



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

MINUTES

of the

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE

SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Held at Box Hill, Victoria
3 – 8 June 2016



Moderator: Rev Sharon Hollis

General Secretary: Rev Dr Mark Lawrence

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Table of Contents

MINUTES	M5
Resolutions	M35
APPENDICES	
Roll of Synod	AA1.1
Membership of Boards, Commissions, Committees etc	AA2.1
Placements finalised since Synod 2014	AA3.1
'In Memoriam' from Union to Synod 2016	AA4.1
Memorial Minutes	AA5.1
INDEX	



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SYNOD HELD IN MELBOURNE

3–8 JUNE 2016

All activities, except for the opening service, were held at Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.

16.1 FRIDAY, 3 JUNE 2016

16.1.1 PRE-SERVICE SINGING

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

16.1.2 INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR

The Synod opened at 7.30pm with a Service of Worship and the Installation of the Moderator, Rev Sharon Hollis, attended by approximately 560 people, at the Wesley Uniting Church, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

The theme of the service was 'Letters of Recommendation', based on 2 Corinthians 3:1-3.

16.2 SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2016

16.2.1 COMMENCEMENT

The Moderator occupied the chair at 9am and welcomed members.

16.2.2 DEVOTIONS

The Moderator introduced Rev Eun-Deok (David) Kim who led the devotions.

16.2.3 OPENING BUSINESS

16.2.3.1 Theological Orientation

Rev Dr Geoffrey Thompson and Rev Sue Withers presented an orientation for the Synod meeting. Rev Thompson addressed the question 'What are we doing from a theological perspective when we meet as a council of the Church?' Rev Sue Withers discussed decision-making at Synod, business procedures involving the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and confidentiality.

16.2.3.2 General Orientation

Mr Jim Milne, Synod Property Officer, addressed the meeting regarding occupational health and safety issues, and emergency procedures throughout the Synod meeting.

16.2.3.3 Welcome

The Moderator welcomed Mr Stuart McMillan, President and Ms Colleen Geyer, General Secretary of the National Assembly.

The Moderator introduced the Moderator's Chaplains, Rev Deacon Michelle Cook and Rev Juliette Tautala'aso; the general chaplains, Ms Annette Buckley, Rev Trevor Bassett and Rev Charity Majiza; and the Chaplain for Major Strategic Review (MSR) related issues, Rev Ros McDonald.

The Moderator introduced the theological reflector, Mr Pdraig O'Tuama, Irish poet and theologian, who presented a daily theological reflection at the Synod meeting.

16.2.3.4 Appointments and Associations

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

(a) To appoint the following people for the whole of the 2016 Synod Meeting:

Minute Secretaries:	Mrs Robyn Hansen and Ms Natalie Brown
Returning Officer:	Mr Rod Mummery
Deputy Returning Officer:	Rev John Mann
Chief Steward	Ms Joan McRae
Stewards:	Mrs Sandra Beer
	Ms Bethany Broadstock
	Mrs Lyn Bromage
	Mrs Helen Collins
	Rev Andrew Delbridge
	Ms Jeni Fitzgerald
	Mr Robert Lees
	Ms Wendy McDonald
	Mr Graeme McKinty
	Mrs Marina Schmidt
	Mr Cameron Shields
	Ms LouAnne Stabb
	Ms Wendie Wilkie
Timer Operator and notices:	Rev Kevin Dobson

(b) To associate the following people for the whole of the 2016 Synod Meeting:

Rev Dev Anandarajan
Mr Larry Marshall
Rev Ros McDonald
Mr Pdraig O'Tuama
Dr Jason Talbot
Ms Cheryl Lawrie

(c) To associate the following people for specific sessions of the 2016 Synod meeting:

Mr Charles Gibson	For the business of the Royal Commission Task Group
Ms Cath James	For the business of the Justice and International Mission Unit
Ms Jill Ruzbacky	For the business of the Justice and International Mission Unit
Ms Alison Overeem	For the business of Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Tasmania
Ms Laura Cregan	For the business of the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group
Mr Andrew Shearer-Cox	For the business of the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group
Mr Ian Creaton	For the business of the Property Board

Mr Sam Nicholas	For the business of the Property Board
Ms Sandra Bethell	For the business of the Property Board
Mr Ian Brain	For the business of Uniting Housing Victoria

16.2.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SYNOD 2016

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

That the Moderator, General Secretary, Associate General Secretary and Business Manager be authorised to confirm the minutes of the 2016 meeting of Synod.

16.2.5 BUSINESS COMMITTEE AND (REPORT C3)

Mr Geoffrey Grinton, Synod Business Manager, spoke to a written report and expressed appreciation to the staff of Box Hill Town Hall for their support.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.2.6 SYNOD 2016 PROCEDURES

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) That any proposal which may include financial commitment not at present included in the Mission Support Fund or other appropriate budget of the Synod be subject to comment by a representative of the Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) after consultation, where possible, with representatives of the Synod Finance and Risk Management Committees;
- (b) That the closure time for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee be 7.30pm on Saturday 4 June 2016;
- (c) That the closure time for receiving proposals be 7.30pm on Saturday 4 June 2016;
- (d) That any necessary elections for chairpersons be held at 10.55am on Tuesday 7 June 2016, and that the ballot close at 2.00pm on that same day;
- (e) That any elections for members of boards, commissions and committees be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 7 June 2016 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	10.55am Monday 6 June 2016	2.00pm Monday 6 June 2016
Election of Group B members (second term)	10.55am Tuesday 7 June 2016	2.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2016
Election of Group B members (first term)	10.55am Tuesday 7 June 2016	2.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2016
Election of Group A members (between meetings term)	4.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2016	7.30pm Tuesday 7 June 2016

- (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, Wed 9.00am
Bible study	Mon, Tues, Weds 9.15am
Morning tea	11.00–11.30am
Lunch	1.00pm–2.00pm
Afternoon tea	Sat, Mon, Tues 3.30–4.00pm Sun 3.00–3.30pm
Dinner break	6.00pm–7.30pm
Start of evening session	Sat, Sun, Tues 7.30pm
Close of evening session, unless extension of time is approved by Synod	Sat, Sun, Tues 9.00pm

- (ii) The close of business will be 3.00pm Wednesday 8 June 2016, prior to the closing Eucharist; and
- (iii) An initial timetable showing those items with fixed time allocations on Saturday 4, Sunday 5, Monday 6, Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 June 2016 is contained in the attached table.

16.2.7 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Dr Sally Douglas. The theme for the Bible study series was *Woman Wisdom in Old Testament and Intertestamental Texts*.

16.2.8 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE (REPORT C1)

The General Secretary spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.2.9 PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE (REPORT C10)

Rev David Fotheringham, Chairperson of the Placements Committee, spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.2.10 BOARD OF MISSION AND RESOURCING (BOMAR) (REPORT B1)

Rev Ian Brown, Chairperson of BOMAR, spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.2.11 UNITING AGEWELL (REPORT B7)

Rev Allan Thompson, Board Chairperson and Ms Valerie Lyons, Executive Director and CEO, Uniting AgeWell spoke to a written report and questions were addressed. This matter was adjourned.

16.2.12 EX-MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Mr Dan Wootton, the Ex-Moderator, spoke to a report which was received with acclamation.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.



16.2.13 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MR DAN WOOTTON

Rev Stan Clarke spoke to a proposal and Mr Dan Wootton responded. A presentation was made to Mrs Kathy Wootton.

The Synod resolved by acclamation:

To give thanks to God for the ministry of Dan Wootton as Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 2013 to 2016.

The Synod affirms Dan's strong pastoral presence yet humble disposition shared across the diverse life of the Synod; sharing the difficult decisions of the church sensitively, with deep integrity and a commitment to justice across all councils of the Church; opening the Word of God with the Church in insightful ways; always inviting the Church into the space of prayer and reflection; and helping the Church be the best church it can be.

Dan Wootton began working in the Synod offices in 1991 as Development Fund Officer. Over the ensuing years he served in a number of roles. His wise counsel, his extensive and deep knowledge of the Regulations and polity of the Uniting Church in Australia, his attention to detail and acute sense of justice across all the councils of the Church, in his work as Property Officer, were affirmed across the church. In 2013 Dan was elected to serve the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania as Moderator.

Dan's time as Moderator has been marked by some of the most challenging and far-reaching issues this Synod has faced: the Uniting our future project and the Major Strategic Review. Over their duration, Dan has responded, at no small personal cost, with gentleness and grace to the significant pastoral questions they raised.

Alongside the myriad other concerns of the role, Dan has engaged the diverse responses of the members of the Church with characteristic openness and humility, drawing upon his thoughtful wisdom and appreciation of the polity of the Church. He has listened carefully. He has responded considerately. He has shared the difficult decisions of the Church sensitively and with a deep commitment to justice across all councils of the Church.

Dan has travelled throughout the Synod, carrying the stories of that diverse life to other parts of the Church. He has opened for us and to us the texts of our faith with insight, faith and hope, drawing frequently from his beloved Desert Fathers – and Mothers.

Unassumingly, he has revealed to us and shared with us the breadth and depth of his Christian understanding, the discipline of his prayer life, and the vitality and sustaining strength of his deep, contemplative relationship with God.

Dan's disposition is both humble and humbling. Ever alert and attentive to the natural world and everyday folk, his reflections have intrigued and inspired. Dan has acted with integrity, grace and insight. Without rancour, he has come alongside those who have disagreed with decisions made by the Church, offering understanding and compassion.

Dan has been a wonderfully gentle chairperson of Synod meetings and of Standing Committee. He has consistently invited the Church to be the best it can be, seeking to ensure a discerning space to grapple honestly with difficult issues.

In all things, Dan has been worthy of our appreciation and honour for the way he has led the Church as Moderator.

16.2.14 ROLL OF SYNOD

The Business Manager tabled the Roll of Synod and announced that it would be adopted at 3.30pm, Sunday 5 June.



16.2.15 MAJOR STRATEGIC REVIEW (MSR) (REPORT C1.1)

The General Secretary, MSR Program Director Dr Jason Talbot and MSR team members – Ms Leeanne Keam, Rev Graeme Harrison, Rev Nigel Hanscamp and Mr Ken Tabart – spoke to a written report, with breaks for table discussion. A question time followed in plenary session.

16.2.16 WORKING GROUPS

The Synod met in working groups to discuss the Major Strategic Review report.

16.2.17 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

A theological reflection was presented by Mr Pdraig O'Tuama and the Moderator responded with a prayer.

16.2.18 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS (TASMANIA) (REPORT F1)

Rev Dr Chris Budden, Ms Alison Overeem and Rev Tim Matton-Johnson spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.2.19 RENEWING THE COVENANT TASK GROUP (REPORT D1)

Mr Dan Wootton, the Ex-Moderator, spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.2.20 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

Mr Stuart McMillan, President, and Ms Colleen Geyer, General Secretary of the National Assembly, presented a report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.2.21 CLOSING PRAYER

Rev Deacon Michelle Cook and Rev Juliette Tautala'aso led the Synod in a closing prayer.

16.3 SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2016

The Moderator opened the session.

16.3.1 DEVOTIONS

Rev Eun-Deok (David) Kim led worship.

16.3.2 PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION

The Synod resolved that the closing time for receiving nominations for Standing Committee be extended to 2pm on Sunday 5 June 2016.

16.3.3 UNITINGCARE NETWORK PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (REPORT C1.3)

The Synod resolved to associate Mr Randall Kent and Mr Tony Chapman for the business of the UnitingCare Network Project Control Group.

Mr Bob Hodges, Convenor of the UnitingCare Network Project Control Group (PCG), spoke to a written report, introduced members of the PCG and responded to questions.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.3.4 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (REPORT C1.2)

Rev David Pargeter, Chair of the Royal Commission Response Task Group, and Mr Charles Gibson, Executive Officer of the Synod Royal Commission Response Task Group, spoke to a report and questions were addressed.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.3.5 UNITING AGEWELL (REPORT B7)

This matter was resumed. The Synod resolved to receive the report.

Rev Allan Thompson, Board Chairperson and Rev John Clarke, Director of Mission, spoke to a proposal regarding the statement *Uniting AgeWell – A Mission of the Uniting Church*.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

To note the statement “Uniting AgeWell – A Mission of the Uniting Church” (report B7 Attachment 1) and commend it to Uniting AgeWell’s stakeholders including staff, families, volunteers, congregations and presbyteries.

16.3.6 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MS VALERIE LYONS

Rev Allan Thompson, Board Chairperson, Uniting AgeWell spoke to a proposal and Ms Valerie Lyons responded.

The Synod resolved by acclamation:

To record its appreciation to Valerie Lyons for her leadership as Executive Director of Uniting AgeWell from 5 January 2015 to 5 July 2016, and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Valerie Lyons commenced as Executive Director of Uniting AgeWell in January 2015 and will conclude her role in July 2016. The short term of Valerie’s leadership was an exciting and innovative period for Uniting AgeWell.

The provision of aged care services is complex, changing and highly regulated, and under Valerie’s leadership Uniting AgeWell has not only kept pace with its competitors and partners in the field, but taken many new initiatives.

Some key achievements of Uniting AgeWell during the period when Valerie has been Executive Director are:

- All sites providing residential aged care now have appointed chaplains.
- Namaste AgeWell palliative project has been successfully trialled and gained international recognition.
- Marketing and Community relations team has been established.
- Improved services in Hotel and Hospitality – especially meals
- Partnerships established with other Uniting Church agencies providing services to seniors and disability services
- All residential sites have full three year accreditation.
- Consumer directed Care rolled out for all community programs
- Consumer Advisory Committee established
- Re-development of Preston and Hawthorn sites approved
- 28 bed extension to Manor Lakes residential facility at Wyndham Vale
- 13% increase in the number of funded packages for home based care

Although short, this has been a very significant tenure, and Valerie leaves with the best wishes of Uniting AgeWell and the Synod.

16.3.7 CONGREGATION STORIES

A video showcasing some of the life-giving activities undertaken by various congregations was shown.

16.3.8 GENERAL SECRETARY (REPORT E1)

The General Secretary spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.3.9 UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT (REPORT B6)

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

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.3.10 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MR RICHARD (DICK) CARTER

Mr Michael Walsh, Executive Director of UCA Funds Management and the General Secretary spoke to a proposal and Mr Dick Carter responded.

The Synod resolved by acclamation:

To give thanks to God for Richard (Dick) Carter and celebrate his extraordinary contribution to the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, as Chairperson – UCA Funds Management 2006 to 2016.

Richard has been a member of the Uniting Church since 1985, when he joined Ewing Memorial Uniting Church (which is now known as the Stonnington Community Uniting Church). Previously a Presbyterian Church member, Richard really considers himself to have been a member of The Uniting Church since Union – even though it may not have been 'official' until 1985.

During his career as an engineer and executive in the BHP Group, Richard was awarded WA Citizen of the Year (Industry and Commerce) in 1996. He was also awarded the Sir Willis Connolly Memorial Medal in 2001 and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's Beryl Jacka Award in 2002.

In 2014 Richard was awarded the Order of Australia in recognition of his leadership in the mining industry, through raising professional standards and fostering education initiatives, and for his contribution to the Uniting Church.

During Richard's ten-year term as Chairperson of UCA Funds Management, funds under management grew from \$660 million to \$990 million and the organisation successfully navigated the Global Financial Crisis. During that same time, grants to the Synod have totalled \$23 million. His leadership, stewardship and experience have enabled UCA Funds Management to be the first not-for profit or faith-based organisation to be fully licensed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission as a Responsible Entity – ensuring the highest standards of governance and compliance in the funds management industry.

Richard was chairperson of Prahran Mission from 1998 to 2010. He continues to carry out the mission of the Uniting Church in the role of Church Council Chairperson, treasurer for the Stonnington Community Uniting Church (holding both positions since 1999), and President of The Progressive Christian Network. Richard is a member of Synod Standing Committee and also a member of the Project Control Group for the UnitingCare Network Project.

Richard is thanked for his considered yet inspirational manner. We also thank him for his service to UCA Funds Management, and the broader Uniting Church in Australia, Synod

of Victoria and Tasmania. His dedication has allowed us to fund and directly impact the lives of so many people in need through the social mission of the Church. The Synod thanks Richard for his dedication, care wisdom and deep faith, and wishes him and his family God's rich blessings as he moves on to future endeavours.

16.3.11 CHAPLAINCY IN STATE SCHOOLS TASK GROUP (REPORT D3)

Rev Cameron McAdam, Chairperson of the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group, and task group members Ms Laura Cregan and Mr Andrew Shearer-Cox spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

Discussion was adjourned and the Moderator closed the session with a prayer.

16.3.12 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.

The Synod resolved:

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

(a) have died since the 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Kenneth Allen	Rev William Johnston
Rev Ronald Bright	Rev Frank Morris
Rev Robert Catford	Rev Maxwell Morton
Rev Alan Collins	Rev Rodney Scoullar
Rev Dr Alan Crawford	Rev Jean Shadforth
Rev Andrew Donnelly	Rev Ruth Smith
Rev JT John Goff	Rev William Maxwell (Max) Spry
Rev Walter Goff	Rev Herbert Stevens AM
Rev George (Mick) C Grant	Rev R Frank Tate
Rev George W Grant OAM	Rev David Stuart Webster
Rev Alexander Hodgson	Rev H Roy Westaway
Rev John Holden	Rev John K Williams

(b) have retired since the 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Yono Abadi	Rev Eseta Meneilly
Rev Peter Batchelor	Rev Sr Toska Miriam
Rev John Bottomley	Rev James S Murray
Rev Ian Cayzer	Rev Geoff Needham
Rev Dr Max Champion	Rev Evelyn Payne
Rev Christopher Cohen	Rev David Peel
Rev Lorene Day	Rev Randall Prior
Rev Dr John Evans	Rev Eileen Ray
Rev Dr Robert Faser	Rev Alex Rodgers
Rev Dr Tony Floyd	Rev Ken Rookes
Rev Rachel Franklin	Rev Tom Rose
Rev Robert Hazeldine	Rev Sherryl Smith
Rev Anne Honey	Rev Christopher Venning
Rev Dr Robert Johnson	Rev Andrew Vigus
Rev Marion Latham	Rev Dianne Watson

Rev Ron Manley
Rev Alan Mathews

Rev Joan Wright

- (c) have celebrated 50 years of ordination or commissioning from April 2015 to December 2016, and to record their names as follows:

Rev Samuel (Bussy) Arulampalam	Rev Murray John
Rev Bruce Barber	Rev Gwen Masters
Rev John Connan	Rev Deacon Mima Mitchell
Rev Ronald Croxford	Rev Frank Morris
Rev Ann Drummond	Rev E Terrance Ninnis
Rev John Drysdale	Rev Alan Parton
Rev John Gardiner	Rev Adrian Pegler
Rev Rowan Gill	Rev Kenneth Ralph
Rev Robert Hazeldine (dec)	Rev Dr John Vander Reest
Rev Deacon Helen Jackson	Rev Dr H D'Arcy Wood

- (d) have celebrated 60 years of ordination from April 2015 to December 2016, and to record their names as follows:

Rev Stanley Bannon	Rev Alan Dyll
Rev Dr Warren Bartlett	Rev James Hazeldine
Rev Albert Bell	Rev Andrew Hope

- (e) have celebrated 65 years of ordination from April 2015 to December 2016, and to record their names as follows:

Rev Dr Robin Boyd	Rev Reynolds Waters
Rev Raymond Outhred	

- (f) have been ordained since the 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Veronica Bradley	Rev Sherrin Jackman
Rev Elizabeth Donnelly	Rev Ray McClusky
Rev Deacon Wendy Elson	Rev Juliette Tautala'aso
Rev Berlin Guerrero	Rev Bruce Watson
Rev Jenny Hayes	

- (g) have been received from another denomination from the 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Nigel Hanscamp	Rev Uilisone (Kili) Mafaufau
Rev Young-Chul Lee	Rev Brian Spencer

Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood responded on behalf of those recognised in the tributes.

16.3.13 CHAPLAINCY IN STATE SCHOOLS TASK GROUP (REPORT D3)

The report was discussed in table groups.

16.3.14 CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY (CTM) (REPORT B2)

The Synod resolved to associate Ms Lima Tura and Mr Brad Denniston for the business of the Centre for Theology and Ministry.

Dr Jill Tabart, Board Chairperson; Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes, Executive Director, CTM; and Rev Dr Sean Winter, Principal, Pilgrim Theological College spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.3.15 NATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH CONVENTION (NCYC)

Mr Bradon French, Director of Yurora National Christian Youth Convention, gave a presentation to promote NCYC.

16.3.16 FACILITATION GROUP: MAJOR STRATEGIC REVIEW (MSR)

Rev David Fotheringham, Convenor of the Facilitation Group, presented feedback from the MSR Working Group sessions. Dr Jason Talbot and Rev Graeme Harrison responded to this feedback on behalf of the Major Strategic Review team.

Comments were received from members of Synod and Dr Talbot addressed broad concerns that were raised.

16.3.17 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

A theological reflection was presented by Mr Pdraig O'Tuama and the Moderator responded with a prayer.

16.3.18 'LETTERS FROM ELSEWHERE'

A session was hosted by Ms Julie Perrin and Ms Steph Gesling during which four speakers (Sista Zai Zanda, Mr Pdraig O'Tuama, Ms Cath McKinney and Rev Rod Horsfield) shared their stories about the music that had shaped them.

16.4 MONDAY 6 JUNE 2016

The Moderator opened the session.

16.4.1 DEVOTIONS

Rev Eun-Deok (David) Kim led worship.

16.4.2 AUDIT, FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (REPORTS C2, C7 AND C11)

Ms Sally Freeman, Chairperson of the Risk Management Committee, Ms Claire Richards, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, and Mr Russ Rechner, Chairperson of the Finance Committee presented a joint report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.4.3 UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS (UAICC) (VICTORIA) (REPORT F2)

Rev Ken Sumner, State Director of UAICC Victoria and Rev Vladimir Korotkov, Resource Officer of UAICC spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.4.4 WESLEY MISSION VICTORIA (REPORT G3)

The Synod resolved to associate Ms Sue Norman and Mr Paul Linossier for the business of Wesley Mission Victoria.

Ms Sue Norman, Board Chairperson and Mr Paul Linossier, CEO of Wesley Mission Victoria, presented a report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.4.5 UNITINGCARE HOUSING VICTORIA (REPORT B8)

Mr John Preston, Board Chairperson and Mr Ian Brain, CEO of UnitingCare Housing Victoria, spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.4.6 COMMISSION FOR MISSION (CFM) (REPORT B3)

A report was presented by Rev Greg Crowe, Board Chairperson, CFM and Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, CFM. This matter was adjourned.

16.4.7 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Dr Sally Douglas.

16.4.8 SHARE

The Moderator introduced a video presentation from SHARE.

16.4.9 BALLOTS – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr Rod Mummery, the Returning Officer, introduced the Standing Committee ballot process.

Ballot papers were distributed for majority support for the nominated Synod Standing Committee members and those designated as Group B (3-year term) members of the Synod Standing Committee at the Eleventh Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

16.4.10 WORKING GROUPS

The Synod met in working groups to discuss the Major Strategic Review report.

16.4.11 ECUMENICAL AWARDS

Rev Peter Weeks, Chairperson of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, announced the following awards, which were presented by the Moderator:

Honourable Mentions:	Murchison Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria
	Winchelsea Uniting Church Presbytery of Port Phillip West
Ecumenical Award Winner:	Portland Uniting Church Presbytery of Western Victoria

16.4.12 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (REPORT E2)

Ms Pauline McGillivray, Executive Director, Administration and Finance, spoke to a written report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.4.13 ACCOUNTING SERVICES (REPORT E2)

Ms Heather Ackland, Director of Accounting Services, spoke to the 2014 and 2015 annual Synod audited financial reports.

The Synod resolved to receive the 2014 and 2015 annual Synod audited financial reports.

16.4.14 PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION

The Synod resolved that the closing time for receiving nominations for Standing Committee be extended to 11:30am on Tuesday 7 June 2016.

16.4.15 FUTURE SYNOD MEETINGS TASK GROUP (REPORT D2)

The Synod resolved that Ms Kharis Susilowati be associated for the business of the Future Synod Meetings Task Group.

A report was presented by Ms Bethany Broadstock, Convenor of the Future Synod Meetings Task Group, and members Rev Sandy Brodine, Rev Gordon Bannon and Rev Rod Peppiatt. Discussion followed in table groups.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

This matter was adjourned.

16.4.16 CONGREGATION STORIES

A second video showcasing some of the life-giving activities undertaken by various congregations was shown.

16.4.17 ABOUT FACE

A presentation regarding 'About FACE' was made by Rev Ken Sumner, State Director of UAICC Victoria, and Jill Ruzbacky, Social Justice Officer, Justice and International Mission Unit of the Commission for Mission.

16.4.18 COMMISSION FOR MISSION (REPORT B3)

A visual presentation was introduced by Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director, CFM, as a part of the report from the Commission for Mission.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.4.19 JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION (JIM) UNIT

16.4.19.1 People Seeking Asylum

Ms Jill Ruzbacky spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To urge the Victorian Government to establish a program offering concessions on water and energy bills to people seeking asylum and currently living in the community on bridging visas;
- (b) To urge the Tasmanian Government to establish a program offering concessions on water and energy bills to people seeking asylum and currently living in the community on bridging visas;
- (c) To urge the Tasmanian Government to follow the example of the States of Victoria and New South Wales in offering public transport concessions to people seeking asylum and currently living in the community on bridging visas;
- (d) To encourage the Victorian and Tasmanian Premiers to prioritise any Government support of programs/initiatives for people seeking asylum to those that have the capacity to lead to permanent protection; rather than short-term, temporary protection options which have no pathways to permanent protection; and
- (e) To write to the Victorian Premier and the Tasmanian Premier to inform them of these resolutions.

16.4.19.2 Labour Trafficking in Australia

Dr Mark Zirnsak and Ms Joan McRae spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To express concern to the Commonwealth Government at the level and extent of labour trafficking in Australia, with people seeking a decent job being subject to severe exploitation and abuse;
- (b) To call on the Commonwealth Government to:
 - (i) Set up a licensing system of labour hire businesses in Australia in industries at risk of human trafficking and provide meaningful oversight of labour hire businesses in these industries;
 - (ii) Require employers to allow workers from overseas to have access to a non-government organization to assist workers to understand their rights and responsibilities;
 - (iii) Ensure that workers from overseas who are suspected of having been trafficked into Australia are given access to independent legal advice before any action is taken to remove them from Australia; and
 - (iv) Adequately resource the Fair Work Ombudsman to cope with the volume of labour trafficking and severe exploitation of people on temporary work visas in Australia; and
- (c) To write to the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Employment, the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Shadow Minister for Justice, the Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, and the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.3 Curbing Alcohol Related Violence

Dr Mark Zirnsak spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To express its concern to the Victorian Government at the level of alcohol related violence in the community and that certain alcohol venues are responsible for a greater share of alcohol related violence;
- (b) To urge the Victorian Government to implement the very successful initiative of the NSW Government to maintain a public list of liquor outlets associated with more than ten violent incidents in a year in their respective states; and
- (c) To write to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation and the Shadow Minister for Liquor and Gaming Regulation in Victoria to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.4 Payday Lending and Lease Contracts for Household Goods

Dr Mark Zirnsak and Mr Michael Walsh spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To express its deep concern to the Commonwealth Government at predatory practices used by many payday lending businesses and businesses that offer lease contracts for household goods;
- (b) To affirm that, while significantly greater consumer protection is needed, there is a need for affordable small amounts of credit to be available for some people to ensure they are not financially excluded from our community;
- (c) To call on the Commonwealth Government to change small amount credit contract laws to protect vulnerable members of the community from predatory

practices and exploitation by introducing measures which include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Further restricting the size of the establishment fee for small credit loans, especially for repeat customers;
 - (ii) Prohibiting a second small credit loan to a person who had such a loan in the last 90 days;
 - (iii) Restricting the proportion of a person's income that can be required to repay small amount credit contracts;
 - (iv) Restricting how soon a default penalty can be applied and the amount that can be imposed as a default penalty and how quickly such a default penalty must be paid;
 - (v) Restricting the fee on small amount credit to 4 percent per month of the declining balance of the loan;
 - (vi) Ending the ability of consumer lease providers to use regulatory arbitrage to avoid Consumer Credit Enhancement regulations;
 - (vii) Setting an affordable cap on the interest and charges that can be placed on leases for low-value goods;
 - (viii) Restricting the length of lease contract for consumer goods to three years with no ability to extend the contract;
 - (ix) Placing a cap on the amount a person can pay on leases for consumer goods; and
 - (x) Restricting the fee that can be charged on the termination of a lease arrangement for consumer goods.
- (d) To call on the Commonwealth Government to adequately resource the Australian Securities and Investment Commission to conduct enforcement of small amount credit contract laws and to protect vulnerable people from predatory practices by businesses that use small amount credit contracts; and
- (e) To write to the Minister for Small Business, the Shadow Minister for Small Business and the Shadow Assistant Treasurer to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.5 The Right to Health

Dr Mark Zirnsak spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

Noting Assembly Minute 06.20.01 ('Dignity in Humanity'), which asserted the right to adequate health care as a basic human right and Synod Minute 81.4.6 which affirmed all people have a right to access basic health care without regard to their ability to pay and that the taxation system is the best system for achieving equity of payment in the health care administration:

- (a) To call on the Commonwealth Government to leave Medicare and its associated support systems under public ownership, ensuring that funding for the Medicare system is not diverted into private profits; and
- (b) To write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Health and the Shadow Minister for Health informing them of this resolution.

16.4.19.6 Control measures for Virtual Currencies

Dr Mark Zirnsak and Mr Rohan Pryor spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To affirm that virtual currencies have legitimate uses in reducing online transaction costs and speeding up some online transactions, and that the appropriate response to their misuse is to bring them under regulation that already applies to normal currencies to prevent the virtual currencies being used in harmful transactions;
- (b) To join with the Senate Economics Reference Committee, the Productivity Commission and the Attorney General's Department in calling for virtual currencies to be brought under regulation through the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* so those providing virtual currency services that are operating like banks and other financial institutions are required to take reasonable steps to prevent virtual currencies being used to harm people. Such steps should include requirements to know their customers, to keep records of transactions, to report suspicious transactions to law enforcement agencies and to refuse to carry out transactions where they believe there is a high likelihood the transaction involves criminal activity; and
- (c) To write to the Minister of Justice and the Shadow Minister of Justice to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.7 Revenue and the Role of Government

Dr Mark Zirnsak spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To express its concern to the Federal Government that due to a lack of resources Australian Governments are increasingly unable to fulfil their core functions of assisting all people to reach their full potential and to protect the vulnerable in our community;
- (b) Noting that:
 - the National Assembly (resolution 88.22.11/13) called for tax to be used for the redistribution of wealth;
 - the Synod (resolution 97.6.6.7) called for taxation to be progressive and just;
 - Commonwealth Government revenue as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product has been on a downward trend over the last decade; and
 - Australian Governments collect significantly less revenue as a proportion of GDP compared to the significant majority of OECD countries,to call on the Federal Government to increase, by progressive means, targeting tax expenditures that disproportionately benefit the wealthy, the level of revenue it collects to be able to provide the support people need to reach their full potential and to protect all people from abuse and exploitation; and
- (c) to write to the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Treasurer and the Leader of the Greens to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.20 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

16.4.20.1 Amendment to Synod Standing Committee By-Law 5.2.1

Rev Dr Mark Lawrence, General Secretary, spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

To modify the By-Laws for the Synod Standing Committee by adding the Chairperson of the Property Board to the list of participants included in By-Law 5.2.1.

16.4.21 NOMINATIONS ADVISORY PANEL

Appointments to Committees, Commissions and Ecumenical Bodies by Synod 2016

Mr Lindsay Oates, member of the Nominations Advisory Panel, spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

To appoint the following people to the named bodies:

A Business Committee

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Ms Sue Clarkson
Mr Rod Mummery

B Council for Chaplaincies in Tertiary Institutions

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Rev Jay Robinson Mrs Lyn Bromage

C Placements Committee Chairperson

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the next ordinary meeting of Synod

Rev David Fotheringham

D Property Trust (Victoria and Tasmania)

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the next ordinary meeting of Synod

Rev David Parker Mr Robert Costa
Mr Robert Ewing
Ms Helen Geard
Ms Bronwyn Wellings

E Property Trust (Victoria and Tasmania) Chair

To commence 9 June 2016 until the next ordinary meeting of Synod

Rev David Parker

F Terms of Placement Committee

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Rev Dr Morag Logan Mr Chris Harnath

G Terms of Placement Committee Chairperson

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Mr Rod Mummery

H Victorian Council of Christian Education

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Mrs Lyn Bromage

I Victorian Council of Churches

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson

16.4.22 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

A theological reflection was presented by Mr Padraig O'Tuama and the Moderator responded with a prayer.

16.5 TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2016

The Moderator opened the session.

16.5.1 DEVOTIONS

Rev Eun-Deok (David) Kim led worship.

16.5.2 PROPERTY BOARD (REPORT B4)

The Synod resolved to associate Rev Robert Elkhuisen for the business of the Property Board.

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

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.5.3 UNITING OUR FUTURE (REPORT B4.1)

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

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.5.4 RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Rev David Parker, as a member of the Risk Committee, responded to a question raised previously.

16.5.5 TERMS OF PLACEMENT COMMITTEE (REPORT C13)

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

16.5.5.1 Terms of Placement report

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.5.5.2 Stipends and Allowances

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) That the base level for stipends at the end of 2016 be \$55,863 pa;
- (b) That the adjustment/increase to the stipend at the end of 2017 be 2.5%, at the end of 2018 be 2.5% and the end of 2019 be 2.5%;
- (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:
\$5,300; or
- (ii) for travel from 5,000 km up to 20,000 km per annum:
\$5,300, plus \$330 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:
\$12,200, plus \$130 per 1,000 km travelled above 30,000 km;

Part 2: Fuel Cost Provision

The Fuel Cost Provision of \$190 per 1000 km of travel per annum.

- (d) That the ad hoc travelling allowances for minister's professional duties be:
 - (i) 76.0 cents per kilometre for normal (average total) cost reimbursement for ministers not in placement, theological students and retired ministers; or
 - (ii) 39.0 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 \$17,015 per annum.

16.5.6 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – REV IAN BROWN

Rev Graeme Harrison, Deputy Chairperson, Board of Mission and Resourcing, spoke to a proposal and Rev Ian Brown responded.

The Synod resolved by acclamation:

To give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Ian Brown as Chairperson of the Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 2011 to 2016.

Ian came to BOMAR five years ago not as a member but as Chairperson. He proved himself a quick learner both of the policies of BOMAR and the missional thinking behind them. Furthermore, he quickly began to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our system as these appeared in the day to day operation of the Synod. His experience in congregational ministry and the issues confronting us in the 21st Century made him an advocate for ensuring congregational initiatives received a portion of the Synod Budget each year even when budget deficits made them a soft target.

From the beginning of his role as Chairperson, Ian understood the rationale behind the formation of BOMAR: that resourcing should always be prioritized according to the Church's discernment and strategizing of mission. Ian has been Chairperson in a time when there has not been enough money to resource all the submissions BOMAR considered appropriate for funding and when difficult choices have needed to be made. BOMAR believes that Ian brought the best out of us both as members and as people of faith, in tough circumstances and for that the members are truly grateful. Ian will be missed.

The role of Chairperson requires a significant commitment of time, with monthly meetings of both BOMAR and the Mission Policy sub-committee, and participation in the Synod Standing Committee. In undertaking this role, Ian has given his time willingly and graciously, in addition to his many other responsibilities in the local and wider Church. We give thanks for Ian's leadership and service throughout the period that he has been Chairperson of BOMAR.

May the Holy Spirit continue to empower Ian in the other ministries to which God has called him.

16.5.7 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Dr Sally Douglas.



16.5.8 FACILITATION GROUP: MAJOR STRATEGIC REVIEW

Rev David Fotheringham, Convenor of the Facilitation Group, summarised feedback from the Working Groups and presented questions to which members of the Major Strategic Review team responded. This was followed by discussion in table groups and comments from members in plenary session.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.5.9 CHAPLAINCY IN STATE SCHOOLS

Rev Cam McAdam spoke to a revised proposal and discussion followed.

16.5.10 BALLOTS – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

Ballot papers for the majority support for the additional nominated Synod Standing Committee members were distributed.

16.5.11 PRAYER

The Moderator led members in prayer.

16.5.12 WORKING GROUPS

The Synod met in working groups to discuss the Major Strategic Review report.

16.5.13 BALLOT – DECLARATION OF ADDITIONAL 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 but one in Group A and all candidates in Group B received the support of a majority of those participating in the ballot.

16.5.14 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE (GROUP B CONTINUING MEMBERS)

The Moderator announced that a proposal concerning those members designated as Group B (3-year term) members of the Synod Standing Committee at the Eleventh Synod of Victoria and Tasmania had been resolved by ballot.

The Synod resolved by ballot:

To appoint the following members of Synod who were designated as Group B (3-year term) members of the Synod Standing Committee at the Eleventh Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to be members of the Standing Committee of the Twelfth Synod: Mr Geoffrey Grinton, Rev Fiona Winn and Rev Sue Withers.

16.5.15 BALLOTS – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE (GROUP B)

Ballot papers for the election of Standing Committee Group B members (nominal three-year term) were distributed.

16.5.16 CONGREGATION STORIES

A third video showcasing some of the life-giving activities undertaken by various congregations was shown.

16.5.17 FUTURE SYNOD MEETINGS TASK GROUP

Ms Bethany Broadstock, Convenor of the Future Synod Meetings Task Group, spoke to a revised proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To determine that meetings of the Synod in council will continue to take place on an approximately 18 month frequency;
- (b) To request the Business Committee, when recommending dates for Synod meetings to the Standing Committee, to take seriously how the timing and scheduling of meetings can enable and encourage a greater diversity of voices and particularly the participation of younger people;
- (c) To approve in principle a new format for future Synod meetings in which a diversity of methods is employed to undertake its work, incorporating as appropriate a combination of plenary sessions, working groups, keynote presentations on resourcing, mission and ministry, facilitation processes, panel discussions, and others which are interactive and engaging as may be determined;
- (d) To establish an empowered and representative Creative Design Team to resource the implementation of clause (c) at each Synod meeting, with a role to proactively consider the processes, strategies and models by which the Synod may undertake its business; and
 - (i) To affirm that a key focus of this Team is the increased active and creative engagement of Synod members;
 - (ii) To determine that this Team is to be comprised of individuals who between them possess creative, artistic and facilitation skills and capacity for theological reflection, with not less than half the membership to be people under the age of 40 and/or from CALD backgrounds;
 - (iii) To request the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Business Committee, to establish Terms of Reference for the Creative Design Team, including clear articulation of its relationship to the Business Committee and taking into account clause (d)(ii);
 - (iv) To authorise the Standing Committee to appoint the membership of the Creative Design Team in order that it may commence in time for the 2017 Synod meeting;
- (e) To affirm:
 - (i) That the agenda for each meeting of the Synod should include a period of time for collective exploration of an issue strategic for the life and work of the whole Synod; and
 - (ii) That in 2017 a focus of this discussion be generational change and the sustainability of leadership;
- (f) Noting that any body can request time in plenary session to speak to its written report, to determine that written reports to the Synod meeting be taken as read;
- (g) To request the Business Committee to develop an interactive online process which allows Synod members to engage with the written reports and can provide a 'straw poll' indication of the mind of members in relation to the reports;
- (h) To request the Creative Design Team to formulate a process by which Synod members can engage with reporting bodies in smaller groups, which may take into account the information provided by (g);
- (i) To request the Business Committee in consultation with the Communications Unit to explore the feasibility of platforms by which members of the wider church can connect further and more effectively with the work of Synod meetings and implement these for the 2017 Synod meeting if proven to have merit;
- (j) To request the Standing Committee to make resources available to presbyteries wishing to host pre-Synod meeting gatherings of their appointed members; and

- (k) In light of clauses (a)-(j), to request the Synod Standing Committee to consult with the Business Committee and the Creative Design Team in order to determine an appropriate reduction in the length of Synod meetings.

The Moderator thanked the Future Synod Meetings Task Group for its work and the meeting responded with acclamation.

16.5.18 FACILITATION GROUP: CHAPLAINCY IN STATE SCHOOLS

Rev Rachel Kronberger, on behalf of the Facilitation Group, suggested possible amendments to the proposal.

16.5.19 CHAPLAINCY IN STATE SCHOOLS

Rev Cam McAdam, Convenor of the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group, spoke to a revised proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To acknowledge and give thanks for:
 - (i) The contribution of faithful church members in their involvement and support of chaplains in state schools over many years;
 - (ii) The faithful ecumenical partnerships that continue to support chaplains in state schools;
 - (iii) The UCA members, past and present, who offer ministry as chaplains in state schools; and
 - (iv) The UCA members who work and have worked under the auspice of other chaplaincy providers; and
- (b) In order to assist the development of State School Chaplaincy as an expression of a ministry of the Uniting Church, to request the Standing Committee:
 - (i) Practical: To further explore resourcing and funding options for UCA chaplains in state schools, including creative partnerships with congregations, agencies, ecumenical partners and government;
 - (ii) Theological/Contextual: To establish a working group with members from the Centre for Theology and Ministry, the Commission for Mission and the wider Church, to continue to explore the theological and contextual role of chaplains in state schools and the 21st century educational context in which they minister;
 - (iii) Educational: To request the Centre for Theology and Ministry to develop appropriate streams of education and suitable professional development to train and equip chaplains, including chaplains in state schools; and
 - (iv) To ensure appropriate guidelines are in place for chaplains who work under UCA oversight.

The Moderator thanked the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group for its work and the meeting responded with acclamation.

16.5.20 TIMOR-LESTE MARITIME BORDER DISPUTE

Rev Stan Clarke spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

Noting Synod resolution 02.6.4.6,

- (a) To call on the Federal Government:
 - (i) To negotiate in good faith a permanent maritime boundary with Timor-Leste; or

- (ii) If the boundary cannot be established through good faith negotiations, then to allow Timor-Leste to have any maritime boundary dispute with Australia resolved through the International Court of Justice or the compulsory dispute resolution mechanisms of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- (b) To inform the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs of this resolution; and
- (c) To request the Commission for Mission to resource, shape and guide a congregational campaign in support of this resolution.

16.5.21 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

A theological reflection was presented by Mr Padraig O'Tuama and the Moderator offered a prayer.

16.5.22 FACILITATION GROUP – MAJOR STRATEGIC REVIEW

Rev David Fotheringham, Convenor of the Facilitation Group, presented feedback from MSR Working Group sessions regarding suggested amendments to the proposals.

Proposed amendments were discussed and MSR members responded to questions and comments. The matter was adjourned.

16.6 WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2016

The Moderator opened the session.

16.6.1 DEVOTIONS

Rev Eun-Deok (David) Kim led worship. The Moderator thanked Rev Kim for his contribution to the Synod meeting and presented him with a gift.

16.6.2 BETHEL PASTORAL CENTRE (REPORT G1)

The Synod resolved that Ms Julie McDonald and Ms Ann-Marie Hughes be associated for the business of the Bethel Centre.

Rev Anneke Oppewal, Council Chairperson, and Ms Julie McDonald, Coordinator of Bethel Pastoral Centre, spoke to a report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.6.3 CULTURE OF SAFETY (REPORT E1.3)

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson, Associate General Secretary and Convenor of the Culture of Safety Steering Group, and Ms Sue Clarkson, Acting Ethical Standards Officer, spoke to a report.

The Synod resolved to receive the report.

16.6.4 'Ten Myths about Sexual Abuse'

The Synod resolved that Dr Danny Sullivan be associated for the business of the Culture of Safety Unit.

Forensic psychiatrist Dr Danny Sullivan gave a presentation on 'Ten Myths about Sexual Offenders' and responded to questions.



16.6.5 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study was led by Rev Dr Sally Douglas. The Moderator thanked Rev Dr Douglas for her leadership of the Bible study and presented her with a gift. The meeting responded with acclamation.

16.6.6 DECLARATION OF BALLOT (GROUP B)

The Moderator announced the result of the ballot for Synod Standing Committee Group B members.

16.6.7 BALLOT – SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE (GROUP A)

Mr Rod Mummery, Returning Officer, advised on the ballot process.

Ballot papers for the election of Synod Standing Committee Group A members (until the next ordinary Synod meeting) were distributed.

16.6.8 ADOPTION OF THE ROLL OF SYNOD

The General Secretary proposed the adoption of the Synod Roll.

The Synod resolved:

That the Roll of Synod as finalised at 3.30pm on Sunday 5 June be adopted. (Refer to Appendix AA1.1.)

16.6.9 REPORTS FROM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, REPORTING BODIES AND PRESBYTERIES NOT RECEIVED DURING PRESENTATIONS AT SYNOD 2016

The Synod resolved to receive the following reports:

Property Trust Victoria	B05.1
Property Trust Tasmania	B05.2
Committee for Counselling	C04
Committee for Discipline	C05
Ecumenical Relations Committee	C06
Pastoral Assistance Committee	C09
Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee	C12
People and Culture	E01.1
Synod Safety	E01.1.1
Communications and Media Services	E01.2
Working Group on Christian-Jewish Relations	G02
Presbytery Reports	
Gippsland	H01
Loddon Mallee	H02
North East Victoria	H03
Port Phillip East	H04
Port Phillip West	H05
Tasmania	H06
Western Victoria	H07
Yarra Yarra	H08

16.6.10 UNITINGCARE NETWORK

Mr Laurence Alvis and Rev Mark Dunn spoke to a proposal.

The Synod gave leave for the proposal to be withdrawn.

Mr Dick Carter spoke to a proposal.

The Synod gave leave for the proposal to be withdrawn.

16.6.11 DATE OF SYNOD 2017

The Business Manager spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

- (a) To meet in September 2017 or as close to that month as possible;
- (b) To authorise the Standing Committee to finalise a date for Synod 2017 after receiving advice from the Business Committee; and
- (c) To request the Business Committee to undertake a review of Box Hill Town Hall as a venue for future Synod meetings, taking into account the evaluations received from members, the support team and staff, the technical and logistic learnings from the Twelfth Meeting, and the availability of other cost-effective locations, and to authorise the Standing Committee to finalise a location.

16.6.12 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR MODERATOR-ELECT

The General Secretary spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by consensus:

To appoint Dr Jill Tabart as Chairperson for the Nominating Committee for Moderator 2019–2022.

16.6.13 MAJOR STRATEGIC REVIEW

Rev Greg Crowe presented an amended proposal. The matter was adjourned.

16.6.14 CONGREGATION STORIES

A fourth video showcasing some of the life-giving activities undertaken by various congregations was shown.

16.6.15 BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Moderator welcomed past General Secretaries Rev Graham McAnalley and Ms Carole Anderson, and members of Mr Geoffrey Grinton's family

Rev Sue Withers spoke to a proposal and Mr Geoffrey Grinton responded.

16.6.15.1 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION – MR GEOFFREY GRINTON

The Synod resolved by acclamation:

To give thanks to God for the ministry of Mr Geoffrey Grinton and for his significant contribution to the Uniting Church as Chair of the Business Committee and Synod meeting Business Manager in the Synod of Victoria and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 1992 to June 2016.

Geoffrey Grinton has made a significant contribution as Chair of the Synod Business Committee and Synod Meeting Business Manager from 1992 to June 2016 during periods of major change for the Church. Church historians will be quick to note this work spans the life of two Synods, both the Synod of Victoria and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

Geoffrey undoubtedly has the gift of administration. He is first and foremost a deeply spiritual person and a man of God. The way he has exercised this ministry, both as Chairperson and Synod Business Manager, has been nothing short of exemplary. There was never a question about Geoffrey's credentials to fulfil the many tasks required of the job. He has always been meticulously prepared, thorough in his understanding of the Synod business, and respectful of the written word and the power of well-constructed proposals.

Geoffrey's personal qualities have guided his work. Geoffrey is a man of deep integrity. He is honest, fair and authentic. Geoffrey is a shy man yet generously offers warmth and pastoral concern. Every Synod we are reassured as Geoffrey resides at the business desk, a little like Captain Kirk on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise. He guides the business confidently and always with deep respect. Geoffrey loves the Uniting Church and consequently has devoted many weeks of his annual leave to this work.

Geoffrey has brought his extensive IBM software skills to the task and has established unique computer programs ensuring every Moderator and General Secretary has the gold standard tools to be on top of the Synod meeting's business. Geoffrey allows other people to shine. His work is done quietly with no expectation of applause. These same skills have been shared and acknowledged across his own congregation, Presbytery and the Assembly.

The Chair of the Business Committee needs to juggle many competing issues. Preparation for a Synod meeting begins a long way out. Evaluations need to be considered, venues scoped, worship life developed, proposals refined and reports written. Geoffrey's warmth and sense of humour have ensured all deadlines are met and the Synod is well prepared to deal with the required business.

Geoffrey will continue to serve the Church in many ways in the years to come. His wisdom and faithful discipleship will continue to be a gift to the Uniting Church. The Synod thanks God for his faithful exercise of ministry as Chairperson of the Business Committee and Synod Meeting Business Manager.

16.6.16 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Mr Pdraig O'Tuama presented a theological reflection. The Moderator thanked him for his theological reflections during the course of the meeting and presented him with a gift. The Synod responded with acclamation.

16.6.17 SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Business Manager announced that the results of the election of Synod Standing Committee Group A members would be published as soon as the ballot had been declared, together with the names of the whole Standing Committee. (See *appendix AA2.1*)

16.6.18 ONE MINUTE SPEECHES

Eleven members made one minute speeches to the Synod.

16.6.19 NOMINATIONS ADVISORY PANEL

The Synod resolved by consensus:

To appoint the following people to the named bodies:

J Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) Chair

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting, or sooner if so determined by the Standing Committee.

Rev Graeme Harrison

K National Council of Women (NCW)

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Deaconess Dorothy
Underwood

16.6.20 MAJOR STRATEGIC REVIEW

An amended proposal was discussed.

The Synod resolved:

- A *(By consensus)* To receive the report of the Major Strategic Review and accept the invitation to reflect on this report prayerfully, and with an openness to the renewing work of God's Spirit in our life as a Church.
- B *(By consensus)* To recognise the new and hopeful ways in which God is working and to respond to the call for the Synod to move into a new and renewed form to continue to participate in this work.
- C *(By agreement)* To receive the Vision and Mission Principles as a primary aid over the next 3–5 years for spiritual discernment and a focus for the Synod, viz:

Vision:

Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.

Mission Principles:

God in Christ is at mission in the world and sends the Church in the Spirit to:

- 1) share the Good News of Jesus Christ
- 2) nurture followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation
- 3) respond in compassion to human need
- 4) live justly and seek justice for all
- 5) care for creation
- 6) listen to each generation and culture so as to live out the Gospel in fresh ways
- 7) pursue God's mission in partnership

- D *(By formal majority)* To authorise the Synod Standing Committee to progressively implement changes to Synod governance that include the following key elements:
- (a) Two committees of the Synod Standing Committee, with interim titles of: Ministry & Mission Committee and Property & Operations Committee.
- (b) The areas of responsibility of existing boards and committees be encompassed as follows:

<i>Ministry & Mission Committee</i>	<i>Property & Operations Committee</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centre for Theology and Ministry Board (including the regulated functions of the Ministerial Education Board)• Commission for Mission Board• BOMAR – Oversight of the distribution of grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synod Property Board• BOMAR – Financial policies & resourcing (with reference to the Mission & Ministry Committee)

- (c) The role, ongoing requirements and reporting lines of boards and committees that currently report to Synod Standing Committee be reviewed in the light of (a) and (b) above.

- (d) A reorganisation of Synod based ministries and operations into four key areas:
- 1) A Mission & Capacity Building Unit to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Ministry services;
 - (ii) Supporting and nurturing faith formation and discipleship and leadership development in cooperation with Presbyteries;
 - (iii) Allocation & distribution of grant funds;
 - (iv) Training and education;
 - (v) Justice and advocacy;
 - (vi) Resourcing Placements Committee; and
 - (vii) Research and resource development.
 - 2) A Mission & Ministry Support Unit to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Synod operations oversight;
 - (ii) Communications;
 - (iii) Human Resources; and
 - (iv) Ethical Standards.
 - 3) A Mission Resourcing Unit to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Finance and financial management;
 - (ii) Property and insurance services;
 - (iii) Information Technology.
 - 4) An Office of the General Secretary to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Pastoral responsibilities of the General Secretary;
 - (ii) Secretariat functions;
 - (iii) Legal; and
 - (iv) Strategic support.

E (*By consensus*) Recognising the Church's ministry amongst all generations, and walking together as First and Second peoples:

- (a) To adopt and resource the following strategic priorities over the 2016–2022 period:
 - 1) ministries which foster diverse gathered communities of renewal, Christian practice and mission;
 - 2) culturally diverse mission and ministry; and
 - 3) mission and ministry with children, youth, their families and young adults.
- (b) To acknowledge the Vision and Mission principles, and in light of (a) above, to recognise the following areas of focus to inform the strategic priorities:
 - 1) The identity of Jesus Christ and Christianity in a post-Christendom world;
 - 2) Multi-cultural and multi-faith Australia and its relationship to its First Peoples;
 - 3) Peace-making, power and powerlessness, being with and for the poor; and

- 4) Inter-faith and intercultural engagement, encounter and learning.
- (c) To commit these strategic priorities and areas of focus to a whole of church conversation, resourced by the Mission and Capacity Building Unit, including intentional engagement at the 2017 Synod.
- F *(By consensus)* To adopt the following as core relational expectations for Synod and Presbyteries working together, engaging with the Vision, Mission Principles and Statements of Intent:
 - (a) building capacity for being the church at mission in contextual ways
 - (b) a strategic use of property for missional purposes
 - (c) a coordinated relationship between the Synod's leadership and presbyteries' leadership, with a spirit of mutuality and mutual accountability; and
 - (d) nurturing the roles of Presbytery Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
- G *(By consensus)* To request the Standing Committee to establish a Presbytery Transition Team:
 - (a) To work closely with the Strategic Review implementation Team to develop a flexible new model or models of Presbytery resourcing and ministry taking into account:
 - 1) the core relational expectations (noted in proposal (F) above)
 - 2) the variety of needs across different presbyteries
 - 3) presbyteries' responsibility to provide pastoral oversight to the church for presentation to the 2017 Synod for implementation over the following 12 months.
 - (b) To ensure that appropriate training and pastoral care are provided for Presbyteries during the time of transition.
- H *(By consensus)* To maintain the current level of presbytery resourcing until the new model of Presbytery resourcing and ministry is fully implemented, or until 12 months after the 2017 Synod, whichever is sooner.

16.6.21 MEMBERS' PROPOSALS

16.6.21.1 Addressing the funding challenges of the Uniting Church

Mr Ross Roberts spoke to a proposal.

The Synod gave leave for the proposal to be withdrawn.

16.6.21.2 Committee Membership Diversity

The Synod resolved by consensus:

To request the Standing Committee:

- (a) To establish a task group of at least ten members, at least 50% of whom shall be UAICC or CALD members, to work with the Synod Nominations Advisory Panel to review the process of nominations and appointments to various committees, task groups and commissions of the Synod, and
- (b) To bring a report with recommendations about how the diversity of the Synod can be reflected in our elected bodies to the 2017 Synod.

16.6.21.3 Election process for committees and councils

Rev Swee-Ann Koh spoke to a proposal.

The Synod gave leave for the proposal to be withdrawn.

16.6.22 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

Rev Ian Ferguson spoke to a proposal.

The Synod resolved by acclamation.

To give thanks to God and express its gratitude for those individuals and teams whose hard work, creativity, giftedness and grace made Synod 2016 possible, ensured its smooth running, and allowed for a discerning spirit within it.

16.6.23 CLOSING WORSHIP AND EUCHARIST

Members and visitors joined in a closing service which was led by the Moderator, with Ms Colleen Geyer preaching. The Moderator and Rev Tim Matton-Johnson were co-presiders at the Eucharist.



RESOLUTIONS

ACCOUNTING SERVICES

16.4.13 2014 and 2015 Audited Financial Reports

The Synod resolved:

To receive the annual 2014 and 2015 audited financial reports.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

16.4.12 Administration and Finance Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Administration and Finance report.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

16.4.2 Audit Committee Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Audit Committee report.

BETHEL PASTORAL CENTRE)

16.6.2 Bethel Pastoral Centre Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Bethel Pastoral Centre report.

BOARD OF MISSION AND RESOURCING

16.2.10 Board of Mission and Resourcing

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Board of Mission and Resourcing report.

16.5.6 Minute of appreciation – Rev Ian Brown

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Ian Brown as Chairperson of the Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 2011 to 2016.

Ian came to BOMAR five years ago not as a member but as Chairperson. He proved himself a quick learner both of the policies of BOMAR and the missional thinking behind them. Furthermore, he quickly began to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our system as these appeared in the day to day operation of the Synod. His experience in congregational ministry and the issues confronting us in the 21st Century made him an advocate for ensuring congregational initiatives received a portion of the Synod Budget each year even when budget deficits made them a soft target.

From the beginning of his role as Chairperson, Ian understood the rationale behind the formation of BOMAR: that resourcing should always be prioritized according to the Church's discernment and strategizing of mission. Ian has been Chairperson in a time when there has not been enough money to resource all the submissions BOMAR considered appropriate for funding and when difficult choices have needed to be made.

BOMAR believes that Ian brought the best out of us both as members and as people of faith, in tough circumstances and for that the members are truly grateful. Ian will be missed.

The role of Chairperson requires a significant commitment of time, with monthly meetings of both BOMAR and the Mission Policy sub-committee, and participation in the Synod Standing Committee. In undertaking this role, Ian has given his time willingly and graciously, in addition to his many other responsibilities in the local and wider Church. We give thanks for Ian's leadership and service throughout the period that he has been Chairperson of BOMAR.

May the Holy Spirit continue to empower Ian in the other ministries to which God has called him.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

16.2.3.4 Appointments and Associations

The Synod resolved:

(a) To appoint the following people for the whole of the 2016 Synod Meeting:

Minute Secretaries:	Mrs Robyn Hansen and Ms Natalie Brown
Returning Officer:	Mr Rod Mummery
Deputy Returning Officer:	Rev John Mann
Chief Steward	Ms Joan McRae
Stewards:	Mrs Sandra Beer Ms Bethany Broadstock Mrs Lyn Bromage Mrs Helen Collins Rev Andrew Delbridge Ms Jeni Fitzgerald Mr Robert Lees Ms Wendy McDonald Mr Graeme McKinty Mrs Marina Schmidt Mr Cameron Shields Ms LouAnne Stabb Ms Wendie Wilkie
Timer Operator and notices:	Rev Kevin Dobson

(b) To associate the following people for the whole of the 2016 Synod Meeting:

Rev Dev Anandarajan
Mr Larry Marshall
Rev Ros McDonald
Mr Pdraig O'Tuama
Dr Jason Talbot
Ms Cheryl Lawrie

(c) To associate the following people for specific sessions of the 2016 Synod meeting:

Mr Charles Gibson	For the business of the Royal Commission Task Group
Ms Cath James	For the business of the Justice and International Mission Unit

Ms Jill Ruzbacky	For the business of the Justice and International Mission Unit
Ms Alison Overeem	For the business of Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Tasmania
Ms Laura Cregan	For the business of the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group
Mr Andrew Shearer-Cox	For the business of the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group
Mr Ian Creaton	For the business of the Property Board
Mr Sam Nicholas	For the business of the Property Board
Ms Sandra Bethell	For the business of the Property Board
Mr Ian Brain	For the business of Uniting Housing Victoria

16.2.5 Business Committee Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Business Committee report.

16.2.4 Confirmation of Synod 2016 Minutes

The Synod resolved:

That the Moderator, General Secretary, Associate General Secretary and Business Manager be authorised to confirm the minutes of the 2016 meeting of Synod.

16.6.11 Date of Synod 2017

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To meet in September 2017 or as close to that month as possible;
- (b) To authorise the Standing Committee to finalise a date for Synod 2017 after receiving advice from the Business Committee; and
- (c) To request the Business Committee to undertake a review of Box Hill Town Hall as a venue for future Synod meetings, taking into account the evaluations received from members, the support team and staff, the technical and logistic learnings from the Twelfth Meeting, and the availability of other cost-effective locations, and to authorise the Standing Committee to finalise a location.

16.2.6 Synod 2016 Procedures

The Synod resolved:

- (a) That any proposal which may include financial commitment not at present included in the Mission Support Fund or other appropriate budget of the Synod be subject to comment by a representative of the Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) after consultation, where possible, with representatives of the Synod Finance and Risk Management Committees;
- (b) That the closure time for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee be 7.30pm on Saturday 4 June 2016;
- (c) That the closure time for receiving proposals be 7.30pm on Saturday 4 June 2016;
- (d) That any necessary elections for chairpersons be held at 10.55am on Tuesday 7 June 2016, and that the ballot close at 2.00pm on that same day;
- (e) That any elections for members of boards, commissions and committees be held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 7 June 2016 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	10.55am Monday 6 June 2016	2.00pm Monday 6 June 2016
Election of Group B members (second term)	10.55am Tuesday 7 June 2016	2.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2016
Election of Group B members (first term)	10.55am Tuesday 7 June 2016	2.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2016
Election of Group A members (between meetings term)	4.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2016	7.30pm Tuesday 7 June 2016

- (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, Wed 9.00am
Bible study	Mon, Tues, Weds 9.15am
Morning tea	11.00–11.30am
Lunch	1.00pm–2.00pm
Afternoon tea	Sat, Mon, Tues 3.30–4.00pm Sun 3.00–3.30pm
Dinner break	6.00pm–7.30pm
Start of evening session	Sat, Sun, Tues 7.30pm
Close of evening session, unless extension of time is approved by Synod	Sat, Sun, Tues 9.00pm

- (ii) The close of business will be 3.00pm Wednesday 8 June 2016, prior to the closing Eucharist; and
- (iii) An initial timetable showing those items with fixed time allocations on Saturday 4, Sunday 5, Monday 6, Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 June 2016 is contained in the attached table.

CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

16.3.14 Centre for Theology and Ministry Report

The Synod resolved:

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

CHAPLAINCY IN STATE SCHOOLS TASK GROUP

16.3.11 Chaplaincy in State Schools Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group.

16.5.19 Chaplaincy in State Schools

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To acknowledge and give thanks for:



- (i) The contribution of faithful church members in their involvement and support of chaplains in state schools over many years;
 - (ii) The faithful ecumenical partnerships that continue to support chaplains in state schools;
 - (iii) The UCA members, past and present, who offer ministry as chaplains in state schools; and
 - (iv) The UCA members who work and have worked under the auspice of other chaplaincy providers; and
- (b) In order to assist the development of State School Chaplaincy as an expression of a ministry of the Uniting Church, to request the Standing Committee:
- (i) Practical: To further explore resourcing and funding options for UCA chaplains in state schools, including creative partnerships with congregations, agencies, ecumenical partners and government;
 - (ii) Theological/Contextual: To establish a working group with members from the Centre for Theology and Ministry, the Commission for Mission and the wider Church, to continue to explore the theological and contextual role of chaplains in state schools and the 21st century educational context in which they minister;
 - (iii) Educational: To request the Centre for Theology and Ministry to develop appropriate streams of education and suitable professional development to train and equip chaplains, including chaplains in state schools; and
 - (iv) To ensure appropriate guidelines are in place for chaplains who work under UCA oversight.

COMMISSION FOR MISSION

16.4.18 Commission for Mission Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Commission for Mission.

16.4.19 Justice and International Mission Unit

16.4.19.6 Control measures for Virtual Currencies

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To affirm that virtual currencies have legitimate uses in reducing online transaction costs and speeding up some online transactions, and that the appropriate response to their misuse is to bring them under regulation that already applies to normal currencies to prevent the virtual currencies being used in harmful transactions;
- (b) To join with the Senate Economics Reference Committee, the Productivity Commission and the Attorney General's Department in calling for virtual currencies to be brought under regulation through the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* so those providing virtual currency services that are operating like banks and other financial institutions are required to take reasonable steps to prevent virtual currencies being used to harm people. Such steps should include requirements to know their customers, to keep records of transactions, to report suspicious transactions to law enforcement agencies and to refuse to carry out transactions where they believe there is a high likelihood the transaction involves criminal activity; and

- (c) To write to the Minister of Justice and the Shadow Minister of Justice to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.3 Curbing Alcohol Related Violence

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To express its concern to the Victorian Government at the level of alcohol related violence in the community and that certain alcohol venues are responsible for a greater share of alcohol related violence;
- (b) To urge the Victorian Government to implement the very successful initiative of the NSW Government to maintain a public list of liquor outlets associated with more than ten violent incidents in a year in their respective states; and
- (c) To write to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation and the Shadow Minister for Liquor and Gaming Regulation in Victoria to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.2 Labour Trafficking in Australia

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To express concern to the Commonwealth Government at the level and extent of labour trafficking in Australia, with people seeking a decent job being subject to severe exploitation and abuse;
- (b) To call on the Commonwealth Government to:
 - (i) Set up a licensing system of labour hire businesses in Australia in industries at risk of human trafficking and provide meaningful oversight of labour hire businesses in these industries;
 - (ii) Require employers to allow workers from overseas to have access to a non-government organization to assist workers to understand their rights and responsibilities;
 - (iii) Ensure that workers from overseas who are suspected of having been trafficked into Australia are given access to independent legal advice before any action is taken to remove them from Australia; and
 - (iv) Adequately resource the Fair Work Ombudsman to cope with the volume of labour trafficking and severe exploitation of people on temporary work visas in Australia; and
- (c) To write to the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Employment, the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Shadow Minister for Justice, the Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, and the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.4 Payday Lending and Lease Contracts for Household Goods

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To express its deep concern to the Commonwealth Government at predatory practices used by many payday lending businesses and businesses that offer lease contracts for household goods;
- (b) To affirm that, while significantly greater consumer protection is needed, there is a need for affordable small amounts of credit to be available for some people to ensure they are not financially excluded from our community;
- (c) To call on the Commonwealth Government to change small amount credit contract laws to protect vulnerable members of the community from predatory practices and exploitation by introducing measures which include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Further restricting the size of the establishment fee for small credit loans, especially for repeat customers;
 - (ii) Prohibiting a second small credit loan to a person who had such a loan in the last 90 days;
 - (iii) Restricting the proportion of a person's income that can be required to repay small amount credit contracts;
 - (iv) Restricting how soon a default penalty can be applied and the amount that can be imposed as a default penalty and how quickly such a default penalty must be paid;
 - (v) Restricting the fee on small amount credit to 4 percent per month of the declining balance of the loan;
 - (vi) Ending the ability of consumer lease providers to use regulatory arbitrage to avoid Consumer Credit Enhancement regulations;
 - (vii) Setting an affordable cap on the interest and charges that can be placed on leases for low-value goods;
 - (viii) Restricting the length of lease contract for consumer goods to three years with no ability to extend the contract;
 - (ix) Placing a cap on the amount a person can pay on leases for consumer goods; and
 - (x) Restricting the fee that can be charged on the termination of a lease arrangement for consumer goods.
- (d) To call on the Commonwealth Government to adequately resource the Australian Securities and Investment Commission to conduct enforcement of small amount credit contract laws and to protect vulnerable people from predatory practices by businesses that use small amount credit contracts; and
- (e) To write to the Minister for Small Business, the Shadow Minister for Small Business and the Shadow Assistant Treasurer to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.1 People Seeking Asylum

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To urge the Victorian Government to establish a program offering concessions on water and energy bills to people seeking asylum and currently living in the community on bridging visas;
- (b) To urge the Tasmanian Government to establish a program offering concessions on water and energy bills to people seeking asylum and currently living in the community on bridging visas;
- (c) To urge the Tasmanian Government to follow the example of the States of Victoria and New South Wales in offering public transport concessions to people seeking asylum and currently living in the community on bridging visas;
- (d) To encourage the Victorian and Tasmanian Premiers to prioritise any Government support of programs/initiatives for people seeking asylum to those that have the capacity to lead to permanent protection; rather than short-term, temporary protection options which have no pathways to permanent protection; and
- (e) To write to the Victorian Premier and the Tasmanian Premier to inform them of these resolutions.

16.4.19.7 Revenue and the Role of Government

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To express its concern to the Federal Government that due to a lack of resources Australian Governments are increasingly unable to fulfil their core functions of

assisting all people to reach their full potential and to protect the vulnerable in our community;

(b) Noting that:

- the National Assembly (resolution 88.22.11/13) called for tax to be used for the redistribution of wealth;
- the Synod (resolution 97.6.6.7) called for taxation to be progressive and just;
- Commonwealth Government revenue as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product has been on a downward trend over the last decade; and
- Australian Governments collect significantly less revenue as a proportion of GDP compared to the significant majority of OECD countries,

to call on the Federal Government to increase, by progressive means, targeting tax expenditures that disproportionately benefit the wealthy, the level of revenue it collects to be able to provide the support people need to reach their full potential and to protect all people from abuse and exploitation; and

(c) to write to the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Treasurer and the Leader of the Greens to inform them of this resolution.

16.4.19.5 The Right to Health

The Synod resolved:

Noting Assembly Minute 06.20.01 ('Dignity in Humanity'), which asserted the right to adequate health care as a basic human right and Synod Minute 81.4.6 which affirmed all people have a right to access basic health care without regard to their ability to pay and that the taxation system is the best system for achieving equity of payment in the health care administration:

- (a) To call on the Commonwealth Government to leave Medicare and its associated support systems under public ownership, ensuring that funding for the Medicare system is not diverted into private profits; and
- (b) To write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Health and the Shadow Minister for Health informing them of this resolution.

CULTURE OF SAFETY

16.6.3 Culture of Safety Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Culture of Safety report.

EX-MODERATOR

16.2.12 Ex-Moderator's Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Ex-Moderator.

16.2.13 Minute of Appreciation – Mr Dan Wootton

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the ministry of Dan Wootton as Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 2013 to 2016.

The Synod affirms Dan's strong pastoral presence yet humble disposition shared across the diverse life of the Synod; sharing the difficult decisions of the church sensitively, with deep integrity and a commitment to justice across all councils of the Church; opening the Word of God with the Church in insightful ways; always inviting the Church into the space of prayer and reflection; and helping the Church be the best church it can be.

Dan Wootton began working in the Synod offices in 1991 as Development Fund Officer. Over the ensuing years he served in a number of roles. His wise counsel, his extensive and deep knowledge of the Regulations and polity of the Uniting Church in Australia, his attention to detail and acute sense of justice across all the councils of the Church, in his work as Property Officer, were affirmed across the church. In 2013 Dan was elected to serve the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania as Moderator.

Dan's time as Moderator has been marked by some of the most challenging and far-reaching issues this Synod has faced: the Uniting our future project and the Major Strategic Review. Over their duration, Dan has responded, at no small personal cost, with gentleness and grace to the significant pastoral questions they raised.

Alongside the myriad other concerns of the role, Dan has engaged the diverse responses of the members of the Church with characteristic openness and humility, drawing upon his thoughtful wisdom and appreciation of the polity of the Church. He has listened carefully. He has responded considerately. He has shared the difficult decisions of the Church sensitively and with a deep commitment to justice across all councils of the Church.

Dan has travelled throughout the Synod, carrying the stories of that diverse life to other parts of the Church. He has opened for us and to us the texts of our faith with insight, faith and hope, drawing frequently from his beloved Desert Fathers – and Mothers.

Unassumingly, he has revealed to us and shared with us the breadth and depth of his Christian understanding, the discipline of his prayer life, and the vitality and sustaining strength of his deep, contemplative relationship with God.

Dan's disposition is both humble and humbling. Ever alert and attentive to the natural world and everyday folk, his reflections have intrigued and inspired. Dan has acted with integrity, grace and insight. Without rancour, he has come alongside those who have disagreed with decisions made by the Church, offering understanding and compassion.

Dan has been a wonderfully gentle chairperson of Synod meetings and of Standing Committee. He has consistently invited the Church to be the best it can be, seeking to ensure a discerning space to grapple honestly with difficult issues.

In all things, Dan has been worthy of our appreciation and honour for the way he has led the Church as Moderator.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

16.4.2 Finance Committee Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Finance Committee report.

FUTURE SYNOD MEETINGS TASK GROUP

16.4.15 Future Synod Meetings Task Group Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Future Synod Meetings Task Group.



16.5.17 Timing, length, structure and content of future Synod meetings

The Synod resolved:

- (a) To determine that meetings of the Synod in council will continue to take place on an approximately 18 month frequency;
- (b) To request the Business Committee, when recommending dates for Synod meetings to the Standing Committee, to take seriously how the timing and scheduling of meetings can enable and encourage a greater diversity of voices and particularly the participation of younger people;
- (c) To approve in principle a new format for future Synod meetings in which a diversity of methods is employed to undertake its work, incorporating as appropriate a combination of plenary sessions, working groups, keynote presentations on resourcing, mission and ministry, facilitation processes, panel discussions, and others which are interactive and engaging as may be determined;
- (d) To establish an empowered and representative Creative Design Team to resource the implementation of clause (c) at each Synod meeting, with a role to proactively consider the processes, strategies and models by which the Synod may undertake its business; and
 - (i) To affirm that a key focus of this Team is the increased active and creative engagement of Synod members;
 - (ii) To determine that this Team is to be comprised of individuals who between them possess creative, artistic and facilitation skills and capacity for theological reflection, with not less than half the membership to be people under the age of 40 and/or from CALD backgrounds;
 - (iii) To request the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Business Committee, to establish Terms of Reference for the Creative Design Team, including clear articulation of its relationship to the Business Committee and taking into account clause (d)(ii);
 - (iv) To authorise the Standing Committee to appoint the membership of the Creative Design Team in order that it may commence in time for the 2017 Synod meeting;
- (e) To affirm:
 - (i) That the agenda for each meeting of the Synod should include a period of time for collective exploration of an issue strategic for the life and work of the whole Synod; and
 - (ii) That in 2017 a focus of this discussion be generational change and the sustainability of leadership;
- (f) Noting that any body can request time in plenary session to speak to its written report, to determine that written reports to the Synod meeting be taken as read;
- (g) To request the Business Committee to develop an interactive online process which allows Synod members to engage with the written reports and can provide a 'straw poll' indication of the mind of members in relation to the reports;
- (h) To request the Creative Design Team to formulate a process by which Synod members can engage with reporting bodies in smaller groups, which may take into account the information provided by (g);
- (i) To request the Business Committee in consultation with the Communications Unit to explore the feasibility of platforms by which members of the wider church can connect further and more effectively with the work of Synod meetings and implement these for the 2017 Synod meeting if proven to have merit;
- (j) To request the Standing Committee to make resources available to presbyteries wishing to host pre-Synod meeting gatherings of their appointed members; and

- (k) In light of clauses (a)-(j), to request the Synod Standing Committee to consult with the Business Committee and the Creative Design Team in order to determine an appropriate reduction in the length of Synod meetings.

GENERAL SECRETARY

16.3.8 General Secretary's Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the General Secretary.

MEMBERS' PROPOSALS

16.6.21.2 Committee Membership Diversity

The Synod resolved:

To request the Standing Committee:

- (a) To establish a task group of at least ten members, at least 50% of whom shall be UAICC or CALD members, to work with the Synod Nominations Advisory Panel to review the process of nominations and appointments to various committees, task groups and commissions of the Synod, and
- (b) To bring a report with recommendations about how the diversity of the Synod can be reflected in our elected bodies to the 2017 Synod.

16.5.20 Timor-Leste Maritime Border Dispute

The Synod resolved:

Noting Synod resolution 02.6.4.6,

- (a) To call on the Federal Government:
 - (i) To negotiate in good faith a permanent maritime boundary with Timor-Leste; or
 - (ii) If the boundary cannot be established through good faith negotiations, then to allow Timor-Leste to have any maritime boundary dispute with Australia resolved through the International Court of Justice or the compulsory dispute resolution mechanisms of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- (b) To inform the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs of this resolution; and
- (c) To request the Commission for Mission to resource, shape and guide a congregational campaign in support of this resolution.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

16.2.20 National Assembly Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the National Assembly report.



NOMINATIONS ADVISORY PANEL

16.4.21 &

16.6.19 Appointments to Committees, Commissions and Ecumenical Bodies by Synod 2016

The Synod resolved:

To appoint the following people to the named bodies:

A Business Committee

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Ms Sue Clarkson

Mr Rod Mummery

B Council for Chaplaincies in Tertiary Institutions

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Rev Jay Robinson

Mrs Lyn Bromage

C Placements Committee Chairperson

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the next ordinary meeting of Synod

Rev David Fotheringham

D Property Trust (Victoria and Tasmania)

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the next ordinary meeting of Synod

Rev David Parker

Mr Robert Costa

Mr Robert Ewing

Ms Helen Geard

Ms Bronwyn Wellings

E Property Trust (Victoria and Tasmania) Chair

To commence 9 June 2016 until the next ordinary Synod meeting

Rev David Parker

F Terms of Placement Committee

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Rev Dr Morag Logan

Mr Chris Harnath

G Terms of Placement Committee Chairperson

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Mr Rod Mummery

H Victorian Council of Christian Education

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Mrs Lyn Bromage

I Victorian Council of Churches

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson

J Board of Mission and Resourcing (BOMAR) Chair

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting, or sooner if so determined by the Standing Committee.

Rev Graeme Harrison

K National Council of Women (NCW)

To commence 9 June 2016 and retire at the 2019 Synod meeting

Deaconess Dorothy Underwood

PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE

16.2.9 Placements Committee Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Placements Committee report.

PROPERTY BOARD

16.5.2 Property Board Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Property Board report.

16.5.3 'Uniting our future' Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Property Board report about 'Uniting our future'.

RENEWING THE COVENANT TASK GROUP

16.2.19 Renewing the Covenant Task Group Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Renewing the Covenant Task Group report.

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

16.4.2 Risk Management Committee Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the Risk Management Committee report.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (REPORT C1.2)

16.3.4 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Task Group Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Royal Commission for Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Task Group.

SERVICE OF TRIBUTES AND THANKSGIVING

16.3.12 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 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Kenneth Allen	Rev William Johnston
Rev Ronald Bright	Rev Frank Morris
Rev Robert Catford	Rev Maxwell Morton
Rev Alan Collins	Rev Rodney Scoullar
Rev Dr Alan Crawford	Rev Jean Shadforth
Rev Andrew Donnelly	Rev Ruth Smith
Rev JT John Goff	Rev William Maxwell (Max) Spry
Rev Walter Goff	Rev Herbert Stevens AM
Rev George (Mick) C Grant	Rev R Frank Tate
Rev George W Grant OAM	Rev David Stuart Webster
Rev Alexander Hodgson	Rev H Roy Westaway
Rev John Holden	Rev John K Williams

(b) have retired since the 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:

Rev Yono Abadi	Rev Eseta Meneilly
Rev Peter Batchelor	Rev Sr Toska Miriam
Rev John Bottomley	Rev James S Murray
Rev Ian Cayzer	Rev Geoff Needham
Rev Dr Max Champion	Rev Evelyn Payne
Rev Christopher Cohen	Rev David Peel
Rev Lorene Day	Rev Randall Prior
Rev Dr John Evans	Rev Eileen Ray
Rev Dr Robert Faser	Rev Alex Rodgers
Rev Dr Tony Floyd	Rev Ken Rookes
Rev Rachel Franklin	Rev Tom Rose
Rev Robert Hazeldine	Rev Sherryl Smith
Rev Anne Honey	Rev Christopher Venning
Rev Dr Robert Johnson	Rev Andrew Vigus
Rev Marion Latham	Rev Dianne Watson
Rev Ron Manley	Rev Joan Wright
Rev Alan Mathews	

(c) have celebrated 50 years of ordination or commissioning from April 2015 to December 2016, and to record their names as follows:

Rev Samuel (Bubsy) Arulampalam	Rev Murray John
Rev Bruce Barber	Rev Gwen Masters
Rev John Connan	Rev Deacon Mima Mitchell
Rev Ronald Croxford	Rev Frank Morris
Rev Ann Drummond	Rev E Terrance Ninnis
Rev John Drysdale	Rev Alan Parton
Rev John Gardiner	Rev Adrian Pegler
Rev Rowan Gill	Rev Kenneth Ralph

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Rev Robert Hazeldine (dec) | Rev Dr John Vander Reest |
| | Rev Deacon Helen Jackson | Rev Dr H D'Arcy Wood |
- (d) have celebrated 60 years of ordination from April 2015 to December 2016, and to record their names as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Rev Stanley Bannon | Rev Alan Dyall |
| Rev Dr Warren Bartlett | Rev James Hazeldine |
| Rev Albert Bell | Rev Andrew Hope |
- (e) have celebrated 65 years of ordination from April 2015 to December 2016, and to record their names as follows:
- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rev Dr Robin Boyd | Rev Reynolds Waters |
| Rev Raymond Outhred | |
- (f) have been ordained since the 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rev Veronica Bradley | Rev Sherrin Jackman |
| Rev Elizabeth Donnelly | Rev Ray McClusky |
| Rev Deacon Wendy Elson | Rev Juliette Tautala'aso |
| Rev Berlin Guerrero | Rev Bruce Watson |
| Rev Jenny Hayes | |
- (g) have been received from another denomination from the 2014 meeting of Synod and to record their names as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Rev Nigel Hanscamp | Rev Uilisone (Kili) Mafaufau |
| Rev Young-Chul Lee | Rev Brian Spencer |

SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

16.2.8 Standing Committee Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Synod Standing Committee.

16.4.20.1 Amendment to Synod Standing Committee By-Law 5.2.1

The Synod resolved:

To modify the By-Laws for the Synod Standing Committee by adding the Chairperson of the Property Board to the list of participants included in By-Law 5.2.1.

16.6.12 Appointment of Chairperson of Nominating Committee for Moderator-Elect

The Synod resolved:

To appoint Dr Jill Tabart as Chairperson for the Nominating Committee for Moderator 2019–2022.

16.6.20 Major Strategic review

The Synod resolved:

- A To receive the report of the Major Strategic Review and accept the invitation to reflect on this report prayerfully, and with an openness to the renewing work of God's Spirit in our life as a Church.



- B To recognise the new and hopeful ways in which God is working and to respond to the call for the Synod to move into a new and renewed form to continue to participate in this work.
- C To receive the Vision and Mission Principles as a primary aid over the next 3 – 5 years for spiritual discernment and a focus for the Synod, viz:

Vision:

Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.

Mission Principles:

God in Christ is at mission in the world and sends the Church in the Spirit to:

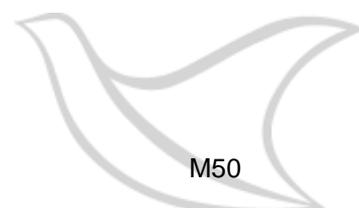
- 1) share the Good News of Jesus Christ
- 2) nurture followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation
- 3) respond in compassion to human need
- 4) live justly and seek justice for all
- 5) care for creation
- 6) listen to each generation and culture so as to live out the Gospel in fresh ways
- 7) pursue God's mission in partnership

- D To authorise the Synod Standing Committee to progressively implement changes to Synod governance that include the following key elements:

- (a) Two committees of the Synod Standing Committee, with interim titles of: Ministry & Mission Committee and Property & Operations Committee.
- (b) The areas of responsibility of existing boards and committees be encompassed as follows:

<i>Ministry & Mission Committee</i>	<i>Property & Operations Committee</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for Theology and Ministry Board (including the regulated functions of the Ministerial Education Board) • Commission for Mission Board • BOMAR – Oversight of the distribution of grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synod Property Board • BOMAR – Financial policies & resourcing (with reference to the Mission & Ministry Committee)

- (c) The role, ongoing requirements and reporting lines of boards and committees that currently report to Synod Standing Committee be reviewed in the light of (a) and (b) above.
- (d) A reorganisation of Synod based ministries and operations into four key areas:
 - 1) A Mission & Capacity Building Unit to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Ministry services;
 - (ii) Supporting and nurturing faith formation and discipleship and leadership development in cooperation with Presbyteries;
 - (iii) Allocation & distribution of grant funds;
 - (iv) Training and education;
 - (v) Justice and advocacy;
 - (vi) Resourcing Placements Committee; and
 - (vii) Research and resource development.



- 2) A Mission & Ministry Support Unit to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Synod operations oversight;
 - (ii) Communications;
 - (iii) Human Resources; and
 - (iv) Ethical Standards.
 - 3) A Mission Resourcing Unit to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Finance and financial management;
 - (ii) Property and insurance services;
 - (iii) Information Technology.
 - 4) An Office of the General Secretary to undertake work in areas including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Pastoral responsibilities of the General Secretary;
 - (ii) Secretariat functions;
 - (iii) Legal; and
 - (iv) Strategic support.
- E Recognising the Church's ministry amongst all generations, and walking together as First and Second peoples:
- (a) To adopt and resource the following strategic priorities over the 2016–2022 period:
 - 1) ministries which foster diverse gathered communities of renewal, Christian practice and mission;
 - 2) culturally diverse mission and ministry; and
 - 3) mission and ministry with children, youth, their families and young adults.
 - (b) To acknowledge the Vision and Mission principles, and in light of (a) above, to recognise the following areas of focus to inform the strategic priorities:
 - 1) The identity of Jesus Christ and Christianity in a post-Christendom world;
 - 2) Multi-cultural and multi-faith Australia and its relationship to its First Peoples;
 - 3) Peace-making, power and powerlessness, being with and for the poor; and
 - 4) Inter-faith and intercultural engagement, encounter and learning.
 - (c) To commit these strategic priorities and areas of focus to a whole of church conversation, resourced by the Mission and Capacity Building Unit, including intentional engagement at the 2017 Synod.
- F To adopt the following as core relational expectations for Synod and Presbyteries working together, engaging with the Vision, Mission Principles and Statements of Intent:
- (a) building capacity for being the church at mission in contextual ways
 - (b) a strategic use of property for missional purposes



- (c) a coordinated relationship between the Synod's leadership and presbyteries' leadership, with a spirit of mutuality and mutual accountability; and
 - (d) nurturing the roles of Presbytery Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
- G To request the Standing Committee to establish a Presbytery Transition Team:
- (a) To work closely with the Strategic Review implementation Team to develop a flexible new model or models of Presbytery resourcing and ministry taking into account:
 - 1) the core relational expectations (noted in proposal (F) above)
 - 2) the variety of needs across different presbyteries
 - 3) presbyteries' responsibility to provide pastoral oversight to the church for presentation to the 2017 Synod for implementation over the following 12 months.
 - (b) To ensure that appropriate training and pastoral care are provided for Presbyteries during the time of transition.
- H To maintain the current level of presbytery resourcing until the new model of Presbytery resourcing and ministry is fully implemented, or until 12 months after the 2017 Synod, whichever is sooner.

16.6.15.1 Minute of appreciation – Mr Geoffrey Grinton

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for the ministry of Mr Geoffrey Grinton and for his significant contribution to the Uniting Church as Chair of the Business Committee and Synod meeting Business Manager in the Synod of Victoria and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania from 1992 to June 2016.

Geoffrey Grinton has made a significant contribution as Chair of the Synod Business Committee and Synod Meeting Business Manager from 1992 to June 2016 during periods of major change for the Church. Church historians will be quick to note this work spans the life of two Synods, both the Synod of Victoria and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

Geoffrey undoubtedly has the gift of administration. He is first and foremost a deeply spiritual person and a man of God. The way he has exercised this ministry, both as Chairperson and Synod Business Manager, has been nothing short of exemplary. There was never a question about Geoffrey's credentials to fulfil the many tasks required of the job. He has always been meticulously prepared, thorough in his understanding of the Synod business, and respectful of the written word and the power of well-constructed proposals.

Geoffrey's personal qualities have guided his work. Geoffrey is a man of deep integrity. He is honest, fair and authentic. Geoffrey is a shy man yet generously offers warmth and pastoral concern. Every Synod we are reassured as Geoffrey resides at the business desk, a little like Captain Kirk on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise. He guides the business confidently and always with deep respect. Geoffrey loves the Uniting Church and consequently has devoted many weeks of his annual leave to this work.

Geoffrey has brought his extensive IBM software skills to the task and has established unique computer programs ensuring every Moderator and General Secretary has the gold standard tools to be on top of the Synod meeting's business. Geoffrey allows other people to shine. His work is done quietly with no expectation of applause. These same skills have been shared and acknowledged across his own congregation, Presbytery and the Assembly.

The Chair of the Business Committee needs to juggle many competing issues. Preparation for a Synod meeting begins a long way out. Evaluations need to be considered, venues scoped, worship life developed, proposals refined and reports written. Geoffrey's warmth and sense of humour have ensured all deadlines are met and the Synod is well prepared to deal with the required business.

Geoffrey will continue to serve the Church in many ways in the years to come. His wisdom and faithful discipleship will continue to be a gift to the Uniting Church. The Synod thanks God for his faithful exercise of ministry as Chairperson of the Business Committee and Synod Meeting Business Manager.

16.5.14 Synod Standing Committee (Group B Continuing Members)

The Synod resolved:

To appoint the following members of Synod who were designated as Group B (3-year term) members of the Synod Standing Committee at the Eleventh Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to be members of the Standing Committee of the Twelfth Synod: Geoffrey Grinton, Rev Fiona Winn and Rev Sue Withers.

SYNOD PROCEDURES

16.6.8 Adoption of the Roll of Synod

The Synod resolved:

That the Roll of Synod as finalised at 3.30pm on Sunday 5 June be adopted. (Refer to Appendix AA1.1.)

16.6.9 Reports from Boards, Commissions, Committees, Reporting Bodies and Presbyteries not received during presentations at Synod 2016

The Synod resolved:

To receive the following reports:

Property Trust Victoria	B05.1
Property Trust Tasmania	B05.2
Committee for Counselling	C04
Committee for Discipline	C05
Ecumenical Relations Committee	C06
Pastoral Assistance Committee	C09
Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee	C12
People and Culture	E01.1
Synod Safety	E01.1.1
Communications and Media Services	E01.2
Working Group on Christian-Jewish Relations	G02
Presbytery Reports	
Gippsland	H01
Loddon Mallee	H02
North East Victoria	H03
Port Phillip East	H04
Port Phillip West	H05
Tasmania	H06
Western Victoria	H07
Yarra Yarra	H08



16.6.22 Minute of Appreciation

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God and express its gratitude for those individuals and teams whose hard work, creativity, giftedness and grace made Synod 2016 possible, ensured its smooth running, and allowed for a discerning spirit within it.

TERMS OF PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

16.5.5.1 Terms of Placement Committee report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the Terms of Placement Committee.

16.5.5.2 Stipends and Allowances

The Synod resolved:

- (a) That the base level for stipends at the end of 2016 be \$55,863 pa;
- (b) That the adjustment/increase to the stipend at the end of 2017 be 2.5%, at the end of 2018 be 2.5% and the end of 2019 be 2.5%;
- (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: \$5,300; or
- (ii) for travel from 5,000 km up to 20,000 km per annum: \$5,300, plus \$330 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: \$12,200, plus \$130 per 1,000 km travelled above 30,000 km;

Part 2: Fuel Cost Provision

The Fuel Cost Provision of \$190 per 1000 km of travel per annum.

- (d) That the ad hoc travelling allowances for minister's professional duties be:
 - (i) 76.0 cents per kilometre for normal (average total) cost reimbursement for ministers not in placement, theological students and retired ministers; or
 - (ii) 39.0 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 \$17,015 per annum.

UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT

16.3.9 UCA Funds Management Report

The Synod resolved:



To receive the report of UCA Funds Management.

16.3.10 Minute of Appreciation – Mr Richard Carter

The Synod resolved:

To give thanks to God for Richard (Dick) Carter and celebrate his extraordinary contribution to the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, as Chairperson – UCA Funds Management 2006 to 2016.

Richard has been a member of the Uniting Church since 1985, when he joined Ewing Memorial Uniting Church (which is now known as the Stonnington Community Uniting Church). Previously a Presbyterian Church member, Richard really considers himself to have been a member of The Uniting Church since Union – even though it may not have been ‘official’ until 1985.

During his career as an engineer and executive in the BHP Group, Richard was awarded WA Citizen of the Year (Industry and Commerce) in 1996. He was also awarded the Sir Willis Connolly Memorial Medal in 2001 and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy’s Beryl Jacka Award in 2002.

In 2014 Richard was awarded the Order of Australia in recognition of his leadership in the mining industry, through raising professional standards and fostering education initiatives, and for his contribution to the Uniting Church.

During Richard’s ten-year term as Chairperson of UCA Funds Management, funds under management grew from \$660 million to \$990 million and the organisation successfully navigated the Global Financial Crisis. During that same time, grants to the Synod have totalled \$23 million. His leadership, stewardship and experience have enabled UCA Funds Management to be the first not-for profit or faith-based organisation to be fully licensed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission as a Responsible Entity – ensuring the highest standards of governance and compliance in the funds management industry.

Richard was chairperson of Prahran Mission from 1998 to 2010. He continues to carry out the mission of the Uniting Church in the role of Church Council Chairperson, treasurer for the Stonnington Community Uniting Church (holding both positions since 1999), and President of The Progressive Christian Network. Richard is a member of Synod Standing Committee and also a member of the Project Control Group for the UnitingCare Network Project.

Richard is thanked for his considered yet inspirational manner. We also thank him for his service to UCA Funds Management, and the broader Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. His dedication has allowed us to fund and directly impact the lives of so many people in need through the social mission of the Church. The Synod thanks Richard for his dedication, care wisdom and deep faith, and wishes him and his family God’s rich blessings as he moves on to future endeavours.

UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS (TASMANIA)

16.2.18 Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Tasmania) Report

The Synod resolved:

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



UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS (VICTORIA)

16.4.3 Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Victoria) Report

The Synod resolved:

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

UNITING AGEWELL

16.3.5 Uniting AgeWell Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Uniting AgeWell.

16.3.5 Uniting AgeWell – A Mission of the Uniting Church

The Synod resolved:

To note the statement “Uniting AgeWell – A Mission of the Uniting Church” (report B7 Attachment 1) and commend it to Uniting AgeWell’s stakeholders including staff, families, volunteers, congregations and presbyteries.

16.3.6 Minute of Appreciation – Ms Valerie Lyons

The Synod resolved:

To record its appreciation to Valerie Lyons for her leadership as Executive Director of Uniting AgeWell from 5 January 2015 to 5 July 2016, and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Valerie Lyons commenced as Executive Director of Uniting AgeWell in January 2015 and will conclude her role in July 2016. The short term of Valerie’s leadership was an exciting and innovative period for Uniting AgeWell.

The provision of aged care services is complex, changing and highly regulated, and under Valerie’s leadership Uniting AgeWell has not only kept pace with its competitors and partners in the field, but taken many new initiatives.

Some key achievements of Uniting AgeWell during the period when Valerie has been Executive Director are:

- All sites providing residential aged care now have appointed chaplains.
- Namaste AgeWell palliative project has been successfully trialled and gained international recognition.
- Marketing and Community relations team has been established.
- Improved services in Hotel and Hospitality – especially meals
- Partnerships established with other Uniting Church agencies providing services to seniors and disability services
- All residential sites have full three year accreditation.
- Consumer directed Care rolled out for all community programs
- Consumer Advisory Committee established
- Re-development of Preston and Hawthorn sites approved
- 28 bed extension to Manor Lakes residential facility at Wyndham Vale
- 13% increase in the number of funded packages for home based care

Although short, this has been a very significant tenure, and Valerie leaves with the best wishes of Uniting AgeWell and the Synod.

UNITINGCARE HOUSING VICTORIA

16.4.5 UnitingCare Housing Victoria Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of UnitingCare Housing Victoria.

UNITINGCARE NETWORK PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

16.3.3 UnitingCare Network Project Control Group Report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of the UnitingCare Network Project Control Group.

WESLEY MISSION VICTORIA

16.4.4 Wesley Mission Victoria report

The Synod resolved:

To receive the report of Wesley Mission Victoria.



INDEX TO THE MINUTES

	Report	Resolution	Page
Accounting Services	E2	16.4.13	16, 35
Administration and Finance	E2	16.4.12	16, 35
Alcohol related violence, curbing		16.4.19.3	18, 40
Appointments and associations		16.2.3.4	6, 36
Appointments to committees, commissions and ecumenical bodies		16.4.21, 16.6.19	21, 30, 46
Assembly report		16.2.20	10, 45
Asylum, people seeking		16.4.19.1	17, 41
Audit Committee	C2	16.4.2	15, 35
Bethel Pastoral Centre	G1	16.6.2	27, 35
Board of Mission and Resourcing	B1	16.2.10	8, 35
Business Committee	C3	16.2.5	7, 29, 37
Centre for Theology and Ministry	B2	16.3.14	14, 38
Chaplaincy in State Schools Task Group	D3	16.3.11, 16.5.19	13, 24, 26, 38
Commission for Mission	B3	16.4.6, 16.4.18	16, 17, 39
Committee for Counselling	C4	16.6.9	28, 53
Committee for Discipline	C5	16.6.9	28, 53
Committee membership diversity		16.6.21.2	33, 45
Communications and Media Services	E1.2	16.6.9	28, 53
Culture of Safety	E1.3	16.6.3	27, 42
Date of Synod 2017		16.6.11	29, 37
Ecumenical Awards		16.4.11	16
Ecumenical Relations Committee	C6	16.6.9	28, 53
Ex-Moderator		16.2.12	8, 42
Finance Committee	C7	16.4.2	15, 43
Funding challenges, addressing		16.6.21.1	33
Future Synod Meetings Task Group	D2	16.4.15, 16.5.17	17, 24, 43, 44
General Secretary	E1	16.3.8	12, 45
Health, the right to		16.4.19.5	19, 42
Justice and International Mission Unit		16.4.19	17, 39
Labour trafficking in Australia		16.4.19.2	18, 40
Letters from Elsewhere			15
Major Strategic Review	C1.1	16.6.20	10, 15, 24, 27, 29, 31, 49
Minutes of Appreciation			
Brown, Rev Ian		16.5.6	23, 35
Carter, Richard		16.3.10	12, 55
Grinton, Geoffrey		16.6.15.1	29, 52
Lyons, Valerie		16.3.6	11, 56
Synod organising team		16.6.22	34, 54
Wootton, Dan		16.2.13	9, 42
Moderator's Nominating Committee		16.6.12	29, 49
Moderator's installation			5
National Christian Youth Convention			15
Pastoral Assistance Committee	C9	16.6.9	28, 53
Payday lending and lease contracts		16.4.19.4	18, 40
People & Culture	E1.1	16.6.9	28, 53
Placements Committee	C10	16.2.9	8, 47
Presbytery reports	H1-H8	16.6.9	28, 53
Property Board	B4	16.5.2	22, 47
Property Trust (Tasmania)	B5.1	16.6.9	28, 53
Property Trust (Victoria)	B5.2	16.6.9	28, 53
Renewing the Covenant Task Group	D1	16.2.19	10, 47
Revenue and the role of Government		16.4.19.7	20, 41

Risk Management Committee	C11	16.4.2	15, 47
Roll of Synod, adoption	AA1	16.6.8	9, 28, 53
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse	C1.2	16.3.4	11, 47
Stipends and allowances		16.5.5.2	22, 54
Synod minutes, confirmation of		16.2.4	7, 37
Synod procedures		16.2.6	7, 37
Synod Safety	E1.1.1	16.6.9	28, 53
Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee	C12	16.6.9	28, 53
Synod Standing Committee By-Law 5.2.1		16.4.20.1	20, 49
Synod Standing Committee election		16.5.14, 16.6.17	24, 30, 53
Synod Standing Committee report	C1	16.2.8	8, 49
Terms of Placement Committee	C13	16.5.5.1	22, 54
Timor-Leste maritime border dispute		16.5.20	26, 45
Tributes and thanksgiving		16.3.12	13, 48
UCA Funds Management	B6	16.3.9	12, 54
Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Tasmania	F1	16.2.18	10, 55
Victoria	F2	16.4.3	15, 56
Uniting AgeWell	B7	16.3.5	8, 11, 56
Uniting our future	B4.1	16.5.3	22, 47
UnitingCare Housing Victoria	B8	16.4.5	16, 57
UnitingCare Network Project Control Group	C1.3	16.3.3	10, 28, 57
Virtual currencies, control measures for		16.4.19.6	19, 39
Wesley Mission Victoria	G3	16.4.4	15, 57
Working Group on Christian-Jewish Relations	G2	16.6.9	28, 53

