



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

MINUTES

of the

NINTH MEETING OF THE

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Held in Melbourne
17 – 21 September 2011



Moderator: Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson

General Secretary: Rev Rob Brown

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THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SYNOD HELD IN MELBOURNE

17 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

All activities were held at La Trobe University, Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora

11.1 SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2011

11.1.1 WELCOME

The Moderator occupied the chair, welcomed those present at the meeting and declared the Synod session open.

An acknowledgement of country was made by Rev Willie Pickett, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Victoria.

11.1.2 DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplains, Ms Sue Clarkson and Rev David Fotheringham led worship with hymns, a reading and prayers.

11.1.3 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Prof Howard Wallace, Professor of Old Testament, Centre for Theology and Ministry.

11.1.4 OPENING BUSINESS

The Moderator welcomed Rev Alistair Macrae, the President of the National Assembly; Rev Glenda Blakefield, Associate General Secretary of the National Assembly; and Dr Shirley Coulson, General Secretary of the Queensland Synod.

The theological reflector, Rev Kylie Crabbe, was also welcomed by the Moderator.

Mr John Bridge, Synod Occupational Health and Safety Advisor, addressed the meeting regarding occupational health and safety issues and emergency procedures throughout the Synod.

11.1.4.1 Orientation Session

Dr Jill Tabart and Mr Drew Hanna led an orientation session regarding table groups, use of name tags, questions concerning reports, the facilitation group, responsibilities of the Synod, consensus decision-making, proposals, protocols, procedures, general information and the agenda.

Rev Steve Terrell, sound manager, addressed the meeting regarding the use of microphones and the sound system.

11.1.4.2 Appointments and Associations

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.1.1).

11.1.4.3 Roll of Synod

The General Secretary tabled the Roll of Synod and announced that it would be adopted at 3.00pm, Sunday 18 September.

11.1.4.4 Greetings to and from other Synods

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

Verbal greetings were received from other Synods and the General Secretary noted that the Synod of Western Australia was meeting at the same time as this Synod.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.3).

11.1.4.5 Confirmation of Synod 2011 Minutes

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.4).

11.1.5 BUSINESS COMMITTEE AND SYNOD 2011 PROCEDURES (REPORT C1)

Mr Geoffrey Grinton, Synod Business Manager, spoke to a written report.

Three resolutions were passed by consensus (11.6.1.2, 11.6.2, and 11.6.27.1)

11.1.6 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE (REPORT C4a & C4b)

The General Secretary spoke to a written report.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (11.6.5.1 and 11.6.5.2).

11.1.7 GENERAL SECRETARY (REPORT D1)

The General Secretary spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.6.1).

11.1.8 MODERATOR'S REPORT

The Moderator spoke to a report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.7).

11.1.9 AUDIT COMMITTEE (REPORT C3)

Mr Ben Cohen, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, and Rev Julie Ross, member of the Audit Committee, spoke to a written report.

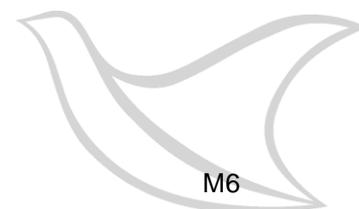
A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.8).

11.1.10 GRACE

The Moderator offered grace before lunch.

11.1.11 WORKING GROUPS

The Synod met in working groups to discuss the reports and proposals.



11.1.12 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

A Service of Worship, including the Eucharist, was held in Union Hall, La Trobe University, Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora and was attended by approximately 450 people.

The preacher was Rev Alistair Macrae, President of the National Assembly.

11.2 SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2011

11.2.1 SERVICE OF TRIBUTES AND THANKSGIVING

The Moderator welcomed the special guests to the Service of Thanksgiving for the life and witness of ministers and deaconesses, including those:

- (a) who have died since the 2010 meeting of Synod;
- (b) who have retired since the 2010 meeting of Synod;
- (c) who have celebrated 50, 60, 65 and 70 years since ordination or commissioning, since the 2010 meeting of Synod;
- (d) who have been ordained since the 2010 meeting of Synod; and
- (e) who have been received from another denomination or re-admitted since the 2010 meeting of Synod.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.9).

Rev Dr Robin Boyd responded on behalf of those recognised in the tributes.

11.2.2 ADOPTION OF THE ROLL OF SYNOD

The General Secretary proposed the adoption of the Synod Roll.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.10).

11.2.3 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS (UAICC)

11.2.3.1 Victoria (REPORT C5a)

Rev Ken Sumner, Chairperson, UAICC Victoria; Rev John Rickard and Rev Willie Pickett spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.11.1.1).

11.2.3.2 Tasmania (REPORT C5b)

Rev Grant Finlay spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.11.2).

11.2.4 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MR VINCE ROSS

Rev Rob Brown, the General Secretary, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.11.1.2).

Mr Vince Ross, former Chairperson, UAICC Victoria, addressed the meeting in reply. The Moderator acknowledged the contribution of Mrs Enid Ross to this ministry and concluded with a prayer.

11.2.5 CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY (REPORT B1)

Dr Jill Tabart, Chairperson, Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) Board; Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes, Executive Director, CTM; Mr Rohan Pryor, Lay Leadership

Educator, Mr Chris Barnett, Children and Families Ministry; and Rev Prof Randall Prior, Principal, Theological College, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.12.1).

11.2.6 'ON THE WAY' INTERVIEW

Rev Deac David Webster, a pioneer minister, North-West Tasmania was interviewed by Ms Penny Mulvey, Director, Communications and Media Services, on the 'On the Way Together' priority of discipleship.

11.2.7 ECUMENICAL AWARDS

Ms Joan McRae, Chairperson of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, introduced Mr Gavin Faichney, Convenor of the Awards Panel. The Moderator presented the following awards:

Individual Award:	Mr Ted Young, St David's Uniting Church , Oakleigh
Group Award:	
Highly Commended	Healesville Uniting Church
Winner	St Leonard's Uniting Church, Brighton

11.2.8 UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT (REPORT D2.6)

Mr Dick Carter, Chairperson of UCA Funds Management, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.13).

11.2.9 UNITING AGED CARE (VICTORIA AND TASMANIA) (REPORT B5)

Dr Alan Wilkinson, Chairperson, Uniting Aged Care (Victoria and Tasmania) Board, and Ms Sharon Donovan, Executive Director, Uniting Aged Care (Victoria and Tasmania) spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.14.1).

11.2.10 PRESBYTERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (REPORT C6)

Rev Ian Brown, Chairperson of the Presbyteries Consultative Group, spoke to a written report. There was discussion in table groups.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.15).

11.2.11 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Rev Kylie Crabbe presented a theological reflection.

11.2.12 GRACE

Rev David Fotheringham offered grace before dinner.

11.2.13 ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Moderator resumed the chair after dinner and commenced the session with a prayer.

The Synod welcomed Rev Glenda Blakefield, Associate General Secretary, National Assembly, and Rev Dr Sandy Yule, Chairperson of the Christian Unity Working Group, who spoke to a report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.16).

11.2.14 A HEALING COMMUNITY

Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes, Executive Director, CTM, and Rev Prof Randall Prior, Principal, Theological College, gave a presentation on what it means to be a healing, reconciling church.

11.2.15 CLOSING HYMN AND PRAYER

A prayer was led by Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes.

11.3 MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2011

11.3.1 OPENING

The Moderator occupied the chair.

11.3.2 DEVOTIONS

Rev David Fotheringham led worship with a hymn, a reading and a prayer. A second reading was given by Mrs Lorraine Threlfall, Presbytery of North East Victoria.

11.3.3 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Prof Howard Wallace, Professor of Old Testament, CTM.

11.3.4 NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR MODERATOR 2013 – 2016 (REPORT C8)

Rev Allan Thompson, Convenor of the Nominating Committee for the Moderator, introduced each of the candidates, Rev Carol Bennett and Mr Dan Wootton, who addressed the meeting.

The candidates left the meeting and Rev Allan Thompson spoke to a written report. A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.17).

A prayer was led by the Moderator.

11.3.5 MISSION MOTIVATED DEVELOPMENT

Ms Kirsty Bennett, Manager, Major Projects and Architecture; Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, Commission for Mission (CFM); Mr John Emmett, Mission Catalyst, CFM; Mr Sebert Ruddock, Executive Director, Administration and Finance; and Mr Chris Begg, Chairperson, Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) gave a presentation on mission motivated development.

11.3.6 BALLOTS – ASSEMBLY AND SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

Ballot papers for the Assembly election and the preliminary (majority support) Synod Standing Committee election were distributed.

11.3.7 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

The General Secretary introduced the topic and Rev Peter Whitaker, Mr Chris Barnett, Rev Linley Liersch and Rev Dr Avril Hannah-Jones addressed the meeting.

There was discussion in table groups.

Two proposals were presented by Rev Dr Avril Hannah-Jones and Mrs Annette Blazé and referred to the Facilitation Group.

11.3.8 GRACE

Ms Sue Clarkson offered grace before lunch.

11.3.9 HYMN

The Moderator resumed the chair after lunch.

Rev David Fotheringham led a hymn.

11.3.10 NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR MODERATOR

The Moderator led a prayer.

Ballot papers for the Moderator-elect were distributed.

11.3.11 AboutFACE

Ms Jill Ruzbacky, Social Justice Officer, Justice and International Mission; Rev Ken Sumner, Chairperson, UAICC Victoria; Ms Marilla Homes and Ms Merinda Speedy gave a presentation concerning AboutFACE.

11.3.12 COMMISSION FOR MISSION: 'THIS IS NOT A CHURCH'

Rev Greg Crowe, Chair of the CFM Board; Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, CFM; Mr Charles Gibson, Director, UnitingCare; Dr Mark Zirnsak, Director, Justice and International Mission; Mr Andrew McGuckian, Director, Uniting Church Camping; Ms Cheryl Lawrie and Mr Adrian Pyle, Co-Directors, Context and Culture; and Ms Rhonda Sutton, Responsible Travel Advocate gave a presentation entitled 'This is not a church'.

11.3.13 COMMISSION FOR MISSION (REPORT B2)

Rev Greg Crowe, Chair of the CFM Board, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.18.1).

11.3.14 BALLOT – DECLARATION OF MODERATOR 2013 - 2016

The nominees were thanked with acclamation.

The Moderator announced the election of Mr Dan Wootton as Moderator 2013 - 2016.

This was received with acclamation.

The Nominating Committee for Moderator 2013 - 2016 was thanked by acclamation.

The Moderator-elect addressed the meeting.

11.3.15 ACCOUNTING SERVICES – ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (REPORT D2.2)

Ms Heather Ackland, Director, Accounting Services, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.19).

11.3.16 'ON THE WAY' INTERVIEW

Ms Wendy McDonald, Presbytery Minister – Administration, Gippsland Presbytery, was interviewed by Ms Penny Mulvey, Director, Communications and Media Services, on the 'On the Way Together' priority of partnership.

11.3.17 HYMN

A hymn was sung.

11.3.18 BALLOT - DECLARATION OF PRELIMINARY BALLOT (MAJORITY SUPPORT) SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

Rev Dr Robert Johnson, Synod Returning Officer, announced the result of the preliminary ballot for the Synod Standing Committee as follows:

All candidates in Groups A and B had received the support of a majority of those participating in the ballot.

11.3.19 PASTOR BERLIN GUERRERO

Ms Jill Ruzbacky, Social Justice Officer, Justice and International Mission, introduced Pastor Berlin Guerrero, a pastor with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, who addressed the meeting.

He was received with acclamation.

The Moderator expressed the support of the Synod and led a prayer.

11.3.20 BOARD OF MISSION AND RESOURCING (REPORT B3)

Mr Chris Begg, Chairperson, BOMAR, and Ms Heather Ackland, Director, Accounting Services, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.20.1).

11.3.21 RECEPTION OF OTHER REPORTS

Mr Rod Mummery, Chairperson of the Terms of Placement Committee, responded to a working group question.

Rev Dr Peter Blackwood, Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements, responded to working group questions.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.21)

11.3.22 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

Rev Sharon Hollis, Convenor, Facilitation Group, spoke to an amended proposal and discussion followed.

An amended resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.22).

11.3.23 PRAYING FOR PEACE

Rev Dr Wes Campbell and Rev Swee-Ann Koh spoke to a proposal.

The matter was adjourned.

11.3.24 COMMISSION FOR MISSION

11.3.24.1 Justice and International Mission (JIM)

Dr Mark Zirnsak, Director, JIM, and Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, CFM, spoke to two proposals.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (11.6.18.2.1 and 11.6.18.2.2).

11.3.25 PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT

Mr Rohan Pryor, Lay Leadership Educator, CTM gave a presentation on the Period of Discernment.

11.3.26 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Rev Kylie Crabbe presented a theological reflection and prayer.

11.3.27 CLOSING HYMN AND PRAYER

Ms Sue Clarkson led the Synod in a hymn and closing prayer.

11.4 TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Moderator occupied the chair.

11.4.1 DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplains, Ms Sue Clarkson and Rev David Fotheringham led worship with a hymn, reading and prayers. Ms Annette Buckley, Presbytery of Port Phillip West, also gave a reading.

11.4.2 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Prof Howard Wallace, Professor of Old Testament, CTM.

Rev David Fotheringham led a responsive affirmation.

11.4.3 COMMISSION FOR MISSION

11.4.3.1 Reform of disability sector

Mr Charles Gibson, Director, UnitingCare, and Rev Barbara Gayler, Minister to Wesley Mission Victoria, spoke to a proposal.

An amended resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.18.2.5).

11.4.3.2 Justice and International Mission Unit (JIM)

Dr Mark Zirnsak, Director, JIM, and Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, CFM, spoke to three proposals.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (11.6.18.2.3 and 11.6.18.2.4).

A resolution was passed by formal majority (11.6.18.2.6).

The Moderator commended the JIM Unit for its work, its expertise in the proposals brought to Synod and its continuing efforts to educate the wider church in these matters.

11.4.4 BALLOTS – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE AND BOMAR CHAIRPERSON

Rev Dr Robert Johnson advised on the ballot process.

Ballot papers were distributed for the Synod Standing Committee Group B ballot (nominal three-year term) and for the Chairperson of BOMAR.

11.4.5 SHARE APPEAL

Mr David Hickey, Director of SHARE, spoke about SHARE's disaster appeals and introduced Ms Kate Wilson, author of the books *Black Saturday was my dad's birthday* and *Can we go home now?* Ms Wilson addressed the meeting.

The Moderator expressed the support and thanks of the Synod.

Mr Charles Gibson, Director, UnitingCare, spoke of the work of the agencies of the Uniting Church and invited Synod members to visit the SHARE Expo.

11.4.6 WORKING GROUPS

The General Secretary provided background information regarding the place of agencies in the structure of the church and the responsibilities of the agencies, congregations and presbyteries in relationship with each other.

The Synod met in working groups to discuss the relationship between agencies, synod, congregations and presbyteries.

11.4.7 HYMN

The Moderator resumed the chair and a hymn was sung.

11.4.8 SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Ms Cath James, Environmental Project Officer, and Rev Paul Chalson gave a presentation on the forthcoming Sustainability Conference to be held at CTM.

11.4.9 CONSENSUS PROCESS

Dr Jill Tabart reminded the meeting of the consensus processes.

11.4.10 PRAYING FOR PEACE

An amended proposal was presented by Rev Dr Wes Campbell and Rev Swee-Ann Koh.

The matter was adjourned.

11.4.11 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MR CHRIS BEGG

Rev Graeme Harrison, Deputy Chair of BOMAR, and Rev Ian Cayzer, member of BOMAR, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.20.2).

Mr Chris Begg, outgoing Chairperson, BOMAR, addressed the meeting in reply.

The Moderator commended him for his tireless work.

11.4.12 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – REV KATE TIERNEY

Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, CFM, and Mr Cliff Peters, member of the CFM Board, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.18.3).

11.4.13 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MS ROBYN BATTEN

Dr Allan Wilkinson, Chairperson, Uniting Aged Care (Victoria and Tasmania) Board, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.14.2).

11.4.14 SHARE PRESENTATION

Ms Kate Wilson, author, and Rev David Howie, Bushfire Community Chaplain, read the book *Can we go home now?*.

The Moderator reiterated her thanks to Ms Wilson and to SHARE for its work in this area.

11.4.15 WORKING GROUP RESPONSES

Mr Sebert Ruddock, Executive Director, Administration and Finance, spoke to questions raised in working groups.

11.4.16 'ON THE WAY' INTERVIEW

Rev Mike Lewis, Presbytery Minister - Mission and Education, Presbytery of Loddon Mallee was interviewed by Ms Penny Mulvey, Director, Communications and Media Services on the 'On the Way Together' priority of risk-taking.

11.4.17 MINISTRY TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS TASK GROUP

Rev Jay Robinson, Convenor, Ministry to Younger Generations Task Group, and Rev Linley Liersch and Rev Peter Jewell, members of the task group, gave a presentation on their work.

11.4.18 PRAYING FOR PEACE

An amended proposal was presented by Rev Dr Wes Campbell and Rev Swee-Ann Koh.

An amended resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.23).

11.4.19 BALLOT – BOMAR CHAIRPERSON

The General Secretary, Rev Rob Brown, announced the appointment of Rev Ian Brown as Chairperson of BOMAR.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.6.2)

11.4.20 PROPERTY BOARD AND PROPERTY TRUSTS (VICTORIA AND TASMANIA)

Mr Sebert Ruddock, Executive Director, Administration and Finance, and Ms Cath James, Environmental Project Officer, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.24.2).

11.4.21 PASTORAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (REPORT D4.4)

Mr Dan Wootton, Secretary, Pastoral Assistance Committee; Rev Neil Peters Chairperson, Pastoral Assistance Committee; and Rev Dr Peter Blackwood spoke to a report and a proposal.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (11.6.25.1 and 11.6.25.2).

The Moderator thanked the Pastoral Assistance Committee for its work and the meeting responded with acclamation.

11.4.22 PRESBYTERY REPORTS (REPORTS E1-E8)

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.26.1).

11.4.23 PRESBYTERY PROPOSALS

Rev John Cranmer, Secretary, Presbytery of Yarra Yarra, spoke to a proposal on juror stress.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.26.2).

11.4.24 DATE OF SYNOD 2013

The Business Manager spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.27.2).

11.4.25 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RENEWAL OF THE DIACONATE

Rev Deac Gavin Blakemore spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.28)

11.4.26 FUNDING FOR MISSION MOTIVATED DEVELOPMENT

Rev Steve Terrell, Presbytery Minister – Mission and Education, Presbytery of Port Phillip East, and Rev Alan Mathews, Presbytery of Port Phillip East, spoke to a proposal.

The matter was adjourned.

11.4.27 DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY

Rev Charles Vesley gave a presentation on defence force chaplaincy which was received with acclamation.

11.4.28 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Rev Kylie Crabbe presented a theological reflection.

11.4.29 'ON THE WAY' INTERVIEW

The Moderator resumed the chair after dinner.

Rev Dr John Evans, Minister of Church of All Nations Carlton, Presbytery of Yarra Yarra, was interviewed by Ms Penny Mulvey, Director, Communications and Media Services, on the 'On the Way Together' priority of leadership.

11.4.30 DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: PLAYBACK THEATRE

Four actors, one facilitator and one musician from Melbourne Playback Theatre heard stories of Synod and played them back dramatically with great humour, sensitivity and insight.

The Synod expressed its appreciation by acclamation.

11.4.31 CLOSING PRAYERS

A closing prayer was led by Rev David Fotheringham.



11.5 WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Moderator occupied the chair.

11.5.1 DEVOTIONS

Devotions were led by Rev David Fotheringham, with a reading by Mrs Alison Clarkson.

11.5.2 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Prof Howard Wallace, Professor of Old Testament, CTM.

Ms Maeve Webb, Presbytery of Yarra Yarra, expressed appreciation for Prof Wallace's leadership of the bible study. The Moderator also thanked him for his contribution. This was received with acclamation by the meeting.

11.5.3 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – REV PROF HOWARD WALLACE

Rev Prof Randall Prior, Principal of the Theological College, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.12.2).

Rev Prof Howard Wallace, Professor of Old Testament, CTM, addressed the meeting in reply.

11.5.4 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – ASSOCIATE PROF DAVID BECKETT

Rev Prof Randall Prior, Principal of the Theological College spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.12.3).

11.5.5 FUNDING FOR MISSION MOTIVATED DEVELOPMENT

Rev Sharon Hollis, Convenor, Facilitation Group, spoke to an amended proposal and discussion followed.

An amended resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.29).

11.5.6 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGENCIES, SYNOD, CONGREGATIONS AND PRESBYTERIES

Rev Sharon Hollis, Convenor, Facilitation Group, spoke to an amended proposal and discussion followed.

A resolution was passed by consensus (11.6.30).

11.5.7 GENERAL SECRETARY, SYNOD OF QUEENSLAND

Dr Shirley Coulson, General Secretary of the Synod of Queensland, brought greetings and shared news from the Queensland Synod, and reflected on her experience of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania meeting.

11.5.8 THANKS – REV ALISTAIR MACRAE

The Moderator thanked Rev Alistair Macrae, President of the National Assembly, for his contribution as guest preacher at the opening worship service and presented him with a gift.

Rev Alistair Macrae addressed the meeting.

11.5.9 CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE

A presentation was made by Rev Don Ikitoelagi, Rev Lauleti Tuinauvai, Mr Charlie Navallo, Ms Penny Mulvey and Ms Marylou Delloso.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

11.5.10 ONE MINUTE SPEECHES

Thirty-four members made one minute speeches to the Synod. These were received by acclamation.

11.5.11 NOMINATIONS PANEL (REPORT C7)

Joan McRae, member of the Nominations Panel, spoke to an amended proposal.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (11.6.31.1 and 11.6.31.2).

11.5.12 DECLARATION OF BALLOTS

11.5.12.1 Synod Standing Committee)

The Returning Officer, Rev Dr Robert Johnson, announced the results of the election for members of the Synod Standing Committee. This was received with acclamation.

Elected:

Group A

Mr Roger Gough

Ms Joan McRae

Presbytery

Yarra Yarra

North East Victoria

Group B (2013)

Mr Chris Begg

Rev Kevin Dobson

Mr Geoffrey Grinton

Port Phillip East

Yarra Yarra

Yarra Yarra

NB The Returning Officer's report omitted two names from Group A: Mr Alan Bawden, Presbytery of Tasmania and Mrs Marge Goldsworthy, Presbytery of Loddon Mallee. This was later corrected by the Synod Standing Committee.

11.5.12.2 Assembly

Rev Dr Robert Johnson announced the result of the ballot for the Assembly as follows:

Ex-Officio:

Moderator

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson

Moderator-Elect

Mr Dan Wootton

General Secretary

Rev Rob Brown

Elected:

Rev Deac Jeanne Beale

Rev Dr Peter Blackwood

Rev Deac Gavin Blakemore

Rev John Cranmer

Rev Dr John Evans

Rev David Fotheringham

Rev Sharon Hollis

Mr Chris Begg

Mr Aaron Blakemore*

Ms Bethany Broadstock*

Ms Sue Clarkson

Mrs Marjorie Crothers

Ms Beth Donnelly*

Ms Emily Evans*

Rev Anne Honey
Rev Ann Key
Rev Jason Kioa
Rev Swee-Ann Koh
Rev Susan Malthouse
Rev Cynthia Page
Rev Rod Peppiatt
Rev Alison Whish

Mr Geoffrey Grinton
Mr Drew Hanna
Mrs Susan Karoly
Ms Cheryl Lawrie
Mr Rohan Pryor
Mr David Rowe
Ms Kelly Skilton*
Ms Heidi Stabb
Mrs Lorraine Threlfall

(* Of youthful age – 25 years and under)

NB The Returning Officer's report included three names more than there were vacancies (in italics above). These were later changed to alternates by the Synod Standing Committee, as follows:

Alternates - in order of election

Rev John Cranmer
Rev Rod Peppiatt

Mrs Marjorie Crothers

11.5.13 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Rev Kylie Crabbe presented a theological reflection.

The Moderator thanked Ms Crabbe for her reflections and the meeting responded with acclamation.

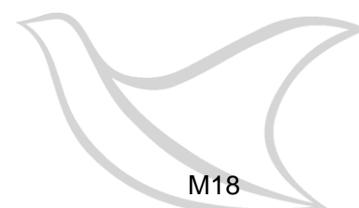
11.5.14 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

Rev Charity Majiza, Presbytery of North East Victoria, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (11.6.32).

11.5.15 CLOSING WORSHIP AND EUCHARIST

Members and visitors joined in a closing service which was led by the Moderator and the Eucharist was celebrated with the General Secretary presiding.



11.6 RESOLUTIONS

11.6.1 PROCEDURAL

11.6.1.1 Appointments and Associations

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To appoint the following people for the whole of the 2011 Synod Meeting:

Minute Secretaries:	Mrs Robyn Hansen and Ms Natalie Brown
Returning Officer:	Rev Dr Robert Johnson
Deputy Returning Officer:	Mr Jim Milne
Stewards:	Ms Joan McRae
	Mr Gavin Faichney
	Ms Jay Brooks
	Ms Merril Clayton
	Mrs Jenny Fitzgerald
	Mrs Heather McKean
	Mr Rod Mummery
	Mrs Margaret Pedler
	Mr Rohan Pryor
	Mrs Lorraine Threlfall
	Ms Sue Walker
Timer Operator and notices:	Rev Robert Renton and Mr Malcombe Looker

- (b) To associate the following people for the whole of the 2011 Synod Meeting:

Rev Willie Pickett
Rev Don Ikitoelagi
Ms Cheryl Lawrie
Ms Kym Dyson
Mr Charlie Navallo
Mr David Hickey
Mr Adrian Pyle

- (c) To associate the following people for specific sessions of the 2011 Synod meeting:

Ms Cath James	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Mr Antony McMullen	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Rev Deac Andy Calder	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Ms Melissa Cadwell	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Mr Philip Theil	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Mr Daniel Donahoo	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Mr John Emmett	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Ms Rhonda Sutton	For the business of the Commission for Mission
Mr Andrew McGuckian	For the business of the Commission for Mission

Mr Chris Barnett	For business related to ACCESS ministries and to the Centre for Theology and Ministry
Rev Kylie Crabbe	For the role of Theological Reflector
Rev Allan Thompson	For the business of the Nominating Committee for Moderator 2013 - 2016

11.6.1.2 Synod 2011 Procedures

The Synod resolved:

- (a) That any recommendation which may include financial commitment not at present included in the Mission Support Fund of the Synod be subject to comment by a representative of the Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR);
- (b) That the closure time for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee be 6.00pm on Saturday 17 September 2011;
- (c) That the closure time for receiving proposals or notices of amendment be 6.00pm on Saturday 17 September 2011;
- (d) That any necessary elections for chairpersons be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 20 September, and that the ballot close at 7.30pm on that same day;
- (e) That any elections for members of boards, commissions and committees be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 20 September and that the ballot close at 7.30pm on that same day;
- (f) That the election of members of Standing Committee be conducted as follows:

Event	Ballot commences	Ballot closes
Determine majority support for nominees	10.50am Monday 19 September	2.00pm Monday 19 September
Election of Group B members (3-year term)	10.15am Tuesday 20 September	2.00pm Tuesday 20 September
Election of Group A members (between meetings term)	4.00pm Tuesday 20 September	7.30pm Tuesday 20 September

- (g) That the business of the Synod be dealt with in accordance with the following timetable unless the Synod specifically determines otherwise:

- (i) regular items throughout the Synod meeting will be as follows:

Event	Times
Devotions	Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed 9.00am
Bible study	Sat: 9.30 am; Mon, Tues, Wed 9.15am
Morning tea	Sat 10.45 am; Mon 11.00am; Tues, Wed 10.30am
Lunch	1.00pm–2.00pm
Afternoon tea	Sat 4.00pm; Sun 2.15pm; Mon, Tues 3.30pm
Dinner break	Sun, Tues 6.00pm-7.30pm
Start of evening session	Sun, Tues 7.30pm

Event	Times
Close of evening session, unless extension of time is approved by Synod	Sun, Tues 9.30pm

- (ii) The close of business will be 3.00pm Wednesday 21 September 2011, prior to the closing Eucharist; and
- (iii) An initial timetable showing those items with fixed time allocations on Saturday 17 September, Sunday 18 September, Monday 19 September, Tuesday 20 September and Wednesday 21 September 2011 is contained in the attached table.

11.6.2 BUSINESS PROCEDURES INVOLVING THE UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS

The Synod resolved:

- (a) As part of living out the Covenant and the new preamble to the Constitution, to adopt the following practices in the conduct of business at this meeting of the Synod:
 - (i) If, prior to the consideration of any proposal the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) indicates to either the General Secretary or the Business Manager an intention to present the UAICC perspective, opportunity will be given immediately after any movers and seconders. The time limit applied to the UAICC will be the same as that allocated to other speakers to the proposal.
 - (ii) Upon request to the General Secretary, the UAICC shall be provided with a briefing from the Facilitation Group.
 - (iii) The UAICC members will be allocated to working groups in such a way that no one member of the UAICC is an individual in a working group; and
 - (iv) As a group, the UAICC may make a request of the Moderator that discussion on an issue cease for a time. Opportunity will then be provided for the UAICC members to meet together in order to discuss their position. Such business will return to the agenda at the discretion of the Moderator and the UAICC will have the opportunity to speak at that time; and
- (b) To request the Renewal of the Covenant Task Group to review these arrangements following Synod 2011 and to provide a report and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

11.6.3 GREETINGS TO AND FROM OTHER SYNODS

The Synod resolved:

- (a) to receive the messages of greetings from other Synods; and
- (b) to send greetings to all other Synods.

11.6.4 CONFIRMATION OF SYNOD 2011 MINUTES

The Synod resolved:

That the Moderator, General Secretary, Associate General Secretary and Business Manager be authorised to confirm the minutes of the 2011 meeting of Synod.

11.6.5 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

11.6.5.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Synod Standing Committee.

11.6.5.2 Assembly membership

The Synod resolved:

- (a) Pursuant to Regulation 3.6.2, to determine to appoint members of the 13th Assembly on the same basis as for the 12th Assembly, that is:
 - (i) Each Victorian Presbytery to elect three members (at least one lay and one ordained person);
 - (ii) The Presbytery of Tasmania to elect six members (three lay and three ordained persons); and
 - (iii) The Synod to elect 31 members, paying due regard to the need to have equal numbers of lay and ordained members from within the bounds of the Synod.
- (b) To request the General Secretary and the Business Committee to ensure that time is allocated at the 10th meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania in 2013, to determine the numbers of members of the Assembly to be appointed by the presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod and by the Synod itself.

11.6.6 GENERAL SECRETARY

11.6.6.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the General Secretary.

11.6.6.2 Appointment of the Rev Ian Brown as chairperson of the Board of Mission and Resourcing

The Synod resolved:

To appoint the Rev Ian Brown as chairperson of the Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) commencing 22 September 2011 for a three-year term.

11.6.7 MODERATOR

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Moderator.

11.6.8 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Audit Committee.



11.6.9 SERVICE OF TRIBUTES AND THANKSGIVING

The Synod resolved:

to give thanks to God for the life and witness of ministers and deaconesses who:

- (a) have died since the 2010 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Deaconess Mary Bates	Rev Ronald Lawton
Rev Ernest Cass	Rev James Martin
Rev Murray Coombe	Rev Charles McLeod
Rev J Edwin Davies	Deaconess Shirley McRae
Rev James Drysdale	Rev Dr J Stuart Murray
Rev Horace Dunkin	Rev John Newnham
Rev W Kenneth Elliott	Rev David Rylie
Rev Jack Flentje	Rev G Rex Sharrad
Rev Elsie French	Rev C Keith Shuey
Deaconess Doreen Galbraith	Rev Sijbren Sijbranda
Rev Garry Jacobs	Rev Frederik Van Emmerik
Rev Arthur Jones	Rev Dr Duncan Watson

- (b) have retired since the 2010 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Gwenith Alexander	Rev David Parker
Rev Keith Allcock	Rev Julianne Parker
Rev Dr Robert J Brown	Rev Peter Sanders
Rev George Durinck	Rev Jeff Shrowder
Rev Ivy Goodwin	Rev Deac Barbara Spencer
Rev Ineke Gyles	Rev Dr Robert Stringer
Rev Glennis Johnston	Rev Dr Graeme Sutton
Rev Bronwyn Jones	Rev Denis Tomlins
Rev Gerald Leicester	Rev Ron Townsend
Rev Richard Martin	Rev Jenny Trehwella
Rev Paul Mayfield	Rev Malcolm White
Rev Deac Judith McLeod	

- (c) have celebrated 50 years of ordination or commissioning since the 2010 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Peter Aumann	Rev John (Jock) McOrist
Rev Deac Margaret Black	Rev Dr Peter Moonie
Rev Deac Katharine Davies	Rev Ian Ogilvy
Rev John Howard	Rev Alexander Palmer
Rev William Gillard	Rev Dr Ian Parsons
Rev C Walter Johnson	Rev Graeme Warne
Rev Arthur Jones (Dec)	Rev Neil Webb
Rev Raymond Jones	

- (d) have celebrated 60 years of ordination since the 2010 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Dr Robin Boyd	Rev Dr T Maxwell O'Connor
Rev Walter Goff	Rev Raymond Outhred
Deaconess Shirley McRae (Dec)	Rev Reynolds Waters

- (e) have been ordained since the 2010 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Deac Gavin Blakemore	Rev Lauren Mosso
Rev Kylie Crabbe	Rev Susan Pearse
Rev Michele Lees	Rev Sue Stott
Rev Tina Lyndon Ng	Rev Martin Wright

- (f) have been received from another denomination since the 2010 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Peter Cannon	Rev Iose Tuigamala
Rev Andrew Gall	

- (g) have been readmitted as follows:

Rev Heather Marshall

(After this meeting of the Synod, notification was received that Rev Ian Crouch had also died since the 2010 meeting of the Synod. Tribute will be paid to Rev Ian Crouch at the 2013 Synod meeting.)

11.6.10 ADOPTION OF THE ROLL OF SYNOD

The Synod resolved:

That the Roll of Synod as finalised at the start of business on Sunday 18 September be adopted. (Refer to Appendix AA1.1.)

11.6.11 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS

11.6.11.1 UAICC Victoria

11.6.11.1.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Victoria).

11.6.11.1.2 Minute of appreciation – Mr Vince Ross

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God:

- (h) For Vince Ross, a gift to the Uniting Church, and for his service to the former Synod of Victoria and more recently the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, through his leadership within Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) Victoria, and to the Assembly of the Uniting Church through his time as Chairperson of the UAICC National Conference;
- (i) For the faith commitment of Vince Ross that has underpinned all he has achieved within the Church and for his pastoral leadership amongst the First Peoples of this land, particularly within the life of this synod; and

- (j) For his vision, which has sustained many people in their dreams for reconciliation and which brought to reality the ministry and mission that has been centred at Narana.

Vince Ross came into the work of the UAICC (Congress) and the Uniting Church through a secondment from the public service. From an original base in the basement of the Wesley Church, Geelong and then in a shopfront in the Geelong CBD, he set about employing staff for the purposes of establishing a retail shop which would provide the backdrop for indigenous cultural education.

As his work outgrew this shopfront, a new site was found for the expression of the holistic ministry of the Congress at the location of what we now know as Narana. Here the shop not only supplied Aboriginal art and craft for tourists but also an outreach ministry to Aboriginal people, as an outlet for their craft. As a matter of principle, all stock was purchased rather than taken on consignment. As the ministry of cultural education grew, the exhibition space and Wirlie Shed were added and Narana became the expression of a true hope for reconciliation in this country.

Vince is a great dreamer, a visionary, one who has great hope for his people and who in that hope uses the people around him to bring his dreams to life. Relationships are very important to him, whether they are with Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal people. Vince does not see himself as an activist. He would define himself as a doer, preferring not to talk about it or politicise it but TO DO IT!

He is passionate about music, which shapes and defines his life, and the telling of stories. He is very committed to his family - his wife Enid, their two daughters Karyn, and Cheryl and two grandchildren.

Vince has remained an active member of the Salvation Army all the time he has worked for Congress. He is a member of the band and has played a variety of instruments over the years.

Vince's great gift to this Synod and to the Assembly of the Uniting Church has been in his commitment to a true partnership between Congress and the rest of the Uniting Church. Of particular note is the way in which he has been able to encourage not only his Aboriginal brothers and sisters in his understanding of partnership but also the rest of the Church. His passion has not been without cost as his visits to so many UCA congregations over the years at times wore him out. He has also suffered at times from the divisive behaviour of others.

Whilst the Synod has been greatly blessed by Vince's ministry and presence, his gifts have been used well beyond us. He was National Chair of the Congress from 2003 to 2006 and led the National Congress through the process toward the Preamble to the Constitution of the UCA.

Vince has more recently been nominated as the State Elder for Congress Victoria. As such, he will continue to contribute to the National Elders Council of Congress. It is the perception of those who work closest with him that there is a strong wisdom evident in Vince that is required for eldership. His general and Christian spiritual leadership are also evident in his relationships within and beyond the Church.

We thank God for Vince's ministry amongst us and wish him many blessings as he enters a new phase in his life.



11.6.11.2 UAICC Tasmania

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Tasmania).

11.6.12 CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

11.6.12.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Centre for Theology and Ministry.

11.6.12.2 Minute of appreciation – Rev Professor Howard Wallace

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the contribution of Howard Wallace as Professor of Old Testament Studies, for the quality of his teaching, for the integrity of his scholarship, and for his contribution in formation for ministry and in resourcing the wider church over the period from 1994 to 2011

Howard Wallace has been a lecturer in Old Testament Studies for twenty-eight years, eighteen of which have been within this Synod. Howard's decision to finish in this role marks a significant moment, not only in his life but in the life of the Synod.

The quality of Howard's contribution to the life of the church was recognised during the recent review of his role as Professor of Old Testament Studies. This review, carried out by the Synod, is a rigorous examination of Howard's performance and involves input from a wide range of colleagues and students (past and present) as well as feedback from the wider church.

The review committee's report was glowing in its commendation of Howard at every point: *The committee recognizes the strong affirmation that has been received from colleagues and students through this review and hears the discernment that his ministry is highly valued by the Church and those to whom he ministers in his role.*

There are several factors which led to this 'strong affirmation'. Central among them is Howard's passionate commitment to his teaching and the way he continuously works on making his field more engaging and stimulating for his students. His pedagogical approach holds together a passion for excellence in scholarship and a sensitivity to the context and learning styles of students.

Howard's reputation in his field is honoured also by colleagues within and beyond Australia. One colleague reported to the review committee: *Howard is an internationally recognised scholar, who is held in high regard by his peers. His research is both meticulous and creative. He is able to produce work that is not only of interest to fellow scholars, but also exciting and engaging for students, ministers and anyone engaged thoughtfully with faith and life.*

At the heart of Howard's vocation is not simply the desire to make an academic contribution, but the commitment to make his wealth of scholarship accessible to the life of the wider church. In 2004, he pioneered the Scholar-on-the-Road program by making himself available for a full semester throughout Victoria and Tasmania to resource ministry conferences. Among his creative approaches was the convening of a study on 'The vineyard in the prophet Isaiah', in a northern Victorian winery. The Scholar-on-the-Road program has become a regular part of

the faculty's commitment to spread contemporary scholarship across the church. Complementing this work has been Howard's resolve to maintain an active website through which he makes available material in Old Testament Studies to resource the learning and worship of the church. Howard was also the first of the faculty members to offer himself for online teaching and is regarded as being adept at this particular form of learning.

The witness of Howard Wallace in this Synod has confirmed again for us *'that God has never left the Church without faithful and scholarly interpreters of Scripture, or without those who have reflected deeply upon, and acted trustingly in obedience to, God's living Word'* (Basis of Union, para.11)

11.6.12.3 Minute of Appreciation – Associate Professor David Beckett

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks for the contribution of Associate Professor David Beckett as inaugural chairperson of the Board of the Centre for Theology and Ministry over the period from 2006 to 2011.

The choice of the first person to hold the role of chairperson of the newly constituted Board of the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) was an important one. Although the new centre had not yet been completed, it was the Board's role to give leadership to the church as the new centre came into shape.

David Beckett took up the invitation to fill this role and brought to it a happy mix of significant gifts. He was an active lay leader of his local Uniting Church community, he was highly regarded in the field of education through his work at the University of Melbourne and overseas, and he had a commitment to good quality education for ministry which would serve the church both in the challenges of the present and its emerging, if uncertain, future.

From the first Board meeting in September 2006, at the Essendon Uniting Church, David exercised a strong but calm leadership role. He worked closely with the newly appointed Executive Director of the CTM, Alistair Macrae; together they oversaw the important early stages of growth within the CTM.

The challenges at the time were momentous. David's attention to detail, his clear and organised chairing of meetings, his encouragement of the contributions of other Board members, his pastoral concern for the day to day functioning of the CTM, his desire that the CTM work towards fulfilling the vision of the Synod for education for ministry, and the many insights from his experience in secular tertiary education, ensured that the leadership needed through this pioneering time was faithfully delivered.

Over his five years of service he has approached the tasks, which have not always been easy, with humour, commitment and a pragmatic common sense. As we farewell David, we recognise the distance which the CTM has come in these first five years of its life and look to the future with confidence. Thank you David for the many ways in which your contribution has made this possible.

11.6.13 UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Funds Management.



11.6.14 UNITING AGED CARE (VICTORIA AND TASMANIA)

11.6.14.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Uniting Aged Care (Victoria and Tasmania).

11.6.14.2 Minute of appreciation – Robyn Batten

The Synod resolved:

To record its appreciation of the work of Robyn Batten as Executive Director of Uniting Aged Care Victoria and Tasmania (UAC) over the period from March 2007 to January 2011.

There is much that we are thankful to Robyn for in the time she spent at UAC. Her leadership impacted at every level of the organisation through restructure, system development and quality assurance. She drew together an effective senior executive team: regional managers across Tasmania and Victoria, and corporate managers covering finance, risk management, property, quality, research, strategy and human resources. Robyn knew that it is such a team that can provide the leadership necessary to provide quality, person-centred services to the ageing in an area that is always challenged by its funding base.

Under Robyn's leadership, decisions were made to close facilities that did not meet modern standards, and major building works were undertaken at Noble Park and Kingsville. These facilities are designed to bring services together at one site in accordance with UAC's integrated, person-centred approach. Funding was gained under the Nation-building Economic Stimulus package to build fifty units to provide housing with long-term rental security for economically disadvantaged older people in Tasmania.

Robyn ensured that the organisation looked outward for the best that the world offers in terms of aged care and brought fresh ideas to UAC. She also attended closely to ideas within the organisation. She listened to residents, clients and families to hear their views. She worked alongside staff in some direct care shifts to really get a feel for the everyday work in a residential facility. Robyn was aware that the organisation needs to strive for excellence in the provision of services for clients and residents, and to think strategically and creatively about new directions in aged care.

Robyn contributed significantly to the aged care efforts of the Uniting Church throughout Australia by exercising a leadership role with the UnitingCare National Aged Care Network. As chair of that body, she played – and continues to play – a key role in aged care advocacy approaches to the federal government. Robyn was instrumental in pulling together a UAC national network response to the Productivity Commission's 2011 report, *Caring for Older Australians* which will set the future reform agenda for services to the ageing in Australia.

Robyn left the organisation in good health to continue the vision that she and the executive team had worked on together. She has a consistently good-humoured and optimistic approach to her work. This is fortunate given that she took up her next position in Queensland with BlueCare as the floods and Cyclone Yasi hit.

We are thankful too that Robyn's leadership and expertise is not lost to the Church as BlueCare, where she is now Executive Director, is another UnitingCare agency.

11.6.15 PRESBYTERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Presbyteries Consultative Group.

11.6.16 ASSEMBLY

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Assembly.

11.6.17 NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR MODERATOR 2013 - 2016

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Nominating Committee for Moderator 2013 - 2016.

11.6.18 COMMISSION FOR MISSION

11.6.18.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Commission for Mission.

11.6.18.2 Justice and International Mission

11.6.18.2.1 Pre-commitment on electronic gaming machines

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To urge the Federal and State Governments to implement further measures to reduce the level of problem gambling and other harm caused by electronic gaming machines (EGMs), including:
 - (i) Introduction of a pre-commitment system on all EGMs that is easy for gamblers to use; links all machines together, so that it will not be possible to override a limit the gambler has set simply by moving to another machine; allows for at least 24 hours before a limit can be increased upwards; and allows gamblers to set enforcement loss and time limits for themselves;
 - (ii) Setting the maximum a gambler can lose on the EGMs to \$1 per button push; and
 - (iii) Limiting opening hours of EGM areas in venues to between 10am and midnight;
- (b) To urge the Federal Government:
 - (i) To take more effective steps in seeking to prohibit internet gambling on online EGMs and casinos; and
 - (ii) To introduce legislation and regulation to end aggressive and unethical marketing activities by online sports wagering companies; and
- (c) To write to the Prime Minister, the Assistant Treasurer, the Federal Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Assistant Treasurer, the Premiers of Victoria and Tasmania, and the Ministers for Gambling in Victoria and Tasmania to inform them of this resolution.

11.6.18.2.2 A fairer deal for dairy farmers

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To urge the Federal Government to put in place legislative and regulatory safeguards to protect dairy farmers from being unfairly pressured through the imbalance in market power of the two major supermarket chains in the setting of the drinking milk price, including the implementation of the recommendations of the May 2010 Senate Economics References Committee report Milking it for all it's worth – competition and pricing in the Australian dairy industry; and
- (b) To write to the Assistant Treasurer, the Shadow Assistant Treasurer, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to inform them of this resolution.

11.6.18.2.3 Combating slavery and human trafficking in goods sold in Australia

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To support and encourage industries and businesses to take all reasonable steps to make sure the products they supply into the Australian market are free from the involvement of slavery, forced labour and human trafficking in their production;
- (b) To call on the Federal Government
 - (i) to follow the lead of the US Department of Labor and develop a list of goods imported into Australia where there is evidence that slavery, human trafficking or forced labour are likely to have been used in the production of the goods;
 - (ii) to ensure that Government procurement processes take effective steps to exclude products made with slavery, human trafficking or forced labour in their production;
 - (iii) to require industries and businesses to take reasonable steps to ensure slavery, forced labour and human trafficking have not been used in making products supplied to the Australian market; and
 - (iv) At a minimum, to require companies importing goods identified through the research outlined in clause (i) of this resolution to report publicly what they are doing to ensure they are not importing goods produced with slavery, human trafficking and forced labour; and
- (c) To write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Trade, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Minister for Trade, the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, and the Leader of the Greens to inform them of this resolution.

11.6.18.2.4 Combating online child sexual abuse

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To call on the Federal Government to adequately resource the Australian Federal Police to investigate all cases of online child sexual abuse where either the perpetrator or the victim is Australian;
- (b) To call on the Federal Government to require Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to take action to assist in combating the sale, transmission and accessing of child sexual abuse images, which are always produced through human trafficking, forced labour, slavery or other means of manipulation and coercion. To that end the Federal Government is requested :

- (i) To leave the IT industry in no doubt that they have a legal obligation to report clients accessing child sexual abuse material when they detect it, regardless of privacy legislation; and
- (ii) To legislate to require ISPs to block client access to all websites that contain material classified as 'Refused Classification', regardless of where such sites are hosted, and to log attempts by clients to access child sexual abuse sites and provide this information to the authorities for investigation;
- (c) To call on the Federal Government to urge those countries that have not yet criminalised the production, distribution, use and possession of child sexual abuse material to do so; and
- (d) To write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, the Shadow Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, and the Leader of the Greens to inform them of this resolution.

11.6.18.2.5 Reform of disability sector

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To support the urgent implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) as recommended by the Australian Productivity Commission; and
- (b) To communicate its support for the schemes to the leaders of the Liberal Party, the National Party, the Labor Party, the Australian Greens, and independent members encouraging their support.

11.6.18.2.6 Asylum Seekers and People Smuggling

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To express its grave concern at the Federal Government's attempts to deal with people smuggling to Australia by overriding and disregarding the human rights obligations to which Australia has committed itself in becoming party to the *UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, the *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
- (b) To call on the Federal Government to:
 - (i) Abandon its attempts to send asylum seekers who arrive in Australia to other countries for processing;
 - (ii) Continue its efforts to end people smuggling, in cooperation with other governments in the region, through law enforcement efforts aimed at those controlling people smuggling operations, rather than through measures designed to punish desperate asylum seekers exploited by people smugglers; and
 - (iii) Help deter asylum seekers from turning to people smugglers by increasing the humanitarian intake to Australia progressively to 20,000 by the 2013–2014 financial year.
- (c) To encourage congregations, agencies and faith communities within the Synod to take action in support of the above calls on government, including through writing letters to government, signing petitions and visiting local Members of Parliament.

- (d) To write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Leader of the Greens and independent members to inform them of this resolution.

11.6.18.3 Minute of appreciation – Rev Kate Tierney

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks for the contribution of Rev Kate Tierney as inaugural chairperson of the Board of the Commission for Mission over the period from 2006 to 2010.

Kate Tierney was the inaugural Chair of the Board of the Commission for Mission. In this role she can be credited with guiding the new board into growing as a community which recognised the wide range of gifts and talents within its membership. Kate led the board on a rapid learning curve to comprehend and implement its roles and responsibilities.

The sensitive and creative ways that Kate chaired the meetings, and shaped the retreats and forums, were fundamental to growing the competence of members in their roles. Her talent for self-effacement could disguise the often considerable planning and preparation which led to the smooth functioning of events and the timely and stimulating conduct of meetings. This talent is, however, matched and balanced by her thoughtful and creative approach to breaking open issues which needed to be tackled, even when it may seem easier to slide past them. Kate brought her extensive experience in ministry and mission to this role.

When it came time to step out of the board, it was Kate's wish 'to slip away quietly'. This Minute of Appreciation is an important statement to recognise publicly the significant contribution Kate Tierney has made to the establishment of the Commission for Mission Board through her valued leadership and guidance during the Board's exciting birth and challenging first steps.

We thank God for Kate's gifts and we thank Kate for a job well done.

11.6.19 ACCOUNTING SERVICES – ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Accounting Services.

11.6.20 BOARD OF MISSION AND RESOURCING

11.6.20.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Board of Mission and Resourcing.

11.6.20.2 Minute of appreciation – Mr Chris Begg

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks for the contribution of Chris Begg toward good stewardship of the Church's resources in furthering Christ's mission, through his service on the Board of Mission and Resourcing from 1996 and as chairperson from October 2005 to September 2011.

Some people see retirement from the workforce as the time to put one's feet up and pursue those indulgences for which there has been no time. Some see it as a

time to step down from working for God in the life of the church, having 'done one's bit'. Chris Begg is not one of those people!

Chris retired from the Ford Motor Company as a computer systems designer in 1996. He saw this as an opportunity to serve God in the newly formed Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR). BOMAR's vision appealed even if the name did not. The vision of a trusted group of elected people, selected from presbyteries and responsible Synod bodies all over the Synod, to prayerfully and thoughtfully prioritise the church's resources for mission captured Chris's imagination. He has been true to this vision for the last fourteen and a half years; first as a member, then as Deputy Chair and Chair of the Grants & Loans sub-committee for three years, and then as Chair of BOMAR for the last six years.

Chris has been involved in the implementation of significant policy development for the management of the Church's resources including the new Property Sales Proceeds policy, implemented since the start of 2011. He has been involved in the evolution of BOMAR policy which has seen some big shifts and big decisions since it began. BOMAR has had to adjust to changes in funds available, huge changes in governance in Uniting Church agencies, a major restructure of presbyteries, the inclusion of Tasmania in the Synod, the budgetary freeze during the Global Financial Crisis, working with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress regional committees for Victoria and Tasmania for better funding stability, the establishment of new Uniting Church schools, and big changes in the life of congregations. Every year at the BOMAR annual conference which drafts the Synod budget, Chris would work hard to ensure that a portion of the budget would be applied to creative missional projects from congregations.

As a lay Chairperson coming from a business environment, Chris has been able to bring a different perspective to the operations of BOMAR. To be a successful chairperson requires an enormous commitment in time, and giving two to three days per week was normal for him. As a result, Chris always seemed to be on top of any issue that came before BOMAR (and there are always many), and always seemed to have had a recent conversation with most of the parties concerned. He was ever vigilant to see that mission and good stewardship of resources was the focus of any proposal brought before the board and would always be directing it to check that both of these were present in a proposal.

Chris has worked tirelessly to improve the image of BOMAR in the wider church, helping congregations see that it was not the villain of 130 Little Collins Street. He built bridges between BOMAR and the wider Church which have been for the betterment of Christ's mission in the Synod. His strong faith commitment has led to congregations being better able to identify where they fit into Christ's mission in their local area.

The members of BOMAR will miss Chris's quiet wisdom, his good-natured approach when leading the meetings, and that comfortable rock solid reliability which he brought to any situation.

BOMAR will miss Chris but his legacy will remain with the Board. God goes with him.

11.6.21 RECEPTION OF REPORTS

The Synod resolved:

To receive the following reports:

Administration and Finance
Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements
Beneficiary Fund



Bethel Pastoral Centre
Communications and Media Services
Ecumenical Relations Committee
Human Resource Services
Information Technology Services
Legal Unit
Synod Archives and Research Centre
Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee
Terms of Placement Committee
Uniting Housing Victoria
Working Group on Christian-Jewish Relations

11.6.22 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To request the Standing Committee to establish a task group to explore:
 - (i) how best to be involved in curriculum development (topics and content), and the teaching of Christian Religious Education in Victorian state schools;
 - (ii) the relationship between the Synod and ACCESS ministries; and
 - (iii) issues related to the provision of general Religious Education.and to provide a report to the next meeting of the Synod; and
- (b) To affirm the work of faithful volunteer Christian Religious Education teachers.

11.6.23 PRAYING FOR PEACE

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To acknowledge the tenth anniversaries of the attack on New York City, Washington DC and Pennsylvania (11 September 2001) and the invasion of Afghanistan under a United Nations mandate (7 October 2001);
- (b) To express deep grief at the mourning, trauma, wounds and deaths, resulting from these events;
- (c) To call for a more widespread debate concerning continuing Australian military participation in the Afghanistan conflict;
- (d) To recall God's promise of fullness of life for all declared in Jesus Christ, and God's own grief at the suffering produced by war; and
- (e) To seek the peace of God for all;

And therefore:

- (f) To invite congregations, schools and agencies of the Church to continue to pray regularly for peace, especially marking the tenth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan;
- (g) To affirm the humanitarian and diplomatic efforts being made by the Australian Government in partnership with non-government organisations (NGOs);
- (h) To request the Commission for Mission:
 - (i) To assist the whole Church with resources which offer theological reflection on the Church's peacemaking vocation, particularly in conflicts such as Afghanistan and in response to terrorist attack;

- (ii) To explore humanitarian and diplomatic measures which may contribute to a sustained, just and lasting peace in Afghanistan; and
- (iii) To provide information concerning the situation in Afghanistan, especially considering an urgent withdrawal of Australian troops from Afghanistan; and
- (i) To write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Defence, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Minister for Defence, the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Leader of the Greens and independent members to inform them of this resolution.

11.6.24 PROPERTY BOARD AND PROPERTY TRUSTS (VICTORIA AND TASMANIA)

11.6.24.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the reports of the Property Board, Property Trust (Victoria) and Property Trust (Tasmania).

11.6.24.2 Carbon audit

The Synod resolved:

Noting the Synod's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to reduce the negative impacts of climate change, both here in Australia and on our neighbours overseas:

- (a) To seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania by at least 20% by 2020 based on an estimate of current levels, doing this through direct action by Synod operations and presbyteries and in collaboration with congregations, agencies and schools;
- (b) To direct the General Secretary to appoint a management committee to facilitate the task of reducing the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions, with responsibilities including but not limited to:
 - (i) Identifying consistent approaches to the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions for the whole synod;
 - (ii) Identifying opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - (iii) Identifying and securing funding options to carry out this work;
- (c) To report the progress of reduction to the Synod every three years (2014, 2017, 2020).

11.6.25 PASTORAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

11.6.25.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Pastoral Assistance Committee.

11.6.25.2 Ministers Special Assurance/Ministers Awaiting Placement Funds

The Synod resolved:

That the contribution to the Ministers Special Assurance/Ministers Awaiting Placement Funds be \$400 per annum from 1 January 2012 for each approved currently settled placement.

11.6.26 PRESBYTERIES

11.6.26.1 Reports

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Presbytery reports.

11.6.26.2 Juror stress

The Synod resolved:

- (a) to request the Governments of Victoria and Tasmania:
 - (i) to ascertain whether sufficient measures are in place to provide emotional and other support for jurors suffering post-service stress from jury service, well after they have performed their public duty, noting that symptoms of such stress can occur as a result of jury deliberative processes, complexities arising from the nature of evidence, exposure to hideous crimes, sentencing processes and other factors; and
 - (ii) to introduce and publicise increased appropriate support to those suffering from post-service stress, providing that there is a proven need for such provision; and
- (b) to write to the Victorian Attorney-General and the Tasmanian Attorney-General, as well as the Victorian Shadow Attorney-General and the Tasmanian Shadow Attorney-General, to inform them of this resolution and to highlight the need for a rigorous review of post-service juror support.

11.6.27 BUSINESS COMMITTEE

11.6.27.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Business Committee.

11.6.27.2 Date of Synod 2013

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To meet at La Trobe University Bundoora in May 2013 or as close to that month as possible, and
- (b) To authorise the Standing Committee to finalise a date once the availability of the venue has been determined.

11.6.28 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RENEWAL OF THE DIACONATE

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To request the 13th Assembly, meeting in 2012:
 - (i) To note the 20th anniversary of the renewal of the diaconate in the UCA as foreshadowed in paragraphs 13 and 14c of the Basis of Union;
 - (ii) To give thanks to God for the ways Deacons have broadened the church's understanding of ministry and led the Uniting Church in new missional directions; and

- (iii) To request the Ministerial Education Commission to review the materials provided to applicants and mentors in the Period of Discernment and in the selection process to ensure that the Ministry of Deacon is presented accurately and fully; and
- (b) To request the Placements Committee to consider revising profile and placement procedures to reflect more adequately the uniqueness of the ministry of Deacon and ensure full consideration of Deacons and diaconal ministries when profiles are prepared and placements are considered.

11.6.29 FUNDING FOR MISSION-MOTIVATED DEVELOPMENT

The Synod resolved:

To encourage the Property Board, in conjunction with UCA Funds Management:

- (a) to continue with their exploration of the possibility of using assets of the Church to secure a line of credit which will enable congregations in partnership with other parts of the Church to carry out mission-motivated development as understood by BOMAR's current processes; and
- (b) to report to the Standing Committee by May 2012 the outcome of any such discussions and any recommended policy changes.

11.6.30 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGENCIES, SYNOD, CONGREGATIONS AND PRESBYTERIES

The Synod resolved:

To request the Standing Committee:

- (a) to establish a task group with appropriate terms of reference to develop a discussion paper about the relationship between institutions of the Church as defined in Regulation 3.5.34 and the Synod, congregations and presbyteries;
- (b) to ensure that the terms of reference are defined in consultation with representatives of appropriate synod bodies and institutions;
- (c) to ensure that the terms of reference for the task group include:
 - (i) reference to the nature and purpose of the Uniting Church as it is stated in the Basis of Union and expressed more particularly in the Constitution and Regulations which shape the relationships between the various councils and agencies of the Church;
 - (ii) a requirement to consult widely with the Commission for Mission, the Centre for Theology and Ministry, institutions, congregations and presbyteries;
 - (iii) a review of and response to the issues raised in the Synod 2011 working groups;
 - (iv) the development of strategies to ensure that the discussion paper is widely discussed throughout the Synod; and
- (d) to report with recommendations to the next Synod.

11.6.31 NOMINATIONS PANEL

11.6.31.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Nominations Panel.



11.6.31.2 Nominations Panel

The Synod resolved:

To appoint the following people to the bodies named herein:

A ACCESS Ministries

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2014

Rev David Fotheringham	Mr Chris Barnett
	Mrs Annette Blazé
	Mrs Lynette Bromage

B Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements (Chairperson)

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 30 June 2013

Rev Stan Clarke

C Australian Church Women (Victorian Unit)

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2014

Mrs Joy Morley
Mrs Margaret Pedler

D Business Committee

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2014

Rev Carol Bennett	Mrs Marjorie Crothers
	Mr Geoffrey Grinton

E Council for Chaplaincies in Tertiary Institutions

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2014

Rev Dr Wesley Campbell

F Property Trust (Victoria)

To commence 22 September 2011 until the convening of the next ordinary Synod meeting

Rev John Mann	Mr Robert Ewing
Rev David Parker	Mr Jeffrey Hase
	Ms Belinda Seale

G Property Trust (Tasmania)

To commence 22 September 2011 until the convening of the next ordinary Synod meeting

Rev John Mann	Mr Robert Ewing
Rev David Parker	Mr Jeffrey Hase
	Ms Belinda Seale

H Property Trust (Victoria) and Property Trust (Tasmania) Chairperson

To commence 22 September 2011 until the convening of the next ordinary Synod meeting

Rev David Parker

I Terms of Placement Committee (previously Ministerial Entitlements Committee)

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2014

Dr Ian Anderson
Mr Jim O'Shea

J Victorian Council of Churches

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2014

Rev Ian Cayzer	Ms Lisa Carey
Rev Sunny Chen	Mrs Jill Cayzer
Rev Margie Dahl	Mr Gavin Faichney
Rev Jason Kioa	Mr Keith Hallett
Rev Peter Weeks	Mr Stanley Oxworth
	Ms Dimity Paul
	Mr Rohan Pryor

K Victorian Council of Christian Education

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2012

Rev Andrew Delbridge	Mr Chris Barnett
Rev Ann Scull	Ms Sandy Brodine
	Ms Joan McRae

L World Day of Prayer Australia

To commence 1 January 2012 and retire 31 December 2014

Mrs Ann Connan
Miss Phyllis Dean
Mrs Jean Thorpe

11.6.32 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

The Synod resolved:

To express the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of this Synod to the teams that have worked so hard to make Synod 2011 the success it has been.



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