



## **2019 SPECIAL PRESBYTERY MEETING MINUTES SATURDAY 5 JANUARY 2019**

### **OPENING WORSHIP**

The Burnside City Worship Team led the opening worship. The Chairperson of the Presbytery, Rev Sue Ellis, opened this Special Presbytery meeting with an acknowledgement of Country; Carolyn David from the Corner Uniting Church brought a welcome song. Rev Mark Kickett and Siti Rogoimuri led a prayer of confession from the resources for the Day of Mourning (20 January 2019).

The Bible reading was brought by Rev Rob Brown - Matthew 2:2-12; The Chairperson's sermon was based on this scripture. "We are lucky to have Matthew's gospel – not only does it give us the picture of the Kingdom of heaven being like a mustard seed tree in which the birds of the air find a branch and build their nests – it also gives us the Wise men." In response, Leigh Newton sang, 'We have seen the Star'.

The Chairperson led the meeting in Holy Communion; James Ross-Naylor, Ashlee and Tim Littleford brought prayers for the meeting. The Chairperson concluded the session with a prayer of thanksgiving and benediction.

### **MEETING PROCEDURES**

The Chairperson reminded members the Manual for Meetings will be used to guide the meeting processes and that members will be discussing the decision from Assembly about same gender marriage, not about marriage in general.

The Chairperson and Interim General Secretary spoke about the responsibilities all members have to be respectful of each other and to be mindful that we are bound by the Work, Health and Safety Act of SA and the Work, Health and Safety Policies of the Presbytery of SA (see 1d).

Chaplains for the meeting were announced - Mrs Jan Trengove – Past Moderator and Lay Preacher and Rev Ian Kitto – Retired Minister.

### **INFORMATION SESSION**

The Chairperson asked for questions for clarification in relation to the proposals before the meeting.

### **DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

Two motions concerning voting methods were brought at this time, namely the percentage to be used in formal procedures, however as Proposal 1 had not yet been presented, the Chairperson advised that Proposal 1 should be brought to the meeting (that includes voting methods).

## PROPOSAL 1

Proposal 1a was approved by Consensus prior to the morning tea break. Following the break, the Event Manager, Mr Malcolm Wilson, asked that, due to the large number of people in attendance, that visitors sit in the two last rows in the Chapel area. This relates to bounds of the house.

A motion was brought to amend the use of a simple majority to a 67% majority in the event the meeting agrees to use formal procedures - Proposed by Rev Cate Baker; Seconded by Mr Bruce Ind. Following discussion and a show of cards that revealed a decision could not be reached by consensus procedures for this motion, the Chairperson called for a written ballot, *“When it is determined by leave of the council that the question needs to be resolved now and we move into the process of making decisions by formal majority the required percentage to approve a proposal will be 67% of voting members”*.

The result of the written ballot (simple majority) was (370 voted), 198-Yes (54%), 172-No (46%), therefore, where formal procedures are used for this meeting, a 67% majority is required to pass a proposal.

It was the AGREED that the Presbytery resolve to:

P19.01 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)

P19.02 It was the AGREED that the Presbytery resolve to move to formal procedures.

P19.03 It was the AGREED that the Presbytery resolve:

When it is determined by leave of the council that the question needs to be resolved now and we move into the process of making decisions by formal majority the required percentage to approve a proposal will be 67% of voting members.

P19.04 It was the AGREED that the Presbytery resolve to move back to consensus procedures.

P19.05 1. b. Approve that the style of voting shall be by the use of coloured cards unless a written ballot is called for by the 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).

- P19.06 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.
- P19.07 3. Receive all reports as printed in the 'Reports and Business Papers of the Presbytery of South Australia 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and Supplements thereto.
- P19.08 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.
- P19.09 5. Define the boundaries of the house to be the seated area of the ground floor (excluding the last two rows of the Chapel area) and the cry room of Adelaide West Uniting Church.
- P19.10 6. Adopt the Hours of Session as listed hereunder:  
Sessions 1-2 Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019 9.30am - 1.00pm
- P19.11 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
- P19.12 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).
- P19.13 9. Co-opt the following persons:  
Peter Russell, Chris Headland and Rev Dr Tony Nancarrow

## **PROPOSAL 2 - ADEQUATE CONSULTATION, INCLUDING CONCURRENCE**

Rev Trevor Faggetter and Ashlee Littleford spoke to the proposal.

The Interim General Secretary spoke to the proposal to explain that it is in two parts, i.e., Proposal 2 (a) deals with the Constitution of the Church – a “yes” vote - the Assembly is duty bound to follow the Constitution and have further consultation (but would not necessarily seek concurrence) while 2 (b) is a simple request of the Assembly that may be responded to or not. A question time followed, including time to answer questions on notice.

The Chairperson advised the meeting Parts 1 and 2 of Proposal 2 would be dealt with separately.

P19.14 It was the AGREED that the Presbytery approve an extension of time to 1.30 pm.

Following the use of coloured cards to allow Leave of the Council to move to formal procedures,

P19.15 It was the AGREED that the Presbytery resolve to move to formal procedures.

The Chairperson asked that people be pastoral and respectful of each other as the decision is announced.

**PROPOSAL 2 – Part 1**

The result of the written ballot for Proposal 2, Part 1 a, b and c was Yes – 184 (49%); No – 189 (51%), therefore Proposal 2, Part 1 was not approved and the Assembly decision on same-gender marriage stands.

P19.16 It was the AGREED that the Presbytery move back to consensus procedures.

The Chairperson prayed that our healing journey can now begin.

**PROPOSAL 2 – Part 2 (a)**

Proposal 2, Part 2 (a) was presented. A decision by consensus procedures for proposal 2, part 2 (a) was shown not to be achievable therefore the Chairperson moved the meeting into formal procedures. Following a count of coloured cards, the result was Yes - 170 and No – 162. As formal majority for this meeting required a yes vote of 67%, Proposal 2, Part 2 (a) did not proceed.

**PROPOSAL 2 – Part 2 (b)**

In relation to Assembly communications, the Chairperson noted that the Assembly have communicated extensively with the Church in regard to Assembly decision making processes. The proposers withdrew this proposal.

**CLOSE**

The Chairperson thanked members, Adelaide West Uniting Church, all those who were involved in putting the meeting together with a special thank you to Malcolm Wilson who concludes as Event Manager at this meeting. The Chairperson advised a Pastoral Letter will be sent to congregations in regard to the decisions of this Special Presbytery meeting. Congregations are able to invite the Chairperson to have a conversation about the meeting and the decisions made. The Chairperson closed the meeting.