

Synod Governance

Information Pack



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

Overview

This Information Pack has been prepared with the aim of providing both management and staff with an overview of the governance structure of the Synod NSW & ACT including the newly convened Synod Board.

Synod Standing Committee

The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) is elected by the members of Synod in Session and is empowered under Regulation 3.7.4.1 (d) to act on behalf of the Synod between the meetings of Synod in respect of any of the responsibilities. Key responsibilities include

- Determining the strategic direction of the Synod
- Providing oversight of and facilitating the work of the Presbyteries
- Setting advocacy priorities

The SSC meet bi-monthly.

Synod Standing Committee members

The Synod in Session on 7 August 2021, elected the following new members to the Synod Standing Committee:

- Rev. Tualofa Anga-aelangi
- Rev. Mata Havea Hiliau, Moderator Elect
- Mr Ross Johnson
- Rev. Amelia Koh-Butler
- Rev. Simon Lee
- Rev. Robert McFarlane
- Rev. Pablo Nunez
- Ms Alisi Siakimotu
- Dr Denise Wood
- Mr Andrew Wright

Continuing SSC members:

- Mr Michael Anderson, Synod Board Chair
- Mr David Barrow, second term
- Mr John Collins, UCTAL Chair
- Mrs Sharon Flynn, second term
- Rev. Jane Fry, General Secretary
- Mr Ian Gray, Synod Board
- Rev. Simon Hansford, Chair
- Rev. Danielle Hemsworth-Smith, second term
- Rev. Niall Reid, Past Moderator
- Mrs Heather Watson, Uniting Board Chair

Synod Board

On 9 July 2021 the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) approved the establishment of the Synod Board (117/21SC).

The Synod Board in consultation with the Synod Property Board will determine the timing for disbanding the Synod Property Board and transfer of those functions to its responsibility. It is expected that transition will occur in August 2021.

Uniting continues as a separate Board with its scope and objectives as per the By-laws approved at SSC 9 July 2021.

UCTAL is to continue unchanged for the present with a review to identify the appropriate governance function to be completed over the 9-months to March 2022.

Synod Board Members

- Mr Michael Anderson (Chair)
- Mr John Collins
- Rev. Jane Fry (General Secretary)
- Mr Ian Gray
- Mr Craig Lee
- Ms Clare Mazzetti
- Mr David Scott
- Rev. Suzanne Stanton
- Mr Michael Talbot
- Mrs Heather Watson
- Dr Andrew Young

Synod Board responsibilities as detailed in the new By-laws are:

The Synod Board works from the delegations provided by SSC, including the responsibilities to:

- a) operationalise the strategic directions set by Synod and Synod Standing Committee having regard to risk and available resourcing
- b) provide reports on significant matters considered by the Board to the SSC
- c) make recommendations to SSC on matters the SSC has reserved to itself
- d) set key performance indicators for the General Secretary role in conjunction with the General Secretary and provide regular performance feedback
- e) have reporting to it all Synod bodies including bodies with responsibility for Governance, Audit and Risk, Schools, Community Services, Ministry and Mission; along with the ability to may make changes to these bodies to best achieve its responsibilities
- f) act as the Ministerial Education Board for the Synod
- g) act as the Property Board for the Synod
- h) be responsible for oversight of Parish Missions in exercise of the Synod's responsibilities
- i) oversee compliance and delegations
- j) be the governing body responsible for Synod Office staff

Synod Property Trust

The Synod Property Trust holds all the assets of the Church for the benefit of the whole church and authorises transactions on the assets based on approvals that are received as per the Regulations by appropriate church entities. Assets means all real or personal assets of the church, for example, money, programs, intellectual property, contracts, motor vehicles, computers, fixes and fittings, and real estate.

Synod Property Trust Members

The Synod in Session on 7 August 2021 appointed the following as members of the Property Trust (149/21S)

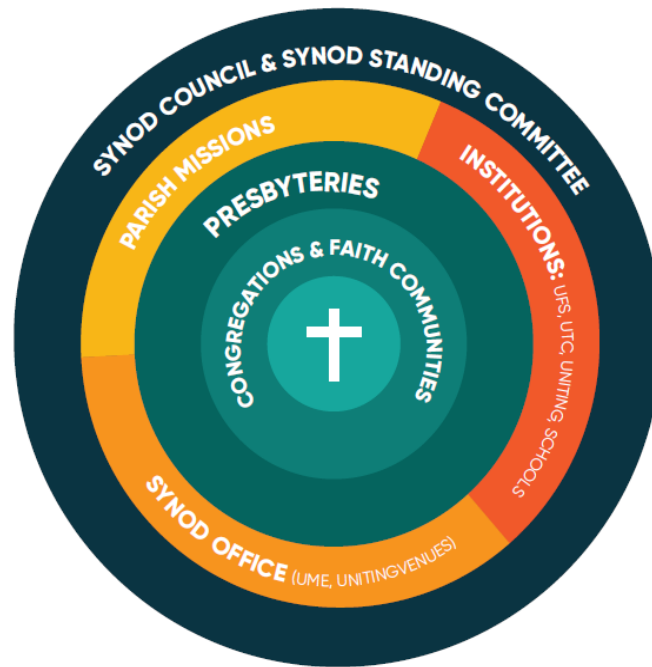
- Mr John Graves
- Mr Ian Gray
- Mr Tim L'Orange
- Mr David Turner
- One position is vacant

Members by position are

- Rev. Jane Fry, General Secretary
- Rev. Simon Hansford, Moderator
- Mr Albert Olley, Synod Property Officer

The Synod Property Trust meets weekly.

WHAT IS SYNOD?



THE CROSS



CONGREGATIONS
& FAITH COMMUNITIES



PRESBYTERIES



SYNOD OFFICE
PARISH MISSIONS
INSTITUTIONS



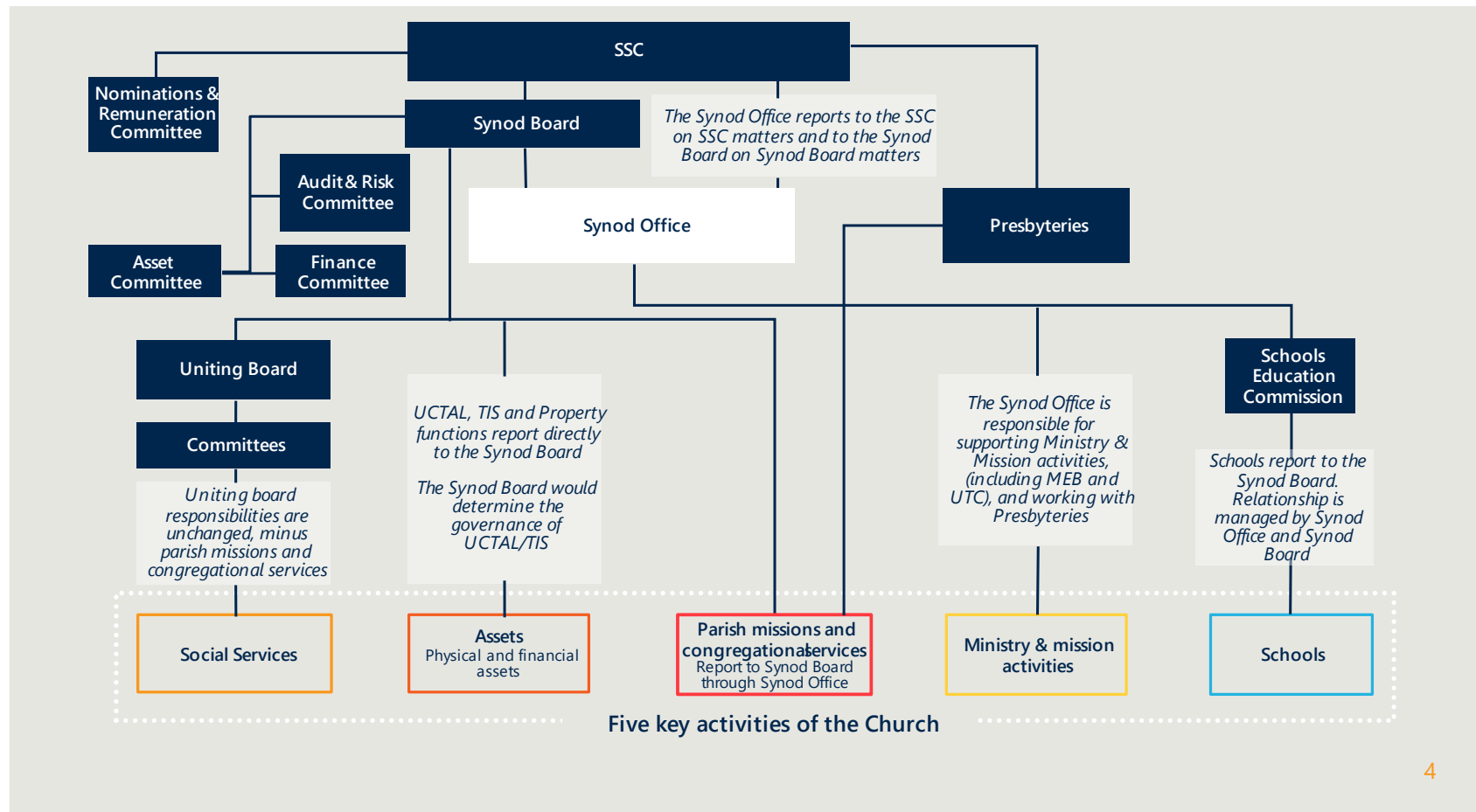
SYNOD COUNCIL
& SYNOD STANDING
COMMITTEE



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Approved governance structure

The SSC would be given space to focus on growth, mission and ministry and the corporate and governance responsibilities are given to a newly-created Synod Board.



What are the key Committees of the Synod Board?

	Audit & Risk Oversight	Asset & Finance	Synod Board Governance	SSC Nom and Rem	SB MEB Committee	Growth Investment Oversight Committee	Property Trust
Overview	No substantial change, except appointment of Deputy Chair and new members	New Committee heavily drawn from SPB and UFS	New committee drawn from outgoing Board Chairs	SB Governance plus SSC members	No change	No change	No change and no requirement for Chair
Committee Chair	Scott Stanton (Chair) Andrew Young (Deputy Chair)	Ian Gray	Michael Anderson	Michael Anderson	Michael Anderson	Ian Gray	n/a

What will be the focus areas for Synod Board Meetings?

	August	September	October	November	December	February	March	April	May	June	July
Operational Review	Corporate Services	Mission & Education	UFS and Secretariat	Corporate Services	Mission & Education Uniting	Corporate Services	Mission & Education	UFS and Secretariat	Corporate Services	Mission & Education	Uniting
Strategy						Annual Strategy discussion		Draft business plan		Approve business plan	
Finance /Budget/Audit			Approve accounts rec by Assets & Finance/ SAROC Review Insurance premiums to church entities by Assets & Finance	Approve insurance renewal and premiums		Half year result and Year-end forecast after review by Assets & Finance	Budget Assumptions reviewed by Assets & Finance EA plan approved by Assets & Finance / SAROC	Insurance Review from Assets & Finance	Draft budget discussed by Synod Board and SSC	Approve Budget Approve insurance renewal	
External Audit			Review draft findings – Assets & Finance	Approve annual accounts after review by Assets & Finance							
Internal Audit, with Assets & Finance to review reports							Approve plan				
Human Resources/Work Health & Safety/Culture		Update					Update				
Risk						Approve Risk Appetite		Consider Key Risk Register and controls			
Regulators				ACNC report review	APRA report, if required						
SPB/UFS	Last SPB			Begin review of UFS governance structure		Approve ongoing UFS governance structure					

Synod Board Meeting Dates

Synod Board Meeting Dates	Time	Papers to be uploaded - Diligent	Papers required for review by General Secretary
Tuesday 17 August 2021	1pm – 4.30pm	10 August 2021	3 August 2021
Tuesday 28 September 2021	1pm – 5pm	21 September 2021	14 September 2021
Tuesday 26 October 2021	1pm – 5pm	19 October 2021	12 October 2021
Tuesday 16 November 2021	1pm – 5pm	9 November 2021	2 November 2021
Tuesday 14 December 2021	1pm – 5pm	7 December 2021	30 November 2021
Tuesday 15 February 2022	1pm – 5pm	8 February 2022	1 February 2022
Tuesday 15 March 2022	1pm – 5pm	8 March 2022	1 March 2022
Tuesday 19 April 2022	1pm – 5pm	12 April 2022	5 April 2022
Tuesday 17 May 2022	1pm – 5pm	10 May 2022	3 May 2022
Tuesday 21 June 2022	1pm – 5pm	14 June 2022	7 June 2022
Tuesday 19 July 2022	1pm – 5pm	12 July 2022	5 July 2022
Tuesday 16 August 2022	1pm – 5pm	9 August 2022	2 August 2022
Tuesday 20 September 2022	1pm – 5pm	13 September 2022	6 September 2022
Tuesday 18 October 2022	1pm – 5pm	11 October 2022	4 October 2022
Tuesday 15 November 2022	1pm – 5pm	8 November 2022	1 November 2022

SSC Meeting Dates

Proposed SSC Dates	Time	Papers required for review by General Secretary	Papers Uploaded Diligent
Friday 3 September 2021 (Orientation	10am – 4pm	20 August 2021	27 August 2021
Friday 5 November 2021	10am – 4pm	22 October 2021	29 October 2021
Friday 3 December 2021	10am -2pm (final business 2021 – if required)	19 November 2021	26 November 2021
Friday 11 February 2022	10am – 4pm	28 January 2022	4 February 2022
Friday 1 April 2022	10am – 4pm	18 March 2022	25 March 2022
Friday 3 June 2022	10am – 4pm	20 May 2022	27 May 2022
Friday 5 August 2022	10am – 4pm	22 July 2022	29 July 2022
Friday 7 October 2022	10am – 4pm	23 September 2022	30 September 2022
Friday 2 December 2022	10am – 4pm	18 November 2022	25 November 2022