



2019 ANNUAL SYNOD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2019

OPENING WORSHIP

The Moderator Mr Bronte Wilson began with an Acknowledgement of Country. The Worship Team of Synod members led the meeting in opening worship.

Rev Dr Vick Balabanski brought the scripture readings – Ephesians 4:1-7 and 2 Corinthians 13:5-14. Based on Paul's teachings from these scriptures, Mr Craig Bailey led Bible study #1, speaking about the connections that ought to belong to us as a Church - in a world of disconnection we have the opportunity to reflect a different reality and that is a connection with God, each other and the world.

The Moderator and Rev Sean Gilbert led the meeting in Holy Communion followed by an explanation of a kit given to members to use during the meeting "to further consider our theme of connections".

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed/recognised:

- the President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Dr Deidre Palmer
- the Assembly General Secretary, Colleen Geyer
- All members of the Synod including new members
- Rev Robyn Kidd, Defence Force Chaplain and Rev Felicity Amery, General Secretary, who have transferred to the Synod of South Australia since the 2018 November Synod meeting
- Craig Mitchell who has transferred to the Synod of Vic/Tas since the 2018 November Synod meeting
- Bindy Taylor, previously the Synod Communication and Events Manager who has recently been appointed as CEO of MediaCom
- Sue Raw – General Manager, Resources

LOGISTICS AND EVENT INFORMATION

Rev Lynne Aird, Minister at Adelaide West, provided information about the facilities at Adelaide West Uniting Church and at the College - our place is your place. Rev Sue Page, Associate General Secretary, Event Manager, provided an update on the provision of services, introducing the Chaplains, Rev Rob Williams and Rev Beth Seaman. Parts of the meeting are being recorded by video.

ORIENTATION OF SYNOD MEMBERS

In that this is the first meeting of the Synod since the separation of the Presbytery and Synod, Rev Professor Andrew Dutney spoke about, "What is a Synod?" including an explanation of the government and Councils of the Church.

INFORMATION AND REPORT ELECTIVES

Rev Sue Page, Associate General Secretary, spoke about the report electives scheduled for during the meeting and the election and appointment processes for Boards and Committees.

PROPOSAL 1

OPENING PROPOSALS

S19.37 It was AGREED that the Synod of SA 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.
 - 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 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 Moderator 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 Business Committee or other special committee appointed by the Synod.
 - 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 provided (electronic and hard copy) in the 'Reports and Business Papers of the Synod of South Australia 13-16 November 2019 and Supplements thereto.
4. NOTE that:
 - a. Questions relating to the proposals brought before the Synod by the Business Committee will be answered at the time when the proposals are being considered by a plenary session of the Synod.
 - b. Questions relating to the reports and proposals which are not considered by a plenary session of Synod because of time constraints, will be referred along with the particular proposals to the Synod Standing Committee.

- c. 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. DETERMINE that the Synod Roll shall only contain the names of those representatives listed on the Roll of members of the last ordinary meeting of Synod or their replacement member.
6. DEFINE the boundaries of the house to be the seated area of the ground floor and the creche of Adelaide West Uniting Church.
7. ADOPT the Hours of Session as listed hereunder:

At Brougham Place Uniting Church:

Session 1	Wednesday 13 November	7:00pm – 9:00pm
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At Adelaide West Uniting Church:

Sessions 2 - 6	Thursday 14 November	9:30am – 9:00pm
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Sessions 7 – 10	Friday 15 November	9:00am – 9:00pm
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Session 11	Saturday 16 November	9:00am – 1:00pm
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Generate Presbytery meeting	Saturday 16 November	1:00pm – 3:00pm
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Presbytery A meeting	Saturday 16 November	1:30pm – 2:30pm
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Presbytery B meeting	Saturday 16 November	2:30pm – 3:30pm
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8. APPOINT the following officers for this Synod meeting:
 - a. Assistant Secretaries: Rev Sue Page (Event Manager)
Rev Dianne Holden
 - b. Minute Secretaries: Tracey Bost
Bev Freeman
 - c. Chief Scrutineer: Anne Wilson
Ballot Scrutineers: Peter Wilson, Matthew Heath, Sonia Wilson
 - d. Chaplains: Rev Rob Williams
Rev Beth Seaman
 - e. Business Committee: Rev Felicity Amery, Rev Sue Ellis, Bronte Wilson,
Rev Sue Page, Evangeline McAllan, Rev Dianne Holden, Kerry Wilson
 - f. Facilitation Team: Rev Diane Bury (Convenor), Rev Naomi Duke,
Rev Robyn Kidd, Rev Nick Patselis, Peter Russell
 - g. First Aid Officer: Rev Cheryl Wilson and Elizabeth Megaw
9. Associate the following people with the meeting for the purposes of participating in presenting reports:
Matt Wilson for the Resources Board report.

10. DECLARE that proposals be dealt with in the following order:
 - a. Those which must be dealt with by Synod in full session which cannot be referred (in an order decided by the Business Committee).
 - b. Those which arrive by 5pm Wednesday 23 October (in an order decided by the Business Committee).
 - c. All others (in an order decided by the Business Committee).

11. ADOPT the following procedure in respect of nominations, understanding that the roll will close at 12:30pm on Thursday 14 November 2019:
 - a. Agree that the closure time for receiving of nominations to all Councils, Committees, and Boards be 10:30 am on Friday 15 November, 2019.

 - b. Agree that any necessary ballots be held on Friday 14 November 2019 with ballot papers available from 3:45 pm and that ballots will close at 9:00 pm on that same day.

12. ASK that proposals with costing implications:
 - a. include a process for raising new revenue and/or
 - b. be submitted to the next year's budget process to be determined by Synod and/or
 - c. be submitted to annual Synod grant processes.

13. CO-OPT the following persons:
Mr Peter Russell and Rev Dr Tony Nancarrow

EX-MODERATOR'S REPORT

Rev Sue Ellis officially became the Ex-Moderator at the Installation Service of the new Moderator, Bronte Wilson, on Wednesday night, 13 November 2019.

Sue spoke briefly about her three years as Moderator while presenting many photographs of the places she has travelled to and the people she has met. Sue thanked Rob (husband) and her family for supporting her and the Seeds congregation for looking after Rob, giving him something to do while she was busy being Moderator. Sue's theme, "Grow-Nurture-Flourish" has been enthusiastically adopted.

Sue finished by encouraging Church members to engage with the Boards of our organisations associated with the Uniting Church and agencies. In Sue's usual joviality, she said, "Thank you for your prayers and support, I have enjoyed most of it".

The Moderator, on behalf of the Synod of SA said, "We release you and will continue to care for you and Rob pastorally" and offered Sue the Ex-Moderator's cross and a floral gift with a gift for Rob also. The Moderator prayed for the Ex-Moderator, Rev Sue Ellis.

PROPOSAL 6

MINISTERIAL MATTERS – IN MEMORIAM

S19.38 It was **AGREED** that the Synod of SA resolve to:

STAND in silence to acknowledge the ministry of the following Ministers who have died since the November 2018 Synod meeting, and in gratitude to God for their contribution to the ministry and mission of the Uniting Church:

Rev James Peter Baxter
Rev Alan Douglas Davis
Rev Lindsay Douglas Faulkner OAM
Rev (Clifford) Allan Hatcher
Rev Robert Andrew (Bob) MacIntosh OAM
Rev Elwyn Dunstan Penna
Rev John William Rooke
Rev Kevin Graham Woolford

MEDIACOM – BINDY TAYLOR

Bindy Taylor, recently appointed CEO at MediaCom - Bindy spoke about several books available at the MediaCom stand located at Uniting College during the meeting.

ROLL CLOSED

The Roll of Synod closed at 1.00 pm.

REPORT ELECTIVES

Members attended various presentations to hear from Report authors and discuss aspects of the Ministry Centre's work.

RESTRUCTURING TASK GROUP REPORT

Information Session - the General Secretary and the Associate General Secretary spoke to the Restructuring Task Group Report. Proposal 7 (new Presbyteries), will be discussed in working groups with comments brought back to the meeting by the Facilitation Group; the proposal to be presented at a later time for decision.

The General Secretary thanked the Associate General Secretary Rev Sue Page, members of the Restructuring Task Group, Regional Ministers from the Pastoral Relations and Mission Planning Team, members of the Resources Board and Finance staff, Rev Rob Brown, Barry Atwell and others who have worked on the transition from the one Synod, one Presbytery to one Synod and multiple presbyteries.

The General Secretary spoke about the “soft lines” of the Presbytery boundaries and the concept of “clusters” - recognising that small groups of people within our Presbyteries will want to meet together, interest groups or people with a particular focus or particular cultural identity.

The General Secretary encouraged members to nominate people/self-nominate for our Committees, to bring their gifts and skills and contribute to leading the Church into the future.

The General Secretary thanked the Generate Presbytery for the work they have done in becoming established - a Presbytery is not established overnight, it takes time and effort.

GENERATE PRESBYTERY REPORT

Rev Dr Graham Humphris and Rev Steph Tai presented the Generate Presbytery report, including:

Theme - An Adventure of Joy

- It has been 41/2 months since the Presbytery began – there have been many meetings and conversations with congregations to encourage them and build them up
- A budget has been developed, job descriptions have been written and a proposed staffing model
- Some have left the Uniting Church – we understand and appreciate their feelings and thank them for their contribution to the Uniting Church
- What’s next – over the next few months we will set up “Hubs” and we will have a Pastoral Relations Committee
- While it has been busy and demanding we thank God and thank the Synod for the Generate Presbytery
- We exist to see people come to faith, growing passionate disciples, courageous leaders raised and churches renewed and planted
- Thank you to the Synod staff for their support
- We are excited to celebrate with the new Presbyteries when they are formed.

LAUNCH OF DISASTER RECOVERY BOOKLET FOR CONGREGATIONS

Wendy Perkins spoke to the meeting about Disaster Ministry and introduced a new Assembly Disaster and Recovery booklet to the meeting. “Good advice for Churches, Congregations and Faith Groups ministering in disaster-affected communities”. We are shocked, saddened and distressed for people facing a disaster. People are moved to compassion. Rev Christine Manning spoke about her congregation’s response - lots of ways that can show God’s love.

SA Relief Fund donations assist with helping people who are affected by a disaster; Uniting Church people, from their local congregations and faith groups, are able to bless our communities with assistance in their time of need.

NATIONAL SAFE CHURCH RESOURCE

Rev Philip Gardner spoke about Safe Church resources available to the Church.

PROPOSAL 4

SYNOD ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE (SERC)

Rev Dr Greg Elsdon spoke about the work of the Synod Ecumenical Relations Committee including the Roman Catholic Church Plenary Council in 2020 (50 years since the last Plenary Council) – more about this in 2020 and how the Uniting Church can provide support. The Roman Catholic Church and Uniting Church have a Dialogue Group that meet to support each other ecumenically. Concern was expressed over the level of funding for the SACC (Churches Together SA) by the SA Synod.

S19.39 It was AGREED that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. ENCOURAGE all Presbyteries in the SA Synod area to actively connect with the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee (SERC) and appoint a member or members to that Committee.
2. ENDORSE the proposed Annual Ecumenical Award to support and celebrate congregations who are engaged in ongoing ecumenical relationship building with a congregation/s of a different denomination in their local community, set aside funds for the award in the Budget, and establish a time in the agenda of the Annual Synod for such presentations to be made. This item has been budgeted for in the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee budget.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE the work of Rev Rob Williams as the first Chairperson of the Synod Ecumenical Relationships Committee and in its establishment in 2016.

The Moderator agreed to write to Rev Williams acknowledging his contribution on the SERC.

PROPOSAL 5

STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES

Mr Brian Hern, Chairperson of the Stipends Committee, spoke to the Stipends Committee report, including:

- The responsibilities of the Stipends Committee are in the Report – they haven't changed significantly over the years.
- Thank you to Jeanette Lennon and Rev Dr Ian Price who are retiring from the Committee.
- The minimum stipend was approved at the June 2019 Synod meeting. The motor vehicle allowance has been determined and remains unchanged.
- Some research was undertaken in regard to electric vehicles but the Committee decided there is insufficient information to make a decision at this time.
- Fringe Benefit Account for Specified Ministries – New Handbook.
- Professional Development Allowance – how ministers are using this allowance is being review by the Pastoral Relations and Mission Planning Team.

S19.40 It was AGREED that the Synod of SA resolve to:

APPROVE the Ministers Stipend, Allowances & Charges Schedule A for 2020.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The General Secretary reported on decisions of the Standing Committee since the November Synod meeting in 2018, i.e. December 2018, February, April, May, June, August 2019. The October minutes are unconfirmed and will be approved by the Standing Committee in December.

The General Secretary encouraged people to nominate for a place on the Standing Committee; the scope of the work is very broad and very important.

PROPOSAL 10

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY MEALS IN CONGREGATIONS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

Rev Tim Hodgson, Executive Officer, UnitingCare and Rev Nick Patselis from Salisbury Uniting Church spoke about the background to the proposal, including:

Micah 6:8 to “act justly, show mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” Through taking on the role of servanthood in response to the suffering of others, we make known God’s loving care for every person. A nutritious communal meal is very valuable, not just for connecting individuals and decreasing isolation, but also for its nutritional value. Through the response to the grace that God has offered through Christ, we respond as Matthew says (Matthew 25:35) “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

We affirm the congregations who are already doing community meals in their churches and who are living out Christ’s vision from Matthew’s Gospel. We would also encourage other churches to start up community meals, through the support of UnitingCare, if needed.

S19.41 It was AGREED that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. AFFIRM those congregations and faith communities who currently provide a community meal in their church which supports people in their local community.
2. ENCOURAGE congregations and faith communities within the Synod to consider establishing their own community meals to connect with people in their local community, including those who are lonely and isolated.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE that support to establish community meals can be provided by UnitingCare SA.

PROPOSAL 11

BLACK DEATHS IN CUSTODY AND THE CORONER'S INQUIRY INTO MR MORRISON'S DEATH

Rev Dean Whittaker and Nelson Varcoe, a number of people from the Salisbury Congress and Latoya Rule, Mr Morrison's sister, who spoke to the Synod a few years ago, spoke about developments since Mr Morrison's death 3 years ago. The Aunties sang a song of deep meaning for us.

"The South Australian Coroner made a final determination in December 2018 that officers would have to appear in the Coroner's Court, which lawyers for the seven officers have refused to accept, and have now taken the matter to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will hear this matter late November 2019. There have been positive decisions at both a State and Australia-wide level about banning the use of spit-hoods in youth detention centres. We believe South Australia should take a lead in banning spit-hoods in Adult Correctional Services centres, and encourage all states to follow suit".

Latoya and Aunty Amelia spoke about the respect they have for Dean in helping the Anangu people in his congregation and community. Aunty Amelia Spoke from her heart about her family and the challenges she faces, asking the Church members to "just be a friend".

Rev Dr Vicki Balabanski thanked Aunty Amelia for her words and for all the Anangu people who have come to help us understand.

S19.42 It was AGREED that the Synod of SA resolve to:

REQUEST that Mr Bronte Wilson, Moderator and Rev Felicity Amery, General Secretary EXPRESS to the SA Government, and where appropriate Correctional Services, our Synod's:

1. Continuing deep concern about Aboriginal imprisonment and black deaths in custody, and in particular, the death of Wayne Morrison after unexplained events at Yatala Labour Prison.
2. Continued grief over the high levels of imprisonment of First People in this state. We believe it is evidence of the failure of our state to rightly relate to the First People of this place. We also grieve the death of Kumanjayi Walker this week in Yuendumu. He was related to members of a congregation in our Synod.
3. Pastorally, regarding Mr. Morrison's death, express:
 - a. the deep concern we hold for the family of Mr Morrison, who have continued to desire honest answers and proper accountability, as they mourn the loss of their loved one in profoundly notorious circumstances.
 - b. our prayers that love, truth, discernment, repentance and justice be manifested in this situation for all involved.

4. Profound concerns about the structures and processes within SA Correctional Services and include a request for the banning of spit hoods in all places of detention.

NOTICES AND CLOSE

Given the time and feeling of the meeting, it was agreed to defer further business until Friday.

The Moderator's Chaplain and past Moderator, Jan Trengove, prayed for the outgoing of the members; the Moderator closed the session.



2019 ANNUAL SYNOD MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019

OPENING WORSHIP

The Moderator welcomed members back to the meeting and invited the Worship Team of Synod members to lead the meeting in opening worship.

WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed Rev Garry Dronfield, National President, UAICC to the meeting.

BIBLE STUDY #2

Mr Craig Bailey brought his second bible study for the meeting, "The Good Life" - Ephesians 4:1 - *I urge you to live a good life of the calling you have received* - Connectedness, informed for Christians by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Moderator welcomed Dr Deidre Palmer, President of the Uniting Church in Australia and Collen Geyer, Assembly General Secretary presented the Assembly Report. The President and General Secretary began with an Acknowledgement of Country.

The President began with affirming Rev Sue Ellis' 3 years as Moderator (now Ex-Moderator), "Sue has been a passionate, patient and wise leader" and prayers also for Bronte Wilson, Moderator. See pages 8 - 10 for a summary of the President's and Assembly General Secretary's Report.

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND 2020 BUDGET & 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr Peter Battersby spoke to the Resources Board Report, including:

- This budget continues to honour the resolution to establish and maintain a balanced budget framework. It builds on the platform of financial sustainability we have achieved together in recent years, however we remain aware of the increasing pressures to meet our expenditure.
- At the June Synod meeting I brought to your attention 23 financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018; the remaining 8 financial statements are presented now.
- See pages 11 - 14 for a detailed summary of the Property Trust and Resources Board matters.

2020 Specific Budget Matters

Firstly, the separation of Synod and Presbytery has meant the Mission and Service Fund only represents the operating budget of the Synod.

- If you were to compare the 2019 budget with the 2020 budget, you will find a new category called presbyteries and Congregations – this reflect the financial separation of Synod and Presbytery functions.
- In consultation with the General Secretary and Executive Officers we identified those roles and tasks that related to Presbytery responsibilities.

- analysing the budget line by line the accumulation of these roles and tasks amounted to 4% of Congregation Contributions to the M&SF
- This 4% (which equates to \$620k) is redirected to the Presbytery Pool.
- This is consistent with the modelling presented and agreed by Synod Standing Committee, and the Presbytery Task Groups earlier this year.

Secondly, the Synod has been invoiced \$66,000 towards the Assembly's National Child Safe Unit – there is no corresponding income source or expense reduction to fund this.

PROPOSAL 2 RESOURCES BOARD

S19.43 It was AGREED that the SA Synod resolve to:

Approve the adoption of the financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2018 for:

- a. Thuruna Campsite
- b. Community Outreach Mission Network
- c. Hope Mission Network
- d. 3D Net Mission Network
- e. Northern Rural Mission Network
- f. The Parkin Trust Incorporated
- g. The Parkin Mission of South Australia Incorporated
- h. Uniting Church SA Building Fund

PROPOSAL 3 MISSION AND SERVICE FUND BUDGET 2020

S19.44 It was AGREED that the SA Synod resolve to:

APPROVE the 2020 Mission and Service Fund budget and in particular, a break-even budget (on an accrual basis) and a capital expenditure budget of \$123,310.

STATEMENT FROM THE HEART AND SOVEREIGNTY

Rev Mark Kickett and Rhanee Tsetsakos (Proposal 14-Sovereignty) and Rev Andy Hogarth and Rev Lyn Leane (Proposal 13- Uluru Statement from the Heart – read by Rhanee) spoke to the background to these proposals. Working Groups discussed the proposals in detail later in the day with the Facilitation Group Report presented to the meeting on Saturday prior to presenting the proposals for approval.

See page 15 for Rhanee Tsetsakos' Poem.

FACILITATION GROUP REPORT

Rev Nick Patselis and Rev Diane Bury presented the comments and questions from the Restructuring Task Group Working Groups (Proposal 7 – Formation of New Presbyteries), including:

We heard some of these comments and questions as expressing discomfort or even frustration at not knowing the end point of this journey. Some of them also reflected a desire or need to better understand the separate roles of Presbytery and Synod. There was affirmation of the presentation Rev. Professor Andrew Dutney made in regard to this yesterday. Alongside this, many groups explicitly expressed a readiness and desire to move forward. Just do it! There was a strong thread of readiness to take the next step. While there are still questions about details, the impression the facilitation group took from the comments was that there is a readiness to move forward with these proposals.

KCO TEAM

Melissa Neumann spoke to KCO 2020 – *Connect* theme - 21 – 22 March 2020
Adare Camp and Camp & Caravan Park, Victor Harbor

FACILITATION GROUP QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

The General Secretary and Associate General Secretary responded to questions raised in the Restructuring Working Groups.

PROPOSAL 7

FORMATION OF NEW PRESBYTERIES

S19.45 It was AGREED that the SA Synod resolve to:

1. (a) NOTE the affirmation from the Restructuring Task Group of the establishment and early work of the Generate Presbytery, and
(b) AFFIRM the list of congregations and faith communities in Generate Presbytery.
2. ENCOURAGE SA Congress to continue to work towards becoming a second non-geographic Presbytery of the SA Synod.
3. FORM TWO (2) new geographic presbyteries that have a similar number of congregations and reasonably equitable levels of financial resourcing; whose inaugural meetings will be held on Saturday 16 November 2019 to elect office bearers, Standing Committee, and set a date for the next Presbytery meetings.
4. DESIGNATE the bounds of the Presbyteries as follows:
Presbytery A: as listed in the Restructuring Task Group Report
Presbytery B: as listed in the Restructuring Task Group Report
5. DESIGNATE Ministers who are in non-congregational placements, with the exception of the Moderator & General Secretary, including Chaplains as coming under the oversight of either:

- (i) the Presbytery where their workplace is located, or
 - (ii) through the Congregation where they hold membership. If they chose (ii), then they will need to maintain a relationship with the Presbytery where their workplace is located.
6. DISSOLVE the Transitional Presbytery of SA when the new Presbyteries are formed by the Synod of SA.
7. STRONGLY ENCOURAGE all presbyteries in the Synod to hear the voices of ministers, chaplains, lay leaders, congregations and other ministries, encouraging presbyteries to:
- Know their congregations and ministry contexts well
 - be relational, collaborative and caring
 - develop within and across presbyteries a series of culturally/ missionally/ geographically aligned clusters to help encourage, resource and support congregations and other ministries
 - promote two way communication between congregations and other Councils of the Church
 - focus their work on pastoral and missional support and resourcing for congregations and other ministries
 - make provision for pastoral support for ministers and lay leaders
8. NOTE the resolution of the June 2019 Synod meeting to:
DIRECT the Synod Standing Committee to establish a Review Group to include at least two past Moderators to:
- a. evaluate the effectiveness of the change of structures;
 - b. identify where further changes are necessary;
 - c. comment on the impact of the changes on the missional focus of the Uniting Church in SA;
 - d. bring an Interim Report to the Annual Meeting of the Synod in 2020 and a final report to the Annual Meeting of the Synod in 2022.
9. THANK AND DISCHARGE the Restructuring Task Group.

BENEFICIARY FUND (MERCER S) PRESENTATION

Dawn Garrett - Minister Care Advocate - from the Mercer Super Fund, spoke to members about member's benefits, Fund performance, with an overview at 30 June 2019, where to find information on the Mercer Super website. Mercers sponsor the retired ministers lunch each year.

CELEBRATION OF SERVICE INCLUDING LAY PREACHERS & COMMISSINING

Message by Rev Lynne Aird - a Cloud of Witnesses – what might that look like?

Recognition of Lay Preachers

Mr Max Howland introduced the following Lay Preachers who were celebrated with a certificate in recognition of the many years of service – “We train, commission and authorise lay people to do the work that an ordained minister would do”.

Roger Norris-Green – 60 years

Brian Tugwell – 60 years

Roger McCauley – 50 years - unable to attend the meeting

Rev Philip Gardner presented the following Ministers who have completed 50 years since ordination

Rev Dr Rodger Bassham

Rev Dr Adrian Brown

Rev Richard Carter

Rev Ian Clarkson

Rev Dean Drayton

Rev John Lawrie

Rev Brian Morgan

Rev Robin Trebilcock

COMMISSIONING OF JULIA LENNON AS BUSH CHAPLAIN WITH FRONTIER SERVICES

Rev Mark Kickett presented Julia Lennon as a Pastor with Frontier Services; Jannine Jackson, National Director, Frontier Services, presented Julia with the Frontier Service scarf.

Retired/Retiring Ministers

Rev Rob Brown

Rev Carol Chambers

Rev Ian Lohmeyer

Rev Dr John Lucas

Rev Juleen Willis

Rev Richard Winen

Rev Dr Ian Price

Rev Coral Smith

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The General Secretary spoke to her report, a glimpse into the conversations and activities over the past 6 months, including:

- Involvement in the Restructuring Task Group - it has provided a great opportunity to visit Congregations and to sit around the 'kitchen table' of your congregations as we imagined the future of presbyteries. I have many more congregations to visit and I look forward to doing that in the New Year.
- Recognising that the Strategic Planning process was not going to commence this year, I worked on a few interim goals based on my early conversations:
 - meet and talk to as many people as possible
 - Address some accommodation needs in the Synod Office - I want at this point to particularly mention the space being created to ensure Presbyteries have working spaces in the office if and when they need it - for meetings, preparation and training.
 - Some staff movement in the Communications and Events Team gave opportunity for a Review
 - Become more familiar with the work of the Resources Board and the Property Trust – I thank Rev Dr Graham Humphris for his dedication and commitment
 - To work closely with Congress SA to encourage growth in ministry and action the recommendations of the Review

The meeting broke into small groups to discuss what impact the Strategic Plan has had on their community/congregation; members were encouraged to write their comments on sticky notes to be collated after the meeting.

PILGRIM CHURCH

Dr Di Russell spoke about Pilgrim Church that is surrounded by businesses and public lanes - 1000's of people walk past every year - Video – a film about the work of the Pilgrim UC – a church for the heart of the city.

TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTERY REPORT

Malcolm Wilson spoke to the report, reflecting on his time as Chairperson – 4 ½ months - intensive, challenging and rewarding - consultations we held were important. Susan Burt and I tried to attend as many as possible, working in collaboration with the Restructuring Task Group. We wanted to enable the two emerging Presbyteries in the best possible way. Susan Burt thanked Malcolm Wilson and Barry Atwell for their work.

PROPOSAL 8

CREATION CARE IN SYNOD STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr David McKirdy and Jeff Telfer (*Environmental Action Group*) spoke to the rationale supporting this proposal.

Practical actions:

Discussion in our local communities about carbon emissions, an audit of electricity usage, insulating buildings, think about how we travel – can use public transport – do we need to fly or can we use surface

transport – fly – carbon offset, trees for life has a carbon offset scheme, the Just Earth app.

S19.46 It was AGREED that the SA Synod resolve to:

Incorporate into its redrafting of the Strategic Plan consideration of our responsibility for Creation Care through theological reflection, education and action.

NOTICES AND CLOSE

Given the time and feeling of the meeting, it was agreed to defer further business until Saturday.

Announcements were provided by Rev Sue Page in regard to nominations and a 9 am start Saturday.

The Moderator's Chaplain and past Moderator, Jan Trengove, prayed for the outgoing of the members; the Moderator closed the session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - The President spoke to:

- January 2019 - National Young Adult Leaders Conference (NYALC) - began the week walking on the country of the Ngarrindjeri people
- A new process called: “The President’s Round table” – conversations with Young Adults in the Uniting Church. Working with Amos Washington (the UN Youth Ambassador for Australia in 2018, and a member of the UCA) and other Uniting Church young adult leaders, I have developed a ‘listening tour’, where we listen to the voices of Uniting Church youth and young adults around a series of key areas and questions regarding their journey with Christ and their Christian discipleship, and what sustains and encourages them in living the Gospel of Christ in their daily lives. We will listen to their views on how the Church might be engaged in the public space and their hopes for who we are and are becoming as the Uniting Church.
- The theme I chose for this current triennium is “Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope”.
- God’s gift of abundant grace calls us to be a people who share our gifts, resources, time and energy generously. In a time, where our world is overshadowed by violence, hatred and suspicion of the other, the Church is called to live an alternative narrative of hope and reconciliation. In the public space we seek as the Uniting Church to embody and reflect the generous, inclusive love of God for all people and the whole creation.
- In July, I hosted my first President’s Conference in Nadi, Fiji – together we addressed themes from the statement “For the Whole Creation” and other missional themes that we share with Pacific partners – including encouraging girls and women in leadership and a focus on Christian education and formation in Christian discipleship.
- Those who met at this Conference released a statement which acknowledged that - *We are part of the Pacific, a liquid continent where islands are connected and sustained by the ocean currents. [and] The need to listen again to the voices of our sisters and brothers, our friends, fellow members of the Body of Christ, the most vulnerable and most impacted, who also demonstrate great resilience, determination, hopefulness and commitment to work for change.*
- One of our expressions of solidarity with our Pacific neighbours was our participation as a Church in the Global Climate Action on Friday, September 20th.
- My next President’s Conference - October 2-5 in 2020 in Adelaide – Called by God – focus on Christian Vocation and Every Member Ministry
- It has been a joy for me since I became President, to meet regularly with National Conference Leaders, and to attend National Conferences. I have attended the Korean, Middle East, Filipino, Indonesian, Tongan, Nuiean, and Samoan Conferences and early next year, the Fijian and South Sudanese National Conferences. Together, we have shared our hopes and concerns for our Church, particularly around nurturing the next generation and the issues and gifts they bring to our Church.
- I have also had the opportunity to represent the Uniting Church at various events in the Pacific - at the Pacific Conference of Churches, at the Conference of the Methodist Church in Fiji, and the Presbyterian Assembly of Vanuatu.
- It was wonderful to represent the Uniting Church at the Free Wesleyan Methodist Church’s national conference in Tonga in July. Our important connection with this church remains strong, and the conversations I had with the President Ahio, and the General Secretary Rev Dr Tevita Havea and particularly, their focus on the leadership of women and the strengthening and renewal of young people in faith and Christian discipleship were inspiring and encouraging.

- I'd like to finish by sharing with you some of my hopes for the future of our Church (informed and encouraged by meetings and informal conversations I have had with members of the Uniting Church, our ecumenical and global partners):
 - o That we strengthen our engagement in evangelism. The Gospel of Christ is good news for 21st century Australians and we are called to share this good news – in culturally appropriate ways, authentic to the communities of which we are a part - inviting people into transforming relationship with Christ.
 - o That we are intentional about the formation and growth in Christian discipleship for all age groups
 - o That we focus on the development of younger leaders. Our next NYALC will be from January 21-24, 2021 at Nunyara in SA.
 - o That we build intergenerational Christian community. Encouraging one another in faith and appreciating what we bring to each other in our worship, witness and service to Christ.
 - o That we act for justice in the world – advocating for a society and global community, which reflects God's deepest desires for us all – a reconciled and renewed community, where all people and the whole creation are able to flourish.
- I hope that in the coming years, we will continue to explore further Jesus' Gospel call to embody good news to the poor. We are in many ways engaged in alleviating poverty in our Australian context and I have recently seen first hand ways we are working to address poverty in the contexts of our partner churches.
- That as the Uniting Church, our participation in a global communion of Churches remains key. These are important partnerships. They remind us of the much bigger picture of the people of God. And they are supportive and mutually enriching relationships.
- I invite you to pray for the reconciliation, renewal and unity that is Christ's call to us. I pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us with courage to embody the boundless grace, justice and hope that is Christ's gift to the whole world and all creation.

The Assembly General Secretary,s Report - The Assembly General Secretary, Colleen Geyer, began by saying, "At the Assembly we are committed to the work we do for the whole Uniting Church, as well as how that work influences our conversations, our commitment to making a difference and our faith", including:

- a UnitingJustice project, which brought together those engaged in the justice work from across the church and developed the significant statement, *Our Vision for a Just Australia*. This statement expresses our vision in seven foundational areas, and facilitates Uniting Church members and communities to come together and think about our vision for a just Australia and why our Christian faith calls us to work towards its fulfilment. The Statement is available on the Assembly website.
- The Assembly has begun to map its work against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and in our current Strategic Plan, in three of our strategic directions, have identified Congress initiatives we can partner in. Last year we appointed Stuart McMillan to a new position, Assembly Consultant Covenanting. This role supports our commitment to the Covenant and the resolution made at the 15th Assembly regarding sovereignty.
- I remember what I learnt at the President's conference in Darwin in 2017 about the environment and the cyclical way of understanding the seasons. We have so much still to learn from the First People's of this country. Work is underway to prepare a National Climate Action Plan and Reporting Framework, along

with supporting educational and theological materials, to resource us all to take action on climate change. Assembly leaders have begun to develop our climate action plan which will change the way we operate as we look to reduce our environmental footprint.

- UnitingWorld has recently launched a new resource for collaboration with our Partner Churches in the Pacific – a *Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate*. This resource, and the training that accompanies it will be vital as our partners face an uncertain and challenging future.
- In remote areas of Australia, people and communities are also struggling with the impacts of climate change. Battling relentless drought, many have faced extreme heat, bushfires, torrential rains and floods already in 2019. In the last week bushfires in NSW and Qld have devastated lives and communities. The recovery and rebuilding will continue for many years to come. Support is provided in these areas by Our Disaster Response Chaplaincy Networks and by Frontier Services through the work of 13 Bush Chaplains and the Outback Links Volunteer Program, and I acknowledge the Bush Chaplains, Sunny Kadaparambil and Gary Ferguson, that are part of this Synod. I also acknowledge Julia Lennon who will be commissioned into this ministry today.
- At the 15th Assembly, we made a significant statement to respond to the issue of Domestic and Family Violence. Domestic and Family Violence is an issue that effects people regardless of socioeconomic status or culture. Educational and theological materials relating to the Statement are currently being developed in consultation with Synod and Agency staff. The Gender Justice work of UnitingWorld with its Asian and Pacific partners, as well as the wide expertise and resources among our Uniting Church Care Agencies are also contributing to this important work.
- The 15th Assembly also affirmed a Statement of Access and Welcome, acknowledging that *Christ is most fully present when all people in the Body are unconditionally accepted as people of worth. All people are created in the image of God, including people with disability; and that along with all members, the faith, gifts, hopes and dreams of people with disability are to be valued and honoured*. The Assembly is currently developing Disability Access Guidelines and these will be available early next year. A liturgical resource, *Called to be a Church for all - Assembly liturgy regarding people with disabilities*, has been developed by the Transforming Worship Circle along with experts from across the Uniting Church in this area, to resource the Church in this.
- At the 15th Assembly, we introduced a new way for UCA members to engage with the national work of our Church – Circles of Interest. There are seven Circles of interest which anyone can join. You join by going online to uniting.church/circles. Members of Circles contribute to and receive regular updates on the area of work in which they are interested, with the encouragement to spread this information more widely in the Church. Circles are one significant way of discovering people with gifts, expertise or passion for areas of ministry who may be appropriate to carry out tasks in the life of the Assembly. Each Circle is supported by an Advocate and Panel members who nurture and encourage activity, conversation and input from circle members. These Advocates and Panel Members are identified and appointed as people with particular gifts and expertise in these areas of interest. To date we have over 600 people engaging with the work of the Assembly in their areas of interest.
- I am particularly grateful for people serving as Panel members (From this Synod Geoff Boyce on the Seeking Common Ground Panel, Alison Wish on the Transforming worship Panel and Rev Do Young Kim on the Working for Justice Panel) as well as those who are members of Circles already. I encourage you, if you haven't already to think about which Circle you will join!

PROPERTY TRUST & RESOURCES BOARD REPORT - Mr Peter Battersby spoke to the Resources Board Report, including:

- This budget continues to honour the resolution to establish and maintain a balanced budget framework. It builds on the platform of financial sustainability we have achieved together in recent years, however we remain aware of the increasing pressures to meet our expenditure.
- Thank you for reading the Resources Board report provided in the meeting papers and for those who attended the Resources elective session on Thursday.
- At the June Synod meeting I brought to your attention 23 financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018; the remaining 8 financial statements are presented now.

Ethical Investment Policy

The Ethical Investment Working Group has continued to meet to review the ethical issues relating to the investments of the Uniting Church in South Australia in accordance with our Ethical Investment Policy - the Policy has been amended this year, in relation to two key matters:

- Church entities; Synod, Presbyteries and congregations with investment assets are requested to include a note in their financial statements acknowledging that, to their best of their knowledge, they have complied with the Policy.
- The second amendment requests entities to avoid investing in Managed Funds where the breakdown of the organisations within the managed fund cannot be identified.

Presbytery Restructure

The creation of multiple presbyteries has meant significant consideration of how resources are shared between presbyteries. Together with Andrew Fechner (Manager Financial Services) I have been meeting with the Presbytery Treasurers, Barry Atwell and David Hoffmann, to establish policies and systems such that Presbyteries achieve their mission and Synod fulfils its functions.

Brooklyn Park

Over the past few years we have reported on the refurbishment of the College and the proposed sale of the Lipsett Terrace facing land and building. Emmaus Christian College will officially open its Early Learning Centre and Junior School to open next year.

Uniting Venues SA

With the increased patronage, Uniting Venues now has over 70 on the team and continues to reinvest at our sites. This year we have increased the size of the dining room at Tarooki Campsite at Robe. We are currently looking at options to increase the meeting space at Adare, and expand our back-of house operations at Nunyara.

Property Review

Matt Wilson, Manager, Property and Projects provided an update on the project, including:

The property review is looking at all of our buildings over a 2 year period. We are looking at 2 elements - how safe are our properties? For our members as well as visitors and how can we assist congregations in managing their properties? There are 5 components that are assessed. They are the asset condition,

asbestos, fire safety, accessibility and electrical. Reports for each congregation are yet to be sent out. These will probably start being distributed early next year.

Mission and Service Fund 2020 Budget

The budget process started in July. Using the previous year's results and the 2019 forecast, it was drafted in consultation with each of the Ministry Centre Leaders. The budget is constructed on a 'first principles' approach; that is no expense or income line is assumed or automatically included – everything budget line is reassessed. The proposed budget was presented to the Resources Board and then to Standing Committee.

2020 Specific Budget Matters

Firstly, the separation of Synod and Presbytery has meant the Mission and Service Fund only represents the operating budget of the Synod.

- If you were to compare the 2019 budget with the 2020 budget, you will find a new category called presbyteries and Congregations – this reflect the financial separation of Synod and Presbytery functions.
- In consultation with the General Secretary and Executive Officer's we identified those roles and tasks that related to Presbytery responsibilities
- analysing the budget line by line the accumulation of these roles and tasks amounted to 4% of Congregation Contributions to the M&SF
- This 4% (which equates to \$620k) is redirected to the Presbytery Pool
- This is consistent with the modelling presented and agreed by Synod Standing Committee, and the Presbytery Task Groups earlier this year

Secondly, the Synod has been invoiced \$66,000 towards the Assembly's National Child Safe Unit – there is no corresponding income source or expense reduction to fund this.

The Uniting College for Leadership and Theology is operating outside of budget parameters – this is largely due to insufficient student income; several short term initiatives have been implemented to help address this.

Income:

Looking specifically at the Funds' income:

- There have been no material changes in structure and no new income sources have been identified
- Generally, Grants are expected to increase by 2%
- But for the first time it is estimated that Congregation Contributions to the Mission and Service Fund (13%) will remain steady, and are not expected to increase in 2020.
- The fund is heavily reliant on Investment Income and grants which make up 44% of our income

Expenditure:

- 4% of our expenditure relates to the wider Church - within this, is the annual contribution to Assembly and also \$66k towards the new National Safe Church Unit
- 78% of the expenditure relates to the work within the Synod Ministry Centres
- Noting stipends and salaries within this are expected to increase as per our decision in June
- Expenditure relating to Presbyteries and Congregations includes the grant to UAICC, which has been increased corresponding with Synod grant increases

- Other expenses, mostly shared operating expenses, make up 8% of the funds expenditure, - Insurance and Depreciation - Rent is up 3.5% - we have paid down our overdraft saving \$14k in interest fees.

Future Pressures on the Budget

It seems that each year brings new pressures on the Budget.

- The 5 year forecast incorporating this budget and a breakeven result in 2019 predicts that the Mission and Service Fund will operate in deficit from next year.
- As you would imagine, historically low interest rates makes income generation difficult
- We have agreed that in order to maintain a balanced budget, every new activity must have a corresponding income source or a matching expenditure reduction. However, the following matters challenge this principle:

1. National Safe Church Unit

The national church, in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has establish a national Safe Church Unit to ensure the whole church provides a safe place. The Mission and Service Fund does not have sufficient capacity to meet all of the ongoing funding requirements relating to the national Safe Church Unit.

2. Assembly Contributions

The National Assembly is negotiating a new 3 year funding plan for 2020-2022. We are committed to supporting the work of the national church, however the current request, which includes the establishment of a new governance role, exceeds our capacity.

3. UCLT

It was agreed as part of the balanced budget conversations in 2015 that the college work within agreed financial parameters. For a number of reasons it has become increasingly more difficult to achieve them. Representatives from the Resources Board and the College leadership have been working together to identify solutions. The college leadership is implementing both short term strategies and Longer Term future actions to address the current situation.

Capital Expenditure

IT&T Capital Expenditure Budget has decreased \$91k to \$84k in 2020.

Presbytery and Synod Accommodation (including UCLT) is \$39k in 2020.

Acknowledgements

The Resources Board is made up of outstanding people who are a significant source of wisdom; sharing their gifts and generously giving their time. I wish to acknowledge Tom Adams who has stepped on to the Board as Michael O'Connell took leave of absence.

The work of the Board sub-committees, i.e. Property Committee, Risk Management Committee, Uniting Church Investment Committee and the Uniting Venues SA Committee.

The Resources Board and Investment Committee oversee UC Invest, RH White Settlement, and Epworth SA Fund which contribute substantial funding to the work of the church through the Mission and Service Fund. The Mission and Service Fund is dependent on ongoing generous grants. I wish to recognise the governors of The Parkin Mission and The Parkin Trust who continue to steward bequests. In particular, the report gives

special recognition of past Presidents the late Brian Jones and Donald Sarre, who together have contributed over 50 years of faithful service.

I also wish to acknowledge the Resources Team and the Team Managers for the contribution they have made to the Presbyteries and Synod over the past 12 months.

Finally I wish to acknowledge rev Dr Graham Humphris who has resigned as Chair and member of Property Trust and Resources Board. Graham's strategic leadership, wisdom and keen insight has allowed and encouraged members to engage in robust discussion in a collaborative environment. Thank you Graham for your leadership we wish you well as you continue to serve.

The Moderator acknowledged the extensive service of all those involved in Resources, acknowledging Rev Dr Graham Humphris for this generosity in time and attention to matters at hand, for the leadership he has shown and the encouragement of others. We pray for Graham and for all retiring today – how they find other ways to serve you and find relaxation.

Rhane Tsetsakos' Poem

I hate having a **VOICE** and not being heard.
I tell you the **TRUTH** but you don't hear a word.
It's time for a **TREATY** that we agree on together.
Our sovereign rights never ceded not now, not ever!
From the start we have shared our resources and land.
But now it is time for us to make a stand.
We need to restore trust that was broken.
And fulfil past promises that have forever been spoken.
Our people are the most disadvantaged of all.
And as Christians we must answer the call.
"To love one another as I have loved you".
Are the words Jesus spoke telling us what to do.
Will we lay down our life for our sisters and brothers?
Will we be kind, tender-hearted and forgive one another?
Will you walk with me and stand by my side?
Will you help return our nation's true sense of pride?
Will you give Australia's First People a **VOICE** to be heard?
Will you allow the passion in your heart to be stirred?
Will you allow the knowledge of the **TRUTH** to be shared?
It is time to be strong and courageous, not scared!
If we want a shared future then something has to be done.
Let's talk **TREATY** and come together as one.



2019 ANNUAL SYNOD MEETING MINUTES

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2019

OPENING WORSHIP

The Moderator welcomed members back to the meeting and invited the Worship Team of Synod members to lead the meeting in opening worship.

BIBLE STUDY #3

Mr Craig Bailey brought his third bible study for the meeting, reading from Ephesians and continuing his exploration of “connections” - Be kind, be compassionate. David Augsburger—“Being heard is so close to being loved that, for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable”. Jesus always exists in his “sentness”.

FACILITION GROUP REPORT

The Facilitation Group presented the comments and questions from the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Sovereignty Working Groups (Proposals 13 and 14), including:

There is a strong affirmation for the proposals; members appreciated the statement being read by Rhanee First Peoples should be able to speak on their own behalf; truth telling is important and listening to each other; we are building on conversations that started when we talked about the Preamble.

Sovereignty - different understanding between First and Second Peoples; continue to support and be in relationship; story telling from indigenous people – intergeneration; promote use and reflect on our preamble; relationships – Walking on Country; regular Acknowledgement of Country; encouragement to be a friend.

PROPOSAL 13

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

S19.47 It was AGREED that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. COMMEND the Assembly's Walking Together resources (see <https://assembly.uca.org.au/walkingtogether>) to Presbyteries, Congregations, Parish Missions, Schools and other UCA organisations for study and consideration.
2. LISTEN to the 2017 Statement from the Heart made at Uluru, recognising that it provides a consensus position of 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from across Australia, who have drawn on twelve regional dialogues amongst First Peoples, expressing the preferred pathway towards reconciliation.

3. COMMEND the 2017 Statement from the Heart to congregations, presbyteries and agencies for prayerful engagement and discussion, noting especially the resource prepared by the Anglican Board of Mission, “A Voice in the Wilderness: listening to the Statement to the Heart” (2018).
4. CALL upon members and congregations to practice passionate, urgent and regular prayer for the following clauses.
5. REQUEST Mr Bronte Wilson, Moderator, in conversation with the Covenanting Committee and Synod Standing Committee to URGE the SA State Government to establish a process of agreement-making between Local Governments and First Nations, and provide a means for truth-telling about the history of Australia’s First Peoples.
6. REQUEST Mr. Bronte Wilson, Moderator, in conversation with the Covenanting Committee and Standing Committee to URGE the Commonwealth Government to implement:
 - (a) the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution to empower First Peoples to have a greater say in policy and legislation which governs their affairs and, in so doing, improve their autonomy and prosperity; and
 - (b) the establishment of a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations, and provide a means for truth-telling about the history of Australia’s First Peoples.

PROPOSAL 14

SOVEREIGNTY

S19.48 It was AGREED that the Synod of SA resolve to:

REQUEST the Covenanting Committee and the Covenanting Officer, in consultation with UAICC SA and the ARU (Assembly Resource Unit) Circle of Interest “Walking Together as First and Second Peoples” to prepare and distribute educational materials to congregations and Ministers in South Australia to help them understand the pertinent issues around sovereignty.

NUCLEAR WASTE FACILITY

Rev Dean Whittaker and Nelson Varcoe spoke to the report and proposals. Rev Mark Kickett responded to questions from the floor, indicating that the UAICC Regional Council support the Andyamathanha and Banggarla communities.

Members were not able to reach consensus, therefore:

S19.49 It was AGREED that the Synod SA resolve that a decision was needed at this meeting and to move to formal procedures.

S19.50 It was AGREED (BY AGREEMENT) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. CONTINUE to stand in covenantal solidarity with UAICC to oppose the Federal Government's proposed nuclear waste facilities in South Australia.
2. REQUEST the Moderator to make a further submission to the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science about the proposed National Radioactive Waste Facility in South Australia before the 12 December 2019 closing date for public submissions.

S19.51 It was AGREED that the Synod SA resolve to move back to consensus procedures.

**PROPOSAL 9
MENTAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Rev Liellie McLaughlin and Rev Mark Boyce presented background to the proposals, speaking about the levels of anxiety and depression in our younger people.

S19.52 It was AGREED (BY AGREEMENT) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE the work of students and the wider community in raising awareness of climate change acceleration.
2. ENCOURAGE Uniting Church congregations, associated organisations and schools to:
 - a) Work with young people through prayer and action around the related issues of mental resilience and well-being in dealing with the threat of climate change acceleration and a concern for the future;
 - b) Offer intentional encouragement and support for young people who offer leadership in the church and the community around the issues of climate change acceleration and eco-anxiety.
 - c) Work with renewed commitment towards modeling ways to protect the environment; the marginalised and displaced peoples.

DECLARATION OF BALLOTS

In accordance with nominations received and the results of the election, the Chief Scrutineer Mrs Anne Wilson, **RECOMMENDS** that the Presbytery and Synod **DECLARE** the following persons to be **ELECTED**:

CHAIR OF SYNOD PLACEMENTS (no ballot required)

Rev Naomi Duke

MISSION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BOARD

4 vacancies and 5 nominations received

Susan Burt

Rev Andy Hogarth

Rev Lyn Leane

Bindy Taylor

PARKIN MISSION AND PARKIN TRUST

2 vacancies and 3 nominations received

Carole Davidson

Rev Jane McDonald

+ Peter Headland filling Donald Sarre's vacancy

STANDING COMMITTEE

8 vacancies and 13 nominations received

Pam Bartholomaeus

David Buxton

Leanne Davis

Peter Gunn

Rev Robyn Kidd

Rev Ian Price

David Sigley

Simon Story

In accordance with nominations received, the Chief Scrutineer, Mrs Anne Wilson **DECLARES** these persons **APPOINTED** to the following Committees and Councils:

RESOURCES BOARD APPOINTMENTS – NOVEMBER 2021

Rev Ross Honey

Michael O'Connell

Steve Roder

Rev Rob Stoner

Danica Patselis

BUSINESS COMMITTEE – 2020

Rev Lynne Aird

Rev Dr Benji Callen

STIPENDS COMMITTEE – 2020

Rev Sandy Boyce

Rev Robyn Kidd

Margaret Davidson

PROPERTY TRUST – NOVEMBER 2020

Mr Michael McClaren

Mr Peter Battersby

PROPERTY TRUST – NOVEMBER 2021

Mr Steve Roder

Rev Ross Honey

Rev Rob Stoner

COMMITTEE FOR COUNSELLING – 2022

Rev Phil Carr

Carol Chambers

Rev Michael Dowling

CLOSE

Jan Trengove, Moderator's Chaplain, thanked all those who have worked to put the meeting together.

Following a message, brought by the General Secretary, the Moderator closed the Synod meeting with worship.