



# General Proposal 6

## Uniting Church Membership for Appointment to a Synod Governing Body

### That the Synod

Requests the General Secretary to review By-Law Q2.7.8(1)(f) in relation to Uniting Church Membership for members of Synod Governing Bodies, and provide a report on that review and any recommendations, to the Synod Standing Committee for decision prior to the 37<sup>th</sup> Synod to enable Synod Governing Bodies to remain fit for purpose.

### The Scope

The proposal consists of reviewing the application of By-Law Q2.7.8 (1) (f) in relation to Synod Governing Bodies that have a Charter approved by the Synod Standing Committee, with reference to:

- The Governing Bodies “Purpose”, “Responsibilities” and “Synod governing bodies nomination criteria” as stated in its Charter
- The Capabilities Matrix for the Synod Governing Body, expected to be approved by the Synod Standing Committee during the next Synodal term
- Whether By-Law Q2.7.1 (1) should be amended to provide for By-Law Q2.7.8 (1) (f) to not apply to all or some members of a Synod Governing Body

### Rationale

‘Shared Life, Flourishing Communities’ has a mission priority for the Church to be fit for purpose, with a particular commitment to review the governance structure. While we recognise that through the Basis of Union, the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ’s Church with a diversity of gifts, Governing Bodies of the church operate in an ever increase complex environment. Governing Body members must have skills, attributes and perspectives that allow the Governing Body to fulfil their purpose and undertake appropriate discernment to discharge its responsibilities.

By-law Q2.7.8(1)(f) specifies that one of the eligibility requirements for appointment to Synod governing bodies is that a person must be a member of the Uniting Church. This By-law applies to all Synod governing bodies.

The applicable by-law extracts are below.

**Q2.7.8 Eligibility for office**

(1) The eligibility requirements for appointment to a Synod governing body are that a person appointed must:

- (f) be a member of the Uniting Church; and

**Q2.7.1 General**

(1) The By-laws outlined in this section apply to all Synod governing bodies except:

- (a) the Synod Committee for Counselling;
- (b) the Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee;
- (c) the Synod Committee for Discipline; and
- (d) Institutions and Agencies of the Synod (with the exception of Bylaw Q2.7.13)

Charters currently identify the purpose, responsibility and required membership requirements for the Synod Governing Body. This includes any skills, attributes and perspectives that have been recommended for a Synod Governing Body through consultation with the governing body’s Chairperson and others (refer to [E1.6.1.2 Governing Body Skills, Attributes and Perspectives Definitions](#)). Of the above Synod Governing Bodies, Audit and Risk Committee, Remuneration and Nomination Committee and Schools and Residential Colleges Commission have recommended skills, attributes and perspectives.

The following Synod Governing Bodies have a Charter approved by the Synod Standing Committee:

Governing body	SSC approval date	Resolution #
Audit and Risk Committee	1/04/2021	SSC 21.072
Remuneration and Nomination Committee	6/05/2021	SSC 21.090
Board for Christian Formation	3/09/2020	SSC 20.227
Finance, Investment and Property Board	6/08/2020	SSC 20.201
Schools and Residential Colleges Commission	28/05/2020	SSC 20.134
Synod Chaplaincy Commission	3/06/2021	SSC 21.118
Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee	6/09/2019	SSC 19.174
Synod Inter-Faith Relationships Committee	30/04/2020	SSC 20.103
Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group	10/05/2019	SSC 19.083
Synod Reception of Ministers Committee	10/05/2019	SSC 19.083
Disaster Response and Community Recovery Committee (Queensland)	6/09/2018	SSC 18.199

The review by the General Secretary will identify the application of By-Law Q2.7.8(1)(f) to the governing body member's ability to fulfil the governing bodies purpose and discharge its responsibilities. The review will include appropriate consultations, analysis and findings. Recommendations will include what changes to By-Law Q2.7.1 (1) would need to be made in line with the review findings.

This is not to say that By-Law Q2.7.8(1)(f) should not apply to a Governing Body in its entirety, but rather whether there is a need for some flexibility where specific skills, attributes and perspectives are of critical importance to the considerations of the governing body in order to serve the Church.

## Proposers

### The proposer and seconder:

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