



**uniting
church**

in Australia,
Synod NSW & ACT

Ref: 0135:MP:RT

16 April 2016

To: Rev. Dr Ann Wansbrough

Dear Ann

In 2008 the Synod Minute of Appreciation acknowledged that for 23 years until 2007 you were in placement as senior policy analyst with UnitingCare. You were the Synod's voice for social justice, fearlessly advocating for just social and economic policies in the light of the Gospel. Ann you helped craft a unique place for the Uniting Church within the ecumenical movement and the broader Australian community and you supported, nurtured and encouraged a generation of Uniting Church justice staff around the country.

The 2008 Synod meeting ordered an independent investigation into the processes that had led to the termination of Ann's placement and in 2011 the independent panel reported that she had not been treated in accordance with the polity, policies and ethical principles of the church. They identified decisions which were without basis, arbitrary changes in procedures, a lack of procedural fairness, potential conflicts of interest and processes which were flawed.

I am confident to say that we have taken these points seriously. In addition we have established the Governance, Nominations and Remunerations Committee (GNRC) to assist with and ensure best practice in the Synod, its Boards and committees.

Words cannot express how truly sorry we, the Synod of NSW & ACT, are for the anxiety, frustration, deep pain and ill health that you have experienced since 2005.

As a church we seek to act with fairness, justice and compassion. However we know that we have failed you and in doing so failed ourselves.

We have failed you when Synod boards, committees and officers, led processes that did not adhere to the polity, policies and ethical principles of the Uniting Church.

We have failed you by not recording in the minutes of the 2011 Synod the reception of the Report of the Independent Panel and acknowledgement of its findings.

We have failed you in our untimely implementation of the 2011 Synod resolutions responding to the Independent Panel's Report and its recommendations.

For our failings we are sorry.

We acknowledge that your health, academic and professional reputation has been damaged and that you have been prevented from exercising your ministry with all its gifts and graces, in both the church and the wider community. We are sorry for the way this has also limited you in answering God's call.

Again, I apologise that we through our leaders and process, we as a synod failed you. We are deeply sorry for the pain we have caused and regret the psychological and spiritual suffering you have experienced.

We are truly sorry.

You deserved better—a lot better...and we let you down.

We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Ann, the work of the Uniting Church in this synod has been weakened without your gifts contributing to our life. I am exploring ways in which there might be an opportunity for you to contribute your ministry, research and wisdom to our understanding of social justice issues within the Australian community as a mentor and advisor to me, during the remainder of my term as Moderator. I hope you will work with me to explore that possibility.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myung Hwa Park', written in a cursive style.

Myung Hwa Park (Rev)
Moderator