



The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met on 5 October 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.

General Secretary Report

The General Secretary (GS) provided the Committee with feedback from the meeting with **Presbytery Leaders and the Synod Leadership** team held on 19 September 2018 commenting that this meeting provided an opportunity to work collaboratively on a synod wide operations plan; a second meeting has been arranged for 21 November 2018. The GS advised that she has agreed to join a new committee formed by the NSW Ombudsman- **Ombudsman's Child Safety Standing Committee**. This committee will enable collaboration and information sharing to foster and promote child safe practices among faith based organisations.

Uniting Resources (UR)

Albert Olley, Chief Operating Officer (COO) provided updates on the priority initiatives that are being oversighted by the UR board, these include;

- Strategic property review
- Synod sustainable budget review
- National Insurance program
- Synod Structure review

SSC will receive regular updates on the above.

Albert and Nicole Rose (Head of Risk, Safety and Compliance) further provided an update on the legal and compliance environment this included information on the National Redress Scheme and Royal Commission into Aged Care (noting that no terms of reference had been released as at 5/10/18).

Governance, Nominations and Remuneration Committee (GNRC) - review of stipends and allowances

GNRC is conducting a review of entitlements available to Ordained members, noting that these have not been reviewed for a number of years. SSC members worked in small groups to review current entitlements and provided feedback that will be incorporated by GNRC. This review is ongoing with further recommendations to be tabled to the SSC over the coming months.

UAICC NSW/ACT Regional Council

Mrs Diane Torrens, Chair of NSW /ACT Regional Council and SSC member, provided an update of Congress activities.

National Safe Church Unit (NSCU)

Nicole Rose (Head of Risk, Safety and Compliance) provided information on the National Safe Church Unit (NSCU). This is an Assembly led initiative which will enable collaboration and consistency in the church's child safety policies and practises. The NSCU charter states that it will *ensure a national collaborative approach by Assembly and the Synods to embed a consistent and robust safe church culture and safe church practices across the church and its agencies* this includes developing policies, audit and compliance, professional standards and education and training. This Synod will be working closely with the NSCU.