



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE ACT

MINUTES of the thirty-eighth Meeting of the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT of the Uniting Church in Australia held 5 July to 7 July 2019 at Knox Grammar School. The theme of the Synod was “Living Church”

CANDLE

The Moderator lit the candle at the commencement of the Synod Meeting to signify the Synod is a Safe Place.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

Rev. Ellie Elia led the acknowledgement of land in Opening Worship.

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Peter Walker led Bible Studies

WORSHIP

Worship was developed and led by Rev. Ellie Elia, Rev. Charissa Suli, Rev. Seung Jae Yeon, Grace Yeon, Kepueli Vaka.

THE SYNOD PRAYER

Creating God,
with breath and dust and a word you brought us
to life,
to care, to serve, to nurture,
to build community and to flourish.
Even in our frailty and failure, you love us,
call us back to yourself,
and offer us forgiveness and life again.

Incarnate One,
your presence offered life to those from whom it
was withheld:
those bent with illness and injustice,
those broken by exclusion or empire,
those silenced by their suffering, their sin, or their
circumstance.
In your crucifixion and rising,
you put the lie to death's strongest word
and to sin's manacle on our humanness;
in your new life, you offer us life anew.

Breath of Life,
stir us with hope,
lift our hearts in wonder,
sing to us of the life offered us in Jesus Christ.
You are the flame to refine your church,
to lead us into the life which proclaims your Gospel.

Constitute, rule and renew us
in this Synod meeting
that we might hear your voice,
answer your call,
and witness to your presence in your world.

In, with and through Christ we pray. Amen.

DECISIONS

Decisions recorded in these Minutes were reached by consensus unless otherwise indicated.

MEMBERS OF SYNOD

Resolved 91/19S

That the Synod determine:

- (i) That the membership of Synod shall comprise ex officio and board members, together with those persons nominated by presbyteries or co-opted, being listed on Appendix A, attached to the minutes;
- (ii) That any alterations to the list of members be advised in writing to the Synod General Secretary by the Presbytery Chairperson no later than the close of Synod on 7 July 2019;
- (iii) That the following persons be co-opted as members of Synod in accordance with Regulation 3.3.7a
 - Rev. Valamotu Palu
 - Mrs Simaima Tuiono
 - Mr David Turner
 - Rev. Steve Aynsley

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE OF SYNOD

Resolved 92/19S

That the Synod adopt the timetable of Synod as published on the Synod 2019 App and amended by the Synod Business Committee as required.

SAFE PLACE

Resolved 93/19S

That the Synod

- (i) Determine the Respectful Communication Guideline documented under the 'Information' tab on the Synod 2019 App will be the basis for the Synod to be a safe place for all who participate
- (ii) Note the Policy on the Prevention of Vilification and Harassment within the Uniting Church in Australia as documented under the 'Information' tab on the Synod 2019 App.

SYNOD BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Resolved 94/19S

That the Synod on the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee appoint the following persons to the Business Committee for Synod 2019:

- Mr Craig Corby (Chair)
- Rev. Simon Hansford
- Rev. Jane Fry
- Mr Peter Andrews
- Mr Ian Lawrence
- Mr. Glen Powell
- Mr Adrian Drayton
- Mrs Karyn Warner
- Ms Monique Mumby
- Rev. James Aaron
- Mr David Turner
- Rev. Tara Curlewis (co-opted for the Synod meeting).

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Resolved 95/19S

That the Synod associate the following people

- Mrs Karyn Warner All
- Mr Jon Owen 3
- Mr Joshua Gilbert 6 & 7
- Ms Karina Kreminski 10
- Mr Jon Obrien All
- Alex Hogan 4

RETURNING OFFICER

Resolved 96/19S

That the Synod note that the Synod Standing Committee has appointed Mr Ian Lawrence as Returning Officer and Mr Scott Stanton as Assistant Returning Officer.

SYNOD MINUTES

Resolved 97/19S

That the Synod request the Synod Standing Committee, approve the Minutes of Synod 2019.

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

The Moderator tabled the names of Deacons, Ministers of the Word and Youth Workers who have resigned, transferred to another Synod, or have been re-admitted, and the names and details of service of Deacons, Ministers and their spouse/widow and those lay leaders who have died since the 2019 Synod.

Resolved 98/19S

That the Synod receive the names tabled and attach them as Appendix B to the Minutes.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS – CELEBRATION SERVICE

The General Secretary tabled the names of Deacons and Ministers of the Word who:

- have been received by the Uniting Church within the Synod of New South Wales and the ACT by ordination
- admission from another denomination
- transferred from another Synod since the 2017 Synod
- Deacons, Ministers of the Word and Lay Pastors who have retired since the 2017 Synod
- Ministers of the Word and Deacons who have celebrated major anniversaries of their ordination since the 2017 Synod.

Resolved 99/19S

That the Synod receive the names tabled and attach them as Appendix C to the Minutes.

CLOSED SESSIONS

Resolved 100/19S

Exemptions are granted to the following persons, who are considered essential for the running of the meeting, to remain in a closed session

- Karyn Warner (minutes)
- Uniting Technology Team (AV)

SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Resolved 101/19S

That the Synod note the Synod Standing Committee Report.

2. Resolved 102/19S

Term of Elected of the Synod Standing Committee (SSC)

On the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee (32/19SC)

The Synod approve the following term of members of the Synod Standing Committee

- (i) the four elected members with the highest number of votes in the ballot be appointed for two terms (i.e. three years and up to Synod 2023) subject to:
 - a. at least one of each gender
 - b. at least one of each Ordained and Lay status
 - c. each to be from a different Presbytery
- (ii) the four identified in point (i) above shall be eligible to serve on the SSC in the second term if they are duly appointed members of that Synod
- (iii) Synod 2021 elect 8 SSC members (i.e. assuming all of the 4 outlined above are eligible to continue as an SSC member - otherwise elect that number above 8 that is required to achieve the 12 elected position)
- (iv) of those elected at Synod 2021, four (4) be elected for two terms and the remainder for one term
- (v) the process of electing 8 members be repeated at each subsequent Synod
- (vi) the maximum continuous term for a Synod elected SSC member shall be 9 years
- (vii) for each SSC, there shall be no more than 2 persons from any one Presbytery.

3. Resolved 103/19S

Election of Members of Synod Boards

On the recommendation of the Synod Standing Committee (33/19SC)

The Synod approve that By-Laws 4.3.1 be amended to provide for all Board appointments to be made by the Synod Standing Committee (SSC), effective from the rising of the Synod:

Current by-law: "The appointment of Board Members shall be the responsibility of the Synod which shall request nominations from the Governance, Nominations and Remuneration Committee (GNRC)."

Proposed by-law: "The appointment of Board Members shall be the responsibility of the Synod Standing Committee which shall request nominations from the GNRC".

4. Resolved 104/19S

Term of the Moderator

That the Synod

- (i) Note the proposal tabled in the Synod Standing Committee report to Synod 2019
(a new By-law as follows "that the term of a Moderator shall be 'for a maximum of six (6) years; subject to an initial term of three (3) years with the potential to extend up to the maximum term following consideration by the SSC of a "Vital Ministry" review prior to the conclusion of the initial three-year term.")
- (ii) Request the incoming Synod Standing Committee revisit the proposal (above) giving particular regard to the engagement of the Synod in consideration of the term of the Moderator; and revert to the next Synod Meeting.

ADVOCACY REPORT AND PRIORITY ISSUES DISCUSSION REVIEW

Resolved 105/19S

That the Synod

- (i) Note the report on current advocacy priorities
- (ii) Consider, at the Synod meeting, other issues that could be the focus of attention
- (iii) Provide its views on the overall advocacy priorities and how Uniting can engage the wider church in action on those issues

SYNOD CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION STRATEGY

Resolved 106/19S

That the Synod

- (i) Develops a Synod-wide Climate Action Strategy to reduce carbon emissions across all councils and agencies of the Church and to advocate to the Federal, State Governments and Local Councils to take decisive steps to reduce our emissions nationally.
- (ii) Supports initiatives taken by young people in advocating for action on climate change, including the global climate strikes.

FOCUS ON GROWTH

Resolved 107/19S

That the Synod

Commit, over the next 3 years, that we will organise ourselves, and request our Presbyteries to so organise themselves, to prioritise, promote and enable growth:

- in discipleship,
- in relationship,
- in number and
- in impact

Within and through our congregations.

A RENEWED VISION FOR FORMATION

Resolved 108/19S

That the Synod affirms the necessity to reshape the formation process and request Uniting Mission and Education (UME) and relevant stakeholders to establish the project: "A renewed vision for Formation", to follow through on the work packages outlined in this paper, providing an update to Synod in 2021 and quarterly progress reports to the Synod Standing Committee (SSC). Work packages can be found at [Appendix D](#).

TREATY MAKARATTA STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Resolved 109/19S

- (i) To commend the Assembly's Walking Together resources see <https://assembly.uca.org.au/walkingtogether>) to Presbyteries, Congregations, Parish Missions, Schools and other UCA organisations for study and consideration,
- (ii) To listen to the 2017 Statement from the Heart made at Uluru, recognising that it provides a consensus position of 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from across Australia, who have drawn on twelve regional dialogues amongst First Peoples, expressing the preferred pathway towards reconciliation
- (iii) To commend the 2017 Statement from the Heart to congregations, presbyteries and agencies for prayerful engagement and discussion, noting especially the resource prepared by the Anglican Board of Mission, "A Voice in the Wilderness: listening to the Statement to the Heart" (2018), AND FURTHER RESOURCES TO BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR.
- (iv) To urge the NSW State Government and the ACT Government each to establish a process of agreement making between those governments and First Nations, and provide a means for truth telling about the history of Australia's First Peoples.

- (v) To urge the Commonwealth Government to implement (a) the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution to empower First Peoples to have a greater say in policy and legislation which governs their affairs and, in so doing, improve their autonomy and prosperity; and (b) the establishment of a Makarrata Commission to [supervise] FURTHER a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations, and provide a means for truth-telling about the history of Australia's First Peoples

SALTBUSH - UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Resolved 110/19S

- (i) Note the report.
- (ii) Commit to the ongoing work, direction and funding of Saltbush.
- (iii) Give thanks for those individuals, Congregations, Presbyteries and Synod bodies who have funded and encouraged the Saltbush team.

ASSEMBLY

Resolved 111/19S

That the Synod note the report.

PULSE REPORT

Resolved 112/19S

- (i) Affirm the report from the Pulse Team
- (ii) Request Presbyteries and Congregations to organise themselves to prioritise, promote and partner in Pulse initiatives as a core expression of being a Living Church in Mission Together.
- (iii) Encourage Uniting Church Members to actively support and engage in Pulse initiatives.

Resolved 113/19S

That the Synod note the report.

TREASURY AND INVESTMENTS BOARD REPORT

Resolved 114/19S

That the Synod note the report.

UNITING RESOURCES BOARD REPORT

Resolved 115/19S

That the Synod receive the report.

UNITING BOARD REPORT

Resolved 116/19S

That the Synod note the report.

PRESBYTERY REPORTS

Resolved 117/19S

That the Synod note with thanks the following Presbytery reports:

- Canberra Region
- Far North Coast
- Georges River
- Illawarra
- Korean
- Macquarie Darling
- Mid North Coast
- New England North West
- Parramatta Nepean
- Riverina
- Sydney
- Sydney Central Coast
- The Hunter

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolved 118/19S

That the Synod note the reports of the following Synod Committees:

- Admission of Ministers
- Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements
- Ministry of Pastor

SCHOOL REPORTS

Resolved 119/19S

That the Synod note the reports of the following School reports

- Kinross Wolaroi School Orange
- Knox Grammar School
- Margaret Jurd College
- MLC School
- Newington College Stanmore
- Pymble Ladies College
- Ravenswood School for Girls
- Wesley College

CONGREGATION CHANGES

Resolved 120/19S

That the Synod note the Congregational changes since Synod 2017 as attached in [Appendix E](#).

SYNOD NEXT MEETING DATE

Resolved 121/19S

That the Synod instruct the Synod Standing Committee set the date and place of the next Synod.

MINUTES OF APPRECIATION

Resolved 122/19S

The Synod noted the following Minutes of Appreciation and the Moderator led a pray of thanks to all those listed below

- Michael Anderson
- Iain Brown
- Constitutions Committee
- Rev. Tara Curlewis
- Peter and Sue Kaldor
- John Kitchener
- Rev. Kath Merrifield
- Rev. Peter Powell
- Uniting Church Historical Society Synod NSW and the ACT
- Rev. Rhonda White
- Peter Worland
- Meredith Yabsley

(Please refer Appendix F to R)

APPOINTMENTS

Synod Standing Committee

Resolved 123/19S

That the Synod appoint the following members to Synod Standing Committee until Synod 2020

- David Barrow
- Sharon Flynn
- Rev. Danielle Hemsworth-Smith
- Ian Lawrence

Resolved 124/19S

That the Synod appoint the following members to Synod Standing Committee until Synod 2020

- Tauálofa Anga-aelangí
- Irene Bowrie-Johnson
- Hayden Charles
- Rev. Kent Crawford
- Rev. Greer Dokmanovic
- Rev. Robert Griffith
- Rev. Tammy Hollands
- Amanaki (Langi) Suli

Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements

Resolved 125/19S

That the Synod appoint Rev. John Thornton as Chair of Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements.

Treasury and Investment Services

Resolved 126/19S

That the Synod appoint the following members to Treasury and Investment Services Board

- Jason Masters
- Suzanne Stanton
- John Collins (until Synod 2020)

Uniting Mission & Education

Resolved 127/19S

That the Synod appoint the following members to Uniting Mission & Education Board

- Ross Chambers
- Robert Minton
- Peter Overton
- David Scott

Uniting

Resolved 128/19S

That the Synod appoint the following members to Uniting Board

- Bronwyn Pike
- Elenie Poulos
- Andrew Young
- Anne Carroll (until Synod 2020)

Uniting Resources Board

Resolved 129/19S

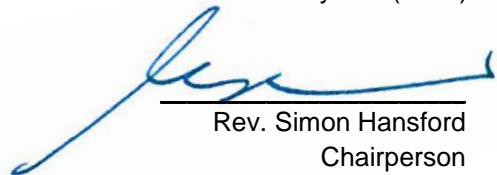
That the Synod appoint the following members to Uniting Resources Board

- John Davison
- Ross Johnson
- Jennifer Richardson
- Scott Stanton
- Lynne Thomson (until Synod 2020)

TERM OF THE MODERATOR

Resolved 129/19S

That the Synod approve the extension of the term of the Moderator for a further three years (2023)



Rev. Simon Hansford
Chairperson

16 August 2019