



Property Trust

<i>Chairperson</i>	Lewis Bond
<i>Moderator</i>	Rev Steve Francis
<i>Property Officer</i>	Rev David de Kock
<i>Members appointed by Synod</i>	Barry Honey Robert Hunt Ian Watson Chris Walker Paula Harkness

Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (WA) is the entity for all legal and administrative actions of the Uniting Church in Western Australia. The waterfall of governance documents is :

- The Uniting Church in Australia Act 1976
- UCA Constitution and Regulations 2018
- By-Laws of the Synod of WA S1.3
- By-Laws of the Resources Commission and Resources Division S2.8
- Synod Property Trust Handbook 2015
- Guidelines for funding applications from Trust and Special Purposes Accounts – March 2020

The Trust is constituted by The Uniting Church in Australia Act 1976 and has the functions of :

- Holding all real and personal property of the Church (Trust Property) in trust for the Church.
- Entering into all contracts for dealing with Trust Property.
- Being sued in court actions against the Church, and suing in the name of the Church
- Administering Trust Property held under the terms of any bequests or sub trusts.
- Approval of grant applications from Trust and Special Purpose Accounts.

Church agencies and schools can be separately incorporated under the Act enabling them to operate as legal entities in their own right under constitutions approved by Synod.

The Trust reports to the Synod of WA.

Membership of the Trust comprises the Moderator, the Property Officer and 6 Members of the Church appointed by the Synod on two year terms. Paula Harkness is due for retirement or reappointment at this Synod.

Two Members of the Trust are appointed as members of the Resources Commission.

The operations of the Trust are facilitated by:

- The Resources Division Property Services *Unit* under the management of the General Manager Property (Richard Patterson) in matters relating to real property and Trust and Special Purposes transactions,
- The General Secretary (Rev David de Kock) and Insurance Services Division by the Manager Risk and Insurance (Muralee Nair) in matters relating to legal action and liability claims against the Church, and



- The Property Officer (Rev David de Kock) as the primary signatory on behalf of the Property Trust

The Trust meets formally up to six times a year and holds a weekly signing roster. Typically some 120 documents are reviewed and signed under seal each year.

All documents needing to be legally executed, including grant applications should be forwarded to the Property Services Unit for attention Anne Flynn, with covering authorisation for the weekly signings meetings.

In addition to attending to document and grant approvals the Trust has this year dealt with:

- An increasing case load arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Sexual Misconduct.
- Reviewed and updated the Guidelines for funding applications from Trust and Special Purposes Accounts.
- Instigated a review of the Trust and Special Purpose Accounts with a view to consolidating dormant and diminishing accounts according to purpose, and preserving the corpus against attrition through periodic withdrawals no longer serviced in a reduced income environment.

Like all divisions of the Church the Trust Members and facilitating Synod staff have operated under extraordinary conditions over the past 12 months presenting both logistical and compliance challenges.

In these circumstances we are especially grateful for the time and effort of all Members of the Trust who so generously give their time and expertise. We are equally grateful to the Synod staff who have diligently and expertly serviced the Trust.

Lewis Bond
Chairperson
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