRATEGY AND MISSION PLANNING COMMITTEE.

The report had been circulated and the Committee was congratulated on the amount of work it had done over the last year. It was noted that no members of the Committee were present as several were attending mission training in UK.

The report was **received by consensus**.

Mission Spot

Rev Lorraine Stokes explained that Rev Alison Gilchrist (Presbytery Minister-Mission) had been asked to provide a brief Mission Spot at each meeting with an idea for an easy missional activity that congregations could engage in with little cost. As Alison is overseas Lorraine presented the Mission Spot for this meeting which was about having a Sockathon in congregations on June 23.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Yvonne Robinson presented the report on behalf of the committee.

The report was **received by consensus**.

Yvonne Robinson then moved the following proposal.

Proposal 7

That the Presbytery of WA acknowledge the long standing commitment of Ian Passmore to the mission of the church through his work as the Congregational Community Services Consultant. Ian has resourced and supported the establishment and growth of congregation based community outreach activities throughout WA and we thank him for his willing service.

This was **approved by acclamation**.

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP & LEADERSHIP.

Rev Bev Fabb presented this report highlighting some new developments in the last year. After some questions, Bev moved that the report be received.

The report was **received by consensus**.

CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chair Moira Mathie, Rev Dr Anne Wright made a video presentation highlighting the need for more candidates for ordained ministry.

The report was **received by consensus**.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev Trevor Waters presented the report of PRC. There were a number of questions in relation to

- The new format for Life and Witness consultations
- The need to report to Presbytery when someone ceases to be a Pastor
- Why no proposal on an extension of placement beyond 10 years for the Wellington Regional Mission had been brought to this meeting as promised by PRC?
- The process involved in a Vitality of Call review?
- Why the request for a different style of reporting made at the last Presbytery meeting had not been followed?
- What was the future of Regional Pastors?
- Why there was nothing in the report about how many ministers are completing their Annual Reports and what information is coming out of these?

After dealing with these questions, Trevor moved that the report be received.

The report was **received by consensus**.

RURAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chair, Yuko Tonai- Moore, Rev Claire Pickering presented this report.

The report was **received by consensus**.

Claire then moved the following proposal.

Proposal 8

- 1. The Presbytery thanks Rev Ruth Vertigan for her service as Rural Ministry Coordinator and Alice Boomer for her administrative support.*
- 2. The Presbytery thanks RMC members for their service as committee members.*

This was **approved by acclamation**.

UNITING GENERATIONS COMMITTEE

David Beards presented the report with assistance from Janine McDonald and Reuben Edmonds.

The report was **received by consensus**.

MULTICULTURAL AND CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chair, Rev Nalin Perera, Julie Ridden presented the report.

The report was **received by consensus**.

Rev Judy Sanderson then moved the following proposal.

Proposal 9

That the Presbytery acknowledge the contribution of the Multi-Cultural and Cross - Cultural Consultant, Rev Dr Emanuel Audisho, in keeping alive the vision of a Multi-Cultural and Cross-cultural Church.

This was **approved by acclamation**.

DECLARATION OF BALLOTS

Tom Stokes reported that the following people had been elected.

Chairperson of Candidates for Ministries Committee- Margaret Donovan

Chairperson of Commission on Education for Discipleship and Leadership-

Rev Bev Fabb

Chairperson of Thrive Mission Committee- Rev Greg Ross

Members of Candidates for Ministries Committee- Rev Kim Francis, Rev Gary van Heerden and Dr Hyung Shik Kim.

Members of Pastoral Relations Committee- Rev Ivan Clark, Rev Marie Wilson, Rev Lorraine Stokes, John Boon and Sue Whitworth.

Members of Presbytery Standing Committee- Rev Luke Williams and Yvonne Robinson

Thrive Mission Committee- Rev Dr Anne Wright, Rev Mark Illingworth, Yuko Tonai-Moore, Rev Stephen van Schalkwyk, Rev Narelle Collas, Pastor Pamela Crass, Basher Mageed, Yvonne Robinsons were the only nominations for the 8 vacancies and were declared elected unopposed.

CEDAL- Anne Calverley was the only one nominated and was thus elected unopposed.

Thanks were expressed for all the retiring Chairpersons and members of Committees.

PRIORITIES FOR THE PRESBYTERY

Table Groups discussed the following

List what your table believes should be the top 5 priorities for the Presbytery over the next 12 months.

Responses were collected and will be collated for presentation to a later Presbytery meeting.

CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Bob Hunt offered some reflections on the nature of the Presbytery and what he saw as important matters to deal with during his term. He then led the Presbytery in an act of worship which included the commissioning of Chairs of Committees and Coordinators of Networks.

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bob Hunt thanked and acknowledged all those persons who had contributed to the smooth running of the meeting.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm

WE CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE CHECKED THE MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA HELD ON 18 MAY 2019 AT TRINITY NORTH UNITING CHURCH AND CONFIRM THAT IT IS A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE EVENT.

Acting Secretary of Presbytery _____ Rev Bev Fabb

Chairperson of Presbytery _____ Mr Bob Hunt