

**Synod Standing Committee - 2018-19 Significant Resolutions**

**Appendix A**

SSC 122/2018-19	Presbytery Budget	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to adopt the following proposal from the Presbytery Standing Committee on the Management of Surpluses: 1. Any surplus of income from Mission and Service contributions over expenditure from areas designated for funding from Mission and Service income at the end of each financial year, starting in 2019, be retained by the Presbytery in a Special Purposes Fund for future use by the Presbytery. 2. If the income from any grants made by the Synod to the Presbytery for specific purposes are not fully utilised for the specified purposes by the end of each financial year, starting in 2019, the balance will be returned to the Synod.
SSC 121/2018-19	Presbytery Budget	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to note the Submission for Consideration in Preparation of the Synod Budget 2020 requesting that consideration be given to: 1. A grant of \$119,500 towards the cost of Mission grant, and 2. A grant of \$100,000 towards CEDAL staffing costs.
SSC 119/2018-19	MBA	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to approve the increase from 30% to 50% that Ministers can salary sacrifice to Ministerial Benefits Accounts from 1 January 2020.
SSC 118/2018-19	MBA	The Synod Standing Committee approved by consensus the Ministers Stipends and Allowances for 2020 as presented.
SSC 114/2018-19	Audited Accounts	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to note Resources Commission's Resolution RC17/2018 regarding the 2018 Audited Financial Reports for the following entities: Synod; Uniting Church Foundation; Insurance Services; Trusts & Special Purposes Funds, Investment Fund and the Audit Closing Report.
SSC 113/2018-19	Property	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to adopt the Property Review Scoping Document dated June 2019 as presented and acknowledged that members of the Project Team would be subject to change.
SSC 102/2018-19		The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus that they will respond to the General Secretary within 48 hours of his request to offer an amount above his delegation of \$150,000 in regards to litigation for Child Sexual Abuse.
SSC 101/2018-19		The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus for the General Secretary to advise them within 48 hours of any offer made in regards to litigation for Child Sexual Abuse so as to exercise financial oversight of such matters (subject to any confidentiality clause).
SSC 100A/2018-19	Redress	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to note the nature of the matters coming through from the Redress process for the purposes of determining whether there was a need to reassess the amount of funding put aside for such matters.
SSC 100/2018-19		The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to endorse the proposal to increase the delegation for the General Secretary in child sexual abuse mediation settlements (civil litigations) to \$150,000 per claim.
SSC 99/2018-19	Organisation Chart	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to note the restructure of Synod staff as presented on the Synod Organisation Chart dated 18 June 2019 following the retirement of the General Manager (Resources) effective from 1 July 2019.
SSC 94/2018-19	Property Officer	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to appoint Rev David de Kock the Property Officer for the Uniting Church in Australia WA who will appoint a person to act as Property Officer in his absence when necessary.

### Synod Standing Committee - 2018-19 Significant Resolutions

SSC 89/2018-19	Fossil Fuels	<p>The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus:</p> <p>Noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest research on the pace of planetary warming and the growing rate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Western Australia, and;</li> <li>• The significant policy development currently being undertaken by both the Western Australian State Government and the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority;</li> </ul> <p>Expresses its concern to the Western Australian Government regarding the approval of any new or expanded fossil fuel projects in Western Australia and requests their commitment to taking responsibility for Western Australia’s role in limiting global temperature change to 1.5 degrees Celsius by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designing and implementing a state-wide strategy to reduce GHG emissions across all sectors of the economy that includes science-based targets to align with the Paris Agreement and requirements to offset emissions;</li> <li>2. Designing and implementing transition plans to move away from fossil fuels in close consultation with workers and local communities connected to fossil fuel dependent industry.</li> </ol>
SSC 88/2018-19	Schools	<p>The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to recommend that as well as receiving the audited financial statements of the schools on a yearly basis (Regulation 3.7.4.7(f)(iii)) that the Standing Committee exercises “oversight” by the reception, once per year of each school’s strategic plan with appropriate updates.</p>
SSC 84/2018-19	Foundation	<p>The Synod Standing Committee resolved to agree to make one million dollars (\$M1) available from the Foundation Trust for the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 initiative (Council for Mission).</p>
SSC 83/2018-19	Property	<p>The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. endorse the establishment of the Property Review Task Group to advise the Secretary of Synod, the Property Officer and the Synod Standing Committee (unless delegated) with regard to the decisions which need to be taken in respect of ceiling degradation, structural and cosmetic building maintenance, and safety compliance,</li> <li>2. delegate the responsibility for such decisions to the Synod Property Board but retain the right of review</li> <li>3. appoint the Deputy General Secretary as Project Manager</li> <li>4. appoint interim members to the Task Group, and</li> <li>5. request the General Secretary to engage with Presbytery regarding Presbytery appointments to the PRTG</li> <li>6. instruct the PRTG to report to each SSC meeting until December 2020 with copies to the Presbytery Standing Committee</li> </ol>
SSC 82/2018-19	Comms Review	<p>The Synod Standing Committee approved the continuation of a hard copy Revive publication in the manner proposed, as an outreach of the Uniting Church WA with the aim of providing a fresh perspective on faith, church and life of the wider Western Australian community. The Committee also acknowledged that an internal audit of Revive was ongoing and would be reported on at the next Standing Committee’s ordinary meeting and would include a cost benefit analysis</p>
SSC 63/2018-19	Council for Mission	<p>The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Synod Standing Committee determines that, now that the Presbytery Property Committee powers and functions have been referred to the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee, the Presbytery be requested to appoint another person to the Council for Mission.</li> <li>2. The Synod Standing Committee determines that there be reports on the Council for Mission to each meeting.</li> </ol>

### Synod Standing Committee - 2018-19 Significant Resolutions

SSC 58/2018-19	St Andrews	<p>The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to direct the Resources Commission not to act on point four of Resolution RC 46/2018 as follows:</p> <p>“4. Balance of Embargoed Funds held in account No. 712795 to be available to St Andrews UC, Ross Memorial UC, Melville UC, Scotch College, Presbyterian Ladies College and the UC Foundation Trust by application through the Council for Mission for purposes envisaged in the Synod Strategic Plan 2018-2021.”</p> <p>The Synod Standing Committee further agreed, that the embargoed funds would remain with St Andrews congregation.</p>
SSC 56/2018-19	MNC	The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to its Advice to the Moderatorial Nominating Committee - Needs and Issues for the Church during the 2020-2023 Triennium as presented but with inclusions.
SSC 50/2018-19	Property	The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus for an immediate investigation to be undertaken to identify buildings that may be affected with faulty ceilings. This information is to be reported to the Resources Commission’s March meeting for actioning and emailed to the Synod Standing Committee as an interim report. A full report is to be presented to Standing Committee’s April 2019 meeting.
SC 48/2018-19	Budget 2019	The Synod Standing Committee resolved to adopt the Final Budget Financial Year Ending December 2019 Budget as presented.
SC 47/2018-19	Financial Info	Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to request that they receive more detailed financial budget information to each of their meetings to enable them to monitor progress and exercise complete financial oversight from a governance perspective. This material will include a balance sheet and information tracking individual budget lines.
SSC 46/2018-19	Budget 2019	Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to thank the General Secretary and appropriate Synod and Presbytery managers in recognition for the work undertaken to deliver a near balanced budget for 2019.
SSC 33/2018-19	Redress	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to approve \$42,000 for UCA WA Synod’s contribution for the running of UCA Redress Ltd for one year.
SSC 30/2018-19	Redress	The Synod Standing Committee resolved by consensus to approve the Application, Participating and Funding Agreement to be a Participating Institution of UCA Redress Ltd on behalf of the Synod of Western Australia and authorised the Property Officer and General Secretary to sign on behalf of the Synod.
SSC 19/2018-19	BKI	Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus for the BKI Constitution to be referred to a lawyer for review.
SSC 18/2018-19	BKI	Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus that no further drawings (following the final reimbursement to WA Synod for the year ending 31 December 2018) be made from Sister Kate’s remaining funds until further notice.

### Synod Standing Committee - 2018-19 Significant Resolutions

SSC 13/2018-19	Statement of Access & Welcome	<p>The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt the Statement of Access and Welcome and circulate the Statement to the Synod, Presbytery, congregations, agencies, theological colleges and schools with a view that each would develop a response to this matter in their own context.</li> <li>2. Request the Synod, Presbytery, congregations, agencies, theological colleges and schools to develop Disability Actions Plans (where they have not already done so) in accordance with the Federal Disability Discrimination Act 1992 with the aim of eliminating access barriers pertaining to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Attitude/Theology and access and welcome.</li> <li>b. Communication; and</li> <li>c. Physical Environment, and</li> <li>d. to provide guidelines on developing Disability Action Plans</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
9/2018-19	Redress	<p>The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to endorse the Provision of Counselling and Therapeutic Services – Redress vs Legal Claims as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding for psychological counselling with respect to child abuse civil claims be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and offered in those cases where liability for the abuse is not disputed.</li> <li>2. Conditions be applied with respect to funding for psychological counselling as follows:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Funding be limited to \$5,000 per claimant;</li> <li>b. In exceptional cases, the limit per claimant may be increased, with any additional counselling (in excess of the \$5,000 limit) needing to be approved on a case by case basis by the General Secretary;</li> <li>c. The Uniting Church and/or its entities will not waive their right to subpoena the medical records of the nominated psychologist;</li> <li>d. The Uniting Church and/or its entities will require a short report from the claimant’s treating psychologist after every 10 sessions;</li> <li>e. The funding will be for a psychologist or psychiatrist to be chosen by the claimant;</li> <li>f. If the claimant fails to attend the schedule appointment or cancels it without reasonable prior notice, any non-attendance/cancellation fee issued will be passed on to them for payment or deducted from the funding limit;</li> <li>g. The amount paid for counselling will be deducted from the claimant’s award of damages or agreed settlement amount at the conclusion of the civil proceedings.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Amend the Draft WA Synod Interim Redress Policy to include a limit on counselling and therapeutic services of \$5,000 per applicant (as per the Commonwealth Redress Scheme limit of \$5,000).</li> </ol>

### Synod Standing Committee - 2018-19 Significant Resolutions

8/2018-19	MNC	<p>The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approves the proposal to establish the National Safe Church Unit as detailed in Working Paper 10.2;</li> <li>ii. Notes the proposal entails a five (5) year commitment to support and resource the Unit's work;</li> <li>iii. Notes the iterative establishment process of the unit;</li> <li>iv. Notes that a review of the Unit's operation will be conducted at year three (3) to determine any necessary change needed to fulfil the outcomes articulated by the Church;</li> <li>v. Notes that the establishment of the National Safe Church Unit is in conjunction with each of the other Synods and the Assembly;</li> <li>vi. Notes that contemporaneously with this resolution each of the other Synods will consider resolutions in similar form to this resolution;</li> <li>vii. Notes the proposed membership of the National Safe Church Unit as being the Assembly and each of the six (6) Synods;</li> <li>viii. Notes that the cost sharing mechanism provided was that used for the work of the National Task Group;</li> <li>ix. Refers the cost sharing mechanism to the Assembly and Synods for confirmation or alteration and agreement;</li> <li>x. Endorse the National Safe Church Unit governance charter (10.3), noting that the charter can be amended at any time by agreement of the Assembly and Synods</li> </ul>
5/2018-19	MNC	<p>The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to appoint Robert Watson and Rev John Dunn to co-Chair the Moderatorial Nominating Committee</p>
4/2018-19	MNC	<p>The Synod Standing Committee agreed by consensus to consider the needs and issues of the Church for the forthcoming Triennium at the December 2018 and February 2019 meetings.</p>