

# THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

## SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

**MINUTES** of the thirty fourth Meeting of the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT of the Uniting Church in Australia held 13 – 16 April 2013 at Knox Grammar School. The theme of the Synod was *“uniting for the common good”*

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND** Aboriginal Elders led the procession and participated in the acknowledgement of land at the commencement of Worship each day

**BIBLE STUDY** Bible Studies were led by Rev Dr Andrew Dutney, Ms Jan Sutch Pickard, Mr Ace Kim and the Moderator respectively with the following themes and readings:

“Church uniting for the common good” – Nehemiah 2:17-18 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

“Creation uniting for the common good” – Isaiah 49:18-13, Luke 13:6-9 and Luke 13:18-21

“Community uniting for the common good” – Titus 3:1-11 and Acts 2:43-47

“Synod uniting for the common good” – Jonah 4:1-5 and Luke 6:27-36

**WORSHIP** Worship and music at the commencement of each day were truly multicultural, reflecting the richly diverse nature of the Synod. The Uniting Mission and Education Worship Committee led by the Multicultural Consultant invited groups and individuals from around the Synod including Indigenous Elders, children and young people, many choirs, liturgical dancers, women, men, lay and ordained members, to participate in and lead worship. Musicians included Mr Jayson Nallas and the Quakers Hill Uniting Church Filipino Youth Band, Mr Ace Kim and the OneHeart Band, Rev Dr John Squires, Rev Elizabeth Raine and the MLC School Orchestra. Rev Ann Perrin composed a special song for Synod called “Uniting for the Common Good”.

The meeting closed each evening with prayers by Ministry candidates from the United Theological College

Saturday – Mrs Suzanne Stanton and Mr Adrian White  
Sunday – Ms Ellie Elia and Mr David Stuart  
Monday – Mrs Bridget Ocean, Mr David Stuart and Mrs Ellie Elia  
Tuesday – The Moderator

## **DECISIONS**

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

## **MEMBERS OF SYNOD**

50/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod determine

- (a) that the membership of Synod shall comprise ex officio and board members, together with those persons nominated by presbyteries or co-opted, being listed on pages of these papers
- (b) that any alterations to the list of members be advised in writing to the Synod General Secretary by the Presbytery Chairperson no later than the close of Synod on Tuesday 15 April 2013

(The list of members is attached as Appendix A to the Minutes)

## **AGENDA AND TIMETABLE OF SYNOD**

51/13S

### 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**

52/13S

### 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

**SYNOD  
BUSINESS  
COMMITTEE**

53/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

on the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee, appoint the following persons to the Business Committee for Synod 2013

- Rev Dr Chris Budden (Chairperson)
- Rev Dr Brian Brown
- Rev Dr Andrew Williams
- Mr Warwick van Ede
- Mr Ian Lawrence
- Rev Rebecca Lindsay
- Ms Mary Kapotas
- Ms Sandra Wright

**SHAPING  
OF THE  
SYNOD 2013  
AGENDA**

54/13S

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 2013 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

**ASSOCIATED  
MEMBERS**

55/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

associate the following people

|                        | <b>Session</b> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Ms Mary Kapotas        | All            |
| Rev Harry Walker       | All            |
| Mrs Annabelle Walker   | All            |
| Dr Miriam Pepper       | 11             |
| Ms Rosemary Young      | 6              |
| Prof Ross Chambers     | 9              |
| Dr Gerard Moore        | 9              |
| Mrs Helen Miller-Brown | 15             |

**RETURNING  
OFFICER**

56/13S

Resolved

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

**SYNOD  
MINUTES**

57/13S

Resolved

That the Synod request the Synod Standing Committee approve the Minutes of the 2013 Synod Meeting

**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 2011 Synod

58/13S

Resolved

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

**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 2011 Synod; of Deacons, Ministers of the Word and Lay Pastors who have retired since the 2011 Synod; and Ministers of the Word and Deacons who have celebrated major anniversaries of their ordination since the 2011 Synod. Appropriate details are in the Order of Service of the Recognition Booklet (Appendix B)

## ADOPTION OF REPORTS

59/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

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

| <b>Proposal No</b> | <b>Title of Proposal</b>                     |
|--------------------|--|
| 12                 | Beneficiary Fund                             |
| 13                 | Ministers Support Funds Committee            |
| 14                 | Synod Disaster Recovery Committee            |
| 15                 | Committee on Relations with Other Faiths     |
| 16                 | Christian Spirituality Committee             |
| 17                 | Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements |
| 18                 | Reception of Ministers                       |
| 19                 | Synod Music Development Committee            |
| 20                 | Discipline Processes                         |
| 21                 | Faith and Unity Committee                    |
| 22                 | Presbytery Reports                           |
| 23                 | Congregations                                |
| 33                 | Appreciation – Ms Sandra Wright              |
| 34                 | Appreciation – Secretariat Staff             |
| 45                 | Synod 2014 Meeting Date                      |
| 49                 | Appreciation – Rev Harry Herbert             |
| 50                 | Appreciation – Mrs Meg Herbert               |
| 52                 | Appreciation – Ms Jane Woodruff              |
| 53                 | Appreciation – Uniting Creative Staff        |
| 57                 | Congregations                                |

- (ii) determine that the proposals listed in Clause (i) be received *en bloc* in Session 15 unless a request is received by the Chairperson of the Business Committee or General Secretary for other consideration by no later than lunchtime Monday, 15 April 2013

## REPORTS

60/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

receive reports either oral or written from

Assembly  
UnitingCare NSW.ACT  
Uniting Resources  
Treasury and Investment Services  
Uniting Mission and Education  
National Christian Youth Convention  
Living is Giving  
Rural Ministry Unit  
Act for Peace

## **PRESBYTERY REPORTS**

61/13S

### 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  
Sydney North  
The Hunter  
Korean

## **SCRUTINEERS**

62/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod  
appoint the following persons as Scrutineers  
RETURNING OFFICER  
ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER

#### **RED TEAM (A)**

Mr Phillip Bickerstaff (Leader)  
Ms Bridget Ocean  
Ms Fae McGregor  
Mr Noel Harrison  
Mr Robert White  
Ms Rosemary Everett  
Mr Noel Watts  
Mr Seung Jae Yeon  
Rev Christopher Barr  
Mr John K Martin

#### **BLUE TEAM (B)**

Mrs Carol Bickerstaff (Leader)  
Ms Sandra Roberts  
Mrs Carolyn Sharp  
Rev Ray McIlwraith  
Ms Eldrene March  
Mr Andrew Steele  
Mr Chris (Seung Yong) Park  
Ms In Ja Yang  
Mr John Cutts

## **FACILITATION GROUP**

63/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod  
appoint the following persons to the Facilitation Groups

- Rev Robert Buchan
- Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly
- Rev Lorna Martin
- Mr David Freeman

- Rev Susan Phalen
- Mr Phillip Bickerstaff
- Rev Dr Roger Webb
- Mr Stephen White
- Mrs Jill Robertson

## CONGREGATIONS

64/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note the decision of the Riverina Presbytery to disband the Rand Congregation
- (ii) note the decision of the Sydney North Presbytery to cease to recognise the Korean Faith Community
- (iii) note the decision of the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery to disband the Smithfield Congregation
- (iv) note the decision of the Korean Presbytery to disband the Sydney Ju Sarang Faith Community and the Five Dock Hoju Joong-Ang Faith Community
- (v) note the decision of the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery to recognise a new Faith Community to be known as The Gathering, a Faith Community of the Uniting Church in Australia
- (vi) (a) note the decision of the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery to amalgamate the Dundas West and Ermington Congregations
- (b) note the decision of the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery to create a unified Congregation to be known as the Dundas Ermington Uniting Church
- (vii) note the decision of the Hunter Presbytery to amalgamate the Singleton and Branxton Congregations
- (viii) note the decision of the Hunter Presbytery to recognise a new Faith Community to be known as the Singleton Faith Community
- (ix) (a) note the decision of the Hunter Presbytery to amalgamate the Charlestown and Whitebridge Congregations
- (b) note the decision of the Hunter Presbytery to create a unified Congregation to be known as The Charlestown-Whitebridge Congregation
- (x) (a) note the decision of the Sydney Presbytery to amalgamate the Maroubra Bay and Maroubra Junction Congregations
- (b) note the decision of the Sydney Presbytery to create a unified Congregation to be known as the Hope Uniting Church
- (xi) note the decision of the Macquarie Darling Presbytery to close the Mid Lachlan Mission Area
- (xii) note the decision of the Parramatta Nepean Presbytery to disband the Ermington Fiji Congregation

**SYNOD 2014  
MEETING  
DATE**

65/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

determine the 26 – 30 September 2014 as the date for the next Synod meeting

**STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

66/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

excise from the Synod Standing Committee report Section 19. *United Theological College* starting in the first paragraph at “In the same way” through to and including the whole of the second paragraph as these matters were dealt with in closed session, and are held in Minutes Apart.

**SYNOD  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

67/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) receive the report as amended
- (ii) appoint a working group to shape a proposal with the assistance of the Facilitation Team
- (iii) noting
  - (a) the current practice of the Synod Standing Committee meeting on Friday afternoon through to Saturday afternoon;
  - (b) the challenge facing Synod Standing Committee members who currently work on Fridays;
  - (c) the travelling and accommodation challenges facing Synod Standing Committees members from rural areas, as well as the isolation that can be felt at times; and
  - (d) the increasing use of technology to allow meeting access for every meeting from either phone or videoconferencing facilities in regional centres
- (iv) move the Synod Standing Committee meetings to a Saturday meeting
- (v) utilise the offer from *UnitingCare* to assist in making available technology for tele/video conferencing for every member for every meeting
- (vi) noting
  - (a) the increased demand for engagement around significant issues which may require education to enable members to effectively make decisions; and
  - (b) the increased demand for dealing with some issues in a timely manner;



- (vii) increase the meeting frequency of the Synod Standing Committee from 8 times in the 18 month period to a more regular meeting
- (viii) determine that members are able to access every meeting using telecommunications technology, however, the majority of meetings are best served by the members being present to build relationship, pray together and discern together
- (ix) determine that the Synod Standing Committee meet on the following dates in 2013-14

**2013**

- 11 May 2013
- 22 June 2013
- 20 July 2013
- 24 August 2013
- 28 September 2013
- 26 October 2013
- 7 December 2013

**2014**

- 1 February 2014
- 15 February 2014
- 15 March 2014
- 5 April 2014
- 24 May 2014
- 21 June 2014
- 23 August 2014

**SYNOD** 26-30 September 2014

- (x) directs the Standing Committee to determine, in consideration of the nature of the business for each meeting and the costs for face-to-face meetings, which of these meetings could be effectively dealt with by tele/videoconferencing (with individuals or groups)
- (xi) determine that the venue include one meeting in rural context and half of the face-to-face meetings be held at the Centre for Ministry.

*(by formal majority)*

**REVIEW OF  
CURRENT  
STUCTURES  
AND PROCESSES  
OF SYNOD**

68/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) thank and discharge the Implementation Team and the Shared Corporate Services Reference Group

**SYNOD  
STRATEGY**

69/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

receive the verbal report of the General Secretary and endorse the work done on a Synod leadership charter and encourage ongoing work on the Synod strategy

**UNITINGCARE  
NSW.ACT**

**(a) Ensuring access to community aged care by people with limited means**

70/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) notes that
  - (a) UnitingCare Ageing NSW.ACT is a major provider of community aged care services
  - (b) Community aged care (“home care”) is the preference of many older Australians who require care and other support services
  - (c) Home care is a flexible and effective means of preventing premature admissions to residential aged care and for the support of older people with chronic health conditions to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions
  - (d) The Federal Government is proposing that from 1 July 2014, new people receiving home care packages will be asked to pay a care fee based on a means test, in addition to the basic care fee already payable.
  - (e) The additional means-tested care fee will apply when income exceeds \$23,543 for a single part-pensioner. For every \$1 of income above that level, an additional 50 cents of income tested fee will apply up to \$33,543.
  - (f) The income-tested fee will be capped at \$5,000 per annum for part pensioners and \$10,000 per annum for self-funded care recipients.
  - (g) In effect, the real annual cap is the amount currently payable (being the basic fee of \$3,163) plus \$5,000 per annum (ie a total of over \$8,000 per annum for part-pensioners and over \$13,000 per annum for self funded care recipients).
  - (h) While the proposed additional co-payments are based on income, they do not take account of the sometimes onerous costs people receiving care incur at home, including repairs and maintenance, utilities, pharmacy, oxygen, vital-call, transport, allied health services and other costs associated with medical needs.
  - (i) The other factor not taken into account is that part-pensioners earning \$23,543 and above are already losing 50 cents in every additional \$1 of income through loss of pension. The total result is a loss of 75% of every additional \$1 earned by part-pensioners earning above \$23,543. Any income tax payable on each additional \$1 of income earned will be a further loss.

- (j) The income-tested fee will be collected by the reduction in the subsidy which would otherwise be payable by the Government to the community care provider for that care recipient.
  - (k) High co-payments for home care will reduce the willingness of older people to seek access to community care and/or reduce the funds available for the provision of their care.
- (ii) Directs the Moderator on behalf of Synod to call on the Federal Government and Opposition to
- (a) Commit to maintaining access for older Australians to affordable home care services, particularly for all pensioners.
  - (b) Ensure that the level of co-payments does not discourage access to home care or reduce the capacity of aged care providers to provide services.
  - (c) Review proposed arrangements for co-payments for home care packages to ensure that access and affordability is achieved.
- (iii) Encourages congregation members to contact their local Federal Member of Parliament to seek their support for ensuring that consumer co-payments for home care packages are affordable and accessible, particularly for all pensioners, and that the proposed new regime for co-payments is reviewed to achieve those objectives. Suggested letter to be provided by UnitingCare Ageing

**(b) TAFE Cuts**

71/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note that
  - (a) The NSW Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, announced in September 2012 that the state education budget will be cut by \$1.7bn over four years from 2013 to 2016;
  - (b) Course fees for TAFE will increase by 9.5% and the student concession fee will increase from \$53 to \$100;
  - (c) At the time of writing, there has been no comprehensive statement available on the impacts of cuts to TAFE courses, services and programs. However, the NSW Government has indicated 800 jobs will be lost from TAFE. Therefore the cumulative impact on funding cuts on educational outcomes for vulnerable students cannot be accurately measured at this time.
- (ii) Strongly encourages congregations to contact their local State Member, the Premier, and the Minister for Education and urge them to
  - (a) Reconsider the decision to increase TAFE fees and the student concession fee, due to the likelihood that such fee increases will further exclude disadvantaged people from access to education;
  - (b) Make a particular commitment to ensuring the ongoing provision of TAFE Outreach courses to disadvantaged people and communities;
  - (c) Maintain existing levels of TAFE Specialist Support Services.

- (iii) Directs the Moderator on behalf of Synod to call on the NSW Government to
  - (a) Reconsider the decision to increase TAFE fees and the student concession fee, due to the likelihood that such fee increases will further exclude disadvantaged people from access to education;
  - (b) Make a particular commitment to ensuring the ongoing provision of TAFE Outreach courses to disadvantaged people and communities;
  - (c) Maintain existing levels of TAFE Specialist Support Services.

**(c) Early Childhood Education and Care**

72/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note that
  - (a) UnitingCare Children's Services is the third largest provider of children's services in NSW
  - (b) Access to quality early childhood education and care service (ECEC) is crucial to ensuring children have the best possible start to school
  - (c) Research shows that children from disadvantaged families gain the most from having access to quality early childhood education
  - (d) Data shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are often the ones who are missing out on access to a high quality service
  - (e) The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (NQF) came into effect across Australia on 1 January 2012
  - (f) The NQF plays a vital role in improving outcomes for children in ECEC through increasing qualified staff, quality standards and lower staff to child ratios.
- (ii) Directs the Moderator on behalf of Synod to call on the Federal Government and Opposition to
  - (a) commit to maintaining the current standards in ECEC services across Australia
  - (b) ensure that children from disadvantaged families have greater access to high quality ECEC services.
- (iii) Encourages congregation members to contact their local Federal Member of Parliament to seek their support for maintaining current standards in ECEC centres across New South Wales and the ACT.

**(d) National Disability Insurance Scheme**

73/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note that
  - (a) 1.3 million Australians have a profound or severe disability.
  - (b) 45% of Australian people living with a disability live in or near poverty; the OECD average is 22%. Australia has the highest correlation between disability and poverty of any country in the OECD.

- (c) Only 39% of Australians with a disability are employed, Australia is ranked 21 out of 29 in the OECD. Rates of employment participation in Australia have fallen since the 1990s.
  - (d) The National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012 passed the House of Representatives in March 2013, with the support of all Members of Parliament, and is expected to pass the Senate in late March 2013.
  - (e) When implemented, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will provide people with a disability with a secure and consistent pool of funds in order to arrange individualised and person-centered support, based on the choices of that person and their family. It will be a fair, efficient and effective way of ensuring people with a disability, and their carers, receive the care, support, therapy and equipment that they need.
- (ii) Commends
    - (a) All members of the House of Representatives for their unanimous support of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012.
    - (b) The NSW Government for being the first State Government to reach a funding arrangement for the NDIS with the Federal Government.
  - (iii) Directs the Moderator on behalf of Synod to call on all federal political parties to:
    - (a) Uphold their commitments to fully fund a complete rollout of the NDIS by 2017.
    - (b) Ensure that other budgetary considerations do not impact on the rights of people with a disability to have access to the support they need to live an ordinary life.
  - (iv) Strongly encourages congregations to contact all candidates, for the upcoming Federal Election, in their area and voice support for a fully funded and NDIS to be delivered by 2017. Wording to be provided by UnitingCare

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

74/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) enhance the social justice work of the Uniting Church in NSW and the ACT by
  - (a) encouraging and supporting all Presbyteries in the Synod to establish Social Justice Committees
  - (b) encouraging congregations and presbyteries to be open to the facilitation and support of the Social Justice Coordinator of the Synod

## **THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

75/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note that the Board of Uniting Mission and Education has accepted a vision and purpose statement for the educational ministry of the church, and as a result has determined to create an Educational Resourcing Network across the Synod
- (ii) in noting this initiative, the Synod affirms that
  - (a) the focus of the Network be on equipping and developing fully engaged disciples amongst the people, congregations, presbyteries, and agencies of the Synod
  - (b) the primary task of the Network be the provision of resources for theological reflection and ways of growing practical and spiritual ministry capacity across the Synod
  - (c) the Educational Resourcing Network comprise: the Theological Education Faculty (UTC Faculty members teaching within the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University) and the Candidates Formation Faculty (as drawn from UTC Faculty and associated personnel under the oversight of the Committee of Ministerial Formation) as well as a newly-formed Discipleship Resourcing Faculty (incorporating UME Resourcing Team, Presbytery Resource Ministers, UTC Faculty and others, lay and ordained, as designated)
  - (d) the Hub for the Network be established at the Centre for Ministry at North Parramatta
  - (e) the UME Board, in association with its working groups (UTC Council and the Theological Education Working Group) review and refocus the job descriptions of UTC Faculty and UME Resourcing Team members in the light of the vision and purpose statement for educational ministry, and invite Presbyteries, UnitingCare and other relevant agencies to collaborate constructively in the Educational Resourcing Network

## **COAL SEAM GAS MINING**

76/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) call on the NSW Government to amend the NSW Strategic Regional Land Use Plan so that it identifies and protects from coal mining and Coal Seam Gas exploration and mining
  - (a) areas which should be kept strictly for sustainable agriculture and food production;
  - (b) irreplaceable water resources including underground aquifers; and
  - (c) high conservation value areas including forests and wilderness areas

## FAIR TRADE

77/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) adopt the following 'Goals for a Fairtrade Congregation'
  - (a) use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which you have responsibility (i.e., after church, elders and church council meetings, etc.);
  - (b) ensure that other products which are used regularly in church gatherings are Fairtrade or ethically sourced;
  - (c) promote Fairtrade in the local community through activities which are locally designed; and
  - (d) encourage each congregation to adopt the same policy (support and promote Fairtrade as a concept; encourage the use and sale of Fairtrade products), and to display literature/notices advertising the fact that Fairtrade products are used and served there
- (ii) adopt the following 'Goals for a Fairtrade Synod'
  - (a) That the Synod (i) support and promote Fairtrade as a concept; (ii) encourage the use and sale of Fairtrade products across the Synod; and (iii) serve only Fairtrade products (such as coffee and tea) at meetings it is responsible for;
  - (b) set a goal that Fairtrade tea, coffee and other products, if possible, will be used and/or sold by more than 50% of the congregations in the Synod by the next full meeting of Synod;
  - (c) develop a media campaign to generate popular support for the use of Fairtrade – make reference to the Fairtrade status of the Synod on its website, in promotional materials and literature, and encourage congregations to do likewise; and
  - (d) revitalise the *NSW UCA Fair Trade Network*, to operate as a Fairtrade steering group to take responsibility for monitoring that goals continue to be met and are developed over a period of time.

## ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND FOSSIL FUELS

78/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) note
  - (a) its previous resolution on climate change, which called for creation care to be integrated into all aspects of the church's worship, witness and service;
  - (b) the clear evidence that the threat of climate change is not being adequately addressed by our state and federal governments, or the international community;
  - (c) that rapid expansion of fossil fuel mining (particularly coal and coal seam gas) in Australia is directly threatening agricultural land, human health and biodiversity;

- (d) that its Ethical Investment Principles call for divestment from companies whose activities “*involve substantial change to the environment, which is not or proposed to be made good at the conclusion of the activity*”;
- (e) that to avoid more than a 20% chance of global temperatures rising beyond the ‘extreme danger benchmark’ of 2 degrees, 80% of the known coal, oil and gas reserves will need to remain untouched;
- (f) the global “Go Fossil Free” campaign to divest from fossil fuel corporations, which is based on the very successful global divestment and sanctions campaign against South Africa during the apartheid years
- (ii) determine as a matter of policy that the Synod should divest from corporations engaged in the extraction of fossil fuels and move instead to investing in renewable energy stocks
- (iii) request the Ethical Investment Monitoring Committee identify the companies affected by this policy, and bring a report to the October meeting of Synod Standing Committee (in a session to which the proponents are to be associated), with the expectation that if the policy is not found to be impracticable, it will be carried out
- (iv) require all NSW/ACT bodies whose investments are not managed by Treasury and Investment Services to implement the policy once finalised by Synod Standing Committee
- (v) request the General Secretary write to other Synods and the Assembly advocating that they also join the divestment campaign

**THE MODERATOR’S  
MURRAY  
DARLING BASIN  
CONSULTATION**

79/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) note that the current crisis in the Murray-Darling Basin is an extremely complex issue that impacts directly not only on the health of the Basin and the lives of people who live there but on all Australians
- (iii) affirm that all Australians must share in the cost of addressing the issue
- (iv) affirm the efforts that scientists have made to warn Australians about the poor state of the Basin’s waterways and to develop insights into living sustainably in the Basin
- (v) affirm the efforts farmers, especially irrigators, have made and are making to implement more sustainable farming practices
- (vi) calls on the Moderator to ensure the church has a growing role in this debate in the areas of
  - (a) pastoral care for the people and
  - (b) a prophetic voice for the land and its peoples



- (vii) request the President to encourage the Synods of New South Wales and the ACT, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria and Tasmania to explore ways of working together for the common good of the Murray-Darling Basin and its people

## SHAPE OF PRESBYTERIES INTO THE FUTURE

80/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) receive the report
- (ii) note that as the Uniting Church in Australia engages in the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Congregations are the primary expression of this ministry
- (iii) re-affirm the core responsibilities of Presbyteries are to extend pastoral oversight, strategic missional direction, resourcing and formation of lay and ordained leadership for mission and ministry within its congregations
- (iv) note the ongoing initiatives by the Presbyteries to encourage and empower ministry and mission in the congregations within the areas of their responsibility and the increased desire and practice in sharing resources across Presbyteries
- (v) note the need for support and resourcing for Presbyteries to be given high priority in the work of the Synod
- (vi) confirm that the Synod accepts requests from Presbyteries to assume primary responsibility for overseeing and managing various compliance and administrative tasks on behalf of a Presbytery and its constituent congregations; including Work, Health and Safety (WHS), safe church policy, insurance, payroll, financial administration, some property issues and disciplinary procedures
- (vii) explore how legislative and compliance functions can be centralised through the Synod, ensuring continuing dialogue with the Presbyteries and including the effect on cost to congregation
- (viii) explore with the Presbyteries their strategic missional and educational needs and goals and the required resources (people and funding/property) needed to meet these and work with the Presbyteries in finding creative ways to maximise resourcing across the Synod to meet these needs
- (ix) release resources for the work undertaken in Presbyteries and Congregations by identifying the functions of the Synod which can be handled more efficiently and effectively through being undertaken nationally or through collaboration with other Synods, including but not limited to, accounting functions, theological education, UnitingCare, SSMCC and Committee for Counselling
- (x) encourage Presbyteries to develop a framework to facilitate encouragement and support in ministry and mission through facilitated conversations that could enable missional partnerships or structural changes to Presbytery boundaries

- (xi) identify regulations and structures which may need to be altered to allow these changes to occur including conversations with Synods with shared borders with the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT
- (xii) thank and discharge the Future Shape of Presbyteries Task Group

**(a) Authorising Standing Committee regarding Presbytery Boundaries**

81/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

authorise the Synod Standing Committee during the time between the conclusion of 2013 Synod and commencement of 2014 Synod, to make decisions regarding Presbytery boundaries in consultation with any presbyteries affected

*(by agreement)*

**VIDEO  
CONFERENCING  
FACILITIES**

82/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) authorise the General Secretary to explore the presence and availability of video conferencing facilities across the Synod
- (ii) arrange for the Church to access video conferencing facilities across the Synod and that a agreement be drawn up between the Church and the owner of the video conferencing facilities for paid access
- (iii) authorise that payment for use of video conferencing facilities be made by the council, committee, board or agency meeting at the time, paid direct to the local facility
- (iv) consequent to an agreement being made as outlined in point (ii) above, that it be the policy of the Synod to use video conferencing for short meetings held over long distances whenever possible.
- (v) ask the General Secretary to report back on the progress of video conferencing to Synod 2014

**SUSPENSION OF  
BY-LAW 2.3.4(d)**

83/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) receive the report of the Returning Officer
- (ii) suspend By-law 2.3.4(d) for the purpose of this Standing Committee election which requires that no Presbytery shall be permitted to have more than three (3) members on the Synod Standing Committee



(c)

|  |                  |                           |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| Multi-Cultural Ministry Advisory Group | Rev Punam Bent   | *                         |
| UAICC                                  | Ms Diane Torrens | Rev Dorothy Harris-Gordon |

(d) **Members to be appointed**  
*(15 persons to be elected)*

Ms Tualofa Anga'aelangi  
Rev Karyn Burchell-Thomas  
Rev Lindsay Cullen  
Mr Allan Gibson  
Ms Sue Graves  
Mr Semisi Kailahi  
Mr Levon Kardashian  
Mr Richard La'Brooy  
Mr Ian Lawrence  
Rev Rebecca Lindsay  
Mr Daniel Mossfield  
Rev Bronwyn Murphy  
Mrs Katalina Tahaafe-Williams  
Mrs Jacki Watts  
Ms Pearl Wymarra

## 2. **BOARDS**

(a) **Uniting Resources**  
*(5 people to be elected for 3 years)*

Mr Peter Anderson  
Mr John Brunton  
Mr Chris (Seung Yong) Park  
Mr Scott Stanton  
Ms Lynne Thomson

(b) **Uniting Mission and Education**

Pastor Julie Greig  
Rev Elizabeth Raine  
Rev Geoff Smith  
Rev Dr John Squires

(c) **UnitingCare**  
*(3 persons appointed for 3 years)*

Rev Geoffrey Flynn  
Mr Jonathan Rea  
Mrs Jacki Watts

**(d) Treasury and Investments (The Uniting Church (NSW) Trust Association Limited)**

note the Board of Directors of Treasury and Investments (UCTAL) appointed by the Synod Standing Committee

Mr Michael Anderson  
Mr Stephen Capelin  
Mr John Collins  
Mr Andrew Gibbons  
Ms Karin Hawkins  
Mr Timothy Holden  
Mr Graham Horrocks  
Mr Paul Mazzola

**3. CHAIRPERSONS**

**Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements**

Rev Chris Udy

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

*(5 persons to be elected)*

Mr Bryce Bridges  
Mr John Graves  
Mr Tim L'Orange  
Ms Paula Reid  
Mr David Turner

**APPRECIATION –  
MS SANDRA WRIGHT**

86/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

receive the minute of appreciation for Ms Sandra Wright

One of the Synod Secretariat's greatest assets was acquired in May 1999, on the day Sandra Wright walked through 'that door' from the Board of Mission. Sandra calls it 'that door', noting that others have walked through it as well. But very few have played such a pivotal role in the Secretariat as Sandra.

Sandra served as Personal Assistant to Synod Associate Secretary, Robert Key, and then to General Secretaries, the Rev Chris Budden and myself. I'm sure Robert Key and Chris Budden would join me in affirming Sandra's gifts for that role which included an eye for detail, hard work, humour, dedication, compassion, discretion and an intelligent assessment of the work in progress.

Sandra had already learned a great deal about the Uniting Church in ten years on the Board of Mission staff. In the Secretariat that knowledge was developed further and Sandra became an advisor to General Secretaries as well as an assistant.

When Robert Key retired Sandra moved into the position of Synod Associate Secretary. I think the suggestion that she might take this on came at first as something of a shock. But, once she was interviewed and everyone agreed, Sandra accepted the role with enthusiasm.

Sandra filled the position of Synod Associate Secretary from June 2008 and will leave the Secretariat on 30 April this year.

Among her other duties, Sandra has been responsible for overseeing the Secretariat budget and servicing the Ministers Benefit Fund, the Constitutions Committee and the Synod Planning Committee which transmogrifies during the Synod meeting into the Synod Business Committee. Sandra has also acted for the Synod General Secretary in his absence.

Having taken on what are effectively higher order duties, one might have expected Sandra to gladly hand over all of her previous duties. But, no. Sandra retained the role of Secretariat Office Manager – and with it the confidence of the entire Secretariat staff.

Of course, a new job is never quite what one expects. Things move very quickly in an organisation the size of the Synod and Sandra has moved with the times, making quick assessments of changing situations and adapting to fresh needs of the Secretariat and Synod. Sandra's compassion too has been evident when dealing, for example, with the needs of individuals in meetings of the Ministers Benefit Fund.

Sandra has carried out the role of Synod Associate Secretary with a high level of competency and those gifts earlier noted of an eye for detail, hard work, humour, dedication, compassion, discretion and an intelligent assessment of the work in progress. In the process she has been a friend to many people. The Secretariat, and indeed the whole Synod, is in her debt.

I'm sure this Synod meeting wishes Sandra all the very best for the future. Like you, I pray that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit will be with Sandra now and in the years that lie ahead. Maybe the Uniting Church isn't finished with Sandra yet.

**APPRECIATION –  
SECRETARIAT STAFF**

87/13S

Resolved

That the Synod  
receive the minute of appreciation for Secretariat staff

That the Synod record its appreciation of the following people who happily and faithfully provided many years of service to the Church and, in particular, in the Synod Secretariat supporting and caring for four General Secretaries and numerous Moderators prior to the restructuring of 2012.

Mrs Poppy Roumeliotis who commenced with the Board of Mission on 19 April 1994 and joined the Secretariat 10 July 2000 concluding on 31 August 2012 where she provide administrative support to the Synod Associate Secretary, worked for a period as PA to the Moderator, looked after Ministers Long Leave and all matters relating to the Ministers Support Funds Committee.

Ms Noelene Price who commenced in a permanent part time position on 3 July 1995 becoming full time from May 1999 to 31 August 2007 when she retired from full time employment. On 30 October 2007 Noelene was reemployed on a part time basis till 31 August 2012. She worked in many roles from receptionist, maintaining the Synod Directory, ACOMP, account payable, copyright, marriage celebrants register, maintaining entries in White Pages.

Ms Lynda Stanford who commenced in 2001 with Unity and International Mission which became Uniting World joining the Secretariat on 31 March 2008 as PA to the General Secretary concluding on 31 August 2012.

Mr Gavin Heise who commenced on 30 March 2009 providing administrative support looking after Beneficiary Fund and Ministers Support Funds payments and concluding on 31 August 2012.

**APPRECIATION –  
REV HARRY  
HERBERT**

88/13S

Resolved

That the Synod  
receive the minute of appreciation for Rev Harry Herbert

Harry Herbert has been the single most influential figure in the life of the Uniting Church in Australia over the last 2 plus decades. He has done more to enhance the reputation of the Church in the minds of most Australians as the church which lives out (rather than just preaches) the Gospel message than anyone else. Comments from people who have no connection with the Church are frequently heard to the effect: "Oh, the Uniting Church, they are the ones who did the heroin injecting centre when the Pope said the Catholics couldn't do it. I don't go to church but if I did I think I would go to the Uniting Church". The reason people say such things is because of the

tenacity and commitment Harry has shown in his role as Executive Director of UnitingCare NSW/ACT and that of the people he has encouraged into the organisation to work with him.

At a time when most press about churches is negative; when the Church is nervous about its future because of dwindling numbers, finances and influence, that part of the Church branded UnitingCare NSW/ACT under Harry's leadership has gone from strength to strength and he and UnitingCare have won the respect and admiration of all levels and colours of government; other not-for-profits; professionals in the community services sector; and most importantly, its clients and staff. Strangely this respect and admiration was not often replicated from those within the Church itself.

Having graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales and a Bachelor of Divinity from the University of Sydney prior to ordination, Harry went on to study at Yale University and minister at Falls Village Congregational Church in Connecticut in the United States. He graduated from Yale University in 1975 with a Graduated Master of Sacred Theology, before embarking on the role of Minister at a number of churches in Victoria.

He became the General Secretary, Board for Social Responsibility, Synod of NSW in 1986. Since becoming the Executive Director, UnitingCare NSW/ACT in 2000, Harry has shaped the direction and work of the organisation in a manner that has had a significant and positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands. Harry's achievements have included the establishment of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in 2001, the use of Weerona as a place of transition housing for people from licensed boarding houses and the successful integration of services following the decision to re-structure UnitingCare NSW/ACT in 2003. He has also worked on the Legal Aid Commission, where CEO Bill Grant described his contribution to Legal Aid as "outstanding, appreciated and ongoing." Harry spent time as the Chair of the AGL Customer Council working alongside Managing Director and CEO Michael Fraser, who praised him as someone who has "never been afraid to stand up for what you thought was right, say what was on your mind or ask the difficult question." He has also chaired the NSW Government Social Justice Reference Group and been the Secretary of the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee.

Harry's commitment to social justice was embedded in his reflective Christianity. He frequently commented that the work of UnitingCare could not become just the work of another charity but an intrinsic part of Christian discipleship.

Shortly before his retirement he celebrated 40 years as an ordained minister. It was interesting to hear some of Harry's thoughts about what his ministry should be about from 40 years ago and see that those aspirations had largely been realised over the next 4 decades. Few people get to see their dreams realised but for Harry his hard work and strong advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged in the community paid off.

While it is traditional for these minutes of appreciation to be recorded close to the retirement of the person concerned, it may well be that over time the



Church comes to realise more and more just what a debt of gratitude it owes to a man who has done so much good for so many and by doing so has at the same time done so much for the Church.

**APPRECIATION –  
MRS MEG  
HERBERT**

89/13S

Resolved

That the Synod

receive the minute of appreciation for Mrs Meg Herbert

At the service of induction for Meg Herbert's replacement in the role of Synod Associate Secretary (Ministry) it was recounted that after a few days in the job and wading through the voluminous amounts of reading material that come with the job, she "had lost the will to live". The role of Synod Associate Secretary (Ministry), with its responsibilities for placements of and discipline of ministers, is probably one of the more thankless jobs in the life of a Synod. Because of this it is even more important than usual for the Synod to record its thanks to Meg for her work in this position from August 2008 until her retirement in November 2012.

Meg's role required her to deal with the very messy interaction of human relationships, congregational and presbytery politics, ministers and the reputation of the Church as an institution that practiced what it preached. She did this at the start and end of a placement and during a placement. In many of the situations Meg had to address there was no right or wrong answer.

Meg was required to deal with people and groups who were experiencing enormous stress due to either being accused of or complaining of ministerial misconduct; being unhappy with a placement which was not working; or being hesitant to make or accept a call. Her phone never stopped ringing. One minute she would be giving advice on the Regulations to a presbytery concerning disciplinary procedures, the next she would be speaking to the minister the subject of those very procedures.

To this messy world Meg brought a deep understanding of the Christian Gospel, especially its concern for the weak and message of forgiveness; a commitment to fair process; and in a church where many people like to know everything that is going on, a rigorous regime of confidentiality.

Confidentiality has often meant that Meg has had to take unpopular positions without the usual benefit of being able to fully explain why she held such a position. On many occasions she has courageously stuck to her guns in the face of great pressure.

At the heart of Meg's success in the role was her understanding of the challenges ministers face in exercising a vocation at a time of increasing professionalisation of all aspects of life and the difficulties they face in providing leadership in 21<sup>st</sup> Century church contexts. Her prior responsibility as Dean of Candidates at the United Theological College meant she brought

with her a wealth of knowledge of people who had been candidates for ministry over the years. She also had a great familiarity with the placements processes from her contact with the candidates as they came through to placement. Through her work at the College she also brought familiarity with a large number of ministers already in placement.

Meg's interest in and concern for people meant that she has been an advocate and support person for many people as they have sought changes in placement. She has fielded calls in her office and conducted interviews with many ministers seeking new placement or experiencing difficulties in current ones. She has visited congregations and JNC's and Presbyteries from time to time to assist with problems or to guide them through difficult situations and processes.

A significant responsibility has been her contact with other people holding similar positions in other Synods and the Assembly.

Meg has seen changes in the way the Placements Committee has undertaken its considerable responsibilities. She has been a leader in accepting the need for change and administering a flexible approach to the office responsibilities. She has regularised and professionalised the discipline processes of the Synod resulting in better outcomes for all involved.

In all of this she has also been a very strong advocate for the staff of the Secretariat ensuring that work load expectations were kept at reasonable levels and that people were getting leave and entitlements they were due.

Whether Meg likes it or not there is no doubt that her knowledge and experience will be tapped by others working in this area for many years to come.

Thank you Meg.

**APPRECIATION –  
PROF ROSS  
CHAMBERS**

90/13S

Resolved

That the Synod  
receive the minute of appreciation for Prof Ross Chambers

This Minute of Appreciation is presented to the Synod to mark the retirement of Professor Ross Chambers from the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) of Charles Sturt University (CSU).

Professor Chambers' work on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA), and especially this Synod, has been outstanding. It needs to be more widely recognised.

Professor Chambers has been a very important academic and academic administrator throughout his long career. He has consistently held to the

highest principles of integrity, truth-telling, justice and intellectual curiosity which are at the heart of academic enquiry. In addition he has been a constant encourager of intellectual life and social inclusion. As such, he has sought for new ways in which universities can serve the common good. This he has done often in an unobtrusive way and certainly without ever pointing to himself. In this he has shown the highest ideals of the Christian faith, ideals to which we aspire in the Uniting Church.

He was largely responsible for the creation of the School of Theology in CSU. Moreover, it was he who approached United Theological College to become a partner in the School. He has consistently supported and nurtured the College, and has been a strong supporter of its varied programmes. Moreover, he was a very strong supporter of the programmes and partnerships with the Korean community both in Australia and in Korea. In addition he was at the heart of the development of the agreements with Hannam University in Korea. He has been especially keen to nurture the UCA's covenantal partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Korea in practical academic ways. Professor Chambers has also supported links with the Pacific Islands and the aspirations of Pacific Island theological education.

Professor Chambers also greatly supported the Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre (PACT) within the university. This has brought the Synod many benefits, primarily in terms of conferences, contextual research and the provision of a Research Fellow who also taught in the college. Professor Chambers was the key figure in CSU hosting the Global Network on Public Theology (GNPT) for three years and strongly supported an important GNPT consultation in Canberra and Sydney in 2010.

He worked closely with UTC for the purposes of the inclusion of Islamic Studies in the University, and indeed was instrumental in the development of the work of Affinity and ISRA in relation to CSU. The underlying intention has been to nurture social inclusion.

He has consistently made himself available to members of the Synod, especially during his time as a member of Wagga Wagga Uniting Church.

Professor Chambers is continuing to work part-time for CSU, especially its new campus in Port Macquarie, and has also taken up important voluntary positions in the Synod in relation to UTC. This Synod gives thanks to God for the service of the heart and mind of Professor Chambers and sincerely thanks him for the gifts he has brought to the Uniting Church, of which he is a devoted member.

**APPRECIATION –  
MS JANE  
WOODRUFF**

91/13S

Resolved

That the Synod  
receive the minute of appreciation for Ms Jane Woodruff

Many of you across the Synod and UnitingCare network knew Jane Woodruff. She was the CEO of UnitingCare Burnside which became UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families in NSW. Jane was diagnosed with cancer and passed away on 3 October 2012 after a long illness.

Jane Woodruff was an outstanding CEO, leader, strategist and mentor within and across organisational boundaries. Burnside flourished under Jane's leadership, which always extended beyond one organisation. She was a significant leader nationally in the UnitingCare network, driving its national advocacy agenda for children, young people and families and was actively involved in many peak and professional bodies over her long career.

Unintimidated by the trappings of power, Jane was a powerful advocate for young Australians whose voices and experiences are too often never heard. Jane Woodruff was the advocate you wanted in your corner. Many organisations and many marginalised and disadvantaged people benefited from her passion and commitment. Jane made a difference and inspired others to want to make a difference too.

Many of us had the privilege of working with Jane, and some of us had the additional pleasure of her friendship. Fiercely intellectual with a will of iron, anyone who worked with Jane developed a deep respect for her determination, persistence, and relentless commitment to putting the child at the centre.

The Jane Woodruff package had empathy and compassion for children at its core, and a nuanced and thoughtful approach to bringing together practice, policy and advocacy to transform the multiple factors that impact on a child's wellbeing.

While Jane belonged to all of us who work for a better world for children, Jane belonged first and foremost to her family. She was a loving partner of Freda, mother of Kiersten and Simon and grandmother of Declan, Bligh, Calissa, Alec and Zac.

Vale Jane. We miss you.

**APPRECIATION –  
UNITING  
CREATIVE  
STAFF**

92/13S

Resolved

That the Synod  
receive the minute of appreciation for Uniting Creative staff

The Synod of NSW and the ACT along with the Synod Communications Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Uniting Creative team who have produced *Insights* and provided excellent communication services to the Synod for so many years.

At all times they have put the ministry and mission of the Uniting Church at the fore as they have delivered thoughtful public relations and worked skilfully with Uniting Church congregations and Synod agencies.

They have served using a broad range of talents with hard work and exceptional creativity with grace, humility and compassion. Their work has nurtured many and promoted many a ministry within the broad life of the Synod.

We have appreciated their fearless editorial independence and the opportunity they gave the ordinary person in congregations to have a voice to the wider Uniting Church community.

The strategic direction of Uniting Creative for the coverage of Assembly meetings and running media relations has been exemplary. They are well respected within religious and secular communities, for which they have been recognised with many awards.

The leadership and dedicated commitment offered by Marjorie Lewis-Jones and Steven Webb has ensured the needs of Synod have been well cared for, often through difficult times. They have worked well as a team, with low staff turn over, nurturing not only staff of Uniting Creative but the wider national network, with younger generations developing their gifts through communication and journalism workshops and internships. We note also the commitment and loyalty of Adrian Drayton who has worked within the team for almost 20 years.

We wish all members of Uniting Creative God's richest blessing for their further endeavours, knowing nothing is wasted under Christ.

We extend our appreciation too, to all members of the Uniting Church who have served on the Communications Committee, providing support, pastoral care and a diverse range of views on Synod communications.

## APPRECIATIONS/ VOTE OF THANKS

93/13S

### Resolved

That the Synod

receive the vote of thanks from the Ex Moderator for all who have enabled the Synod meeting to flow smoothly.

The Ex Moderator brought the following minute of thanks and appreciation:

In the Church, over the years, we have often heard talk of the Great Dividing Range representing a division in the church – but at this Synod I have the image of that physical feature being the Great Uniting Range with valleys and ridges being like the fingers of hands clasped together.

The multicultural nature of this Synod may have suggested thanks in another language as an appropriate way to go but my skills are not up to it.

"Thank you God for giving us the Moderator".

In addition I would like to thank the following people.

- Moderator's Chaplains - Nicole, Vala, Ian
- General Secretary
- Executive Directors and their teams
- Returning Officer – Ian Lawrence and scrutineers
- Facilitation team led by Christine Bayliss-Kelly
- Bringers of proposals
- Bible Study leaders – the President Andrew Dutney, Ms Jan Sutch Pickard and Mr Ace Kim
- Uniting Technology – the technicians, sound and camera crew and Simon Lee
- Sandra Wright and the Secretariat staff - Rowena, Mary, Mersini, Sue
- Uniting Creative staff - Marjorie, Stephen and Lyndal I saw
- Those who have served us in various ways. Catering staff, those who set up and no doubt will clear up after us
- All those in market place stalls sharing the amazing wares of the Uniting Church in Australia
- Noreen Towers for Prayer Gathering
- Spirituality Committee for morning Worship
- Knox Grammar School
- Katalina and the Worship Committee
- Musicians, choirs, singers and dancers who moved one bloke who said he doesn't normally relate to dance at all
- The Terrigal UCA Men's Shed for the Cruciform blessing embracing Christ Figure

Who have I forgotten? Forgive me if I have.

Thanks to the Holy Spirit for being present. Rev Harry Walker spoke of cockatoos in large numbers. You may be aware that for me, cockatoos represent for me a sign of the Holy Spirit. So appropriate – beautiful in flight but can be a noisy nuisance – can make us uncomfortable – yet I believe the work of the Holy Spirit sees us moving in one direction – has given us a sense of this being a safe place.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

*Received by acclamation*

.....  
Chairperson

.....  
Date