



Proposals

Proposal 1

That the Presbytery resolve to:

1.
 - a. Adopt Standing Orders and Rules of Debate as set out in 'A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church', as recorded in the Constitution and Regulations, 2018 edition. (Reg. 3.8.4)
 - b. Approve that the style of voting shall be by the use of coloured cards unless a secret ballot is called for by the Moderator / Chairperson.
 - c. Agree that in the event that a procedural motion for the council to move into "Private sitting" is carried by a simple majority then ALL those who are not members of the Council must leave the meeting. The required Uniting Technology and Presbytery/Synod staff will be able to remain to execute their respective tasks.
 - d. Determine that all discussions or decisions will be conducted in ways which comply with the Church's responsibilities under the "Synod Work Health and Safety Corporate Policy and Procedures" and the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2012 (SA).
2. Note that at the beginning of each session the Chairperson will deal with the business coming before the house in the following order:
 - a. Minutes of any meeting requiring to be approved or confirmed.
 - b. Letters or other communications to be received.
 - c. Reports from the Presbytery Business Committee or other special committee appointed by the Presbytery.
 - d. Confirmation or variation of the proposed hours of session and order of the day.
 - e. Formal Business.
 - f. The order of the day.
3. Receive all reports as printed in the 'Reports and Business Papers of the Presbytery of South Australia 5th January 2019 and Supplements thereto.
4. Note that:
 - a. questions relating to the proposals brought before the Presbytery and Synod by the Business Committee will be answered at the time when the proposals are being considered by a plenary session of the Presbytery..
 - b. Comments and/or questions from the floor and replies to questions **shall be limited to three (3) minutes** unless otherwise determined by the house.
5. Define the boundaries of the house to be the seated area of the ground floor (excluding the Chapel area) and the cry room of Adelaide West Uniting Church.

6. Adopt the Hours of Session as listed hereunder:
Sessions 1-2 Saturday 5th January 2019 9.30am - 1.00pm
7. Appoint the following officers for this Presbytery meeting:
 - a. Assistant Secretaries: Malcolm Wilson (Event Manager)
Rev Linda Driver
 - b. Minute Secretary: Tracey Bost
 - c. Ballot Scrutineers: Chris Jaensch and Diane Hughes
 - d. Chaplains Jan Trengove and Rev Ian Kitto
8. Declare that proposals be dealt with in the following order:
 - a. Those which must be dealt with by Presbytery in full session which cannot be referred (in an order decided by the Business Committee).
9. Co-opt the following persons:

Peter Russell Chris Headland Tony Nancarrow

Proposers: Rev Rob Brown
Malcolm Wilson

Proposal 2

ADEQUATE CONSULTATION, INCLUDING CONCURRENCE

That the Presbytery of SA:

Noting the Assembly decision of the 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church to vary its policy on marriage by recognising two statements of belief about marriage as set out in the Unconfirmed Minute titled Resolution of the Fifteenth Assembly (Marriage and same-gender relationships), and pursuant to Part D, Section 39(b) of the Uniting Church Constitution.

1. (a) determine that in our opinion:
 - (i) the Assembly decision includes a matter vital to the life of the Church, and
 - (ii) there was inadequate consultation prior to the Assembly decision being made,

- (b) notify the President of the Uniting Church promptly of our opinion,
 - (c) request the President to notify the Church that the Assembly decision is suspended until the Assembly has undertaken further consultation, and
2. Request the Assembly to 'give heed to other councils of the Church' (Basis of Union, para. 15) by:
- (a) seeking the concurrence of the Congregations, and other Councils of the Church regarding the Assembly decision.
 - (b) utilising printed, electronic and social media, to ensure that all Congregations, Presbyteries and Synods are all well informed of the Assembly decision, and are clearly aware of their role and responsibility in this decision-making process.

Rationale:

This proposal is not asking Presbytery to discuss a position on same-gender marriage. Rather, it is about the process giving rise to the Assembly decision. Opportunity for discussion will undoubtedly arise if Section 39 (b) is heeded, and the Assembly seeks the concurrence of other councils of the church. To concur, is to jointly agree.

1. The Assembly decision is a matter vital to the life of the Church because it has huge implications for the UCA's ecumenical resolve to be 'working together and seeking union with other Churches' (Basis, para. 2). It is vital for the retention of our current membership in local churches, as well as for future growth and missional activities.
2. Many congregations believe the Assembly decision endorses teaching which is inconsistent with the way of life that they, and the church have been called to live, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, as described in both the Basis of Union and in the Scriptures. Many congregations, individual members and specified ministry workers find themselves unable, in good conscience, to accept this decision.
3. The Report on Marriage and Same-gender Relationships, from the Assembly Working Group on Doctrine, completed in 2018, was first sent to members of Assembly at the end of April 2018, less than 10 weeks before they met in July 2018.
4. The Report and its proposal to change the doctrine of marriage were not made available beforehand to Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations for comment or consideration. Such a far-reaching change, as proposed, warranted transparent consultation with the members of UCA Congregations. The views of Congregations on this proposed change, were not sought. See Basis, para. 15 (e).
5. The Report—while forming the basis of the Assembly decision—was not permitted to be discussed, challenged or affirmed, prior to the 15th Assembly considering the proposal to change the doctrine of marriage. This haste, hindered due process.
6. The Assembly Standing Committee not only received the Report, but simultaneously proposed to the 15th Assembly that a new doctrine of same-gender marriage be approved by the Assembly, as the new doctrine of the Uniting Church in Australia.
7. To seek concurrence, is to advocate for pastoral honesty, and a renewal of trust.

Proposers: Trevor Faggotter
Ashlee Littleford