

Synod 22



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia
24 & 25 June 2022

FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022

SESSION 1

Worship leader Rev Jenni Hughes introduced Ivan- Tiwu Copley O.A.M. and welcomed him.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY BY IVAN COPLEY

Ivan taught the meeting some of the history of the people of this land and acknowledged that the meeting was coming together on the traditional land of the Peramangk people of the Adelaide Hills. A place of a living culture of the First Nations people of this area. The Welcome to Country is important for many reasons including this being a pathway to talk and weave together all people's lives.

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader: Rev Ann Phillips

The members were asked to contemplate the beautiful view from the windows of the conference room and to connect with and acknowledge the presence of God with us at this time during the songs and prayers.

In a pre-prepared video Rev Dr Denise Champion expressed her disappointment that she could not be with the Synod members in person. Denise spoke on finding ways to connect with different parts of the Church. And in doing so to worship in multiple languages. "Come and gather and sit together" is the translation of some of the words sung in language in the song "Sing to the Most High."

Yanakanai

Yanakanai, yanakanai,
yanakanai wimilangha ikapala. (repeat)
Arrawatanha, Arrawatanha,
Arrawatanha ngarpalangha ikandha. (repeat)
Come, come,
come, gather we will sit together. (repeat)

Translation from Adnyamathanha to English:

Yankakanai – come
wimilangha ikapala – we will sit together in the gathering.
Arrawatanha – Most high.
Ngarpalangha ikandha - is present here.

Rev Dr Denise Champion and Rev Jennifer Hughes (Used with permission).

Members were called upon to sing the song as a community.

John 15: 1-8 was read by Isaac Prior. This was followed by an invitation to reflect in table groups or individually on the following questions

- How might this Scripture speak to us about our relationship with God?
- How might this Scripture speak to us about our relationships with others?
- How might this Scripture speak to us as the church today?

Song: God is here today:

Prayer: Blessing for the day ahead

BUSINESS SESSION

Rev Sue Ellis (Acting Moderator) opened the business with an acknowledgement of Country. A statement from Bronte Wilson (Moderator), regarding his absence due to being on sick leave, was read. Prayer was offered.

It was agreed that for the purposes of the meeting Rev Sue Ellis would be referred to as Moderator and Rev Sue Page as General Secretary.

The Moderator welcomed and recognised:

- President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Rev Sharon Hollis
- Assembly General Secretary, Ms Colleen Geyer
- All members of the Synod including new members

Proposal 1 PROCEDURAL

S22.01 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 24-25 June 2022 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 listed on the roll present at the meeting 11:00am on Friday 24 June 2022.
6. DEFINE the boundaries of the house to be the upper level conference room at the Adelaide Hills Conference Centre.
7. ADOPT the Hours of Session as listed hereunder:

At Adelaide Hills Convention Centre:

Sessions 1 - 4	Friday 24 June	9:15am – 5:30pm
Sessions 5 – 8	Saturday 25 June	9:30am – 5:30pm

8. APPOINT the following officers for this Synod meeting:

- a. Assistant Secretaries: Rev Dr Benji Callen, Michelle Harris
- b. Minute Secretaries: Gill Morel
- c. Chief Scrutineer: Anne Wilson
- Ballot Scrutineers: Peter Wilson
- d. Chaplains: Rev Linda Forsyth, Rev Matt Carratt
- e. Business Committee: Bronte Wilson, Rev Sue Page, Rev Dr Benji Callen, Michelle Harris, Malcolm Wilson

f. Facilitation Team: Rev Diane Bury, Rev Naomi Duke, Margaret Davidson, Rev Nick Patselis, Leanne Davis, Scott Davis

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:

David Bailey Matt Wilson Rod Dyson

10. Co-opt the following people to membership of the Synod:

Anton van Bavel
Malcolm Wilson (Event Manager)

11. 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 3pm on Thursday 19 May 2022 (in an order decided by the Business Committee).
- c. All others (in an order decided by the Business Committee).

12. ADOPT the following procedure in respect of ballots:

- a. Note that nominations for all councils, committees and boards will close at 4.00pm on Friday 24th June 2022,
- 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.

13. 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.

Conclusion of Rev Felicity Amery (Deacon) as General Secretary

The Moderator, Rev Sue Ellis, vacated the chair for a discussion regarding the conclusion of Rev Felicity Amery (Deacon) as General Secretary. Past Moderator, Deidre Palmer, took the Chair. It was noted that a statement had been sent out to the Synod in the previous week regarding the conclusion of the placement of Rev Felicity Amery as General Secretary.

It was agreed that the meeting move to a private sitting.

The meeting returned to a general session. Deidre offered prayers for all concerned.

Proposal 3 IN MEMORIAM

The Moderator invited members to stand in silence to remember those who have died since the 2021 Synod meeting.

S22.02 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 2021 Meeting of the Synod, and in gratitude to God for their contribution to the ministry and mission of the Uniting Church:

Rev Neeltje Elisabeth van Dyk
Rev William Robert Maitland Dow
Rev Douglas Walter (Bill) Hancock
Philip Eugene Houston (Lay Pastor)
Rev Dr Ian Ross McKenzie Parsons
Rev William Thomas Rothwell
Rev Bryan Malcolm Young

FORMALLY RECOGNISE the extensive number of people who have faithfully offered lay leadership and who have died since the 2021 Meeting of the Synod.

ASSEMBLY REPORT

Rev Sharon Hollis (National Assembly President) and Colleen Geyer (National Assembly General Secretary) co-presented an Assembly Report. They reiterated it was a privilege for them to be in attendance at the Synod of South Australia meeting. They also paid their respects to past and present Peramangk people and acknowledged all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present at the meeting. It was also acknowledged we have not lived out the covenant and seek to recommit ourselves to do so.

Highlights from the re-convened Assembly Meeting included:

- Act2
- Climate Change
- Congress
- Aged Care Advocacy
- Proposals around changes to Section 5 of the Regulations.
- Education and Formation
- Gender based violence 'Thursdays in Black' campaign / Development of family and domestic violence resources
- National Insurance Program
- Resources for special times within the Uniting Church

- Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday.
- Continuing witness
- Uniting World, Uniting Care Australia and Frontier Services.
- Covenant Action Plan
- UCA redress LTD, National Safe Church Unit
- 30th anniversary of the Diaconate

Overall emphasis was placed on the work that needs to be done to challenge, renew and strengthen the faith of the Uniting Church in Australia.

45TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UCA CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP

Rev Cheryl Wilson led the gathering in celebration and worship.

Prayer: For the Church in both the difficulty and when hearts are heavy balanced with a sense of hope as we consider where God might be leading us.

As an act of Worship Members were asked to write their prayers for the Church, and for each other, on strips of coloured paper. During the singing these were joined together to form paper chains, linking the prayers and connecting each other as the people of God.

Song: In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful

Responsive Litany for the Uniting Church

Song: God the Father, Son and Spirit

FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022

SESSION 2

Introduction to reports and proposals for working groups

The authors of the reports listed below presented an overview introduction to their reports. In this session questions were for clarification only. The Synod would discuss the proposals in table groups in subsequent sessions with a facilitation team to consider the feedback sheets.

Presbytery Restructure Review Report (S1.4) introduction - Proposal 5

Presentation by members of Task Group: Rev Sue Ellis, Rev Christine Manning, Michael McLaren, Anton van Bavel and Rev Sue Page

The Presentation included the following:

- The impact on the presbytery restructure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Community life has been lived on screens, the grief of this period was acknowledged, understanding that the Body of Christ still went out in word and deed in all presbyteries.

- The proposals to affirm the people of God in presbyteries were heart-felt. Mission Resourcing received increased support as churches sought new ways of operating.
- Resourcing - picks up on two tasks - the challenge of resourcing and to also consider the effectiveness of the funding model.
- There were different pathways to presbytery formation and different responses to this however certain things were in common with all presbyteries:
- Presbyteries looked for new ways of doing mission as well as continuing to embrace some of the old ways. In particular the report noted:
 - Lack of Uniting Church knowledge
 - Leadership shortfalls
 - Leadership meetings
 - Property reports and their consequences
 - CRM and privacy concerns
 - Funding of Mission Resourcing
 - Workload and shared responsibilities.

Introduction of Strategy & Planning Mission & Property report S1.11 (Proposal 10)

The Working Group Members had included: Rev Felicity Amery (General Secretary and Chair); Craig Bailey (Theological Reflector); Rev Linda Forsyth (Mission Planning, Rural); Ashlee Littleford (Mission Planning, Urban); Susan Burt (Strategic Thinking); Ken Sumner (UAICC); Rev Do Young Kim (CALD); Peter Battersby (Financial Management); David Bailey (Property Planner); Rev Sue Page (Chair).

This working group and its report emanated from the February 2021 meeting of the Synod of SA, the Chair of the Resources Board, Rev Rob Stoner and the General Secretary, Rev Felicity Amery when they presented a property report 'God's Church and its Buildings - Are they Fit for Mission?' The two tasks of the current working group are:

- To develop a future focussed strategy and to determine the number and geographic locations of buildings to house vibrant missional communities.
- What is it to be vibrant and missional with regard our properties. The Proposal had been discussed with presbyteries.

Alternative Missional use of Property (Proposal 11)

Presenters: Rev Mike Wardrop and Rev Dianne Holden

Mike and Dianne spoke to the practical and theological elements of Missional use of Property.

Primary aim for this proposal is to invite congregations with buildings who may be facing decline for a variety of reasons to consider a relationship with another church by inviting them into the space.

Second aim is to be honest about our mission and to give the resources board along with the Presbyteries capacity to make the tough decisions about beneficial use of buildings. Ezra 3:12-14

Professional Development Review report S1.11 (Proposal 4)

Task Group: Rev Philip Gardner, Rev Steph Tai and Leanne Davis

A few years ago (pre Covid!) a Survey of Ministers, was undertaken to seek how they used their professional development allowance. From this, a group agreed to do further work. It appears some Ministers are not aware that they are accountable to their Church Council for their professional development and the council had a right to respond to their professional development.

Conversely, some Church Councils are not well equipped for these conversations. The questions raised are; How can we creatively resource Ministers in their professional development? How do we utilise scholarships, courses at the college and how do we improve professional development opportunities for Ministers?

MediaCom Education

MediaCom provided a brief presentation regarding their resources.

Roman Catholic Uniting Church Dialogue Group

Rev John Hughes presented some information on the Roman Catholic Uniting Church Dialogue Group and the resource 'Crying Out'. This resource explores the Statement of the Heart and care for the environment.

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SESSION 3 – Table Groups

The Synod met in Table Groups to consider the following reports – Feedback sheets were given to a Facilitation group who would bring the responses and recommendations on Saturday.

- Presbytery Restructure Review Report
- Strategy & Planning Mission & Property report
- Alternative Missional use of Property
- Professional Development Review report

FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022

SESSION 4

Proposal 12: FAITH COMMUNITIES BENEFICIAL USE - WITHDRAWN

After a conversation with the proposers it was decided that this matter will be dealt with in a different way.

Proposal 6: FORMATION PANELS FOR DEACONS

S22.03 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

REQUEST Uniting College for Leadership and Theology and the Mission Leadership Development Board to ensure the formation panels of Deacon Candidates always contain at least one ordained Deacon.

Proposal 9: JUSTICE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Held over to Saturday 25th June 2022 due to time constraints

UAIICC REPORT S2.11

Presenters: Rev Ken Sumner, Ian Dempster and Pastor Julia Lennon

Rev Ken Sumner (Supply State Development & Outreach Officer, UAIICC) provided a verbal report advising that this has been another year of change with Congress in SA. Highlights have been the development of the MOU with the Presbyteries, the Standing Committee approving Congress having the Powers of a Presbytery, the employment of the Theologian in Residence at Yarthu Apinthi, and the approval of the church building plans for Oodnadatta.

Ken particularly gave thanks to the work of staff within the UAIICC.

Ian Dempster introduced Julia and spoke of her two ministry positions, one as the only first nations bush chaplain and the other as Pastor at Oodnadatta. Julia told her journeying story and of God at work in the Community.

Rev Ken Sumner spoke about the MOU between the Presbyteries and Synod not being signed today as UAIICC had entered a period of mourning due to conclusion of placement of Rev Felicity Amery. It was right and proper that the MOU would be signed in a period of celebration.

WORSHIP

Rev Denise Champion via pre prepared video brought a second teaching moment. She continued on the Theme of different parts of the Church sitting with each other, together hearing/listening the voice of God in creation, learning about each other, and working together.

The Connecting Ancestors Retreat 21-23 October at Moonta is one of the ways to experience exploring faith together.

Song: Beneath the Southern Cross

John 15:9-17 was read by Pastor Julia Lennon.

The MOU between the UAIICC, Presbyteries and Worship that was to be signed at this time has been postponed.

President Sharon Hollis was asked to lead the prayer for the South Australian Synod and for Congress.
Final song: *For You, Deep Stillness*

SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2022

SESSION 5

WELCOME – WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

Opening Song: Yanakanai

Opening Prayer: Rev Ann Phillips

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-17

Rev Do Young Kim read in Korean, Rev Lawrie Linggood read in English.

The Presbyterian Church of Korea sent greetings via video. Sangtak Lee from the Iksan Presbytery spoke about the ongoing relationship in which missional stories had been shared. This partnership transcends borders, cultures and languages. Together we are working to further the Kingdom of God. There is an excitement around the visitation of members of the SA Synod to join in the celebration for the 30 years partnership anniversary later in the year.

Prayer: For our Korean partners, churches of the city and country and for each other.

Song: Spirit Brooding

Bible Study: A Contemplation by Tim Littleford

Tim's contemplation was underpinned by the concept that, in life's journey, landscapes are often changing. In light of a changing, or changed, landscape how do we respond to the new challenges we face? Tim reflected on the way in which we have shaped our ministries around a particular landscape, however we are now being confronted with the need to develop different approaches in shaping the ministries of the Uniting Church. In essence there is a sense in which it is as though we are moving from an 'old era' of being the Uniting Church to a 'new era' which requires us to change and adapt in order to respond to a new landscape.

Tim spoke of the challenges we face as a denomination as well as the potential costs if we do not make necessary changes. That is, we risk further decline if we refuse to adapt or change. He also reflected, and asked, a number of questions about the difficulties we face when being faced with the reality of any change.

Lastly, this contemplation discussed the paralysing nature of anxiety we may experience in the midst of change. Tim's reflections included the importance of becoming a non-anxious presence, and that we have a God who is 'not anxious'. Tim encouraged the Synod to respond with a recognition of, and ability to pray within, God's non-anxious presence as we move forward with hope.

Tim concluded by inviting the Synod to pray with him the following prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, pour out your presence on us. Calm our anxiety and our fear. We cast all of them onto you in Jesus name, and ask you to lead, to show us the way forward. Fill us with your peace that transcends all understanding. Guard our hearts and minds, Renew our hearts and minds, and renew our church. We trust you. We ask this in your authority, Jesus, Amen.

Moderator Nominating Committee Report and Moderator Elect Ballot

Mr Malcolm Wilson, Convenor of the Committee, spoke to his report expressing his thanks to the Committee and all with two nominees being brought to the meeting today. Each of the nominees, Rev Linda Driver and Rev Peter Morel spoke to the meeting with their vision for the role of Moderator in SA. An electronic ballot for the Moderator elect followed. Due to technical difficulties the electronic ballot was declared null and void. Ballot papers were subsequently distributed.

In accordance with nominations received and the result of the election, the Chief Scrutineer Mrs Anne Wilson, RECOMMENDS that the Synod DECLARE Rev Peter Morel as elected "Moderator elect".

Rev Morel expressed his thanks to all for the privilege of being able to enter into this new phase of Ministry. He realises he is on a steep learning curve and sincerely thanked his family, the Synod, congregations and acknowledged Rev Linda Driver for her gifts and skills.

SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2022

SESSION 6

The Facilitation Team provided a summary of discussions which were undertaken by the working groups. A range of feedback, comments and perspectives were presented in relation to the following Proposals:

- Proposal 5: Presbytery Restructure Review Strategy and Planning
- Proposal 10: Strategy and Planning Mission and Property
- Proposal 11: Alternative Missional use of Property
- Proposal 4: Professional Development Review

The Facilitation Team were thanked for their contribution and the meeting then moved into the deliberative process for proposals.

Proposal 4: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

It was AGREED (by agreement) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

S22.04 ASK Rev Philip Gardner EO Placements and Safe Church to set up a Task Group to oversee the strengthening and oversight of Professional Development in the Synod of SA.

Proposal 10: STRATEGY AND PLANNING (MISSION & PROPERTY) WORKING GROUP

S22.05 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. RECEIVE the Report of the Strategy and Planning (Mission & Property) Working Group.
2. RECOGNISE the Report has been discussed with the Presbyteries leaders and Synod Standing Committee in its preparation.
3. REQUEST Congregations and Faith Communities to continue to actively work with their Presbyteries to collect and collate information to assist the Working Group to map vibrant missional communities, encompassing:
4. APPROVE the preparation of a Draft Property Strategy, including 'maps' that identify the number and geographical location of missionally vibrant and viable communities
5. REQUEST the Strategy and Planning (Mission and Property) Working Group present the Draft Property Strategy Report to the June Synod meeting in 2023.
6. REQUEST the General Secretary to:
 - a. Progress the proposals approved by the Synod with appropriate ongoing work of the Strategy and Planning (Mission and Property) Working Group.
 - b. Regularly update the Synod Standing Committee and Presbytery and Synod Leaders and relevant Congregations.
 - c. Provide regular communication updates to the Synod with the help of the Engagement Ministry Team to ensure accurate information is being shared across the church.

Proposal 5: PRESBYTERY RESTRUCTURE REVIEW STRATEGY AND PLANNING

S22.06 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. CONGRATULATE the Presbyteries for their commitment to the restructure and for the significant achievements made in establishing and working as Presbyteries amid the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic and the many challenges faced.

2. AFFIRM the current structures of three Presbyteries and the cooperative working relationships established:
 - a) with the South Australian Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and their congregations
 - b) between Presbyteries and the Synod through Joint Leadership meetings, and meetings with Treasurers and Financial officers of the Synod
 - c) across Presbyteries and between congregations across Presbyteries
3. a) AFFIRM the current funding model in meeting the transition to the Presbytery structures.
b) Conduct a review of the funding model including new funding sources and bring a report to the 2024 Synod meeting *By agreement*
4. RECOGNISING the mandated roles of each council of the Church:-
REQUEST the Synod Standing Committee to appoint a task group with membership from across the breadth of the Synod to review the operations and function of the Synod, in the light of the changed circumstances brought about by the restructure into Presbyteries.
5. CONTINUE the dialogue about delegations from Presbyteries to the Synod be continued, such that essential functions of the Church are performed by the Council of the Church best equipped to handle them and that recognition be given to those delegations already occurring between the Synod and individual Presbyteries where this is effective and necessary.
6. REQUEST the Joint Presbytery and Synod Leader's meeting give consideration to exploring the makeup and recruitment for the committees of the Synod, and Presbyteries.
7. REQUEST the Mission and Leadership Development Board:
 - a) give consideration to new educational offerings that would equip people for leadership in governance and other committee work of Presbyteries and the Synod.
 - b) consider ways in which the whole Synod membership might be equipped with greater knowledge of the Uniting Church and its missional purpose as a reformed evangelical church.

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SESSION 7

Proposal 14: ALTERNATIVE MISSIONAL USE OF PROPERTIES

S22.08 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

Refer the ideas raised in Proposal 11, particularly that of the value of encouraging conversation about beneficial use between congregations and across Presbyteries, as well as comments via the Facilitation Team and on the floor of Synod, to the Strategy and Planning (Mission and Property) Working Group.

Proposal 13: SENIORS MINISTRY

S22.09 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

- a) AFFIRM the role of the older members in its congregations and their communities;
- b) AFFIRM Proposal 37 of the 16th Assembly regarding Ageing and Aged Care; and.
- c) REQUEST the General Secretary to create a Seniors ministry unit within the Mission Resourcing Team, which will include the Uniting Church Fellowships and Mission Support (UCFAMS) ministry group including the position of Secretary and Treasurer (0.4FTE).

Proposal 2: FUTURE SYNOD MEETING

S22.10 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

DETERMINE that:

- a) The next Synod meeting be held in June 2023 at a location to be determined by Synod Standing Committee in consultation with Synod Business Committee.
- b) The term of membership of synod boards, committees and councils with an end date in the last quarter of 2022 be extended to June 2023.
- c) The term of membership of synod boards, committees and councils with an end date of February 2024 be extended to June 2024.
- d) Set an annual cycle of meetings to be held in June each year.

SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2022

SESSION 8

Proposal 9: JUSTICE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

S22.11 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. ENDORSE the document Priorities for Change authored by Justice for Refugees SA and commend it to members, congregations, associated organisations and agencies in the Synod of SA in their advocacy for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.
2. REQUEST the Moderator write to representatives of the Commonwealth Government to call on the government to:
 - a) replace Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV) visas with permanent visas;
 - b) give the same access to tertiary education for refugees and people seeking asylum as is given to Australian citizens;
 - c) immediately increase Australia's humanitarian, family reunion and refugee intake to 20,000 with annual increases until 35,000, as well as increasing the intake from Afghanistan to 25,000 excluding the current 449 visa holders here in Australia;
 - d) give urgent priority to processing the immediate family cases of boat arrivals
 - e) end indefinite offshore processing and instead processes all people seeking asylum onshore fairly and quickly in line with its responsibilities under the Refugee Convention.
3. REQUEST the Moderator WRITE to, the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs to inform them of this resolution.
4. COMMIT itself and call on members, congregations, organisations associated with the UCA, and agencies of the Synod to:
 - a) continue to provide practical care and support to asylum seekers and refugees in the community and in detention centres as appropriate and where possible;
 - b) continue to advocate for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees using 'Priorities for Change' and 'A Welcoming, Compassionate and Diverse Nation' in the Uniting Church Assembly statement Our Vision for a Just Australia.
 - c) engage and communicate with their local federal members to inform them of the Uniting Church's vision for a Just Australia and to remind them that the Uniting Church seeks a compassionate nation, where every person who seeks refuge here is treated fairly and made to feel welcome and safe –regardless of their country of origin or mode of arrival.

Proposal 7: SYNOD ACTION PLAN FOR BECOMING; A CALD AND INTERCULTURAL CHURCH: 2022-2025

S22.12 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. ENDORSE 'Ten Recommendations in Synod Action Plan for Becoming a Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Intercultural Church:2022-2025' (Appendix I) and encourage Synod boards, committees, relevant Ministry Centres, presbyteries, congregations, organisations associated with the UCA, and agencies to implement its relevant recommendations and shape their own action plans.
2. ACKNOWLEDGE the 16th Assembly resolution on "Moving forward in Being a Multicultural Church," (Appendix II) including adopting the 3rd Sunday in July (or another date best suited to the local setting) as an 'Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday', to celebrate UCA being a Multicultural Church and to create an opportunity for congregations and faith communities to connect and build relationships with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in their neighbourhoods. This Sunday is to replace One Great Sunday of Sharing*.
3. REQUEST Synod Placements Committee in consultation with Presbytery Pastoral Relation Committees and UAICC to review and revise the Minister Leadership Profile Form and Congregation Placement Profile to reflect the ethos and characteristics expressed in *We Are A Multicultural Church* (4th Assembly, 1985), *A Church For All God's People* (11th Assembly, 2006) and *One Body Many Members: Living faith and life cross culturally* (13th Assembly, 2012).
4. REQUEST Presbytery Pastoral Relation Committees to review and revise PROTOCOLS FOR APPLYING TO BE A FAITH COMMUNITY (2013, Appendix III) to be simpler and fostering CALD participation and integration.

Proposal 8: SYNOD CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

S22.13 It was AGREED (by consensus) that the Synod of SA resolve to:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE that caring for God's creation should be a guiding principle through which all strategic priorities for the Uniting Church Synod of SA pass during the period 2021-2025 and beyond. This affirms a resolution of the annual meeting of the South Australian Synod in February 2021.
2. AFFIRM the National Climate Action Plan of the Uniting Church in Australia and ADOPT the SA Synod Climate Action plan (Appendix 1) with an aim to become a net zero emissions church by 2040.

3. REQUEST the Synod Standing Committee to establish a Synod Climate Action Working Group in consultation with the UAIICC, the Environmental Action Group and relevant Synod bodies to facilitate the development, implementation and monitoring of the Synod Climate Action Plan over three years initially.
4. REQUEST Synod Resources Board to shift investments from unsustainable industries, such as fossil fuels and request the Ethical Investment Working Group to recommend options for further investment in renewable energy companies to the Resources Board.

DECLARATION OF BALLOTS

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

Mr Jacob Blackwell	Mr Scott Davis	Rev Andrew Robertson
Rev Dianne Bury	Mr Bruce Ind	Mr Andrew Telfer
Mr David Buxton	Mrs Elizabeth Iussa	Rev Nathan Whillas
Rev Dr Benji Callen	Rev Christa Megaw	
Mrs Leanne Davis	Rev Ann Phillips	

Declaration of the following Ballots would occur post meeting

- Parkin Mission Parkin Trust Governors
- Synod Placements Committee Chairperson
- Synod Covenanting Committee
- Synod Committee for Counselling

STATEMENT FROM UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sean Weetra, Chair of Regional Council on behalf of the UAIICC in South Australia advised that in regards to the signing of the MOUs with the Presbyteries, Congress were ready to sign but not willing to at this point in time. Congress had entered a period of mourning due to the conclusion of placement of Rev Felicity Amery. This was a moment of deep sadness. The MOU needs to be, and would be, signed in a period of joy and celebration.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Song: In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful

John 17 5:7-8 read by Kate Morgan

A Contemplation was read by Rev Sue Ellis

Song: God is Here Today

Communion Liturgy

Song: Spirit Brooding

Closing Prayer