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## Property Trust Committee

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Chairperson	Rev Raymond Clee
Moderator	Rev Steve Francis
Property Officer	Robert Locke
Membership	Rev Brian Carey Thomas Stokes Michael Hodgkin Paula Harkness

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Clare Ligtermoet (Property Services Assistant) has continued to provide valued administrative support as Minutes Secretary.

Rev Brian Carey is retiring having served ten years on the Trust. Brian has been a very active Trustee and has worked on bequests and provided a detailed comparison of the different Trust arrangements in the Synods. The latter been particularly useful in understanding why other Synods such as Vic/Tas may be moving towards incorporating all Uniting Church activities under one legal entity.

The Property Trust provides the legal authority for all administrative actions of the Uniting Church in Western Australia.

The Trust delegates to the Property Officer (now the General Manager, Resources) many of the routine matters that require the legal authority of the Trust to proceed.

Major items such as land transfers, property leases and mortgage documents are required to be made under seal, and signed by two members of the Trust. Non-staff Trust members are rostered for signing each Wednesday to ensure that documents arising from Church Councils and other church bodies are progressed promptly.

All these are reviewed at Trust meetings. Other items reviewed include any litigation and governance issues in the wider church.

Under the Act, church agencies and schools may be separately incorporated under Synod bylaws. While this does enable these bodies to “get on with the job” the Trust is aware that the actions of these bodies reflect on the public perception of the Uniting Church and seeks to maintain close relationships between the senior staff of these organisations and the Synod. Work to ensure clarity of the powers and responsibilities of incorporated bodies is continuing with UnitingCare Forum and the Church Law Committee. Revised bylaws for Juniper were approved by the 2015 Synod.

The Trust works closely with the Resources Board to which it provides two members. Other Trustees are active on the committees of the Resources Board and other Uniting Church bodies.

The Trust wishes to diversify its membership to more closely reflect the rich diversity of the Uniting Church. We are currently seeking two new members.

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