



The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met on Friday 1 June 2018.

The following information has been prepared under the supervision of the General Secretary, for the use of members and for distribution to Presbyteries, Synod Boards and Committees, School Councils and other relevant bodies.

Same Gender Marriage Discussion

The Moderator has been conducting Same Gender Marriage conversations across the Synod in preparation for the upcoming Assembly meeting and led a comparable discussion with the SSC. The proposals that will be discussed at the upcoming Assembly meeting can be viewed at <https://uniting.church/08-marriage-and-same-gender-relationships/>

General Secretary Report

The General Secretary (GS) highlighted the work of the Synod Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT includes the Executive Directors from each Board, Associate Secretary and other representatives as required, this team has identified three key missional priorities:

1. Growing Healthy Congregations
2. Developing Vital Ministry
3. Transformative Community Engagement

The GS report included commentary on culture noting that a major challenge for the whole church is the need to change the very familiar 'problem-saturated' story into a creative and motivated engagement with the future that is not only coming, but already emerging in our midst.

UCA Redress Scheme

Rev. John Cox, Executive Officer Royal Commission National Task Group, addressed the SSC providing an overview of Assembly actions taken since the establishment of the Royal Commission in 2013. Members of the SSC had attended a joint video conference of all Standing Committees on 23 May 2018 where the legal requirements for the UCA to participate in

the Commonwealth Redress Scheme were proposed and discussed. The SSC approved the proposals supporting the UCA's participation in the Commonwealth Redress Scheme.

Uniting Mission and Education Review Update

The SSC in December 2017 requested, through the General Secretary, that the UME Board conduct a comprehensive review and prioritization of its portfolio of activities – current and potential. The SSC received an update and endorsed the Transformation Strategy to streamline and focus the work of UME.

Regular work – Appointments/ Approvals

The SSC at each meeting confirms appointments to various Synod Committees, School Councils and other entities along with approving constitutions, amending Bylaws as required and admitting ministers from other denominations into the UCA. This work is fundamental to the smooth functioning of the Synod.

Stipends 2018/2019

The SSC approved the Stipends and residence allowance for 2018/19. Please visit <https://nswact.uca.org.au/media/6156/stipend-summary-sheet-2018-2019.pdf>

Progress Reports were received from

- Associate Secretary
- Synod Risk and Oversight Committee (SROC);
- Pathways;
- Uniting Resources;
- Treasury and Investment Services (TIS)