

Property Trust

<i>Chairperson</i>	Rev Raymond Clee
<i>Member</i>	Rev Steve Francis
<i>Property Officer</i>	Robert Locke
<i>Members elected by Synod</i>	Rev David de Kock
	Thomas Stokes
	Paula Harkness

We were pleased to welcome Rev David de Kock as a member of the Trust. The Standing Committee has appointed David to assume the role of Property Officer when Robert Locke, Property Officer is absent. This ensures continuity in the delegated work of the Trust.

Clare Ligtermoet (Property Services Assistant) has resigned from the Church Office to pursue other interests. We have been grateful to Sandra Ackoy and Maureen Bourke to provide valued administrative support to the Trust ensuring the timely signing of documents.

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 Tuesday to ensure that documents arising from Church Councils and other church bodies are processed promptly. A list of documents signed is reviewed at Trust meetings and also includes litigation and governance matters in the wider church.

With a clearer distinction between the Presbytery and the Synod, there is a need to modify some of our processes regarding congregational real property (lands and buildings). The role of the Presbytery Property Committee in relation to

commercial property management by congregations requires special consideration.

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.

The Trust supports the establishment of a consultative body for the schools and colleges to share their mutual concerns and to encourage each other.

The Trust works closely with the Resources Commission whose membership includes two Trust representatives. Other Trustees are active on the committees of the Resources Commission and other Uniting Church bodies.

I will have served on the Trust for ten years and will step down from Trust at this meeting of Synod.

The Trust wishes to broaden its membership to more closely reflect the rich diversity of the Uniting Church and is currently seeking new members and a Chair. People with formal qualifications in the areas of law and property management would be especially welcome

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