



The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met on 30 November 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) reported on the meeting with Rural (Saltbush) Presbytery Chairs; Kevin Barrington (MDP) Will Pearson (NENW), Shelia Ayliffe (Riverina), Mark Faulkner, Albert Olley and Bronwyn Murphy in Dubbo on 12 November noting the challenges faced in rural areas and the need to develop practical initiatives to provide assistance. This group will re meet in February 2019.

The Presbytery Leaders and the Synod Leadership team met for the second time on 21 November 2018. This meeting continues to strengthen relationships and build a collective understanding of the “whole of church” work.

### Synod 2019 - 4 – 7 July 2019 Knox Grammar School

The Synod 2019 video was previewed at this meeting and can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/299577292>. Please share this link with your presbytery and congregations. More information regarding will be emailed shortly.

### Assembly Update – Marriage

Constitution clause 39b may still be triggered in relation to the Assembly's decision to two statements of belief on marriage. In this event, that decision will be suspended until the Assembly decides otherwise. The threshold date to trigger such an event is 13 January 2019. The SA Synod / Presbytery will meet again on 5 January 2019 to consider this issue.

### Review of Formation

The Moderator and Associate Secretary tabled the Terms of Reference for this review that included the appointment of the Steering Group. This review will attempt to address the difficulties in filling rural and regional placements and will cover the four phases of ministry. Further reports will be received by SSC.

### Audited Account for 2018

Jonathon Rea, Chair of the Synod Risk and Oversight Committee presented the audited accounts 2018 as per Regulation 3.8.7(g).

### Uniting Board Update

Boards are required to report to SSC on a regular basis with the Uniting report being tabled at this meeting. The Chair of Uniting, Heather Watson provided updates on a fit for purpose governance model and the role of the SSC. Doug Taylor, Deputy Executive Director spoke to the work Uniting is undertaking in advocacy including the very successful Fair Treatment Campaign which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/5N7QEQkhrR0>. Tracey Burton, Executive Director, detailed current operational activities and future opportunities. Tracey further provided information on the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and the role Uniting has.

### Other reports tabled

- Associate Secretary report
- Information on the National Executive Development Program
- Mission and Property report
- UME Transformation

**Next Meeting 15 February 2019**