



35th SYNOD

Minutes

35th Queensland Synod

22-25 October 2020

Membership

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(i)

Assembly ex-officio

Ms Colleen Geyer
Dr Deidre Palmer

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(ii) and By-law Q2.1.3

Synod ex-officio

Ministers

Rev Peter Armstrong
Rev David Baker
Rev Andrew Gunton
Rev Brian Hoole
Rev Heather den Houting
Rev Kaye Ronalds
Rev John Ruhle
Rev Keren Seto
Rev Louisa Yu

Lay members

Mr Nigel Alexander
Mr Craig Barke
Mr Ralph Collins
Mr Peter Cranna
Dr Paul Jones
Mrs Noela Lister
Ms Natalie Smith

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(iii) & (iv) and By-law Q2.1.2

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Ministers

Rev Craig Batty
Rev Kath Behan
Rev Peter Blake
Rev Ian Boudry
Rev Lyn Burden
Rev Graham Cole
Rev Andrew Gillies
Rev Brian Kickbusch
Rev Julie Mackay-Rankin
Rev Aaron Moad
Rev Russell Reynoldson
Rev David Savage
Rev Glen Schweitzer
Rev Dona Spencer
Rev Peter Taubner

Lay members

Mr Lachie Arnett
Mr Duncan Barlow
Mr Robert Bennett
Mr Greg Braithwaite
Mrs Lyn Campbell
Mrs Helen Capern
Ms Amy Cliff
Ms Heather Coupland
Mr Robbie Dixon
Mrs Stephanie Dixon
Mrs Shirley Doyle
Mrs Philippa Ferrant-Smith
Mr Joshua Harbort
Dr Marilyn Healy
Mrs Wendy Hoskin

Ministers

Rev Charles Vesely
Rev Jan Whyte

Lay members

Ms Anna Lasike
Mr Alexander Little
Mrs Erin Mawhinney
Ms Rhonnie McAuliffe
Mr Dominic Mercer
Mrs Gayle Rankin
Mrs Jo Reynoldson
Mr Noel Rothery
Mrs Noela Rothery
Mr Malcom Scanlan
Mr Brett Scherer
Ms Karien Semaia
Mr Siaso Semaia
Mr Ieriko Sopoaga
Mrs Meredith Stone
Mr Jameson Taupiasi
Mr Thanh Vo
Ms Gemma Ward
Mr George Winter

Presbytery of Carpentaria

Ministers

Rev Christy Allen
Rev Dr Robert Brennan
Rev Bruce Cornish
Rev Dennis Corowa
Rev Barry Cox
Rev John Dansie
Rev Mark Dewar
Rev David Ellis
Rev Doug Foster
Rev Garry Hardingham
Rev Christine Herman
Rev Shane Kammermann
Rev David Kelly
Rev Johnson Makoti
Rev Wendy McHugh
Rev Craig Mischewski
Rev Tevita Mone
Rev Tevita Niurua
Rev Greg Rankin
Rev Priscilla Seo
Rev Arthur Tutin
Rev Young-hun Weon

Lay members

Mr Gewa Au
Mrs Roslyn Beale
Mrs Jan Bryde
Miss Florence Charger
Mrs Robyn Cooley
Mrs Marie Dewar
Mrs Janette Ellis
Mr Chris Guise
Ms Teresa Hardingham
Mrs Debbie Hayter
Mr Richard Hosking
Mr Graham Huth
Mrs Dinah John
Mr Richard Lance
Ms Sue Lloyd
Mr Bruce McCarthy
Miss Emily Mills
Mr Ian Ness
Dr David Pohlmann
Mrs Margaret Pohlmann
Mr Grant Spong
Ms Roberta Stanley

Presbytery of Central Queensland

Ministers

Rev Scott Ballment
Rev Ann Hewson
Rev Matt Hogg
Rev Glenn Louttit
Rev Wayne McHugh
Rev Dr Julia Pitman
Rev Suzy Sitton

Lay members

Mrs Beth Baker
Mrs Kate Barton
Mr Kenneth Brown
Ms Laura Brown
Mrs Beth Higham
Mrs Sheri Holland
Mr David Horton
Mrs Donna Muston
Mrs Andrea Nicholson
Mrs Beth Sawers
Mr Rick Thomson
Mr Ron Tyler

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Ministers

Rev Stuart Bosch
Rev Chris Crause
Rev Moira Dodsworth
Rev Dr Hedley Fihaki
Rev Cornelia Hoffman
Rev Matt O'Donoghue
Rev Dave Thomas

Lay members

Mrs Kylie Aalbers
Mrs Narelle Cramb
Mr Ian Dart
Ms Christine Henderson
Mr Mark Luatutu
Mr Alan Mulcahy
Mrs Sue Mulcahy
Ms Kay Nixon
Mrs Wendy O'Hara
Mr Phil Smith
Mr Ian Wilkinson
Mr Eric Woodrow

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Ministers

Rev Heather Allison
Rev Paul Clark
Rev Mark Cornford
Rev Monique Coughlin
Rev John Cox
Rev Rod Fisher
Rev Murray Fysh
Rev Leonie Gaffel
Rev Jim Haak
Rev Linda Hanson
Rev Dr Peter Hobson
Rev Sandra Jebb

Lay members

Dr Kumi Abeysuriya
Mr Srian Abeysuriya
Miss Manu Ahosivi
Mr Geoff Batkin
Miss Ecks Bennett
Mr Tim Bennett
Mrs Lesley Bishop
Mr Victor Butler
Dr Ian Chaseling
Dr Shirley Coulson
Mr Edward Dobinson
Mr Mahe Havea Filimoehala

Ministers

Rev Graham Keech
 Rev Fa Matangi
 Rev Dr Adam McIntosh
 Rev Sione (Maile) Molitika
 Rev Bruce Moore
 Rev Josie Neuendorff
 Rev David Nix
 Rev Leva Pat
 Rev Susan Pickering
 Rev Dr Wendi Sargeant
 Rev Tony Shumack
 Rev Beatriz Skippen
 Rev Dan Skippen
 Rev Janet Staines
 Rev Neil Storey
 Rev Tevita Takai
 Rev Dr Debra Tedman
 Rev Stanley Tuilovoni
 Rev Dr Paul Walton
 Rev Melanie Wheeley

Lay members

Mr Dave Greig
 Mr Michael Griffiths
 Mr Samiuela Hukehuke
 Mr John Loneragan
 Mrs Alisi Manu
 Ms Bethany Masters
 Mrs Jenny Matthews
 Mr Scott McDonald
 Dr Janice McRandal
 Ms Fiona Patterson
 Ms Susan Pietsch
 Mrs Jessica Pinkerton
 Mr Alexander Pittaway
 Ms Hanna Sidjibat
 Mr Glenn Stevenson
 Ms Gwen Theisfield
 Mr Fritz Venzke

Presbytery of South Moreton

Ministers

Rev Craig Blackburn
 Rev David Busch
 Rev Jenny Busch
 Rev David Fender
 Rev Brad Foote
 Rev Karama Ioapo
 Rev Noah Kim
 Rev Esteban Lievano
 Rev Peter Lockhart
 Rev Adam Low
 Rev David MacGregor
 Rev Iris Marais
 Rev Viliami Mila
 Rev Beth Nicholls
 Rev Karen Ross
 Rev Lu Senituli
 Rev Peter Smale
 Rev Catherine Solomon
 Rev Faye Talatou

Lay members

Ms Julia Barker
 Mrs Denise Collins
 Mr Rodney Eivers
 Mr Michael Hands
 Mr David Hawke
 Mr Geoffrey Hill
 Mr Levon Kardashian
 Mrs Kym Kennedy
 Miss Michele Lake
 Mrs Daphne Leggo
 Mr Roger Manning
 Mrs Malia Ma'u
 Prof Emerit Myles McGregor-Lowndes
 Mr Yun Miao
 Miss Tinielle Miller
 Mr Ken Moala
 Mr Bill O'Neill
 Miss Jen Pitt
 Mr Neil Rackham
 Mr Gregory Rowe

Lay members

Ms Stephanie Wade
Mr Scott Wrigley
Miss Chun-Zhen Zeng

Presbytery of The Downs

Ministers

Rev Rob Callow
Rev John Case
Rev David Graham
Rev Tim Griggs
Rev Dr Linda Hamill
Rev Marius Kruger
Rev Willie Liebenberg
Rev Yvonne McRostie
Rev Graham Slaughter
Rev Adam Tipple

Lay members

Mrs Annie Baker
Mrs Sharon Baker
Mrs Naomi Bell
Ms Barbara Betts
Dr Bob Burgess
Mr Mal Hamill
Mr John Hoens
Mr David Hogg
Ms Louise Newman
Mrs Jenny Noble
Mrs Kath Warner
Mr Ian Williams

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(v) and By-law Q2.1.4

UnitingCare Board

Mr Andrew McBryde

Finance, Investment and Property Board

Mr Hayden Gaffel
Mr Justin Greenway
Mr John Lister

Board for Christian Formation

Rev Gwen Fisher
Mr Peter James

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(vi) and By-law Q2.1.5

Candidates

Mr Anthony Kim
Ms Delma Lovell

Regulation 3.3.7(a)(vii), 3.3.7(c) and 3.3.7(d) and By-law Q2.1.6

Co-options

Mr Namila Davui

Ms Annabel Demack

Resolutions

The Constitution of the Synod

- 20.01 At the Uniting Church Centre, 60 Bayliss Street Auchenflower, at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 22 October 2020, a worship service was held during which the Moderator, Rev Andrew Gunton, was inducted into office on behalf of the Synod by the retiring Moderator, Rev David Baker, under the authority given by the Constitution and Regulations of The Uniting Church in Australia. At 1.00pm on Friday 23 October 2020, The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod met in session.

Recognition of traditional custodians of the land

- 20.02 The Synod acknowledged the traditional custodians of the lands on which the members of the 35th Synod met and gave thanks for their stewardship. The Synod received a Welcome to Country from representatives of the Jaggera and Turrbal people.

Procedural proposals

- 20.03 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Notes the appointment by the Synod Standing Committee of members of the Business Committee and the authorisation by Synod Standing Committee to the Moderator and General Secretary to make further appointments to the Business Committee:
 - Rev Andrew Gunton (Moderator)
 - Rev David Baker (ex-Moderator)
 - Rev Heather den Houting (General Secretary)
 - Rev John Ruhle (Associate General Secretary)
 - Ms Kellie Broderick (Executive Officer Corporate)
 - Rev Brian Kickbusch
 - (b) Notes the further appointments made pursuant to (a):
 - Mr Scott Guyatt
 - Rev Faye Talatonu
 - Mr Scott McDonald
 - (c) Appoints Rev Brian Kickbusch as Convenor of the Business Committee.
 - (d) Authorises the Committee to co-opt other persons as necessary for specific business.
- 20.04 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Appoints Mr Scott McDonald as Convenor of the Facilitation Committee and authorises the Convenor to co-opt members for that Committee; and

- (b) Appoints Rev Janet Staines as Small Group Co-ordinator.
- 20.05 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Ms Belinda Bones as Minute Secretary.
- 20.06 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Rev Glenn Louttit as Convenor of the Ballot Committee and gives him authority to co-opt members for that Committee.
- 20.07 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod appoints Rev Johnson Makoti and Rev Heather Allison as Pastoral Coordinators.
- 20.08 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod adopts the Roll of the Synod subject to the Roll only containing the names of those members shown as participating in the online meeting through use of their unique identifier by 12 noon on Saturday, 24 October 2020.
- 20.09 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Determines that unless otherwise agreed, the hours of session for the Synod shall be:

Friday, 23 October	1pm–6pm
Saturday, 24 October	8.30am–12.10pm
	1pm–6pm
Sunday, 25 October	1pm–6pm
 - (b) Adopts the timetable and order of business as set out in the Program document unless the Synod specifically determines otherwise.
- 20.10 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod determines that the Bar of the House be defined as those members shown as participating in the online meeting through use of their unique identifier.
- 20.11 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Adopts the use of the procedures of *A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church (2015)*, as adapted for an online meeting and notified to members.
 - (b) Determines that members asking questions for clarification and questions of reports, speak for no more than one minute.
- 20.12 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Endorses the decision of the Business Committee that nominations to Boards, Commissions and Committees closed on Friday, 25 September 2020.
 - (b) Determines that the ballots will be held as determined by the Business Committee.
 - (c) Determines that, unless otherwise determined, appointments to membership of various Synod governing bodies will be based on a simple majority and nominees must receive at least 50 per cent of the votes to be elected.
 - (d) Determines that a ballot for a proposal for the reappointment of the General Secretary will be conducted by secret ballot with the proposal requiring not less than 65 per cent support of ballots received for such a proposal to pass.
 - (e) Determines that, unless otherwise determined, ballot material evidencing individual votes of members shall be destroyed following the declaration of a Ballot.
 - (f) Authorises the Synod Standing Committee to perform the functions of Regulation 3.3.8(a)(iii)(5) and Regulation 3.3.9 as required to meet the Synod membership requirements for the meeting of the 16th Assembly, as advised by Assembly from

time to time, including but not limited to appointing vacant positions and youth members as required.

- 20.13 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod endorses the decision of the Business Committee that General Proposals were to be submitted by 5.00 pm. on Thursday, 24 September 2020.
- 20.14 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod authorises the General Secretary to convey greetings on behalf of the Synod to other Synods within The Uniting Church in Australia.
- 20.15 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) Authorises the Moderator to convey a greeting to the State and Federal Governments.
 - (b) Approves that the following matters considered by the Synod be incorporated into the greeting to the appropriate government:
 - mental health
 - COVID-19
 - JobKeeper
 - any other matters as agreed.
- 20.16 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod authorises Rev Andrew Gunton (Moderator), Rev Heather den Houting (General Secretary) and Rev Brian Kickbusch (Business Committee Convenor) to confirm the Minutes of the 35th Synod.
- 20.17 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod adopts the Memorial Minutes as presented concerning ministers who have died since the 34th Synod and notes the ministers who have retired permanently and receives a minute of appreciation for each.
- 20.18 It was **RESOLVED by Simple Majority**, on the motion of Rev Brian Kickbusch and seconded by Mr Scott McDonald, that the Synod sit in private for consideration of the Reappointment of Rev Heather den Houting as General Secretary, Queensland Synod.

Association of visitors

- 20.19 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod associates the following people with the Synod:
- (a) For the purpose of all Project Plenty Sessions:
 - Mr Scott Guyatt
 - Ms Liz Henderson
 - (b) For the purpose of the Minute of Appreciation to Rev David Baker:
 - Rev Gerda Olafsen
 - (c) For the purpose of the report of Wesley Mission Queensland:
 - Mr Paul Newman
 - (d) For the purpose of the report of the Schools and Residential Colleges Commission:
 - Mr Stuart Christ
 - Ms Sharon Hinton

Retirement of ministers

It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:

- 20.20 (a) notes the advice of Rev John Adams to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 July 2020 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev John Adams.
- 20.21 (a) notes the advice of Rev Diane Bos to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 August 2020 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Diane Bos.
- 20.22 (a) notes the advice of Rev Graham Cole to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2019 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Graham Cole.
- 20.23 (a) notes the advice of Rev Trevor Gibson to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 January 2020 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Trevor Gibson.
- 20.24 (a) notes the advice of Rev Christopher Holden to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2019 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Christopher Holden.
- 20.25 (a) notes the advice of Rev Russell Morris to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 July 2019 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Russell Morris.
- 20.26 (a) notes the advice of Rev Michele Shumack to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 December 2019 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Michele Shumack.
- 20.27 (a) notes the advice of Rev Neville Edward Sturwohld to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 30 April 2020 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Neville Edward Sturwohld.
- 20.28 (a) notes the advice of Rev Iain Watt to become a minister retired permanently on the grounds of age from 31 May 2020 under Regulation 2.6.1(d)(i)(1)
(b) receives a minute of appreciation of the ministry of Rev Iain Watt.

Memorial minutes

20.29 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod adopts the memorial minutes as presented concerning ministers who have died since the 34th Synod:

- Rev Leonard Bray
- Rev Bruce Gulley
- Rev Steve Havilitama
- Rev Alan Kidd

- Rev Dr Henry Krohn
- Rev Peter O'Connor
- Rev Cecil Schloss
- Rev Ian Taylor
- Rev Desmond Williams

Proposals from reports

- 20.30 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Moderator.
- 20.31 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Synod Standing Committee.
- 20.32 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the General Secretary.
- 20.33 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Synod Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements.
- 20.34 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the Report of the Finance, Investment and Property Board.
- 20.35 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the Report of the Board for Christian Formation.
- 20.36 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Schools and Residential Colleges Commission.
- 20.37 It was **RESOLVED by Agreement** that the Synod receives the report of the Synod Chaplaincy Commission.
- 20.38 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Synod Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group.
- 20.39 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee.
- 20.40 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Synod Inter-faith Relationships Committee.
- 20.41 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane.
- 20.42 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Presbytery of Carpentaria.
- 20.43 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Presbytery of Central Queensland.
- 20.44 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Presbytery of Mary Burnett.
- 20.45 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Presbytery of Moreton Rivers.
- 20.46 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the

Presbytery of South Moreton.

- 20.47 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of the Presbytery of The Downs.
- 20.48 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of UnitingCare Queensland.
- 20.49 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod receives the report of Wesley Mission Queensland.
- 20.50 It was **RESOLVED by Formal Majority** that the Synod receives the report the report of the Assembly.

Appendices

- 20.51 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod note the ministerial changes as contained in Appendix 1.
- 20.52 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod note the appointments made by the Synod Standing Committee since the 34th Synod as contained in Appendix 2.
- 20.53 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod note the minutes of appreciation as contained in Appendix 3.

36th Synod dates

- 20.54 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod determines that:
 - (a) the 36th Synod will be held from 13 May to 17 May 2022 at Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands.
 - (b) the Synod Standing Committee be given authority to vary the dates/times and the venue of the 36th Synod if necessary.

Synod Standing Committee meetings

- 20.55 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod determines that:
 - (a) that the meeting dates of the Synod Standing Committee shall be:
 - 3 December 2020 (induction and meeting)
 - 4 February 2021
 - 4 March 2021
 - 1 April 2021
 - 6 May 2021
 - 3 June 2021
 - 1 July 2021
 - 5 August 2021
 - 2 September 2021
 - 7 October 2021
 - 4 November 2021

2 December 2021
3 February 2022
3 March 2022
7 April 2022
5 May 2022

- (b) that authority be given to the Moderator and General Secretary to vary the dates and times of the Synod Standing Committee meetings if necessary.

Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee award

- 20.56 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod congratulates Mrs Pam Whebell who has been awarded the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee Award as contained in Appendix 5 to these minutes.

Spirit of Synod award

- 20.57 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod congratulates Rev Ansie Liebenberg who has been awarded the Spirit of Synod Award for her inspiring leadership of the church as contained in Appendix 5 to these minutes.

General proposals

General Proposal 3: Two distinct and separate Uniting Churches

- 20.58 It was **AGREED** that a decision was not required at this meeting on the General Proposal: "Two distinct and separate Uniting Churches".

General Proposal 4: Guidance to the Synod Standing Committee for the period of the 35th Synod

- 20.59 It was **RESOLVED by Agreement** that the Synod direct that the Synod Standing Committee:
- (a) abide by the following principles in relation to what matters are determined by it and what matters should be brought to the general Synod for decision
 - (b) that these principles be applied for the next 18 months, and then be subject to review at the 36th Synod.

The principles

1. Changes to By-Laws are only to be made after appropriate consultation across the Synod.
2. That it shall deal with all matters:
 - that require a timely response
 - requiring long term preparation and research
 - which pose an unacceptable risk to the church if left unaddressed
 - of appointment to governing entities

- which require ongoing, sustained oversight in execution
 - of a simple or technical nature
 - which require regular reporting
 - which require annual reporting or approvals.
3. That it shall refer matters to the general Synod when:
- Is it a matter that has been previously considered by the general Synod and should be returned and reported to the 36th Synod
 - It is a resolution of the general Synod that a matter should be dealt with
 - If it is a matter of such missional importance, that the general Synod should be the decision maker or provide guidance
 - If it is a decision that can be deferred until the next meeting of the general Synod without posing a serious risk for the church.

General Proposal 5: Project Plenty proposal

- 20.60 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) accept the Project Plenty report *Shared life. Flourishing communities.* and thank the Synod Standing Committee and Project Plenty team for their work
 - (b) adopt the 2025 ambition, four mission priorities and the commitments contained within the report as a set of mission priorities and directions that will guide its work for the period 2020-2025
 - (c) continues the conversation with congregations, presbyteries, agencies, schools and other bodies of the church to commit to the ambition, mission priorities and commitments of Project Plenty in their own context.
 - (d) partner with congregations, presbyteries, agencies, schools and other bodies of the church in a further period of co-creation to develop and agree the specific deliverables of commitments contained in the report by 30 June 2021.

General Proposal 6: Formation of a missional non-geographical presbytery in Queensland

- 20.61 It was **AGREED** that a decision was not required at this meeting on the General Proposal: "Formation of a Missional Non-Geographical Presbytery in Queensland".

General Proposal 8: Biblical marriage

- 20.62 It was **AGREED** that a decision was not required at this meeting on the General Proposal: "Biblical Marriage".

General Proposal 9: Youth, children and family ministry

- 20.63 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod:
- (a) notes with concern the significant decline in staff and resources supporting youth, children and families ministry within Synod, presbyteries and congregations over recent years; and
 - (b) determines that the development & resourcing of youth, children's & families ministry as part of the Project Plenty commitment of 'Encourage and empower young people to nurture their faith, serve God and practice leadership in church and the world' as an urgent priority area. This prioritisation shall align with the level of support from the small group Project Plenty commitment feedback.

Ballots

- 20.64 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod extends the appointment of Rev Heather den Houting as General Secretary, Queensland Synod until 31 December 2023.
- 20.65 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to the Board for Christian Formation:
- | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Members | Grant Erickson | 3 years, until 37th Synod |
| | Rev Gwen Fisher | 3 years, until 37th Synod |
| Continuing members | Rev Peter Armstrong (chairperson) | until 36th Synod |
| | Rev Lyn Burden | until 36th Synod |
| | Peter James | until 36th Synod |
| | Dr David Pohlmann | until 36th Synod |
| | Rev Neil Storey | until 36th Synod |
| | Trent Wheeley | until 36th Synod |
| Ex-officio members | Moderator | |
| | General Secretary | |
| | Director of Education for Ministry | |
| | Enrolled candidate of Trinity College Queensland | |
- 20.66 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following person to the Finance, Investment and Property Board:
- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairperson | Geoff Batkin (chairperson) | 3 years, until 37th Synod |
| Continuing members | Geoff Ericksson | until 23/10/2023 |
| | Hayden Gaffel | until 16/05/2022 |
| | Justin Greenway | until 16/05/2022 |
| | Natalie Smith | until 16/05/2022 |
| Ex-officio members | General Secretary | |
| | Synod Property Officer | |
- 20.67 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.):
- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Chairperson | Geoff Batkin | until 36th Synod |
| Members | Geoff Ericksson | until 36th Synod |
| | Hayden Gaffel | until 36th Synod |
| | Justin Greenway | until 36th Synod |
| | Natalie Smith | until 36th Synod |
| Secretary | Peter Cranna | until 36th Synod |
| Ex-officio members | Moderator | |
| | General Secretary | |
- 20.68 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to the Synod Standing Committee:
- | | | |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Members | Dr Gewa Au | 18 months, until 36th Synod |
| | Greg Braithwaite | 3 years, until 37th Synod |
| | Rev Garry Hardingham | 18 months, until 36th Synod |
| | Dr Marilyn Healy | 18 months, until 36th Synod |
| | Andrew McBryde | 3 years, until 37th Synod |

	Scott McDonald	3 years, until 37th Synod
	Rev Bruce Moore	3 years, until 37th Synod
Ex-officio members	Moderator	
	Ex-Moderator	
	General Secretary	
	Chair, UnitingCare Queensland Board	
	Chair, Wesley Mission Queensland Board	
	Nominee, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress for Queensland	

20.69 It was **RESOLVED by Ballot** that the Synod elects the following persons to the 16th Assembly:

Members Ministerial	Rev Adam Low
	Rev David MacGregor
	Rev Catherine Solomon
Members Lay	Greg Braithwaite
	Joshua Harbort
	Emma Nicholls

Courtesies extended

20.70 It was **RESOLVED by Consensus** that the Synod places on record its sincere appreciation of:

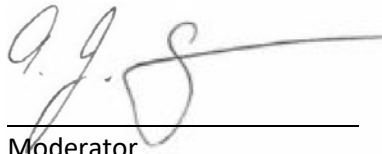
- the coordinators, and the contributors from all over the state of Queensland and Australia, of the Synod Worship Celebration the Synod Bible Studies
- the Business Committee Convenor, members of the Business Committee and the 35th Synod Project Manager
- the Facilitation, Small Groups, Ballot Convenor and deputy Ballot Convenor, and members of their respective teams
- the Synod Governance Secretary
- the staff of the Synod office
- the Moderator's Chaplains and the Pastoral Coordinators
- the Coordinators of the Celebration of Ministries
- the organisers and presenters of Grow sessions
- all staff of the Raymont Residential College for support in preparation and hosting the Synod
- to the AV, event and production crew
- to all the tradeshow exhibitors
- Wesley Mission Queensland, with special thanks for their sponsorship and support of Synod as well as the contribution made by NGS Super
- the Moderator, Rev Andrew Gunton and the General Secretary, Rev Heather den Houting, for their leadership of the Synod meeting
- the immediate-past Moderator, Rev David Baker and the past Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds
- the members of Synod for their time, dedication and discernment
- God, our Father, Son and the Holy Spirit as we met to his glory.

Close

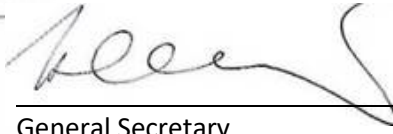
The 35th Synod was closed with closing worship led by the Moderator.

Confirmation of minutes

The 35th Synod Minutes were confirmed by the Moderator, General Secretary and the Business Committee Convenor (as per minute 20.16) on 3 December 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A.J.S.", written over a horizontal line.

Moderator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "P. Lee", written over a horizontal line.

General Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "B. Mulvaney", written over a horizontal line.

Business Committee Convenor

Appendix 1

Ministerial changes

1 Received by ordination

Ministry of the Word

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Julie Mackay-Rankin

Presbytery of Carpentaria

Christine Herman

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Susan Pickering

Louisa Yu

Presbytery of South Moreton

David Busch

Karen Ross

2 Deaths

Ministers of the Word

Leonard Bray

Bruce Gulley

Steve Havilitama

Alan Kidd

Henry Krohn

Peter O'Connor

Cecil Schloss

Ian Taylor

Des Williams

Pastor

Graham Clarke

William Hollingsworth

Margaret Staszewski

3 Retirements

Presbytery of Bremer Brisbane

Diane Bos

Graham Cole

Presbytery of Carpentaria

John Adams

Presbytery of Mary Burnett

Russell Morris

Iain Watt

Presbytery of Moreton Rivers

Christopher Holden

Michele Shumack

Neville Sturwohld

Presbytery of South Moreton

Trevor Gibson

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------------------------------|
| 4 | Ministers / deacons / youth workers received from other Synods | Nil |
| 5 | Ministers received from other denominations | Myeong Hee Seo |
| 6 | Ministers received by readmission | Nil |
| 7 | Ministers whose recognition has been withdrawn | John Gill |
| 8 | Ministers who resigned from the Uniting Church in Australia | Derek Schiller
Benjamin Webb |

Appendix 2

Governing body member changes since the 34th Synod

(as at 1 October 2020)

Audit and Risk Committee

Resignation effective 21 January 2020:

Mr Allan Hanson (chairperson)

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2019 to 6 June 2022:

Dr Marilyn Healy (SSC representative)

Mr Greg Braithwaite (SSC representative)

Appointed from 5 July 2019 to 23 October 2020:

Mr Ralph Collins (chairperson from 7 February 2020)

Concluded effective 17 May 2019 (upon cessation as SSC representatives):

Mr Geoff Batkin

Mr Ralph Collins

Reappointed for a three-year term from 24 October 2020 to 23 October 2023:

Mr Ralph Collins (chairperson)

Board for Christian Formation

Appointed effective 5 July 2019:

Dr Paul Jones (ex-officio)

Calvary Christian College Council

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2019 to 6 June 2022:

Mrs Norelle Deeth

Cromwell College Board

Reappointed for a three-year term from 7 October 2019 to 6 October 2022:

Mrs Judy Young

Ms Dayrelle Abbey

Finance, Investment and Property Board

Resignation effective 9 August 2019:

Rev Linda Hamill

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023:

Mr Geoff Batkin

Reappointed for a three-year term from 24 October 2020 to 23 October 2023:

Mr Geoffery Ericksson

Grace College Council

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2019 to 6 June 2022:

Mrs Jocelyn Manique

John Flynn College Council

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 September 2019 to 8 September 2022:

Dr Naomi Gardiner

Mr Graham Huth

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 October 2019 to 6 October 2022:

Rev Wendy McHugh

Resignation effective 31 December 2019:

Rev Barry Cox

Term ended on 6 April 2020:

Rev Bruce Cornish

Reappointed for a one-year term from 7 April 2020 to 6 April 2021:

Prof David King

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 July 2020 to 6 July 2023:

Ms Leisa Lance

Reappointed for a three-year term from 7 August 2020 to 6 August 2023:

Mrs Heather Humphries

The Lakes College Board

Term ended on 6 April 2020:

Mr Craig Mercer

Reappointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2019 to 6 June 2022:

Mr Gary Adsett

Reappointed for a three-year term from 16 June 2020 to 15 June 2023:

Mrs Melva Hobson

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 July 2019 to 8 July 2022:

Ms Kate Hands

Legal Reference Committee

Appointed for a three-year term from 3 May 2019 to 2 May 2022:

Mrs Amanda Hickey (chairperson)

Resignation effective 28 August 2019:

Mrs Amanda Hickey (chairperson)

Concluded effective 5 December 2019 (committee disbanded):

Mr Jim Demack

Ms Jodi Palmer

Rev Heather den Houting

Moreton Bay College Board

Reappointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022:

Mr Neil Ballment

Appointed for the period from 5 August 2019 to 1 July 2021:

Mr Peter Bickerton

Reappointed for the period from 1 July 2020 to 31 July 2021:

Mr Col Sutcliffe

Reappointed for the period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020:

Ms Julie Beeby

Reappointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023:

Mrs Adele Nisbet

Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group

Concluded effective 14 June 2019:

Rev Kath Behan (ex-officio)

Appointed effective 15 June 2019:

Rev John Ruhle (ex-officio)

Resignation effective 10 July 2019:

Ms Akesa Racava (chairperson)

Appointed for a three-year term from 8 November 2019 to 7 November 2022:

Rev Louisa Yu (chairperson)

Resignation effective 9 December 2019:

Mrs Kemerli Lievano

Rev Esteban Leivano

Resignation effective 3 February 2020:

Mr Peter Lien Zual T.boy

Reappointed for a three-year term from 6 April 2020 to 5 April 2023:

Rev Tevita Takai

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 May 2020 to 6 May 2023:

Ms Peggy Chigeza

Pastor Application Committee

Reappointed for a three-year term from 7 April 2020 to 6 April 2023:

Dr Marilyn Healy

Rev Helen Dick

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 April 2020 to 6 April 2023:

Mr Tim Bennett

Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) Council

Resignation effective 31 March 2020:

Mr Greg Braithwaite

Resignation effective 20 March 2020:

Mr Greg Adsett (chairperson)

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 July 2020 to 5 July 2023:

Mr Peter Barker

Remuneration and Nomination Committee

Concluded effective 17 May 2019 (upon amendment to committee composition):

Rev David Baker

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2019 to 6 June 2022:

Mr Dale Ham

Rev Bruce Moore (SSC representative)

Resignation effective 30 June 2020:

Mr John Lister (chairperson)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023:

Ms Natalie Smith (chairperson)

Reappointed for a three-year term from 20 October 2020 to 19 October 2023:

Ms Bronwyn Clarkson

Schools and Residential Colleges Commission

Term ended on 17 May 2019:

Mr Peter Campbell (chairperson)

Appointed for a three-year term from 20 May 2019 to 19 May 2022:

Ms Jessica Lipsett

Appointed for a three-year term from 13 July 2020 to 12 July 2023:

Mr Nigel Fairbairn

Scots PGC College Council

Resignation effective 4 August 2019:

Mr Bruce Howden

Reappointed for a three-year term from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022:

Mr Martin Webb

Appointed for a three-year term from 9 September 2019 to 8 September 2022:

Mrs Flo Kearney

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 October 2020 to 5 October 2023:

Mr Jason Sprott

Synod Chaplaincy Commission

Reappointed for the period from 2 February 2020 to 30 June 2020:

Rev Brian Hoole

Rev Bruce Moore

Reappointed for the period from 2 February 2020 to 30 June 2020, resignation effective 21 June 2020:

Rev Julie Mackay

Reappointed for the period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020:

Rev Brian Hoole

Rev Bruce Moore

Synod Committee for Counselling

Resignation effective 10 July 2019:

Ms Akesa Racava

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 August 2019 to 1 August 2022:

Rev Karen Ross

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 February 2020 to 5 February 2023:

Ms Jenny Maree Noble

Ms Margaret Goody

Rev Diane Judith Bos

Resignation effective 6 February 2020:

Rev Gerda Olafsen

Rev Lynne Gibson

Appointed for a three-year term from 5 March 2020 to 4 March 2023:

Mr Bruce Binnie

Mrs Wendy Hoskin

Ms Fiona Patterson

Rev Harlee Cooper

Reappointed for a three-year term from 9 March 2020 to 8 March 2023:

Rev Peter Blauw

Rev Douglas Foster (chairperson)

Synod Committee for Discipline

Reappointed for a three-year term from 5 June 2020 to 4 June 2023:

Mr Ian Park

Mrs Sue Crittall

Rev Heather Allison

Rev Jan Whyte

Rev Keren Seto

Rev Lyn Burden

Rev Dr Paul Walton

Synod Disaster Response and Community Recovery Committee

Resignation effective 17 May 2019:

Rev Kaye Ronalds (chairperson)

Appointed for a three-year term from 18 May 2019 to 17 May 2022:

Rev Peter Armstrong

Resignation effective 4 June 2019:

Rev Malcolm Bottrill

Appointed for a three-year term from 6 June 2019 to 5 June 2022:

Rev Julia Pitman

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2023:

Mr Stephen Robinson

Appointed effective 1 January 2020, appointed chairperson from 17 April 2020 to 16 May 2023:

Rev Linda Hamill

Appointed for a three-year term from 14 February 2020 to 14 February 2023:

Rev Yvonne McRostie

Reappointed for a three-year term from 27 May 2020 to 27 May 2023:

Mr David Hawke

Rev Bruce Moore
Rev Leonie Gaffel

Synod Ecumenical Relations Committee

Reappointed for the period from 4 June 2019 to 25 November 2020, resignation effective 19 December 2019:

Rev Dr Clive Ayre

Reappointed for a three-year term from 4 June 2019 to 3 June 2022:

Mr John Agnew

Appointed for a three-year term from 5 July 2019 to 4 July 2022:

Mr Tim Bennett

Rev Matt O'Donoghue

Reappointed for a three-year term from 7 July 2019 to 6 July 2022:

Rev Russell Morris

Ms Fiona Patterson

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 August 2019 to 1 August 2022:

Rev Aaron Moad

Reappointed for a three-year term from 2 August 2019 to 1 August 2022:

Rev Nathan Barton

Synod Interfaith Relations Committee

Appointed for a three-year term from 2 August 2019 to 1 August 2022:

Rev Lyn Burden

Reappointed for the period from 2 August 2019 to 7 October 2020:

Mr John Agnew

Rev Heather Griffin

Reappointed for the period from 2 August 2019 to 1 August 2022:

Mrs Philipa Core

Reappointed for the period from 2 August 2019 to 24 May 2022:

Rev Garth Read

Reappointed for a two-year term from 8 October 2020 to 7 October 2022:

Mr John Agnew

Rev Heather Griffin

Synod Reception of Ministers Committee

Appointed effective 5 July 2019:

Dr Paul Jones (ex-officio)

Appointed for a three-year term from 14 July 2019 to 13 July 2022:

Mrs Jenny Brecknell

Rev Yvonne McRostie

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh

Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaint Committee – Members

Appointed for a three-year term from 7 June 2019 to 6 June 2022:

Ms Margaret Goody (chairperson)

Term ended on 31 August 2019:

Mr Ross Kerley

Reappointed for a three-year term from 1 September 2019 to 1 September 2022:

Ms Lauris Clarke

Reappointed for a three-year term from 2 February 2020 to 1 February 2023:

Rev Diane Bos

Reappointed for a three-year term from 6 April 2020 to 5 April 2023:

Rev Brian Gilbert

Term ended on 4 June 2020:

Mr Douglas Winten

Reappointed for a three-year term from 5 June 2020 to 4 June 2023:

Rev Bob Miles

Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaint Committee – Advisers

Resignation effective 6 November 2019:

Mr Gavin Caird

Appointed for a three-year term from 3 December 2019 to 2 December 2022:

Ms Jenny Brecknell

Rev Faye Talatonu

Rev Peter Taubner

Reappointed for a three-year term from 7 September 2020 to 6 September 2023:

Mrs Margaret Niethe

Rev Ian Wilson

Rev Raymond Nutley

Rev Robert Callow

Rev Russell Reynoldson

Synod Standing Committee

Concluded effective 6 June 2019 (upon cessation as FIPB and RNC representative):

Mr Ralph Collins

Mr John Lister

Appointed effective 7 June 2019:

Mr Paul Newman

Resignation effective 2 July 2019:

Dr Daniel Pampuch

Excused effective 21 July 2019:

Rev Kaye Ronalds

UnitingCare Queensland Board

Reappointed for a two-year term from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022:

Mr Chris Townend

Reappointed for a three-year term from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023:

Mr Nigel Alexander (chairperson)

Appointed for a three-year term from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023:

Ms Alison Quinn



Ms Justine Cain

The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.)

Resignation effective 9 August 2019:

Rev Linda Hamill

Wesley Mission Queensland Board

Reappointed for a three-year term from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022:

Mr Chris Grover

Ms Sherree Halliwell

Reappointed for the period from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2022:

Mr Con Graves

Mr Paul Newman (chairperson)

35th Synod Business Committee

Committee established comprising:

Moderator

Moderator-elect

General Secretary

Associate General Secretary

Executive Officer Corporate

Rev Brian Kickbusch

Any additional members as agreed and appointed by the Moderator and General Secretary.

Appendix 3

Minutes of appreciation

Greg Adsett (20.53)

Greg Adsett retired from the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) Board in March 2020 after serving his maximum nine year tenure. Mr Adsett was appointed as a representative of the Uniting Church to the PMSA Board in 2011 and elected Chair in August 2017. In his final message as Chair, Mr Adsett commented that the PMSA today is very different from his first year on the Board.

Organisationally and culturally, Greg contributed to the evolution of the PMSA Board, with the Board now more strategic in focus and vision and more connected to the schools and the churches. Mr Adsett can be proud of his efforts to build and rebuild relationships with broad and diverse stakeholders of the PMSA, whether that's the Presbyterian or Uniting Churches or directly with parents and past students of their schools. His guiding hand was instrumental in developing a new Constitution for PMSA. Greg has helped steer PMSA through difficult times with clear, ethical and coherent processes

During his time on the PMSA Board, Greg also served as Chair of the Sunshine Coast Grammar School from 2013–2017 and lead the significant growth of this wonderful and comparatively new school.

Greg has also served on the Schools and Residential Colleges Commission and Synod Standing Committee.

Greg's quiet but strong leadership has been invaluable on each board he has served. Greg is a loyal and faithful servant of the Uniting Church.

Rev Dr Clive Ayre (20.53)

This year Rev Dr Clive Ayre concludes his term of service on the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee, serving as its secretary for much of that time.

Clive has made a significant contribution to ecumenical affairs spanning several decades including a period as General Secretary of the Queensland Ecumenical Council of Churches which preceded Queensland Churches Together. He has served the Uniting Church through Queensland Churches Together in a variety of ways, most recently as a member of its executive. He was a founding member of the Queensland Churches Environmental network.

As well as being an enthusiastic promoter of ecumenical ideals, Clive has been a meticulous and

diligent secretary who has kept us focussed on the agenda at hand – always attentive to the detail, but never losing sight of the breadth of the ecumenical vision. He was a worthy recipient of the SERC Award at the last Synod.

The Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee is deeply appreciative of Clive's insight and wisdom. We will miss him but wish him well in his future endeavours.

Rev David Baker – Moderator 2014-2020 (20.53)

David (Dave) began his first Moderatorial term in October 2014 and was re-elected for a second term in October 2017.

Dave brought to the Moderator's role a breadth of engagement across the many layers of our Church. His active congregational ministry, most specifically his time in regional and suburban south east Queensland where he developed his love and understanding of congregational life, great and small. That homely and wise style that Dave uses so well to communicate messages of great complexity with seeming ease, weaving in life stories with scriptural foundations was crafted in his congregational experiences.

Dave's role as Presbytery Minister – Bremer Brisbane saw him engaging the wider church, especially through his membership of the Synod Standing Committee where he gained insight and understanding of the bigger picture and where he honed the belief that "we are all together in this" rather than "we are all in this together." In this role he was instrumental in the development of the Queensland Community Alliance as a vehicle for the Church and the community to work together on the life needs of people. This commitment to the Alliance carried over into his Moderator role and gave impetus to the strong belief that the Church must not stay only within its own borders.

As Moderator the unmistakable "Dave style" has come to the fore, especially as he has navigated us, the Church, through some challenging times within our Synod, across the National Uniting Church and as Christians in this country. His personal style, loved and admired by many, means that he engages in a generous and genuinely open way which is one of his greatest gifts to the Church and for which we thank God.

Dave has the courage to skilfully ask the difficult questions while seamlessly providing wisdom to move forward, often with a touch of humour. He has consulted widely, tending to think problems through "out loud" which can be disconcerting but once understood gives great insight into thought development and arrival at a position.

The Presbytery Ministers have contributed the following to this Minute of Appreciation when asked to describe Dave's contribution to the role and the life of the Church:

- Encouragement
- Listening
- Pastoral heart, with special reference to his support for the Presbytery Ministers

- Commitment to Presbytery-Synod collaboration
- Astute and discerning
- Widely read, in touch with current issues, not trapped in the ‘church bubble’
- His fund of stories and anecdotes, speaking of his deep experience in and love for the Church
- Commitment to finding and supporting the next leaders – he is a “people visionary”
- Breadth of view of the Church – has affinity with the regional and rural Church
- Draws us back to the gospel and our core purpose as Church
- Humour, lightness and friendliness
- Challenges the status quo – not afraid to speak his mind.

Dave has served on a large number of boards and committees not just as an ex-officio member but as an active and engaged member. Dave has always given 100 per cent of himself to each task, and has not been afraid to use the influence of the Moderator role to bring about change in particular areas of mission and ministry. To cite two examples.

- The Heads of Churches appointed Dave as the Institutions Representative on the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Task Force dealing with Institutional Sexual Assault.
- Dave spearheaded and sponsored an improved governance structure for Religious Instruction in schools forming the Queensland Christian Religious Instruction Alliance of fourteen member denominations.

The Queensland Synod thanks Dave’s family Joan, Nick, Alex and Theo for their care of and support of Dave in this time and energy consuming role for the fruitful benefit to the whole Church.

To you Dave, the Queensland Synod says a heartfelt thank you for being who you are, your unstinting devotion and commitment to the people of God, your loyalty, plain speaking and your faith in Jesus Christ. We wish you every blessing as you move into your new ecumenical role. We know that you will serve there with passion and distinction as you have served us.

Geoff Batkin (20.53)

Geoff has been at the helm of Wesley Mission Queensland (WMQ) for the past 23 years, leading by example, demonstrating passion, enthusiasm and an unwavering compassion for people in need.

Geoff’s achievements in 23 years have been many; including diversifying Wesley Mission Queensland’s core service areas, partnering with likeminded organisations and growing the business to where it is today: a leading community services organisation with 3000 employees, across 70 geographical locations, supporting more than 100,000 people every year.

Geoff began as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of WMQ in 1997 with an annual budget of \$24 million and 90 per cent of WMQ focussed on residential aged care. Over the last 23 years, Geoff has increased the annual budget ten-fold (\$240 million), and has grown and diversified the community services sector to now comprise more than half of the business, including a significant focus on mental health services, which now support people from Hervey Bay to the Gold Coast.

During Geoff's tenure he has been pivotal in supporting people on the margins of our society. He has partnered with local congregations, likeminded organisations and individuals, and governments to deliver much-needed services for people in need including supported accommodation communities for younger adults living with disabilities, the Logan Youth Foyer (supported housing for adolescents), and Queensland's only children's hospice—Hummingbird House—which now proudly stands at the Wheller Gardens site at Chermside and supports hundreds of families each year with children living with life-limiting conditions.

Geoff oversaw the construction of Wheller on the Park, Aldersgate and Rosemount Retirement Living communities, and a number of state-of-the-art residential aged care homes (Anam Cara, John Wesley Gardens, Parkview and Dovetree). WMQ now has 1000 aged care places and 600 people living in retirement living locations around Brisbane. Geoff was also fundamental in the redevelopment of the Ann Street site which enabled construction of the nine story Wesley House building, home to the Albert Street Church offices and a variety of commercial tenancies.

1 John 2:6 reads "whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus lived." Geoff Batkin AM has been a living example of Christ's love—demonstrating the values and qualities of the kingdom of God as an expression of his discipleship. His humility and kindness, his courage and compassion, his leadership and servanthood have been a wonderful gift to Wesley Mission Queensland, the Queensland Synod, and indeed the wider community.

On behalf of the Synod, we would like to congratulate Geoff on his services to the aged and community sectors, and wish him well in retirement.

Ralph Collins (20.53)

Ralph has been a member of the Finance, Investment and Property Board as well as the Property Trust since 2007 and Chair since 2010. He is also a director of Deaf Services Queensland. Ralph was formerly a board member of Brisbane Lifeline and Kings College (St Lucia). He has worked in the financial services sector for over 30 years and is currently balancing retirement with returning to work as an actuary in the superannuation industry.

Ralph has a passion for working within the church to best use its resources and has been involved in working with trustees and boards in the development of investment strategies.

Ralph has shown significant leadership skill over his long tenure. He has assisted the church navigate through the global financial crisis (GFC) and also the COVID-19 pandemic. He has encouraged Synod office staff in their work over the years and has been a valuable resource for organisation knowledge. Ralph is a mission focussed individual and this was evident in the way that meetings were conducted, and decisions made. Ralph injected humour into the meetings and, while the subject matter was serious, the meetings were fun!

Ralph was previously a member, secretary and elder of the Trinity Grove Wilston Church prior to its recent closure.

The Board is grateful to the time Ralph has willingly given, and we are sure he will continue to use his skills as an active participant in the life of the church.

Allan Hanson (20.53)

As a result of the governance review of Synod supporting committees, the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) was formed in early 2018. Mr Alan Hanson was appointed the inaugural Chair of that Committee. He resigned from that role in January 2020.

From the very beginning as Chair, Alan demonstrated his deep passion and commitment to the mission of the church. As part of the church that oversees the implementation of church activities, the function of risk and assurance is critical. The foundational question that a chair of such committee must hold is: Will the mission of the church be circumvented by any risk to that mission and what strategies are in place to mitigate that risk?

In the light of Royal Commissions into historical activities of the church, such a question becomes even more potent. As such, Alan brought a passion, commitment and discipline to the church which was matched by the evolving capacity of the Synod office to measure and report on such risks. Together, Alan, the Committee and the Synod office developed a strong and robust view of their role and the committee saw a significant maturing of that function.

Alan oversaw the development of resources to support:

- The maturing risk appetite and assurance capacity of the Synod;
- The development of the National Insurance Plan cooperation agreement;
- The origins of a contemporary and appropriate risk register for the whole of Synod including the regular monitoring and mitigation of high-risk activities of the Synod;
- The development of appropriate legal resources within the Synod office to properly respond to the increase of litigation and redress against the church as a result of historical sexual abuse claims;
- The maturing of the church's safe church processes including the formalisation of policies around Blue Cards;
- The development of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod Schools Risk Management Framework; and
- The development and maturing of the response to Workplace Health and Safety obligations including clear information across the church of the responsibilities of a Person Undertaking a Business Undertaking (PCBU).

Alan was highly engaged in ensuring that the activities of the Committee were regularly reported to the Synod Standing Committee and the Finance, Investment and Property (FIP) Board. This important connection provided assurance to Synod governing bodies that no risk was left unnoticed, and Alan's constant call to the church was to address risks promptly and appropriately.

It is with thanks that we acknowledge the gifts and skills Alan brought to this role, and the Synod is deeply appreciative of his pioneering work in this space.

John Lister (20.53)

John was chairperson of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee (RNC) from its creation at the 33rd Synod in October 2017 until his resignation on 30 June 2020. Prior to this John served on the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee (GNRC) for three years from October 2014 until October 2017. John was also a member of the Finance Investment and Property Board (FIPB) for three years from October 2017 to October 2020, and has previously served on the Synod Standing Committee.

John has been an active participant in the Uniting Church over many years, including various officeholder positions with Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, member of South Moreton Presbytery, and secretary and chair of the Mission Resource Committee of South Moreton Presbytery.

John's background in senior management positions within the electricity and telecommunications industries, and his previous governance and board chair experience, brought invaluable insights to the work of the RNC and the GNRC.

As the founding chair of the RNC, John contributed to many significant pieces of work including:

- foundational work on training plans for Synod governing body members as part of an ongoing program of work to improve governance
- recruitment and selection policy, procedure and tools for Synod governing bodies
- performance review process of Synod governing bodies
- overseeing significant pieces of work on long service leave and fringe benefits administration.

His experience was extremely useful as the RNC navigated many foundational pieces of work to embed consistent and contemporary practices into remuneration, nomination and governance aspects of the work of the Synod. John's congregational and presbytery experience provided valuable perspectives to RNC discussions, and his skilled chairing of the RNC ensured robust discernment.

John was also an active contributor to the FIPB during his term. His professional and management background was highly valued given the types of strategic and long-term decisions the FIPB was required to make. His passion for ensuring decisions had positive outcomes for the individual entity making the application, as well as for the wider church, was always front and centre. His positive nature and deep knowledge of the Uniting Church and its people helped the FIPB operate in a most positive manner.

John's passion and dedication to the work of the RNC, the FIPB and the church more broadly has been unwavering. The RNC and FIPB is grateful to the time and commitment John has given, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Howard Morrison (20.53)

Howard was a member of the Finance Investment and Property (FIP) Board from 20 May 2016 to 22 July 2020.

Howard is a self-employed Asset Management Consultant. Howard has previously held a variety of senior engineering and managerial roles in the electricity industry which provided him with a strong understanding of risk management, financial management and real property management expertise. This breadth of skills was invaluable to the Board as it considered the many proposals from across the church which were presented for a decision from the Board. Howard's knowledge helped the Board to establish strong policies and procedures to ensure wise stewardship of the assets held by the church.

Howard was always willing to ask the hard question, especially if it related to asset management / property management. He engaged with Synod office staff on many occasions and his experience will continue to influence asset and property management policy.

Howard has been an active member of the Karana Downs Uniting Church and is currently Church Council Secretary.

The Board is grateful to the time Howard has willingly given, and we are sure he will continue to use his skills as an active participant in the life of the church.

Rev Gerda Olafsen (20.53)

This year brings to an end Rev Gerda Olafsen's time of service on the Committee for Counselling.

Gerda has served on the Committee for Counselling for over 11 years since 2009 (23 May 2009 until 9 March 2020). This includes four terms as chairperson of the committee.

Her leadership, commitment, discernment, guidance and sheer stickability has been greatly appreciated. Gerda has a huge breadth of experience across numerous mission and ministry work and placements within the life of the church and this experience has greatly assisted her work within the Committee for Counselling and has provided wise counsel and support for the committee members.

Her willingness to serve the church in this demanding role has been a gift across the life of the Synod. Gerda's leadership has provided significant support to multiple Moderators and General Secretaries and her sense of diligence and wisdom has been highly valued.

The Synod Committee for Counselling is deeply appreciative of Gerda's insight and wisdom. We will miss her and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Appendix 4

Ministerial Retirements and Memorial Minutes

Refer separate document.

Appendix 5

Minutes of awards

Mrs Pam Whebell (20.56)

Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee Award

People working quietly in the background often make some of the greatest contributions to the ecumenical enterprise. Pam Whebell is one of those quiet achievers. Many will remember Pam best working alongside Don in his various ministry capacities. However, the Synod Ecumenical Relationship Committee wishes to remember her many years of service working as the personal assistant to the Queensland Churches Together General Secretary.

At heart, the ecumenical spirit is one of joyful hospitality – a transformative hospitality which embraces wide diversity and builds community. Pam Whebell embodied such transformative hospitality.

Working alongside three QCT general secretaries, Pam offered a warm welcome and ready listening ear to all who came into contact with the QCT office. She had a special fondness for those from various local ecumenical groups and collaborations and nothing delighted her more than the opportunity for a welcoming chat when folk came to the office to collect resources for the annual Christmas Bowl and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

However, transformative hospitality is a way of life. Not just an office procedure. Pam lives out this spirit in all the spheres of her life. In honouring her, we recognise many thousands of quiet achievers just like her who have caught the vision of building a uniting church and continue to live out a transformative, community building hospitality each and every day.

Rev Ansie Liebenberg (20.57)

Spirit of Synod Award

Rev Ansie Liebenberg has been the Minister at Warwick Killarney Freestone Cluster of the Uniting Church since January 2016.

Having come from the church in South Africa, Ansie has been intentional about “tuning in” to the culture, customs and practices of the Uniting Church in Australia. She has read and re-read the Regulation in order to understand the intention and application of those regulations.

During the first few months Ansie and Willie visited most of the people on the contact list and hosted many couples and families in their own home so that they could explore what they needed from the Uniting Church in the district and what the people would like to offer in terms of gifts,

talents and capacities.

Ansie led the Church Council through a time of re-imagining and refreshment. New leaders are on board and the Leaders and Elders who had served for many years were thanked and retired. The structure of meetings changed so that the committees of the Church Council could do their work and have their submissions ready for the monthly meeting.

Recognising that the future of the congregation at Warwick required a shift from traditional worship offered in the same old way Ansie facilitated a conversation that has led to a family style service being added to the Sunday morning schedule and the more traditional one maintained. Lively worship, age appropriate and family centred has been achieved and new leaders trained.

The renovation of systems and people has included re-orienting the sandstone building from portrait to landscape for worship at Warwick.

A community garden was established outside the church and funding was gained from the Southern Downs Regional Council for the tanks and planter boxes. It has become a place where people wander and wonder in God's garden.

Even the way that the buildings and grounds are maintained was re-shaped. Instead of individuals and families turning up for their rostered duties the whole congregation was divided alphabetically in four. Each Saturday morning the alphabetical grouping gathered, with coffee and treats provided by the Liebenbergs. In an atmosphere buzzing with energy the people of God shared the responsibility of caring for the spaces where people gather for worship and outreach.

Ansie fosters leadership amongst her teams. She has teams involved with Mainly Music, pastoral visitation and involvement in preparing worship. Ansie gathers them for training and fellowship.

For about three years Ansie also served on the School Council of Scots PGC College but after a time she realised that it was a tricky space to inhabit given that her husband was the chaplain at the school.

Ansie has served on the Standing Committee of the Presbytery and continues to be a corresponding member. She has served on JNCs and Consultations whenever she was asked.

Ansie and Willie take discipleship seriously. They have run an Alpha program for a couple of years now which has been transformative for the people who participated. I think it was more about the quality of the relationships that Ansie builds with the participants than the content of the program!

Ansie has worked with her husband, Rev Willie Liebenberg, to re-invigorate the congregation of Freestone. They met with the members of the congregation and discerned the best time to gather for worship in order to make it possible for the farming community (mostly dairy) to attend. As it was a season of drought, Ansie visited the farmers in the district to support and pray for those people and to deliver gifts of cash provided anonymously by someone from the Warwick congregation. The Freestone congregation decided to renovate the simple old church and they



celebrated the re-dedication of the 155 year old building in February 2020 with media attention on ABC evening news.

When Ansie was invited to participate in the post graduate leadership program sponsored by the Synod she grabbed the opportunity. Now she is actively engaged in the Plentiful Leadership program and applies her learnings with great creativity and insight.

When COVID 19 began to impact the way we meet and worship Ansie and Willie began an morning devotional on Facebook which has been appreciated around the world!

The five years since Ansie arrived in the congregations of Warwick, Killarney and Freestone have not been easy for the family. Willie has not been on a full-time placement at the school (currently 0.8 but earlier only 0.7). Not being Australian citizens means that they do not qualify for Medicare and they start "behind" on all the measures for saving for their own home and superannuation.

During the time that they were considering taking up placements in Australia the deal was that you come on a temporary visa and after two years apply for permanent residency. The Australian Government changed the rules just about the time they committed to come to Australia. Applying for work visas has required an enormous amount of expense and work to gather and submit and re-submit the necessary documents and medical checks. The long drawn out process has strained everything and the Synod has only recently secured a Labour Agreement.

Rev Ansie Liebenberg lives out and promotes the five priorities embraced by the 33rd Synod and is intentional and effective in her leadership. Her sense of call remains vital in spite of some difficult times.

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