

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

MINUTES of the thirty second Meeting of the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT of the Uniting Church in Australia held 10 – 13 April, 2010 at Canterbury Park Function Centre. The theme of the Synod was *“Generous...as God is”*.

CANDLE The Moderator lit the candle at the commencement of the Synod Meeting to signify the Synod was a Safe Place

‘DOING SYNOD DIFFERENTLY’

This synod meeting was the first in a projected three stage process of ‘doing synod differently’ which was initiated by a resolution (220/08S) of the 2008 Synod. The meeting was preceded by an evening celebration at Ravenswood School, Gordon on 9 April, 2010 at which the Moderator celebrated Holy Communion, the President spoke on the theme ‘A generous love can change the world’, Ms Amy Davies was the MC and supper was served by the Midnight Café from Dubbo.

A pre-synod prayer gathering, held on the Saturday morning, was arranged by Rev Noreen Towers and led by the Moderator. Holy Communion was celebrated prior to each day’s proceedings on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Celebrants were Rev Ken Day (Sunday), Rev John Jegasothy (Monday) and Rev Myung Hwa Park (Tuesday).

The meeting closed each evening with prayers led by Mr Jonathan Reid (Saturday), Mrs Sue Conde (Sunday), Ms Pearl Wymarra, Mrs Dianne Torrens and Miss Hazel Leano (Monday). The Moderator closed the meeting on Tuesday with readings from John 21:1-14 and Psalm 30 followed by prayer.

The session between morning tea and lunch each day began with worship. This was followed respectively by a 15 minute keynote input on Engaging Community, Engaging in Worship, Rural Ministry and Multi-cultural Ministry. Synod members then had a choice of two Q & A sessions (Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday) which extended these topics.

Worship and music were arranged by the ‘One heart Leadership Group’ from West Epping Uniting Church, Albion Park Uniting Church, rural ministers and the Korean Commission in consultation with the Moderator.

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE OF SYNOD

41/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
adopt the timetable of Synod as printed and amended, subject to
review by the Business Committee and alteration by the Synod

SAFE PLACE

42/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) determine the “Respectful Communication Guidelines” on page A4.1 of the Synod Working Papers will be the basis for the Synod to be a safe place for all who participate
- (ii) note the Policy on the Prevention of Vilification and Harassment within the Uniting Church in Australia as documented on Pages A4.2 and A4.3 of the Synod Working Papers

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

43/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
associate Ms Lynda Stanford for all sessions
associate Rev Ken Sumner for all sessions
associate Mr Robert Key for Session 16

SYNOD BUSINESS COMMITTEE

44/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

on the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee
appoint the following persons to the Business Committee for Synod
2010

Mr Wal Andrew (Chairperson)
Rev Paul Swadling
Rev Niall Reid
Mrs Margaret Gregory
Mr Warwick Van Ede
Ms Lynda Stanford
Ms Sandra Wright
Ms Lynette (Lenny) Ohye

RETURNING OFFICER

45/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

note that the Synod Standing Committee has appointed Mrs Margaret Gregory and Mr Ian Lawrence as the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer respectively

SYNOD MINUTES

46/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

request the Synod Standing Committee to approve the Minutes of the 2010 Synod Meeting

SHAPING OF THE SYNOD 2010 AGENDA

47/10S

Resolved

That the Synod,

on the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee, request the Synod Business Committee, when considering the Agenda and business priorities at the 2010 Synod, to arrange the Synod's work so that priority is given to those items which best assist the Synod to support the missional vocation of the Church within New South Wales and the ACT and the goals of the Synod

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

The General Secretary tabled the names of Deacons, Ministers of the Word and Youth Workers who have resigned, transferred to another Synod, or had their recognition as Ministers withdrawn, and the names and details of service of Deacons, Ministers and Youth Workers and their spouse/widow and those lay leaders who have died since the 2008 Synod

48/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

receive the names tabled and attach them as Appendix C and D to the Minutes

PRESBYTERY REPORTS

49/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
receive the reports from the Presbyteries of –
Canberra Region
Macquarie Darling
Far North Coast
Georges River
Illawarra
Ku-ring-gai
Mid North Coast
New England North West
Parramatta-Nepean
Riverina
Sydney North
The Hunter
Korean Commission

SYDNEY PRESBYTERY

50/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
(i) note that the Sydney Presbytery did not report to the 2010 Synod meeting
(ii) require the Sydney Presbytery to report to the May 2010 Synod Standing Committee

ADOPTION OF REPORTS

51/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
(i) note the recommendation of the Synod Business Committee that the following reports be adopted *en bloc*

Proposal No	Title of Proposal
9	Presbytery Reports
12	Ministers Support Funds
13	Synod Disaster Recovery Committee
14	Committee on Relations with other Faiths
15	Committee on Spirituality and Pastoral Care of Ministers
16	Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements
17	Discipline Processes
18	Reception of Ministers
48	Congregations
41	Synod Papers – Electronic Access

- (ii) determine that the proposals listed in Clause (i) be received *en bloc* in Session 18 at 1.45pm unless a request is received by the Chairperson of the Business Committee or General Secretary for other consideration by no later than lunchtime Monday 12 April 2010

**MINISTERIAL
MATTERS –
RECOGNITION
SERVICE**

The General Secretary tabled the names of Deacons, Ministers of the Word, Youth Workers and Lay Pastors who have been received by the Uniting Church within the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT by ordination, commissioning, reception from another denomination or by transfer from another Synod since the 2008 Synod; of Deacons, Ministers of the Word and Lay Pastors who have retired since the 2008 Synod; and Ministers of the Word and Deacons who have celebrated major anniversaries of their ordination since the 2008 Synod. Appropriate details are in the Order of Service of the Recognition Booklet

52/10S

Resolved

That the Synod receive the names in the Order of Service and include them as Appendix B to the Minutes

**SYNOD
STANDING
COMMITTEE**

53/10S

Resolved

That the Synod receive the report

**BOARD
OF MISSION**

54/10S

Resolved

That the Synod receive the report

**BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

55/10S

Resolved

That the Synod receive the report

**UNITING
RESOURCES**

56/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**UNITINGCARE
NSW.ACT**

57/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

ASSEMBLY

58/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**MINISTERS
SUPPORT FUNDS**

59/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**SYNOD
DISASTER
RECOVERY
COMMITTEE**

60/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**COMMITTEE
ON RELATIONS
WITH OTHER
FAITHS**

61/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**COMMITTEE
ON SPIRITUALITY
AND PASTORAL
CARE OF
MINISTERS**

62/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON
MINISTERIAL
PLACEMENTS**

63/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**DISCIPLINE
PROCESSES**

64/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

**RECEPTION
OF MINISTERS**

65/10S Resolved
That the Synod
receive the report

SCRUTINEERS

66/10S Resolved
That the Synod
appoint the following persons as Scrutineers
RETURNING OFFICER – Mrs Margaret Gregory
ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER – Mr Ian Lawrence

RED TEAM (A)
Mr Ian Lawrence (Leader)
Mrs Valerie White
Mr Jack Dutton
Mr Greg Christie
Mrs Carol Bickerstaff

BLUE TEAM (B)
Mrs Jacki Watts (Leader)
Mr Noel Harrison
Mr Noel Watts
Mrs Val Moase
Ms Joan Wilcox

Mr Philip Bickerstaff
Mr Bryce Bridges
Ms Sandra Roberts
Mr Grahame Pricter
Mrs Irene Roberts
Mr John K Martin
Mr Ian Taylor
Mrs Brenda Ohye
Miss Leanne Hutcheson

Mr Iain Brown
Ms Val Steward
Mr Robert White
Mr Gordon Cooper
Rev Stephen de Plater
Mr John Rumens
Miss Hanna Reeve
Mr Cameron McKenzie
Mr John Cutts

BALLOT COMMITTEE

67/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
appoint the following persons to the Ballot Committee for the 2010
meeting of the Synod

Mrs Margaret Gregory – convener
Mrs Beryl Tyler
Mrs Jacki Watts
Rev Graeme MacRaid
Mr Trevor Knight
Rev Simon Hansford
Rev Kisoo Jang
Mr Darren Wright
Mr Jonathan Reid

BENEFICIARY FUND

68/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
receive the report

SYNOD PAPERS – ELECTRONIC ACCESS

69/10S

Resolved

That the Synod
request the Secretariat to make Synod papers available by electronic
means such as DVD and downloadable PDF, in addition to the current
paper format. This change is to be timed for the 2011 meeting of Synod.'

**RESPONSE
TO THE
UNITINGCARE
NSW.ACT REPORT
TO SYNOD 2008:
TASK GROUP
REPORT**

70/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) request the task group to bring a further report to the May 2010 Synod Standing Committee

**AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITING
CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA:
PREAMBLE**

71/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

agree to the following change to the Constitution of the Uniting Church in Australia adopted by the 12th Assembly, July 2009:

PREAMBLE

amend the Preamble to the Constitution by deleting the existing Preamble and replacing it with:

PREAMBLE TO CONSTITUTION

The Uniting Church in Australia was formed on 22 June, 1977 by the union of the Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia after the approval of "The Basis of Union" by the Councils and Courts of those three churches, guided by the belief that they had been called by God into this union.

The Church in accordance with the Basis of Union accepts that the responsibility for government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks which God has laid upon them and so organises its life that locally, regionally and nationally, government is entrusted to representatives, men and women, bearing gifts and graces, with which God has endowed them for the building up of God's Church and that therefore the Church shall be governed by a series of inter-related councils, each of which has its tasks and responsibilities in relation to the Church and the world.

The Church in accordance with the Basis of Union acknowledges that the demand of the Gospel, the response of the Church to the Gospel and the discipline which it requires are partly expressed in the formulation by the Church of its law, the aim of which is to confess God's will for the life of Christ's Church.

As the Church believes God guided it into union so it believes that God is calling it to continually seek a renewal of its life as a community of First Peoples and of Second Peoples from many land, and as part of that to

RECOGNISE THAT

1. When the churches that formed the Uniting Church arrived in Australia as part of the process of colonisation they entered a land that had been created and sustained by the Triune God they knew in Jesus Christ.
2. Through this land God had nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples, who continue to understand themselves to be the traditional owners and custodians (meaning 'sovereign' in the languages of the First Peoples) of these lands and waters since time immemorial.
3. The First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers; the Spirit was already in the land revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God's ways.
4. Some members of the uniting churches approached the First Peoples with good intentions, standing with them in the name of justice; considering their well being, culture and language as the churches proclaimed the reconciling purpose of the Triune God found in the good news about Jesus Christ.
5. Many in the uniting churches, however, shared the values and relationships of the emerging colonial society including paternalism and racism towards the First Peoples. They were complicit in the injustice that resulted in many of the First Peoples being dispossessed from their land, their language, their culture and spirituality, becoming strangers in their own land.
6. The uniting churches were largely silent as the dominant culture of Australia constructed and propagated a distorted version of history that denied this land was occupied, utilised, cultivated and harvested by these First Peoples who also had complex systems of trade and inter-relationships. As a result of this denial, relationships were broken and the very integrity of the Gospel proclaimed by the churches was diminished.

7. From the beginning of colonisation the First Peoples challenged their dispossession and the denial of their proper place in this land. In time this was taken up in the community, in the courts, in the parliaments, in the way history was recorded and told, and in the Uniting Church in Australia.
8. In 1985 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Uniting Church in Australia formed the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.
9. In 1988 the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress invited the other members of the Church to join in a solemn act of covenanting before God.
1. After much struggle and debate, in 1994 the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia discovered God's call, accepted this invitation and entered into an ever deepening covenantal relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. This was so that all may see a destiny together, praying and working together for a fuller expression of our reconciliation in Jesus Christ.

AND THUS the Church celebrates this Covenantal relationship as a foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation.

(by formal majority)

**AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITING
CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA:
DEFINITIONS**

72/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

agree to the following change to the Constitution adopted by the 12th Assembly, July 2009:

DEFINITIONS

amend the Constitution by adding the following definitions to Clause 3

Covenantal relationship is the relationship which exists between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and the Assembly, which began in the invitation of 1988 and response of 1994, in which both groups commit themselves to developing more just, inclusive and equal relationships in the Church that recognise the place of First Peoples, the

difficult history of this nation since invasion, and the particular responsibility of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress for ministry with and among Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

First Peoples are the Aboriginal and Islander peoples of Australia who are the indigenous peoples of this land. These peoples are a diverse group with many languages and communal identities.

Second Peoples are all those peoples who have come after the First Peoples and who are beneficiaries in some way of the invasion and dispossession of the lands of the First Peoples. Among Second Peoples within the Church are many whose racial, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, experiences and expression of Christian faith are not those originating in Western forms of thought and theological expression.

**AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITING
CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA:
DIVISION 4**

73/10S

Resolved

That the Synod inform Assembly that the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT does not support changes to the Constitution regarding Division 4, but affirms the importance of this issue of responsibilities and structural arrangements and encourages the Assembly to continue to work with the UAICC on a better way forward

**AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITING
CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA:
PRESIDENTIAL
RULINGS**

74/10S

Resolved

That the Synod agree to the following change to the Constitution adopted by the 12th Assembly, July 2009:

PRESIDENTIAL RULINGS

amend the Constitution to read:

71. All rulings as to the interpretation of this Constitution or any of the Regulations made by the Assembly shall be made by the President after taking appropriate advice, and noting the Preamble, provided however that any such ruling may be confirmed, varied, modified, rescinded or over-ruled by the Assembly or by the Standing Committee on its behalf.

**AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITING
CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA:
CLAUSE 39**

75/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

agree to the following change to Constitution adopted by the 12th Assembly, July 2009:

CLAUSE 39 OF THE CONSTITUTION

amend the Constitution by the addition of the following sub-clause to clause 39:

- (b) (i) If within six months of a decision of the Assembly, or its Standing Committee, at least half the Presbyteries within the bounds of each of at least half the Synods, or at least half the Synods, notify the President that they have determined that in their opinion
- a decision includes a matter vital to the life of the Church; and
 - there was inadequate consultation prior to the decision
- the President shall notify the Church that the decision is suspended until the Assembly has undertaken further consultation;
- (ii) Following this consultation, the Assembly shall determine whether to affirm, vary or revoke the original decision and report its decision and reasons to the Church;
- (iii) No action taken in reliance on a the original decision of the Assembly prior to the President's notification to the Church under clause 39(b)(i) shall be invalid by virtue of that notification;
- (iv) This sub-clause can only be used a second or subsequent time on the same matter if the Assembly determines to vary the original decision.

**PREAMBLE
TO INTERIM
CONSTITUTION**

76/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

request the Assembly to seek ways to publish the whole of the 1977 "PREAMBLE TO INTERIM CONSTITUTION" along with the Constitution as an historical reference in the event that this Preamble is replaced

**REV DR
ANN
WANSBROUGH**

77/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note that the 2008 Synod resolved that the processes which led to the conclusion of the placement of the Rev Dr Ann Wansbrough with UnitingCare be investigated by an independent panel and referred the completion of this matter to the Standing Committee
- (ii) note that, following the resignation of the Rev Allan Thompson, the Rev Professor James Haire agreed to seek appropriate people – acceptable to the UnitingCare Board and the Rev Dr Ann Wansbrough – who would undertake the task of investigating the Church's processes
- (iii) note that Professor Haire has put together a panel acceptable to both parties consisting of the Rev Brian Howe, former Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Kellie Edwards, Sydney Barrister and The Hon Brian Cohen, retired Justice of the NSW Supreme Court
- (iv) note that documents have been delivered to Ms Edward's office and the panel, advised by Professor Haire, had a teleconference on 17 February and a face to face meeting on 26 March

**PRESBYTERY
REPORTS TO SYNOD
STANDING
COMMITTEE**

78/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) request the May 2010 meeting of Chairs and Secretaries of Presbyteries with the Moderator and General Secretary to endorse a system of Presbytery reporting for the 2010/11 Synod cycle whereby one or two Presbyteries report to each Synod Standing Committee Meeting, and
- (ii) agree a standard format for the Presbytery reports, noting Regulations 3.5.11 and 3.5.36.

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

79/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) receive the report from the Synod Standing Committee
- (ii) note and endorse the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee that
 - (a) the Boards of Mission and Education be requested to pursue the merger of the two boards as outlined in the report
 - (b) the two Boards provide regular reports to the Synod Standing Committee throughout the period of integration through the Combined Board Working Group
 - (c) the Synod delegate to the Synod Standing Committee authority to approve necessary structural changes in collaboration with the Boards before the 2011 Synod
 - (d) that a final report be given to the 2011 Synod meeting

**APPRECIATION
MR DEREK PIGOT**

80/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

acknowledge the work that Mr Derek Pigot has done over the past 31 years as a member of the Kinross Wolaroi School Council and in particular in his role as Chairman for 28 years. Derek joined the Kinross Wolaroi Council in 1979, when the school was in a dire financial position and in danger of closure. He used his financial expertise to lead the School Council and to turn the school into a positive direction. He worked closely with three Principals who spanned his time of service at the school and together they transformed Kinross Wolaroi into one of the leading Independent schools in NSW and Australia.

Derek's vision and leadership enabled the repurchase of the PLC Site, the development of a Cow/Calf Program that now boasts 4 properties and over 700 head of cattle. He has overseen major building programs, including a new Recreation Centre, Library, Administration Block, Assembly Hall, Boarding Houses, a Sick Bay and refurbishment of all of the old buildings on both campuses. Derek has also overseen the redevelopment of the grounds on both sites that total 100 acres.

Derek's leadership has seen major improvements in standards at Kinross Wolaroi in both academic, co-curricular and all areas of social responsibility. He leaves the school with a record enrolment of 1000 students for tuition and 300 students for boarding. He has left Kinross Wolaroi in an extremely strong position from every aspect from which it is

viewed and we thank him for his commitment and effort that was always given without payment or recompense during his association with the school.

**APPRECIATION
DR JOHN
ROBERTSON**

81/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) express to Dr. John Robertson its appreciation for the contribution he has made to the life and witness of the church in his role as Convenor of the Committee for Discipline and
- (ii) pray God's blessing on him and his continuing discipleship in the Uniting Church Dr. John Robertson was appointed to the Committee for Discipline in 1997 following his appointment by the Executive of the Council of Synod and then became its convenor. Since that time John has carried the responsibilities within this role with distinction and humility.

Those of us who have been connected with the work of the Committee for Discipline have always been impressed with John's acumen for the role and the diligence with which he has carried out each part of the process within his purview. He has drawn on his knowledge of church and of the role of the Committee to provide the advice and administrative support for the exacting nature of the Committee's work. Bringing a report and the consequential recommendations of the Committee for Discipline was a responsibility that John undertook with professionalism but one which always weighed upon him. It was with sadness that he would report to the Council of Synod and later the Synod Standing Committee of events within the ministry of the church which had led to significant harm to others and the recommendations of removal of an ordained person from ministry.

Over time John has made contributions to the overall way in which the parts of the Discipline processes have addressed through his contribution to the review of regulations and procedures.

In late 2009 John indicated that he would not be seeking to be re-appointed in the role and would be retiring effective at the end of December. The Church owes John a great debt in the service he has faithfully provided to the Committee for Discipline and to this Synod.

**APPRECIATION
MR GLEN POWELL**

82/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

acknowledge the work of Glen Powell in his role as New Congregations Consultant with the Board of Mission from 2000 to 2010.

With a sense of courage and possibly some naivety the Board of Mission employed Glen Powell as the New Congregations consultant in April 2000. Glen was keen to serve the Church and from his experience with Cafe Church Glebe and as a singer in a rock band for a number of years, was ready to push the Church's boundaries on it's sense of mission, theology and connections with those on or beyond the edge of Church life.

Glen is an intelligent and creative individual who is passionate about the mission of God and the potential of the UCA to make an authentic link between the gospel and the Australian community. During his nearly 10 years with the Board of Mission, Glen encouraged many leaders and searchers hoping to find new ways to create missional communities and Churches appropriate to their contexts. Glen participated in a number of committees which were developing strategic approaches to grow leadership, financial and property resources to assist the development of new initiatives across the life of the Church.

His initially unpopular reworking of the Synod Mission Resource Fund financial processes has placed the fund in a far more sustainable position into the future. Such ideas have been typical of Glen providing wisdom and foresight long before the rest of the Church understood the issues, the theological framework and the strategic insight of his suggestions. For many years Glen prodded the Synod about the need to make changes to the way the use and ownership of property was perceived and regulated. After asking a few awkward questions at Assembly and Synod meetings, presenting theological rationales and various proposals, eventually at the 2009 Assembly a number of property related resolutions were agreed to that, hopefully, will take the UCA into a future with a focus on a more missional use of property.

Mentor, advocate, provocateur, theologian, entrepreneur. Gifted and passionate follower of Jesus Christ. Glen Powell's contribution to the Uniting Church in Australia through this role will continue into the future as the rest of us catch up with his creative and insightful reflections and approach to theology and mission.

**POLITY
AND ETHOS
EDUCATION**

83/10S

Resolved

That the Synod request ELM and invite the Presbyteries to offer each member of the various Councils of the Church in NSW-ACT the opportunity to attend “Living Values” (or a comparable Polity and Ethos course) in the period 2010 – 2012

**RESOURCE
MINISTRY:
RELATIONSHIP
WITH EDUCATION
FOR LIFE MINISTRY**

84/10S

Resolved

That the Synod invite Presbyteries (with Resource Ministers), the Resource Ministry Consultant, ACOMP, and ELM, to develop guidelines for articulating the relationship between Resource Ministry Placements and ELM

DISCIPLESHIP

85/10S

Resolved

That the Synod request the Board of Education (through the ELM Centre) and invite Presbyteries to establish a Synod/Presbyteries Advancing Discipleship Education (SPADE) Task Group to develop and implement an Action Plan to work towards the following outcomes:

- (a) offering an annual cycle of introductory biblical/theological education (e.g. ELM ‘Talking Faith’ modules or Certificate in theology or ministry) in each of 8 Regions, to be commenced by 2012
- (b) working towards the accreditation of 3 – 4 Trainers/Tutors/Facilitators in each of those regions by 2011(Talking Faith, Discipleship Practices)
- (c) ensuring that each Presbytery has had the opportunity to hold a Training Workshop on ‘Living our Discipleship’ and hold a Discipleship Retreat by 2012
- (d) enabling every Presbytery to offer ample opportunities to all members of the church, to deepen their understanding of, and participation in the Sacraments (e.g. by offering ELM’s ‘Understanding the Sacraments’ or an equivalent (course)

CONGREGATIONS

86/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note the decision of the Hunter Presbytery to close the Williamtown Congregation
- (ii) note the decision of the Macquarie Darling Presbytery to close the Cow Flat Church
- (iii) note that the Jindabyne Congregation has been re-classified by the Canberra Region Presbytery as a Small Congregation and therefore subject to the regulations for small congregations

ASSOCIATE VISITORS TO THE CLOSED SESSIONS

87/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

invite Mrs Helen Brown, Mrs Liz MacRaild, Mr Kingsley Murphy and Mr David Harrison to be observers at the Closed Sessions regarding the election of Moderator

ASYLUM SEEKERS

88/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) acknowledging that:
 - (a) Jesus was a refugee whose parents were forced to flee persecution
 - (b) universally accepted principles of human rights demand that every human being be treated with the dignity that is their birthright
 - (c) Australian law recognizes the rights of people to seek asylum in this country on a case by case manner rather than one based on country of origin, and
 - (d) Australia is a signatory to international law as defined by the United Nations Convention on Refugees
- (ii) express grave concerns about the recent decision of the Australian Government to suspend processing asylum applications by people from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka
- (iii) encourage the Government to live out the ethical commitment of the Australian people to show hospitality to people fleeing persecution as codified in the United Nations Convention on Refugees which all parties support
- (iv) call on all political parties and media organisations to cease fanning the flames of xenophobia and instead promote a national conversation that upholds the dignity of all people, including asylum seekers, and

- (v) request the Moderator to convey this concern to the Government directly and through media channels

REVIEW OF CURRENT STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES OF SYNOD

89/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) embark on a process to review, clarify and where necessary update roles and functions of bodies across the life of the Synod to enable it to best support the mission priorities of the Synod,
- (ii) present the results together with any proposals for recommended change to the 2011 Meeting of Synod for its consideration and determination,
- (iii) authorise the Synod Standing Committee to confirm the final process to be followed and the resultant timetable, and
- (iv) request the General Secretary to facilitate the provision of adequate resources to ensure adherence to the 2011 Synod meeting reporting target

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL SECRETARY

90/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

appoint the Rev Dr Andrew Williams as General Secretary of the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT from 1 August 2010 for a period of five years

ELECTION OF MODERATOR

91/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

elect the Rev Dr Brian Brown to the office of Moderator for the period from the Synod of 2011 to the Synod of 2014

APPOINTMENTS

92/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) appoint the persons nominated to membership of the Synod Standing Committee

- (ii) elect the following persons to the membership of boards, councils and committees of the Synod as listed
- (iii) authorise the Synod Standing Committee to approve the additional appointments indicated (*) when nominations are received

1. SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

(a) Ex Officio Members

Moderator	Rev Niall Reid
Moderator-Elect	Rev Dr Brian Brown
Ex Moderator	Mr Jim Mein
Synod General Secretary	Rev Paul Swadling
Executive Director, <i>UnitingCare</i>	Rev Harry Herbert
Executive Director, <i>Uniting Resources</i>	Mr Gavin Pretorius
Executive Director, Board of Education	Mr John Oldmeadow
Executive Director, Board of Mission	Ms Tina Rendell
Principal, United Theological College	Rev Assoc. Prof. Clive Pearson

(b) Members

Mr Peter Andrews
 Rev Karen Burchell-Thomas
 Rev Lindsay Cullen
 Ms Amy Davies
 Rev Geoffrey Flynn
 Rev Ann Hogan
 Rev Kisoo Jang
 Mr David Jones
 Rev Gaby Kobrossi
 Rev Amelia Koh-Butler
 Rev Patty Lawrence
 Mr Peter Lynn
 Mr Murray McKay
 Mrs John Moss
 Mr Brian Mowbray
 Mrs Brenda Ohye
 Rev Jorge Rebolledo
 Ms Hannah Reeve
 Ms Dorothy Reid
 Rev Robert Rutherford
 Ms Radhika Sukumar
 Mrs Dianne Torrens
 Rev Chris Udy
 Mrs Jacki Watts
 Ms Valerie White
 Mr Darren John Wright
 Ms Pearl Wymarra

2. BOARDS

(a) Board of Education

Rev Janet Dawson
Rev Michael Earl
Rev Karen Mitchell-Lambert
Mrs Joan Moss
Mr Richard Pedersen
Rev Roger Webb

(b) Board of Mission

Ms Robin Davies
Rev Ken Day
Rev Mark Faulkner
Rev Hyun Keun Lee
Mr Glen Powell
Rev Jan Reeve
Ms Anne Weeks

(c) UnitingCare

Rev Geoffrey Flynn
Mr Jonathon Rea
Mrs Jackie Watts

(d) Uniting Resources Board

Mr Peter Andrews
Mr John Brunton
Mr John Graves
Mr Koos Kruger
Mr Ted Woodley

3. CHAIRPERSONS

Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements

Rev Graeme MacRaid

4. THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA PROPERTY TRUST (NSW)

Mr Bryce Bridges
Mr Lawrence John Graves
Mr Timothy J L'Orange
Mrs Paula Reid
Mr Warwick Van Ede

5. MEMBERSHIP OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION BOARD

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**APPRECIATION
REV ALISTAIR
MACRAE**

93/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

thank the Rev Alistair Macrae for his generosity in being with us during the 2010 Synod meeting and for his hopeful and challenging words for the onward journey

**APPRECIATION
REV KEN SUMNER**

94/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

express to Rev Ken Sumner its appreciation for leading us in Bible Study throughout this Synod meeting. We have had the opportunity to learn from Ken's generous sharing of his own story and the story of his people and his linking of his own experiences of the generosity of God's spirit with our own experiences and the experience of the wider church through the lens of the scriptures. We give thanks for his leadership, his wisdom and his reflection on the word of God to us

**APPRECIATION
SECRETARIAT
STAFF**

95/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

thank the staff of the General Secretary's office, Sandra Wright, Meg Herbert, Lynda Stanford, Mersini Avierinos, Kathy Jamieson, Poppy Roumeliotis, Noelene Price and Gavin Heise for their grace, hospitality and efficiency and extend to Sandra Wright in particular the Synod's affirmation of a magnificent first effort in coordinating all of the arrangements for what really is a complex and busy meeting

**APPRECIATION
UNITING CREATIVE
STAFF**

96/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

record its thanks to the staff of Uniting Creative – Marjorie Lewis-Jones, Stephen Webb, Lyndal Irons and Kimberley Almarza – who have been gathering news of the Synod meeting, writing stories and releasing them via the internet and media release even while Synod members have been engaged in the worship, community building and decision making of the 2010 Synod

**APPRECIATION
REV SIMON LEE
MS AMY DAVIES**

97/10S

Resolved

That the Synod

express its appreciation of Ms Amy Davies and Rev Simon Lee who have been involved in the planning for the 2010 Synod and active in the day to day Synod program in order to assist with the task of “doing Synod differently” prescribed by the 2008 Synod

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Chairperson

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Date