



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

MINUTES

of the

TENTH MEETING OF THE

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Held at Melbourne
3-7 May 2013



Moderator: Mr Dan Wootton

General Secretary: Rev Dr Mark Lawrence

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THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SYNOD HELD IN MELBOURNE

3 – 7 MAY 2013

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

13.1 FRIDAY, 3 MAY 2013

13.1.1 PRE-SERVICE SINGING

A pre-service singing session took place at 7.10pm.

13.1.2 INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR

The Synod opened at 7.30pm with a Service of Worship and the Installation of the Moderator, Mr Dan Wootton, attended by approximately 500 people.

The service commenced with an acknowledgement of the First Peoples of this country and that we were gathered on Wurundjeri land. Respects were paid to their elders and ancestors and a commitment was made anew to the journey towards justice and reconciliation.

In acknowledging that our community now comprised mainly Second Peoples who arrived in this country with distinctive heritages and ways, we rejoiced that God loves us all.

13.2 SATURDAY 4 MAY 2013

13.2.1 OPENING

The Moderator occupied the chair and opened the session with a prayer. He welcomed Rev Dr Mark Lawrence to his first Synod Meeting as General Secretary and this was received with acclamation.

13.2.2 DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Lynette Dungan, led worship which included a chant led by Rev Jason Kioa.

13.2.3 OPENING BUSINESS

The Moderator welcomed Rev Dr Andrew Dutney, the President of the National Assembly; Rev Terence Corkin, General Secretary of the National Assembly; Rev Dr Chris Walker, National Consultant Theology and Discipleship, National Assembly; Rev Dr Ji Zhang, Manager, Church Partnerships, Asia, UnitingWorld; and Mr Pádraig Ó Tuama, poet in residence with the Commission for Mission.

The theological reflector, Rev Dr Sandy Yule, was also welcomed by the Moderator.

13.2.3.1 Orientation Session

Rev Dr Peter Blackwood led an orientation session regarding venue information, use of name tags, interpreters, table groups, working groups, the facilitation group, people in key roles, questions concerning reports, responsibilities of the Synod, consensus decision-making, proposals, protocols, procedures and etiquette.

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

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

13.2.3.2 Appointments and Associations

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.1.1)

13.2.3.3 Roll of Synod

The General Secretary tabled the Roll of Synod and announced that it would be adopted at 2.00pm, Sunday 5 May.

13.2.3.4 Greetings to and from other Synods

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.3)

13.2.3.5 Confirmation of Minutes of Synod 2013

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.4)

13.2.4 BUSINESS COMMITTEE AND SYNOD 2013 PROCEDURES (REPORT C1)

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

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (13.6.1.2 and 13.6.2)

13.2.5 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Dr Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Professor of Old Testament, Centre for Theology and Ministry.

13.2.6 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE (REPORT C4)

The General Secretary spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.5.1).

13.2.7 ROYAL COMMISSION ON CHILD ABUSE

Rev Allan Thompson, Executive Officer for the Assembly's National Response to the Royal Commission on Child Abuse Task Group, presented a verbal report.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.5.2)

13.2.8 PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE (REPORT D3)

Rev Stan Clarke and Rev Dr Peter Blackwood, Chairperson and Secretary of the Placements Committee, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.7).

13.2.9 GENERAL SECRETARY (REPORT D1)

The General Secretary spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.8).

13.2.10 EX-MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson, Ex-Moderator, addressed the meeting, reflecting on her ministry during the period she served as Moderator. Her report was received with acclamation. (13.6.9)

13.2.11 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MS ISABEL THOMAS DOBSON

Rev Dr Peter Blackwood and Ms Wendy McDonald, Presbytery of Gippsland, presented a written Minute of Appreciation for the Ex-Moderator and gifts were presented to her and Rev Kevin Dobson.

A resolution was passed by acclamation. (13.6.10)

13.2.12 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

The General Secretary introduced two proposals, one regarding Group B membership of the Synod Standing Committee and the other regarding Assembly membership.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus. (13.6.5.3 and 13.6.5.4)

13.2.13 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS (UAICC)

13.2.13.1 Tasmania (REPORT C5b)

A written report was presented by Rev Tim Matton-Johnston and Rev Grant Finlay.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.11.1).

13.2.13.2 Victoria (REPORT C5a)

A written report was presented by Mr Vince Ross and Rev Dr Robert Johnson.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.11.2).

13.2.14 REVIEW OF ACACIA COLLEGE (REPORT C2c)

Rev Dr Peter Blackwood presented the chronology of the Acacia situation.

Rev Ros McDonald, previously chaplain at Acacia College, presented a reflection.

Mr Nicholas Martin from PPB Advisory presented the key recommendations from the Independent Acacia Review report.

There was discussion in table groups. The Moderator's chaplain, Rev Lynette Dungan led the meeting in prayer.

Rev Sharon Hollis, Convenor, Facilitation Group reported on questions which arose from table group discussion. Questions were addressed by those involved in the Acacia process: Rev Ian Brown, Chairperson, Board of Mission and Resourcing; Mr David Parker, Chairperson of the Property Board; Mr Sebert Ruddock, Executive Director, Administration and Finance; Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, Commission for Mission; Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes, Executive Director, Centre for Theology and Ministry; Mr Nicholas Martin, PPB Advisory; and the General Secretary.

Rev Joan Wright Howie spoke to a proposal.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (13.6.5.5 and 13.6.12).

13.2.15 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SYNOD (REPORT C2d)

Mr David Parker, Chairperson of the Property Board, and Mr Sebert Ruddock, Executive Director, Administration and Finance, and the General Secretary presented a review of Acacia debt implications and spoke to a written report.

The Moderator offered a prayer.

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

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

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.13)

13.2.17 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Rev Dr Sandy Yule presented a theological reflection and concluded with a prayer.

13.2.18 ASSEMBLY REPORT

Rev Dr Andrew Dutney, Assembly President; Rev Terence Corkin, Assembly General Secretary; and Rev Dr Chris Walker, National Consultant Theology and Discipleship presented a report.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.14)

13.2.19 FUTURE CHURCH

Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes, Executive Director Centre for Theology and Ministry; Ms Cheryl Lawrie, Associate Director Commission for Mission; Mr Pádraig Ó Tuama, poet in residence with the Commission for Mission; and Rev Philip Liebelt, Presbytery Minister Mission and Education, Gippsland Presbytery and others presented 'Future Church' – spheres of vision, influence and responsibility.

A closing prayer was led by Cheryl Lawrie.

13.3 SUNDAY 5 MAY 2013

13.3.1 OPENING

The Moderator opened the session with a prayer and a hymn.

13.3.2 DEVOTIONS

The Moderator's Chaplain, Ms Cath James led worship with a reading and a prayer. A reading was given by Rev Jennie Gordon.

13.3.3 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Prof Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon.

13.3.4 UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT (REPORT D2.6)

Mr Dick Carter, Chairperson of UCA Funds Management and Mr Michael Walsh, Executive Director of UCA Funds Management spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.15)

13.3.5 INTERIM AUDIT COMMITTEE (REPORT C3)

Mr David Greenall, Chairperson of the Interim Audit Committee, and Ms Sally Freeman, member of the Interim Audit Committee, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.16)

13.3.6 INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE (REPORT C8)

Mr Ben Cohen, Chairperson of the Interim Finance Committee, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.17)

13.3.7 BALLOTS – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

The Business Manager introduced the ballot process.

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

13.3.8 WORKING GROUPS

The Synod met in working groups to discuss the Financial Sustainability and Divestment Principles reports and proposals.

13.3.9 ADOPTION OF THE ROLL OF SYNOD

The General Secretary proposed the adoption of the Synod Roll.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.18).

13.3.10 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (REPORT D4.8)

Ms Annette Bennet, Chairperson of the Christian Religious Education Task Group, and task group members Rev Jennie Gordon, Rev David Carter and Rev Cameron McAdam spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.19.1).

13.3.11 COMMISSION FOR MISSION (REPORT B2)

Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, Commission for Mission (CFM); Mr Adrian Pyle, Associate Director, CFM and Rev Greg Crowe, Chair of the CFM Board, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.20.1).

13.3.12 CULTURE OF SAFETY (REPORT D2.8)

Rev Dr Peter Blackwood, Associate General Secretary; Rev Lauren Mosso, Ethical Standards Officer; and Mr Josh Woollett, Safe Church Educator spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.21).

13.3.13 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SYNOD

Rev Sharon Hollis, Convenor, Facilitation Group, gave an interim report on the working group discussions.

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

The Moderator 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.

13.3.15 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 2011 meeting of Synod;
- (b) who have retired since the 2011 meeting of Synod;
- (c) who have celebrated 50, 60, 65 and 70 years since ordination or commissioning, since the 2011 meeting of Synod;
- (d) who have been ordained since the 2011 meeting of Synod; and
- (e) who have been received from another denomination or re-admitted since the 2011 meeting of Synod.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.22)

Rev Dr Peter Blackwood presented the response from Rev Hamish Christie-Johnson on behalf of those recognised in the tributes.

13.4 MONDAY 6 MAY 2013

13.4.1 OPENING

The Moderator opened the session with a prayer.

13.4.2 DEVOTIONS

Rev Lynette Dungan led worship with a reading and a prayer. A song was led by Rev Dr Andrew Dutney and Rev Dr Paul Chalson.

13.4.3 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Prof Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon.

13.4.4 ECUMENICAL AWARDS

Mr Gavin Faichney, Convenor of the Awards Panel announced the following awards, which were presented by the Moderator:

Highly Commended:	Toorak Uniting Church Cranbourne Regional Uniting Church Ivanhoe Uniting Church
Honourable Mention:	Corryong Uniting Church Karingal Uniting Church and St Peter's Lutheran
Winner:	Lorne Anglican Uniting Congregation

13.4.5 HYMN

A hymn was sung.

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

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

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.23).

13.4.7 BOARD OF MISSION AND RESOURCING (REPORT B3)

Rev Ian Brown, Chairperson, BOMAR, and Ms Heather Ackland, Director, Accounting Services, spoke to a written report.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.24).

13.4.8 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – REV DR PETER BLACKWOOD

Rev Dr Howard Wallace spoke to a proposal and Rev Dr Peter Blackwood responded.

A resolution was passed by acclamation. (13.6.5.7)

The chair was taken by the Ex-Moderator, Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson.

13.4.9 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MR DAN WOOTTON

Rev David Parker, Chair of the Property Board and Mr Sebert Ruddock, Executive Director Administration and Finance, spoke to a proposal and Mr Dan Wootton responded.

A resolution was passed by acclamation. (13.6.6.3)

The Moderator resumed the chair.

13.4.10 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILLIPINES

Rev Lynette Dungan led the Synod in a prayer.

13.4.11 BALLOTS – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

The Returning Officer, 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).

13.4.12 READING AND PRAYER

The Moderator opened the session with a reading and a prayer.

13.4.13 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SYNOD

Rev Sharon Hollis, Convenor, Facilitation Group, introduced the plenary session on financial sustainability and spoke to an amended proposal. Questions were addressed by Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes (Executive Director, Centre for Theology and Ministry), Mr Sebert Ruddock (Executive Director, Administration and Finance) and staff of the Property and Insurance Unit and the General Secretary.

13.4.14 PRAYER AND POEM

The Moderator led the Synod in a prayer and Mr Pádraig Ó Tuama offered a poem.

13.4.15 COMMISSION FOR MISSION

13.4.15.1 Justice and International Mission (JIM)

Dr Mark Zirnsak, Director, JIM, and spoke to two proposals. The Moderator offered a prayer.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (13.6.20.2.1 and 13.6.20.2.2).

13.4.16 TASK GROUP ON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UCA AGENCIES, SYNOD, CONGREGATIONS AND PRESBYTERIES (REPORT D4.10)

Rev Dr Sandy Yule spoke to a written report, which was followed by table group discussion.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.25)

13.4.17 TERMS OF PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE (REPORT D4.2)

Mr Rod Mummery, Chairperson of the Terms of Placement Committee, spoke to a written report and a proposal.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (13.6.26.1 and 13.6.26.2).

13.4.18 PROPERTY BOARD AND PROPERTY TRUSTS (VICTORIA AND TASMANIA) (REPORTS B4, C2a AND C2b)

Rev David Parker spoke to a written report and a proposal.

Two resolutions were passed by consensus (13.6.6.1 and 13.6.6.4).

13.4.19 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – REV ROB BROWN

Rev Jason Kioa spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.5.8)

13.4.20 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SYNOD

Rev Dr Rufus Black spoke to a proposal.

The Moderator offered a prayer after a period of silent reflection, which was followed by discussion in table groups. Discussion continued in a plenary session.

13.4.21 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Rev Dr Sandy Yule presented a theological reflection.

13.4.22 MULTI-CULTURAL PLAYS

Multi-cultural plays were presented by the Cross-Cultural Mission and Ministry Unit from a script by Rev Alexandra Sangster. They were followed by discussion in table groups.

The Moderator thanked the Cross-Cultural Mission and Ministry Unit for its presentation.

13.4.23 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.19.2)

The Moderator thanked the task group for its work.

13.4.24 FREQUENCY OF SYNOD MEETINGS TASK GROUP (REPORT D4.9)

Rev Paul Stephens spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by agreement. (13.6.5.9)

13.4.25 CLOSING HYMN AND PRAYER

Rev Lynette Dungan led the Synod in a short reflection and closing prayer.

13.5 TUESDAY 7 MAY 2013

The Moderator occupied the chair and opened the session with a prayer and hymn.

13.5.1 DEVOTIONS

Ms Cath James led worship with a musical interlude from Rev Dr Paul Chalson.

13.5.2 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Prof Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon. It concluded with the anthem to the One Billion Rising Movement entitled 'Break the Chain' and many members rose to join the dance.

The Moderator expressed appreciation for Rev Prof Melanchthon's leadership of the bible study. This was received with acclamation by the meeting.

13.5.1 DECLARATION OF BALLOT

The Returning Officer, Rev Dr Robert Johnson announced the result of the Synod Standing Committee Group B ballot.

13.5.2 BALLOTS – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Returning Officer, Rev Dr Robert Johnson advised on the next ballot process.

Ballot papers were distributed for the Synod Standing Committee Group A ballot (nominal one-year term) and for the Business Committee.

13.5.3 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; Ms Christine Sorensen, Formation Coordinator; Mr Chris Barnett, Children and Families Ministry Coordinator; and Mr Adrian Greenwood, Discipleship Educator – Young Adults spoke to a written report. Presenters also included Ms Temukisa Vaeluaga, Mr Bruce Watson and Ms Juliette Tautala'aso.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.27.1).

13.5.4 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – REV DR CHRISTIAAN MOSTERT

Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes, Executive Director, CTM and Rev Prof Randall Prior, Principal of the Theological College, spoke to a proposal and Rev Dr Christiaan Mostert addressed the meeting in reply.

A resolution was passed by acclamation. (13.6.27.2)

13.5.5 UNITING HOUSING VICTORIA (REPORT B6)

Mr John Preston, Board Chairperson, and Ms Wendy Middleton, Chief Executive Officer of Uniting Housing Victoria spoke to a report.

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.28)

13.5.6 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SYNOD

Rev Sharon Hollis presented a report from the Facilitation Group and spoke to a proposal and discussion followed. The matter was adjourned.

13.5.7 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Rev Dr Sandy Yule presented a theological reflection.

The Moderator thanked Dr Yule for his reflections and the meeting responded with acclamation.

13.5.8 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SYNOD

The Business Committee presented an amended proposal.

The Moderator offered a prayer after a period of silent reflection, which was followed by discussion in table groups. Discussion continued in a plenary session.

A resolution was passed by agreement. (13.6.5.6)

13.5.9 DIVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

Rev David Parker, Chairperson of the Property Board, spoke to a proposal.

Following amendment, a resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.6.2)

13.5.10 ONE MINUTE SPEECHES

Fourteen members made one minute speeches to the Synod. These were received by acclamation.

13.5.11 DATE OF SYNOD 2014

The Business Manager spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.29.2).

13.5.12 RECEPTION OF OTHER REPORTS

A resolution was passed by consensus. (13.6.31)

13.5.13 REFERRAL TO SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

A resolution was passed by consensus (13.6.30).

13.5.13.1 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE ELECTION

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.

Standing Committee

Elected:

Group A

Carol Bennett
Richard Carter
Odile Glenn
Ron Gowland
Bob Hodges
Morag Logan
Denise Liersch
John Russell
Lauleti Tu'inauvai
Lavingi Tupou

Presbytery

Tasmania
Port Phillip East
Tasmania
Gippsland
Yarra Yarra
Yarra Yarra
Yarra Yarra
Western Victoria
Port Phillip East
Port Phillip West

Group B (2016)

Jill Tabart
Ken Tabart
Wendie Wilkie

Yarra Yarra
Yarra Yarra
North East Victoria

13.5.13.2 BUSINESS COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Returning Officer, Rev Dr Robert Johnson, announced the results of the election for members of the Business Committee.

Peter Beale
Rod Mummery
Wendie Wilkie

13.5.14 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

Rev Gordon Bannon, Loddon Mallee Presbytery, spoke to a proposal.

A resolution was passed by acclamation (13.6.32).

13.5.15 CLOSING WORSHIP AND EUCHARIST

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



13.6 RESOLUTIONS

13.6.1 PROCEDURAL

13.6.1.1 Appointments and Associations

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To appoint the following people for the whole of the 2013 Synod Meeting:

Minute Secretaries:	Mrs Robyn Hansen and Ms Natalie Brown
Returning Officer:	Rev Dr Robert Johnson
Deputy Returning Officer:	Rev John Mann
Stewards:	Ms Joan McRae
	Ms Jay Brooks
	Mrs Helen Collins
	Ms Merril Clayton
	Mr Gavin Faichney
	Mrs Jeni Fitzgerald
	Ms Wendy McDonald
	Ms Fran Robinson
	Mrs Lorraine Threlfall
	Ms Wendie Wilkie
Timer Operator and notices:	Rev Kevin Dobson

- (b) To associate the following people for the whole of the 2013 Synod Meeting:

Rev Dr Chris Walker
Rev Prof Monica Jyotsna
Melanchthon
Mr Roger Oates
Mrs Marjorie Nicholas
Ms Kym Dyson
Mr Charlie Navallo
Mr Jim Wakelam
Mr Larry Marshall
Mr Sam Nicholas
Mr Vince Ross
Mr Pádraig Ó Tuama
Mr Paul Walec

- (c) To associate the following people for specific sessions of the 2013 Synod meeting:

Rev Dr Howard Wallace	For the business of the Minute of Appreciation for Rev Dr Peter Blackwood
Mr Chris Barnett	For the business of the Centre for Theology and Ministry
Mr Greg Samson	For the business of the Presbytery Review Group
Ms Annette Bennet	For the business of the Christian Religious Education in Schools Task Group
Mr Nicholas Martin	For the business of the Acacia College

Ms Wendy Middleton	For the business of Uniting Housing Victoria
Mr Andrew Eddy	For the business of Acacia College
Ms Christina Rowntree	For the business of the Centre for Theology and Ministry
Mr Rohan Pryor	For the business of the Centre for Theology and Ministry
Rev Deac Andy Calder	For the business of the Task Group on the Relationship between the Synod and Agencies

13.6.1.2 Synod 2013 Procedures

The Synod resolved:

- (a) That any proposal 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 4 May 2013;
- (c) That the closure time for receiving proposals be 6.00pm on Saturday 4 May 2013;
- (d) That any necessary elections for chairpersons be held at 4.00pm on Monday 6 May 2013, 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 Monday 6 May 2013 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	10.20am Sunday 5 May	2.00pm Sunday 5 May
Election of Group B members (3-year term)	10.50am Monday 6 May	2.00pm Monday 6 May
Election of Group A members (between meetings term)	4.00pm Monday 6 May	7.30pm Monday 6 May

- (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, Sun, Mon, Tues 9.00am
Bible study	Sat 11.00 am; Sun, Mon, Tues 9.15am
Morning tea	Sat, Sun, Tues 10.30am; Mon 11.00am
Lunch	1.00pm–2.00pm
Afternoon tea	Sat, Sun 4.00pm; Mon 3.30pm

Event	Times
Dinner break	Sat, Mon 6.00pm-7.30pm
Start of evening session	Sat, Mon 7.30pm
Close of evening session, unless extension of time is approved by Synod	Sat, Mon 9.30pm

- (ii) The close of business will be 3.00pm Tuesday 7 May 2013, prior to the closing Eucharist; and
- (iii) An initial timetable showing those items with fixed time allocations on Saturday 4 May, Sunday 5 May, Monday 6 May and Tuesday 7 May 2013 is contained in the attached table.

13.6.2 BUSINESS PROCEDURES INVOLVING THE UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS

The Synod resolved:

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:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Upon request to the General Secretary, the UAICC shall be provided with a briefing from the Facilitation Group.
- (c) 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
- (d) 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.

13.6.3 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.

13.6.4 CONFIRMATION OF SYNOD 2013 MINUTES

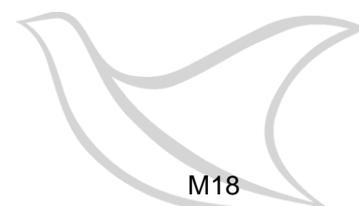
The Synod resolved:

That the Moderator, General Secretary and Business Manager be authorised to confirm the minutes of the 2013 meeting of Synod.

13.6.5 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

13.6.5.1 Report

The Synod resolved:



To receive the report of the Synod Standing Committee.

13.6.5.2 Royal Commission on Child Abuse

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To agree to the request from the Assembly to ensure that the responses of the various Council, Agencies and Institutions of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) to the Commonwealth Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse should seek to be of the highest quality, guided by the best advice and as consistent and coherent as possible;
- (b) To affirm that the best way to achieve these outcomes across the church is to be guided by a national response framework;
- (c) To welcome the establishment by the Assembly Standing Committee of a National Engagement and Response Task Group and to commit the Synod, its Agencies and Institutions to framing their responses to the Royal Commission within the framework and protocols established by the Assembly's National Response Task Group;
- (d)
 - (i) To commit itself and those Agencies and other bodies within the Synod for which it has governance responsibility to provide such information, and to request the Standing Committee to undertake or facilitate such tasks as the National Response Task Group considers constructive towards enabling a high quality and consistent response to the Royal Commission from across the UCA; and
 - (ii) To encourage other Institutions and bodies related to the Synod to shape their responses to the Royal Commission consistent with the National Framework developed by National Response Task Group, and to share information with the Task Group when requested to do so; and
- (e) To request the Standing Committee to establish a Synod based Royal Commission Task Group with the following terms of reference:

Terms of Reference for Synod Task Groups responding to Royal Commission

1. Conduct an audit of the processes used for responding to instances of past abuse which have come to the attention of the Synod, Presbyteries, congregations, schools, UnitingCare or other agencies with particular reference to:
 - a. The policies and processes of responding to allegations
 - b. The opportunity provided for survivors to tell their story
 - c. Any ex-gratia payments or other forms of redress offered.
 - d. Provision of access to documentation
 - e. Maintenance of records relating to processes
 - f. Responses to alleged / proven perpetrators
 - g. Any practices which may have impeded the reporting of and response to allegations
 - h. Evidence of past improvement in processes and changes in policies.
2. Conduct an audit of current practice within congregations, UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania, schools, and other agencies with particular reference to the following:

- a. The frameworks that the church (in its various forms) has in place to prevent the sexual abuse of children. (For example “Safe Church” policies; Working with children checks; complaints processes, etc)
 - b. The robustness with which these frameworks are applied
 - c. Any entities within the church where there are no frameworks in place
 - d. The effectiveness of monitoring processes
 - e. Practices which are / are not in place to continually raise awareness of the prevention of and response to child sexual abuse
3. Identify areas of future improvement with particular reference to:
 - a. Policies and processes which may need updating
 - b. The removal of any institutional processes which are an impediment to the reporting, investigating and responding to complaints of child sexual abuse
 - c. The support provided to survivors
 - d. The support provided to church entities and their staff
 4. Identify previous and current inquiries and share with the Royal Commission where use of their work will assist in avoiding duplication
 5. To monitor the issues being raised in the work of the Commission and
 - a. Identify if any response is required by the Synod
 - b. Receive advice from the National Engagement and Response Task Group
 - c. Provide input to the National Engagement and Response Task Group on implications for its work
 6. To communicate with congregations, UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania, schools and other agencies concerning:
 - a. The UCA response to the Royal Commission
 - b. Who can assist with how to respond to the Commission
 - c. Protocols for responding to the Commission
 - d. Who needs to be contacted when a party is summoned to the Commission
 - e. Advice on the format and content for written submissions
 7. To provide support and advice to:
 - a. Those who are called to respond to the Commission on matters within the scope of responsibility of the Synod
 - b. Those who seek to make a submission to the Commission on behalf of a church entity
 8. To provide the Assembly Task group with regular updates on:

- a. Outcomes of the audits conducted in compliance with clauses 1 and 2
- b. Any steps identified, proposed or implemented for improving current practice
- c. The processes being undertaken
- d. Any requests received from the Commission and the Synod's response
- e. Any other direct involvement of which the Synod becomes aware

13.6.5.3 Synod Standing Committee Group B membership

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To appoint the following members of Synod who were designated as Group B (3-year term) members of the Synod Standing Committee at the Ninth Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to be members of the Standing Committee of the Tenth Synod: Chris Begg, Kevin Dobson, Geoffrey Grinton; and
- (b) To request the Standing Committee to review the By-Laws for Standing Committee and to bring proposals to the Eleventh meeting of the Synod about the most appropriate methods for ensuring a degree of continuity in its membership

13.6.5.4 Assembly membership

The Synod resolved:

That pursuant to Regulation 3.3.8(a)(iii)(4), the number of additional members of Assembly to be appointed by each Presbytery in the Synod shall be one (lay or ordained), making a total of three members from each Presbytery.

13.6.5.5 The people who gave of themselves to the Acacia College vision

The Synod resolved:

To recognise that the contributions offered by the many people who gave time, energy, commitment and skills to the development, implementation and conclusion of the Acacia College vision were given in good faith.

13.6.5.6 Financial sustainability of the Synod

The Synod resolved:

- (a) Building on 'On the Way Together', to request the Standing Committee to undertake a broadly resourced major strategic review which uses the interconciliar processes of the Uniting Church to:
 - (i) inform the implementation of special circumstances
 - (ii) form a vision and plan for the future of the Church; and
 - (iii) undertake a holistic financial sustainability review to support that vision and plan
 and to report (including a recommendation about a conclusion date for the strategic review) to the next ordinary meeting of the Synod.
- (b) To consult with presbyteries, congregations, agencies and other UCA bodies across the Synod to release reserves, businesses, under-utilised properties etc in order to contribute to the reduction of the Church's debt burden.

- (c) To declare that, as a matter of urgency, special circumstances exist (Reg 4.6.3) to allow the Standing Committee, through the Property Board, to initiate the sale of real estate held within the Synod in order to:
- (i) Extinguish the Acacia College debt of \$36.6 million by 31 December 2014;
 - (ii) Recover the level of risk management reserves to an amount of \$7.32 million; and
 - (iii) Provide liquidity for ministries across the Synod to an amount of \$10 million,
- while preserving commitments made to Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congresses Victoria and Tasmania.
- (d) That the period of Special Circumstances be until 31 December 2014, or until the total amount is achieved, whichever is the earlier;
- (e) That the funds to be recovered through the sale of real estate be applied as follows:
- (i) Priority to be given to the UCA Funds Management (UCAFM) loan which has a term expiring 31 December 2013;
 - (ii) Once the UCAFM loan is fully repaid, to liquidation of the Uniting Financial Services (UFS) loan expiring 31 December 2014;
 - (iii) Recovery of the level of risk management reserves; and
 - (iv) Provision of liquidity for ministries across the Synod; and
- (f) To ask the Standing Committee to provide appropriate progress reports to Presbyteries and bring a detailed report of progress on clauses (c)–(e) above to the next ordinary meeting of Synod.

13.6.5.7 Minute of appreciation – Rev Dr Peter Blackwood

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the Rev Dr Peter Blackwood and his significant contribution to the Church as Associate General Secretary (December 2008 to February 2012 and November 2012 to May 2013) and as General Secretary (March to October 2013) in his final placements before retirement after 35 and a half years of ordained ministry.

13.6.5.8 Minute of appreciation – Rev Rob Brown

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the ministry of Rob Brown as General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 1 January 2006 to 29 February 2012

13.6.5.9 Frequency of Synod meetings

The Synod resolved:

That the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania continue to meet twice within each triennium between Assembly meetings at approximately 18 month intervals.



13.6.6 PROPERTY BOARD AND PROPERTY TRUSTS (VICTORIA AND TASMANIA)

13.6.6.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

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

13.6.6.2 Divestment principles and property types framing Special Circumstances

The Synod resolved:

To adopt the following divestment principles, property types and governance structure for the sale of Synod real estate under Special Circumstances, as proposed by the Property Board.

(a) Divestment Principles

- (i) Real estate subject to sale under the provisions of Special Circumstances shall include:
 - all real estate as identified in the list in clause (b)(i) of this proposal and not subject to Trust or bequest restrictions; and
 - any real estate offered for consideration by any part of the Church.
- (ii) Real estate identified in the list in clause (b)(ii) of this proposal shall be excluded from consideration for sale under the provisions of Special Circumstances.
- (iii) Decisions relating to the sale of real estate under the provisions of Special Circumstances shall be made after discussion with Presbytery Standing Committees, congregations, faith communities and stakeholders about issues including discernment of missional directions.

(b) Property types

(i) Property types for Inclusion

Subject to due consideration of any trust or bequest restrictions that may apply to the properties:

(This list is in alphabetical order and not prioritised.)

- Aged care buildings and land
- Ancillaries (eg tennis courts)
- Campsites
- Church buildings and land regarded as surplus
- Community service agencies' buildings and land
- Dwellings
- Educational buildings and land
- Kindergartens
- Leased properties
- Office premises/commercial shops
- Properties used by Synod Operations
- Vacant land.

- (ii) Property types for exclusion
 - Centre for Theology and Ministry
 - Manses occupied by Ministers
 - Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Tasmania land and buildings
 - Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Victoria land and buildings.

(c) Governance framework

The Standing Committee shall establish a Project Control Group (PCG) to include people with competencies in areas such as property, finance, project management and mission, and reporting to the Property Board, to implement the divestment of properties, as follows:

- (i) Membership:
 - i Two persons appointed by the Standing Committee, (with preference being given to members of the 2013 Synod nominated by members of the 2013 Synod), one of whom shall have appropriate missional skills, and the other of whom shall have appropriate financial and property skills;
 - ii Two further persons appointed by the Standing Committee, one with appropriate missional skills and the other with financial and property skills, one of whom shall be appointed as the Chair of the PCG;
 - iii Two persons appointed by the Standing Committee from the members of the Property Board, Interim Finance Committee and the Risk Management Committee;
 - iv The Director, Property Services and one Synod Office staff member appointed by the General Secretary; and
 - v The Program Director appointed by the PCG.
- (ii) The Project Control Group will be supported by Synod staff nominated by the General Secretary.

13.6.6.3 Minute of appreciation – Mr Dan Wootton

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for Dan Wootton and celebrate his extraordinary contribution to the Synod in various roles from 1991 to April 2013; his dedication, care, wisdom and deep faith; and to wish him and his family God's rich blessing as he now takes up his role as Moderator for the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

13.6.6.4 Appointments to Property Trusts

The Synod resolved:

To give authority to the Synod Standing Committee to fill vacant positions on:

- (a) The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria) and
- (b) The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Tasmania)



13.6.7 PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Placements Committee.

13.6.8 GENERAL SECRETARY

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the General Secretary.

13.6.9 EX MODERATOR

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Ex Moderator.

13.6.10 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – Ms ISABEL THOMAS DOBSON

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To give thanks to God for the ministry of Isabel Thomas Dobson as Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 20 September 2009 to 3 May 2013; and
- (b) To record the Church's appreciation for Isabel's patience and care in chairing meetings, her diligence and grace in responding to invitations to attend special events across Tasmania and Victoria, her wisdom and clarity in her public statements and articulation of faith in Jesus Christ, and her determination and resilience in the face of many issues that challenge the Church.

13.6.11 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS

13.6.11.1 UAICC Tasmania

The Synod resolved:

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

13.6.11.2 UAICC Victoria

The Synod resolved:

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

13.6.12 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACACIA COLLEGE

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Property Board.

13.6.13 ACCOUNTING SERVICES – ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Accounting Services.



13.6.14 ASSEMBLY

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Assembly.

13.6.15 UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Funds Management.

13.6.16 INTERIM AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Interim Audit Committee.

13.6.17 INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Interim Finance Committee.

13.6.18 ADOPTION OF THE ROLL OF SYNOD

The Synod resolved:

That the Roll of Synod as finalised at the start of business on Sunday 6 May be adopted. (Refer to Appendix AA1.1.)

13.6.19 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS TASK GROUP

13.6.19.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Christian Religious Education in Schools Task Group.

13.6.19.2 Christian Religious Education

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To acknowledge and affirm the faithful work of Uniting Church volunteers who teach Christian Religious Education (CRE) in schools and the congregations who support them.
- (b) To affirm the UCA's involvement with ACCESS ministries and look forward to strengthening this relationship.
- (c) To affirm the UCA's commitment to working ecumenically with other Christian churches in the provision of CRE (and school chaplaincy).
- (d) To establish regular contact with the Chief Executive Officer of ACCESS ministries through the General Secretary.
- (e) To request the General Secretary to arrange for regular meetings of the nominated UCA ACCESS ministries members and other relevant UCA members and staff.
- (f) To request ACCESS ministries to:

- (i) Find meaningful ways in which ACCESS ministries members can contribute and represent the views of their supporting churches within the governance structures of ACCESS ministries.
 - (ii) Provide a response to the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania General Secretary as to what is meant by 'agreed' in relation to the CRE syllabus.
 - (iii) Seek a more inclusive and consultative approach to the writing of the CRE curriculum which includes formulating clear criteria for curriculum writers and advertising for curriculum writers and which involves members of the UCA.
 - (iv) Urgently update the CRE curriculum ensuring a broader theological and educational approach including contemporary teaching practices, recognition of literature, history and science, and providing students with more opportunity to enquire, wonder and ask questions.
 - (v) Continue to review volunteer teacher training to better equip volunteers with contemporary teaching practices and ensure that there is a process for regular performance review and accreditation.
 - (vi) Continue to represent the Supporting Churches jointly in the conversation with the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ACARA) regarding the future implementation of General Religious Education (GRE) in the Australian Curriculum.
 - (vii) Have no expectation, in any form, of volunteer CRE teachers raising funds for the CRE programme.
- (g) To request the Standing Committee to reconvene the CRE Task Group prior to the 2014 Synod meeting to evaluate the impact of ACCESS ministries actions in response to the CRE report and its proposals and to bring a report to the Synod.
 - (h) To request the Nominations Panel, when making suggestions for UCA nominees for ACCESS ministries, to suggest only those who have appropriate skills in education, theology, corporate and ecclesial governance.
 - (i) To request the Commission for Mission, in consultation with the Centre for Theology and Ministry, to actively represent the Uniting Church specifically in the conversation with ACARA regarding the future implementation of GRE in the Australian curriculum.
 - (j) To request the General Secretary to ensure that a report on the partnership between the UCA and ACCESS ministries comes to each Synod meeting.
 - (k) To forward the Task Group report and the Synod resolutions arising from it to ACCESS ministries.

13.6.20 COMMISSION FOR MISSION

13.6.20.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Commission for Mission.

13.6.20.2 Justice and International Mission

13.6.20.2.1 War in Afghanistan

The Synod resolved:



- (a) To express its deep sorrow that Afghanistan has been afflicted by armed conflict for over three decades, claiming well over a million lives in that time, and that the prospects for any lasting and meaningful peace in that country remain remote;
- (b) To welcome the announcement of the Australian Government that its aid program in Afghanistan will rise from \$165 million to \$250 million per year by 2015–2016 and will be focussed on four key areas: improving agriculture and rural development, improving basic service delivery, supporting good governance and supporting vulnerable populations;
- (c) To urge the Australian Government to continue to support efforts to reach a meaningful and just peace in Afghanistan through negotiations involving all parties, and to insist on the involvement in the negotiations of civil society groups including women, in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325; and
- (d) To write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs to inform them of this resolution.

13.6.20.2.2 Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To express its deep concern regarding the prevalence of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) within the community.
- (b) To welcome the actions Australian Governments have already taken to address this problem, including:
 - (i) development of screening tools for alcohol use during pregnancy;
 - (ii) the development of a FASD diagnostic instrument to assist clinicians; and
 - (iii) the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare scoping study on ways to improve FASD related data collection and reporting
- (c) To call on the Federal and State Governments to take further steps to curb the prevalence of FASD, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs in their report on FASD released in December 2012, and including:
 - (i) The use of television and radio advertisements to warn of the risks of FASD;
 - (ii) Developing an appropriately skilled workforce to accurately identify and provide effective supports for affected families;
 - (iii) Developing best practice models in child protection and related services, including reduced caseloads to enable workers to have meaningful ongoing engagement with affected families;
 - (iv) Establishment of dedicated residential withdrawal services for mothers with young children and development of collaborative treatment pathways (incorporating long-term, follow-up support) for families affected by FASD; and
 - (v) The inclusion on alcoholic products of warning labels that are tested with consumers, warning of the dangers of FASD; and
- (d) To write to the Federal and Victorian and Tasmanian State Ministers for Health and Shadow Ministers for Health to inform them of this resolution.

13.6.21 CULTURE OF SAFETY STEERING GROUP

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Culture of Safety Steering Group.

13.6.22 SERVICE OF TRIBUTES AND THANKSGIVING

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the life and witness of former lay Moderator, Mrs Ethel Mitchell OAM who has died since the 2011 meeting of the Synod and to record her name; and:

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

- (a) have died since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Graham Briscoe	Rev Robert Maclachlan
Rev Mollie Chick	Rev Dr Douglas Miller
Rev Ian Crouch	Rev Alexander Peerman
Rev Archibald Crow	Rev Dr Alan Reid
Deaconess Virginia Davey	Deaconess Valmai Schmidtke
Rev M Helen Feeney	Rev Denis Simmons
Rev Norman Gray	Rev Ronald Tait
Rev Prof Emeritus Graeme Griffin	Rev Keith Tinkler
Rev Dr Graeme Hawkins	Rev Dr Nigel Watson
Rev David Hodges	Rev Dr Robert Weatherlake
Rev John Hudson	Rev Sylvia Widdicombe
Rev C John Hutton	Rev Dr Ian Williams
Rev John Jebb	Rev Pam Wyley
Rev Wesley Lutton	

- (b) have retired since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Walter Abetz	Rev Prof Christiaan Mostert
Rev Kevin Cranwell	Rev Dr Gi Young Nahm
Rev Rex Fisher	Rev Kathryn Richards
Rev Barbara Gayler	Rev Eric Smith
Rev Rob Grenfell	Rev Dr John H Smith
Rev Brad Harris	Rev Rosalind Terry
Rev Denis Hawkey	Rev Doug Turnbull
Rev David Henderson	Rev Dr John Vander Reest
Rev Helen Johnson	Rev David Walker
Rev Donald Kaus	Rev Graeme Watkinson
Rev Keith Kynoch	Rev Deacon Pam White
Rev Deacon Margaret Manley	Rev Dr Sandy Yule

- (c) have celebrated 50 years of ordination or commissioning since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Alexander Adam	Rev Seow Hoon (Jacob) Lim
Rev Deacon Valerie Aumann	Rev Bernard Long

Rev Brace Bateman	Rev John Lukies
Rev Dr David Beswick	Rev David McKechnie
Rev Owen Blake	Rev Deacon Dawn McPhail
Rev Lindsay Bradfield	Rev Maxwell Morton
Rev Dr Ian Breward	Rev Alistair Orton
Rev Hamish Christie-Johnston	Rev Stewart Paddle
Rev Ivor Clift	Rev Robert Patterson
Rev Dr Alan Crawford	Rev David Pentecost
Rev John Donnell	Rev Peter Petherbridge
Rev Bevin Fist	Deaconess Valmai Schmidtke (Dec)
Rev Dr Robert Gallacher	Rev Ian Scutt
Rev Ronald Gordon	Rev Allan Searle
Rev S Lindsay Gorfine	Rev Robert Seipolt
Rev George (Mick) Grant	Rev Jean Shadforth
Rev Dr Denham Grierson	Rev Ian Smith
Rev Alan Hardie	Rev John Taylor
Rev Barbara Higgins	Rev Dr Henry (Harry) Wardlaw
Rev Alexander Hodgson	Rev D Stuart Webster
Rev Brian Howe	Rev W Neil Wilkinson
Rev Robert Imms	Rev Trevor Williams
Rev Arnold James	Rev Joseph Wilson
Rev William Johnston	Rev Richard Wootton

- (d) have celebrated 60 years of ordination since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Murray Allen	Rev C Richmond Kenyon
Rev Merle Fechner	Rev S Warnock Lowry
Rev Alfred Foote	Rev Douglas Mathews
Rev Boyd Granzow	Rev G Lawrence Turner
Rev Alexander Hilliard	Rev Alfred Webber

- (e) have celebrated 65 years of ordination since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev T John Goff	Rev Howard Secomb
Rev Malcolm Lamont	

- (f) have celebrated 70 years of ordination since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Kenneth Blackwell

- (g) have been ordained since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Sandy Brodine	Rev David Manzoney
Rev Brendan Byrne	Rev Amanda Nicholas
Rev Lindell Gibson	Rev Barbara Strickland
Rev Dr Deacon James Godfrey	Rev David Thompson
Rev Tupe Ioelu	Rev Ikani Vaitohi
Rev Tony Lai	Rev Joanna Wierenga
Rev Denise Liersch	

- (h) have been received from another denomination since the 2011 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Jung-Ha (Andrew) Hwang

Rev Dr Kevin Yelverton

(After the 2011 meeting of the Synod, notification was received that Rev Ian Crouch had also died since the 2010 meeting of the Synod. Tribute was paid to Rev Ian Crouch at the 2013 Synod meeting.)

13.6.23 UNITING AGED CARE (VICTORIA AND TASMANIA)

The Synod resolved:

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

13.6.24 BOARD OF MISSION AND RESOURCING

The Synod resolved:

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

13.6.25 TASK GROUP ON RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UCA AGENCIES, SYNOD, CONGREGATIONS AND PRESBYTERIES

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Task Group on Relationships between UCA Agencies, Synod, Congregations and Presbyteries.

13.6.26 TERMS OF PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

13.6.26.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Terms of Placement Committee.

13.6.26.2 Stipends and allowances

The Synod resolved:

- (a) That the base level for stipends at the end of 2013 be \$51,272 pa;
- (b) That the adjustment to the stipend for 2014 be 3.2%, for 2015 be 3.3%, and for 2016 be 3.3%;
- (c) That the base level for travel allowances for using private cars on professional duties by ministers in full-time or part-time placements be paid in two parts as follows:

Part 1: Car Allowance

- (i) for travel up to 5,000 km per annum:
\$5,100; or
- (ii) for travel from 5,000 km up to 20,000 km per annum:
\$5,100, plus \$320 per 1,000 km travelled above 5,000 km; or
- (iii) for travel from 20,000 km up to 30,000 km per annum:
\$9,900, plus \$200 per 1,000 km travelled above 20,000 km; or
- (iv) for travel above 30,000 km per annum:

\$11,900, plus \$130 per 1,000 km travelled above 30,000 km;

Part 2: Petrol Cost Provision

The Petrol Cost Provision will be paid by either:

- (i) an additional 'Petrol Allowance' of \$190 per 1000 km of travel per annum, or
 - (ii) at the minister's request, 'Petrol Cost Reimbursement' for actual expenditure on 'L' litres of petrol, where L = agreed travel (km) divided by 9.0 (km/litre).
- (d) That the ad hoc travelling allowances for minister's professional duties be:
- (i) 72.0 cents per kilometre for normal (average total) cost reimbursement for ministers not in placement, theological students and retired ministers; or
 - (ii) 37.0 cents per kilometre for marginal cost reimbursement only (which includes 17.0 cents per kilometre as the petrol cost component) for ministers in placement or other employment; and
 - (iii) restricted, as a guideline, to a daily limit not exceeding reasonable commercial car rental costs.
- (e) That the base level for the manse allowance be \$300 per week (\$15,600 pa).

13.6.27 CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

13.6.27.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

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

13.6.27.2 Minute of appreciation – Rev Dr Christiaan Mostert

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the contribution of Christiaan Mostert as Professor of Systematic Theology for the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania over a period of seventeen years from 1996 to 2012: for the high quality of his teaching and research, his contribution to the formation of candidates for ministry, and his resourcing of the theological life of the wider church.

13.6.28 UNITING HOUSING VICTORIA

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Uniting Housing Victoria.

13.6.29 BUSINESS COMMITTEE

13.6.29.1 Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Business Committee.



13.6.29.2 Date of Synod 2014

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To meet at La Trobe University Bundoora in September 2014 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.

13.6.30 REFERRAL TO SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

The Synod resolved:

To refer the remaining business contained in proposals 18 (Appointment of Synod members by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress), 22 (Appointments to Committees, Commissions and Ecumenical Bodies by Synod 2013), 26 (ACCESS Ministries Partnership Program), 32 (Welcoming the Royal Commission), 33 (Presbytery Review), 34 (Ministry in the Educational Context) and 37 (Disability Care Australia) (Refer to Appendix AA6) to the Synod Standing Committee.

13.6.31 RECEPTION OF REPORTS

The Synod resolved:

To receive the following reports:

Administration and Finance (D2.1)
Beneficiary Fund (F1)
Bethel Pastoral Care (D4.6)
Communications and Media Services (D2.7)
Ecumenical Relations Committee (D4.1)
Human Resource Services (D2.5)
Information Technology Services (D2.3)
Legal Unit (D2.4)
Nominations Panel (C7)
Pastoral Assistance Committee (D4.3)
Presbyteries Consultative Group (C6)
Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee (D4.4)
Working Group on Christian Jewish Relations (D4.5)

Presbytery reports from:

Gippsland (E1)
Loddon Mallee (E2)
North East Victoria (E3)
Port Phillip East (E4)
Port Phillip West (E5)
Tasmania (E6)
Western Victoria (E7)
Yarra Yarra (E8)

13.6.32 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 2013 a meaningful time of sharing and decision-making

PROPOSALS REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE

The following proposals were referred to Synod Standing Committee:

18 APPOINTMENT OF SYNOD MEMBERS BY UAICC

That the Synod resolve:

To amend clauses 5.19 and 5.20 of the by-laws for the Appointment of Members of the Synod to read:

- (a) 5.19 up to two persons appointed by the Victorian Regional Committee of the UAICC; and
- (b) 5.20 up to two persons appointed by the Tasmanian Regional Committee of the UAICC.

Proposer: Mark Lawrence
Secunder: Vince Ross

22 NOMINATIONS PANEL

That the Synod resolve:

To appoint the following people to the bodies named herein:

A ACCESS Ministries

To commence 1 July 2013 and retire 30 June 2016

Rev Linley Liersch

B Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements (Chairperson)

To commence 7 May 2013 until the next ordinary meeting of Synod

Rev Stan Clarke

C Australian Church Women (Victorian Unit)

To commence 1 July 2013 and retire 30 June 2016

Mrs Mary Dunnachie

D Council for Chaplaincies in Tertiary Institutions

To commence 1 July 2013 and retire 30 June 2016

Rev Jay Robinson

Mrs Lynette Bromage

E Property Trust (Victoria) and Property Trust (Tasmania)

To commence 7 May 2013 until the convening of the next ordinary Synod meeting

Rev David Parker

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

To commence 7 May 2013 until the convening of the next ordinary Synod meeting

Rev David Parker

Mr Robert Ewing

Rev John Mann

G Terms of Placement Committee

To commence 1 July 2013 and retire 30 June 2016

Rev Ann Key

Mr Chris Harnath

Rev Dr Morag Logan

Ms Lorraine Threlfall

Mr Rod Mummery



H Victorian Council of Christian Education

To commence 1 May 2013 and retire 30 September 2014

Rev Sandy Brodine

Mr Chris Barnett

Rev Andrew Delbridge

Ms Joan McRae

Rev Ann Scull

Proposer: Max Woolcock

Seconder: Joan McRae

26 ACCESS MINISTRIES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

That the Synod resolve:

To encourage congregations to support CRE teachers through the ACCESS Ministries partnership program.

Proposer: David Fotheringham

Seconder: Sandy Brodine

32 WELCOMING THE ROYAL COMMISSION

That the Synod resolve:

- (a) To welcome the establishment of the national Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and
- (b) To commit itself to support the achievement of the objectives of the Commission.

Proposer: James Douglas

Seconder: Allan Thompson

33 REVIEW OF PRESBYTERIES (REPORT D4.7)

That the Synod resolve:

- (a) To affirm that the reduction in presbytery numbers from 14 to eight and the Synod resourcing for three presbytery ministers in each has been positive for the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.
- (b) To encourage the General Secretary to ensure that the collaborative support and creativity between presbyteries, the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Commission for Mission, Administration and Finance, and presbytery ministers is strengthened.
- (c) To encourage the General Secretary in consultation with Synod bodies (eg Presbyteries Consultative Group, Placements Committee, Centre for Theology and Ministry continuing education):
 - (i) to further develop placement processes that result in effective and cohesive presbytery ministry teams [Presbytery Ministers and officers]; and
 - (ii) to ensure that there is ongoing training and support of presbytery ministry teams.
- (d) To refer to Standing Committee the following proposals for consideration and appropriate action after further consultation with the Presbytery Review Group:
 - (i) that presbyteries be given flexibility in the ministries for which they use the resources provided by the Synod for presbytery ministry; and
 - (ii) to request the General Secretary to work with the presbyteries to determine strategies to achieve better support for voluntary presbytery officers.

Proposer: Facilitation Group



34 MINISTRY IN THE EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT

That the Synod resolve:

To ask the Standing Committee to convene a committee to explore the best way in which the Uniting Church can use the resources of congregations, agencies, schools, presbyteries and the Synod to identify fresh expressions of ministry in the educational context, and to contribute to the education of Victorian and Tasmanian primary and secondary students in a way that ensures that “differences in educational outcomes are not the result of differences in wealth, income, power or possessions and that all students have access to a high standard of education regardless of their background or circumstances”. (Review of Funding for Schooling Finding 17, p. xxxi.)

Proposer: Avril Hannah-Jones
Secunder: Rosemary Broadstock

37 DISABILITY CARE AUSTRALIA

That the Synod resolve:

- (a) To congratulate both the Victorian and Tasmanian governments on their commitment to the Disability Care Australia scheme; and
- (b) To commend UCA congregations and agencies which have contributed to this positive outcome.

Proposer: Andy Calder
Secunder: David Pargeter

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