The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

Synod Meeting 2021
DECISIONS

The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

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DECISIONS OF THE SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA 2021

All decisions were agreed to by consensus, unless shown otherwise. Minutes of the 2021 Synod meeting will be posted to the Synod website once approved by the Synod Standing Committee at their meeting on 9 April 2021. For further information relating to any of the 2021 Synod meeting decisions or for a copy of the Unconfirmed 2021 Synod Minutes, please contact secretariat@sa.uca.org.au.

Ref. #	DECISION
S21.01 Proposal 1	**Opening Proposals – from 30th January 2021** 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 decision making shall be by the use of coloured cards (physical or online) 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 30 January & 11 – 13 February 2021 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 (physical or online) and replies to questions shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless otherwise determined by the house.

5. DETERMINE that the Roll shall only contain the names of those members:

Session 1 (30 January)	online in the Zoom Webinar
Sessions 3 – 14 (11- 13 February)	those listed on the Roll of members at its closure on Thursday 11 February 2021 at 11:30 am

6. DEFINE the boundaries of the house to be the seated area of the ground floor and the creche of Adelaide West Uniting Church. When meeting online the bounds will be those members of Synod online in the Zoom webinar meeting.

7. ADOPT the Hours of Session as listed hereunder:

Online via Zoom Webinar:

Session 1	Saturday 30 January	8:30am – 10:30am

At Burnside City Uniting Church (Celebration of Ministry Service):

Session 2	Sunday 7 February	2:30pm – 4:30pm

At Adelaide West Uniting Church:

Sessions 3- 7	Thursday 11 February	9:00am – 9:00pm
Sessions 8 – 11	Friday 12 February	9:00am – 6:00pm
Session 12- 14	Saturday 13 February	9:00am – 4:00pm

8. APPOINT the following officers for this Synod meeting:

a. Assistant Secretaries	Rev Sue Page (Event Manager)
	Rev Benji Callen
	Kerry Wilson
b. Minute Secretaries	Tracey Bost
	Bev Freeman
	Chris Jaensch
c. Chief Scrutineer	Anne Wilson
Ballot Scrutineers	Peter Wilson, Evangeline McAllan
d. Chaplains	Rev Beth Seaman
	Rev Malcolm Rawlings
e. Business Committee	Rev Felicity Amery, Bronte Wilson,
	Rev Sue Page, Rev Benji Callen, Kerry Wilson
f. Facilitation Team	Michelle Harris, Bruce Ind, Rhanee Tsetsakos,
	Wendy Perkins (Convenor), Malcolm Wilson
g. First Aid Officer	Rev Cheryl Wilson

	9. Associate the following people with the meeting for the purposes of participating in presenting reports and proposals: Rev Sue Page, Dr Don Hopgood (AO), Jannine Jackson, Sue Raw, Velvy Holden, Brian Hern, Matt Wilson 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 Friday 8 January 2021 (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 ballots: a. Note that nominations for all councils, committees and boards have closed prior to the meeting. b. Agree that any necessary ballots be held during the meeting with ballots conducted electronically via Survey Monkey with secure links sent to members at a time determined by the Business Committee and that ballots will close at a time to be determined by Business Committee. 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.
S21.02 Proposal 14	**Associate additional people to the 2021 Synod meeting** Associate the following additional persons with the meeting for the purposes of participating in presenting reports, electives and proposals: Rev Francis Bartholomeusz — Marion Bowes-Johnston Libby Hogarth — Tarlee Leondaris Chanuka Mallawaarachchi — Rev Brian Polkinghorne Jill Polkinghorne — Mohommed Ali Rezaei Catherine Russell — Rev Rob Stoner Rev Dr Elizabeth Vreugdenhil — Janet Woodward Neryl McCallum — Rev Dr Christy Capper Ian Dempster — Steph Van Rosse These people were recognised in Proposal 1 on Saturday 30 January: Brian Hern — Velvy Holden Dr Don Hopgood (AO) — Jannine Jackson Rev Sue Page — Sue Raw Matt Wilson

S21.03 Proposal 12	**Continuity of pastoral care for aged care residents** 1. REQUEST all congregations to write to aged care facilities when their members move into care in order to "introduce" the congregation member to the gathered aged care community there, listing some of the ways they have been important to your congregation. 2. REQUEST all presbyteries to follow up with congregations to encourage the continuity of pastoral care for aged care residents.
S21.04 Proposal 6	**Regarding respectful communities** REQUEST the Placements and Safe Church Team to: In consultation with the Presbyteries: 1. COLLATE current resources and develop further ones that help clarify and strengthen expectations regarding mutually respectful communication and behaviour of congregational leaders and members. 2. DEVELOP "Respectful Communities" By-Laws and educational resources that clarify processes for the support and discipline of church leaders and members. 3. SUPPORT presbyteries and congregations to enact and abide by the "Respectful Communities" By-laws and access the related educational resources.
S21.05 Proposal 5	**Resources Board** 1. NOTE the Resources Board Report 2020. 2. EXPRESS its gratitude to Mr Tom Adams for his exceptional contribution to the Synod since 1995, in particular his generous service to The Parkin Mission of SA Inc, The Parkin Trust Inc, the Resources Board and Uniting Church Investment Committee. 3. PLACE on record its appreciation of the Thuruna Campsite Management Committee for its dedicated service to the Uniting Church through oversight of the Thuruna Campsite and commitment to seeing the campsite develop as a place of Christian discipleship, learning and fellowship.

S21.06 Proposal 4	**Mission & Service Fund 2021 Budget** 1. NOTE the Mission and Service Fund Budget 2021 Report. 2. NOTE that the Mission and Service Fund, due to the financial impact of COVID-19, will not meet its balanced budget target in 2021. 3. NOTE the 2021 Mission and Service Fund budget in particular: a. A deficit budget (on an accrual basis) of $793,649 b. A capital expenditure budget of $87,560 c. The funding the 2021 Mission and Service Fund operating budget deficit from retained earnings. 4. NOTE the forecast combined operating result of the Mission and Service Fund for years ending 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2021 is an operating deficit of $38,496.
S21.07 Proposal 3	**In Memoriam** STAND in silence to acknowledge the ministry of the following Ministers and Lay Pastor who have died since the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Synod, and in gratitude to God for their contribution to the ministry and mission of the Uniting Church: Rev Dr Thomas Atherton Rev Dr Rodger Charles Bassham Rev Kelvin Graham Benn Lay Pastor Reginald (Reg) Casling Rev Bernard (Bernie) Clarke AM Rev Robert George Davis Rev Allan Cyril George Rev Kenneth Henry Rofe Rev Norman (Norm) Alfred Scrimshaw Rev John Woodhouse
S21.08 Proposal 7	**Recognition of 'active' retired ordained ministers** 1. ENDORSE a new category title of "active retired ordained Minister" who are those ordained Deacons and Ministers of the Word, whom Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committees have indicated are available to serve the whole Church in various ministerial capacities.

	2. REQUEST each Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee to review and compile a list of those retired ministers willing and able to offer ministry service to the Church, and that such lists be made available on request to the Safe Church and Placements Committee of the Synod of South Australia and the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. 3. DETERMINE that upon retirement, ordained Deacons and Ministers of the Word, continue to have access to the Online Synod Directory, and be included in all Synod communications, unless they request otherwise.
S21.09 Proposal 9	**Stipends** 1. APPROVE the amendment of Section 5 of the Ministerial Stipends and Related Conditions of Placement Handbook as follows: *5. ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS* *All ministers in placement are entitled to provision of accommodation, whether by provision of an appropriate manse or an accommodation allowance.* *Schedule A.2* *5.3 Clergy Couples* *The entitlement to provision of accommodation, whether by provision of an appropriate manse or an accommodation allowance applies equally to all ministers in placement, irrespective of their marital status or living arrangements.* *Clergy couples who live in their own home, and do so with the approval of the Congregation(s)and Presbytery PRC, will receive a full accommodation allowance each or pro rata if working part time.* *In relation to clergy couples who live in a manse, whether both are in placement in the same congregation, or in different congregations, one minister is entitled to receive a full accommodation allowance or pro rata if working part time.* *The change to the current arrangements for clergy couples is to be implemented at change of placement.* *Any variation to these arrangements is to be determined by Synod Placements Committee in consultation with Presbytery PRC.* 2. a. ENDORSE the Assembly's Theology of Stipends document as the basis of understanding for all ministry placements including General Secretary and Associate General Secretary, and

	b. ENCOURAGE members of the SA Synod Stipends Committee to advocate for this understanding in the national conversation and c. ENCOURAGE language in Position Descriptions that clearly place these roles within the Religious Practitioner Category.
S21.10 Proposal 8	**Property Review Report** 1. COMMEND the diligent work of the Property Services Team in undertaking the building safety inspections. 2. ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the generous and loyal commitment of many people who have contributed to the care and maintenance of congregation properties over many years. 3. RECOGNISE that although the buildings themselves hold special significance for many congregation members the buildings are primarily to be used to progress the mission of God and REQUEST every Church Council in consultation with their congregation to: a. GIVE ATTENTION urgently and diligently to their Buildings Safety Report. b. DETERMINE whether the property can be made safe and compliant in order that it might be used for continuing ministry and mission. c. ACKNOWLEDGE any shortfalls in safety and compliance which cannot be met. d. WORK with Resources staff of the Synod and their Presbytery to address the issues. 4. RECOGNISE that the Synod does not have the financial capacity to make and keep safe all the properties currently vested in the Property Trust; REQUEST appropriate Synod staff and Presbytery leaders to work with Church Councils in consultation with their congregations to: a. DEVELOP financially manageable plans to upgrade congregational property to a safe and compliant standard. b. Where such upgrades are not feasible, WORK with congregations on suitable plans for the future of buildings and property. c. CREATE opportunities for discussion with surrounding congregations to discover appropriate pathways for future use of buildings and property.

	d. DETERMINE the future of the ministry and mission currently conducted in those buildings. e. DEVELOP essential requirements to assist congregations to manage future on-going beneficial use. 5. REQUEST the General Secretary in consultation with the Synod Standing Committee to develop a future-focused strategy (to include the establishment of a working group and an implementation plan) to determine the number and geographic locations of buildings to house vibrant missional communities including a framework to identify potential 'strategic' buildings, working: a. collaboratively with appropriate Synod staff and Presbytery leadership; and b. interactively with Church Councils in consultation with congregations as they seek to undertake the tasks in (3) and (4) above. 6. REQUEST a report detailing the outcomes of these proposals be presented to the next Synod meeting.
S21.11 Proposal 11	**Synod Strategic Priorities** 1. ADOPT the Synod Strategic Priorities by: a. AFFIRMING the 12 Strategic Priorities recommended to the Synod by the Strategic Planning Working Group. b. REQUESTING congregations, presbyteries, agencies, committees, boards and staff of the Synod to initiate processes to: i. Identify at least three Strategic Priorities from the list. ii. Commence a process that uses the Guiding Principles to help shape Action Plans for the priorities they have identified. iii. Complete the Action Plan document (also available on the Synod website). iv. Forward the Action Plans to the Strategic Planning Working Group to be collated and added to the website prior to the June meeting of the Synod Standing Committee. 2. THANK the Strategic Planning Working Group for the work to complete this report and for their ongoing commitment to the processes of implementation. 3. ACKNOWLEDGE the Strategic Planning Working Group's desire to encourage future meetings of the Synod to share their experiences generated by 'Shaping our Future'.

	4. Add a 12th Strategic Priority around Evangelism and bringing people to faith in Jesus.
S21.12 Proposal 16**	**Membership of Synod of South Australia** 1. REFER the issues relating to Synod membership to a Synod Standing Committee appointed Task Group in consultation with Presbytery leaders. 2. PROVIDE Working Group Feedback Sheets relating to Proposal 16 (previously Proposal 10) as a resource to the appointed Task Group.
S21.13 Proposal 13	**UnitingCare SA** That the Synod of SA has considered the request from the UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. and in keeping with the valued relationships we have with our organisations has made the following decisions: 1. We AFFIRM the work of UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc and thank them for their commitment to our South Australian community. 2. WE REDUCE the requirement for two members of UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. (UCWB) Board to be members of the Uniting Church to at least one member. 3. We REQUEST a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Uniting Church Synod of South Australia and UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. be prepared following consultation between both parties and the UAICC, and that the Moderator and General Secretary be authorised to approve and sign the document on behalf of the Synod of SA. 4. We continue to HOLD our responsibilities: a. as the Appointing Authority to the UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. (UCWB) Board. b. to approve changes to the UCWB Rules and Regulations, and c. to determine the distribution of assets upon the winding up of UCWB.

S21.14 Proposal 15*	**Future Synod meeting** DETERMINE that: a. A Synod resourcing event be held in October 2021, with attendance not restricted to Synod membership, on a date and location to be determined by the Synod Standing Committee. b. A meeting of the council of Synod in session be held in June 2022, on a date and location to be determined by the Synod Standing Committee. c. Synod Standing Committee may amend the terms for those appointments to Synod boards or committees which for legal or compliance reasons have relied on an annual Synod meeting being held in November 2021.

* *Proposal 2 - Future Synod Meeting - Presented to the 30th January 2021 meeting but was not passed; reintroduced to the 11 -13 February 2021 Synod meeting as Proposal 15.*

** *Proposal 10 - Membership of Synod of South Australia was amended and is now Proposal 16.*

DECLARATION OF BALLOTS

The election results (excluding Assembly membership) were displayed at the Synod meeting; the appointments were not displayed. The Declaration of Ballots – elections (including Assembly membership) and appointments were approved by the Synod Standing Committee on 10th March 2021 (SSC21.02), shown below:

DECLARATION OF BALLOTS – SYNOD MEETING 11 – 13 FEBRUARY 2021

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

SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

Bruce Ind
Alice Kroker
Rev Christa Megaw
Ann Phillips
Rev Andrew Robertson

MISSION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Rev Anne Hewitt

PARKIN MISSION AND PARKIN TRUST

Rev Dr Tim Hein
James Rackham

PLACEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rev Naomi Duke

MODERATOR'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev Sue Page - Convenor
Alice Kroker
Ashlee Littleford
Rhanee Tsetsakos
Rev Rod Dyson – Past Moderator

16TH ASSEMBLY

Synod Ex-Officio
Bronte Wilson – Moderator
Rev Felicity Amery – General Secretary
Generate Presbytery Appointed
Rev Stephanie Tai
Ashlee Littleford
Wimala Presbytery Appointed
Rev Jenni Hughes
Bruce Ind
Presbytery of Southern SA Appointed
Rev Sandy Boyce
Tim Lee
Under 25 Year Old Members
Jacob Blackwell
Hannah Gardner
Anna Wilson
Synod Elected Members
Dr Pam Bartholomaeus
Leanne Davis
Rev Ian Dow
Rev Linda Driver
Rev Philip Gardner
Rev Paul Goh
Rev Christa Megaw
Rev Sue Page
Ann Phillips
Trevor Phillips
Rev Andrew Robertson
Rev Mark Schultz
David Sigley
Rev Cheryl Wilson
Kerry Wilson

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

ADVISERS COMMITTEE – CONVENOR
Gwenda Kerley

THE PROPERTY TRUST
Dr Alice McCleary
Michael McClaren – Chairperson
Peter Battersby - Secretary

RESOURCES BOARD
Dr Alice McCleary
Michael McClaren

STIPENDS COMMITTEE
Valeria Aloa

SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR COUNSELLING
Rev Robyn Caldicott
Peter Dowling
Rev Christine Manning

SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR DISCIPLINE
John Steele

SYNOD ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
Neil Andrew AO
Rev Michael Dowling
Rev Dr Greg Elsdon

The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

2021 SYNOD MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY 30th JANUARY 2021
SESSION 1

The Moderator welcomed Synod members to the meeting and declared a quorum had been met for this online meeting. The Acknowledgement of Country was spoken by Tarlee Leondaris, Covenanting and International Mission Officer with Mission Resourcing.

OPENING WORSHIP

The CityView Uniting Church Worship Team sang in the opening worship; the Bible reading - Psalm 111 – was spoken by Rhanee Tsetsakos. The Moderator spoke about the Church in this time of a pandemic - meeting in this different format and still connected to God and with each other. A prayer and artwork (listening to the Spirit) by Margie Goodluck was presented.

BUSINESS SESSION

INFORMATION FOR TODAY'S MEETING

Rev Sue Page, Associate General Secretary and Event Manager, brought notices for members, with a reminder about how to ask questions and vote during the webinar. Proposals 1 and 2 were brought to the meeting. Working Groups were held to discuss proposal 2 - Working Group leaders hosted the Group Zoom sessions. An online trial ballot was held during the meeting to test the application.

ORIENTATION OF SYNOD MEMBERS

The Moderator noted this is the Synod's first meeting using an online format and for some members this meeting is their first experience of meeting as a Synod.

The Moderator introduced Rev Professor Andrew Dutney to speak about, "What is a Synod?", including an explanation of the government and councils of the Church (Basis of Union, paragraph 15). - "In each Council we are doing something particular", discerning the guidance from the Spirit and from other Councils of the Church".

OPENING PROPOSALS -

PROPOSAL 1

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to present Proposal 1. The General Secretary drew members' attention to (9) – associating a number of people for the purposes of participating in presenting reports and proposals. Members voted using an online poll. The meeting heard a question about the membership of this Synod meeting including, "how can a greater number of Synod members be involved". The General Secretary responded acknowledging membership for an online only meeting is quite different from our planned face to face meeting 11 – 13 February 2021. The Synod membership for this Synod meeting, in three sessions, is restricted by the numbers permitted at the face to face meeting (sessions 3-14), due to COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions, i.e. 1 person per 2 M^2 and a 1.5 m distance between people. The

General Secretary commented that the Synod looks forward to the restrictions being lifted. Following a second poll the proposal was agreed to by consensus.

S21.01 It was AGREED (by CONSENSUS) 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 decision making shall be by the use of coloured cards (physical or online) 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 30 January & 11 – 13 February 2021 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 (physical or online) and replies to questions shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless otherwise determined by the house.

5. DETERMINE that the Roll shall only contain the names of those members:
   Session 1 (30 January) - online in the Zoom Webinar and Sessions 3 – 14 (11- 13 February) those listed on the Roll of members at its closure on Thursday 11 February 2021 at 11:30 am.

6. DEFINE the boundaries of the house to be the seated area of the ground floor and the creche of Adelaide West Uniting Church. When meeting online the bounds will be those members of Synod online in the Zoom webinar meeting.

7. ADOPT the Hours of Session as listed hereunder:

Online via Zoom Webinar:

Session	1	Saturday 30 January	8:30am – 10:30am

At Burnside City Uniting Church (Celebration of Ministry Service):

Session	2	Sunday 7 February	2:30pm – 4:30pm

At Adelaide West Uniting Church:

Sessions 3- 7	Thursday 11 February	9:00am – 9:00pm
Sessions 8 – 11	Friday 12 February	9:00am – 6:00pm
Session 12- 14	Saturday 13 February	9:00am – 4:00pm

8. APPOINT the following officers for this Synod meeting:

a.	Assistant Secretaries	Rev Sue Page (Event Manager) Rev Benji Callen Kerry Wilson
b.	Minute Secretaries	Tracey Bost Bev Freeman Chris Jaensch
c.	Chief Scrutineer	Anne Wilson
	Ballot Scrutineers	Peter Wilson, Evangeline McAllan
d.	Chaplains	Rev Beth Seaman Rev Malcolm Rawlings
e.	Business Committee	Rev Felicity Amery, Bronte Wilson, Rev Sue Page, Rev Benji Callen, Kerry Wilson
f.	Facilitation Team	Michelle Harris, Bruce Ind, Rhanee Tsetsakos, Wendy Perkins (Convenor), Malcolm Wilson
g.	First Aid Officer	Rev Cheryl Wilson

9. Associate the following people with the meeting for the purposes of participating in presenting reports and proposals:

Rev Sue Page	Dr Don Hopgood (AO)	Jannine Jackson Sue Raw
Velvy Holden	Brian Hern	Matt Wilson

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 Friday 8 January 2021 (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 ballots:
    a. Note that nominations for all councils, committees and boards have closed prior to the meeting.
    b. Agree that any necessary ballots be held during the meeting with ballots conducted electronically via Survey Monkey with secure links sent to members at a time determined by the Business Committee and that ballots will close at a time to be determined by Business Committee.

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.

QUORUM

The Moderator reported to the members a quorum for this meeting is 101 people – over 150 people have joined the webinar, noting more than 150 members are present in that some are sharing screens.

PROPOSAL 2
FUTURE SYNOD MEETING

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to present Proposal 2. The General Secretary asked members to discuss their preference for returning to an annual cycle of Synod meetings or if an alternate frequency is preferred. Factors affecting this discussion include:

- Presbyteries are meeting multiple times during the year, are annual Synod meetings the preferred cycle?
- Could less frequent Synod meetings provide other opportunities for resourcing events?
- The 2021 budget and the ability to fund another face to face meeting of the Synod;
- The impact on the Moderatorial term;
- The Synod may not be in a position to change the frequency of meetings on a long term basis at this point.

A question for clarification was received regarding (c):

- The extension to membership terms applies to members who are elected at the 11- 13 February 2021 Synod meeting and members who have ongoing terms – the Synod Standing Committee is able to tidy up any other Committees not dealt with at the Synod meeting.

<u>Discussion</u>

- Members moved into online working groups to discuss proposal 2.
- Members re-joined the webinar; the indicative poll produced a significant number of blue cards.

Many members strongly supported a regular pattern of Synod meetings, including:

- To build relationships

- To support Presbyteries that are not fully formed yet
- June is better for rural communities and this is an opportunity to consider an alternate meeting pattern
- There is a pastoral implication in setting a schedule
- Waiting until November 2022 should allow for more members to meet in a face to face setting
- More frequent meetings provides a place for ministry agents across Presbyteries to connect

Many members were not opposed to moving to an 18 month cycle for Synod meetings, including:

- provides time for the Presbyteries and Clusters to become more established
- A cycle no longer than 18 month
- Could an 18 month cycle commence this November?
- Have the people whose terms would be extended been consulted? How would the extension affect them personally?
- Can the length of the meetings be reviewed?

The Moderator thanked members for their participation in Working Groups and asked Working Group leaders to send their Group's feedback to synod@sa.uca.org.au.

The Moderator asked for a second poll to be held, for decision. The result of the poll was 86% (orange card) warmth to the proposal and 14% blue card (cool to the proposal).

Due to time constraints the meeting could not be extended to allow for more time to discuss the implications of the proposal, therefore a decision regarding proposal 2 could not be made at this time. The proposal (Proposal 2) regarding future meetings of the Synod will now be presented to the face to face Synod meeting, 11 – 13 February 2021, noting the proposal may be amended prior to being presented again at the February meeting.

NOTICES AND CLOSE

The Moderator prayed for members and closed this session of the meeting at 10:20 am, to reconvene as shown above – see proposal 1 (7).

2021 SYNOD MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2021
SESSION 2
CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY & RECOGNITION OF RETIRED MINISTERS SERVICE

Rev Dr Benji Callen, Burnside City Uniting Church Minister, welcomed all to the Celebration of Ministry & Recognition of Retired Ministers Service with an Acknowledgement of Country and an apology from the Moderator, Bronte Wilson who is unwell. Rev Sue Ellis, Ex Moderator presided over the Service in his absence.

The Service commenced with Rev Dr Dean Brookes and Rev Cheryl Wilson offering Prayers of Thanksgiving and Rev Richard Banham and Rev Andrew Prior offering scripture readings Isaiah 40:28-31 and 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 respectively.

Rev Sue Ellis, Ex Moderator, welcomed Dr Deidre Palmer, President, Uniting Church in Australia.

The sermon was written by the Moderator, Bronte Wilson and spoken by Rev Sue Ellis, and included the following:

"In the reading we heard today the opening line is "when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach". Compelled to preach! That is what has influenced many of you here today, celebrating a particular milestone in ministry. God has called you.

As God calls each of us; God called you into a specific ministry, one which has at the heart of it a calling to proclaim the word of God. Whether that is as an ordained Minister of the Word or Lay Preacher; in a congregation, as a chaplain, a deacon, or serving in some other role; the compulsion to preach is there.

Proclaiming the gospel by word and by deed. So much of the visible face of ministry is in the preaching. Also, so much of ministry is in the doing and the being.

In this gathering there are a range of ministry experiences, a range of backgrounds, and a variety of pathways through life and service to the church and to God who has called and equipped – and who continues to call and equip.

Some worked as chaplains, some as teachers, some as missionaries, some have served entirely in this Synod, while others travelled the world. Some as deacons, some as ministers of the word and others as lay preachers. Whatever the context, you have used gifts and skills God has given you for ministry.

Even if we have not been ordained into ministry formally, for many it is simply part of who we are, and we continue to minister and proclaim the gospel – even after our formal retirement.

And while for some of us that is not possible or even desirable, I continue to hear about the ongoing ministries that do occur, as Lay Preachers offer their services, as Retired Ministers find themselves in supply placements and/or mentoring and supervising those beginning their journey. Each of you continue to proclaim the gospel by word and by deed; I give thanks to God.

And as God continues to enable, empower and equip through the Holy Spirit; giving strength, courage and inspiration to us as we all minister in our various ways, we give thanks to those who have set the example over the years".

Recognition of Accredited Lay Preachers

Mr Max Howland, introduced the Accredited Lay Preachers, some in attendance, others not able to attend, noting the following people have completed the preparation and educational requirements necessary to become an Accredited Lay Preacher. These are the official dates, e.g. 40 years, however some may have been preaching for longer. Max spoke about their quite remarkable contributions to the life of the Church.

Shirley Heaysman	70 years - accepted her Certificate
Milton Hender	70 years - not able to attend
Don Bubner	60 years - not able to attend
Heather Maynard	60 years - accepted her Certificate
Don Richardson	60 years - accepted his Certificate
David Taplin	60 years – accepted his Certificate
Dr Neil McIntosh	50 years – accepted his Certificate
Rosemary Hunt	40 years – not able to attend
Nola Pearce	40 years – accepted her Certificate
Peter Shackleford	40 years – accepted his Certificate

Recognition of 50/60/70 years of Ordination

Rev Philip Gardner spoke about these significant ministries including:
"On behalf of the Synod of SA, thank you for your faithful ministries, over all these years and the many lives you have touched, and healed and delivered and encouraged in the service of the church. God has been able to do so much work through your ministries and you continue to serve in your own ways in your own ministries".

The ministries of the following people were acknowledged:

50 Years since ordination

Rev Dr Dean Brookes
Rev Dr Brian Phillips (unable to attend)

60 years since ordination

Rev Mac Macdonald (unable to attend)
Rev Brian Smith
Rev Dr Malcolm McArthur

70 years since ordination

Rev Keith Batt (unable to attend)

Retired Ministers

Pre-recorded video messages from Rev Dr Jane McDonald, Rev Naomi Rosenberg (Deacon), Rev Marty Rosenberg and Rev Ashley Davis were presented. Each of these ministers spoke about their joys, their funny or embarrassing moments and sage advice for others in ministry.

The Ex Moderator spoke to the retiring ministers:
"Today we acknowledge the retirement of a number of our ministers. Retirement is a strange notion when it comes to ministry. You are still baptized in Christ and called to ministry in the world. You are still ordained and serve the church. However, retirement does provide an opportunity to pause and mark this important moment on the journey of faith, to give thanks for the many ways you have all used your gifts and skills and lived your faith through many and varied ministries, and provides an opportunity for us to pray for you as your ministries take new forms and new possibilities unfold.

The Ex Moderator invited the retiring ministers to sign a poster of the Basis of union, saying, "God's call and the living out of that call has made a mark on this. You have been responsible for some of the shaping of putting this vision into action. We invite you (retiring ministers) as a symbol of this to sign your name over the words. You have helped make this Church, and continue to help shape it".

Rev Philip Gardner, Executive Officer of Placements and Safe Church, introduced those who are retiring:

Rev Coralie Evans (unable to attend)	Rev Andrew Prior
Rev Richard Banham	Rev Martin Rosenberg
Rev John Boundy (Deacon)	Rev Naomi Rosenberg (Deacon)
Rev Ashley Davis	Rev Ernest Sorensen

The Ex Moderator congratulated the retiring ministers, presenting them with candles and praying for them

Close

The Ex Moderator thanked Rev Dr Benji Callen and the congregation at the Burnside City Uniting Church for their part in the service, sent well wishes to the Moderator and adjourned session 2 of the Synod meeting until Thursday 11th February 2021.

2021 SYNOD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2021
SESSIONS 3 – 7

The Moderator's opening remarks included, "this is the meeting where we report on and celebrate and lament the year of 2020 and it is also the time when we look forward to this year of 2021 and beyond. It is a time for celebration, to be part of the joy of being in community. The 2021 Synod meeting is different, starting with an online meeting nearly a fortnight ago, being followed by a Celebration of Ministry service last Sunday, and now gathering here in reduced numbers, noticing the absence of some familiar faces and welcoming some new members".

Poem by *Neryl McCallum © 2020* - 'I'm about to do a new thing.'
About...',
God says.
'I'm about to do a new thing.'
And my mind floods with 'about' moments –
Coming in the kitchen
and seeing the ingredients for chocolate cake
lined up on the bench
A tree in bud
A violinist raising a bow as a dancer balances on their toes
A footy team running onto the field
The intense gaze of a basketball player standing on the three-point line
The nervous stance of a groom awaiting a bride
The chortling of a chook ready to lay an egg
The frozen bow of a cat stalking a mouse
The unfolding of an eagle's wings as the wind ruffles its feathers
The first rays of gold emerging from the east
Ants marching underground as rain clouds roll in
A shower of glowing red sparks in a blackened sky as a fire advances
The first pangs of labour
The teetering raised foot of a toddler on the brink of walking
The intake of breath before blowing out birthday candles
A coffin held over the ground –
Our days are full of 'abouts',
singular moments
that exist as specks in the expansive breadth of time.
They are loaded with a multitude of emotions,
From excited expectation to menacing fear,
and no matter how solid they seemwe cannot settle into them,
for they are by nature transitory and ephemeral.
But a moment can change everything.
About...',
God says.
'I'm about to do a new thing.' *Neryl McCallum © 20*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – an explanation
Tarlee Leondaris, Synod's Covenanting & International Mission Officer, said, "My ancestors are from the Wambaya and Wakaya language groups of the Barkly Tablelands in the Northern Territory".

I would like to acknowledge all other First Peoples present at the meeting today, especially from the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. I pay my respect to the various Nations represented in you, I also thank you for the richness your leadership brings to the Synod.

You may be wondering why this is referred to as an Acknowledgment of Country and not a Welcome to Country. I do not have the authority to provide a Welcome to Country, only traditional custodians can perform a Welcome to Country on their land, whereas an Acknowledgement of Country can be said by anyone. It is a way to pay respect and acknowledge First Peoples and their ancient connection to Country.

Acknowledgement of Country is actually an ancient tradition. For thousands of years protocols have existed for visitors acknowledging country in First Peoples communities. Visitors were required to acknowledge, adhere to and respect the rules of the Country entered.

We are truly blessed to have a way to honour this ancient tradition. It amazes me to think that the land we worship on retains this rich cultural history. This same land sustained Kaurna People for thousands of years. By honoring Traditional Custodians, we honour God's mission on Earth.

All congregations within the Synod of South Australia are encouraged to say an Acknowledgement of Country before each service as a way of honoring the traditional custodians on whose land your Church is located. Most importantly, Congregations are encouraged to continue to develop mutually respectful relationships with First Peoples within your local communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
We acknowledge that we have gathered on the traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We pay respect to Kaurna elders past and present. We give thanks for the Kaurna People, who have held as sacred the duty of protecting the Land and living in harmony with it.

We recognise and respect Kaurna cultural heritage, spirituality and relationship with the land, including the continuing importance of these to the Kaurna people living today. We acknowledge that sovereignty on this land has never been ceded. It is, was and always will be, Kaurna Land. We pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit we might work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.

OPENING WORSHIP
The Moderator and the Worship Team of Rev Cheryl Wilson, Pastor Leanne Davis, Leigh Newton, Rev Geoff Hurst and Pastor Ann Phillips continued with opening worship.

Rev Linda Forsyth brought the scripture reading – Isaiah 43:1-4a, 18-19 and 20-21.

THE MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

"...as I have moved amongst the congregations and agencies over these past few months, I have heard story after story of new beginnings. Stories of people reaching out to care for those in need, in new ways. Fourteen new Emergency Relief Centres have commenced, utilising the resources of congregations and other organisations. Stories of people returning to worship after a long absence, when a neighbour invites them to watch their church online, or hands them a written worship resource over the back fence, and then offers to talk about it with them. Stories of elderly people living alone recounting that they have never felt more connected and cared for by church members who have shopped for them or dropped off meals. Stories of congregations revitalised by finding new ways of being, new ways of connecting with their community, with each other, and with God.

In recent times I have visited the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island bushfire areas. It was moving to be a part of an interdenominational service at Mount Torrens to name the struggles and acknowledge the hopes of the Hills communities and later to welcome Rev Mark Dickens into a new role as Disaster Relief Worker at Parndana.

12 months ago I visited these places, straight after the bushfires. Much was black and dead. Charred trees and paddocks were mostly what I could see. The branch you see out the front fell from a tree on the roadside near Charleston in the Adelaide Hills and thank you to Geoff Hurst for obtaining permission for it to be used as a symbol for this meeting. I returned to those places a few weeks later, and already there were green shoots poking through. New life springing forth from that which seemed dry and dead.

And now, 12 months on, there is green everywhere. Great fronds of green attached to the charred trunks. There are still the blackened scars... the damage and devastation is not simply wiped away... but there is evidence of new life in the colours of the vegetation and the sounds of the birds.

So here we are, glad to gather as God's people, ready to be shaped by God's word, open to the Spirit moving in our midst. We gather, wondering...What new thing will God do among us in this time?
What new life is God going to bring forth from amongst us?

How will we experience the hope of God working, the promise brought by the prophet Isaiah to a people lost and uncertain? How can we take this promise of hope back to our communities, our congregations, our workplaces, our neighbourhoods?

In your prayer bag there are instructions on how to fold a dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit working amongst us, and you are invited to turn your prayer of lament into a dove as a sign that we open ourselves to new opportunity as God is at work in this place and in this gathered community".

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, via pre-recorded video. Rev Sue Page, Associate General Secretary, provided meeting information for members via pre-recorded video.

WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed and recognised:

- President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Dr Deidre Palmer
- Ex-Moderator, Rev Sue Ellis
- All members of the Synod including new members
- Rev Marion Millin, Retired Minister transferred to SA from WA January 2021

The Moderator advised the members this meeting will be conducted using consensus procedures.

PROPOSAL 14

Proposal 1 was received and approved during the Online Synod on 30 January 2021. Proposal 14 brings additional information and names of people who will be speaking during this meeting:

S21:02 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

Associate the following additional persons with the meeting for the purposes of participating in presenting reports, electives and proposals:

Rev Francis Bartholomeusz	Marion Bowes-Johnston
Libby Hogarth	Tarlee Leondaris
Chanuka Mallawaarachchi	Rev Brian Polkinghorne
Jill Polkinghorne	Mohommed Ali Rezaei
Catherine Russell	Rev Rob Stoner
Rev Dr Elizabeth Vreugdenhil	Janet Woodward
Neryl McCallum	Rev Dr Christy Capper
Ian Dempster	Steph Van Rosse

These people were recognised in Proposal 1 on Saturday 30 January:

Brian Hern	Velvy Holden
Dr Don Hopgood (AO)	Jannine Jackson
Rev Sue Page	Sue Raw
Matt Wilson	

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING GROUP REPORT

The General Secretary, Rev Felicity Amery and Pastor Leanne Davis from the Strategic Planning Working Group presented the Strategic Planning Working Group report. The General Secretary began with an Acknowledgement of Country and introduced the members of the Strategic Planning Working Group.

Neryl McCallum introduced the Synod Art Project, initiated by the General Secretary – this project is journeying alongside the activities of the Strategic Planning Working Group. The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts (CMLA) is encouraging local artists to submit works, to broaden and open up the discussion beyond words. Artists were invited to create works that consider how we experience our communion, our togetherness, with God and one another and all creation, in the everyday. The idea of the Trinity, as a symbol of God's salvation and grace, redemptive for all of humanity and how we hear our Triune God's all-embracing invitation to communion with God, all people and all creation.

The General Secretary continued, speaking about:

- As a Working Group we have not always been comfortable with the language of Strategic Plan. What did it mean? Who was it for? - sounded secular rather than missional, business rather than ministry, self-centred rather than God-centred.
- The Synod was looking for some priorities that served to connect us, support and resource us and draw us into God's future, partnering together.

Ps. Leanne Davis spoke about the context the Working Group was working in, including:

- The recent Restructure and new Presbyteries, bushfires and then the pandemic.
- It soon became apparent that we were all living in a time when trying to think and plan for the future was too much when congregations, leaders, groups and organisations struggling to think beyond the next day, the next Sunday, the next week might look like.
- The Synod of SA is the geographic area that we are all part of, that all our churches, groups and organisations are part of. How were we going to reconcile these different aspects, these different areas into a single plan?
- The Working Group realised they needed to talk, to consult, and we did, via a survey, online and face to face conversations.
- Responses were received and common themes emerged – there were similarities in our conversations, we couldn't include everything, we collated the responses, we distilled the responses, we prayed a lot, we listened a lot.
- All of this was to help us as we sought – and are still seeking - to identify what possibilities God is calling us all to in a world that is very different to what it looked like 12 months ago.
- It became very apparent that a single plan was not going to work.
- What has emerged from all the conversations, the survey, the prayer, the discernment is a number of priorities that we believe will help grow the mission of the Church. These priorities have been designed to fit in with goals that presbyteries, congregations, organisations, boards and groups may already have.

The General Secretary continued, introducing, "The Wheel" – Shaping our Future
This is not a document for the shelf. It is intentionally designed to be in your hands, it is an invitation to play, it is an invitation to interact and work with others, to understand what it means to be the Synod and to discern what God might be calling us too. In the centre of "The Wheel" is the Mission Statement, surrounded by a set of guiding principles/values; the second circle on the wheel contains the primary roles and responsibilities of the Synod. We then come to the outer circle, the strategic priorities that will 'support our future'. The 11 priorities were identified through the conversations with congregations, presbyteries, committees, boards, ministers, pastors, chaplains and lay leaders across the Synod. There are no fixed lines on the outer circle, the colours shade into each other, no priority is stuck in a single role and fixed set of principles. They move because they are interrelated, no priority is the exclusive work of one council or committee, no particular congregation or ministry centre, no particular individual or team.
How will it shape our relationships with chaplains, agencies organisations and schools? How will it help us identify new ministries, revitalise congregations? How will it help us embrace difference, respond to the complex needs of our world and grow disciples?

The General Secretary introduced the "Action Plan" - accompanies "The Wheel" – invites us to identify a priority, what will be different, what are the guiding principles, what will be the initial steps and priority actions.

Members of the Strategic Planning Working Group will continue to be available to assist groups with understanding "The Wheel" and the Action Plan. Shaping our Future holds us together, together we are the Church, collaboratively we are all the Synod and there is a place for each one of us.

The Strategic Planning Working Group proposals will be presented later in the meeting.

PROPERTY REVIEW REPORT

The General Secretary, Rev Felicity Amery and Rev Rob Stoner, Chair, Resources Board, presented the Property Review Report, beginning with a video production showing many of the Synod's properties and discussing the property maintenance issues with many buildings.

Rev Rob Stoner spoke to the Synod members, "this reform has been a long held passion of his for almost 20 years, beginning with the Strategic Mapping project in the early 2000s. So let me share again the dream I have long held for the church. And the dream I have is for the church to refocus its attention on the mission of God. I urge every congregation to begin their response to this report by asking themselves about how they are being called, being used, by God to participate in God's action in the world. I suspect that when we start to shape our property around mission in this way, we will have a renewed sense of pride in it, a new sense of purpose to make it, and keep it, fit for serving the mission of God. This is a report that belongs to all of us, that needs to be addressed by all of us, by the whole church".

The General Secretary acknowledged the future of our buildings is a difficult conversation for the Church, part of this conversation is to understand what our relationship with our building is about. This is not a challenge that the Church can fix today, however there is an imperative to act. All our discernment around mission, around leadership, about property, education and pastoral care happens in community, collaboratively and together. The report encourages us to think about the role of property in our mission, how we are reading the changing landscape or the context for mission, what part does viability, sustainability and stewardship play in our mission, is there a conversation about safety when thinking about mission.

WORKING GROUPS

Members broke into Working Groups to discuss the Strategic Planning Working Group Report and the Property Review Report.

ASSEMBLY REPORT

The President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Dr Deidre Palmer, brought greetings from the Assembly General Secretary, Colleen Geyer and her apologies for not being able to attend this Synod meeting, beginning the Assembly report with an Acknowledgement of Country. The President continued, including:

- Thank you to Rev. Garry Dronfield who finished as President of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress last year
- Acknowledged Pastor Mark Kickett who is currently serving as the Interim National Chair of Congress.
- Acknowledged significant Congress leaders who have passed away, since our last Synod: Josey Hansen, Rev Dorothy Harris-Gordon, Rev Jeffrey Garrawurra, Rev Sealin Garlett, Pastor Bill Hollingsworth and Auntie Kathy Carter.
- 2020 was a year of disruptive and enormous change for the world, for our country and for our church. As the Uniting Church we have been advocating for those in greatest need.
- The Uniting Church is a multicultural church and this year, 2021, we mark 36 years since we declared, "We are a multicultural church". Today our church is enriched and enlivened by the 13 National Conferences representing cultural groups that are a part of the Uniting Church. I have the privilege of meeting regularly with the National Conference Chairs. Our sharing together of our concerns, our challenges, our joys and our hopes has encouraged and strengthened us in our mission and ministry together.
- As the Uniting Church we are committed to living God's call for justice, peace and the renewal of the whole creation. The bush fires that swept across our country from late 2019 and into 2020 highlighted again for us the reality of climate change and our responsibility to advocate for the care of our planet.
- In August 2020 the International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons, ICAN and the Uniting Church hosted an interfaith service on the anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Last month I was delighted to join the ICAN again in celebrating the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Our connections with our global partners continue to be a great source of inspiration, and last year we were blessed by financial support from our Pacific partners to the National Disaster Relief Fund for responses to the bush fires. In December, UnitingWorld began an appeal to help repair the damage of Tropical Cyclone Yasa.
- In January, the Assembly Standing Committee made the decision that the 16th Assembly in July will be held online over a shortened duration. Throughout 2020, the Assembly adapted to working remotely as well as providing resources and information helpful for the church.
- For two months weekly national worship was livestreamed on the Uniting Church in Australia Facebook page every Sunday, providing an opportunity for a range of ministers in the church to offer leadership nationally, and for our members to experience the creativity and diversity of our Church.
- In April 2020 the Assembly Standing Committee approved the online gathering for worship with Holy Communion for those congregations that wished to provide this. This approval is in place until the end of June 2021.
- Once the full impacts of COVID-19 were apparent, the Assembly engaged widely on justice issues through making submissions to Government and other campaigns. In particular, this involved advocacy on the JobSeeker and JobKeeper support packages, the need for services supporting people in family and domestic violence, the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and those on temporary visas including international students, most of whom were and remain ineligible for any support. We have also considered advocacy for a post-COVID world in the document, Build Back Better: a post-COVID-19

Vision for a Just Australia; we have been part of the #End COVIDforAll campaign through Uniting World, advocating for equitable access to the COVID vaccine for countries in the Pacific and Asia.

- UnitingWorld held online conversations with Pacific Church Partners; the Assembly Resourcing Unit held a series of webinars on COVID-19 and the Multicultural Church; and there were regular opportunities to catch up with National Consultants over coffee online to keep connections strong during isolation.
- In 2020 the National Safe Church Unit launched the Principles of a Child Safe Uniting Church. These principles provide a foundation to support the growth of a child safe culture across the life of our Church as we continue our commitment to provide a safe place for all vulnerable people.
- The Assembly has launched a new website, uniting.church; and moved its Sydney office after 33 years at 222 Pitt Street to new offices in Pilgrim House just up the street at 262 Pitt Street.
- The written Assembly Report provides links to the work of the Assembly Agencies, initiatives and other bodies connected to the Assembly.
- Thank you Bronte for your ongoing ministry as Moderator and thank you to the General Secretary, Rev Felicity Amery, for your service to this Synod and participation in Assembly Standing Committee, and to Rev Rob Brown for your membership and contribution to the ASC (and Rev Amel Manyon, Chair of the South Sudanese National Conference).
- My President's Conference which was to be held in October 2020 has been postponed until 29 April to 2 May 2021. As an introduction to the theme of the Conference, Called by God, I hosted a webinar late last year on the themes: Called by God, Every Member Ministry and Living our Christian Vocation. The recording of this webinar is available on the Uniting Church in Australia Vimeo channel.
- We also had to cancel NYALC – the National Young Adult Leaders Conference - which was to be held in January 2021. I have instead hosted NYALC Online – we have held four of these video conferences.
- I reported to you last time we met that I would be meeting with youth and young adults in a series of President's Roundtables to hear their voices around a series of key areas and questions regarding their journey with Christ and their experiences and views of the Uniting Church. I have held six of these roundtables (including two here in South Australia) and plan to reengage with these when it is safe to gather again.
- I have heard from various people engaged in ministry, about the weariness that they are feeling as the COVID-19 safety measures continue, and they adapt to the changing landscape that can vary from day to day. We are also concerned as the Church with the mental health of our communities.
- It is important that we continue to build on the strength of our connection with one another across Australia, and support one another, focused on the vision of who we are called to be as the Body of Christ and our participation in God's liberating mission in the world. I hope that we will be generous toward each other, patient and open to the possibilities of transformation and new creation that lie before us.

SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Geneal Secretary, Rev Felicity Amery presented the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) report. The SSC Minutes from December 2019 to November 2020 can be found on the Synod website along with the SSC report to this Synod meeting that summarises the major SSC decisions over the previous 12 months. The General Secretary reported that:

- We were very grateful that the members of the SSC had met face to face in both December 2019 and February 2019, however these meetings did not prepare the SSC for what was to come. As the minutes attest, SSC moved to more regular meetings (2 in April, 2 in May, and one in each of June July August September and November). To encourage community building we continued to meet in small working groups prior to meetings, experimented with a variety of voting methods but determined not to address some matters of business before the SSC while restricted to online meetings. (e.g. By-Laws, Ministry of Pastor, governance matters in relation to our organisations)
- Thank you to members of the SSC – it has been a challenging time.
- In August 2020 we met face to face again with most members of the SSC, some still choosing to attend via MS Teams due to distance or the continuing pandemic.
- The dates for the meetings for 2021 have been set and they look slightly more normal – in that there are only 4 at this time – 9th April, 4th June, 6th August and 15th October however the Moderator and General Secretary may decide to hold additional meetings, where necessary.

During question time concern was expressed at the time it has taken the Synod Standing Committee to address business before it, in this instance, specifically a request from UnitingCare Wesley Bowden (UCWB). The General Secretary apologised to UCWB for the delay, indicating that a proposal from the floor is welcome in the form of a procedural motion later in the meeting, after the Executive Officer, UnitingCare has presented his report to members.

PROPOSAL 12
CONTINUITY OF PASTORAL CARE FOR AGED CARE RESIDENTS

Rev Cate Baker and Shelley Alexander spoke to the rationale for this proposal, including:

- Moving into aged care is a very overwhelming time.
- Pastorally it would be appropriate to be able to welcome new residents and celebrate all the gifts and experience they bring to their new community. This would be a way of affirming our life long members when they feel most vulnerable and need affirming.
- Chaplaincy is a Synod role, which is why this is being brought to synod rather than the presbyteries. In addition we have residents who move into care across the state to be close to their children. Each Presbytery would have a role in ensuring that congregations are resourced to do this in a way that is not onerous.

S21.03 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. REQUEST all congregations to write to aged care facilities when their members move into care in order to "introduce" the congregation member to the gathered aged care community there, listing some of the ways they have been important to your congregation.

2. REQUEST all presbyteries to follow up with congregations to encourage the continuity of pastoral care for aged care residents.

PROPOSAL 6
REGARDING RESPECTFUL COMMUNITIES

Rev Philip Gardner and Rev Rebecca Purling introduced the rationale to the proposal:

- The Uniting Church is committed to providing a safe environment for all people to encounter God, to deepen relationships, grow in faith and conduct the ministry and mission of the Church
- Building communities takes education – gather resources and material - a South Australian Synod Code of Conduct Declaration has been developed. The Called to Care programme contains some useful material. The Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders developed by the Assembly is also useful. These documents and others will inform the process.
- Standards of Christian behaviour – including persistent, unwanted behaviour
- Processes beyond the local congregation are not clear, including consequences for poor behaviour
- Addressing presenting issues early and seeking the assistance of the wider church allows for a chance to restore relationships and refocus our energy on God's mission through the church
- We already have some useful resources such as the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice for Ministers in the UCA and similarly the Code of Ethics for Lay Preachers

S21:04 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

REQUEST the Placements and Safe Church Team to:

In consultation with the Presbyteries:

1. COLLATE current resources and develop further ones that help clarify and strengthen expectations regarding mutually respectful communication and behaviour of congregational leaders and members.

2. DEVELOP "Respectful Communities" By-Laws and educational resources that clarify processes for the support and discipline of church leaders and members.

3. SUPPORT presbyteries and congregations to enact and abide by the "Respectful Communities" By-laws and access the related educational resources.

Questions for clarification included:
Requirement for By-laws to be written to support this process? The General Secretary responded by saying, "A huge amount of time and energy, an inappropriate amount of time, is spent on dealing with bad behaviour - people have left churches because of a bad culture. This is about giving the Church capacity to help people who have been damaged. These proposals seek to make it safe for people. Sadly we do need By-laws that give us the capacity to counsel, encourage and stop bullying."

PRESBYTERY REPORTS

All Presbyteries offered their thanks to the Synod for the Joint Presbytery Officer Bearers and Synod Leaders meetings.

GENERATE PRESBYTERY

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

- 2020 – Year of Courage "we had no idea how courageous we would need to be. It takes courage to continue to hope in the midst of a crisis."
- "Our chaplains have had an enormously difficult task working in ever changing agencies, with anxious staff and people. We are so thankful for the way they have loved, cared for and been Christ with people this year. We have seen new skills emerge, wider people in the congregation engaged in caring for each other, tech or Sunday resourcing and so much more. We are thankful for the outstanding leadership in this space and we are praying that leaders throughout the Synod will know God's rest and refreshment."
- Growing – from a new emerging council finding its feet to a movement structured around our key focus areas of seeing people come to faith
- Many congregations went online for services and connection. Others created at home packs and delivered them. Pastoral care and prayer groups were set up and members continued to engage with and encourage each other.
- Thankful for the work of our Hub Leaders
- Provided financial relief for congregations in the early stages of the pandemic which, added to the relief from the Mission & Service Fund contributions and Government support measures, our congregations were able to continue to operate.
- Most congregations are meeting in person again.
- The pandemic and Synod Property Report have both caused congregations to consider their missional viability into the future.
- The Presbytery has met 3 times since the last Synod meeting; the October 2020 meeting in 5 Hubs.
- Key focus areas – seeing people come to faith in Jesus Christ, growing passionate disciples, raising courageous leaders and planting and renewing churches.
- Media Task Groups have created the Easy Sunday Dropbox and helped to support congregations going online.
- Church Planting Task Group
- Leadership Pipeline – raising courageous leaders
- Renewal Task Group – help congregations to renew/consider their future
- HUBS – the Hubs have begun meeting together around particular needs, resourcing and encouragement.
- Eyre Peninsula
- Mid North
- Adelaide and North
- Adelaide and South
- South East

- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 2020 has been a productive year for our congregations with missional changes, baptisms, people coming to faith, new leaders taking on ministry roles candidates approved and retiring ministers' celebrations. We are certainly on an adventure of joy.

WIMALA PRESBYTERY

Trevor Phillips and Rev Diane Holden presented the Wimala Presbytery report, including:

- We share common hopes with the other Presbyteries, we are focusing on getting to know who is in the Presbytery and what their needs and hopes are - looking forward to be getting back out and meeting people.
- 79 inaugural congregations sit within state borders to the north, west and east of South Australia, while the southern edge runs from the Gulf of St Vincent at Henley Beach through the city and across the hills north of Mannum to meet the Victorian state border.
- Known at the November 2019 Synod meeting as Presbytery A. Interim office bearers were elected, their foundational work is acknowledged with gratitude.
- March 2020 - office bearers and a Standing Committee were elected. At this meeting the Adnyamathanha word Wimala (used with the permission of the Elders) was adopted as the Presbytery's name to highlight our covenantal relationship with the First Peoples and reflect the Presbytery's values of gathering and celebrating, nurturing and encouraging, fostering discipleship and acts of outreach and social justice. The name of the Presbytery is an indication of our wish to covenant with First Peoples. A question was asked about the consultation process used in determining the name.
- October 2020 – installation of Chairperson Trevor Phillips, election of Wimala's Synod and Assembly representatives, creation of the Regional Co-ordinators roles and adoption of Wimala's statement of identity and the tag line: Gather Connect Go, in the power of the Spirit.
- The Wimlala Standing Committee met in 2020 via Zoom, meeting twice every month. The first meeting of the month focuses on missional, pastoral and visioning aspects of our work and the second receives reports and carries out the business of the Presbytery.
- A regular newsletter providing updates from the Wimala Standing Committee began circulation to Ministry Agents, Church Councils and Presbytery Representatives in May 2020.
- Our digital media is under development. Congregations are encouraged to promote their events on their own Facebook page and the in Synod's UC eNews.
- We hope to worship with congregations and/or enjoy their company n workshops or resourcing days as we emerge in the "new normal".
- Some regional collegial clusters are developing
- Due to lower than expected expenses incurred in 2020, an unexpected surplus will be carried over into 2021. This will provide a foundation to plan and develop funding for future mission and resourcing opportunities and activities, to help and support our member congregations and the wider church where there is real need.
- The 31 October 2020 meeting passed the proposed draft 2021 budget, including part-time Regional Coordinators (or hubs/clusters), increased hours for the role of Secretary and future mission and resourcing growth.
- The Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee, Rev Rebecca Purling, said, "given the unusual circumstances of this year we are slowly getting to know our Ministers, Pastors and Congregations, and we are working together to understand the Placements and consultation processes and our other roles and responsibilities", thank you to Peter Hollister and Rev Philip Gardner for their advice and support.

- Inductions – Rev Do Young Kim at Prospect Road, Rev Christa Megaw at Henley Fulham and Rev Jesse Size at Para Hills; Commissioning of Pastor Leanne Davis into The Plains Congregations; active role in the service to commission Nola Branson as an Accredited Lay Preacher.
- The South Sudanese congregation is transitioning to a congregation of the Uniting Church; the International Pentecostal Prophetic Church is journeying towards becoming a Faith Community of the Uniting Church.
- The Wimala Standing Committee are developing a model for three regions within the Wimala Presbytery. Many of our smaller congregations have struggled financially; we continue engagement with these congregations exploring different ministry models; Creating a Church Renewal and Planting Team; explore ways of sharing our learnings as well as our resources and materials with the new "digital church".
- The Property Review report has us facing some questions. What does worship look like? – we have found that we can meet in different ways – finding ways of distributing resources – letterboxing or over the back fence.
- We are excited by our diversity and commonality.

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN SA

Rev Diane Bury and Max Howland presented the Presbytery of Southern SA report, beginning with an Acknowledgement of Country, including:

- One of our first responsibilities was to find a name. Some suggestions were playful, some creative, but in the end, we decided to go with a geographic name, being part of a geographic area was a significant thing. The Presbytery of Southern SA was formally constituted at the Synod meeting in November 2019 (previously known as Presbytery B).
- The pace of work has been sustained for most of 2020, with meetings of the Standing Committee and the Presbytery held wholly or in part over Zoom. The Presbytery has met twice in 2020 and planning is underway for a third.
- Leadership Development Team – learning on the run!
- Presbytery Minister Placement – Rev Ian Dow providing supply (and song)
- Other Committees and teams with the Presbytery have also begun their work, including:
    - The Pastoral Relations Committee was formed in June 2020
    - Policies and practices are in place to provide care and oversight for candidates and PoD students
    - Rules for membership of the Presbytery, membership and operations of Standing Committee and membership of the Pastoral Relations Committee
    - Positions Descriptions for a Presbytery Minister and administrative support person) Rev Ian Dow is in supply while we seek a permanent appointment).
- "Given that most of the members of Standing Committee are in full-time or part-time employment, that seems to us to be a very significant achievement"
- We regret we have not done well in connecting with our First Peoples
- Many congregations have no minster however we have recordings, online worship and pastoral care that will last into the future
- At the end of 2020, the Presbytery of Southern SA has 56 congregations; placement processes for eight congregations in 2020 with three more in process.

- Some congregations have resumed worship in person, some continue to live stream. Congregations continue to make contact via their digital presence with people who would not normally go to church
- As a Presbytery, we are most grateful for the mission and witness that is provided by the congregations, especially rural and relatively isolated.
- We have participated in the commissioning of Olly Ponsonby at Eldercare Seaford and a conclusion of placement for Rev Leanne Jenski as coordinating chaplain at FMC.
- 2020 Ordinations included Rey Haydn Lush and Rev Cyrus Kung.
- Cluster Groups have been formed – four geographical and one for bigger multi-staff congregations.
- We heard a range of stories about what congregations did for worship and pastoral care while they were not able to meet in person. The task now is to take what we have learned from this experience and build on it for our future. Thank you to the committed people who have helped us navigate the challenges of church life and pray for continuing discernment and wisdom for the future.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator thanked the Presbyteries for their reports and adjourned the meeting until 9 am Friday 12 February 2021.

2021 SYNOD MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2021
SESSIONS 8 - 11

The Moderator welcomed members back to the 2021 Synod meeting, inviting the Worship Team of Rev Sean Gilbert, Pastor Leanne Davis, Leigh Newton, Rev Geoff Hurst and Rev Liz Dyson to bring a time of worship prior to the Bible Study.

BIBLE STUDY
Rev Dr Vicky Balabanski – spoke about "The Transfiguration" - Mark 9:2-10

"I walk along that beach often, but at this particular moment the light broke through the clouds, and I noticed again the big picture – how creation reveals God's magnificence. For me at that moment, 'the heavens [were] telling the glory of God and the firmament [was] proclaiming God's handiwork' (Ps. 19:1). My perception was changed – it was transfigured. ..The story we've heard from Mark chapter 9 is – I think – such a moment...Actually there are four accounts of the Transfiguration in the New Testament: one each in the Synoptic Gospels Matthew, Mark and Luke and one also in 2 Peter 1:16-18. There is no account of transfiguration in John – but that's something for another time...Despite the fact that there are four accounts, I think it's fair to say that the Transfiguration is a neglected story in the Church, or perhaps more accurately in the Western Church. Unlike Jesus' birth, Jesus' death or his resurrection, we don't give the Transfiguration much attention. Actually we are not quite sure what to make of it. We know that there's lots of symbolism involved, but we're not quite sure what to make of this collective vision".

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (PROK)

Tarlee Leondaris – International Mission Officer – Mission Resourcing, reminded members of the partnership between the Synod of SA and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), now in its 30th year, including:

Via pre-recorded video, the Ex Moderator, Rev Sue Ellis, said, "Mission is about mutual relationships and respect and caring, and learning from one another. Both of our countries have a history of oppression of its First Peoples through colonisation. We have a lot to offer one another in understanding reconciliation. Our Korean part of our Church is very important to us as a Uniting Church so that link to South Korea is important to us. Our partner church offers many learning opportunities for us: prayer, commitment to the unity in the Church, generous hospitality and church planting".

Rev Naomi Duke said, "we don't' build buildings, we build people and relationships". Friendships have been developed and trust has been built with mutual relationship, respect and caring. Zoom has allowed us to stay connected with online prayer vigils to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula.

Tarlee Leondaris, Covenanting and International Mission Officer, brought pray for others and our partners, with thanks for our partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic Of Korea, the cross cultural

relationships, for those in positions of power, for lifelong friendships – we remember those who were great supporters of the Partnership.

RESOURCES BOARD & MISSION AND SERVICE FUND REPORTS

The Moderator introduced Peter Battersby and Sue Raw to speak to the Resources Board Report and proposals and the Mission & Service Fund Report and proposals.

Peter Battersby, Executive Officer Resources and Synod Property Officer said:

- Usually the Synod meeting adopts the Financial Statements relating to entities within the scope of the Property Trust however, as we did not meet last year the Synod Standing Committee adopted 30 Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2019. These Statements are available to view on the 2021 Synod meeting website
- The Resources Ministry Centre actively responded to the issues presented as a result of the pandemic including:
    - Providing and interpreting WHS policy as our governments issued directives
    - Working through employment arrangements and supported well-being initiatives
    - Assisting with policy development to ensure the ongoing safety of staff
    - Providing IT infrastructure and resources to enable staff at the College Campus, at Pirie Street and our Venues to work from home and work in the background to provide on-line meeting resources as required
    - Managing the Venues, during a period of closure, where all casual staff had to be stood down
    - Facilitating Cash Boost and Job Keeper payments – including the eligibility of Ministers within the Job Keeper program
    - Offering loan concessions to congregations that had active loans with the UC Loan Fund
    - property Working with congregations in relation to leasing and rental arrangements
- Risk Management Committee – The Crisis Management Team met over 30 times in relation to the pandemic
- Ethical Investing – meets to review ethical issues relating to investments; the Working Group has concerns regarding two entities within the Church's investment portfolio –AMP and Rio Tinto-and is in direct communication with both of these entities
- Presbytery Restructure – throughout 2020 the Presbytery Treasurers, Sue Raw (General Manager), Andrew Fechner (Manager Financial Services) and Peter Battersby have been meeting to establish policies and systems such that Presbyteries achieve their mission and Synod fulfils its functions. I wish to thank Di Russell, David Hoffmann, and Richard Idzikowski for dedicated service to the church as they serve as Presbytery Treasurers
- Uniting Venues Business Plan – during 2020 the Uniting Venues Management and Committee have invested considerable time developing the 2021 – 2024 Business Plan
- Property Review Report – this is a substantial piece of work, which was made possible through the cooperation and assistance of each congregation and members of the Property Service and Engagement Teams

- The Resources Board is supported by the work of several sub-committees, the Property Committee, the Risk Management Committee, the Uniting Church Investment Committee and Uniting Venues SA Committee.
- I also acknowledge that 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 these ongoing generous grants. I wish to recognise the governors of The Parkin Mission and The Parkin Trust who continue to steward these bequests.
- Thank you to the Resources Team and Team managers, to our Chair, Rev Rob Stoner, Tom Adams who has served in many significant capacities since 1995 and to the Thuruna Local Venue Management Committee who has handed over management of the site to the Uniting Venues SA Team.

Rev David Hoffman, Generate Presbytery Treasurer, thanked the Resources Team for their support.

PROPOSAL 5 - RESOURCES BOARD

S21.05 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. NOTE the Resources Board Report 2020.

2. EXPRESS its gratitude to Mr Tom Adams for his exceptional contribution to the Synod since 1995, in particular his generous service to The Parkin Mission of SA Inc, The Parkin Trust Inc, the Resources Board and Uniting Church Investment Committee.

3. PLACE on record its appreciation of the Thuruna Campsite Management Committee for its dedicated service to the Uniting Church through oversight of the Thuruna Campsite and commitment to seeing the campsite develop as a place of Christian discipleship, learning and fellowship.

Sue Raw, General Manager, Resources, presented the 2021 Mission & Service Fund Budget Report, including:

- The COVID-19 global pandemic has created a high degree of financial uncertainty, particularly in relation to investment returns, which are the predominant income source of the Mission & Service Fund.
- The Budget is normally presented and approved at the annual Synod meeting, however, due to the changing circumstances brought about by the pandemic, it was agreed that it would be presented for approval to the 27 November 2020 Synod Standing Committee, which will fulfil Regulation 3.8.7 (h) and is now being presented at the full meeting of the Synod.
- At the time of preparing the budget, the forecast for 2020 was for a surplus of $755k (mostly as a result of JobKeeper funding from the Federal government)
- The budget proposed for 2021 is for a deficit of $794k
- The Resources Board and the Synod Standing Committee were asked to view 2020 and 2021 as a combined period "the pandemic period" for considering the 2020 result and the 2021 budget

- Significant analysis was performed on the revenue budget (as the expenditures, whilst important, had very little reduction options as this has been done previously in order to achieve balanced budgets).
- An estimate for Redress claims has been included in the 2021 budget however, since preparation of the 2020 forecast and the 2021 budget we have received further invoices for redress claims which strengthens the sense that the amount for Redress claims included in the 2021 budget is very conservative.
- Budget parameters
    - stipends have been budgeted to increase by 1.25% from 1/7/21
    - Salaries are also budgeted to increase by 1.25% from 1/7/21
    - Discretionary expenditure remains on hold for 2021
    - Other general expenditure is budgeted to increase by anticipated CPI – 1.75%
- Income:
    - No material changes in structure
    - MSF contributions will be based on congregations 2019 income and have been set a level = actuals for 2020.
    - Income from investments has decreased overall by 13%
    - UCLT grant and student fee income has decreased by $298k (22%)
    - Synergy income and expenses have been included for the first time
- Expenditure:
    - Wider Church contributions to Assembly have remained the same as 2020
    - Grant to UAICC has remained as for 2020
    - Overall MC savings totals $517k
    - Presbytery allocations are $103k less than 2020 as they are based on 2020 actual collections which were down

PROPOSAL 4 - MISSION AND SERVICE FUND BUDGET 2021

S21.06 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. NOTE the Mission and Service Fund Budget 2021 Report.

2. NOTE that the Mission and Service Fund, due to the financial impact of COVID-19, will not meet its balanced budget target in 2021.

3. NOTE the 2021 Mission and Service Fund budget, in particular:
    a. A deficit budget (on an accrual basis) of $793,649
    b. A capital expenditure budget of $87,560
    c. The funding the 2021 Mission and Service Fund operating budget deficit from retained earnings.

4. NOTE the forecast combined operating result of the Mission and Service Fund for years ending 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2021 is an operating deficit of $38,496.

The Moderator thanked the Finance Team for the work they do.

FACILITATION GROUP REPORT and PROPOSAL 15

Facilitation Group members reported on Working Group discussions around a date for the next Synod meeting. While many people look forward to a Synod meeting later in the year, others preferred to wait until 2022.

Synod members were reminded of the resourcing events held in previous years, some of which were open to the wider church, some required payment on registration which could offset the unbudgeted costs associated with holding another meeting in 2021. The General Secretary said that Rev Mark Schultz, Team Leader, Mission Resourcing, is well under way in preparing a number of events that could easily tie together to become a larger event. The Presbyteries, the UCLT including Mission Resourcing could be included in a resourcing event, being mindful to include the whole Church, urban and rural.

PROPOSAL 3 - MINISTERIAL MATTERS – IN MEMORIAM

The Moderator invited members to stand in silence to remember those who have died since the 2019 Synod meeting.

S21.07 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

STAND in silence to acknowledge the ministry of the following Ministers and Lay Pastor who have died since the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Synod, and in gratitude to God for their contribution to the ministry and mission of the Uniting Church:

Rev Dr Thomas Atherton
Rev Dr Rodger Charles Bassham
Rev Kelvin Graham Benn
Lay Pastor Reginald (Reg) Casling
Rev Bernard (Bernie) Clarke AM
Rev Robert George Davis
Rev Allan Cyril George
Rev Kenneth Henry Rofe
Rev Norman (Norm) Alfred Scrimshaw
Rev John Woodhouse

PROPOSAL 7 - RECOGNITION OF 'ACTIVE' RETIRED ORDAINED MINISTERS

The Moderator invited Rev Sue Ellis and Rev Rebecca Purling to present the rationale and proposal. Retired Ministers not in active service have felt disconnected by no longer having access to the Synod database and therefore not able to access colleague's contact details. Rev Purling said, "Active retired ministers preached, served on the Council, are mentors and sounding boards, lead worship in aged care

homes, preach in other places and at times provide supply ministry. There are many ways the retired ministers serve the Church." This proposal creates a new category, "active retired ordained minister".

S21.08 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. ENDORSE a new category title of "active retired ordained Minister" who are those ordained Deacons and Ministers of the Word, whom Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committees have indicated are available to serve the whole Church in various ministerial capacities.

2. REQUEST each Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee to review and compile a list of those retired ministers willing and able to offer ministry service to the Church, and that such lists be made available on request to the Safe Church and Placements Committee of the Synod of South Australia and the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

3. DETERMINE that upon retirement, ordained Deacons and Ministers of the Word, continue to have access to the Online Synod Directory, and be included in all Synod communications, unless they request otherwise.

SYNOD MEMBERSHIP – PROPOSAL 10

Working Group responses and discussions from plenary sessions were not able to reach consensus on this proposal. The meeting will discuss this proposal again on Saturday with the possibility of the proposal being referred to the Joint Presbytery Office Bearers and Synod Leaders meeting.

FACILITATION GROUP

The Facilitation Group report spoke about the Working Group responses from the Strategic Priorities report and proposals and the Property Review Report and proposals.

UNITINGCARE SA - PROPOSAL 13 – INFORMATION SESSION

Rev Tim Hodgson and Pastor Leanne Davis spoke to the rationale for this proposal (UCWB); a question time followed.

NEW SUPERVISION COURSE

Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney and Rev Sean Gilbert presented a new course in Supervision, available in the 2nd semester 2021, important for all ministers.

2021 SYNOD MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2021
SESSIONS 12 - 14

The Moderator welcomed members back to the 2021 Synod meeting, inviting Rev Jenni Hughes and the Worship Team to bring a time of worship prior to the Bible Study; Bible reading by Rev Sunny Kadaparambil – Revelation 22:1-5.

BIBLE STUDY

Tanya Wittwer, Lecturer in Pastoral Theology, spoke about the Book of Revelation, including:

- St John of Patmos and his vision and the context in which it was written
- "A story of great hope and justice following terrible suffering; the nightmares come to an end and the terror gives way to the dawning of a wondrous new world"
- "Is it possible that St John's vision of the new thing God is doing is a vision of here and now? Behold, I am about to do a new thing."
- Revelation 22:1-5 – The River of Life. The River of Life is river of compassion, of justice and mercy that cascades from the throne of God.
- Ecclesiastes 1:7 All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow". The ancient wisdom of sustainability and life giving abundance
- Revelation 22:2 - On either side of the river is the Tree of Life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- The leaves are filled with medicinal qualities that heal and transform. God offers to the world the possibility of creating this new world as we respond to God's invitation to work together for reconciliation and justice.
- God is with us in the messiness of our lives, the River is constantly changing and moving, bending around obstacles and wearing them down
- The River of Life connects us to all of creation.

The Moderator thanked Rev Dr Vicki Balabanski and Tanya Wittwer for their Bible studies with a token of the Synod's appreciation for their ministry gifts.

PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP

Tarlee Leondaris, Covenanting and International Mission Officer, spoke to members with a call for solidarity with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. The current Philippines administration considers Christians as enemies. For additional information go to https://victas.uca.org.au/deadly-fight-for-rights-in-the-philippines/. A Task Group will be established to support the recommendations. Contact Tarlee Leondaris for information to be involved with this Task Group. Bishop Joseph Agpaoa, who himself has been abducted and held, spoke to the meeting via pre-recorded video, speaking about the surveillance, harassment and intimidation he is under. Tarlee prayed for Bishop Joseph and all Christians in the Philippines.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rev Felicity Amery spoke to the meeting, including:

- It continues to be a privilege to serve the Uniting Church here in South Australia through my role as General Secretary.
- As General Secretary, my Position Description asks me to provide pastoral, strategic and governance leadership and advice. It refers me to Regulation 3.6.3.4 and encourages me to work collaboratively with the Moderator, to develop capacity in order to assist and support the Church to exercise its mission, ministry and service. I report to the Synod Standing Committee and remain totally committed to the SA understanding that I am a General Secretary with CEO responsibilities.
- As I offer leadership and companion with the Synod Standing Committee (SSC), Congregations and Presbyteries, my primary goal is to ensure we have the resources we need to progress the mission of the Church to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- In 'providing leadership to the Church and its Councils, actively engaging in Spiritual discernment and strategic thinking about the life, mission and direction of the Church', this primary goal gains form and function for me.
- It continues to be frenetic, but also an exciting and energising space to be.
- In collaboration with the Synod Standing Committee I have:
    - Had oversight of the restructure, helping to establish three new presbyteries which the Synod continues to support and resource through regular meetings, information sessions, staff participation in meetings, workshops and other events
    - I have organised an intentional 360 cycle of reviews for Executive Offices, Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney in 2019, Peter Battersby in 2020 and Rev Philip Gardner later in 2021.
    - With the help of an external facilitator we completed a Climate Survey with the Synod staff both in Pirie St and Brooklyn Park and are about to commence follow up professional Development sessions around values, and organisational culture,
    - I will soon commence my third tour of congregations in rural and remote SA and I continue my round of Sunday morning visits to congregations in the city for worship. During COVID lock down, I did what many others did and attended 3-4 worship services online each week. It was a feast.
    - I am energised by my one to one meetings with Executive Officers, UAICC, Presbytery office bearers and resource staff
    - I facilitated the review of the Communications Team, recommending to Standing Committee that we create a new Executive Office Engagement position and a new team to raise the profile of the Church in Community and significantly lift our communication with the Church
    - It is important to actively participate in the Presbytery Office Bearers/Synod Staff meetings, the Property Trust and Resources Board, the Mission Leadership Development Board and attend the Covenanting Committee and the Leadership Development Sub Committee, Placements Committee, attend meetings of the three Presbyteries and the Regional Committee of UAICC SA, Stipends and the Safe Church Committee.
    - I chair the Crisis Management Committee and Human Resources and Remuneration Committee and both committees are under review.
    - I also attend the Assembly Standing Committee, enjoy the support and company of other General Secretaries, participate in the Remote Area Ministry Committee and provide

mentoring and other professional support to ministry colleagues in other parts of the country and attend when possible DUCA meetings here in SA and nationally. All of which were and are of coarse online.
- I have regular professional supervision and very much appreciate meeting with my Liaison Working Group, a group of people the SSC provides to care and council me
- I have chaired the Strategic Planning Working Group, seeded the creation of a Synod Art Project and been actively involved in the preparation of the Property Review Report.

- I am sure there are a few more? But that sounds like enough for the moment.
- However, it's not what keeps me awake at night? It's not what gets me up in the mornings.
- More significantly for me I have sort to explore and understand the deep mistrust that exists between the different aspects of the Synod here in SA. I understand that it is deeply embedded in the narrative of the church and for some people goes back many years, even prior to union. I often reflect on what I am learning about the church? What do I need to learn that will enable me to support you in your ministry? How can we be faithful servants of Christ when we are distracted by mistrust and memories of painful experience? What are the prophetic voices we need to hear? How do I choose to participate in the life and witness of the church? How do I partner with you to be the transforming presence of Jesus through the many ministries of the church?
- My family roots are well fertilised by SA culture and history, While there have been many formative experiences in my journey, I grew up here and my faith was nurtured and formed by people in this room.
- As I seek to hear how you came to faith, what motivates you, how you articulate your sense of call to be disciples, where is God leading you, what it is you need me to be and do, where we will collaboratively find hope and direction in the coming year, I want to focus your attention on three thoughts.
- On the "Apology" poster you received yesterday is the photo of an extraordinary woman, an indigenous academic, and educator, a teacher linguist, a person of faith, active and involved in her church, called Raymatja Marika. She and I taught together at Yirrkala School in the 1990s. She died too young.

Today we recognise the 13th anniversary of the Apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples:

> **Apology Transcript** - *Prime Minister (Hon Kevin Rudd MP): Mr Speaker, I move that today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.*
> *We reflect on their past mistreatment.*
> *We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations - this blemished chapter in our nation's history.*
> *The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.*
> *We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.*
> *We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.*
> *For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.*

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.
And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.
We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.
For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written.
We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.
A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.
A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.
A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.
A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.
A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

- In your Synod Bag you received the latest copy of New Times. I know that many of you read it, but many more do not. This is a particularly important issue. It seeks to articulate the values and behaviour we are seeking to encourage the Church to live by, to provide safe environments for all people can encounter God, explore and express faith in Christ. Too much of my time and the time of the Synod and Presbytery staff, is spent in resolving issues related to bad behaviour, unsafe councils, leaders with low levels of self-awareness and ill-equipped for complex and difficult conversations. I commend it to you, invite your editorial responses and encourage you to reflect on it in your councils and committees. I also commend the New Times to you and your congregations. Bridget Ransome and the Engagement staff are seeking to work with you and look forward to raising the bar on our communication across the Synod. The focus of the next issue will include some reflection the Synod but the major focus of young people, the journey of faith and experience of the church. Please encourage their involvement. We look forward to that.
- And finally I want to take you back to my presentation of the Shaping our Future - Strategic Priorities.
- The strategic priorities will only work if we are in conversation, if we can imagine ourselves as an effective team, if we are committed to a common purpose.
- The Moderator's theme for our Synod meeting, from Isaiah - God is about to do a new thing: now it springs forth.
- Shaping our Future seeks to hold us together, because together we are the church, collaboratively we are all the Synod and there is a place for each one of us.

STIPENDS- PROPOSAL 9

Brian Hern, Stipends Committee Chairperson, presented the report, including:

The Synod did not meet in 2020 therefore the Synod Standing Committee approved the Minimum Stipend and Allowances for 2021. Mr Hern said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the fundamental operation of our economy. This means we need to be careful about relying on historical metrics". The Ministerial Stipend was not been increased from 1 Jan 2021 however this decision will be reviewed 1 July 2021 by the Synod Standing Committee when an increase of 1.25% may be applied. The accommodation allowance, MBF contribution, motor vehicle allowances, other associated allowances and preaching fees have not increased however they will be reviewed in 2021; the professional development allowance is being reviewed by Placements and Safe Church. The only change in Schedule A for January to June 2021 is the Beneficiary Fund/Superannuation payments, which increase in line with the increase in the notional stipend.

CLERGY COUPLES AND ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE
This proposal seeks to amend the Stipends Handbook so that clergy couples are seen as individuals regardless of whether they are living in their own home or if they are living in a manse. Following an extended discussion on many aspects relating to the Theology of Stipend, the General Secretary reminded members that the National Assembly has embarked on a Review of the Theology of Stipends document. SA will need to have a subsequent conversation around this. In SA our senior leadership roles are stipended which is not the case in all Synods. The SA Synod will need to discuss this when Assembly has met.

S21.09 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. APPROVE the amendment of Section 5 of the Ministerial Stipends and Related Conditions of Placement Handbook as follows:

   5. ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS
   All ministers in placement are entitled to provision of accommodation, whether by provision of an appropriate manse or an accommodation allowance.

   Schedule A.2

   5.3 Clergy Couples
   The entitlement to provision of accommodation, whether by provision of an appropriate manse or an accommodation allowance applies equally to all ministers in placement, irrespective of their marital status or living arrangements.

   Clergy couples who live in their own home, and do so with the approval of the Congregation(s)and Presbytery PRC, will receive a full accommodation allowance each or pro rata if working part time.

In relation to clergy couples who live in a manse, whether both are in placement in the same congregation, or in different congregations, one minister is entitled to receive a full accommodation allowance or pro rata if working part time.

The change to the current arrangements for clergy couples is to be implemented at change of placement.

Any variation to these arrangements is to be determined by Synod Placements Committee in consultation with Presbytery PRC.

2. a. ENDORSE the Assembly's Theology of Stipends document as the basis of understanding for all ministry placements including General Secretary and Associate General Secretary, and

b. ENCOURAGE members of the SA Synod Stipends Committee to advocate for this understanding in the national conversation and

c. ENCOURAGE language in Position Descriptions that clearly place these roles within the Religious Practitioner Category.

Peter Battersby, Executive Officer Resources, acknowledged Brian Hern's 20+ years of service to the Stipends Committee.

PROPERTY REVIEW REPORT

Rev Rob Stoner, Chair, Resources Board, spoke to the Property Review Report, including: Following Working Group discussion and subsequently the Facilitation Group's report, some amendments were made.

PROPOSAL 8 - PROPERTY REVIEW REPORT

S21.10 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. COMMEND the diligent work of the Property Services Team in undertaking the building safety inspections.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the generous and loyal commitment of many people who have contributed to the care and maintenance of congregation properties over many years.

3. RECOGNISE that although the buildings themselves hold special significance for many congregation members the buildings are primarily to be used to progress the mission of God and REQUEST every Church Council in consultation with their congregation to:

a. GIVE ATTENTION urgently and diligently to their Buildings Safety Report.
b. DETERMINE whether the property can be made safe and compliant in order that it might be used for continuing ministry and mission.
c. ACKNOWLEDGE any shortfalls in safety and compliance which cannot be met.
d. WORK with Resources staff of the Synod and their Presbytery to address the issues.

4. RECOGNISE that the Synod does not have the financial capacity to make and keep safe all the properties currently vested in the Property Trust; REQUEST appropriate Synod staff and Presbytery leaders to work with Church Councils in consultation with their congregations to:
   a. DEVELOP financially manageable plans to upgrade congregational property to a safe and compliant standard.
   b. Where such upgrades are not feasible, WORK with congregations on suitable plans for the future of buildings and property.
   c. CREATE opportunities for discussion with surrounding congregations to discover appropriate pathways for future use of buildings and property.
   d. DETERMINE the future of the ministry and mission currently conducted in those buildings.
   e. DEVELOP essential requirements to assist congregations to manage future on-going beneficial use.

5. REQUEST the General Secretary in consultation with the Synod Standing Committee to develop a future-focused strategy (to include the establishment of a working group and an implementation plan) to determine the number and geographic locations of buildings to house vibrant missional communities including a framework to identify potential 'strategic' buildings, working:

   a. collaboratively with appropriate Synod staff and Presbytery leadership; and
   b. interactively with Church Councils in consultation with congregations as they seek to undertake the tasks in (3) and (4) above.

6. REQUEST a report detailing the outcomes of these proposals be presented to the next Synod meeting.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The General Secretary thanked the Facilitation Group for their work and invited members of the Strategic Planning Working Group to speak to the Strategic Priorities and respond to questions, including:

- It is indeed a series of priorities; this is not the Synod telling you what to do; these Priorities before you will enhance what you do; receive the priorities as a form of encouragement; how will be work with these Priorities and complete our Action Plans?
- The Strategic Planning Working Group will be part of the ongoing journey, committing to being available to your committee or congregation to engage in a positive and helpful way. The

Engagement Team are already in the process of developing a Communication Plan. We may produce another video if you think that would help

- A common question is about how the Strategic Priorities will fit with existing Strategic Plans. It is hoped a missional interest already exists in entity Strategic Plans. This is an opportunity to look at the existing Plans and see what's missing. What is the Church saying?
- The hope is that by June we will be able to share the good news of the great things that are happening, to help people get together with shared priorities
- God Bless and Keep Spinning says Rev Andrew Robertson – for cyclists, keep spinning means keep going, you're doing a great job, keep finding a way of finding your flow. Why isn't there a priority about evangelism? The Strategic Planning Working Group had not added evangelism as a priority as it is not seen as optional – it is the proclamation of the Gospel - something we are called to do. It underpins everything.
- Is the Mission Statement reality? Does it need to be reviewed? We need to define the reality we seek and dream for the future - we need to keep proclaiming this. "Growing Church" - we want to proclaim Jesus Christ; Not all congregations are not going to be working towards every priority

A discussion about adding evangelism as the 12th priority concluded with the Strategic Planning Working Group agreeing to add "Evangelism and bringing people to faith in Jesus" as a 12th priority, noting that bringing people to Jesus is a shared foundational focus for all Christians.

The possibility of creating the Strategic Priorities in other languages will be investigated.

PROPOSAL 11 - SYNOD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

S21.11 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. ADOPT the Synod Strategic Priorities by:

    a) AFFIRMING the 12 Strategic Priorities recommended to the Synod by the Strategic Planning Working Group.

    b) REQUESTING congregations, presbyteries, agencies, committees, boards and staff of the Synod to initiate processes to:
        i. Identify at least three Strategic Priorities from the list
        ii. Commence a process that uses the Guiding Principles to help shape Action Plans for the priorities they have identified
        iii. Complete the Action Plan document (also available on the Synod website)
        iv. Forward the Action Plans to the Strategic Planning Working Group to be collated and added to the website prior to the June meeting of the Synod Standing Committee.

2. THANK the Strategic Planning Working Group for the work to complete this report and for their ongoing commitment to the processes of implementation.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE the Strategic Planning Working Group's desire to encourage future meetings of the Synod to share their experiences generated by *'Shaping our Future'*.

4. Add a 12th Strategic Priority around Evangelism and bringing people to faith in Jesus.

FACILITATION GROUP REPORT

Proposal 15 – Date of the next Synod meeting, including:

- Holding a resourcing event was popular with members
- There was considerable enthusiasm for this type of event
- Concern about cost but comfortable with charging a fee
- There was some warmth to opening the event to other people (not just for Synod members)
- There was support for the next Synod meeting to be held in June 2022
- We are not in a place to plan beyond that date
- City based groups with online or regional hub gatherings was suggested

Proposal 13 – UntingCare SA

There was a strong affirmation from members to retain a connection with the wider community through UnitingCare organisation noting UnitingCare Wesley Bowden has been waiting since December 2019 for a decisions.

Proposal 10 – Membership of Synod

- There was strong and clear support for using the proportional basis method however members couldn't agree on what proportional basis should be used
- There was support for a separate category for the MOP roles however not all MOP roles are equal, e.g. some are approved placements, some serving in a minimal ministry role
- The complexities around Synod membership were not fully understood by all members
- It was unlikely the Synod could agree on a way forward in a large gathering
- It was suggested that the Presbytery Office Bearers and Synod Leaders Meeting may be a more suitable place for this discussion.

The Facilitation Group brought the following proposal.

PROPOSAL 16 (previously Proposal 10) - MEMBERSHIP OF SYNOD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

S21.12 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. REFER the issues relating to Synod membership to a Synod Standing Committee appointed Task Group in consultation with Presbytery leaders.

2. PROVIDE Working Group Feedback Sheets relating to Proposal 16 (previously Proposal 10) as a resource to the appointed Task Group.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

The Ex Moderator, Rev Sue Ellis, took the Chair to allow the Moderator to give his report.
The Moderator, Bronte Wilson, said, "There are a number of things I'd like to talk about", including:

- The enjoyment in visiting congregations, urban and rural and hearing your joys and struggles
- Topical matters; the legislation before Parliament; entered into discussions on behalf of the Church
- God is the God of love for all, supporting the marginalised and down trodden. Not only here in SA is there a divergence of views, e.g. Voluntary Assisted Dying. The Church advocated on Black deaths in custody and nuclear waste repositories
- Not only the Uniting Church – the SACC can advocate for all churches
- Appreciated the support of his Chaplains, his Support Group, Synod staff, contact and feedback from all Synod members, in matters relevant to the whole church.

The Moderator returned to the Chair.

UNITINGCARE SA

Members considered the Proposal again during question time, including:

- Reaffirm the ministry.
- Some people who work for organisations don't know they are part of the Uniting Church.
- Who we are, what are values are - education process.
- 2 Uniting Church people on each Board? One person is a strategic multiplier?
- Board member's loyalty is to the organisation because of the Incorporations Act however they can espouse our values.
- We need to ensure our Board members are trained.
- UCWB prefers a smaller professional skill based board.
- It may be harder in the next 10 years to provide skilled Board members – plan towards it – natural attrition will reduce membership to one person, not for all, but for some.
- Theologically trained ministers help Boards to think theologically and are ethics based.
- Where is the UAICC in this process – it is important to have a space for a Congress person.
- A revised MOU is need to include Synod members' responses.

PROPOSAL 13 - UNITINGCARE SA

S21.13 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

That the Synod of SA has considered the request from the UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. and in keeping with the valued relationships we have with our organisations has made the following decisions:

1. We AFFIRM the work of UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc and thank them for their commitment to our South Australian community.

2. WE REDUCE the requirement for two members of UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. (UCWB) Board to be members of the Uniting Church to at least one member.

3. We REQUEST a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Uniting Church Synod of South Australia and UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. be prepared following consultation between both parties and the UAICC, and that the Moderator and General Secretary be authorised to approve and sign the document on behalf of the Synod of SA.

4. We continue to HOLD our responsibilities:
   a) as the Appointing Authority to the UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Inc. (UCWB) Board.
   b) to approve changes to the UCWB Rules and Regulations, and
   c) to determine the distribution of assets upon the winding up of UCWB.

PROPOSAL 15 - FUTURE SYNOD MEETING

The Moderator presented Proposal 15 (previously proposal 2)

S21.14 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

DETERMINE that:

a. A Synod resourcing event be held in October 2021, with attendance not restricted to Synod membership, on a date and location to be determined by the Synod Standing Committee.

b. A meeting of the council of Synod in session be held in June 2022, on a date and location to be determined by the Synod Standing Committee.

c. Synod Standing Committee may amend the terms for those appointments to Synod boards or committees which for legal or compliance reasons have relied on an annual Synod meeting being held in November 2021.

Note that a special meeting of the Synod in session may be called by the Synod Standing Committee to deal with matters between meetings of the Synod in session, as required.

BALLOT RESULTS

The results of the elections (with the exception of the membership of Assembly) were displayed. Assembly membership was still to be determined - members to be notified in due course.

See the 2021 Synod Decisions Document for a full list of elections and appointments, approved by the Synod Standing Committee on 10th March 2021 and, following the Synod Standing Committee meeting 9 April 2021, the confirmed 2021 Synod Meeting Minutes, to include the ballot results as approved by the Synod Standing Committee.

CLOSING SERVICE

- The Moderator and General Secretary led the meeting in Holy Communion, shared through pre-packaged elements.
- Rev Jenni Hughes and Ann Phillips – Bible reading - Mark 1:9-15
- The Moderator's Chaplains thanked all the people involved in this Synod event with a special thank you to Adelaide West congregation for their hospitality, to Working Groups and for the many prayers.
- Alice Kroker – Bible reading - Isaiah 43:1-4a, 18-21 - I am about to do a new thing...
- The Moderator's closing message included:

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert...for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."

These words are comfort for us in a time of despair.
These words are hope for us in a time of uncertainty.
These words bring the promise of God who calls us by name,
who is with us in the floods and fires and lonely times of our lives,
and who continues to walk beside us,
bringing us into the promised kingdom that is to come.

As our Basis of Union reminds us...we are a pilgrim people, and we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation
of all things which he will bring.

The kingdom of God has come near.
The kingdom of God is here.
In our midst, in this place.
With us, in us, *through* us.
God is making all things new.

About...',
God says.
'I'm about to do a new thing.'
Let's be open and ready,
willing and waiting!

The Moderator closed the meeting of the 2021 Synod with the benediction:
As we go from this place to be the church,
may we listen to God's deep wisdom
may we show Christ's self-giving love
and may we be open to the Spirit amongst us,
as new things spring forth.