

Proposal 13

STANDING COMMITTEE

That the Synod:

- I. Receives the following proposed new and amended By Laws for Synod for enactment at the rising of the meeting of the WA Presbytery on 5 November 2016:
 - 1.1 Introduction
 - 1.2 Enactment, Amendment and Repeal of By Laws
 - 1.3 Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (W.A.)
 - 2.1 Membership of the Synod
 - 2.2 Synod Meetings
 - 2.3 Election of Synod Bodies
 - 2.4 Ecumenical Affairs Commission
 - 2.5 Social Justice Commission
 - 2.6 Uniting World WA
 - 2.12 Uniting Church Resources Commission and Resources Division
 - 3.1 Placements commission
 - 3.4 Covenanting Commission
 - 3.5 Ministerial Benefits Commission
 - 4.3 Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
 - 5.2 Standing Committee
 - 5.3 Business Committee
 - 5.4 Nominating Committee
 - 5.5 Church Law Committee
 - 6.2 Moderator
 - 6.3 General Secretary
 - 7.5 Ministerial Support Fund
2. Resumes its responsibility for placements as required by the Regulations (Reg 3.7.4.2) with effect from the rising of Presbytery on 5 November 2016.
3. Determines that the Moderator and General Secretary will no longer be joint positions with the Presbytery of Western Australia with effect from the rising of Presbytery on 5 November 2016.



4. Determines that membership of all bodies included in Parts 1- 6 of existing By Laws and Rules continue until the rising of the WA Presbytery on 5 November 2016, including those members who might have reached the ten year limit of service.
5. Authorise the Standing Committee to
 - a) approve changes in the By Laws for the agencies and schools and colleges for the name change from General Council to Synod Standing Committee and any other consequential changes.
 - b) make any consequential grammatical and punctuation changes as needed in the new bylaws.

Rationale

At the 39th Western Australian Synod Meeting held on 12-13 September 2015, it was agreed to establish a new Presbytery for the purpose of the work of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress in Western Australia. It was further agreed that the Standing Committee establish the appropriate By-Laws and Rules, on the advice of the Church Law Committee, to facilitate the intent of the Synod in establishing a Congress Presbytery.

The National Congress of UAICC requested that the decision to establish a Congress Presbytery be postponed until such time at the National Congress advises that the matters dealt with in their report to the Regional Committee of Congress have been addressed. This was reported at the May meeting of Presbytery, confirmed by General Council and Standing Committee and will be formalised in Proposal 4 at this Synod meeting.

Standing Committee, following decisions made at a joint retreat of General Council and Standing Committee in November 2015, have nonetheless proceeded to amend the By Laws (and eventually the Presbytery Rules) in anticipation of the eventual formation of a Congress and/or another Presbytery.

Consequential to this is the requirement for Synod to resume responsibility for placements as required by the regulations and for the Moderator and General Secretary to no longer hold joint positions with the Presbytery of Western Australia.

Given the complexity of separating several Joint Synod/Presbytery bodies, and the need for simultaneous enactment the new By Laws (for Synod) and Rules (for Presbytery) these changes are proposed to come into effect at the rising of the WA Presbytery Meeting on 5 November 2016.

For the same reasons, it is proposed that membership of all Synod and Presbytery bodies continue (except in the case of resignations or death) until the rising of the WA Presbytery Meeting on 5 November 2016.

The Church Law Committee have reviewed all the proposed By Laws and have confirmed compliance with By Law 1.2 Enactment, Amendment and Repeal of By Laws

Mover: Rev David de Kock
Seconder: Rev Lorraine Stokes

