



The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met on 7 September 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) welcomed Albert Olley the newly appointed Chief Operating Officer Uniting Resources, commenting that this role was designed to assist with a significant (Synod) transformation process that is already underway and will benefit greatly from Albert's experience.

The GS further, reported on the activities on of NSW Ecumenical Council noting that this Council comprises 16 churches in NSW and ACT with its primary purpose being to foster opportunities for denominations and churches to work together in mission; including maintaining "the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace" being committed to the Gospel and to proclaiming it together, and living out the implications of the Gospel for service in the world. The GS called for expressions of interest in nominating for this Council.

Uniting – Strategic Advocacy Framework

Doug Taylor Uniting, Group Executive – Social Impact, Advocacy and Resilient Communities reported on the work Uniting is undertaking in developing an effective and impactful advocacy strategy. This will be a strategy in which the church brings to life the biblical mandate for justice as outlined in the 1977 Statement to the Nation:

'We pledge ourselves to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur.

We will work for the eradication of poverty and racism within our society and beyond. We affirm the rights of all people to equal educational opportunities, adequate health care, freedom of speech, employment or dignity in unemployment if work is not available. We will

oppose all forms of discrimination which infringe basic rights and freedoms' The presentation included an overview of the advocacy project, theological foundations, Social Justice, and Drug Law Reform strategies.

Saltbush – Uniting Scattered Community

Rev. Mark Faulkner, Director of Rural and Remote Ministry Initiatives, addressed the Committee on Saltbush. Saltbush seeks to encourage and connect, smaller UCA Christian communities, irrespective of size and location. This is primarily rural congregations without Ministers, of which there are hundreds. Mark noted that Saltbush is not a project or programme, but through relationship, a grounded, practical expression of Christian community and deep reflection on the Way of Christ.

The Synod Admission of Ministers Committee

The Associate Secretary reported on the work of this Committee noting that they receive and review applications from ministers of other denominations seeking to serve or to be admitted as a minister of the Uniting Church. Applications are processed on the basis of Regulation's adopted by the Assembly in 2012.

This Committee meets as required. At this meeting three ministers were recommended for admission to the UCA.

Reports were received from

- Moderator
- Associate Secretary
- Pathways Project