MINUTES for the meeting of the Synod Standing Committee held at Warners Bay on the 27 November 2010

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE
The Moderator paid respect to the Aboriginal people of the Awabakal tribe who has cared for this part of the land from time immemorial

WORSHIP
The Moderator led opening devotions. The reading was taken from Isaiah 2:1-5. The Moderator led closing devotions on Saturday evening

TIMES OF SESSIONS
Saturday
1. 11.00am – 12.30pm
2. 1.30pm – 3.30pm
3. 4.00pm – 5.30pm
4. 7.00pm – 8.30pm

AGENDA
213/10SC
Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee adopt the Order of Business as printed subject to changes suggested by the General Secretary and alterations made by the Standing Committee
Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee confirm the Minutes of the Synod Standing Committee held 15 October 2010

EN BLOC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee determine that matters listed on the agenda be adopted en bloc unless the Synod Associate Secretary receives a request before the commencement of Session 3 that a matter be considered separately
MODERATOR SHARING

- the appointed team has begun its work on the Celebration Service for the UnitingCare Burnside Centenary. The nominated people were happy to be on the committee
- 30th anniversary of Abbotsbury and had interesting conversations with the Samoan congregation
- attended a feast day Mass for the Sainthood of Mary MacKillop in St Mary's Cathedral
- spent time with the Deacons of the Uniting Church at a Deacons' Retreat
- Forget-me-not Prayer Day and Service at South Sydney and met the premier of NSW
- NSW Ecumenical Council half yearly meeting
- involved in a Mexico mission walkathon and planning day 20 – 30 people traveling to Mexico to build houses
- attended the openings of Gungahlin and The Willows buildings
- working with Seongia Crowe regarding a Grace Workshop with the Korean Commission
- attended the international press club with the UAICC to support Mick Gooda
- attended the Human Rights Commissioner dinner with the President at Bankstown Uniting Church
- Grace Workshop at Nabiac and preaching at Chatham Pastoral Gathering
- Sydney Alliance ongoing work and retreat next week
- tests for health
- Leaders' Retreat with Moderators’ and Presidents’ meeting twice a year to share with others
- Pilgrimage of Living Water

GENERAL SECRETARY SHARING

- Have shifted into new house
- Presbytery Chairs and Secretaries meeting in October
- NSW Ecumenical Council half yearly meeting
- 4 Boards and Korean Commission
- Keith Garner on the Wesley Mission television show
- Hunter Presbytery to look at Synod Venues (see report)
- Spoke at the Symposium United or Uniting
- Sydney to Wollongong bike ride, thanked sponsors
- ACOMP meeting which takes a full day
- Pastoral/Discipline issues to attend to
- 4 nights/5 days Macquarie Darling Presbytery, preached in Cobar

217
• Synod General Secretaries met with the General Secretary of the Assembly and then to New Zealand to meet with the Presbyterian and Methodist church General Secretaries for 3 nights
• response from the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Kevin Rudd regarding our resolution from July Standing Committee on the Palestine And Israel
• frequency or the lengths of Synod Standing Committee meetings

The following items were shared regarding the recent Assembly Standing Committee meeting


- Decision to apply for membership of the Pacific Conference of Churches;

- An interim report of the ASC Task Group reviewing the Reception of Ministers procedures (canvassing the respective responsibilities of the Assembly and Synod Reception of Ministers Committees, secondment, recognition versus reception, formation for ministry and setting of standards) with a further report to be made to the ASC in March, 2011;

- Approval of Assembly Budget for 2011 and recording of thanks to the synods for their financial contributions to the Assembly;

- Noted the *Dialogue Documents of the Lutheran Church of Australia and the Uniting Church in Australia*, received a Covering Letter and Explanatory Note relating thereto, resolved that the UCA will take these protocols into account in choosing suitable candidates for shared ministries and Eucharistic hospitality between the LCA and the UCA and requested the Christian Unity Working Group to suggest guidelines for shared oversight of such ministries;

- Received the report of the recent round of Roman Catholic-Uniting Church Dialogue entitled “The Mission of the Church”, offered its congratulations and thanks to those who prepared it, noted the high level of agreement reached on many aspects of mission, and welcomed the suggestion that a study guide be prepared so that local congregations and groups may study and discuss the report;

- Received advice that the recent Anglican Synod considered the Covenant of Association between the Anglican Church of Australia and the UCA and
acknowledged and celebrated the fruits of the dialogue between the two Churches over the past three decades, rejoiced at the many expressions of ministry partnership undertaken between the two Churches, and welcomed the report of the Joint Working Group including its six affirmations and seven commitments (refer to UCInfo 20 July 2010 where those affirmations and commitments are set out);

- Received a paper on Church Membership which is to be issued to presbyteries together with a response form seeking responses by 31 August, 2011;

- Discussed the possibility of encouraging members of the UCA and the wider community to consider a boycott of goods produced by Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and deferred a decision until the March, 2011 ASC;

- Considered a draft Regulation to give expression to the decision of the 12th Assembly to make provision for the classification of property as being available for alternative missional use and requested a further draft for the next ASC in March, 2011;

- Approved a National Property Policy for the UCA, A Multicultural Church to be used alongside Regulations 4.13.1 to 4.13.5, the recently approved Regulations giving expression to one of the resolutions of the 12th Assembly;

UNITING RESOURCES REPORT

Reference – Working Paper No 5

216/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee receive the report

SYNOD 2011

Reference – Working Paper No 4

217/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
(i) determine that the 2011 Synod Opening Service and Installation of the Moderator be held in the Concert Hall of the Conservatorium in Newcastle on Friday 23 September 2011
(ii) determine that the 2011 Synod meeting be held in The Great Hall at the Newcastle University on 24 – 27 September 2011
LEGAL ACTION

(a) Margaret Jurd Learning Centre
Reference – Email Mr Jim Mein 1/11/10

218/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the decision of the Moderator to grant permission to a staff member of the Margaret Jurd Learning Centre in obtaining an Apprehended Violence Order against a former student

(b) UnitingCare Ageing North Coast Region – Ms Devenport
Reference – Email Ms Vicki Roper 11/01/10

219/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the decision of the Moderator to grant permission to UnitingCare Ageing North Coast Region to defend a claim in regard to an unfair dismissal

REALIGNMENT/ INTEGRATION OF THE BOARDS OF MISSION AND EDUCATION

Reference – Working Paper No 6
Working Paper No 6 will be sent under separate cover to all members except staff of the Boards in accordance with Resolution184/10SC:

(iii) note that the General Secretary, on receipt of a further report from the Combined Boards working group, will circulate the report as a working paper for the October 2010 Synod Standing Committee, but that such a report will not be sent to BOM.BOE. staff who are Synod Standing Committee members

220/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee:
(i) receive the report
(ii) approve the merger of the Boards of Mission and Education from July 1, 2011
(iii) approve the proposed structure under the new Board as follows

Executive Director
Administration team:
Personal Assistant to the Executive Director/Office Manager
Administration support (3)
Accounts team (3.5)
Relationships and Resourcing Team (5)
(Five fulltime positions in these priority areas)
Team leader, presbytery liaison
Next Generation/first third of life
Multicultural
Lay Ministry, Discipleship, Rural
Congregation Development, new initiatives

Leadership Institute
Synod Mission Resource Fund
Special Religious Education & Vulnerable persons Protection
United Aboriginal & Islander Congress

National Church Life Survey
Schools Ministry
Tertiary Ministry
Uniting Venues
Camden Theological Library and Archives
United Theological College

Pastoral Counselling Institute
Wesley College
Uniting Network
Multicultural Ministry Reference Group
Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
Day Mission Support Group
(formal majority)

(iv) note the following staffing implications for the Board of Education and the Board of Mission

The following positions (a-n) in the Board of Education will cease December 2011:
(a) Executive Director
(b) PA to the Executive Director
(c) Administrative Support to Children’s, Youth and Tertiary
(d) Children/Family Ministry Consultant
(e) Youth Unit Coordinator
(f) Ministry to Youth and Young Adults
(g) Director: ELM Centre
(h) Lay Education Consultant, ELM Centre
(i) Administrative Support to the ELM Centre (including part-time support)
(j) Director: Continuing Education
(k) Administrative Support to Director: Continuing Education
(l) Dean of Candidates
(m) Administrative Support to the Dean of Candidates
(n) Accounting positions will reduce from 5 to 3.5.
Redundancies apply to:
1. Divisional Accountant
2. Financial Accountant
3. Accounts Clerk
Note:
(o) Library & Archives, staffing reductions as per budget cuts to be determined by the Library Manager in consultation with the Executive Director
(p) Resource Ministry Consultant concluded 1 November 2010
(q) Ministry of Pastor Consultant concludes March 2011
(r) Director: Tertiary Ministry concludes December 2011. Synod funding for Tertiary ministries on campus continues
(s) It is anticipated that for 2011 the Special Religious Education/Child and Vulnerable Persons Protection Consultant will continue to be employed
(t) Position of Director: Schools Ministry will continue to 31 December 2011
(u) Uniting Venues will continue under the direction of the Executive Officer
(v) The United Theological College will continue under the governance of the Ministerial Education Board and the direction of the Principal
(w) Pastoral Counselling continues supported by its own funding
(x) Links with UCAF, Wesley College & Uniting Network will continue as currently operating

The following positions (a-j) in the Board of Mission will conclude December 2011:
(a) Executive Director
(b) PA / Office Manager to the Executive Director
(c) New Congregation Consultant, (position currently vacant)
(d) Cross Cultural Consultant (Pacific)
(e) Cross Cultural Administrative Assistant
(f) Rural Ministry and Evangelism Consultant
(g) Rural Ministry and Evangelism Administrative Support (regional location)
(h) Two Rural Chaplains (Note: these are funded by Special Distribution and will cease by 31 December 2011)
(i) The Accountant position
(j) The Accounts (NCLS) / Reception position

Note:
(k) Living is Giving administration moves to Uniting Creative (funded separately by the Synod Fund).
(l) The Synod Mission Resource Fund. This is separated by Synod from the remainder of the Synod Fund for a specific purpose. The Synod Mission Resource staff (SMRF), Administrator and two full-time consultants service the Synod Mission Resource Fund and are funded from its resources. These positions will remain and continue to be attached to the new entity.
(m) NCLS Research. Funded by the UCA and the other 3 ecumenical partners currently for 3 years
(n) Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. This is funded separately from the Synod fund and thus will face similar funding reduction. The staffing will be determined by UAICC

(o) Leadership Institute is funded from a specific sales proceeds (NREMA approved) fund plus income generated by the Institute through programs and thus staff will remain. It is intended that this ministry will move to being self supporting in the next few years.

(p) Living is Giving Consultant moves into Uniting Creative (currently funded separately by the Synod Fund)

(v) note the Boards of Mission and Education have approved redundancy provisions and processes, available from November 29, 2010, in line with the Synod Employment Guidelines

(vi) note that the Boards have organised pastoral support and career planning services for affected staff

(vii) request that the Combined Boards Working Group continue its work at least until June 2011 to:
(a) assist in the development of new by-laws
(b) work with the Synod nominations committee in the process to appoint a new Executive Director
(c) shape new job descriptions to be approved by the Board/s
(d) ensure key person incentives are put in place to ensure appropriate tenures of key persons are maintained in the implementation of the new structure (by agreement)
(e) consult with Uniting Resources to bring proposals on the future management of Uniting Venues

(viii) extend Peter Godwin as Chair of the Board of Mission until June 2011 and a member of the combined Board until Synod 2011

(ix) Extend appreciation to the members of the Combined Boards Working Group for their work in this process

(x) request the General Secretary to communicate these decisions to the wider church through the General Secretary’s Newsletter and Insights magazine

PRESBYTERY REPORTS TO SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

Georges River Presbytery

221/10SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee receive the report
(b) Mid North Coast Presbytery

222/10SC  Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee receive the report

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET WITH SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

223/10SC  Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee invite Presbytery representatives for a combined meeting with them at the Synod Standing Committee meeting to be held 8 - 9 April 2011 meeting

SYNOD AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010
Reference – Working Paper No 2

224/10SC  Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee on the recommendation of the Synod Audit and Risk Committee note the audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 2010

UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE PRINCIPAL POSITION DESCRIPTION
Reference – Working Paper No 3

225/10SC  Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
(i) endorse the Position Description of the Principal of the United Theological College.
(ii) request the MEB to note specific items including the wording of the process of appointment of the Principal, and bring back to the Synod Standing Committee an amended position description reflecting the comments of the Synod Standing Committee (by agreement)
UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE ENTITY, PURPOSE AND GOVERNANCE

Reference – Working Paper No 8

226/10SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
(i) endorse the Entity Statement of the United Theological College on an interim basis and request the MEB to bring back an amended version of the Entity Statement reflecting the comments of the Synod Standing Committee.
(ii) note that it is the intention of the Ministerial Education Board Chairperson to provide a full briefing to the faculty and other staff on the meaning and impact of this document and the Principal’s Position Description on the life of the College
(iii) request the MEB to determine how the entity statement for the Theological College may be most appropriately inserted in Synod By-laws under the Division of Education

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BOARD OF EDUCATION: UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, AND THE MINISTERIAL EDUCATION BOARD WITHIN THE SYNOD OF NSW.ACT

Reference – Working Paper No 9

227/10SC

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
(i) note the work that has been done on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education and the Ministerial Education Board
(ii) affirm the general direction of the Memorandum of Understanding
(iii) encourage the Board of Education and the Ministerial Education Board to continue the work on the Memorandum of Understanding
APPOINTMENTS
Reference – Working Paper No 7

228/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
elect the persons to membership of Boards, Councils and
Committees of the Synod as listed in Working Paper 7 and attach
it to the Minutes as Appendix A

COMMISSIONING

(a) Lay Pastor Steve Parker
Reference – Email from Ku-ring-gai Presbytery 12
November 2010

229/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the commissioning of Lay Pastor Steve Parker by the
Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai effective 15 November 2009

(b) Lay Pastor Lorraine Fenemore

Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the commissioning of Lay Pastor Lorraine Fenemore at
Narromine by the Presbytery of the Macquarie Darling effective 16
October 2010

ALLOCATION
OF SPECIAL
DISTRIBUTION
GUIDELINES
Reference – Minute 252/07SC

230/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
defer consideration of this matter until the Synod Standing
Committee to be held in April 2011

ORDINATIONS

(a) Rev John Brentnall
Reference – Email received from Illawarra Presbytery 23
November 2010

231/10SC Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the ordination of Rev John Brentnall by Illawarra Presbytery
into the Ministry of Deacon effective 10 October 2010
(b) Rev Grahame Abrahams
Reference – Email received from Illawarra Presbytery 23 November 2010

232/10SC  Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
note the ordination of Rev Grahame Abrahams by Illawarra
Presbytery as a Minister of the Word effective 25 September 2010

STAMP COMMITTEE
Reference – Letter received from the Stamp Committee 23 November 2010

233/10SC  Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee, on the recommendation of
the Stamp Committee, approve the distribution of stamp proceeds
as follows –

(i) Board of Education
   ELM – Godly Play Equipment - $1,000
   ELM – Translation costs ‘Faith Practices’ - $750
   Dean of Candidates – candidate support - $500
   Pastoral Counselling Institute – assist fuel for training - $500
   Children & Family – Kids Camp Out 2011 - $1,000

(ii) Board of Mission
   Kimberley Patrol - $1,500
   The Next Wave – Youth Praise & Worship Service - $1,000
   Goolgowi – Disability ramp - $1,000
   Parramatta Mission – Koompartoo Mays Hill - $750
   Parramatta Mission Kell’s Cottage - $750

(iii) UnitingCare
   Maitland Uniting Church Munch program - $250
   Blue Mountains – Homework Centre - $250
   Swimming Lessons – Newpin Bidwell Father’s Centre - $1,000
   Healthy Eating Veggie Garden - $880
   Warnervale – Girls Gathering Workshop - $370

RURAL CHAPLAINCY
Reference – Letter received 24 November from Macquarie Darling
Presbytery

234/10SC  Resolved
That the Synod Standing Committee
on the recommendation of the Macquarie Darling Presbytery,
refer the matter of resourcing rural chaplains to the Synod Fund
Management Committee and report to the next Synod Standing
Committee
CONSTITUTION  Lithgow Uniting Church Community Visitors Centre

235/10SC  Resolved  That the Synod Standing Committee on the recommendation of the Constitutions Committee approve the constitution for Lithgow Uniting Church Community Visitors Scheme, an activity of the Lithgow Congregation

USE OF PILGRIM HOUSE FUNDS

236/10SC  Resolved  That the Synod Standing Committee authorise the General Secretary to approve amounts up to $5,000 from the Pilgrim House Interest Account (Canberra) fund for grants to assist people in attending conferences, workshops, seminars or similar events

RETIREMENT  (a)  Rev Samata Elia
Reference – letter Rev Samata Elia received 10 November 2010

237/10SC  Resolved  That the Synod Standing Committee note the retirement of Rev Samata Elia in accordance with Regulation 2.4.7 (a)(i), effective 1 May 2011

(b)  Rev Marjorie Jean Winter
Reference – Letter received 24 November 2010

238/10SC  Resolved  That the Synod Standing Committee note the retirement of Rev Marjorie Jean Winter in accordance with Regulation 2.4.7(a)(i), effective 31 December 2010

RESIGNATION  Rev Ruth Sandiford-Phelan
Reference – letter Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery dated 27 October 2010

239/10SC  Resolved  That the Synod Standing Committee (i) note that the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery has accepted the resignation of the Rev Ruth Sandiford-Phelan as a
Minister of the Word of the Uniting Church, effective 15 September 2010

(ii) withdraw recognition of the Rev Ruth Sandiford-Phelan as a Minister of the Word of the Uniting Church effective 15 September 2010

(iii) note that, at the time of resignation, the Rev Ruth Sandiford-Phelan was a Minister in good standing.

PASTORAL

(a) Obituaries
   - Dr Reg Walker, a long serving member on the Wesley College Council, died on 31 October 2010
   - Deaconess Joy Nolan died 25 October 2010
   - Mrs Martin, mother of Rev Peter Martin, died November 2010
   - Rev Dr Philip Chan died 21 November 2010

(b) Illnesses
   - Rev Dr Ann Wansbrough
   - Rev Daniel Mistry

(c) Awards
   - Rev Dr Douglas Parker, was promoted to an Officer in The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem on 18 October 2010

........................................
Chairperson

........................................
Date