



Uniting Church in Australia **Western Australia**

Nominations for 15th Assembly: 8-14 July 2018

The 15th Assembly will meet at the Box Hill Town Hall, Melbourne from 2.00pm Sunday 8 July until 1.00pm on Saturday 14 July 2018.

The Assembly theme is “Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope”. Through images, worship and words we will be invited to engage with this wonderful theme.

According to Regulation 3.3.8 (a) (iii) (1) the Church within the bounds of the Synod of Western Australia may appoint 20 members. Included in these, the Presbytery of WA may appoint one minister and one confirmed lay member in terms of Regulation 3.3.8 (a) (iii) (4). These two members must be nominated by members of Presbytery and will be elected at the Presbytery meeting in November. The Synod of WA may thus appoint nine ministers and nine confirmed lay members. Because the Moderator & General Secretary fill two of the places only seven ministers and nine lay members can be nominated by members of Synod to be elected at the Synod meeting in September. According to Regulation 3.3.8 (a) (iii) (3), and Assembly Standing Committee Minute 11.22.16, two members from Western Australia shall be under the age of 25 years.

To Summarise:

- The Moderator and General Secretary are ex officio members
- Synod will elect 8 ministers and 8 confirmed lay members in September
- Presbytery will elect 1 minister and 1 confirmed lay member in November
- Two elected members shall be under the age of 25 years on 8 July 2018
- Nominations for Synod members on the enclosed form must be received by close of business on 7th September 2017. Please note the request to also supply a photograph of the nominee.
- Closing date for nomination of Presbytery members will be advised at a later date.

The following points should be noted in considering nominations:

- Persons appointed to membership of the triennial Assembly are not there as delegates or representatives of their appointing body. The experience they bring from their background is important but they are to understand themselves as members of the Assembly.
- “Ministers” includes ministers of the Word, deacons and deaconesses. Note also that a minister of another church who is serving in an approved placement within the Uniting Church is eligible for election to membership of the Assembly – but check the wording of 2.9.5 (a) to see the conditions which apply to that eligibility.
- Appointed members of the Assembly are not required to be members of the Council that appoints them or even to reside within the bounds of the appointing Council. However,

Presbyteries and Synods may wish to take into account the perceived capacity of its appointments to report back and to engage with the life of their Council following the Assembly. I am not aware of a Presbytery or Synod appointing “non-residents” to membership of the Assembly. However it has been a little more common that people have moved from the bounds of their appointing Council after their appointment and still attended the Assembly as a member. There is nothing in the Regulations to prevent this and so it is a policy matter for each Council.

Further, it should be noted that:

- ❖ Members are expected to be at all sessions of the Assembly for the whole week.
- ❖ Members are expected to have read the papers and to be fully informed on all the matters that will be before the Assembly.
- ❖ Members have the responsibility to inform the Assembly office of any changes to their contact details and to provide all necessary information in a timely manner.
- ❖ If a person steps down as an appointed member of the Assembly it is their responsibility to inform the Presbytery or the Synod and the Assembly office, and if at all possible to pass on to the new member any papers that might come to them.
- ❖ Synods and Presbyteries must immediately advise the Assembly office when they appoint an alternate to a person who has previously been advised to the Assembly as a member.
- ❖ There will be some costs that will be the responsibility of the Assembly members (see below).
- ❖ Members will be accommodated in various types of accommodation (see below).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Costs

The Assembly meets most of the costs of attending the Assembly including travel, accommodation, and most meals. The member is responsible for their lunch time meal. Unless other arrangements have been made, appointing bodies are requested to make a co-contribution towards the cost of the Assembly. The amount set for the 15th Assembly is \$550 per person appointed. This contribution can be paid by EFT: Bank: Westpac; BSB: 032 014; Account Name: Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly; Account No.: 105379; Reference: 15th Assembly Contribution; Name of the Appointing Body and the Appointee. Please send a remittance advice to jennyb@nat.uca.org.au when the payment is completed.

B. Travel arrangements

The Assembly will only meet the travel costs when the travel is arranged as per the instructions provided through the Assembly Secretariat. Members of the Assembly will make their own travel bookings. Members will be reimbursed for either the cost of their ticket or the indicative amount for travel from their place of origin to Melbourne (as determined by the Assembly Secretariat), whichever is the lower. So if the tickets are booked too late then any difference needs to be borne by the member. It is greatly appreciated if Assembly members can book the least expensive tickets that are available as this can lead to significant savings for the Assembly budget (although we recommend that people do not travel with Tiger Airways). Assembly members may choose to travel by car or train, but they will receive reimbursement according to the casual travel rate of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, or the cost of the train ticket, but only up to the amount that has been approved for air travel. Full details will be given in the January mailing.

Assembly members may want to take the opportunity for a holiday in Victoria or Tasmania before or after the Assembly. That's fine; however Assembly members will be responsible for any extra travel and accommodation costs caused by the holiday arrangements. Only persons travelling from destinations, or for purposes pre-approved by the Assembly Secretariat will have Assembly funded accommodation provided for them on Saturday 7 July.

C. Venues

Most Assembly sessions will take place at the Box Hill Town Hall.

A range of accommodation options will be provided. Local Melbourne metropolitan members are welcome and encouraged to return to their own homes each night. Car parking will be arranged for those needing to drive in each day. Motel and apartment style shared accommodation will be provided at The Tudor which is a 5-8 minute walk from the Box Hill Town Hall. Transport will be arranged for those with mobility issues. Another option will be for members to be billeted in homes of nearby Uniting Church members and transport arranged to and from Box Hill Town Hall each day. Members will be asked to nominate their preferred accommodation option/s and every effort will be made to allocate accommodation according to their preference. Members who request private accommodation will be charged an additional fee. It is important that members provide information on health and mobility issues when they register as this will assist in the allocation of accommodation.

The venue for the opening service of the Assembly, including the installation of Deidre Palmer as President, will be advised as soon as possible. This important event will take place on the evening of Sunday 8 July.

D. Child Care

The Local Arrangement Committee will be looking into the provision of childcare facilities for children of Assembly members who need care while their parent(s) are at the Assembly. This applies to children from babies to 5 year olds, and the Assembly will meet the costs, so that parenting responsibilities do not need to disqualify people from eligibility for election as Assembly members. However, the Assembly will not meet the airfare costs of members' children. The need for childcare **must** be advised at the time of registration.

E. Language Interpretation

The 15th Assembly will provide, to the best of our ability, interpretation services into four languages. The intention is to provide interpretation into two indigenous languages (as agreed with Congress), Korean and Indonesian. These languages have been chosen because they seem to be the communities which are most likely to have people who are available to be appointed to the Assembly in sufficient numbers to warrant the service; but also in the case of Korean and Indonesian these language groups will have significant representation among our overseas visitors. Please note that it will not be possible to provide translation of documents, interpretation at all sessions or in the small group processes, so some functional English for getting around would be an advantage, but that is a local decision.