

SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE



**uniting
church**
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met on Friday 20 September 2019. 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 provided a written report and verbally updated the Committee on:

- **Post Synod 2019 Portfolio of Work** noting that most initiatives are still in the kick off stage.
- **SSC Calendar** this provides the Committee with an overview of key dates, including reporting requirements, financial returns, and Board updates.
- **Continuing Education Program** gaps identified in the SSC skills audit will be addressed in the ongoing education program. Each meeting will commence with an education session.

Introduction to Risk

As part of the continuing SSC education program, Jonathon Rea, Chair of the Synod Risk and Oversight Committee (SROC) provided an overview of the role of SROC and introduced the Synod wide Risk Management Framework.

SSC Communications Strategy

Rev. Kent Crawford led a discussion on how best to communicate SSC activities. It was agreed that proactive and intentional communication to the wider Church is essential. Consideration was given to format and content. Further work will be undertaken by Rev. Crawford, General Secretary and the Synod Communications Manager.

Moderator Report

The Moderator provided a written report and verbally updated the Committee key issues included

- Formation Review
- Human Reproduction Bill

Presbytery Engagement & Reporting

The General Secretary led a discussion on how best to engage with Presbyteries with the aim of strengthening communication and relationships among the councils of the church. Consideration was given to a reporting format. Further work and consultation is to be undertaken.

UCA Redress Ltd

Nicole Rose, Head of Governance and Transformation, UR and Sarah Lim, National Director, UCA Redress Ltd provided SSC with a comprehensive update on UCA Redress Ltd. UCA Redress Ltd is a company that has been established by the Uniting Church in Australia. The company's purpose is to be the national body for the Uniting Church to respond to, and provide support for, children and vulnerable persons who have suffered abuse at the hands of the Uniting Church or its institutions, including by participation in a nationally consistent equitable redress scheme.. More information can be found at <https://ucaredress.org.au/>

Uniting Resources Update

Albert Olley, COO UR, provided an update on the Synod Structure Review Project. This project is developing a framework to enhance change capability of the Synod, while aligning Synod structure and operations for better collaboration.

Climate Change Strike – Service UCA Pitt Street

The Committee attended the service held at UCA Pitt Street in support of the Global Climate Strike.

Next Meeting: 1 November 2019