

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**  
**SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT**  
**SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES** for the meeting of the Synod Standing Committee held 27 – 28 August 2010 at the Centre for Ministry

**DECISIONS**                      Decisions recorded in these Minutes were reached by consensus unless otherwise indicated – by agreement or by formal process

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF ABORIGINAL  
PEOPLE**

The Moderator paid respect to the Aboriginal people of the Burrumattagal Clan and Darug tribes who have cared for this part of the land from time immemorial

**WORSHIP**

The Moderator led opening prayers. Rev Chris Udy led opening prayers on Saturday morning. The Moderator led closing prayers.

**TIMES OF  
SESSIONS**

**Friday**

1.	2.00pm	–	3.30pm	
2.	4.00pm	–	5.30pm	
3.	7.30pm	–	9.00pm	Induction of the General Secretary

**Saturday**

4.	9.00am	–	10.30am	
5.	11.00am	–	12.00pm	

**AGENDA**

163/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee adopt the Order of Business as printed subject to changes suggested by the General Secretary and alterations made by the Standing Committee

## APOLOGIES

## Sessions

Rev Lindsay Cullen	All
Ms Amy Davies	All
Rev Kisoo Jang	1 & 2
Ms Rads Sukumar	4 & 5
Rev Dr Brian Brown	4 & 5
Rev Amelia Koh-Butler	All
Mr Murray McKay	1 & 2
Rev Jorge Rebolledo	4 & 5
Mr Brian Mowbray	4 & 5
Rev Bob Rutherford	1, 2 & 3
Ms Pearl Wymarra	5

## IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Lynda Stanford	All
Mrs Meg Herbert	All
Ms Sandra Wright	All

## ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Rev Peter Godwin	2
------------------	---

## MINUTES

164/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) amend the distributed Minutes of the Synod Standing Committee meeting held 2 July by including the following

**WESLEY MISSION:  
MODEL OF  
INCORPORATION**

162/10SC

Resolved

*That the Synod Standing Committee  
receive the report*

- (ii) confirm the Minutes of the Synod Standing Committee held 2 July 2010 as amended

## EN BLOC

165/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

determine that matters listed on the agenda be adopted *en bloc* unless the Synod Associate Secretary receives a request before the commencement of Session 3 that a matter be considered separately

## **MODERATOR SHARING**

I am not going to spend a lot of time today sharing with you as I would like Andrew, the General Secretary to have as much time as possible to share with the Standing Committee today.

One thing I would like to do is share my reflection – arising out of nearly three years of wide and diverse interaction through this role in the UCA – on the tension we live in as a Uniting Church as we seek to be, in accordance with the Basis of Union in paragraphs 2 and 18, an ecumenical church and at the same time, open to constant reformation, being informed by contemporary thought – as articulated in paragraph 11 of the Basis of Union – with a prophetic role in our society.

What are the issues that cause this tension, strain our capacity to be ecumenical as we seek to be a prophetic voice:

Our understanding of the Bible as set out in the Basis of Union and our interpretation of it, our understanding of salvation and the mission of God; the role of women in the church; our engagement with contemporary thought and understanding of sexuality; the non-episcopal nature of our church and the issues of recognition of our ministry in contexts where we seek to work in cooperation with other churches; the ministry of lay people - lay presidency of the sacraments - what is fundamental to the sacraments, the presider or the gathered people around table or font; the preamble to the constitution currently before the church and all that means; standing somewhat alone in the Ethics program for schools debate

I ask myself - as a church are we apostate or are we prophetic - does our expression of the faith take us outside the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church or are we the signpost towards what it really means to be the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church?

I believe our role is prophetic, that is, to point up where as a church we have been erroneous and in need of the Spirit's correction.

In the reading from Jeremiah this Sunday the prophet speaks the word of the Lord: "What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me?"

Let me conclude with paragraph 18 of the Basis of Union.

### **18. THE PEOPLE OF GOD ON THE WAY**

The Uniting Church affirms that it belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end. The Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

## **GENERAL SECRETARY SHARING**

The General Secretary shared about some of his activities during the first month of his position and noted:

- the first month was a time of a sharp learning curve
- General activities - attended the Board of Mission, UnitingCare, Board of Education and Korean Commission meetings
- Met with the Moderator elect consultative group
- Preached on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at Krikor Youmsajekian's closure of ministry service
- Participated in a discussion on Lay salaries/stipends
- Participated in MEB/UTC/BOE relationship discussions
- Visited Newcastle with Sandra Wright to investigate Synod 2011
- Met with Rev Jorge Rebolledo regarding the intricacies of the Ministry of Pastor
  - understanding pathway A and pathway B

The General Secretary then led a session on thinking about the shape of the Synod. He reminded the Standing Committee that this was a resolution from the last Synod 89/10S and mandated within his job description as set out in the by-laws

- 2.5.5(a) (b) (c) (d) and (f) – the General Secretary shall coordinate strategic and mission thinking etc

The session centered around a number of questions which were explored together and in table groups including:

How do we use the term Synod?

What is, as you understand it, unique about the NSW.ACT Synod as compared to other Synods?

If this Synod was a blank page, how would you redesign it?  
(without going beyond the Basis of Union)

He then reminded us of the five marks of mission, a model used widely in global missiological circles:

- Proclaiming the good news
- Transforming society
- Loving service
- Nurturing and teaching
- Caring for creation

and encouraged the Standing committee to give leadership in being a church in mission.

**ESTATES  
REPORT  
1 JULY 2009 –  
30 JUNE 2010**

Reference – Working Paper No 2

166/10SC

Resolved  
That the Synod Standing Committee  
receive the report

**UNITINGCARE  
BOARD'S  
EXECUTIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
AND REVIEW  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Reference – Working Paper No 7

167/10SC

Resolved  
That the Synod Standing Committee  
receive the report

**UNITINGCARE**

Reference – Working Paper No 3

168/10SC

Resolved  
That the Synod Standing Committee  
receive the report

**REVIEW  
OF SALES  
PROCEEDS  
POLICY**

Reference – Working Paper No 4

169/10SC

Resolved  
That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) on the recommendation of the Board of Uniting Resources affirm that
  - (a) the Sales Proceeds Policy applies to Congregation Properties
  - (b) the Tithe on Sales Proceeds be maintained at 10%
  - (c) Sales Proceeds should be allowed to be used for critical repairs and maintenance in conditions of substantiated financial hardship and after being recommended by Presbytery
  - (d) Sales Proceeds should be allowed to be used for operational and other expenses in special circumstances of substantiated economic hardship due to major events such as fire, drought and flood, and after being recommended by Presbytery

- (e) Sales Proceeds should be able to be used for building Sinking Funds in special circumstances, such as large costly buildings or heritage listed buildings, and should be subject to rigorous assessment of the quantum required and rules for use
- (iii) disband the “three year use it or lose it” principle though Presbyteries should review any unused Sales Proceeds within their respective bounds at least every three years, and in situations where there is clearly no intended planned use, regardless of whether three years have passed, a Presbytery may formulate proposals for the use of those Sales Proceeds and make recommendations to Uniting Resources. Uniting Resources will consult with the Presbytery and the Congregation concerned when assessing the recommendations. If Uniting Resources believe it is appropriate to proceed then formal approval will need to be obtained according to the Sales Proceeds Policy process. Presbyteries are encouraged to collectively assess and make recommendations for unused Sales Proceeds in line with Synod and Assembly Policy and Regulations
- (iv) adopt the Sales Proceeds Policy attached as APPENDIX 2 and attach it to the minutes as Appendix A
- (v) note that the Sales Proceeds Policy should be subject to an ongoing review by Uniting Resources

**INCORPORATION  
IN SYNOD OF  
NSW & ACT**

Reference – Minute 110/10SC & Working Paper 5

170/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee,

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) on the recommendation of the Board of Uniting Resources, approve
  - (a) the Considerations and Guiding Principles for entities within the bounds of the Synod of NSW & ACT applying for incorporation as attached in “Key Document 1”
  - (b) the Process of Approvals for entities within the bounds of the Synod of NSW and the ACT applying for incorporation as attached in “Key Document 2”
- (iii) note the “Pro-Forma” example Constitution for entities within the bounds of the Synod of NSW and the ACT to use as a guide when applying for incorporation as attached in “Key Document 3” and attach it to the minutes as Appendix B

- (iv) note that Uniting Resources will work with the Synod Constitutions Committee to make any further refinements to the Pro-Forma Constitution and bring this back to Synod Standing Committee for approval

**REQUEST OF  
PITT STREET  
CONGREGATION  
FOR THE RETURN  
OF THE  
BENEFICIAL USE  
OF PILGRIM  
HOUSE (SYDNEY)**

Reference – Minute 256/08SC & Working Paper No 6

171/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) receive the updated report in relation to the request by Pitt Street Congregation to have the beneficial ownership of Pilgrim House (Sydney) returned to them
- (ii) note that discussions are ongoing

**RECEPTION  
OF MINISTERS**

**Rev Ron Brookman**

Reference – 33/10SC

172/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

note that a Service of Recognition was held for Rev Ron Brookman as a Uniting Church in Australia Minister on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 at Ramsgate

**APPOINTMENTS**

**(a) Synod Committee for Counselling**

173/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

appoint Rev Kath Merrifield to the Synod Committee for Counselling effective immediately

**(b) Ministerial Education Board**

Reference – By-Law 5.10.2 (*appoint 6 people – 3 ordained and 3 lay*)

174/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

appoint the following people to the Ministerial Education Board

**Ordained**

Rev Ann Hogan

**Lay Person**

Mr Haloti Kailahi

Rev Jane Fry  
Rev Oto Faiva

Mr Jim Mein  
Mr Glen Powell (subject to  
his approval)

**(c) The Uniting Church (NSW) Trust Association Members**

175/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee  
appoint the following members to the Trust Association for a three  
year term

Mr Michael Anderson  
Mr Peter Andrews  
Mr Kenneth Broadhead  
Mr Stephen Capelin  
Mr Lawrence Graves  
Mr Craig Wright

**(d) The Uniting Church (NSW) Trust Association Directors**

176/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee  
nominate the following persons to the Uniting Church (NSW)  
Association as Directors for a three year term

Mr John Collins  
Mr Andrew Gibbons  
Ms Heather Nash

**ASSEMBLY OF  
CONFESSING  
CONGREGATIONS**

Reference – Working Paper No 8 email received from Margaret  
Reeson 16 August 2010

177/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee  
request the General Secretary to have a meeting with the ACC  
NSW Chair Rev Ian Weeks and report back to the Synod Standing  
Committee

**SYNOD 2011**

Reference – 149/10SC

178/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee  
(i) receive the report  
(ii) note that further investigation is required and the Synod  
Associate Secretary will report to October 2010 meeting



**PRESBYTERY  
REPORTS TO  
SYNOD  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

Reference – Working Paper No 9 & Resolutions 78/10S & 106/10SC

179/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) on the recommendation of the Task Group, adopt the following:
  - (a) with respect to the reports of Presbytery to Synod
    1. the practice of a formal written report be maintained
    2. 15-20 minutes per report be allowed for a representative of the Presbytery to speak to matters pertaining to the life of that presbytery and receive questions and feedback
    3. a pastoral letter of response be requested to be sent from the Moderator of the Synod back to the Presbytery
  - (b) with respect to the reporting of Presbyteries to Synod Standing Committee, the General Secretary be requested to set aside time on the first evening of Synod Standing Committee when 1 or 2 Presbyteries are invited to make a presentation along the lines of the following guidelines
    1. share examples of the practice of ministry
    2. share examples of how one or more of the five marks of mission are being acted out in the life of the Presbytery – the five marks of mission being
      - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*
      - To teach, baptize and nurture new believers*
      - To respond to human need by loving service*
      - To seek to transform unjust structures of society*
      - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*
    3. consider how the Presbytery is seeking to live out the life of ‘God’s people on the way’ inspired by the Basis of Union
    4. share how the Presbytery is engaging with its particular challenges to be the church in the contemporary world

5. invite *Insights* to be represented for the sake of reporting and publication
- (c) with respect to the Assembly, request the General Secretary of the Synod to
1. set aside a dedicated time where the Synod's members of the Assembly Standing Committee can report on matters of interest arising out of the meetings of the ASC
  2. set aside a dedicated time on a regular basis where each director of an Assembly agency speaks to their area of responsibility and share what they believe may be of a particular interest to the life of this Synod and its presbyteries, congregations and boards

**LEGAL  
ACTION**

**UnitingCare Ageing Sydney Region – Remedy Chibnall**  
Reference – Email Ms Vicki Roper 16 August 2010

180/10SC

Resolved  
That the Synod Standing Committee note the decision of the Moderator to grant permission to UnitingCare Ageing Sydney Region to defend a claim in regard to an unfair dismissal

**CONSTITUTION**

**(a) The Uniting Church (N.S.W.) Trust Association Limited**  
Reference – Minute CC12/10

181/10SC

Resolved  
That the Synod Standing Committee, on the recommendation of the Constitution Committee, approve the constitution of The Uniting Church (N.S.W.) Trust Association Limited

**(b) Eddie Dixon Centre**  
Reference – Minute CC 13/10

182/10SC

Resolved  
That the Synod Standing Committee, on the recommendation of the Constitution Committee, approve the constitution of the Eddie Dixon Centre, an activity of the Paddington Uniting Church

**BY-LAWS  
FOR THE  
SYNOD  
ARCHIVES**

Reference – Working Paper No 10

183/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) amend By Laws 5.14.4 and 5.14.5 (Board of Education Archives) as indicated in Working Paper No 10

**REALIGNMENT/  
INTEGRATION OF  
THE BOARDS OF  
MISSION AND  
EDUCATION**

Reference – Working Paper No 11

184/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) affirm that Board of Education and Board of Mission staff who are members of the Synod Standing Committee should not be present during discussions relating to the Realignment/Integration of the Boards
- (iii) note that the General Secretary, on receipt of a further report from the Combined Boards working group, will circulate the report as a working paper for the October 2010 Synod Standing Committee, but that such a report will not be sent to BOM/BOE staff who are Synod Standing Committee members

**ORDINATIONS**

**(a) Rev Nigel Rogers**

Reference – Email received from Sydney North Presbytery 17 August 2010

185/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

note the ordination of Rev Nigel Rogers by Sydney Presbytery as a Minister of the Word effective 27 June 2010

**(b) Rev Mata Hiliau**

Reference – Email from Georges River Presbytery 17 August 2010

186/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee

note the ordination of Rev Mata Hiliau by Georges River Presbytery as a Minister of the Word effective 5 June 2010

**RETIREMENT**

**Rev Sydney Taito**

Reference – Email received 23 August 2010

187/10SC

Resolved

That the Synod Standing Committee note the retirement of Rev Sydney Taito in accordance with Regulation 2.4.7 (a)(i), effective 31 May 2011

**PASTORAL**

**(a) Obituaries**

- Rev Gordon Price died 22 July 2010
- Mrs Mavis Price, wife of Rev Gordon Price, died 24 July 2010
- Mrs Jennifer Gardiner, wife of Rev Graeme Gardiner, died 31 July 2010
- Mr Charles Robinson, brother of Rev Beth Howard, father of Rev Alan Robinson, Rev Peter Robinson, Rev Dr Stephen Robinson, Mrs Ruth Woodley, Mrs Lyn Gee, Mrs Ann Gardiner and grandfather of Rev Tim Robinson, died 30 July 2010
- Mr Geoffrey Denham, son of Rev Ron and Mrs Pam Denham, died 8 August 2010
- Mr James Mein Senior died 25 August 2010

**(b) Awards – The Queen’s Birthday 2010 Honours List**

- The Right Rev Sir Samson Lowa, Moderator of the United Church in Papua New Guinea, a Partner Church of the Uniting Church in Australia, and a former member of the Uniting World Reference Committee was awarded a Knighthood of the British Empire (KBE)
- Rev Jean Winter was awarded the Lane Cove Citizenship Award for Leadership for faithful service to St Andrew’s Uniting Church Longueville and for Chaplaincy with the Aged Care Centres

**(c) Illnesses**

- Rev Dr Ann Wansbrough

.....  
Chairperson

.....  
Date