



## THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

**MINUTES** of the thirty-ninth Meeting of the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT of the Uniting Church in Australia held **2 and 5 June 2021**.

### CANDLE

The Moderator lit the candle at the commencement of the Synod meeting to signify the Synod in Session is a Safe Place

### OPENING WORSHIP

Was developed and lead by the Hepisipa Tonga Parish UCA, Marrickville including

- Mark Gibbons
- Mosese Vaea
- Sela Vaea
- Melelola Latu
- Katokula Latu
- Lameisi Palu
- Malia Puna
- Samiu Taiamoni
- Claire Hogan Gibbons
- Futa Harriss

### DECISIONS

Decisions recorded in these Minutes were reached by consensus unless otherwise indicated.

### MEMBERS OF SYNOD FOR 2 and 5 JUNE 2021

Resolved: 102/21S

That the Synod determined

- (i) That the members of Synod for the 2 and 5 June be recorded and attached as [Appendix A](#).
- (ii) That the following persons be co-opted as members of Synod 2021 in accordance with Regulation 3.3.7a
  - Rev. Mark Faulkner
  - Rev. Geoff Wellington
  - Rev. Tim Jensen
  - Rev. Stephen Robinson
  - Rev. Stuart Bollom
  - Rev. Mark Kickett



## ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

### Resolved 103/21S

That the Synod associate the following people for the June session of Synod.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Session</b>
Mrs Karyn Warner	All
Dr Sathianathan Clarke	Bible Study
Ms Emma Maiden	Synod Climate Action Strategy Update
Mr Jon Obrien	Synod Climate Action Strategy Update
Mr Shane Slade	Synod Climate Action Strategy Update
Ms Vicki Waters	Future Directions: Planting a new school and congregation
Mr David Sexton	Future Directions: Planting a new school and congregation

## SYNOD BUSINESS COMMITTEE

### Resolved 104/21S

That the Synod, on the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee note the appointments of the following persons to the Business Committee for Synod 2021:

- Rev. Kent Crawford, Chair
- Rev. Simon Hansford, Moderator
- Rev. Jane Fry, General Secretary
- Dr Denise Wood
- Rev. Simon Lee
- Mr Ian Lawrence
- Mr Adrian Drayton
- Mrs Karyn Warner
- Mrs Monique Potter
- Mrs Gretzel Mandingiado

## RETURNING OFFICER

### Resolved 105/21S

That the Synod note that the Synod Standing Committee has appointed Mr Ian Lawrence as Returning Officer.

## AGENDA

### Resolved 106/21S

That the Synod adopt the agenda for 2 and 5 June 2021 as published on the Synod 2021 Portal.

## SAFE PLACE

### Resolved 107/21S

That the Synod

- determine the Respectful Communication Guidelines will be the basis for the Synod to be a safe place for all who participate.
- note the Policy on the Prevention of Vilification and Harassment within the Uniting Church in Australia as <https://assembly.uca.org.au/policies/item/169-policy-on-the-prevention-of-vilification-and-harassment-within-the-uca>

## CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY PART 2

### Resolved 108/21S

That the Synod noted the names tabled in the Celebration of Ministry video

- 50 years ordained.
- Admitted as a UCA Minister from another denomination.
- Transferred from other Synods.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS: PLANTING A NEW SCHOOL AND CONGREGATION

Since 2017, the Synod has prioritised growth and affirmed a commitment to ministry and mission with people in the first third of their lives: people aged from birth to around age 35. Synod in April re-affirmed this focus in approving Future Directions for the People of God on the Way. The Synod Standing Committee and Parramatta Nepean Presbytery recommends establishing a new congregation and K–12 co-educational school in a high-growth area of Western Sydney.

### Resolved 109/21SC

That the Synod on the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee and with the support of Parramatta–Nepean Presbytery, will:

- Establish a lower fee-paying school in a new growth area in Western Sydney.
- Support Parramatta–Nepean Presbytery to develop a vibrant new congregation in partnership with a school.
- Delegate responsibility for oversight of the project to the Synod Standing Committee.

(By agreement)

## SYNOD ADVOCAY REPORT

This report provided an overview of the role of advocacy and work for social justice, peace and the environment noting that these are essential elements of the church's mission and of Christian discipleship. Information on current advocacy priorities, and how work to achieve change within those priority areas is detailed and aligned with the new Synod strategy.

### Resolved 110/21S

That the Synod

- Receive the [Synod Advocacy Report](#) and note the ongoing advocacy in Drug Law Reform, Climate Change and Aged Care
- In response to Extended care for young people in care:
  - Endorses the Homestretch campaign to increase the age of foster care support from 18 to 21;
  - Acknowledges that young people in out of home care deserve more support to the age of 21, through new innovations such as including a youth development coach from age 15 like that provided by the Uniting NSW.ACT Extended Care program;
  - Endorses advocacy to government by Uniting NSW.ACT to seek to secure such supports for young people in New South Wales; and
  - Encourages and facilitates members and councils of the church to participate in such advocacy, including through Uniting Church congregations with young people in their areas in out of home care.

## TERM OF THE MODERATOR

The Synod in 2019 extended the term of the Moderator and requested that the Synod Standing Committee review the resolution.

Resolved:111 /21S

That the Synod on the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee approve

- (i) The Moderator shall be elected for a term of three (3) years and shall hold office from the time of installation until the next Moderator is installed.
- (ii) Any person having fulfilled a term as Moderator shall not be eligible for re-election until after the expiry of one further term, unless the provision of this by-law is waived by a full meeting of the Synod.
- (iii) Note that the Bylaws will be amended to reflect this change, following approval from the Synod.

## PRESBYTERY REPORTS

Resolved 112/21S

That the Synod receive the following Presbytery Reports

- [Canberra Region Presbytery](#)
- [Georges River Presbytery](#)
- [Far North Coast](#)
- [Illawarra Presbytery](#)
- [Macquarie Darling Presbytery](#)
- [Mid North Coast Presbytery](#)
- [Parramatta Nepean Presbytery](#)
- [Riverina Presbytery](#)
- [The Hunter Presbytery](#)
- [Sydney Presbytery](#)

## BOARD REPORTS

Resolved 113/21S

That the Synod receive the Uniting Mission and Education and Treasury Investment Services Statement of Missional Intent and Board report.

- (i) [Uniting Mission and Education – Statement of Missional Intent and Board Report](#)
- (ii) [Treasury and Investment Services – Statement of Missional Intent and Board Report](#)

## VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Synod members in small groups considered how and why the issues of Voluntary Assisted Dying matters to them, and impacts on their personal, professional and Christian lives. No decisions were called for. Feedback was collected and shared with the Working Group.

Resolved 114/21SC

That the Synod considered Voluntary Assisted Dying with feedback being provided to the Working Group.