



on the way together

27th synod

minutes

Rev Bruce Johnson - Moderator
Rev Douglas Jones - General Secretary

31 October - 5 November 2008
Alexandra Park Conference Centre



The Uniting Church in Australia
Queensland Synod

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THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Twenty-Seventh Queensland Synod
Constituted at 7.30pm on Friday 31st October, 2008

Regulation 3.5.2 (a)
Assembly Ex-Officio

The President of the Assembly, Gregor Henderson
The Associate General Secretary of the Assembly, Glenda Blakefield

Regulation 3.5.2 (b) and By-Law Q1.1.3
Synod Ex-Officio

Bruce Johnson
David Pitman
Douglas Jones
Heather Watson
Andrew McBryde
Anne Cross
Robert Packer
David Rankin
Rob Bos
Sue Fairley
David MacGregor
Elaine Rae
Ray Reddicliffe
John Cox
Apichart Branjerdporn
Leva Pat
Neil Dutney
Graham Beattie
Jenny Tymms
Duncan MacLeod
Andrew Johnson
Michael Jeffrey

Regulations 3.5.2 (c) & (d) and By-Law Q1.1.2
The Presbyteries

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Ministers

David Baker
Christopher Barr
Bruce Bartleet
Carol Bennett
Peter Blauw
David Fender
Heather Griffin
Peter Hobson
David MacGregor

Lay Members

Robert Bennett
Doug Brecknell
Lyn Campbell
Janice Charles
Ray Crompton
Beth Dutney
Robert Edwardson
David Fryga
Doris Gulbrandsen

Robin Osborne
Ian Proctor
David Savage
Tino Scanlan
Tony Shumack
Ian Smallbone
Deva Sugirtharaj
Henry Swindon
Paul Walton
David Wiltshire

Kath Hobson
Grahame Kroll
Vaa Manu-Sione
Viliami Mila
Velavaa Muliagatele
Josie Nottle
Jim O'Grady
Jim Pearse
Alex Pringle
Doug Rea
Roderick Rogers
Ian Scorgie
Rosalyn Smaill
Les Spall
Dona Spencer
Grahame Tainton
Jan Thompson
Harry Thompson
Anna Wallis
Jean Wookovich

Presbytery of Calvary

Ministers

Shayne Blackman
Dennis Corowa

Lay Members

Douglas Ahlers
Meyalah Blackman
Harriet Flinders
James Hughes
Rodney Minniecon
Edward Monaei
Ralph Peinkenna
Richard Roughsey
Roberta Stanley

Presbytery of Central Queensland

Ministers

Jeanette Gillam
Glenn Ingram
Bernie Jarius
Johan Loots
Wayne McHugh
Russell Reynoldson
Kaye Ronalds
Jan Rossow
Peter Taubner
Arthur Tutin
Jan Whyte
Ian Wilson

Lay Members

Laura Brown
Gavin Caird
Aaron Comollatti
Philipa Core
Wayne Davidson
Karyl Davison
Shirley Doyle
David Ferguson
Caroline Holmes
Belinda Hooper
Brendan Hooper
Heather James
Euan McDonald

Iola Sampson
Jeff Savage
Margaret Whitney

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Ministers

Sue Algate
Scott Ballment
Pam Batson
David Fanning
Brian Gilbert
Linda Hanson
Brian Hoole
Darren King
Allan Kuchler
Ray Nutley
Peter Overton
Jan Reid
Greg Ross
John Selwood
Heather Selwood
Graham Slaughter
James Stevenson
Iain Watt
George Woodward

Lay Member

Margaret Angel
Fay Barton
Malcolm Campbell
Jenny Coombes
Peter Crispin
Coral Deeth
Bruce Dingle
Vicki Diprose
Judy Drummond
Ian Drummond
Jean McElligott
Ron Embrey
Andrew Fox
Jenny Edwards
John Glover
Geoff Cosgrave
Eddie Gresham
Ann Huth
Graham Huth
Trevor Huth
Fran Kay
Glenys McKee
Trish Milne
Frank Millett
Anna Mulcahy
Sue Mulcahy
Marlene Mundie
Margaret Sakrzewski
Thelma Turpin
Ron Wright

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Ministers

Alan Anderson
Peter Armstrong
Lyn Burden
Peter Clark
Mark Cornford
Lynne Davis
Murray Fysh
Andrew Gunton
Colin Gurteen

Lay Members

Heather Allison
Merle Anderson
Geoff Batkin
Alan Brecknell
Richard Cassidy
Betty Clark
Graham Clarke
John Gill
Cathy Henderson

Gale Hall
Bob Harriman
Rowena Harris
Stephen Henderson
Ray Herrmann
Chris Holden
Anne Hulbert
Brian Kickbusch
Robyn Kidd
Peter Lockhart
Yvonne McRostie
Glenn Mulcahy
Paddi Mullan
Bruce Raymond
Tim Robinson
Wendi Sargeant
Lu Senituli
Neil Sims
Peter Smale
Yvonne Sutherland

Louise Hobson
Paul Hukehuke
Sandra Jebb
Brett Kennedy
Benny Lam Sam
Ian Laurie
Angus McKay
Alisi Manu
Mele Ngauamo
Margaret Niethe
Julie Packer
Keith Palmer
Melanie Perkins
Margaret Pollock
Bill Porter
Rob Profke
Barbara Profke
Keren Seto
Terrie Seymour
Jenny Sims
Terry Stanyer
John Saunders
Wendy Shurey
Uheina Taumoefolau
Anthony Tudman
Stanley Tuilovoni

Presbytery of North Queensland

Ministers

Christy Allen
Ian Boudry
Paul Clark
Russell Clark
Michelle Cook
Bruce Cornish
Barry Cox
Mark Dewar
Hedley Fihaki
Doug Foster
Garry Hardingham
Glenn Louttit
Craig Mischewski
Leo Newell
Irinale Tadulala

Lay Members

Ruth Beasley
Jenny Brown
Krishna Buhler
Andrea Chamberlain
Viv Chapman
Max Christie
John Cowen
Marcia Cowen
Michelle Cullen
Mosese Fangupo
Robyn Hall
Anne Harley
Peter Harvey
Richard Hosking
Peter Ireland
Bill Mellor
Mabel Moore
Ian Ness
Bruce Peden
Maarten Van Prooije
Koro Samai
Malcolm Todd

Presbytery of South Moreton

Ministers

Peter Arnett
Alan Baker
Colin Batt
Robert Brennan
Rob Callow
Stu Cameron
Malcolm Coombes
Nigel Damant
Peter Elliott
Gwen Fisher
Brad Foote
Trevor Gibson
Lynne Gibson
Glennis Johnston
Graham Keech
Ian Lord
Bob Miles
Beth Nicholls
Robert Packer
Sue Page
Iris Reedman
Dennis Robinson
Andrew Ross
Colin Shenfield
Dan Skippen
Keith Thompson
Ruth Tracey
Bruce Warren
Robert Weyer
David Won Kim
Anne Wright

Lay Members

Chris Alton
Neil Ballment
James Barratt
Stephen Clark
Ed Coit
Jan Drury
Louise Edwards
Valda Edwards
Beryl Farquhar
Ken Farquhar
Lynton Foulkes
David Gibson
Robert Gilliland
Mervyn Head
Marlene Head
Jim Hohnke
Noela Lister
Allison McGaw
Anne Mackay
Ross Mackay
Alyson Madsen
Allan Nutley
Don Richardson
Audrey Savage
Glen Schweitzer
Beatriz Skippen
Tricia Tschernez
Dave Thomas
Mel Wheeley
Paul Yarrow

Presbytery of The Downs

Ministers

Michael Brumpton
John Case
David Ellis
Jackson Gill
Andrew Gillies
David Graham
Peter Hall
Lesley Holt
Marius Kruger
John Lucas
May Morris

Lay Members

John Agnew
Joy Agnew
Esme Armstrong
Andrew Bell
Yvonne Cornford
Ken Davidson
Pauline Denning
Jean Dodd
Ken Ebenezer
Brian Henman
Iven Hewett

Margaret Ruben
Allan Smith

Sharon Kirk
Angela Lester
Jenny Potter
Wilma Proudlock
Ron Skilton
Janice Webster

Regulation 3.5.2 (e) and By-Law Q1.1.4

Board for Christian Formation

Jenny Brecknell

UnitingCare Queensland Board

Ian Airey
Colleen Geyer
Paul Mullooly
Rick Strangman

Regulation 3.5.2 (g) & 3.5.3 (a) & (b) and By-Law Q1.1.6 (a) & (b)

Synod Co-options

Michael Hewson
Michelle Leggo

Young Persons

Joshua Clutterbuck
Rachel Edwards
Ema Feao
Monique Mawbey
David Miller
Adam Mulcahy
Fa Ngaluafe
Stephen Rothery
Daniel Singer
Phillipa Thompson

Regulation 3.5.2 (f) and By-Law Q1.1.5

Candidates

Leonie Gaffel
Kerry Pierce

**THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND SYNOD**

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SYNOD

Held at

Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands, Queensland

31 October – 5 November 2008

The Constitution of the Synod

- 08.01** At the Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands, Queensland, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 31 October 2008, the Uniting Church in Australia (Queensland Synod) met in worship during which the Moderator, the Rev Bruce Johnson, was inducted into office on behalf of the Synod by the Retiring Moderator, the Rev Dr David Pitman, under the authority given by the Constitution and Regulations of The Uniting Church in Australia.

Recognition of Traditional Owners of the Land

- 08.02** As part of the worship service, the Synod acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the 27th Synod met and gave thanks for their stewardship.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.03** (a) Notes the appointment by the Council of Synod of the members of the Business Committee -
- The Moderator
The General Secretary (as Secretary)
Ray Herrmann (Convenor)
Jenny Brown (corresponding member)
Michelle Leggo
Andrew Johnson
Michael Hewson
- (b) Appoints Ray Herrmann as Convenor of the Business Committee; and
- (c) Authorises the Committee to co-opt other persons as necessary for specific business. (Consensus)
- 08.04** Appoints Michael Hewson as Convenor of the Facilitation Committee. (Consensus)
- 08.05** Appoints Ana Mila as Journal Secretary. (Consensus)
- 08.06** Appoints David Wiltshire as Convenor of the Ballot Committee and gives him authority to co-opt members for that Committee. (Consensus)

- 08.07** Appoints the following as Liaison Officers –
 Jeanette Gillam
 Brian Kickbusch
 Bruce Raymond
 Stanley Tuilovoni
 Melanie Perkins
 Brian Kickbusch
 John Gill
 (Consensus)
- 08.08** Determines that the Roll of the Synod be as tabled at the first plenary session on Saturday 1st November 2008.
 (Consensus)
- 08.09** Determines that unless otherwise agreed, the hours of session for the Synod shall be -
- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Friday, 31 October | 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. |
| Saturday, 1 November | 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
2.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.
7.15 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. |
| Sunday, 2 November | 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
1.45p.m. – 5.45 p.m.
7.15 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. |
| Monday, 3 November | 8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
1.45 p.m. – 6.15 p.m. |
| Tuesday, 4 November | 8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
1.45 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.
7.15 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, 5 November | 8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
1.45 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. |
- (Consensus)
- 08.10** Determines that the Bar of the House be defined as forward of the Bar of the House markers.
 (Consensus)
- 08.11** Adopts the use of the procedures of *A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church (2001)*.
 (Consensus)
- 08.12** Appoints the Moderator, Rev Bruce Johnson, as Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements (Reg 2.7.3 (b)(i)).
 (Consensus)
- 08.13 (a)** Determines that all nominations for the election of representatives to the Council of Synod, the Synod Leadership Team and the 12th Assembly will close at 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, 1 November 2008 and that the ballots will be held as determined by the Business Committee, and

- (b) Endorses the decision of the Business Committee that nominations to all other Boards and Committees closed on 30 September 2008. (Consensus)

08.14 Determines that all those persons nominated for membership of various Councils, Boards, Commissions, Committees, unless otherwise resolved, must receive at least 50% of the votes to be elected. (Consensus)

08.15 Determines that all nominations for ballots shall bear on the foot of the Nomination Form a short notice of present congregation and presbytery, and relevant service within the Church. (Consensus)

08.16 Approves that Greetings be conveyed to other Synods within The Uniting Church in Australia. (Consensus)

08.17 Determines that amendments to proposals contained in the Book of Reports and Proposals close at 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 10 October 2008 (to be in the hands of the General Secretary, Synod Office, Auchenflower) and that all General Proposals will be submitted by 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 10 October 2008 (to be in the hands of the Synod Business Convener at the c/- Synod Office, Auchenflower). (Consensus)

08.18 Approves a greeting to the government(s) of the day and such greeting to incorporate relevant aspects of the thinking of the Synod and to be approved by Synod at the conclusion of the meeting. (Consensus)

08.19 Authorises the Moderator, General Secretary and the Business Committee Convener to confirm the Minutes of the 27th Synod. (Consensus)

ASSOCIATION OF VISITORS

It was resolved that the Synod -

08.20 Associates the following visitors with this Synod –

Rev Dr Chris Budden, NSW/ACT Synod
Rev Rob Brown, VIC/TAS Synod
Rev Dr Kerry Enright, National Director, Uniting International Mission
Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds, Guest Speaker for Norman & Mary Millar Lecture
Rev Don Whebell, Secretary, Synod Ecumenical Relations Committee

(Consensus)

MODERATOR'S REPORT

It was resolved that the Synod -

08.21 Receives the Report of the Moderator.

(Consensus)

Minute of Appreciation, Rev Dr David Pitman – Retiring Moderator

08.22 Records its appreciation to the retiring Moderator, Rev Dr David Pitman, through the following address by Rev Lyn Burden –

David,

There are many words that could be used to describe you –

Educator, leader, achiever, encourager, advocator, friend, but the one that maybe sums you up the best is MAD.

Who else but you would take on a second term as Moderator, knowing the stresses of the work, knowing that it had half-killed you the first time around? Maybe you rationalised it by thinking that maybe the difficult issues wouldn't surface again.

Your leadership was so strong and thoughtful in your first term that when you agreed to stand again, we happily ticked your box. And David, we are grateful that you are MAD, for you have Made A Difference to the Synod of Queensland.

You came to Queensland as an educator. You have Made a Difference to the lives of many people here in this Synod, many of whom have been your students. A really good teacher, though, is one that educates beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Your ability to mould people has been very evident throughout your terms as Moderator. Your patience with us all as we learnt how to use the consensus system was unforgettable, and so each time we didn't understand the way we should operate or wanted to go back to the old methods of meeting, you carefully went over the steps that were important in helping us to understand the value of this method of meeting.

You became Moderator for the first time from your position as Director of Field Education, and Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at Trinity Theological College. You have embodied your lectures in the way that you have been pastoral to us all. You have been a generous encourager and mentor to many of us. You see the potential in people and invite them to take on unexpected roles in which they have not been able to envision themselves and to follow the path of MADness. Having set people on a pathway, you then journey beside them, nudging them along the way with wise words which have given confidence and hope. This quiet encouragement is not given only to people who would be seen through the eyes of the world as important, those in positions of power. It has been offered to all across the Synod, to people who don't expect the Moderator to be available to them. You have Made A Difference to people who would see themselves as "the least ones".

You have Made A Difference to this Synod through your ability to listen to us all. Sometimes we have been mad with you, as you've sat without speaking through long debates at meetings. Then you have spoken, with thoughtful words, articulating the heart of the issue, and providing wise insight into a way forward. You have shown that you have listened carefully to us and to God and have had the courage to speak in those times of controversial issues and difficult situations.

As Moderator, you have had the opportunity to work with leaders of the Church, business and government. These peers have acknowledged you also as a wise and

thoughtful leader and friend. Your involvement in ecumenism has not been an additional responsibility to be shouldered but something to which you brought a deep commitment.

Your MADness has also shown through in your deep commitment to seeking justice in many different arenas of society. With hope in the gospel and courage, compassion and passion you have stood beside, and advocated on behalf of, the poor, the marginalised, the dispossessed and those who seem to have no hope, both in Australia and abroad. In these areas, it is often difficult to see progress. It is often MADness to be promoting justice and a fair sense of play. That has not deterred you.

David, we know, you know, God knows, you are not perfect. You have made mistakes. Like your name sake, David, King of Israel and Judah, God has seen in you a capacity to lead people in building a better future. You have accepted God's call in obedience and humility and you have Made A Difference for us all. Thank you for being MAD. Thank you for your warmth, love and friendship. Thank you for risking the way of Jesus

Rev Lyn Burden, on behalf of Rev Dr David Pitman's Chaplains (Revs Glennis Johnston, Peter Arnett and Mr Bruce Mullan)

(Consensus – carried by acclamation)

SYNOD MULTI-CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE

It was resolved that the Synod -

- 08.23**
- (a) Receives the Report of the Synod Multi-Cross Cultural Committee.
 - (b) Request the Presbyteries to work closely with Synod Multi-Cross Cultural Committee on matters pertaining to culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
 - (c) Fosters multi-cross cultural relationships at all levels of the Church.
(Consensus)

SYNOD ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.24**
- (a) Receives the Report of the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee.
(Consensus)
 - (b) Commends to the Councils of the Church that they include 'The Ecumenical Question' in their agendas when considering missional projects at local, regional and state levels.
(Consensus)
 - (c) Requests the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee to develop By-laws for a Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee and a Synod Inter-Faith

Committee for approval by the Council of Synod, subject to ratification by the Synod Legal Reference Committee.

(Agreement)

ECUMENICAL TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.25** Receives the Report of the Ecumenical Tertiary Chaplaincy Committee. (Consensus)

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.26** (a) Receives the Report of the General Secretary, together with Appendices. (Consensus)
- (b) Receives the Supplementary Report of the General Secretary with Appendix. (Consensus)
- (c) Determines that an edited version of the text of the report given by the General Secretary to the 27th Synod on Saturday, 1 November, 2008, be included with the Minutes of the 27th Synod. (Consensus)

REPORT OF GENERAL SECRETARY TO THE 27TH SYNOD ON 1 NOVEMBER, 2008

The following is an edited version of the report presented by the General Secretary to the 27th Synod on 1 November, 2008.

- The ten months that I have served as General Secretary have come to be dominated by the Synod's financial situation that has unfolded over the past six months. Many of us who attended the 26th Synod went away with a sense that the Synod was in a strong financial position. I recall the announcement that there was to be a significant increase in the contribution to be made by UCIS to the M&SF Budget for the 2007-2009 triennium, the **projected contributions being \$3.8m in 2007, \$4.0m in 2008, and \$4.2m in 2009.***
- That new financial situation represented quite a change from several years earlier when there was evidence that the Synod's Mission and Service Fund was facing significant challenges arising from a number of factors including the decision of the 2003 Assembly on sexuality and leadership, and the flat level of contributions into the M&SF from congregational giving over a number of years, at a time when costs including stipends, wages and other operating costs were continuing to increase.*
- With reference to the latter, in 1996, the Synod Review Task Group (The Curtis Report) noted the following level of congregational giving:*

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total for Synod	\$12.7m	\$13.0m	\$13.7m	\$13.9m	\$15.0m	\$14.9m

The following table indicates the level of congregational giving for a similar period some ten years further on:

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total for Synod	\$16.0m	\$16.2m	\$16.4m	\$16.3m	\$16.7m	\$17.4m

Although the total congregational giving for all congregations in the Synod has increased, the increases have not kept pace with increases in the consumer price index and, in recent years, the percentage of the total level of congregational giving that goes into the Mission and Service Fund has been declining.

4. As it transpires, **the financial circumstances of the Synod have changed drastically since the 26th Synod**. Consequently, the Uniting Church Investment Service will not be able to meet its commitment to give \$12m to the M&SF over the 2007-2009 triennium. I will return to the response of the Synod through the Synod Leadership Team (SLT) and the Council of Synod (CoS) to the financial situation a little later in this report.
5. The 25th Synod considered and adopted a **Vision for Mission Statement** and was advised that an amount of **\$2,000,000** was available to fund approved projects consistent with that Vision. This initiative had arisen as a consequence of a desire to stimulate vision for mission across the Synod and the limited capacity for discretionary expenditure within the M&SF framework.
6. The Vision for Mission (VfM) initiative sought to resource that vision initially by providing opportunities for congregations and presbyteries to fund approved new initiatives in mission outside the M&SF funding framework. That initiative has been facilitated by Rev Duncan Macleod following his commencement as the VfM Advocate in February, 2006, with the assistance and support of the VfM Team. The money earmarked for VfM has been progressively drawn down from the Synod Reserve Fund. In the light of the emerging financial position, the SLT recently determined that no major new projects would be funded through the Vision for Mission, and to cap expenditure at \$1,800,000. This will allow commitments to fund VfM projects and other covenant obligations to be honoured.
7. In addition to the Vision for Mission, the **Synod's Intentional Missional Strategy, A Future with Heart and Soul**, provided a framework which identified a number of Key Priorities for the Synod for 2007-2009 which were reported to the 26th Synod. A number of those Key Priorities became realities as a result of the decisions of the 26th Synod. They included resourcing emerging opportunities for ministry and mission through a more intentional and better resourced engagement with Uniting Church and Uniting Church related schools and colleges and the growing number of culturally and linguistically diverse communities either within the UCA or seeking to establish a relationship with the UCA.
8. Consequently, the 26th Synod resolved to support the appointment of an Executive Officer (0.5) for the Synod Schools' Commission and a Multi-cross Cultural Advocate (0.5) to work with the Synod Multi-Cross Cultural Committee and with the growing number of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities across the Synod and the state.

9. In addition, over a four and a half year period from 2002 to 2007, the Synod's **Theological Education Task Group** explored a wide range of issues associated with theological education for candidates for ministry, lay people and those in the specified ministries of the Church. Decisions of the 25th and 26th Synods resulted in a number of Synod commitments including:
- principles to underpin an intentional approach to CEM;
 - a Vision for Theological Education, including Key Directions and Goals;
 - the establishment of a Network for Christian Formation, a Pilgrim Learning Community and a Board for Christian Formation.
10. The decisions of the 11th Assembly committed the Uniting Church to the establishment of the new specified ministry of **Pastor**, a ministry that became available to the whole Church from 1 July this year with the promulgation of the necessary Assembly Regulations. The Assembly, through its Ministerial Education Commission, continues the work necessary for the full implementation of this new specified ministry in the life of the Church, with its ongoing work on competencies. To date, this has involved:
- the development of resources to assist in the development and assessment of the core competencies for the ministry of Pastor;
 - ongoing work on the development of resources relating to general competencies.
11. In addition to the ongoing work of the Assembly in relation to the ministry of Pastor, the Synod has taken a lead in helping to both resource presbyteries for the significant role they now have in implementing the requirements of the Regulations, and to do work on general competencies which, it is hoped, will either supplement or complement the work being done by Assembly. Whilst the Synod has sponsored a couple of forums on this new ministry including one on competency based training and assessment, and the PLC continues to develop resources in relation to competencies, presbyteries will carry a major responsibility as the bulk of those who will be involved in this new specified ministry will come into it through presbyteries. This has implications for the capacity and work loads of presbyteries.
12. In the context of a fuller appreciation of the significant financial challenges facing the Synod and in the light of the advice from the Finance, Investment and Property Board and recommendations from the SLT, **the Council of Synod in May this year approved a target of a 20% reduction in Expenditure in the 2009 Mission and Service Fund Budget with a transition to that new level of expenditure throughout the remainder of 2008.** The SLT was authorised to develop a scenario that would achieve that reduction.
13. In dealing with the challenge of prioritizing the substantially reduced financial resources for the 2009 Mission and Service Fund Budget, the SLT had a number of factors to take into account. These included:
- The decisions taken by Synods over a number of years in relation to establishing new or maintaining existing positions funded out of the Mission and Service Fund:
 - **Full-time Moderator** – approved in principle by the Synod in 1983 (**Minute 83.16**), reaffirmed by the Synod in 1990 (**Minute 90.27**) and implemented in 1993;
 - **A full-time Presbytery Minister in each Presbytery** – approved in principle by the Synod in 1986 (**Minute 86.74**) and implemented progressively following that Synod and fully realized this year with the

- appointment of a full-time Presbytery Minister to the Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane.*
- *The decisions of the Synod in 1996 arising from the Report and Recommendations of the Synod Review Task Group (Curtis Report). These included:*
 - *the appointment of a **Human Resources Manager** to report to the SLT through the General Secretary;*
 - *retention of a **Social Responsibility Advocate**;*
 - *retention of three (initially) **Synod-based Mission Consultants**;*
 - *the retention of **YACMU** as Synod-based Mission Consultants, pending the resolution of issues in relation to the size and resourcing of presbyteries and further work by the Mission Advisory Forum and Synod Leadership Team;*
 - *the retention of the **Communication Services Unit** as part of the newly established Synod Support Services;*
 - *The decisions of the 22nd Synod (2001) arising out of the Report and Recommendations of the Synod Chaplaincy Review Task Group (**Minutes 01.43-01.51**) including the commitment to appoint a **Synod Chaplaincy Co-ordinator** to also act as Executive Secretary to administer the functions of the Synod Chaplaincy Commission (**Minute 01.47**). The decisions of the 26th Synod arising out of the Report and Recommendations of the Chaplaincy Commission Review Task Group (**Minute 07.57**) which included a **continuing commitment to fund a full-time Chaplaincy Co-ordinator** whose main focus, the Synod resolved, is to provide strategic leadership and co-ordination of the work of sector area co-ordinators;*
 - *The decisions of the 25th and 26th Synod arising from the Reports and Recommendations of the Theological Education Task Group, including the appointment of a **Director of the Pilgrim Learning Community** (with responsibility for the establishment of the Pilgrim Learning Community and its integration with TTC to ensure the fulfillment of the vision for the NCF), a **Coordinator of Formation and Continuing Education**, and a **Learning Designer** (**Minute 07.35**);*
 - *The decisions of the 26th Synod arising out of Council of Synod Supplementary Report which incorporated recommendations arising from a review of certain functions and roles within the Synod, consistent with the commitments made in the Vision for Mission, namely to “review our structures and decision-making processes in order to make them less complicated and more flexible, and address our management systems with a view to empowering both individuals and groups to pursue the realization of the Vision in a framework of transparency and accountability.” These decisions committed the Synod to the creation of the positions of (**Minute 07.32(b)-(e)**):*
 - ***Associate General Secretary**;*
 - ***Executive Officer to the Synod Schools Commission**;*
 - ***Executive Officer of the FIP Board**.*
 - *The decision of the 26th Synod to create the new position of **Multi-Cross Cultural Advocate** (**Minute 07.23(g)**);*

14. A review of the role of the Synod Mission Consultants was commissioned in late 2005. As a result of that review, the decision was taken to retain 3 Mission

Consultants (or equivalent) and to give to each position a more specialized focus. A Rural Ministry Summit held in Rockhampton late in 2006 eventually led to the decision to allocate funds out of the M&SF towards the funding of two Rural Ministry Coordinators instead of using that funding to appoint a third Synod-based Mission Consultant. This decision was consistent with one of Key Priorities for 2007-2009 reported to the 26th Synod, namely, to “(R)esource rural churches to develop sustainable models for rural ministry.” Those two Rural Ministry Co-ordinators commenced this year, one working in the Presbytery of The Downs, the other working with the Presbyteries of Central Queensland and Mary Burnett.

15. *A prior commitment made through the Synod to provide **ongoing financial assistance to EDUCANG** meant that **\$600,000 per year** that would otherwise have been available for expenditure through the M&SF has, for the time being, been committed to fulfilling that commitment to EDUCANG. That commitment was made following a review by external consultants of the operations, structure and financial position of EDUCANG Ltd initiated by the then Director of FAPS in May, 2006.*
16. *Arising out of that review, a decision was taken early in 2007, that **the Uniting Church would take over full responsibility for The Lakes College from EDUCANG**. That decision was confirmed by the Council of Synod in June, 2007. The takeover was finalized during this year. There are now ongoing obligations and commitments for the Synod as a result.*
17. *The challenges relating to both EDUCANG and The Lakes College throughout 2008 would have been much more difficult for the Synod, in particular for the Director of FAPS, Mr Robert Packer, to deal with without the support and assistance of the Schools Commission Executive Officer, Mrs Elaine Rae, whose background, knowledge, experience, and commitment have been important in assisting the SLT to understand the issues and explore options for moving forward. Her appointment has proved to be very timely.*
18. *The previous FAPS Board agreed to **purchase the remaining interest in Bayliss Street from the Wesley Mission Brisbane for \$6,000,000**. This was paid in 2007/2008.*
19. *It was in the context of these prior commitments made by the Synod (including those made by the Council of Synod, and the FAPS Board) over the past two decades, and the immediate challenges facing the Synod that I have already alluded to, that the Synod Leadership Team faced the challenge of prioritizing expenditure as it looked at ways of taking \$1,800,000 out of the Mission and Service Fund Budget expenditure. The Vision for Mission document committed the Synod to continue pursuing the key strategies outlined in the Intentional Missional Strategy, A Future with Heart and Soul. The relevant part of Section 6 of the VfM document states: “In order to implement this Vision, the Synod (under the oversight of the Synod Leadership Team) will...in relation to its own areas of responsibility, continue to pursue the key strategies outlined in the **Intentional Mission Strategy (a future with Heart and Soul)**, endorsed by the 24th Synod in May 2004.”*
20. *In the process of seeking to prioritize expenditure, it became clear that **the Intentional Missional Strategy, A Future with Heart and Soul, could not bear the weight of assigning relative priority to all the Key Priorities that it contained**. Other limitations of both documents became clear in that there were aspects of the life of the Church which did not fall within their view in a way that was*

helpful in assigning relative expenditure priorities. That is not surprising given that when each document was framed up and adopted, no one foresaw the current financial circumstances. Areas not covered in either document include our financial commitment to the Assembly, the Department for Financial and Property Services, and a number of the commitments that previous Synods have made such as full-time Moderator and full-time presbyter ministers.

21. ***One option that the Synod Leadership Team considered was a reduction in the number of presbyteries.*** Following extensive consultation in the 1990's the Queensland Synod had reduced the number of presbyteries from 9 to 8. The SLT considered whether it was time to recommend to the Council of Synod a proposal to Synod to look at a further reduction in the number of presbyteries as a way to reduce expenditure. In the process, it examined some of the structural changes that have been made by the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania and the Synod of South Australia in recent years, including the drivers for those changes. (The SLT was aware that the Synod of Western Australia had reduced to a single presbytery but did not include that Synod in its deliberations.) The following summary comments are offered on each.

22. ***The Synod of South Australia.*** In 2005 the Synod of South Australia resolved to disband its seven presbyteries and form a single presbytery of South Australia. The Synod delegated most of its powers, except those relating to property, finance and agencies, to the Presbytery of South Australia. It also made provision for the establishment of formal Mission Networks through Memoranda of Understanding approved by the Synod Standing Committee. The documentation associated with these changes reveal that ***drivers for change*** were both ***missional*** and ***pastoral***. There was a growing conviction amongst those with particular responsibilities in the Synod ***“that business as usual was not an option.”*** My assessment is that, in addition to these drivers for change, there were historical, ecclesiological, geographic and demographic factors that contributed towards a conducive context for the changes.

23. As part of that process, the Synod identified what it considered were ***limitations in the governance structures*** associated with a single Synod, multi-presbytery arrangement which were absorbing time and energy of ministers and leaders that could be otherwise spent in more fully engaging in mission and evangelism. The desired outcomes of the changes were to ***maintain the unity of the Synod and to enhance the mission effectiveness of its structures.*** The strategy of developing Mission Networks was designed to both enhance mission and to ***“allow congregations to form clusters where the ethos, theological perspective, sexual ethic and missional focus”*** might ***“result in enhanced cooperation for the good of the Church.”***¹

24. It is now almost three years since those changes were approved by the Synod of South Australia. A Report of a Committee evaluating the Presbytery Synod Mission Network presented to the Presbytery and Synod Meeting in November last year noted that ***“(T)here has been a generally positive response to the new structure of the Presbytery/Synod.”*** The report ***also identified some weaknesses*** in the new arrangement around the Networks, Pastoral Relations and Placements Committee, and workload of Synod staff. During 2008, the Presbytery and Synod has continued to address itself to the challenges of its new structure with a view to ensuring that that structure has indeed enhanced its mission effectiveness.

¹ From the Network Draft Memorandum of Understanding.

25. **The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.** In recent years, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has also been through a major change process. There were **pastoral, missional and administrative dimensions to the change process.** A Working Group was established by the Synod in 2005 to, in effect, **examine the role, resourcing and number of presbyteries.** That Working Group reported to the Synod in 2006 and noted **three key roles for presbyteries - missional oversight, pastoral care and administration.** Its report usefully identified a number of considerations that led to the rejection of the single presbytery model adopted by the Synods of Western Australia and South Australia:

- the relative size (i.e. membership, number of congregations, placements and size of budget) of the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania compared to the Synods of both SA and WA;
- the greater spread of population in Victoria & Tasmania;
- the desire to retain presbyteries as an integral part of UCA polity.

26. In seeking to ascertain the appropriate number of presbyteries to replace the 13 existing presbyteries in Victoria, the **criteria used** included:

- **adequate resourcing** for each presbytery to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities without undue stress;
- presbyteries to be **sufficiently large** to include a reasonable “critical mass” to ensure the gifts and graces needed by the presbytery “to ensure the ministry of the presbytery could effectively be undertaken”;
- presbyteries to be **sufficiently small** to ensure that the relational model associated with relational oversight could find expression;
- **sustainability** of the proposed model **for at least the next decade**, including the capacity of the Synod to fund the model within its stewardship of its resources.

27. The outcome of the Working Group’s work from October 2005 to October 2006 were proposals to the Synod to:

- establish **four regional and three metropolitan presbyteries in Victoria and to retain the presbytery of Tasmania**;
- fund the **equivalent of three full-time placements in each presbytery** –
 - a **Mission Facilitator**,
 - a **Pastoral Facilitator**,
 - and an **Administration Facilitator**.
- affirm the importance of networks (informal) for the development of the new presbyteries but not to follow the Synod of South Australia’s approach of formal networks.

The 2006 Synod affirmed these basic directions set out in the Working Group’s report and the Synod has been implementing these directions throughout 2007 and 2008 with the assistance of a Presbyteries Implementation Task Group.

28. The Synod Leadership Team had to hand the major reports to both the Synod of South Australia and the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania relating to the structural and resourcing changes undertaken by those Synods as it considered options for reducing the Mission and Service Fund expenditure for 2009. Amongst the options that the SLT considered was a reduction in the number of presbyteries from 8 to 7, 8 to 6 and 8 to 1.

29. **The SLT decided**, given the differences in the geography, history, and demographics between the Synod of Queensland and the Synods of South Australia and Victoria & Tasmania, the timeframes for a process that would need to accompany any changes to

*the number and boundaries of presbyteries, and the limited savings to be made in reducing the number of presbyteries by 1 or 2, **against recommending to the Council of Synod that a proposal be made to the Synod to review the number of presbyteries.***

30. *The SLT finally addressed itself to identifying the **resources that need to be Synod-based to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the Regulations and to provide the support and services that could not reasonably be provided by presbyteries and congregations.** In addition, the SLT considered that the commitment to funding full-time presbytery ministers in each presbytery needed to be maintained in order for presbyteries to continue developing ministry and mission within their bounds, and to fulfil the necessary responsibilities assigned to presbyteries under the Regulations. The SLT was also aware that a significant proportion of the expenditure on chaplaincy in the 2008 M&SF Budget was offset by income from UnitingCare (\$901,000 out of a total of a total M&SF Chaplaincy Expenditure of \$1,128,317). Whilst the M&SF Budget does not show a direct link between the UnitingCare contribution to the M&SF Budget and the funding of Health Care Chaplains, there has been a historical connection between the financial contribution from UnitingCare and the funding of health care chaplains.*

31. *At the end of its discernment process, the SLT determined to recommend a scenario to the Council of Synod which involved a reduction in the level of funding to:*

- *Presbyteries (by approx. \$290,000 from 2008 budget or approx. \$360,000 from original 2009 budget forecast);*
- *Assembly (by approx. \$51,000 from 2008 budget or approx. \$157,000 from original 2009 budget forecast);*
- *FAPS (by approx. \$266,000 from 2008 budget or approx. \$319,000 from 2009 budget forecast);*
- *Trinity Theological College (by approx. \$102,000 from 2008 budget or approx. \$140,000 from original 2009 budget forecast);*
- *Pilgrim Learning Community (by \$60,000 from 2008 budget or \$100,000 from original 2009 budget forecast);*
- *Synod Support Services - Mission Consultants and JIMA (approx. \$297,000 from 2008 budget);*
- *Synod Support Services - YACMU (approx. \$433,000 from 2008 budget - \$523,000 taken out from YACMU and \$90,000 added in for new youth and children's ministry position);*
- *Synod Support Services – Associate General Secretary - reduced from full-time to part-time (0.6);*
- *Chaplaincy – reduced by one funded full-time hospital chaplaincy position.*

As the above indicates, some provision has been built into the draft 2009 M&SF Budget for a person to resource Youth and Children's ministry and to be a liaison person for NCYC 2011. In making these difficult recommendations for reduction in expenditure, several members of the SLT acknowledged the large number of capable Ministers across the Synod. The hope in making this observation was that Ministers would be able to offer their particular gifts more widely and might be able to network and to also work with the Pilgrim Learning Community to resource the ministry and mission of the wider church. The Council of Synod on 16 August adopted the scenario proposed by the SLT as the framework for the preparation of the 2009 M&SF Budget.

32. *It has become apparent as a result of both the budget preparation process and the regulatory framework in which the councils of the Church work, that **there is substantial inequity in the distribution of resources in presbyteries across the Synod.** This is not a criticism but an observation. At the same time, there are real opportunities for engaging in mission in the major growth areas across the Synod particularly, but not exclusively, in the south-east. In some measure, this provides an **inequity of opportunity for mission that partially offsets the inequity in distribution of resources.***
33. *The challenge before the Synod is not to shoot the messenger but to acknowledge the scale of the challenge that now confronts us and the opportunity that our present situation provides for fresh thinking about how God may be challenging us to be involved in God's mission. **Business as usual is not an option.** Our **demographics** have been suggesting that for some time. Now our **financial situation** is making a re-examination of how we are church an imperative. **This is not to suggest that demographics is destiny, nor is it to suggest that finances are the primary determinant of mission.** Rather, it is a sober acknowledgement that the present circumstances of the Synod provide an opportunity to rethink the way we live our lives individually and communally as worshipping, witnessing, serving people of God.*
34. *In spite of cuts to the M&SF Budget, and because of the surplus from UCIS for 2008 being well below original estimates, the Synod will have to make a **substantial draw down on its reserves to cover the 2008 M&SF Budget expenditure.** The presence of **substantial impaired loans and the uncertain external financial environment will mean another major draw down on reserves in 2009, even with the decision made by the August Council of Synod.** At the time that this report is being written, there is a level of uncertainty around whether the Synod will need to make further provisions for impaired loans in 2008 and 2009, and if so, how much. **In all likelihood, the Synod will need to start selling down assets in 2009 to cover expenditure. The wisdom of such a strategy must surely be questioned.***
35. *Since the 26th Synod, there has been a confluence of both internal and external factors that have been both challenging and disturbing. **One of the internal factors has been less than robust governance.** For example, in the 1990's the Synod imposed on itself the requirement that any proposal for new positions to funded out of the Mission & Service Fund ought to be accompanied by an explanation as to how the necessary additional funds required were to be made available.*
36. *That requirement has been honoured more in its breach than in its observance. Another example is that **substantial commitments have been made in principle without the corresponding businesses cases being made to assess the financial viability and risk associated with those commitments.** In making these observations, I am criticizing myself as a member of the Synods and Councils of Synod that have made such decisions. The end result of such weaknesses in governance is that the Synod has found itself, in recent times, having to put in place remedial strategies which have absorbed substantial amounts of time, energy and focus.*
37. *I acknowledge the pain and disappointment of staff from Synod Support Services. A year that started out with so much promise has become a test of faith, calling and character. I place on record my appreciation for the prayers of the people of God and the various expressions of support that I have received during this time. Without those*

prayers and that support, the ten months that I have been in this role would have been almost unbearably difficult.

[NOTE: An overview of the changed financial circumstances of the Synod and how that has impacted, is impacting and will impact into the foreseeable future, was provided in two sessions, subsequent to the presentation of this report, by Mr Robert Packer, the Director of the Department for Financial and Property Services (FAPS), and Mr Andrew McBryde, the Chairperson of the Finance, Investment and Property (FIP) Board.]

Douglas Jones
General Secretary
1 November, 2008

Ministerial Changes

08.27 Notes the following ministerial changes contained in Appendix I to the report of the General Secretary –

1. RECEIVED BY ORDINATION

Ministry of the Word

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Peter Blauw, 19 October 2008

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Brian Kickbusch, 2 December 2007

Bruce Raymond, 2 February 2008

Presbytery of South Moreton

Peter Taubner, 6 July 2007

Presbytery of The Downs

Jeanette Gillam, 25 January 2008

Ministry of Deacon

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Lucie Bennett, 12 August 2007

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Tanya Richards, 13 September 2008

RECEIVED BY ORDINATION (TRANSITIONAL PHASE)

Ministry of the Word

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Andrea Robertson, 7 September 2008

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Greg Ross, 24 August 2008

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Alan Anderson, 30 August 2008

Alison Cox, 19 October 2008

Tim Robinson, 27 April 2008

Peter Smale, 27 April 2008

Ben Webb, 15 May 2008

Presbytery of North Queensland

Ian Boudry, 19 July 2008

Russell Clark, 14 June 2008

Presbytery of South Moreton

Tim Griggs, 18 May 2008

Beth Nicholls, 21 September 2008

Ministry of Deacon

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Mark Cornford, 27 April 2008

2. RECEIVED BY COMMISSIONING

Youth Worker

Peter Gavel, 7 October 2007

Lay Pastor

Karyl Davison, 1 March 2008

Community Minister

Dave Thomas, 22 July 2007

3. DEATHS

Ministers of the Word

Jack Dregmans

Bevan Favelle

Ian Graham

Robert John Harris

Lalomilo Lima

Les Martin

Dik Morreau

James Richard Sweet

Antony Klazes Telgenhof

Nevin Stuart Vawser

Keith Warner

Lay Pastor

Vernon John Edwards

Benjamin Schulz

4. RETIREMENTS

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Kaye Hacker, 1 January 2008

Presbytery of Central Queensland

Bernie Jarius, 30 November 2008

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Phillip Hulme, 31 July 2007

Harold Strong, 12 February 2007

(previously acknowledged)

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Alan O'Hara, 31 December 2007

Presbytery of North Queensland

Malcolm Bottrill, 17 June 2008

Presbytery of South Moreton

Kevin Bachler, 31 December 2007

Jan Chalmers, 30 September 2007

Ruth Harding, 1 October 2007

Ray Reddicliffe, 29 February 2008

Dennis Robinson, 31 January 2009

Colin Weightman, 31 May 2008

Robert Weyer, 28 February 2009

Presbytery of The Downs

Les Comollatti, 31 January 2008

5. MINISTERS / DEACONS / INTERNS / YOUTH WORKERS / LAY PASTORS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SYNODS

Synod of New South Wales

Ian Hartland

Peter Harvey

Kath Hobson

Peter Hobson

Tony Schumack

Synod of South Australia

Ken Anderson

Ian Thomson

Synod of Victoria/Tasmania

Dennis Cousens

Ralph Mayhew

6. MINISTERS / DEACONS / INTERNS / YOUTH WORKERS / LAY PASTORS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SYNODS

Synod of Victoria/Tasmania

Lindsay Purdie

Synod of Western Australia

Craig Collas

James Matthews

7. MINISTERS RECEIVED FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Steve Havilitama (MOW)
Duncan Macleod (MOW)
James Pearson (MOW)
Paul Suh (MOW)
David Won Kim (MOW)

8. MINISTERS WHOSE RECOGNITION HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN

Resignation

James Savage
Neil Warner
Colin Weightman

(Consensus)

Appointments

08.28 Notes the following appointments made by the Council of Synod since the 26th Synod contained in Appendix II to the report of the General Secretary –

Board of Christian Formation

Appointed for a 3 year term from 24 May 2008

Sue Fairley (Chairperson)
Beth Nichols
Lu Senituli
Jenny Brecknell
Mike Hennessy

Calvary Christian College Council

Appointed for a 1 year term from the 16 Feb 2008

Rodney Taylor

Emmanuel College Council

Appointed for a 3 year term from 1 July 2007

Ivan Kirk

Finance, Investment and Property Board

Ian Busch from 16 February 2008

General Secretary Search Committee

Stu Cameron
Graham Keech
Kaye Ronalds
Geoff Batkin
Greg Brown
Ron Skilton

John Flynn College Council

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 24 Nov 2007

David King
Barry Cox

Kings College Council

David Addis (until 31 Dec 2008)

Lakes College Board

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 16 Feb 2008

Stephen Howell
Dayrelle Abbey

Ministerial Support Funds Committee

Appointed for a 1 year term from the 4 Oct 2007

Ian Lord (Chairperson)

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 4 Oct 2007

Gerda Olafsen
David Harris
Peter Harvey
Ron Behan
Glen Schweitzer

Moreton Bay College Council

Appointed for a 1 year term from the 4 Oct 2007

Elizabeth Stannard

Appointed for a 1 year term from the 1 Jan 2008

Peter Davey
Alyson Madsen
Rhonda Richards
Ann Doyle
Ian Lord
Elaine Rae

Pastor Candidature Committee

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 24 May 2008

Kath Hobson
Colleen Geyer
Beth Nicholls
Christopher Barr
Andrew Gunton
Russell Clark

SCOTS & PGC College Council

Appointed for a 3 year term from 24 Nov 2007

Jenny Garde
Peter Campbell (16 Aug 08-31 Dec 10)
John Brown (until 31 Dec 08)

Synod Bioethics Committee

Appointed from the 30 June 2007

Brian Gilbert (Chairperson))
Robyn Kidd

Re-appointed from the 30 June 2007

Helen Prior
Rowena Harris
Marjorie Neil
Brian Kickbusch
Linda McWilliam
David Ferguson (Student rep)

Synod Business Committee

Ray Herrmann (Convenor)
Jenny Brown (corresponding member)
Michelle Leggo
Andrew Johnson
Michael Hewson

Synod Chaplaincy Commission

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 1 Sept 2007

Leva Pat
Colleen Geyer
Robyn Kidd
Jenny Busch
Gale Hall

Synod Discipline Committee

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 22 Feb 2008

Dennis Harth (Convenor)
Heather Allison
Sue Crittall
Pat Darby
Tom Kerr
Paul Walton
Jan Whyte

Synod Schools' Commission

Appointed for a 1 year term from the 1 Oct 2007

Gregory Adsett

Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 24 Nov 2007

Peter Arnett
Lyn Twin
Jenny Field

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 24 May 2008

Louise Edwards
Phyllis Hall
Beryl Nielson
Doug Winten

Appointed for a 2 term from the 24 May 2008
Paul Yarrow

UCA reps on PMSA Council

Appointed for a 3 year term from 30 June 2007
Des Robinson
Jane Dale
Geoffrey Hines

Appointed for a 3 year term from 30 June 2008
Wendy Jeays
Linda Costello

UCA appointed BCT Directors

Sue Fairley as of February 2008
Ron Skilton as of February 2008

UnitingCare Board

Appointed for a 3 year term from the 1 March 2008
Ian Airey
Rick Strangman
Heather Watson
Ray Richards
Greg Herring
Pam Spall
Graham Schlecht

(Consensus)

Twenty-Eighth Synod

08.29 Determines -

- (a) That the 28th Synod will be held from Friday, 21 May to Tuesday, 25 May 2010 at Alexandra Park, Alexandra Headlands.
- (b) that the Council of Synod be given authority to vary the date and the venue if necessary.

(Consensus)

Synod Leadership Team - Meetings

08.30 Determines -

- (a) that meetings of the Synod Leadership Team be held on the following days –

2008	3 December	2010	3 February 3 March
2009	4 February 4 March 1 April 6 May 3 June 1 July		7 April 5 May

5 August
2 September
7 October
4 November
2 December

- (b) that authority be given to the Moderator and the General Secretary to vary the dates if necessary.

(Consensus)

Council of Synod – Meetings

08.31 Determines -

- (a) that meetings of the Council of Synod be held on the following days -

2008 29 November

2009 20-22 February (Live-in)

23 May

22 August

21 November

2010 20 February

- (b) that authority be given to the Moderator and the General Secretary to vary the dates if necessary.

(Consensus)

FUTURE OF MINISTRY PROJECT TEAM

It was resolved that the Synod –

08.32 (a) Receives the report of the Future of Ministry Project Team.

(Consensus)

- (b) Challenges congregations to discern persons displaying gifts for ministry and encourages such people to enter the Period of Discernment.

(Consensus)

- (c) Encourages congregations to encourage young people to enter the training programs that are available to them to equip them to be more effective disciples of Jesus Christ.

(Consensus)

- (d) Places on record its appreciation to the original Task Group who prepared the Report on the Future of Ministry that was presented to the Synod at Robina in 2002 and the new Project Team that has been endeavouring to implement the resolutions since then.

(Consensus)

- (e) Recognises the value of the Traineeship Scheme and asks the Synod Leadership Team to consult with Pilgrim Learning Community to see how the Scheme might continue.

(Consensus)

- (f) Reminds the Church of the importance and necessity of encouraging God’s call to the Specified Ministries of the Uniting Church.
(Consensus)
- (g) Thanks the current Project Team members for their work and discharges the Team.
(Consensus)

IMPLEMENTING A VISION OF A NETWORK FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.33** (a) Receives the Report of the Ministerial Education Board.
(Consensus)
- (b) Receives the Report of the Board for Christian Formation.
(Consensus)
- (c) Expresses its appreciation for the contributions of Mrs Jenny Brecknell in her role as Chairperson of the Ministerial Education Board and Mrs Astrid Hill as Academic Secretary of Trinity Theological College.
(Consensus)
- (d) Records its appreciation for those who are negotiating the Trinity Theological College/Australian Catholic University Affiliation Agreement.
(Consensus)

SYNOD SCHOOLS’ COMMISSION

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.34** Associates Mr Des Robinson with the Synod for the presentation of the Synod Schools’ Commission Report.
(Consensus)
- 08.35** (a) Receives the Report of the Synod Schools’ Commission.
(Consensus)
- (b) Amends Synod By-Law Q2.6.1, subject to ratification by the Synod Legal Reference Committee, from
- “There shall be a Schools’ Commission to maintain contact with schools, to participate in the appointment of Directors of Boards and such other officers and representatives as required of the Church, to liaise with education authorities, the PMSA, the Anglican Schools’ Commission, and other educational bodies, and to fulfil such other duties as determined by the Council of Synod or the Synod in Session.”
- to
- “There shall be a Schools’ Commission whose role is
- To foster the relationship and connection between Uniting Church schools and the wider church

- To engage with schools for the purpose of understanding the strategic directions and challenges facing Uniting Church schools
- To provide advice to the Synod about the Synod’s strategic directions with respect to schools.
- To strengthen the profile and participation of the Uniting Church in appropriate educational and government forums and networks.
- To make recommendations to Synod with respect to appointments to school boards/councils and constitutions
- To provide relevant advice to the Finance, Investment and Property Board in relation to School property matters”

(c) Amends Synod By-Law Q2.6.2, subject to ratification by the Synod Legal Reference Committee, from

“The Schools’ Commission shall be comprised of -

- (a) Ex-Officio member - The General Secretary
- (b) A Chairperson elected by each Synod
- (c) Six (6) members elected by the Synod chosen on the basis of gifts including:
 - knowledge and/or experience of church schools and the independent schooling sector
 - commitment to education in Christian schools
 - expertise in policy discernment and development which can be applied to church schools
 - expertise in a relevant discipline such as education, theology, law, accounting, marketing or business
 - eligibility for a Queensland Government Suitability Card for Child-related Employment
 - commitment to the faith growth of students within Christian schools.

to

“The Schools’ Commission shall be comprised of -

- (a) Ex-Officio member - The General Secretary
- (b) A Chairperson appointed by Synod for a term of three years.
- (c) Six (6) members appointed by the Synod for a term of three years, and may be reappointed. As far as possible the principle of rotational membership should be observed. Membership to be chosen on the basis of gifts including:
 - knowledge and/or experience of church schools and the independent schooling sector
 - commitment to education in Christian schools
 - expertise in policy discernment and development which can be applied to church schools
 - expertise in a relevant discipline such as education, theology, law, accounting, marketing or business
 - eligibility for a Queensland Government Suitability Card for Child-related Employment
 - commitment to the faith growth of students within Christian schools.”

(Consensus)

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT FUNDS COMMITTEE

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.36** Receives the Report of the Ministerial Support Funds Committee. (Consensus)

SYNOD BIOETHICS COMMITTEE

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.37** Receives the Report of the Synod Bio-Ethics Committee. (Consensus)

SYNOD CHAPLAINCY COMMISSION

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.38** (a) Receives the Report of the Synod Chaplaincy Commission. (Consensus)
- (b) Re-affirms the important place of chaplaincy within the life and ministry of the Uniting Church in Queensland. (Consensus)
- (c) Endorses the Synod Chaplaincy Commission's Strategic Priorities for 2008/2009. (Consensus)

UNITING CHURCH FOUNDATION

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.39** Receives the Report of the Uniting Church Foundation. (Consensus)

PRESBYTERIES

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.40** Receives the Report of the Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane. (Consensus)
- 08.41** Receives the Report of the Presbytery of Calvary. (Consensus)
- 08.42** Receives the Report of the Presbytery of Central Queensland. (Consensus)
- 08.43** Receives the Report of the Presbytery of Mary Burnett. (Consensus)
- 08.44** Receives the Report of the Presbytery of Moreton Rivers. (Consensus)

- 08.45 Receives the Report of the Presbytery of North Queensland. (Consensus)
- 08.46 Receives the Report of the Presbytery of South Moreton. (Consensus)
- 08.47 (a) Receives the Report of the Presbytery of The Downs. (Consensus)
- (b) Notes the disbanding of the Taroom and Mitchell congregations in accordance with Regulation 3.1.6. (Consensus)

UNITINGCARE QUEENSLAND

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.48 Receives the Report of UnitingCare Queensland.

Presentation of Moderator's Medals for Community Service

- 08.49 Congratulates the following persons who have been awarded the Moderator's Medal for Community Service in recognition of their work within community services –

Shirley Pratt
Gwenda Rowe
Pam Woodhouse
Norma Barry
Flo Collins
Rae Percy
Jan Davis
Win and Eric Westacott
Daphine Benfield
Estelle Charlish

(Consensus – carried by acclamation)

FINANCE, INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY BOARD

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.50 Receives the Report of the Finance, Investment and Property Board. (Consensus)

GENERAL SECRETARY SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.51 Thanks Mrs Sharon Kirk and Mr Rob Leivesley, and Revds Carol Bennett and Robert Brennan for the contribution they have made to the life of the Queensland Synod through their membership of the Synod Leadership Team. (Consensus)

08.52 Notes that it has not been possible to process sufficient nominations for the Standing Appeal Panel in time to bring them to Synod, and therefore authorizes the Council of Synod to appoint the Standing Appeal Panel.

(Consensus)

08.53 (a) Notes the following resolutions and recommendations of the Council of Synod in relation to the remuneration of boards of agencies and organizations within the Queensland Synod:

- (i) to endorse the following process for implementation of a Policy for Board Remuneration of UC Related Bodies:
- (ii) that in principle there should be a 2 staged process outlined in a policy for determining the application of board remuneration. These stages are:
 - (a) whether or not the entity applying is an appropriate one for its board to be remunerated; and
 - (b) if approved, then the process for implementing and reviewing its remuneration.
- (iii) that the body responsible for determining whether the entity is an appropriate one, is the FIP Board. It would also establish the principles that will address the matters for consideration, so that in applying, an entity is clear as to what criteria it should address; and
- (iv) that the body responsible for determining and reviewing levels of remuneration is the Personnel Services Advisory Committee. It already carries this role in relation to *UnitingCare*. There should be a revised role description for this committee.
- (v) to recommend to the Synod in Session:
 - that the FIP Board itself should be determined to be an entity that remunerates its board members. Given that this has previously been considered at the last Synod in Session, this should be referred to the forthcoming Synod with appropriate rationale to confirm:
 - (a) that the FIP Board should be remunerated; and
 - (b) the principles that should apply to a policy to be developed and implemented by the FIP Board in relation to remuneration of boards across the Synod;
- (vi) to request the Task Group to finalise a discussion paper and recommendations to the Synod in Session, consistent with these resolutions.

(Consensus)

(b) Requests the FIP Board to develop the principles and policy that should apply in relation to remuneration of boards across the Synod for approval by the Council of Synod;

(Agreement)

(c) Authorizes the Council of Synod to consider the FIP Board members for remuneration in accordance with the principles and policy approved by the Council of Synod.

(Agreement)

GENERAL PROPOSALS

AMENDMENTS TO THE SYNOD BY-LAWS RELATING TO THE SYNOD CHAPLAINCY COMMISSION

It was resolved that the Synod –

08.54 Amends the By-laws of the Synod Chaplaincy Commission, subject to the ratification of the Synod Legal Reference Committee, by –

(i) Inserting a new clause Q2.8.2(f) as follows:

Exercise all the Synod's authority, consistent with Regs 2.7.4 to 2.7.12, in relation to chaplaincy placements, including the Synod's authority in relation to preparation of position descriptions, JNC processes and review processes for chaplains. This paragraph (f) is not intended to derogate from the role of the Placements Committee or any other body which may have a role in these matters as provided by the Regulations, such as the Presbytery and the agency in which the placement is situated.

(ii) Inserting a new clause Q2.8.2(k) as follows:

Exercise oversight of chaplains working within the Queensland Synod, in conjunction with that oversight exercised by the relevant Presbytery in terms of Reg 3.4.38(c);

(iii) Renumbering the existing clauses of Q2.8.2 as follows:

Functions of the Commission

Q2.8.2 The Commission shall have responsibility to:

- (a) Promote and progress the ministry of chaplaincy within the Church;
- (b) Act as a 'think tank' on chaplaincy issues and an advocate to the Church regarding insights for mission emerging from the experience of chaplains, including the development of new styles of ministry in the context of the plan of strategic intent of the Queensland Synod;
- (c) Develop policies and protocols as required (e.g. ministry agreements) in the management of chaplains;
- (d) Liaise with Presbyteries, Assembly, sectors and ecumenical agencies in relation to developments in chaplaincy;
- (e) Make appointments, with and on behalf of the relevant agency or body, of all lay and ordained chaplains working half-time or greater within the Queensland Synod, in accordance with the Regulations, Synod By-Laws and policies, and with the approval of the Synod Placements Committee;
- (f) *Exercise all the Synod's authority, consistent with Regs 2.7.4 to 2.7.12, in relation to chaplaincy placements,***

including the Synod's authority in relation to preparation of position descriptions, JNC processes and review processes for chaplains. This paragraph (f) is not intended to derogate from the role of the Placements Committee or any other body which may have a role in these matters as provided by the Regulations, such as the Presbytery and the agency in which the placement is situated.

- ~~(f)~~ (g) Provide relevant advice to Councils of the Church, Selection Committees and the Board for Christian Formation;
- ~~(g)~~ (h) Provide resources as available to support chaplaincy throughout the Synod;
- ~~(h)~~ (i) Maintain standards of accreditation and training;
- ~~(i)~~ (j) Recognise the multiple lines of accountability of chaplains and to monitor the issue of accountability and develop appropriate guidelines;
- (k) *Exercise oversight of chaplains working within the Queensland Synod, in conjunction with that oversight exercised by the relevant Presbytery in terms of Reg 3.4.38(c);***
- ~~(j)~~ (l) Maintain a register of accredited chaplains in the Synod;
- ~~(k)~~ (m) Appoint Sector Co-ordinators and to advise and assist them in the performance of their duties; and
- ~~(l)~~ (n) In conjunction with Sector Co-ordinators, explore ways of resourcing (financially and otherwise) chaplaincy (e.g. honorariums for lay volunteers, office space, conference support, worship resources, etc.).

(Consensus)

AFFILIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE AND THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.55** Approves the development of an affiliation agreement between Trinity Theological College and the Australian Catholic University and authorizes the Council of Synod to approve the resulting affiliation agreement on the recommendation of the Board for Christian Formation.

(Consensus)

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.56**
1. Affirms the role of the church as a reconciling community called to see Christ in the poor and the marginalised;
 2. Affirms the commitment of the Uniting Church to international human rights through the Assembly statement *Dignity in Humanity*;

3. Affirms that housing is a basic human right;
4. Recognises that homelessness and housing affordability are, in part, a consequence of failures in economic, social and legal institutions;
5. Requests congregations work to become aware of the extent of homelessness and housing affordability in their local community;
6. Requests presbyteries to assist congregations in becoming aware of the extent of homelessness and housing affordability;
7. In seeking to assist those who are experiencing homelessness or lack of affordable housing:
 - a. Requests congregations to build relationships with people;
 - b. Requests congregations to build relationships with church and community organisations involved in the provision of support for those who are homeless including emergency accommodation and/or community housing;
 - c. Requests presbyteries to provide oversight in assisting congregations who wish to provide services;
 - d. Requests *UnitingCare* to investigate whether, and if so, how it can provide additional support within its existing services;
 - e. Request the *UnitingCare* to investigate whether it might respond with additional or new services in its next strategic plan and to report back to the 28th Synod;
 - f. Request the Department for Financial and Property Services to ensure that its processes assist congregations and agencies providing support;
 - g. Requests the Synod Leadership Team to investigate appropriate models for structuring provision of affordable housing;
 - h. Requests congregations work with the Department of Financial Property Services to provide land for affordable housing;
 - i. Requests the Moderator and *UnitingCare* to work with relevant national agencies and ecumenical partners on campaigns that:
 - (i) recognise the broad range of economic, social and legal issues;
 - (ii) recognise the failure of public policy to adequately address these issues;
 - (iii) include local, state and national action;
 - j. Requests the Synod Leadership Team to work with presbyteries, agencies and community groups, particularly in South East Queensland, to develop a directory of services for use by local congregations.

(Consensus)

RESPONSES TO THE SYNOD'S FINANCIAL SITUATION

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.57** (a) Notes that a Service of Lament and Listening was held during the Synod in response to the Synod's financial situation and its consequences.

(Consensus)

- (b) 1. Is ready to watch to see what God is doing.
 2. Is ready to yield its (“our” was the actual wording used at Synod) will and to seek the will of God.
 3. Encourages congregations, presbyteries and agencies to enter into a time of discernment as to how God would have them enter into the new ministries God is calling them to.
 (Consensus)
- (c) Acknowledging the importance of youth and children’s ministry, local mission planning, social justice, international mission, spirituality and discipleship, chaplaincy and other ministries, requests the Council of Synod to assess how the Uniting Church in Queensland might best enhance its mission and ministry practice in the future, giving consideration to contemporary mission and ministry priorities, and to report to the 28th Synod.
 (Consensus)
- (d) Informs congregations and presbyteries of the current financial situation through a pastoral letter and requests the FIP Board to supply ministers and agents with an information package for this purpose.
 (Consensus)
- (e) In order to enable the mission of Christ to be enabled, four initiatives be implemented: (an alternate form of words to those used at Synod – “To enable the mission of Christ, four initiatives are to be implemented:”)
 1. Congregations be requested to enter into a time of prayer;
 2. \$1000 by a 1000 campaign;
 3. Encourage congregations to place their reserve funds with UCIS (the argument was that PDF are supposed to be there already); and
 4. Challenge congregations to raise an extra months offering in May, 2009.
 (Consensus)
- (f) Building on the work of the previous Synod Stewardship Forum, requests the Moderator to facilitate a stewardship plan encompassing all the resources of the people of God.
 (Consensus)

**RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 27TH SYNOD REQUIRING ACTION
 BY THE COUNCIL OF SYNOD**

It was resolved that the Synod –

08.58 Refers to the Council of Synod the following two matters:

- (i) to advise Assembly of the Synod’s desire to renew the covenant with the UAICC; and
 (Consensus)
- (ii) that the Queensland Synod, through the Council of Synod, establish a task group and oversee the conversations associated with the renewing of the covenant.
 (Consensus)

GREETING TO THE GOVERNMENT/S OF THE DAY

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.59** Approves a greeting to the government/s of the day, such greeting to:
- (i) express concerns about homelessness and housing affordability;
 - (ii) express concerns about protection of the environment, specifically the Haystack Plains;
 - (iii) express concerns about the breadth of domestic discipline defence with regard to serious assault against children;
 - (iv) express ongoing commitment to covenanting and reconciliation with indigenous people;
 - (v) express concerns about the current levels of funding for aged care; and
 - (vi) express concerns about the issue of global warming.
- (Consensus)

LENT EVENT

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.60** Associates Ms Sarah White with the Synod for the presentation on the Lent Event.
(Consensus)

ASSEMBLY

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.61** Receives the report of the Assembly.
(Consensus)

RETIREMENT OF MINISTERS

It was resolved that the Synod –

Rev Kevin Frederick Bachler

- 08.62** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Kevin Frederick Bachler to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2007 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Kevin Frederick Bachler.

Rev Malcolm Bottrill

- 08.63** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Malcolm Bottrill to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 17 June 2008 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Malcolm Bottrill.

Rev Jan Chalmers

- 08.64** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Jan Chalmers to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 September 2007 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Jan Chalmers.

Rev Les Comollatti

- 08.65** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Les Comollatti to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 January 2008 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Les Comollatti.

Rev Kaye Hacker

- 08.66** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Kaye Hacker to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 1 January 2008 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Kaye Hacker.

Rev Phillip Hulme

- 08.67** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Phillip Hulme to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 July 2007 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Phillip Hulme.

Rev Bernie Jarius

- 08.68** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Bernie Jarius to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 November 2008 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Bernie Jarius.

Rev Alan O'Hara

- 08.69** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Alan O'Hara to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2007 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Alan O'Hara.

Rev Dr Raymond (Ray) Alfred Reddicliffe

- 08.70** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Dr Raymond Alfred Reddicliffe to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 29 February 2008 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Dr Raymond Alfred Reddicliffe.

Rev Dr Dennis Cecil Robinson OAM

- 08.71** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Dr Dennis Cecil Robinson OAM to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 January 2009 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).

- (b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Dr Dennis Cecil Robinson OAM.

Rev Harold Strong

- 08.72** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Harold Strong to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of health from 12 February 2007 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(ii).
(b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Harold Strong.

Rev Robert Weyer

- 08.73** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Robert Weyer to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 28 February 2009 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i).
(b) Receives a minute of appreciation of the Ministry of Rev Robert Weyer.

Rev Ruth Harding

- 08.74** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Ruth Harding to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 1 October 2007 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i)

Rev Dr Colin Weightman

- 08.75** (a) Notes the advice of Rev Dr Colin Weightman to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 May 2008 under Reg. 2.4.7(a)(i)
(Consensus by acclamation)

MEMORIAL MINUTES

It was resolved that the Synod -

- 08.76** Adopts the Memorial Minutes as presented concerning ministers who have died since the Twenty-Sixth Synod.

Pastor Vernon John Edwards
Rev Jack Dregmans
Rev Bevan Favelle
Rev Ian Graham
Rev Robert John Harris
Rev Lalomilo Lima
Rev Les Martin
Pastor Benjamin Schulz
Rev James Richard Sweet
Rev Antony Klazes Telgenhof
Rev Nevin Stuart Vawser
Rev Keith Warner

(Consensus by acclamation)

BALLOT COMMITTEE REPORT

It was resolved that the Synod –

08.77 Receives the Report of the Ballot Committee.

(Consensus)

Synod Leadership Team

08.78 Elects the following members of Synod to the Synod Leadership Team in terms of By-Law Q1.3 –

Continuing Members: Rev Dr Apichart Branjerdporn
Rev Lyn Burden
Mr Gavin Caird

New Members: Rev David Baker
Rev Bob Harriman
Rev Lu Senituli

Council of Synod

08.79 Elects the following members of Synod to the Council of Synod in terms of By-Law Q1.2 –

Ministers

Rev David Baker
Rev Shayne Blackman
Rev Dr Apichart Branjerdporn
Rev Lyn Burden
Rev Bruce Cornish
Rev David Fanning
Rev Gwen Fisher
Rev Bob Harriman
Rev Kaye Ronalds
Rev Wendi Sargeant
Rev Lu Senituli

Lay

Mr John Agnew
Mr Geoff Batkin
Mrs Ruth Beasley
Mrs Jenny Brecknell
Mr Gavin Caird
Miss Louise Edwards
Mrs Sharon Kirk
Miss Michelle Leggo
Pastor Euan McDonald
Miss Anna Mulcahy
Mr Bruce Peden

SYNOD COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COUNCILS

Synod Schools' Commission

08.80 Elects the following persons to the Synod Schools' Commission:

Chairperson: Rev David MacGregor

Members: Mr Gregory Adsett
Mrs Annette Dale
Rev Dr Noel Davis
Mrs Phyllis Hall
Mr Brian Hedges

o8.81 The Finance, Investment & Property Board

Appoints the following persons to the Finance, Investment & Property Board:

Chairperson: Mr Andrew McBryde

Member: Mr Ian Busch

The Uniting Church Property Trust (Q.)

o8.82 Appoints the following persons to The Uniting Church Property Trust (Q.):

Chairperson: Mr Andrew McBryde

Secretary: Mr Robert Packer

Members: Mr Ian Busch
Mr Bob Cambridge
Mr Ralph Collins

UC Foundation Board

o8.83 Appoints the following persons to the UC Foundation Board:

Chairperson: Mr David Vann

Members: Mr Peter Henderson
Mrs Tanya Johnson
Mr Brian Kickbusch

Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee

o8.84 Appoints the following persons to the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee in accordance with By-Law Q2.7.2(a) and (b):

Chairperson: Rev Anne Hulbert

Secretary: Rev Don Whebell

Members: Rev Paul Walton
Rev Ray Richmond
Rev Heather Griffin
Rev Bob Harriman
Rev Peter Lockhart
Mrs Dorothy Demack
Mr Neil Ballment
Mr Rob Leivesley

THE NORMAN AND MARY MILLAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

- 08.85** The Moderator welcomed Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds, the 2008 Norman and Mary Millar Lecturer, and invited him to address the Synod. Dr Hatfield-Dodds topic was “*Relationship of Church and Society*”.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL OF SYNOD

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.86** Refers the following proposal to the Council of Synod for implementation:

Proposal: That the Synod encourages congregations to give 20% to the Mission and Service Fund.

(Consensus)

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 08.87** Refers the Proposals listed below (Proposals 1, 4, 5 and 8) to the Council of Synod –

(a) *Proposal 1: A Theology of Ministerial Stipend and the Payment of Stipend Loadings (or Margin Allowances), Housing Allowance and other Benefits consistent with the Theology.*

- (i) Recognizes the fundamental importance of a sound theological understanding of ministerial stipend for appropriate remuneration of its ministers.
- (ii) Requests the Assembly to develop a statement on the Uniting Church’s theological understanding of ministerial stipend which includes consideration of the theological basis for the payment of loadings or margin allowances on stipend and the possibility of more than one housing allowance when a couple are both in full time stipended ministry placements.

(b) *Proposal 4: Review of Regulations for the Counselling and Disciplining of Ministers (Reg. 7.4.1ff)*

Requests the Assembly to review the Regulations that deal with The Counselling and Disciplining of Ministers (Reg. 7.5.1ff) to ensure that the complaints process for dealing with complaints of a non-sexual nature:

- (i) requires, in the light of the gospel imperative (Matt 18:15-16), that, before a matter is sent to the Synod Committee for Counselling, some form of mediation or conflict resolution be carried out between the complainant and respondent prior to any formal process being entered into.
- (ii) That before a complaint goes to the Synod Committee for Counselling or the Synod Committee for Discipline, the Presbytery of the respondent be made aware of and be charged with the responsibility for dealing, in the first instance, with the matter.

(c) *Proposal 5: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land*

- (i) Notes the following commitments of the Uniting Church made in its Statement to the Nation in 1977:
"We are concerned with the basic human rights of future generations and will urge the wise use of energy, the protection of the environment and the replenishment of the earth's resources for their use and enjoyment."
- (ii) Notes that there is a substantial coal deposit in the area known as Haystack Plain and that this land has been described as "Iconic Farming Land";
- (iii) Notes the decision of the Queensland Government to grant a Mineral Development Licence to Tarong Energy over the Haystack Plain coal deposit;
- (iv) Expresses its solidarity with the farmers, their families and the communities impacted by this decision;
- (v) Notes that the mining of the Haystack Plain coal deposit would result in the production of a major amount of greenhouse gas and the long term loss of a large area of productive agricultural land;
- (vi) Calls on the Queensland Government to:
 - (a) Not allow mining to occur on 'Iconic Farming Land'
 - (b) Rescind any Mining Development Licences and Mining Leases on 'Iconic Farming Land' such as Haystack Plain; and
 - (c) Rescind those licences on 'Iconic Farming Land' where mining has not yet commenced;

(d) *Proposal 8: Domestic Discipline*

- (i) Notes the Assembly Statement "Dignity in Humanity" and "Uniting for Peace";
- (ii) Affirms Synod Minute (89.78) and its commitment to the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child;
- (iii) Affirms that peace and non-violence are fundamental to our human relationships;
- (iv) Affirms that the home and family should be a place of love and nurture where violence is not tolerated;
- (v) Notes that the domestic discipline defence is currently available to a broad range of offences against the person (including serious assault, grievous bodily harm and potentially homicide), where the person charged is a parent or guardian or teacher;
- (vi) Notes that this is in breach of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child;
- (vii) Calls on the Queensland Government to amend the domestic discipline defence so that it is only a defence to common assault;
- (viii) Requests the Moderator to consult with ecumenical and community partners and support any public campaign consistent with this call.
(Consensus)

COURTESIES EXTENDED

It was resolved that the Synod –

o8.88 Placed on record its sincere appreciation of –

The Moderator, the Rev Bruce Johnson, for his leadership of the Twenty-Seventh Synod

The General Secretary, the Rev Douglas Jones, for the preparation of, and assistance in processing the business of the Synod

The Business Convener, Rev Ray Herrmann, and the members of the Business Committee

The members of the Facilitation Committee, chaired by Mr Michael Hewson

The Small Group Conveners, Rev Beth Nicholls and Rev Carol Bennett

Rev Robyn Kidd, who co-ordinated the Celebration of Ministries

Revs Dr Rob Bos and Rev Dr David Rankin, who presented the Synod Bible Studies

The Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Kaye Ronalds

Rev Lyn Burden and Rev Doug Foster, the Pastoral Coordinators

Rev Rowena Harris and Rev Alan Baker, the Chaplains

Ms Megan Thomson, for coordinating the Synod Opening and Induction Service for the Moderator

The members of the Ballot Committee chaired by Rev David Wiltshire

The Synod Liaison Officers: Rev Jeanette Gillam, Rev Brian Kickbusch, Rev Peter Taubner, Rev Bruce Raymond, Ms Melanie Perkins

The Communication Services Unit, Mr Bruce Mullan, Ms Mardi Lumsden and Mr Osker Lau for their commitment to the daily updating of the Synod website for those who could not attend Synod

Mr Ian Edgar, Manager, Alexandra Park Conference Centre for support in preparation and hosting the Synod. Mr Ian Edgar and Mr Wayne Grady for their logistical co-ordination and the daily running of the Synod venue and Mr Peter Hodgson for the co-ordination of the Shuttle Bus. Alex Park chefs and kitchen staff who provided superb meals for the Synod. All staff at Alexandra Park Conference Centre for their hard work and hospitality.

Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds who presented the Norman and Mary Millar Memorial Lecture for 2008

The worship leaders and musicians co-ordinated by Rev David MacGregor

Messrs Ken Griggs, Peter Evans, Andrew Bell, Derek Griffin, Greg Shea, Rev David Ellis, Rev Scott Ballment, Revs John & Heather Selwood who provided technical support for the Synod

Mrs Caroline Holmes and Mr Neil Dutney for assisting as Journal Secretaries

Members of Mary Burnett Congregations who provided and served morning and afternoon teas

And finally, the members of staff of the Office of the Moderator and General Secretary – Mrs Ana Mila and Miss Kristine Bromiley and Rev Carol Bennett.

(Consensus – carried by acclamation)

CLOSE

The Twenty-Seventh Synod was closed with a Service of Holy Communion led by the Moderator and the General Secretary.

