

PROPOSAL 5

New CEDAL Placements

That the Presbytery of Western Australia:

request the Presbytery Standing Committee and Placements Commission to act urgently to enable the appointment of new placements within Perth Theological Hall as requested by CEDAL in order to implement the new directions.

Rationale

Moving ahead to implement the new directions in theological education has not been easy. The main problem has been a significant shortage of placements available to implement the new directions. At the beginning of 2015 CEDAL had 7 staff or placements (4.8 Full Time Equivalent). Due to resignations and retirements by the end of 2016 this was reduced to 3 staff or placements (1.8 Full Time Equivalent). The loss of the equivalent of 3 full-time people left CEDAL seriously understaffed and unable to provide the educational services the church required, a matter which CEDAL has reported to Presbytery on several occasions.

This is particularly an issue as the review last year of the two Faculty members (1.2 FTE) employed under the UCA/Murdoch partnership reported that the demands of academic teaching, research, supervision of PhD candidates and university administration mean they have little, if any, time available for education outside of the university context.

After conducting a Strategic Staffing Review of CEDAL in 2015 General Council agreed that a new position of Director of Education and Formation needed to be created with a clear focus on implementing the Presbytery Strategic Directions. Since this position was filled in February 2017 there has been a significant boost to CEDAL's ability to move in new directions. However, General Council, and later Presbytery Standing Committee, recognised that further staff or placements would be needed to move theological education in new directions, especially in terms of equipping of congregational leadership across the church. After consultation with the Director and others, CEDAL has agreed that at least two more full time placements are needed if we are to implement the Presbytery Strategic Directions and maintain National Standards. It was hoped that at least 1 of these positions would be filled by 1 July 2017 but advertising has not been able to start, as Placements Commission has so far not agreed to approve these placements. It is vital that these positions be filled as soon as possible so that CEDAL can go ahead to fulfil both Presbytery Strategic Directions and the National Standards.

Moved: Rev Dr John Squires

Seconded: Rev Bev Fabb