

SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE



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

The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) met on Friday 1 November 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 (GS) spoke to the report tabled this included information on how the Synod Mission Strategy provides a framework, which enables the resources and the energy of Synod operations to be deliberately focused to achieve its outcomes. These are

- Growing Healthy Congregations
- Developing vital ministry
- Transformative community engagement

The GS announced the appointment of Steph O'Connell as Head of Communications and Public Affairs. Steph is responsible for managing the external communications, including managing reputation and building profile.

The GS brought to the attention of SSC the upcoming Presbytery Leaders and Synod Leadership Team meeting – Conversations that Matter, 2 on 11 November 2019. This meeting provides a valuable opportunity to share information.

Advocacy Update

Jon O'Brien (Senior Social Justice Adviser, Uniting) and Emma Maiden (Head of Advocacy, Uniting) provided SSC with an update of advocacy projects this included

- Drug Law Reform (Fair Treatment Campaign)
- Housing and Homelessness (with Sydney Alliance)
- Climate Change (Synod 2019 resolution)
- Refugees and People Seeking Asylum
- Ageing and Aged Care Services.

Information was provided on the upcoming Climate Action Strategy day being held on 10 December 2019 please visit <https://unitingearthweb.org.au/climate-strategy-workshop/>

Pulse Update

The Committee welcomed Rev. Karen Mitchell Lambert (Pulse Team Leader) and Ms Milise Foiakau, a new Pulse Team member. Karen reported on the work being

undertaken by the Pulse team including the completion of a listening campaign across all presbyteries to identify needs and opportunities. Four main priorities have been identified and include

- Network building - the Pulse team is back on the road building relationships and developing practical tasks.
- Communication with a focus on emerging generations
- Resource curation and creation this includes developing resources for specific situations that are accessible across the Church
- Leadership development and support.

Uniting Resources (UR) Board Report

SSC members receive regular updates from the four Boards with the UR Board reporting in this meeting. Ian Gray (Chair) and Albert Olley (COO) provided updates on

- Synod Structure Review
- Property Stewardship
- Service management framework
- Synod Risk Management Framework
- Synod Website redevelopment
- IT security
- Electronic documents and records management.

Associate Secretary Report

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy reports regularly to SSC. In this meeting, she provided information on

- The ongoing work with the Korean Presbytery
- Ministry of Pastor working group – approved the Terms of Reference
- Mercer Minister Retirement Seminar held on 2 September 2019.

SSC Updates

All SSC Updates can be found at <https://nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/secretariat/standing-committee-meeting/>